In the Beginning...Jesus

Introduction for Parents

The Bible is one complete, true story. Although it consists of 66 separate books, which make up the Old and New Testaments, it has one central and comprehensive message. What is this message? The saving work of God to reconcile sinners to Himself through Jesus Christ, that God may be glorified forever. Because Jesus is central in God's eternal plan of salvation, Jesus is central in all of the Bible, from start to finish. Although Jesus is not mentioned by name in the Old Testament, His presence is everywhere. In fact, the purpose of the Old Testament is to set the stage for Jesus' arrival.

In the Beginning…Jesus was written to assist children in understanding the "big picture" of the Bible. This curriculum has been designed to help children see that the focus of the Bible centers around the Person and work of Jesus. Through this study we hope that children will better comprehend the intentional flow of the Bible—the progressive revelation of God's plan of redemption and the eternal, sovereign nature of that plan. Furthermore, by beginning the study with Jesus and His death on the cross, we will emphasize the necessity of Jesus in fully understanding the Old Testament.

Finally, our prayer is that through the presentation of the Scriptures, the explanation of the gospel, and the work of the Holy Spirit, the children will recognize their own sin and helplessness, and turn and embrace Jesus Christ as their only hope, and be reconciled to God through His shed blood on the cross!

A Word about the Parent Resource Pages

As Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says,

> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (ESV)

Clearly the responsibility, as well as the privilege, of nurturing the faith of children rests primarily on parents. Parents have the greatest opportunity for teachable moments—everyday situations in which the truth of God's Word can be applied. Faith nurturing should not be seen primarily as a classroom experience, but rather as a consistent weaving of spiritual truth into everyday life. Parent Resource Pages have been provided for each lesson to help the church and home partner together.

Using the Parent Resource Page

The front side of each Parent Resource Page lists the following information for the corresponding lesson: Lesson Title, Themes, Scripture, Memory Verse, Today's Clue, and a section called *Home and Heart*. Please use this information and the questions listed to talk with your children about the

biblical truths presented. Encourage your child to think and pray about his response to hearing God's Word and what it reveals about God's character. The back side of each Parent Resource Page has an additional activity for your child to complete. As much as possible, we want to encourage your child to be reading and studying the Bible during the week. The *Discover More* section has additional scripture references to help your child go beyond what is covered in the classroom, along with a variety of means for recording what he or she has learned. Your child's teacher has an Answer Key for many of these pages to check your child's work. Please note that some of the answers are "translation specific," meaning that they are specific to the English Standard Version of the Bible.

A Note Concerning the "Clues"

According to Jesus, from the very beginning of the Bible narrative in Genesis, God carefully and intentionally wrote the "clues" concerning Jesus and His redemptive purposes into the storyline (Luke 24:27). Jesus' death on the cross was not some random act in history or even a plan God made up along the way as people and circumstances warranted. Jesus was God's plan from the very beginning. To help your child understand this important truth, the curriculum has been developed within the overall theme of a mystery.

As your child's class progresses through Lessons 1-30, the children will be collecting "clues" that hint at the solution to the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. An example of a *clue* would be Isaiah 7:14 where we are told of a virgin who will give birth to a Son (which in the New Testament is then fulfilled by the birth of Jesus to Mary). Most of the clues listed in this study are not what are commonly called "prophecies" concerning Christ. (The example of Isaiah 7:14 would be considered a prophecy.) Rather, many of the clues are examples of *typology.* Bible scholar Graeme Goldsworthy defines typology as "the recognition that within Scripture itself certain events, people, and institutions in biblical history bear a particular relationship to later events, people, or institutions. The relationship is such that the earlier foreshadows the later, and the later fills out or completes the earlier" (*Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000, 77). An example of typology in the Old Testament would be Abraham sacrificing his one, loved son Isaac, as recorded in Genesis 22. As important as this event is within its own historical and theological context, namely, the example of the patriarch Abraham and his complete faith in God, the more important aspect of this story is that it points us ahead to God's sacrifice of His one and only Son Whom He loved so that sinners might be reconciled to Him.

Lessons 30-39 look at the New Testament to understand how the Old Testament clues find their fulfillment and completion in the Person and work of Jesus. These lessons also show the unity of the Bible narrative as we progress from the Old to New Testament. Through these lessons your child will see that the message of Jesus and His death on the cross was God's design from the very beginning of the Bible. The triune, sovereign God directed all people and events to serve His perfect purposes.

A Note about Memory Verses

During the year, your child will be encouraged to memorize two larger scripture portions in small increments—Isaiah 53:3-12 in Lessons 2-20, and John 1:1-18 in Lessons 21-39. The children will learn these scriptures verse by verse and week by week. Please encourage your child in daily Bible memory. If possible, memorize these verses along with your child. In doing so, you will be demonstrating the importance of memorizing God's Word, whether we are young or old. If you do not have a copy of the Bible in the English Standard Version, you can look up the scripture passages on the internet, using a website such as Bible Gateway or the Blue Letter Bible, which both offer free access to the scriptures in several different translations.

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 1
What Happened Here?

Themes:

- The Bible is one complete, true story that reveals to us the solution to the greatest mystery of all—the death of Jesus on the cross.

Scripture:

Mark 14:43-44; Matthew 26:71b-72; 27:1-2, 30-31;
John 19:15b-16, 25, 36; Luke 23:49; Romans 16:25b-26a

Memory Verse:

During the year, the children will be learning two large scripture portions. The first portion, Isaiah 53:3-12, will be memorized in small increments in lessons 2-20. The second portion, John 1:1-18, will be memorized in lessons 20-39.

Home and Heart:

During the week, encourage your child to read through the events surrounding Jesus' death from Luke 22:47-23:49. After reading these verses, is it clear WHO killed Jesus and WHY? Why or why not? Have your child complete the back side of this page.

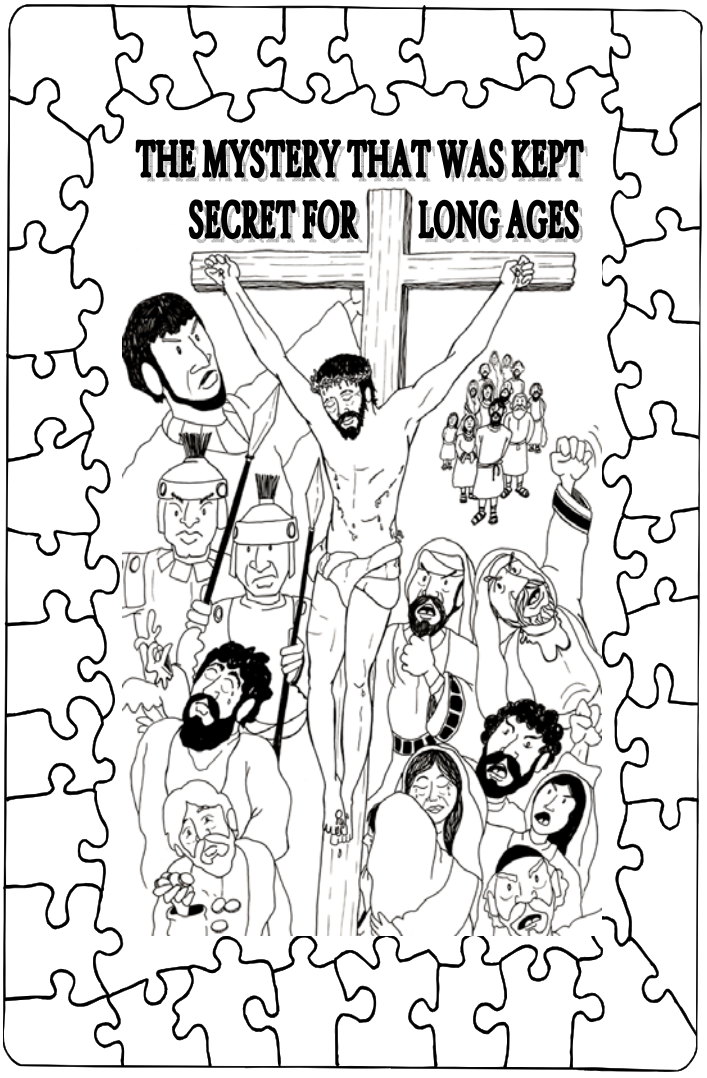
Read and discuss Luke 24:13-21. Did the two men walking along the road understand why Jesus had died? Why not? If available, show your child a few pieces of a puzzle in your house that he has not seen. Explain that these pieces are clues to what the whole puzzle looks like. By looking at the few pieces you gave him, is he able to guess what the whole puzzle looks like? Why not? Point out that even though he has been given many "clues" to the puzzle, without seeing the whole picture it is hard to understand how each individual piece fits together. The whole picture is a mystery. Point out that this was the way it probably was for the two men walking along the road and the other Jewish people who lived at the time of Jesus' death. They had the Old Testament—filled with many clues—but they could not understand how the clues fit together because they had not yet seen the whole picture. Read and discuss Romans 16:25-27. How has the mystery that was kept secret for long ages now been revealed? Who kept it a secret and why?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:8. Explain that this verse also refers to what happened to Jesus on the cross. Ask your child what he thinks this verse might mean. Read verses 6-9. Ask your child: *Do these verses help us understand verse 8? How? What had God been preparing to do for His people? How has this been revealed? When you read about the crucifixion of Jesus, what kinds of things do think about? How does it make you feel? Does it cause you to feel very sad? Glad? Thankful? All of these things? Or, does it not seem real to you? If so, why not?* Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:18.



DISCOVER MORE LUKE

During the week, read the events surrounding Jesus' death from Luke 22:47-71 and 23:1-49. After reading these verses, is it clear WHO killed Jesus? On the blank lines below, make a list of possible suspects based on the verses you read. Are there any suspects not mentioned in the verses you read? Try to answer the question, "Why did Jesus die?" Can you think of a Bible verse or verses to support your answer?



Who killed Jesus?
Possible suspects:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why did Jesus die? _____

_____

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 2
Back to the Beginning

Themes:

- The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.
- The Bible has an intentional order.
- Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.
- The solution to the mystery of Jesus and the cross begins in Genesis.
- God is the main character in the story of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 24:26-27; Genesis 1:1

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:3a

Home and Heart:

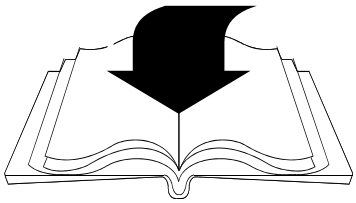
Read together the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-27. (You may have already read verses 13-21 in Lesson 1.) What did Jesus do to explain to the disciples what had happened to Him on the cross? What does this tell us about the purpose of the Old Testament? What does this tell us about Jesus? How is Jesus the "key" to understanding the Bible—including the Old Testament? Read and talk about Hebrews 1:1-3 and John 1:1-3. How do these passages connect Jesus with the very beginning of the Bible?

Read Genesis 1:1 with your child. This verse is the starting point for solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. What questions does this verse answer? Who is the main character of the Bible? What did He do? When did He do it? Read Psalm 90:2. What does this verse tell us about the one Creator God? [God is eternal—He has no beginning and will have no end.] As we read through the story of the Bible, why is it important to know God is eternal? Is the story of the Bible about someone who lived a long time ago but is now dead or will be dead in the future? How does this matter for your own life? How do you think this might help us to solve the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross?

Read Hebrews 11:3 with your child. What do the words "by faith" mean? (Read verse 1 for help.) Ask your child: *Do you have faith that makes you sure God created the whole world? Is it still hard for you to understand? Can you believe something to be true even though you can't fully understand it? Is it hard for you to understand God is eternal—He had no beginning and will have no end? Can you still trust it is true? Why is it important to know God is eternal? Have you ever been in a situation when someone tried to tell you God didn't create the world? How did you respond? Can you depend on the Bible, or should you trust the ideas of other people?* Read and discuss Psalm 119:89,160; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14.



