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# B5 - God the Son

Study 1 - Birth and Boyhood

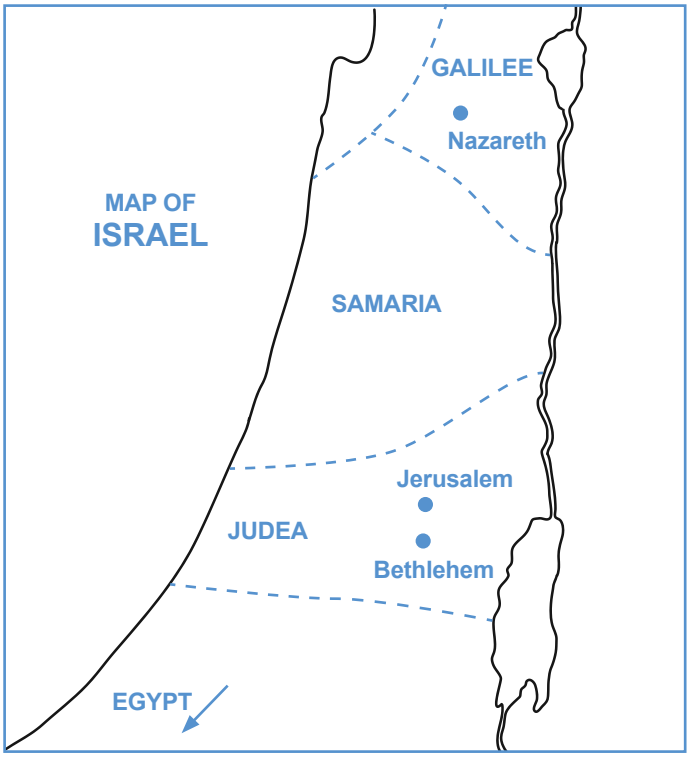
**BIBLE READING:**

## Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 2: 1-20

**KEY VERSE:**

**"Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man."**

Luke 2: 52




## THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago, in Bethlehem, in Israel. His miraculous birth is remembered each year, across the world at Christmas.

His mother, Mary, accompanied by her husband, Joseph, had come to Bethlehem because of the decree of the Roman Emperor who had ordered everyone to go to his or her native city, to be enrolled, with a view to being taxed. The inn at Bethlehem was completely full, so the Saviour's birth took place in an out-house, where a manger served as His cradle. ***(Luke 2: 1-7)***

The abnormal circumstances surrounding His birth were all in fulfilment of words written by God's prophets, hundreds of years before. ***(Isaiah 7: 14; Micah 5: 2)*** The Roman Emperor, we can be sure, had no idea that his decree would achieve the fulfilment of God's plan! God was in perfect control!

Christians believe in 'The Virgin Birth' of the Lord Jesus. This means that His conception was a miracle, in that He had no human father. The Bible clearly teaches that Joseph was not His father, in the natural sense. This is the meaning of ***Matthew 1: 24-25*** in the Bible Reading.

The Baby's first visitors were shepherds who had been told by angels of His birth.

Later, the Wise Men from the east, came with their gifts, and worshipped Him as King. When the Jews' king, Herod, heard news of the new King born in Bethlehem, he plotted to kill Him. Mary and Joseph took the Child and fled to Egypt. They remained there until Herod died. Returning to their own country, they settled in Nazareth, in the north. ***(See Matthew 2: 1 and 13-23)*** Here Joseph worked as a carpenter, and Jesus grew up.

(The Key Verse is a summary of His childhood years.)

## THE BOYHOOD OF CHRIST

We know very little about the boyhood of Jesus. One incident, when Jesus was twelve, is recorded in ***Luke 2: 41-52***. It tells us about Mary, Joseph and Jesus going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. Every year, thousands of Jews went to the Temple for this very special Festival, which commemorates Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. ***(Exodus 12)***

On the return journey, at the end of a day's walking, Mary and Joseph found that Jesus was missing. None of their friends or relatives knew anything about Him. In great anxiety, Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem, and it was three days before they found Him. He was in the Temple discussing questions with the religious leaders, who were amazed at His understanding.

