**Abraham:** originally called Abram, God asked Abraham to follow him and promised that Abraham would become a large nation.

**Apostles:** in the Gospels, the twelve original disciples. Elsewhere in the New Testament, it means an eyewitness specifically sent by Jesus to share the gospel

**Baptize:** the act of dipping someone underwater to symbolize washing away sins. Baptism is an outward sign of following Jesus.

**Christian:** someone who follows Jesus Christ as Lord, believing he is the Son of God sent to die for the forgiveness of sins and was resurrected.

**Circumcision:** cutting of a male’s foreskin, it was a physical sign of the covenant between God and Abraham that all male Jews participate in. When non-Jews began following Jesus, the early Church decided circumcision was not necessary for Christians.

**Clean/Unclean:** Jewish laws often dealt with rules that kept the Israelites distinct from other nations. They avoided certain foods, washed in specific ways, and had rules about when they could associate with others. If they didn’t follow these rules, they were considered unclean.

**Covenant:** an agreement where each side has an obligation to the other side.

**Denarius:** a unit of money, generally a day’s wage.

**Disciple:** an apprentice who follows a leader and learns from them. Originally it is used to describe the twelve followers of Jesus, but later expands to anyone who follows Jesus as Lord.

**Israel/Israelites:** Israel was another name for Jacob. Generations later, his extended family was referred to collectively as Israelites. Their new nation was called Israel.

**Kingdom of Heaven/God:** These are used interchangeably to describe the time when God will be reigning and ruling over the earth. It is both a present and future time.

**Law:** The rules and roles God told Moses. Sometimes the Law collectively refers to the first five books of the Old Testament.

**Leprosy:** a specific skin disease; often in the Bible it is used to describe any number of skin diseases.

**Moses:** a great leader and teacher who was called by God to lead the Israelites to their promised land.

**New Testament:** the second half of the Bible that has the narratives of Jesus’ life and letters to the early Christian Church.

**Old Testament:** the first half of the Bible (Genesis-Malachi). It has the books of the law, the history of the Israelites, and the writings of the prophets.

**Pharisees:** a group of Jewish leaders who strictly followed the law and desired everyone to stay “clean” and separate.

**Righteousness:** the state of being morally right before God. No one can achieve righteousness, but God’s grace and sacrifice offers us righteousness.

**Sadducees:** a group of Jewish leaders who only believed in the Torah, and not the books of the prophets.

**Scribes:** teachers of the Jewish law

**Sin:** turning away from God and breaking God’s law. It causes separation between people and God.

**Talent:** a unit of money, generally a year’s work of wages.

**Torah:** The first five books of the Old Testament. They were written by Moses and contain the laws God gave the Israelites, so are sometimes also called the “books of Moses” or “books of the Law”.