DISCOVER MORE



The Old Testament

In the coming weeks, we will be searching the Old Testament for clues to solve the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. All the words in the Old Testament are God's words. God gave these words to men called "prophets," who wrote them down. The Old Testament contains 39 separate books. With the 27 books of the New Testament, these 66 books form one complete, true story—the whole Bible. Now is a good time to become familiar with the books of the Old Testament. Below you will find scrambled words. Each word, when correctly unscrambled, will spell out a book in the Old Testament. After you have unscrambled all of them, use the table of contents in your Bible to put them in the correct order. Draw a line matching each book to the correct number.

BUREMNS	_____	**1**
RESPOVRB	_____	**2**
CAMIHAL	_____	**4**
HISAIA	_____	**6**
HIJEMARE	_____	**16**
SIGNEES	_____	**20**
USHOJA	_____	**23**
SHOEA	_____	**24**
HENEHIMA	_____	**28**
ODEXUS	_____	**39**

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 3
God Creates His Image Bearer

Themes:
- God is the Sovereign Ruler of all creation.
- God created man to be His image bearer.
- God created man in His image so man might enjoy a special relationship with Him forever.
- Man is to love, trust, and obey God.

Scripture:
Genesis 1:1-27a; 2:7-9, 15-17

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:3b (and review verse 3a)

Today's Clues:
GOD'S IMAGE BEARER, PERFECT OBEDIENCE—LIFE

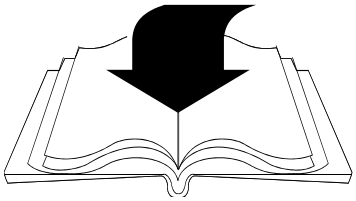
Home and Heart:
Discuss with your child what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God. Point out that man is very different from any other creature in God's creation. Even though dogs, monkeys, and other animals understand and respond to some things, they do not have the ability to know, love, or respond to God in conscious trust, obedience, and joy. Read and discuss Psalm 139:13-18. Do you praise God because you have been wonderfully made?

Why does God have the right to decide what things are best for His creatures? Read Psalm 24:1 and Daniel 4:34-35. Did God want the man to be happy? Did God know what would make the man happy? Why? Did God give the man a command for his happiness? What was it? Why would this command be good for the man? Read and discuss Psalm 16:11. What do you think a perfect relationship with a good and loving God is like? Are we living in a garden like the one described in Genesis 2? What is different and why? Is God still the Sovereign Ruler over His creation? Over your life? Do you think your heart demonstrates that you trust, love, and obey God as your Sovereign Ruler? Has God made known to you "the path of life"? Is it through obeying a command not to eat the fruit from one kind of tree? Why not? Can you think of any verses in the New Testament that show us what the path of life is?

Read and discuss Psalm 145:1-7, 9-10, 15-16. Although we no longer have the garden of Eden on earth (what changed?), do we still see God's goodness, kindness, love, and greatness in the world He created? In what ways? In what ways does man still act as the "manager" of God's creation? Read and discuss Psalm 8:3-9.



DISCOVER MORE



Genesis

This week, read through Genesis 1 and 2. As you read, think about what an awesome Creator God is. Think about all of the different kinds of creatures He made—flying ones, swimming ones, and creeping ones; large and small; tame and wild; furry and scaly. Think about how each creature shows the greatness and worth of God. Be amazed by all the smells, tastes, sounds, and sights He made for us to enjoy. Think about how His creation shows what a good and loving God He is. Use the boxes below to check off verses after you read them. Then, in your best handwriting, write out Isaiah 53:3. Practice reciting this verse every day this week. Use the second set of boxes to check off each day you practice your verse.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
☑ 1:1-10	1:11-19	1:20-26	1:27-31	2:1-9	2:10-17	2:18-25
☑						

Isaiah 53:3

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 4
The Fall, the Curse, and the Promise

Themes:

- God created man and woman in His image and likeness.
- The man and woman were to love, trust, and obey God as their good, loving Sovereign Ruler.
- The man and woman wanted to be independent from God and disobeyed His command—that is sin.
- God is right to punish sin with death.
- God had a plan for solving the problem of sin and death.

Scripture:

Genesis 1:1-27; 2:18-23; 3:1-19, 24

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:4 (and review verse 3)

Today's Clues:

DISOBEDIENCE—DEATH, HEEL AND SERPENT'S HEAD

Home and Heart:

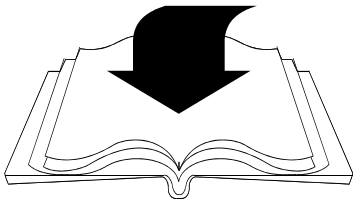
Review Genesis 3:1-19. Why is disobedience to God such a big deal? It was only one little sin! Why couldn't God say, "So you made a mistake. I'll ignore it, and we'll pretend it never happened"? Read Psalm 119:89, 160. When God gives a command, is it right and true? If He were to go back and change it, could He be trusted? Why not? Why is this important to know? To go back on His word would make God a liar. God is right, and everything He says is true—He is righteous! Read Habakkuk 1:13a. Explain that God is holy—completely separate from sin and wrong. He will not look on disobedience and say, "That's okay." Do you feel your own sin has separated you from a perfect relationship with God?

Point out that death was not the only punishment of the man's disobedience. How does what happened in the garden of Eden affect your life? Do you see the "after" effects of sin? Read Romans 1:21-22. How did the man and woman fail to honor God? How did they fail to give thanks to Him? What do the words "futile" and "foolish" mean? What do you think a "darkened heart" is? Read verse 23. What does it mean to "exchange" something? Do you think you have a darkened heart? Read and discuss Romans 3:23.

One of today's clues was in Genesis 3:15, a heel and a serpent. What might this clue hint at? How might this clue relate to Jesus and His death on the cross? Now that we have the whole Bible, do we know how God solved the problem of sin and death, which began in the garden?



DISCOVER MORE



Genesis

This week, read Genesis 3 again. Fill in the missing letters to complete the words found in chapter 3. The meaning of each word is given to the right of the boxes to help you. The first one is done for you.

M	a	n	→ God's first image bearer

					→ Man's helper

							→ The creature who tempted the woman

						→ To be tricky and cunning

							→ Something that gives joy

						→ Found on trees

								→ To be tricked or lied to

						→ Hatred and hostility

						→ To experience punishment and judgment

									→ Children, grandchildren,...

				→ Hurt

								→ Prickly plants

					→ A result of working very hard

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 5
God's Mercy and Abel's Response of Faith

Themes:
- God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.
- God required a covering for sin and provided a way for sinners to come to Him.
- Adam and Eve's children were all born as sinners, deserving God's punishment.
- Abel trusted God for what is true and right, and by faith became a friend of God.

Scripture:
Romans 1:21; Genesis 3:21, 24; 4:1-5

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:5a (and review verses 3-4)

Today's Clue:
COVERING FOR SIN

Home and Heart:
What did God use to cover Adam and Eve after they sinned in the garden? Read Genesis 3:21. How does this show God is merciful? What is God's mercy? Read Psalm 103:9-10. Do you think Adam and Eve understood what it meant for God to provide a covering of animal skins? Do animals have blood like people do? What had to happen to an animal for its skin to be used to cover Adam and Eve? Why did God require a covering for sin? (Habakkuk 1:13a) Explain that this covering for sin was only a temporary solution. God had planned a much better way related to Jesus and His death on the cross.

At first, Adam and Eve tried to make their own covering of leaves. Did that work? Why not? Have you ever tried to cover sin your own way? What might that look like? Do you think it would take care of your sin problem?

Explain to your child what a family tree is. Point out that Adam and Eve also have a family tree. Who does it include? Everyone! Explain that even though we have different parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, we all have one common set of parents way back: Adam and Eve. Why is that important for us to know? Because Adam and Eve were sinners and had darkened hearts, what did that mean for their children and descendants? Can you think of a Bible verse that tells us that all people are sinners? (Romans 3:10-12, 23; and 5:12, 19.) Can you feel this in your own heart? How? Do you think you could decide for yourself the right covering for sin like Cain did? What was the result of Cain trying to do things his own way? How was Abel's attitude different? Was Abel still a sinner like Cain? Why did God accept Abel's offering, but not Cain's? (Abel trusted God and did things God's way. Hebrews 11:4, 6.) What do the words "by faith" mean? Do you have faith in God? What are you trusting Him for?



DISCOVER MORE GENESIS

The story isn't over yet! What happened next to Cain and Abel? This week, open your Bible, read **Genesis 4:1-26,** and answer the following questions:

1. Who spoke to Cain in verses 6-7?

_____

2. What warning did God give to Cain in verse 7?

_____

3. What did Cain do to Abel in verse 8?

_____

4. Who does Cain sound like in verse 9? (Hint: Genesis 3:12-13)

_____

5. How was God merciful to Cain in verse 15?

_____

6. Whose presence did Cain leave in verse 16?

_____

7. Who was Adam and Eve's third son?

_____

8. According to verse 26, what did men begin to do?

_____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 6
God Judges the World, but Has Favor on Noah

Themes:
- Man's wickedness increased on the earth.
- God is grieved by sin, and is right to judge sinners.
- God had unmerited favor on Noah, and provided a way for him to escape judgment.
- God is pleased when sinners trust in Him.
- God is faithful to all His promises.

Scripture:
Genesis 4:8, 15; portions of Genesis 6-8

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:5b (and review verses 3-5a)

Today's Clue:
1 WAY

Home and Heart:
Have your child tell you about the two puzzles put together in today's lesson. Ask how long it took each team to make the puzzle. Ask: *Were both puzzles the same? Which one was correct? Why did Noah only build one ark, and not two or three arks? Wouldn't it have made more sense to build two arks?* Read Genesis 6:9-18. Did Noah trust God for what is true and right? Did Noah do things God's way? Was God pleased with Noah? Read and discuss Hebrews 11:6-7. What is faith? Do you have faith in God? Can you explain how you are trusting God and what you are trusting Him to do for you? Do you need an "escape" from God's judgment like Noah? Could you escape God's judgment by doing things your own way?

Noah was given more than 100 years to build the ark. (See Genesis 6:3.) Is that a short or long time? Do you think that gave the wicked people enough time to trust God? What does this tell us about God's judgment? Does God punish because He has a sudden temper tantrum? No! Why might God have waited so long to send the flood? Read and discuss 2 Peter 3:9.

Did the people have any excuse for not paying attention to God's warning of the coming flood? Why not? Does God's patience last forever? Read and discuss Romans 2:4-5. Have you felt God's kindness toward you? In what ways? Has God made a way for you to escape the judgment you deserve? What is this one way? Can you think of a Bible verse with the right answer? (Example: John 3:16-17.) What is repentance? Do you have a repentant heart? What does a repentant heart look like? Has God's kindness led you to be sorry for your sin and turn to Jesus, depending on Him to save you?



DISCOVER MORE GENESIS

A lot happens in Genesis 5-8, and you have all week to read the rest of the story! Listed below are some questions. Each answer can be found somewhere in Genesis 5-8. Read these chapters carefully and fill in the blanks, writing down the verse where each answer is found. The first one is done for you.

1. How old was Adam when his son Seth was born? Answer in Genesis 5: _3__
2. Who lived to be 969 years old? Answer in Genesis 5: _____
3. How many sons did Noah have? Answer in Genesis 5: _____
4. How big was the ark? Answer in Genesis 6: _____
5. How long did God say it would rain? Answer in Genesis 7: _____
6. How deep was the water that covered the mountains? Answer in Genesis 7: _____
7. Where did the ark come to a rest? Answer in Genesis 8: _____
8. When did Noah send out a raven? Answer in Genesis 8: ____
9. What kind of bird did Noah send next? Answer in Genesis 8: ____
10. What did Noah build after he got off the ark? Answer in Genesis 8: ____

BONUS QUESTIONS:

How long is a cubit?