When His parents told Him how worried they had been, He gave them a remarkable reply. ***"Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2: 49)***

Mary and Joseph were puzzled! They did not fully understand that He was the Son of God, and that He had a unique relationship with God as His Father. He was willing, nevertheless, to go back with them to Nazareth, and be obedient to them.

*A model of the Temple in Jerusalem from the time of Jesus. (Source: Wikipedia)*

This is the first of five units on **God the Son.**

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# B5 - God the Son

Study 2 - Jesus in Galilee

**BIBLE READING:**

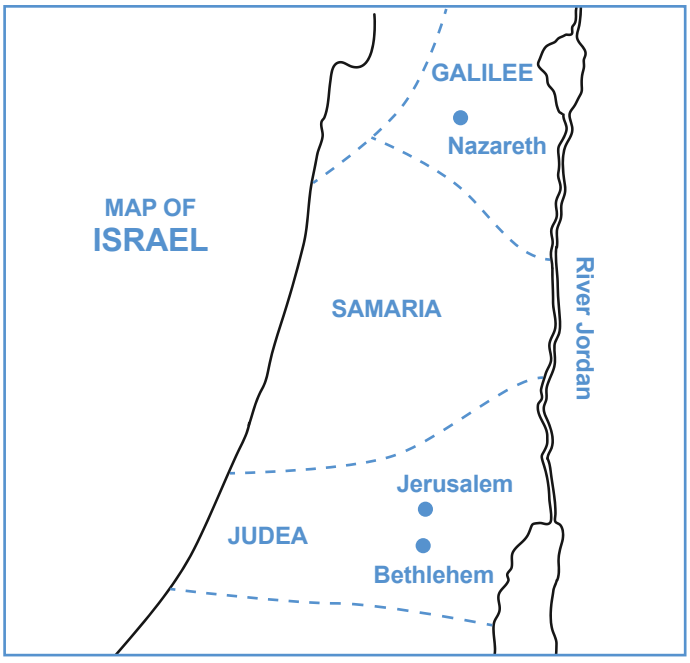
**Mark 1: 4-28**

**KEY VERSE:**

**"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."**

Acts 10: 38

At the age of about 30, Jesus began His public ministry. This means that He began to go from place to place teaching, preaching and healing. Mostly He remained in the northern region, Galilee, where He had grown up. Occasionally, however, He went south to Judea. (Find these on the map.)




Two important events happened before His public life began. First, He was baptised in the River Jordan. For some time, John the Baptist had been preaching that the Christ was soon to come; he called on people to repent of their sins and be baptised in order to show their willingness to receive the 'Coming One'. At first John did not want to baptise Jesus, for he knew that Jesus had no sins to confess, and that Jesus was greater than he was. Jesus, however, insisted and John did baptise Him. In this way, the Lord Jesus was identifying Himself with those whom He had come to save from their sins. ***(See Matthew 3: 13-15)***

Then He was tempted by the devil. For 40 days Satan attempted to turn Jesus aside from the work which His Father had given Him to do. (You will find more details about Christ's temptations in ***Matthew 4: 1-11*** and ***Luke 4: 1-13.***) The Lord defeated him on three occasions by skilfully using the Word of God. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He did not yield to the devil's suggestions. It was impossible for the Lord Jesus to sin against God. ***(Hebrews 4: 15)***

At the outset of His public life, Jesus chose twelve disciples to be with Him and to help Him in His work. You will find their names in ***Mark 3: 14-19***.

