Vocabulary for Unit 5

anoint: To apply oil in a religious ceremony or as part of a blessing. In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed as a sign of their divine mission.

ark of the Covenant: The sacred chest that housed the holy presence of God, as well as the tablets containing the Decalogue.

covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and human beings in which mutual commitments are recognized. The word comes from the Hebrew for "a cutting," referring to the sacrifice offered to seal the oath. In the Book of Genesis, God makes covenants with Noah and Abraham.

Nazirite: A person in the Hebrew tradition who is consecrated to God. As a sign of her or his dedication to God, the person would abstain from alcohol and unclean food and leave her or his hair uncut.

prophecy: A message communicated by prophets on behalf of God. Scriptural prophecy did not claim to foretell the future, but offered a warning in the hope that the faithful would change the path of destruction they were headed for because of sin, calling for a change of heart so that the future would be in accordance with the Creator's will of love, mercy, and justice.

servant leadership: A type of leadership based on humble service to all God's people.

temples: This biblical term refers to the various temples mentioned in the Old Testament. The Jewish people built temples on Mount Moriah, which is believed to be the place where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac (see Genesis, chapter 22). The so-called First Temple period (1006–586 BC) began with David's occupation of Jerusalem and was followed by Solomon's building the First Temple. This period ended with the Babylonian Exile. The Second Temple period (536 BC–AD 70) began with the return of the Jewish exiles and culminated in the building of a new Temple by Herod shortly before the birth of Jesus. This Temple was destroyed by the Romans about four decades after the death of Jesus.

vocation: A calling from God to fulfill a particular purpose or mission in life.