Who shut the door of the ark?

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 7
God Scatters the Nations and Chooses One Man for Himself

Themes:
- After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth.
- Man is sinful and is in rebellion against God.
- The people of Shinar thought they could oppose the one, true God.
- God alone is the Sovereign Ruler—no one can oppose Him and win.
- God chose one man in whom He would make a great nation to bless the world.

Scripture:
Genesis 9:1; 10:32; 11:1-8; 12:1-3; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Isaiah 40:15a, 22a

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:6 (and review verses 3-5)

Today's Clue:
ABRAHAM—ONE MAN BLESSING THE WORLD

Home and Heart:
Have your child think of great skyscrapers. Why might people want to build such tall buildings? How could having the tallest building in the world make you famous? Could it make you equal to the greatness and fame of God? Why not? What can happen to skyscrapers? Will they last forever? Read and discuss Proverbs 16:5, 18-19. How were the people of Shinar proud? Do you ever struggle with pride? How do feelings of pride show we all are sinners? In what ways do we try to be "greater than God"? Will it work? Why not? Can you think of any Bible verses that help you to remember the greatness of God and boast about Him and not about yourself?

Read Genesis 11:7-9. How would confusing their language cause the people of Shinar to stop building the tower? In verse 9, Who dispersed them throughout the earth? Can you think of a verse at the end of the Bible that gives a picture of people from all nations, peoples, and languages all worshipping God together? (Revelation 7:9-10.) Has this fully happened yet? In what ways is it happening right now?

After God scattered the people across the earth, He did not walk away from His sinful people and ignore them or destroy them. Read Genesis 12:1-3. Do these verses tell us why God chose Abram? Was he smart? Strong? Good? Powerful? Rich? Then why did God choose him of all the people on the earth? Does the Bible tell us? Why not? What does this tell us about God? [God is free to choose whomever He wants. God doesn't have to explain His choices. God has the right to do whatever He wants to do.] Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.



DISCOVER MORE GENESIS

How are you doing in Genesis? Have you been reading your Bible during the week? Are you discovering more great things about God as you read? God is so amazing and exciting—there is no one else like Him!

This week read Genesis 9-11 and 12:1-3. You will notice that there are some long lists of names in some of the verses. Have your parents help you read through these verses. As you read, you might come across several new and unfamiliar words. Ask your parents what these words mean. Below are boxes with some of these words. Read each passage and find the word that matches the meaning given. Use the boxes to write in words.

WORD	MEANING
	An special agreement God made between Himself and Noah. (Genesis 9:11)
	A place where grapes are planted. (Genesis 9:20)
	Land lived in and ruled by a certain group of people. (Genesis 9:27)
	Groups of families or relatives. (Genesis 10:32)
	To be spread apart in different directions. (Genesis 11:8)
	Terah's most well-known son. (From Genesis 11:27)
	To be without children or to be unable to have children. (From Genesis 11:30)
	To show honor and favor to a person. (Genesis 12:2)

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 8
God's Covenant with Abram

Themes:
- God chose Abram (Abraham) to make one great nation to bless the world.
- God made a binding covenant with Abraham.
- By faith, Abram obeyed God's call and depended on God's faithfulness.
- Man's actions cannot thwart God's plans.
- God will accomplish all His plans.

Scripture:
Portions of Genesis 12; Hebrews 11:1, 8; Isaiah 46:10b, 11b

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:7a (and review verses 3-6)

Today's Clue:
The Bible Clue Card was blank!

Home and Heart:
Talk about God's call to Abram from Genesis 12:1-3. Ask if he remembers these visuals: GO FROM (your country, kindred, father's house); TO (the land I will show you); AND I WILL (make you a great nation, bless and protect you, make your name great); SO THAT (all families of the earth will be blessed). Was this Abram's or God's plan?

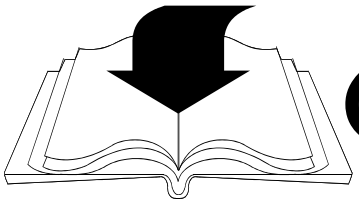
Suppose our family was told to leave our country, relatives, and home to go to a place we have never seen. Do you think it would be hard to leave for someplace unknown? Why? What kinds of questions might we have? For example: "Will Daddy be able to find a new job? Will I see my friends again? Are other people there? Do they speak another language? Are they nice? Will we live in a house?" How was Abram able to go to a place he had never seen? Read and discuss Hebrews 11:1 and 8. Have you made a decision by faith? What was it? Do you place your faith in the right kinds of things? Why is this important? Read and discuss Hebrews 11:6.

Ask your child why there wasn't a clue on today's clue card. In Genesis 12, what couldn't Abram yet SEE? What must he depend on? Have you had to wait for a promise from God? Can you depend on Him to keep every promise? Can you think of any Bible verses that tell us God always keeps His promises (e.g., Deuteronomy 7:9 and Joshua 23:14b)?

Read Hebrews 11:6a. What must Abram have believed about God to follow His command? Read Hebrews 11:6b. Ask: *What if Dad said, "If you help me clean the garage, I'll give you a treat." Would you believe him? Why? Would you believe the treat would be good, and not a rotten, wormy apple? What did God promise Abram if he obeyed? Did Abram believe God?*

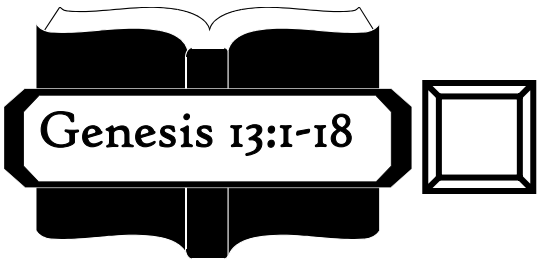


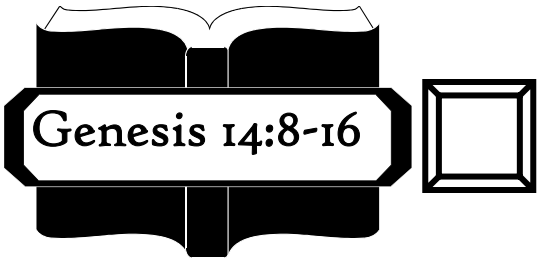
DISCOVER MORE

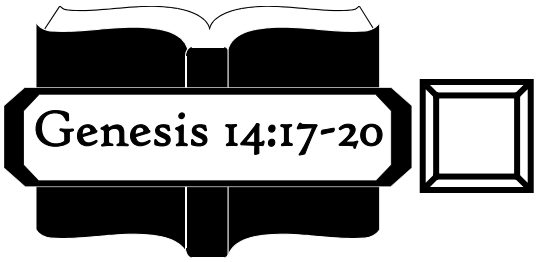


GENESIS

God's call to Abram (later called Abraham) in Genesis 12 begins a very important part of the story of the Bible: God choosing one man through whom He would bless the whole world. We did not have enough time in class to read through the whole story of God's goodness in the life of Abram. But at home you can learn more! This week, read the passages below. After you read each passage, have one of your parents initial the box. Then write one or two sentences describing how God was good to Abram.







In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 9
God Gives Abraham and Sarah a Child of Promise

Themes:
- God chose to make Abraham into a great nation through which He would bless the world.
- God promised Abraham a multitude of offspring.
- God's promises are received through faith in God.
- God is completely trustworthy—He gave Sarah a son in her old age.

Scripture:
Hebrews 11:8; Genesis 12:7; 13:16; 15:1-5; 17:1-5, 15, 19; 21:1-3

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:7b (and review verses 3-7a)

Today's Clues:
CHILD OF PROMISE, EVERLASTING COVENANT

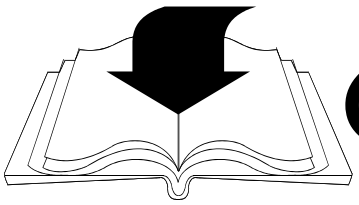
Home and Heart:
Have your child recall a time when he had to wait a long time for something. Was the waiting hard? Why? Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Read the first three verses and recall God's promise to Abram. Read verses 4-7. What promise did God make to Abram in verse 7? Did God give Abraham and Sarah a child right away? Turn the pages, one at a time, until you come to Genesis 21:1-3. Emphasize that many years passed before God gave them their promised child, Isaac. What are some of the things that happened to Abraham during this time? Did Abraham and Sarah always act in faith? For example, what happened in Genesis 16?

Ask about the contest for finding the right key to unlock the Promise box. Why did the child who won need to depend on others to find the right key? [He was blindfolded.] What did the adult try to do? [He was not blindfolded, but he wouldn't listen to instructions. He thought he had a better way to find the key, but it didn't work.] What can we learn about faith from this illustration? Talk about Hebrews 11:1, 6-12. When Abraham and Sarah tried to receive God's promise by depending on their own ideas and actions, did it work? Why not? Why did they need to totally depend on God? Was Isaac's birth humanly possible? Who alone could make it happen?

Is there anything special you are depending on God to do for you? For example, you are a sinner just like Abraham and Sarah. Can you take care of your sin problem by working to be a better person? Can you escape God's judgment by trying to do things your own way? Would that be faith? Why not? Who must you totally depend on to save you? Can you find one or two verses in the New Testament that tell you Who you must believe and depend on to save you?



DISCOVER MORE



GENESIS

God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. God planned to do this by giving Abraham and Sarah a child of promise—a child whose birth was humanly impossible. After many years of waiting, God kept His promise, and Isaac was born. During the years of waiting, many things happened. Have your parents help you make a plan for the week to read Genesis 16-21:7, then see if you can name the person who said the words listed below. Write the correct names on the lines.

Who said it ?



1. "You are the God of seeing…Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me." _____

2. "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" _____

3. "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" _____

4. "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." _____

5. "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." _____

6. "She is my sister." _____

7. "How have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin?" _____

8. "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." _____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 10
God Provides Abraham with a Right Offering

Themes:
- God made a binding covenant with Abraham and his son Isaac.
- God's people must have a right covering for sin.
- Faith in God is demonstrated through obedience to God.
- What God required of Abraham, He provided for Abraham.

Scripture:
Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:8a (and review verses 3-7)

Today's Clues:
ONE LOVED SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB

Home and Heart:
Read Genesis 22:1-13 and Hebrews 11:17-19 together. Before God tested Abraham, commanding him to offer Isaac, what things had Abraham SEEN God do in his life? Had God proven Himself to be faithful? How? Had God proven Himself to be good? In what ways? Had God proven Himself to be almighty? Give some examples. Do you think that helped Abraham to have faith in this situation? Give your child an example of how someone is proven to be trustworthy. Point out that trust in something is dependent on its trustworthiness. Some people trust in the wrong things. For example, what if Hagar had told Abraham to offer up Isaac? Would she have been trustworthy in this situation? Why not? But Who had commanded Abraham to do it? God! He is always trustworthy!

Point out that the walk to Moriah took Abraham and Isaac three days—three days for Abraham to think about what God had commanded him to do. What do you think Abraham might have been thinking about during that time? Do you think he might have recalled God's faithfulness and goodness? Read Genesis 22:5. What hint does this verse give that Abraham believed God would somehow spare Isaac? Read verse 8. What does the Bible call this kind of belief? Review Hebrews 11:1. Why is faith important? Read Hebrews 11:6. How did Abraham show that he was a man of faith? Read and discuss James 2:20-23.

Are you a child of faith? Are you depending on Jesus alone to forgive your sin? If you are, is your faith in Jesus demonstrated by a desire to obey God? Pray about your response.



