In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 22
Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness

Themes:

- God established a pattern of life for His covenant people to follow.
- God led Israel toward the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- God is faithful, merciful, and good.
- Because of the Israelites' unbelief, God made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

Scripture:

Exodus 40:34-35; and portions of Numbers

Memory Verse:

John 1:3 (and review verses 1-2)

Today's Clue:

THE BRONZE SERPENT

Home and Heart:

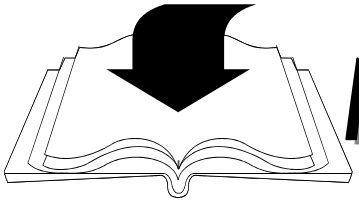
Read Numbers 13-14:12. Why was God angry with His people? What had the Israelites seen God do to the powerful Egyptians? Why did Joshua and Caleb have a different response than the 10 other spies? (See Numbers 14:8-9.) Have you ever faced a difficult situation with fear because the situation looked like a "giant" and you felt like a "grasshopper"? What does God promise for those who trust Him? Read and discuss the following promises: Hebrews 13:6; Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:13.

Recall the bronze serpent from Numbers 21:4-9. If possible, show your child a small bronze or other metal sculpture. Could a piece of metal heal anyone? Did God's command to Moses seem like a silly way to heal the people? Why? Why did God have Moses do this? What was God teaching His people? [To trust Him in all things. To believe God will decide what is true and right, even when it seems foolish. To have confidence in God, no matter what.] How could this clue point to Jesus and the cross?

Suppose you go grocery shopping together. Your child watches you as you put groceries in the cart. Then he looks in his pocket and realizes he only has 27 cents. He starts to worry about not having enough money for the groceries. He says: "Stop! We have to put everything back! I don't have enough money!" Why is this silly? Is your child expected to pay for all the groceries? Why not? Who should he depend on to meet his needs? If he didn't depend on you, would his attitude be right or wrong? When the people of Israel refused to enter the land God promised them, what was their attitude toward God, and the consequence of their attitude? Do you ever find it hard to trust God? When? How can the Bible help you to put your confidence in God? What does it show us about Who God is, what He is like, and how we should respond to Him?



DISCOVER MORE



NUMBERS

The book of Numbers is filled with amazing stories demonstrating God's faithfulness, mercy, and goodness to His often grumbling and rebellious people. In class, we only had time for a glimpse into this important book. At home this week, you can discover more. Listed below are some texts to read. Choose two to read during the week, and write a simple sentence or two telling of something new you learned about God and what He has done.

Numbers 10:29-36 and Numbers 11

Numbers 13-14

Numbers 17 and Numbers 18:1-7

Numbers 20 and Numbers 21:1-18

Numbers 22

I read

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I read

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