One of the first places where Jesus preached was Nazareth, His home town. In the synagogue, He read from the book of Isaiah, and claimed that He was the Person about whom Isaiah had prophesied. At first the people were very impressed with what He was saying, but then they rejected His claim and turned against Him. They even tried to kill Him. ***(Luke 4: 16-30)***

The Lord Jesus also visited many other towns in Galilee. Everywhere He went, crowds came to hear Him; He quickly became famous, and people marvelled at the power and authority with which He spoke. ***(Mark 1: 28, 38-39)***

His teaching appealed to ordinary people because they could understand. He often used parables to make His meaning clear. A parable is 'an earthly story with a heavenly meaning', and by illustrating His teaching from events in the everyday life of the people, the Lord made it easy for them to grasp His meaning. See, for example, the parable of 'The Sower'. ***(Mark 4: 2-8)***

He also performed wonderful deeds which only God's power could do. We refer to these as 'miracles'. Some were in the healing of the sick, or demon-possessed; others were in the realm of nature, such as the calming of the storm. ***(Mark 4: 39)*** His miracles were proofs that He was indeed the Son of God.

On one occasion, He gave His disciples another kind of proof. On a mountain, His whole appearance was changed into another form, and a voice was heard saying, ***"This is My beloved Son"***. We call this event 'The Transfiguration'. God was allowing the disciples to see how very special their Master was. ***(Mark 9: 2-9)***

Although He lived a very humble life, He truly was the Lord from Heaven - the Son of God, in human form.

*Mount Tabor, the traditional site for 'The Transfiguration'. (Source: Wikipedia)*

This is the first of five units on **God the Son.**

# Answer Sheet
# B5 - God the Son
Study 1 - Birth and Boyhood

Leader's Comments:

Name: Return address on back of answer sheet

Address:

**1. Read *Matthew 1: 20-23* again and explain the meaning of the following names that Christ was given:**

a) 'Jesus' _____

b) 'Immanuel' _____ /2

**2. Explain in your own words how the following prophecies were fulfilled in the birth of the Lord Jesus:**

a) ***Isaiah 7: 14*** _____

_____

b) ***Micah 5: 2*** _____ /4

_____

**3. Complete the missing information by selecting a name from the map and also supply a Bible reference where the place is mentioned.**

| Clue | Name of place (see map) | Bible Reference |
|---|---|---|
| i) Jesus grew up here. | _____ | _____ |
| ii) Jesus was born here. | _____ | _____ |
| iii) Jesus found refuge here. | _____ | _____ |
| iv) Jesus visited here at 12 years old. | _____ | _____ |

/8

**4. Read *Luke 2: 8-20.***

a) What was the message the angels brought to the shepherds? _____

_____

b) Why was the message ***'good news'***? _____

_____

c) Give two ways in which the shepherds responded to the message. _____ /6

_____

**5. From *Luke 2: 51* we clearly understand that Jesus, as a teenager, was submissive to His parents. What are the implications of this for a young Christian today?**

_____

_____ /3

_____

**6. From *Luke 2: 52* (Key Verse) explain the ways in which Jesus grew.**

_____

_____ /2

**THINK:** Listen to the Christmas carol 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and thank God for sending His Son Jesus into the world to be your Saviour.

**TOTAL = /25**

# Answer Sheet
# B5 - God the Son
Study 2 - Jesus in Galilee

Leader's Comments:

## 1. Answer the following questions:

a) Why did crowds of people come to John to be baptised? _____

_____

b) How did John describe Jesus when he was preaching? _____

_____ /4

## 2. Read *Matthew 4: 1-11* and briefly describe the three temptations which Jesus faced.

i) _____

_____

ii) _____

_____

iii) _____

_____ /6

## 3. Answer TRUE or FALSE to each of these statements:

a) Jesus did not preach in Nazareth. _____

b) John did not want to baptise Jesus. _____

c) Jesus did not yield to Satan's temptations. _____

d) Very few people ever listened to Jesus' preaching. _____

e) Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. _____ /5

## 4. Read *Mark 9: 2-8* and answer the following questions:

a) What were the names of the three disciples who saw Jesus being transfigured? _____

_____

b) Who were the two Old Testament characters that talked to Jesus? _____

_____

c) What did Peter want to do? _____

_____ /6

## 5. Read the story of Jesus calming the storm *(Mark 4: 35-41)* and explain in your own words what it shows about the greatness of the Lord Jesus.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ /4

**THINK:** What 'storms' are you facing in your life just now? The Lord Jesus has the power to calm them and bring peace into your situation. Take some time to pray to Him and ask for His help.