DISCOVER MORE GENESIS

This week, carefully read Genesis 21-22 to learn more about God's goodness and faithfulness in the life of Abraham. After you have finished reading both chapters, take the multiple choice test below. (Try to take it without looking in your Bible.) Circle the correct answer to each question, and bring your completed test to class.

1. What did Sarah want Abraham to do with Hagar and Ishmael?

A) Kill them B) Include them in the family C) Send them away

2. What did God say He would do for Ishmael because he was Abraham's offspring?

A) Make a nation from him B) Make him equal to Isaac C) Curse him

3. What did Hagar and Ishmael travel through?

A) A large city B) A well-watered plain C) The desert

4. God heard Hagar's and Ishmael's weeping, and He acted by doing what?

A) God sent judgment on them B) God sent them back to Abraham C) God provided water

5. Abimelech's servants had taken this from Abraham.

A) His well B) His land C) His flocks

6. What did Abraham tell his servants that he and Isaac were going to do?

A) They were going to offer up a lamb B) They were going to worship C) They were going to pray

7. What did Isaac notice was missing for the offering?

A) The wood B) The fire C) The lamb

8. God promised Abraham his offspring would be more numerous than…

A) the grass of the fields B) the sand on the seashore C) the leaves on the trees

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 11
God's Providence and His Choice of Jacob

Themes:
- God promised to make Abraham into a great nation through which to bless the world.
- After the death of Abraham, God continued His covenant promise through Isaac.
- God directs people and events to bring about His purposes.
- God chose to continue His covenant through Jacob.

Scripture:
Portions of Genesis 23-25

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:8b (and review verses 3-8a)

Today's Clues:
There was no clue uncovered—only a fingerprint!

Home and Heart:
How did God leave His "fingerprints" in the events of Genesis 23-25? Do we always understand how God may choose to direct people and events? For example, does God say WHY He chose Jacob and not Esau? Was it because He thought Jacob would be stronger, smarter, or more obedient? Read and discuss Romans 9:10-11.

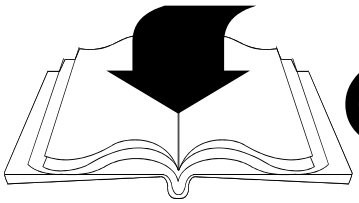
Is God still active in the world today? Even though He may not speak directly to people today as He did to Abraham, do you see evidence of God's "fingerprints"? Give your child some concrete examples from the physical world as well as historical and current events. Think in terms of personal ways God has moved and directed events in your own life and then help your child to discover God's fingerprints in his own life.

How was Rebekah like Sarah? [She was barren, too.] Did God's plan fail because of this? Why not? Why do you think God chose to have the offspring of His promise born to women who were barren? What does this show us about Who God is and what He is like? How should we respond to God when we see His greatness displayed? How should we respond to God when we see how He directs people and events to make His plans happen? Read Genesis 24:26-27. What is worship? Read Revelation 5:11-14. Who is being worshiped in these verses? Why? Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

This week, carefully look for God's fingerprints in your life, family, church, in nature, and in the things that are happening around the world. As you notice God acting in His world and in His people, take time to worship Him for how great He is!



DISCOVER MORE



GENESIS

Read Genesis 23-25 to learn more about how God continued to keep His promises to Abraham through Isaac and then Jacob. Below is a word search. You will find 20 words from the chapters you read. The words are written across and down. Circle the words when you find them. (Hint: They are NOT words like, *the*, *and*, *is*, *so*, etc.)

K	W	O	Z	F	E	K	I	C	A	V	E	T	Y
U	I	N	R	E	B	E	K	A	H	R	C	I	A
T	A	A	N	S	G	R	E	M	S	B	U	N	A
E	B	L	E	S	A	U	I	E	Q	A	N	I	N
R	R	O	G	B	E	K	L	L	O	R	G	E	G
A	A	A	K	B	T	S	M	S	A	R	B	I	E
B	H	R	I	A	E	E	W	Z	L	E	E	S	L
C	A	N	A	A	N	R	A	R	O	N	G	A	T
I	M	E	R	H	B	V	C	A	F	O	A	A	E
L	L	C	A	P	R	A	Y	E	R	N	T	C	V
J	A	G	E	U	X	N	P	T	W	I	N	S	U
A	C	B	U	R	Y	T	E	B	A	C	O	D	L
C	E	K	A	N	F	W	N	A	T	I	O	N	S
O	P	S	A	R	A	H	S	E	C	T	O	R	A
B	L	L	V	A	O	F	F	S	P	R	I	N	G
S	M	O	T	F	O	R	E	I	G	N	E	R	O
S	L	A	B	A	N	E	C	B	A	T	E	I	U
N	O	Q	U	T	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	T	G

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 12
Jacob's Deceit and God's Design

Themes:
- Before his birth, God chose Jacob to inherit the covenantal promise made to Abraham and Isaac.
- Neither Jacob nor Esau deserved God's special promises.
- God chose to be merciful to Jacob.
- Man's sin cannot thwart God's design.

Scripture:
Portions of Genesis 25; 27-28

Memory Verse:
Review Isaiah 53:3-8

Today's Clue:
There was no clue revealed today.

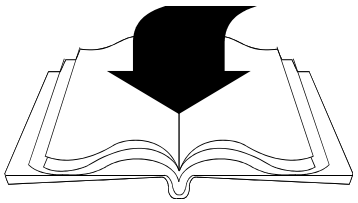
Home and Heart:
Ask your child to recall something he may have wanted very badly (e.g., a puppy, a new bike, seeing a friend who lives far away, etc.). Was it something good? It may have been good, but is it wrong to try to get something good through being tricky or by taking advantage of someone else's wrong actions? What was wrong about how Jacob went about getting Esau's birthright and Isaac's blessing? Was he acting by faith—depending on God to keep His promise made before Jacob was born? (Genesis 25:23.) What could Jacob have done differently? How is the fact that he acted like he did evidence of what was in his heart? How did Esau show his own sin? What did he regard as more precious than God's promise? Have you sometimes treated other things or people as more precious than God and His promises? Give your child concrete examples of what this looks like. What does this show us about our own heart at times? What does this show us that we desperately need?

In our story, how did God cause the actions of sinful people to serve His design and plan? Read and discuss Job 42:2 and Isaiah 14:27. Have you seen an example in your own life?

Even though Jacob's deceit could not ruin God's design, did Jacob still suffer consequences of his sin? In what ways? Most importantly, how did his sin offend God? When he took matters into his own hands, what was he saying about God's goodness and His ability to keep His promise? Have you felt the consequence of your own sin? How has your sin affected other people? What consequences have you suffered because of it? How does your sin offend God? Is there anything you can do about this? Read and discuss 1 John 1:8-9. Who is the "he" in these verses? See verse 7.



REVIEW



ISAIAH 53:3-8

He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of A, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we B Him not.

Surely He has borne our C and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and D.

But He was E for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us F, and with His stripes we are G.

All we like sheep have gone H; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his I; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its J is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and K he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the L of my people?

WHAT MISSING WORD DOES EACH LETTER STAND FOR?

_____ **afflicted**	_____ **mouth**
_____ **astray**	_____ **peace**
_____ **esteemed**	_____ **wounded**
_____ **healed**	_____ **shearers**
_____ **griefs**	_____ **sorrows**
_____ **judgment**	_____ **transgression**

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 13
God Preserves Israel in the Land of Egypt

Themes:
- God changed Jacob's name to Israel.
- God gave Jacob 12 sons, who became God's chosen nation, Israel.
- God causes evil to serve His good purposes.
- God preserved His people in the land of Egypt.

Scripture:
Portions of Genesis 37-50

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:9 (and review verses 3-8)

Today's Clue:
ISRAEL—GOD'S CHOSEN NATION

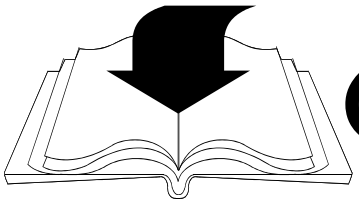
Home and Heart:
Recall a time when your child had a fight with his siblings (or friends). Were his feelings hurt? Did he feel wronged? How does he think Joseph felt when his brothers wanted to kill him and then, instead, sold him as a slave? Did God know what was happening? Did God act to stop it? Why not? Read and discuss Psalm 105:16-24. To begin with, did Joseph or his father and brothers understand this was God's plan for the nation of Israel? After it happened, what did Joseph understand? Read and discuss Genesis 50:19-20.

Has anything bad ever happened to you? What happened? At the time, did it seem anything good could come from this? Was it hard to trust God, believing He understood what you were going through and was (and still is) able to turn it to good? Use the notebook section on the back side of this page to write your answer. Read and talk about some of the following verses: Psalm 34:10; 84:11; Romans 8:32. Who do these verse pertain to? Use the same notebook section to write your answer.

Did Joseph *just happen* to end up in Egypt? Did he *just happen* to earn favor with the jailer? Did he *just happen* to be able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams? Did he *just happen* to earn the trust of Pharaoh? Did there *just happen* to be a famine in the land? Did he *just happen* to be the one from whom his brothers would need to buy grain? When you read a story like this from the Bible, Whose "fingerprints" should you be looking for? Read the following verses from the story: Genesis 39:2-3, 21, 23; 41:16, 25, 28. Is Joseph the hero or is God? How did Joseph point to God's greatness? Spend time in prayer, praising God for His greatness! He still is at work today, causing all of His good purposes to come about.

