**ISLAM READING**

When Muhammad was in his 40’s he began to have visions. He also felt an increasing need for solitude, and this lead him to seek privacy and meditation in the rocky hills which surrounded Mecca (present day Saudi Arabia.)  Muhammad would retreat into caves for days at a time. Muhammad was in solitude in the cave on Mount Hira.  He was startled by the Angel of Revelation, Gabriel, the same angel that had come to Mary, the mother of Jesus. The angel Gabriel gave Muhammad a single command: “Read!” Muhammad responded that he was illiterate and could not read. The angel Gabriel commanded Muhammad to read two more times. Both times, Muhammad responded that he was unable to read. The angel Gabriel then grasped Muhammad with an overwhelming force. When Gabriel released Muhammad, the Prophet began to recite revelation.

Muhammad’s vision had a great impact on the future prophet. As he was descending down the mountain he heard the voice of the angel Gabriel saying, “Muhammad, thou are the messenger of God.” When Muhammad looked up he saw the angel Gabriel filling the horizon. Wherever Muhammad looked, he saw the angel Gabriel.

Muhammad returned home to his wife, Khadija, very frightened. Khadija comforted Muhammad and listened to Muhammad tell his story of what had happened in the cave. Although Muhammad was worried no one would believe him, Khadija believed her husband and comforted him. When Muhammad had gone to sleep, Khadija went to seek the advice of her uncle, who was a famous religious scholar. After hearing the story, Khadija’s uncle confirmed that Muhammad was indeed a prophet.

**CHRISTIANITY READING**

Jesus had sent the twelve disciples out into the country and gave them the power to heal sick people and tell others about God's love.  When the disciples returned, they met with Jesus to tell Him about all the people they talked with and had healed.  They were all very excited to tell Jesus about their adventures. The problem was, people followed the disciples so they could find Jesus.  They had seen the miracles He had done and wanted to see more.  But Jesus knew the disciples wanted to talk to Him. They hadn't even had a chance to eat yet, so He said to them, "Come with me and we will find a quiet place to talk and get some rest.”

When Jesus and the disciples finished, they noticed the large crowd.  Jesus felt love for these people because He knew they needed a teacher and someone to believe in. He began teaching the large crowd many things. It was starting to get late in the day and none of the people had supper yet.  The disciples came to Jesus and said, "There is no food around here and its already getting late.  Maybe we should send the people away so they can go to the surrounding towns and get themselves something to eat." But Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."

The disciples didn't think that they understood Jesus right and said, "We can't feed all these people, we would have to work almost a year to pay for all the food!"

While the disciples were talking to Jesus, one of the disciples named Andrew noticed a small boy walking by with a small lunch.  He stopped the boy and asked him what he had.  He quickly ran over to where the disciples were talking to Jesus and said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many people?"

Jesus smiled and said, "Ask everyone to sit down." After everyone was seated, Jesus took the loaves of bread and thanked God for it.  Then the disciples passed around the bread and everyone could take as much as they wanted.  He did the same with the fish.There were five thousand people all eating from this boy's small lunch, and they could eat as much as they wanted.

After everyone was full, Jesus asked the disciples to gather all the food that was leftover so nothing would be wasted.  After they gathered all the baskets of food, they counted them up.  There were twelve baskets still full with some bread and fish from the little boy's small lunch.

**JUDAISM READING**

Abraham and Sarah had been waiting for decades to have a child. When Sarah was 90 years old she gave birth to her first son, Isaac. Abraham and Sarah dearly loved their new baby boy. Abraham spent a lot of time with Isaac, teaching him to love and obey God. As Isaac grew, he learned to worship God just as his father Abraham did. One day God spoke to Abraham: "Take your son Isaac, whom you love so much, and go into the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering,” God commanded. Abraham loved Isaac more than anything else in the *whole world* and would **never** do ***anything*** to hurt his son, but he knew he had to obey the voice of God. Abraham took his son Isaac and when to the altar where Isaac was to be sacrificed. Of course, Isaac didn't want to be sacrificed as a burnt offering, and Abraham, as a loving father, didn't want to do it, but they both knew they had to obey God, so there was no struggle between them. Abraham picked up his knife. . . .

He raised it high in the air above his head. . . .

Just as he was getting ready to kill his own son, he heard the voice of the angel of the Lord cry out from heaven:

**"DON'T KILL YOUR SON!** DON'T HURT HIM! For now I know that you fear God. You love Him more than anything else, even more than your own son."

Abraham looked up, and there -- right in front of him -- was a ram caught in the thick bushes. Abraham quickly untied Isaac, then caught the ram and put it on the altar. Abraham used his knife to kill the sacrifice, then used the torch to light the fire