**TOTAL = /25**

# Answer Sheet
# B5 - God the Son
Study 3 - Jesus in Judea

Leader's Comments:

**1. Look up *John 7: 2* and *John 13: 1*, and write the names of two Jewish festivals.**

_____ /2

_____

**2. Write a sentence to explain why Jesus' healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda angered the Jewish leaders.**

_____

_____ /3

_____

**3. Use the details in the Bible Reading to explain four actions Jesus took to 'cleanse the Temple".**

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____ /4

iv) _____

**4. Read again *Mark 11: 1-11* and answer the following questions:**

a) Where did Jesus send two of His disciples? _____

b) What did He say they would find? _____

c) What answer were they to give to anyone who might ask them why they were untying it?

_____ /4

_____

**5. Answer the following:**

a) Where did Jesus visit his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus? _____

b) What did Martha believe about Jesus? _____

c) What did Jesus do for Lazarus? _____ /4

d) How did the Jews show their anger about what Jesus did? _____

**6. Describe, in your own words, the two opposing reactions to the Lord Jesus when He came to Jerusalem.**

_____

_____

_____ /6

_____

**7. What two classes of people are mentioned in *John 3: 36*?**

_____ /2

_____

**THINK:** Our eternal destiny depends on our attitude to the Lord Jesus. Think about your attitude to Him. Are you rejecting what He has done for you, or have you welcomed Him into your life as your Saviour and Lord?

**TOTAL = /25**

# Answer Sheet
# B5 - God the Son
Study 4 - Tragedy and Triumph

Leader's Comments:

**1. Use *1 Corinthians 11: 23-26* to answer these questions about the Lord's Supper:**

a) When did the Lord ***"take bread"***? _____

b) What did He say when He had given thanks and broken the bread? _____

c) What did He say the cup represented? _____

/4

**2. Read *Matthew 26: 48, 49*, and write a sentence to tell how Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus.**

_____

_____

/2

**3. What claim made by Jesus was used by the Jews as a reason to find Him worthy of death?**

_____

/1

**4. Find in *John 19: 38-42*, the names of the two men who buried Jesus.**

_____ _____

/2

**5. Order the events by placing a number in the bracket at the end of each sentence. The first one is done for you.**

On the third day after His burial, Jesus' friends discovered that He had risen. _____

He was arrested after praying in a garden. _____

After six hours, He cried out ***"It is finished"***, bowed His head and died. _____

Forty days later Jesus ascended into Heaven. _____

Jesus ate the Lord's Supper with His disciples. 1

The Roman trial was conducted by Pilate who sentenced Jesus to death. _____

Roman solders crucified Him along with two criminals. _____

The first trial was by the Jews. _____

/7

**6. Explain, in your own words, what the Key Verse means.**

_____

_____

/3

**7. Write the name of the place associated with each of these events:-**

a) Our Lord's ascension. _____

b) The Saviour's death. _____

c) The arrest of Jesus. _____

d) The Lord's Supper. _____

/4

**8. Why are Christ's death, resurrection and ascension so important to us today?**

_____

_____

/2

**THINK:** Think about the title of this study. In what way were these events a tragedy and a triumph? How would you explain to someone else what this means to you personally?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

**TOTAL = /25 UNIT TOTAL = /100**

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# B5 - God the Son

## Study 3 - Jesus in Judea

**BIBLE READING:**

**Mark 11: 1-11, 15-19; John 5: 1-16**

**KEY VERSE:**

**"And He entered Jerusalem and into the Temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve."**

Mark 11: 11

Every year, the Jews had quite a number of religious festivals, or feasts. On these occasions, a holiday atmosphere prevailed, and many Jews would go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem in order to attend the Temple services.

The Bible Readings tell us about two times when Jesus came to the city. On both occasions, what He said and did brought Him into conflict with the religious leaders.