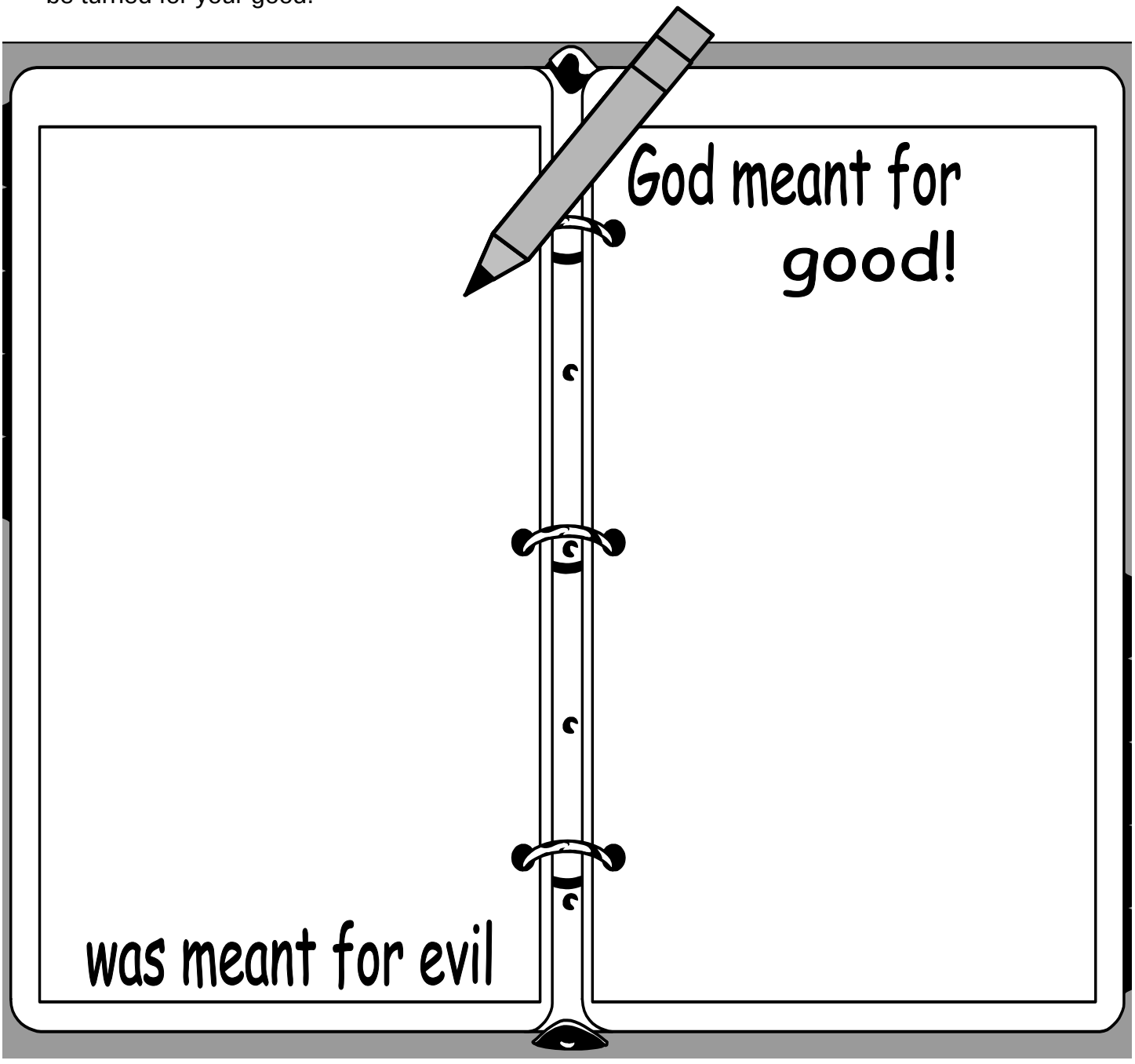


DISCOVER MORE



GENESIS

"READ ALL ABOUT IT! JACOB MEETS WITH PHARAOH." Yes, it's true. Jacob did meet face-to-face with Pharaoh. What did he say to Pharaoh? Was Pharaoh pleased with his visit? Find out by reading Genesis 47. What happens at the end of the chapter? Read chapter 48 to find out who Manasseh and Ephraim are. With your parents, read and discuss the second paragraph under the "Home and Heart" section on the other side of this page. Use the notebook below to write about (or draw) a situation in which you saw how God caused something meant for evil to be turned for your good.



In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 14
The LORD Chooses Moses to Be His Prophet

Themes:
- God prospered His people in Egypt during the time of Joseph.
- Israel became enslaved by the Egyptians.
- God chose Moses to be His prophet, through whom He would deliver His people.
- God's name points to His uniqueness.

Scripture:
Genesis 49:9-10; 50:20; Exodus 1:1-14; 2:23-25; 3:1-17

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:10a (and review verses 3-9)

Today's Clues:
LION OF JUDAH, I AM

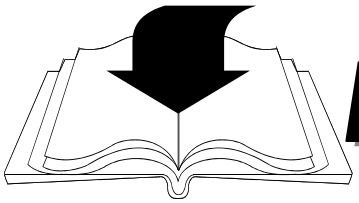
Home and Heart:
Review the blessing Jacob gave to Judah from Genesis 49:9-10. Do you think this promise was fulfilled in Judah's lifetime? Why or why not? Remember, Judah died along with his brothers while still living in Egypt. Do you think this promise has been fulfilled now? If so, how? If not, when and how do you think it will be fulfilled? Can you think of any Bible passages that help to answer this question?

Between the end of Genesis and the beginning of the events in Exodus 2, more than 300 years had passed. How were the Israelites living before Exodus 1:8-14? (See verse 7.) Why might Israel have been content to stay in Egypt during this time? Have you ever been content just to be comfortable? For example, is it easier and more comfortable to play all day than it is to do your schoolwork or help with chores? Why? Have your parents sometimes "forced" you out of your comfort to do what is good for you? Did God know what was best for His people Israel? Did He want the Israelites to stay in Egypt? What did He do to force them out of their comfort? Do you think this might have reminded them of the promise God had made to Abraham?

Review Exodus 3:13-15. What does God's name, I AM (translated throughout the Old Testament as *LORD*), mean? Does anyone else decide Who God is or what He is like? Does God fully explain Himself? What kind of things has God revealed about Himself? Have your parents help you make a list of words that describe Who God is and what He is like (His attributes), then read and discuss Psalm 9:10. During your prayer times this week, worship God by praising Him for these attributes. Try praying Bible verses that describe these attributes.



DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

Exodus, the second book of the Bible, continues the story of God's faithfulness to the covenantal promises He made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel. As you read about the events recorded in the first chapter of Exodus, recall that Israel had lived in Egypt for more than 300 years. What happened to Israel during that time? Read Exodus 1:7 for the answer. Continue reading all of chapters 1-3 and answer the following questions:

1. Why didn't the Hebrew midwives kill the Hebrew baby boys?

_____

2. Why did Pharaoh's daughter give the baby the name, *Moses*?

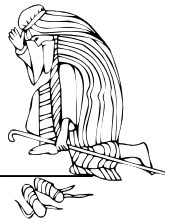


_____

3. In chapter 2, the Israelites cried out to God. God heard them and remembered what?

_____

4. Why did God tell Moses to take off his sandals?



_____

5. How did God describe the land that He was going to give to His people?

_____

6. What did God say would "compel" Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt?

_____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 15
The Plagues and the Passover

Themes:
- God is almighty—no one can oppose Him and succeed.
- God is right to judge sinners.
- God was merciful to His people Israel.
- God is sovereign over all things—even the hearts of men.
- God instituted the Passover to point His people to the future Passover Lamb.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 3-12

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:10b (and review verses 3-10a)

Today's Clue:
THE PASSOVER SACRIFICE

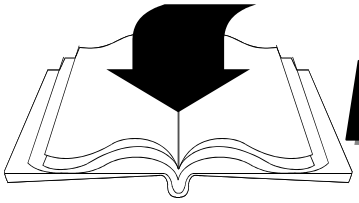
Home and Heart:
Sometimes when people read the events from Exodus 3-12, they focus on people, such as Moses and Pharaoh, or the amazing events, like the plagues. Is this the MAIN point of the story? WHO was at work bringing about these events? God, the LORD! All the people and events served His great plan. WHY did God want to deliver His people? WHY did He use 10 plagues and not just one? Was Pharaoh that strong? Read and discuss Exodus 6:6-8 and 9:13-16. How does what God did show His faithfulness? Why should this matter to you? What does Exodus 9:16 say about why God did what He did and the way He chose to do it?

Explain that sometimes people will watch their team win something, like a football game, and they will boast by saying, *"We won! We're the best!"* After God had sent the 10th plague on Egypt, could Israel boast by saying, *"We won! We're the best! We're mightier than Pharaoh"?* Read and discuss Jeremiah 9:23-24. How can these verses apply to you? Do you boast about God or yourself? When you read about the events in Exodus, do you want to boast about God and praise Him? How could you do this today and the rest of the week?

Read Exodus 12:1-28 with your child. Why did God have the Israelites kill a lamb and shed its blood before He sent the 10th plague on Egypt? In past Bible stories, why did God have His people kill a lamb? By killing a Passover lamb, what God was reminding His people about? Did the Israelites also deserve God's judgment? Why? What is the only way they could be saved from God's judgment? By trusting in God—depending on and trusting in His mercy, and then obeying His command on the Passover. What do you think today's clue was pointing toward in the future?



DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week, carefully read portions of Exodus 4-12. These chapters tell about the almighty power of the LORD as He dealt with Pharaoh and demonstrated His faithfulness to His people Israel. Use the chart below as a guide for your daily reading and check off each box after you have finished.

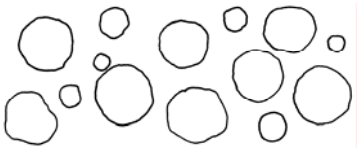
Mon ☐

Exodus 4









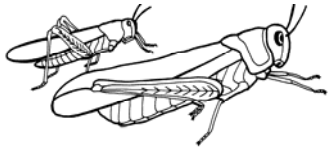
Thurs ☐

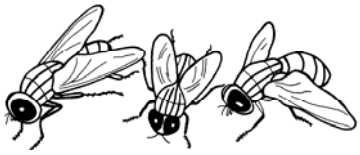
Exodus 8:20-9:35

Tues ☐

Exodus 5-6:13







Fri ☐

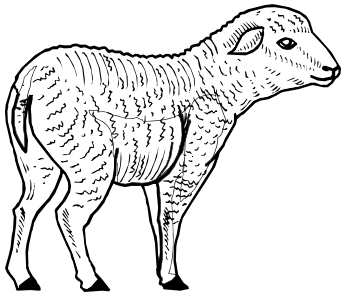
Exodus 10-11

Wed ☐

Exodus 7-8:19







Sat ☐

Exodus 12:1-32

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 16
The Exodus

Themes:
- God is almighty—no one can oppose Him and succeed.
- God is faithful—He delivered His people from bondage in Egypt.
- God is sovereign over all creation.
- Man is sinful.
- Trusting in God is the only way to be saved.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 12-14

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:11 (and review verses 3-10)

Today's Clue:
DELIVERANCE

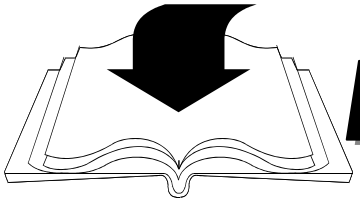
Home and Heart:
Read with your child the story of Israel's deliverance in Exodus 12:31-42. Point out that God purposely led Israel to a "dead-end." He brought them to a place where they had no way to escape—neither by sea nor through Pharaoh and his armies. Why would God choose to do things this way? Read and discuss Exodus 14:3-4, 30-31.

In Moses' time, chariots were a sign of a mighty army—one that was sure to win against an army on foot. Why did the Egyptians believe they could overtake the Israelites? What were they trusting in? Was their trust well placed? Read Exodus 14:24b-25a. Could the Israelites trust their own strength? Why not? Who alone could they trust? Would this trust be well-placed? Why? Read and talk about Psalm 20:7. How does this apply to us? Are there times we depend on our own strength, intelligence, etc.? Give your child a concrete example of misplaced trust and an example of trusting in God. For example, "Could you be saved from your sin and go to heaven by trusting in your own goodness? What does the Bible say?" Read and discuss Ephesians 2:8-9.

Have your child recall a time when he saw or experienced something he thought was amazing. Did it make him feel like shouting, cheering, clapping, jumping up and down, etc.? What about Israel seeing and experiencing the parting of the sea, watching Pharaoh's armies drown, and finally being freed from Egypt? How did Israel respond? Read Exodus 15:1-21. Who alone deserves all praise, glory, and honor for delivering His people? What amazing things have you seen God do in the world, your church, family, and own life? Do you give Him all praise, glory, and honor?

