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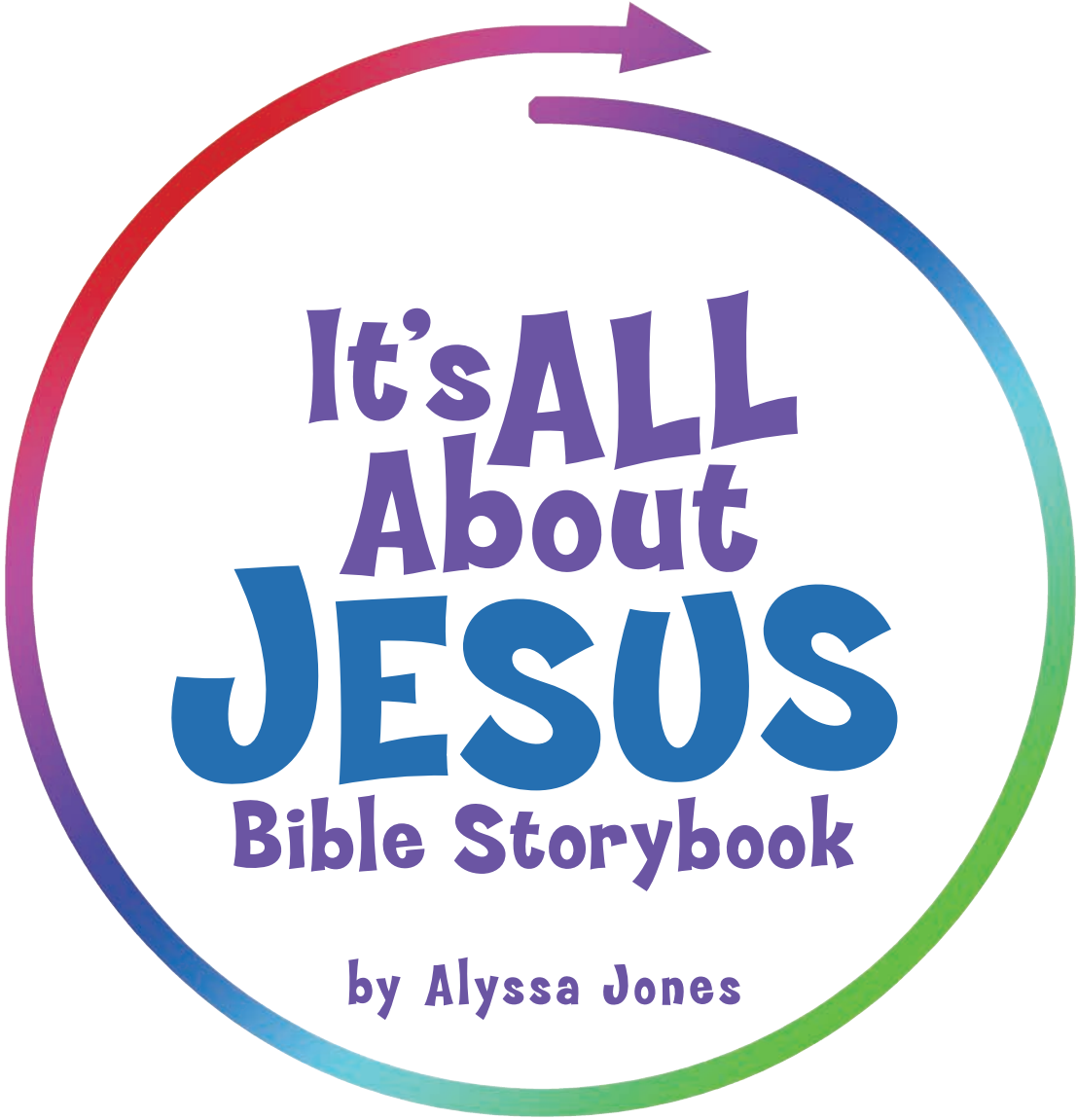
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**It's ALL  
About  
JESUS**  
**Bible Storybook**

**by Alyssa Jones**



An illustration of a locust swarm in a field. The scene is set in a dry, orange-hued landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted plants and a large, dark, irregular shape that could be a rock or a shadow. The middle ground is filled with a dense swarm of locusts flying across the sky. In the background, there are more silhouetted trees and a bright, hazy sky. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration.

## Joel, Prophet to Judah

Joel 1–3

### Christ Connection:

Joel warned God's people about the Day of the Lord—a day when God will judge His enemies, free His people, and make the world right again. Those who trust in Jesus will escape God's punishment for sin. Jesus was punished in our place, and we share in His righteousness.

**T**he people of Judah were in trouble! There was a drought in the land; no rain fell for a long time. The people had ignored God and did not obey His commands. God had told His people many years before what would happen if they turned away from Him, and now these things were actually happening.

The land of Judah had been attacked by a great swarm of locusts! When one swarm left, another swarm of locusts came. The locusts ate the plants in Judah. They destroyed everything in the fields. The apple trees, fig trees, and pomegranate trees died.

God was judging the people of Judah for their sin. Joel told the people to ask God to forgive them.

Joel told the people that God was sending a strong army to take over Judah. Everything would be burned up by fire. Everyone would be very afraid, and no one would survive!

“Turn back to God before it is too late!” Joel said. “God is gracious and merciful. He does not get angry easily. God would rather forgive you than punish you. Turn from your sin. Maybe God will bless you!”

Now God's message gave them hope for the future. “I will send rain,” God promised. “I will bring Judah and Jerusalem back together, but a final day of judgment is coming. I will judge those who turn away from Me. I will punish the enemies of My people. You will know that I am your God. I will forgive those who turn from their sin, and I will be with My people forever.”

**Who deserves to be punished for sin?  
What is the only way to escape punishment?  
Whom can you tell about Jesus' forgiveness?**





## The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10–19

**B**e strong! God is strong, and He will give you strength!” Paul wrote these words in a letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul was in prison in Rome, and he knew being a Christian was not an easy life. In fact, it is like a battle. The battle is difficult, and it is not a battle against other people. The battle is against evil. Paul told believers how to fight.

**How does knowing that Jesus already won the battle against evil help you fight?**

“Put on the full armor of God,” he said. “It will help you stand up against the Devil, who is trying to trick you. Put on God’s armor and be ready.”

Paul said that God gives us what we need to stand strong against evil. Evil is strong, but God is stronger. He explained what God’s armor is.

Paul said, “Truth is like a belt around your waist.” We know what is true because God has told us about Himself in His Word.

Paul said, “Righteousness is like armor on your chest.” God gives us righteousness when we trust in Jesus. Jesus takes away our sin and makes us right with God.

Paul said, “Be ready with the gospel—like sandals on your feet.” What God has done for us in Jesus is good news! We must always be ready to tell others the gospel.

Paul said, “No matter where you go, take faith, which is like a shield. It will help protect you from the evil one’s attacks.” The Devil wants us to doubt God or believe what is not true. God gives us faith to help us trust in Him.

Paul said, “Salvation is like your helmet, and God’s Word is like your sword.” A helmet protects your head. We should remember that God has saved us. God has also given us His Word, the Bible. The Bible tells us what is true: Jesus defeated Satan when He died on the cross and rose again!

Then Paul said, “Pray. Don’t give up praying for God’s people. Pray for me, too. Pray that God will help me be bold when I share the good news about Jesus.”



### **Christ Connection:**

Paul told believers to be ready to fight a spiritual battle. People and powers who are against God will be against us too. But Jesus died and rose from the dead. He had victory over evil. We can fight the battle against evil, knowing Jesus already won the war.