In ***John 5*** the paralysed man was healed in an instant by the Lord Jesus! But because it was the Sabbath Day, (the Jewish day of rest) the Jewish rulers were upset, to such an extent that they plotted to kill Him.

In ***Mark 11*** He drove the traders out of the Temple. These men sold animals and birds to people who wished to offer sacrifices; they charged very unfair prices. When Jesus 'cleansed the Temple', (as His action is usually called) the priests and scribes opposed Him strongly.

Opposition from the religious leaders was more fierce in Jerusalem than in Galilee. Sometimes it came from the very strict Jews, called Pharisees; sometimes from the more liberal-minded Sadducees. The Temple priests and the teachers of the Law ('scribes', as they were called) often played a big part in opposing Him. For the most part, the leaders of the Jewish religion rejected Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

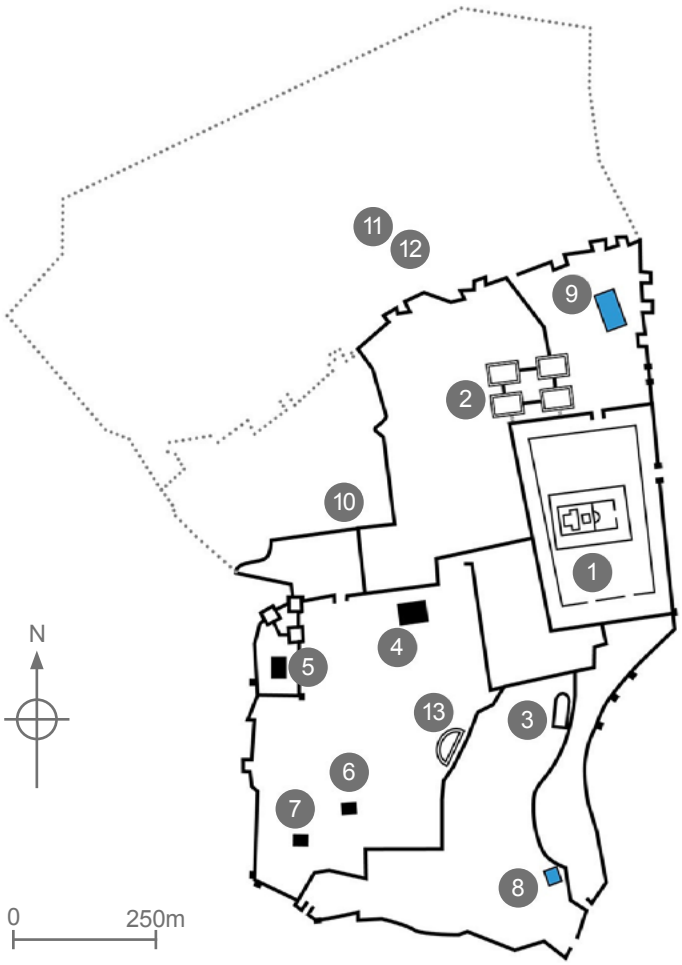
Even in Jerusalem, however, there were those who made Him welcome, as we can see in ***Mark 11***. The crowds surrounded Him as He rode into the city, and clearly they were delighted to see Him. They shouted, ***"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (verse 9)*** ('Hosanna' means 'Save, we pray!') Even little children joined in the warm welcome. ***(Matthew 21: 15)***

His evenings, during those last days, were spent at Bethany, a village just two miles from Jerusalem. Two sisters and their brother - Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived here. They were very special friends of Jesus, and always counted it a joy to have Him in their home. ***(John 12: 1-2)*** ***John 11*** is an account of what happened when Lazarus died. Martha was very upset but expressed her faith in Jesus. ***(John 11: 27)*** Jesus then proved both His love and His power by raising Lazarus from the dead. Even this great miracle angered the Jews to the extent that they plotted to murder Lazarus also. ***(John 12: 10)***

It is clear, then, that in Judea some people loved the Lord Jesus, while others hated Him. Some made Him welcome, while others rejected Him. In our next study we will find out which group of people got their way.

## JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS

*Map produced by Balage Balogh (www.Archaeologyillustrated.com) and downloaded from www.freebibleimages.org.*




1. TEMPLE
2. FORTRESS OF ANTONIA
3. HIPPODROME
4. HASMONEAN PALACE
5. HEROD'S PALACE
6. HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS
7. UPPER ROOM
8. POOL OF SILOAM
9. POOL OF BETHESDA
10. GOLGOTHA (TRADITIONAL SITE)
11. GOLGOTHA (ALTERNATIVE SITE)
12. GARDEN TOMB
13. ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE

This is the first of five units on **God the Son.**

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# B5 - God the Son

## Study 4 - Tragedy and Triumph

**BIBLE READING:**

**Luke 24: 13-27; 50-53**

**KEY VERSE:**

**"But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed."**

Isaiah 53: 5

Within a few days of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the donkey, events reached a climax. He and His disciples met together in a large room to eat the Passover meal. While they were doing so, our Lord introduced what is known as ***"The Lord's Supper"*** in which bread and wine are used. They represent His body and His blood respectively. He asked His disciples to keep Him alive in their memories by partaking of this special supper regularly. ***(1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)***

Later that evening, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane. ***(Luke 22: 14-23)*** Here, surrounded by olive trees, Jesus prayed earnestly, but His disciples fell asleep! Before long, the peace was broken by shouts, as a mob, led by Judas, one of His disciples, came to arrest Him. As the disciples fled, Jesus was tied up, and taken away to stand His trial. ***(Luke 22: 39-54)***

There were two main parts to His trial. First, He was tried by His own people, the Jews. Their Council, sometimes called the Sanhedrin, was made up of about 70 members, mostly priests, scribes and elders. When questioned, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. ***(Luke 22: 70)*** In their view, this claim was totally false, and because He made such a claim, He deserved to die.

As the Jews at this time were living under Roman authority, they were not allowed to carry out a death sentence. There must be a second trial - the 'Roman Trial', as it is often called. So Jesus was hustled off to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, in order to get his agreement to the death penalty. ***(see Luke 23)***

Pilate questioned Jesus and concluded that He did not deserve to die. He tried to reason with the Jewish leaders, but they became very angry and stirred up the whole crowd to shout for Jesus' death. Before long, Pilate, afraid of what might happen, gave in to their pressure, and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

After being very badly treated, He was taken outside the city to Calvary, where Roman soldiers nailed Him to a cross. On either side of Him they also crucified a criminal. ***(Luke 23: 32-43)*** After six hours of intense suffering, Jesus cried, ***"It is finished"***, bowed His head, and dismissed His spirit. ***(Luke 23: 46)***

That evening two men carefully removed His body from the cross, and placed it in a newly prepared cave, cut out of the rock. They placed a large stone across the entrance, which was then sealed and guarded by the authorities.

The next day was a 'sabbath' or 'rest day'. Following that - on ***"the first day of the week"***- some women, who came to anoint Jesus' body with spices, were greatly surprised to find the cave open and the body gone! Angels appeared to them, telling them that He had risen from the dead, just as He had predicted! ***(Luke 24: 1-8)***

Later that day, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene ***(Mark 16: 9)***, and then to His disciples, showing them His hands and His side, to prove to them that He really was Jesus. Imagine their amazement and joy! ***(John 20: 19-20)***

For forty days they continued to see Him, from time to time. On the last occasion He led them to Bethany. As they stood on the Mount of Olives, He told them to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Lifting up His hands and blessing them, He ascended into Heaven. ***(Luke 24: 50-53)***

These events - His death, burial, resurrection and ascension - are the very foundation of God's saving plan for us. We should be so thankful that He endured it all so we can have eternal life by faith in Him!

*"The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci in 1498 (Source: Wikipedia)*

This is the first of five units on **God the Son.**

**05/2026**

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