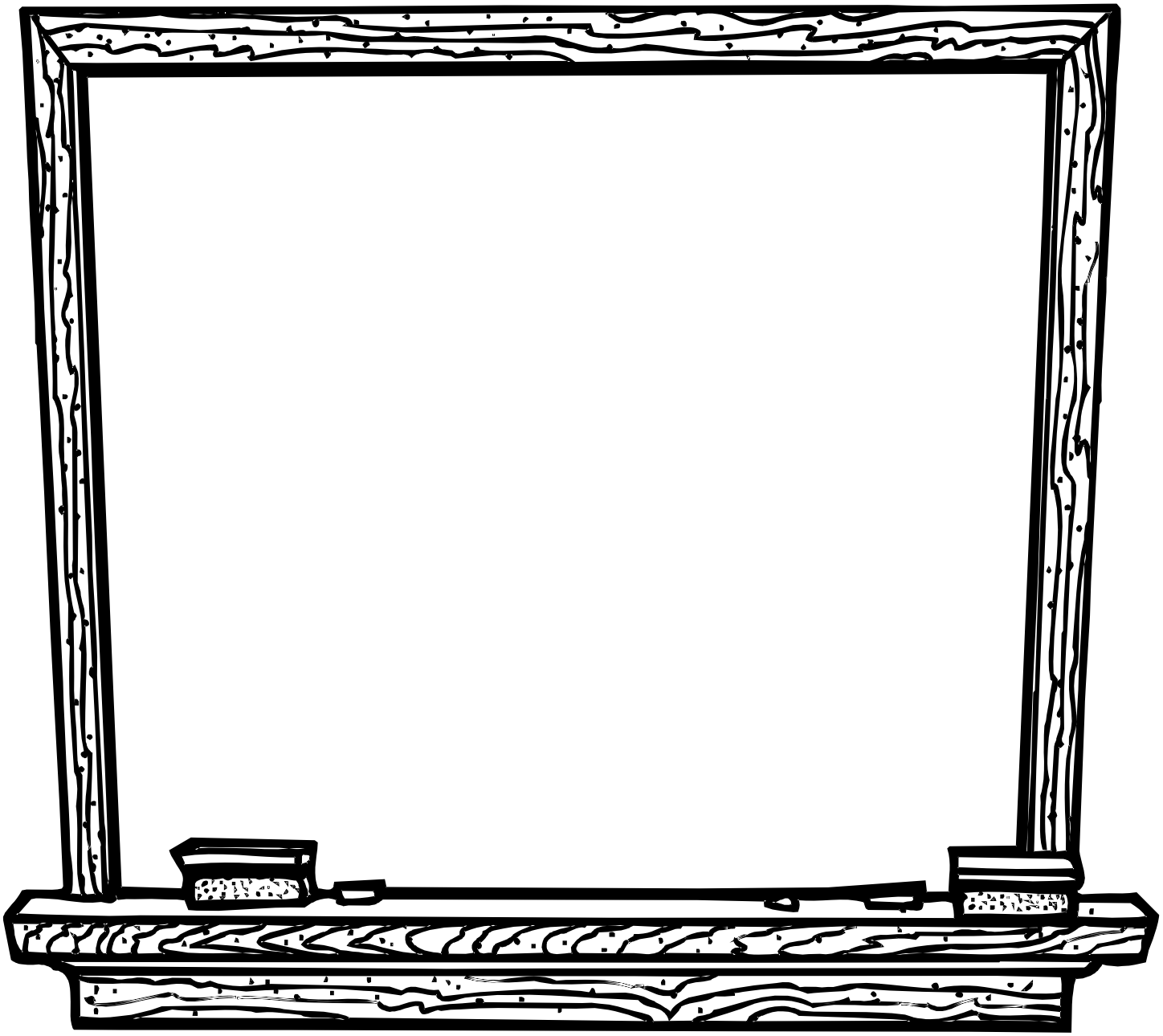


DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week, read the WHOLE story of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. As you read Exodus 12-14, imagine you are there experiencing all the miraculous wonders God performed. What do you think it would have felt like? Is it something you would remember for the rest of your life? Would you tell all your friends about it? Would you boast about the one, true, almighty God? In the space below, pretend you are making an announcement of what happened in Exodus 12-14. Write a short headline to tell people what happened, Who did it, and why He did it. Draw a picture of what it might have looked like.



In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 17
God's Covenant with Israel

Themes:
- God is faithful and good—He provides for all the needs of His people.
- God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.
- God desires to have a special relationship with His people.
- God established His covenant with Israel: a binding agreement in which He outlined the conditions of His relationship with His treasured possession.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 15-19

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:12a (and review verses 3-11)

Today's Clues:
BREAD FROM HEAVEN, GOD'S HOLY LAW

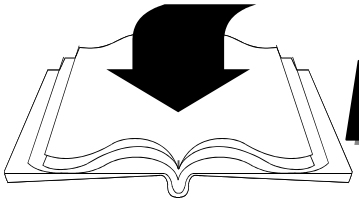
Home and Heart:
Read Exodus 15:22-25. Why were the people grumbling? Why is this so amazing? What had they seen God do just three days before? What does this show us about their heart attitude? Had God saved them from Egypt *because they* were good, faithful, and wonderful? What does this tell us about God and how He saves and cares for His people? Is it earned? Are you like Israel? Do you grumble and quarrel with God? (Or the ones He puts in authority over you—e.g., your parents?) What does this show you about your own heart? Read and discuss Psalm 103:1-14.

Read Exodus 16:16-21. Why would God have the Israelites collect only enough manna for one day? Why not store the extra so they would be sure to have enough for the next day? What did God want Israel to learn by this? Read and discuss Lamentations 3:22-23.

Suppose you make a bargain with your child. You will take your child to the zoo on Friday if your child makes his bed and cleans his room every day. If your child doesn't do his part, you won't need to follow through with your part. Would it have worked if your child had come to you and said, "I have a deal for you. I will make my bed every day and clean my room. If I do this, then you must take me to the zoo"? What is the difference between the two "deals"? Could the first one actually happen? What about the second one? Why not? Who can decide whether or not there will be a "deal" and what the conditions will be? Review the introduction to the covenant from Exodus 19:3-6. Who is establishing this covenant and determining the terms? What does God agree to do? What does God say Israel must do? Read verses 7-8 for Israel's response. Do you think Israel will do this? Explain your answer.

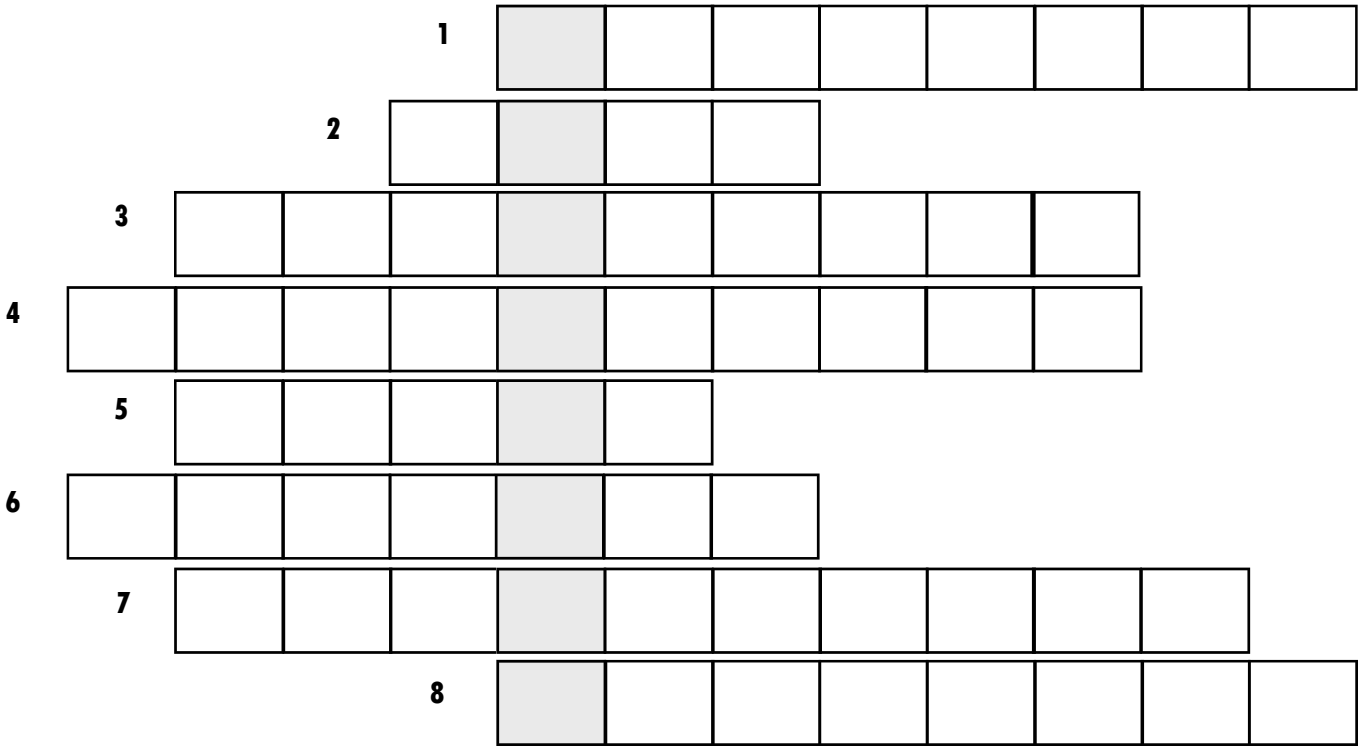


DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week do the word puzzle pictured below. The missing words, which are all written across, can be found by reading Exodus 15-19. When you have completed the puzzle correctly, you will find a special word spelled out in the shaded boxes.



1. Pharaoh thought he could win with these.

2. God caused water to come from this.

3. This word means "to save."

4. God says Israel shall be His treasured _____.

5. Bread from heaven.

6. A day of holy rest.

7. A place in the wilderness where God spoke to Moses and the people of Israel (two words).

8. What the mountain did when God descended upon it.

The special word is: _____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 18
God's Law Is Given to Israel

Themes
- God enters into a covenantal relationship with His people.
- God's law is holy, righteous, and good.
- The law described how Israel was to live as a redeemed people of God.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 19-20; Romans 7:12

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:12b (and review verses 3-12a)

Today's Clue:
There was no new picture clue revealed, but next time look for a *seal*.

Home and Heart:
Review the giving of the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:1-21. Before God gave the first commandment in verse 3, what did He say to Israel? What was He reminding His people of? Why is this important? Is anyone but the one, true, eternal God worthy of worship? Why not? How is the first command lived out? (Give examples of thoughts, feelings, words, and actions it demands.)

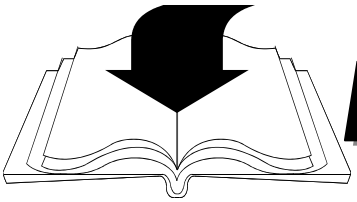
Read and discuss Romans 7:12. Emphasize that the commandments are holy, righteous, and good because they are given by a God Who is holy, righteous, and good. The commandments help us understand something of God's unique character. They also help us understand how God's people are expected to live as His saved people. Review each command and discuss how it shows God's holiness, righteousness, and goodness.

Ask your child to list a few rules you have given him to obey. Why did you give him those rules? What do these rules show about you as a parent? How are they good for your child? How can these examples help us understand God's commands that He gave to His people Israel?

Recall that in this covenant, God is establishing an agreement between Himself and Israel. God is promising to do three things for His people. (See Exodus 19:5-6.) Can God be trusted to keep His part of the agreement? Why? What must Israel do? Does God want them to *completely* obey His commands, or is most of the time good enough? Why is perfect obedience important to God? (Ask your child to tell you about the example of going to the jewelry store from the lesson.) Read Habakkuk 1:13 and James 2:10. How many times did Adam and Eve disobey God's command before God judged them with the punishment of death? Will the giving of the Ten Commandments solve this problem?



DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week read through Exodus 19:1-24 and Exodus 20:1-21. The unscrambled words below can be found in the verses you read. Write these words on the lines below. Then write a brief sentence explaining what each word means (you may need your parents' help).

TEVCO

MEANING:



ERCOACENTS

MEANING:

NITSEWS

MEANING:

ELJOASU

MEANING:

URJOSEONR _____

MEANING:

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 19
The Blood of the Covenant and the Tabernacle

Themes:
- God's commandments described how Israel was to live as the delivered people of God.
- God's commandments showed the Israelites that they were sinners and deserved death.
- God sealed the covenant with blood, showing Israel its dependence on His mercy and forgiveness.
- God desires to dwell in the midst of His people.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 24:6-8; 25:8

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:12c (and review verses 3-12b)

Today's Clue:
THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

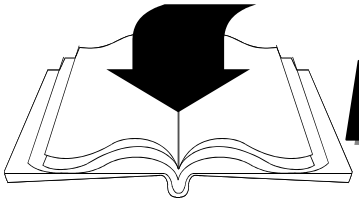
Home and Heart:
Briefly review the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. Point out that the commandments showed Israel three important things: 1) God is holy, righteous, and good; 2) God's people must be holy, righteous, and good; and 3) Israel was sinful. Was this true just for Israel? Is it true for us as well? Use one or more of the commandments to show how it convicts us of our own sin. Because of this, what do we need? [God's mercy.] How did God show His mercy to the people of Israel? What did He do to forgive their sin? Why was this necessary? Read Romans 6:23a and Hebrews 9:22. Read Exodus 24:6-8. How does the blood of the covenant point to something coming in Israel's future? Read the rest of Romans 6:23.

Review Exodus 24:6-8. Why was blood used to seal the covenant and make it official? What is the blood a reminder of? Who should have died and why? Why won't God look at sin and say it's okay? Is your own sin okay with God? Could you please God and have a special relationship with Him by working hard and keeping all of His commandments? Why not? Does God know this? Has He made a way for you to be saved? Is it through the blood of animals? What has changed since the time of the covenant God gave Israel at Mount Sinai?

Read Exodus 25:1-9. What was the purpose for the tabernacle God instructed Moses to build? What kinds of materials was it to be made of? Ordinary or everyday things? What does this tell us about Who God is and what He is like? Does the tabernacle still exist? Why not? Read Revelation 21:1-4. What are these verses describing? Something now or in the future? Has God made a way to enjoy His presence now so we can experience a little bit of heaven? How?



DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week, read Exodus 24 and Exodus 25:1-9. Often the Bible uses words that were common for that place and time but are less familiar to us now. After reading the passages, see if you can write the Bible word from the text that matches each meaning. To make this easier, the first letter of each word has been provided. You may need your parents' help.

Bible Word	Meaning
S_____	A precious stone that is very beautiful
L_____	A kind of fabric woven from the stem of a certain kind of plant
I_____	Something burned to give a pleasant odor
A_____	A structure built for offering sacrifices
B_____	A reddish brown, shiny metal
E_____	A special kind of apron that is worn
S_____	A brilliant red color
A_____	A type of tree

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 20
The Tabernacle, Priests, and Sacrifices

Themes:
- God instructed Israel about how they were to worship Him in the tabernacle.
- The holy God desires to dwell with His people.
- God chose priests to be mediators between God and His sinful people.
- God commanded the priests to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of their own sins and the sins of the people.
- On the Day of Atonement, the one high priest could enter the Most Holy Place.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 25-30 and Leviticus 16

Memory Verse:
Review Isaiah 53:3-12 (See REVIEW sheet.)

Today's Clue;
ONE HIGH PRIEST

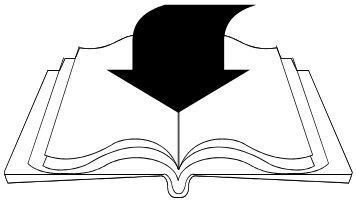
Home and Heart:
Ask your child about the tabernacle. You could have him draw a simple floor plan. Point out that God had exact instructions for how the tabernacle would look, what it would be made of, what furniture it would contain, and how it would function. Why was there a veil in front of the Holy Place? What was special about this room? Read Exodus 25:21-22. Who alone could enter this room? How often could he enter? Read and discuss the Day of Atonement from Leviticus 16. Are there clues pointing to Jesus and His death on the cross?

The tabernacle was to be a glimpse of what the garden of Eden was like before sin, where Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God. After they sinned, what prevented them from returning to the garden? (See Genesis 3:24.) In the tabernacle, what separated the people from the Most Holy Place? Does the tabernacle still exist? What about the veil and the Ark of the Covenant? Does this mean God no longer has a special dwelling place to be close to His people? Do we still need to kill animals and have priests offer them on an altar for the forgiveness of sin? Why not? Can you think of Bible passages to answer these questions?

Read Leviticus 4 with God's instructions for certain kinds of sacrifices. Would these be easy to do? Why would sacrifices need to be repeated over and over, day and night in the tabernacle? Were the priests ever "finished" with their job? Were people ever able to stop giving sacrifices? Why not? Read and discuss Hebrews 10:1-4. Why is it impossible for the blood of animals to take away sins? Did God make a way to take away sins? Read and discuss John 1:29.



DISCOVER MORE



LEVITICUS

This week read about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16. Then do the word search below. There are 24 words from the text hidden in the search. (They are not words like *of, the, and, for, etc.*) All 24 words will be written across or down. Use the NIV Bible.

K	H	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	P	R	T	Y
U	A	N	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	S	C	I	S
T	G	A	N	S	I	N	S	O	S	I	O	N	T
E	L	L	D	A	F	H	I	P	C	E	N	I	A
R	H	T	G	B	E	K	L	L	A	S	G	E	T
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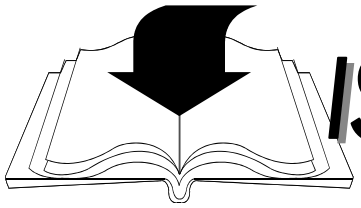
B	L	R	I	A	E	P	W	Z	P	S	E	K	T
D	Y	A	S	T	A	A	A	R	O	N	G	R	E
E	P	E	R	H	N	M	C	A	F	O	A	W	C
S	L	C	A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	U	E
E	A	G	E	U	I	K	P	O	C	G	I	T	U
R	C	F	L	B	N	I	E	B	L	O	O	D	L
T	E	K	A	N	T	W	A	Y	I	A	N	O	Z
N	P	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	C	T	O	R	A
E	L	L	V	A	D	E	P	C	Y	S	E	K	T
S	M	O	S	E	S	K	B	A	T	H	E	Y	O
S	A	C	O	N	S	E	C	R	A	T	E	I	U
C	R	H	O	L	Y	K	R	K	M	O	R	T	G



REVIEW



ISAIAH 53:3-12

WHAT MISSING WORD DOES EACH LETTER STAND FOR?

He was despised and **A** by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was **B**, and we esteemed Him not.

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him **C**, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was **D** for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.

All we like **E** have gone astray; we have turned every one to His own way and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a **F** that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his **G**, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his **H** with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no **I** in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an **J** for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall **K** in his hand.

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my **L**, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the **M** with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the **N** yet he bore the sin of many and makes **O** for the transgressors.

____ **crushed**

____ **deceit**

____ **generation**

____ **despised**

____ **grave**

____ **intercession**

____ **lamb**

____ **offering**

____ **prosper**

____ **rejected**

____ **Servant**

____ **sheep**

____ **spoil**

____ **stricken**

____ **transgressors**

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In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 21
The Golden Calf and the Renewal of the Covenant

Themes:
- God made a binding agreement with Israel.
- Man is a sinner—Israel was quick to break God's covenant.
- God is right to punish those who break His commands.
- God is merciful and faithful.
- God renewed His covenant with Israel.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 31-34

Memory Verse:
John 1:1-2

Today's Clue:
No clue

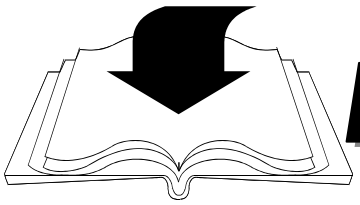
Home and Heart:
Talk about something foolish you did as a child. Why did it seem good to do at the time? What were the consequences? Could these be easily fixed? Read the events of Exodus 32. What was so foolish about what Israel did? Why were they unable to fix the consequences? How do you think they felt when Moses came down and smashed the tablets? How do you think they felt as they drank the golden water? How do you think they felt when the Levites were going through the camp killing men at God's command? Why was God's response so fierce? What was God saying about Who He is and how His people should respond to Him?

Read Exodus 34:6. Why were these words from God so important to Israel? Can you recall examples of God's mercy, patience, love, and faithfulness toward Israel? Did God renew the covenant because Israel *deserved* to be God's people? What word do we use to describe God's kindness to undeserving sinners? [Mercy.] Does this still describe God today? How have you experienced God's mercy? His patience? His love?

Imagine your daddy came home from work one day with a wonderful gift for you: a new [computer] of your very own! Immediately, you started to brag to [your siblings] saying, *"Ha, ha! See, Daddy likes me best! You'd better never touch MY [computer]. I'm not sharing it with anyone!"* Then, you watch with amazement as your daddy takes the [computer] and returns it to the store. If this happened, would you have a sudden change in attitude? Why? Would you still feel like bragging? What <u>should</u> you feel? Why might your daddy do this? Read and discuss Exodus 34:6 and Romans 2:4-5. What is repentance? Why is it important?



DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week read the passages listed below. To the right of each passage are two sentences telling about something that happened in each passage. The missing words are written in code. Decode the letters. The correct words will be found in the Bible passages.

Monday

Exodus 32:1-14

Israel ▷↕△▽↑↓▲▲⇨⇦ the golden calf. _____

God's ▷△⇨◀↑ burned against Israel. _____

Tuesday

Exodus 32:15-35

Moses ground the calf into ▲↕▷⇦⇨△. _____

The LORD sent a ▲↙⇨→▶⇨ on the people. _____

Wednesday

Exodus 33:1-11

Israel took their ↕△↔⇨↘⇨↔◀▽ off. _____

The LORD spoke to Moses as a ←△↓⇨↔⇦. _____

Thursday

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses asked to see God's →↙↕△◢. _____

Moses found ←⇨◁↕△ in God's sight. _____

Friday

Exodus 34:1-28

The LORD is ↘⇨△⇨↓←▶↙. _____

The LORD is a ↖⇨⇨↙↕▶▽ God. _____

Saturday

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses' face was ▽↑↓↔↓↔→. _____

Moses put a ◁⇨↓↙ over his face. _____

a = ⇨	e = ⇨	i = ↓	m = ↘	q = ▼	u = ▶
b = ⇦	f = ←	J = ↖	n = ↔	r = △	v = ◁
c = ⇨	g = →	k = ↗	o = ↕	s = ▽	w = ▷
d = ⇦	h = ↑	l = ↙	p = ▲	t = ◀	y = ◢

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:

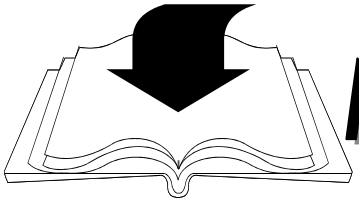
Read Numbers 13-14:12. Why was God angry with His people? What had the Israelites seen God do to the powerful Egyptians? Why did Joshua and Caleb have a different response than the 10 other spies? (See Numbers 14:8-9.) Have you ever faced a difficult situation with fear because the situation looked like 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

_____

I read

_____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 23
God Leads Israel into the Promised Land

Themes:
- God is faithful to all His promises.
- God promised to send Israel a new Prophet.
- God chose Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land.
- God's people must trust and obey Him in all things.

Scripture:
Deuteronomy 18:15; portions of Joshua

Memory Verse:
John 1:4 (and review verses 1-3)

Today's Clue:
GOD'S PROPHET

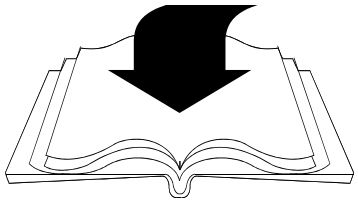
Home and Heart:
Read Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18. What key theme is repeated in these verses? Why are the people reminded of this again and again? Why should they be strong and courageous? Should they be strong and courageous because they are a great people and can defeat anybody? Read and discuss verse 5. These words were written for the people of Israel long ago as they faced a terrible enemy. Are these words still true today? Can you think of situations when verse 9 would be important for your own life?

Look at a family photo album. Point out that the photos show real events and are reminders of vacations, birthdays, weddings, etc. Why is it important to remember these important events? What do they help us understand? Read Joshua 23:14. Pretend you are an Israelite living back in the times of Moses and Joshua. What would you take pictures of? What would these pictures remind you of? How would these pictures prove God's faithfulness, mercy, and goodness? How has God shown this verse to still be true today? Read verses 15-16. What do these verses warn Israel about? Do some people assume they can receive all the good things God has promised without trusting and obeying Him? What might this look like? Are there things you have a hard time trusting God for? Why? How can God's words, written long ago to the Israelites, encourage you to trust and obey Him today?

Read Hebrews 11:1-2, 17-31. What is the common theme in these verses? How did Rahab, who was born a Canaanite, become part of God's covenant people? Is there a way for you to become a part of God's covenant people? How? Read and talk about Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29.



DISCOVER MORE



JOSHUA

"We're finally here!" Imagine what the Israelites must have felt like as they stepped into the Promised Land. God is faithful to all His promises! But there was a lot of work ahead of them. Trusting God to keep His promises did not mean Israel could just sit back and relax. They had to be obedient to His command to go throughout the land and drive out their enemies who were not worshipers of God. This week, read Joshua 2-3; 5:13-6:27; 7; and 23. Then, write the missing names to "Who said it?" below. All of the quotes will be found in the texts that you read (ESV).

Who said it ?



"For the LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth below." _____

"If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you." _____

"Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." _____

"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its kings and mighty men of valor." _____

"Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!" _____

"Truly I have sinned against The LORD God of Israel..." _____

"Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God." _____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 24
God Appoints Judges and Gives Israel a King

Themes:

- After God had given Israel the Promised Land, Israel turned to idolatry.
- God punished the people of Israel for their disobedience.
- God is merciful—He appointed judges to deliver His people.
- Israel rejected God's rule and desired a king.

Scripture:

Portions of Judges and 1 Samuel

Memory Verse:

John 1:5 (and review verses 1-4)

Today's Clue:

No new clue, but here is a riddle for next week:
Look high. Look low. Look underneath. Look in between, something special and often seen.

Home and Heart:

Have your child tell you about the illustration of the marshmallows and the garlic. [Cloves of garlic were stored in a container of marshmallows.] Did having a few little garlic cloves in the container make a difference in the taste and smell of the marshmallows? Why? What did this illustration have to do with today's story? How did the other nations become a "snare and a trap" to Israel? Read Judges 2:11-15. How can this illustration teach us something about the life of a Christian today? Read and discuss the following passages: Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:14-15; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 John 2:15-16.

Sometimes when we are having troubles, we believe there should be a quick solution to our problems. What did the Israelites think would solve their problems? What did they ask for? Read 1 Samuel 8:4-18. Fill in the chart labeled HUMAN KINGS and GOD on the backside of this page by doing the following: After reading the warning from Samuel in verses 11-17, help your child to think of words and phrases that describe the type of kings the other nations had (e.g., take things from you, make you work hard for him, etc.). Is this what God is like? What words or phrases describe the kind of King that God is to His people (e.g., good, faithful, merciful, provides them with food, fights for them, saves them, etc.)? Which one would you want to rule over you? What did Israel choose? Read verse 19. Are you ever like Israel? Are there times you reject God as King? How is this shown in your life? How do you show whether or not you treasure God as your King? Read and discuss Psalm 47 and Philippians 2:10-11.

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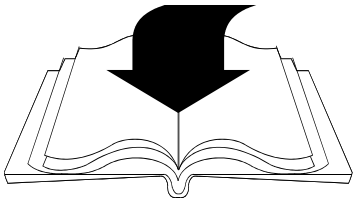
DISCOVER MORE



1 SAMUEL

In the book of 1 Samuel, we learn about how the Israelites demanded a king so they could be like all the nations. Read about the events that led up to this in 1 Samuel 1-6. (Try reading one chapter a day.) Then complete the sentences below by filling in the missing words.

1. _____ was Samuel's mother.

2. When Samuel was young he was brought to live with _____ the priest.

3. Hophni and Phinehas were evil. God promised that both would _____ on the same day.

4. When the Israelites went to battle against the _____, they were defeated and the _____ was captured. When Eli heard the news, he fell off his _____ and died.

5. The ark was set along side _____, an idol. On the second morning after the ark was placed next to the idol, the idol's _____ and _____ had been broken off.

6. God afflicted the Philistines with _____ because they had captured the ark.

GOD	HUMAN KINGS

Read the instructions from the "Home and Heart" section on the front of this sheet.

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 25
God Establishes His Kingdom through David

Themes:

- God gave to Israel a king after its own heart—Saul.
- God rejected Saul and chose for Israel a king after His own heart—David.
- God blessed David and promised to him an everlasting throne on which his offspring would reign forever.

Scripture:

Portions of 1 & 2 Samuel

Memory Verse:

John 1:6-7 (and review verses 1-5)

Today's Clue:

DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE

Home and Heart:

Ask your child about the illustrations of the two bananas, and the crown and the heart. Why might God have first given the people of Israel a king after their own hearts (Saul) before giving Israel a king after God's own heart (David)? Illustration: Suppose a child wanted to eat nothing but candy all day. A parent might give his child candy, and nothing but candy, for a whole day. What do you think that would be like? Would you be healthy if all you ate was candy? Why not? How would this example teach a child the consequences of "getting what you wish for"? What should Israel have learned from seeking to have a king "like all the other nations"?

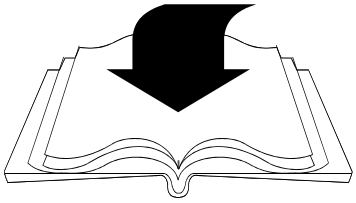
David is described as a man "after God's own heart." What does this mean? How does someone show he is after God's own heart? [Love the things God loves; want to do things God's way.] Read 1 Samuel 17. What in this story shows that the things important to God were important to David? (Key verses: 26, 45-47. God's name and fame are under attack.)

Read Psalm 18:1-6. What circumstances did David face that led him to write this psalm? What words does David use to describe God? Why does David use these kind of words? Who does David credit for his salvation? Do you see God as your rock, refuge, stronghold, and salvation? Do you call upon Him? Can you recall a situation when God was like a rock and refuge for you? Do you need God to save you? From what?

Read about the special covenant God made with David in 2 Samuel 7:9-16. Has this promise come true yet? Do you see a throne in Israel today? Is there a king in Israel today? Can you think of any New Testament events or verses that would give you the answer?

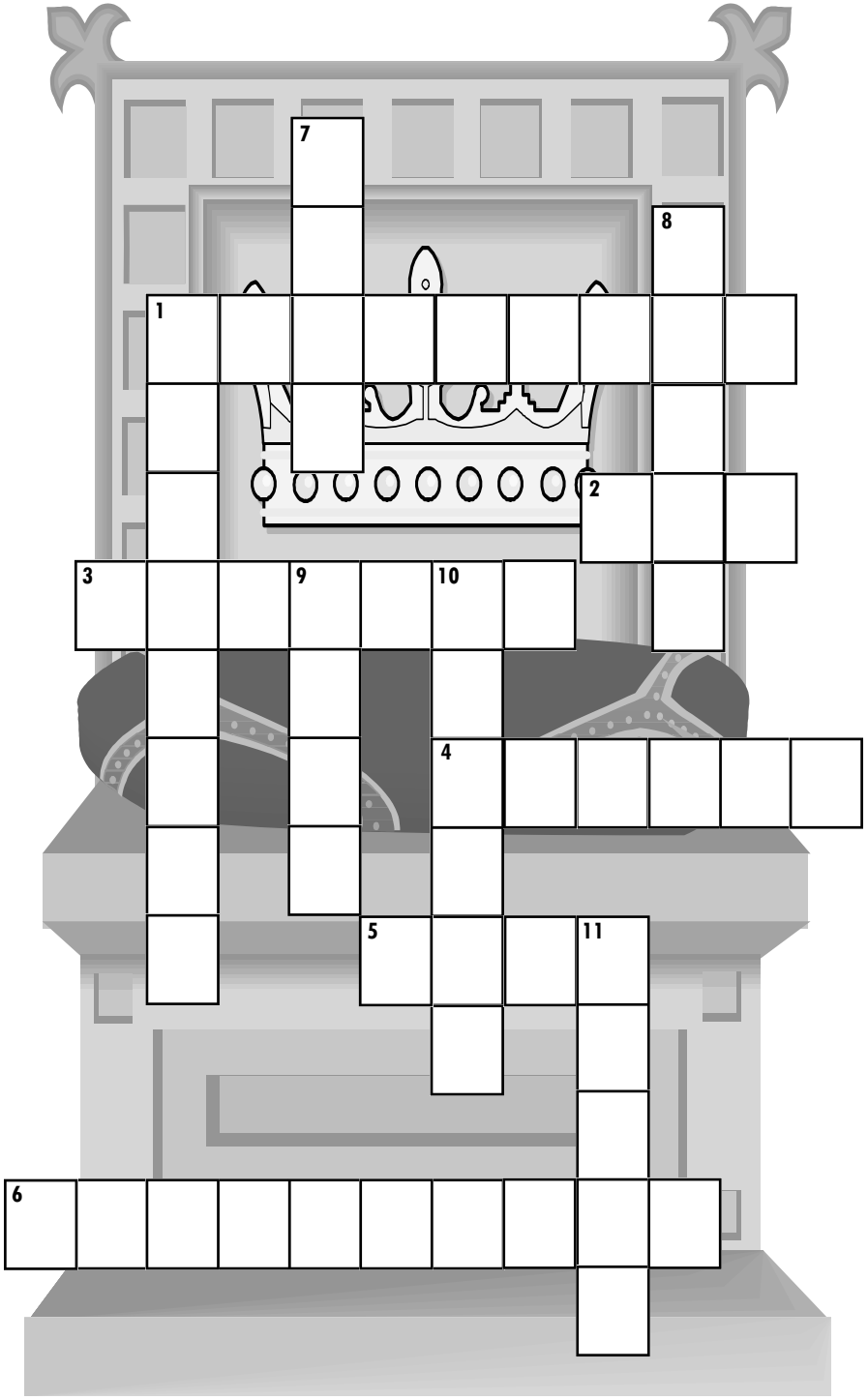


DISCOVER MORE



1 & 2 SAMUEL

Complete the crossword puzzle. All answers can be found within the texts given. (ESV)



Across

1. David made this the capital city of Israel. (**2 Samuel 5**)
2. David celebrated when this was brought into the city. (**2 Samuel 6**)
3. David was seen doing this in the street. (**2 Samuel 6**)
4. God said that he would give this to David's offspring forever. (**2 Samuel 7**)
5. This king wanted to kill David. (**1 Samuel 19**)
6. Goliath was one of these. (**1 Samuel 17**)

Down

1. One of Saul's sons. (**1 Samuel 14**)
7. A kind of musical instrument. (**1 Samuel 16**)
8. God looks at this. (**1 Samuel 16**)
9. David hid in one of these. (**1 Samuel 22**)
10. A prophet of God. (**2 Samuel 7**)
11. As a shepherd, David protected sheep from these. (**1 Samuel 17**)

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 26
The Rise and Decline of the Kingdom under Solomon

Themes:

- Through kings David and Solomon, God made Israel into a great nation.
- God brought strife into David's family because of his sin.
- God instructed Solomon to build a special place of worship, the temple, in Jerusalem.
- Solomon turned away from the one true God.
- God divided the kingdom of Israel.
- God is faithful to all His promises.

Scripture:

Portions of 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Chronicles

Memory Verse:

John 1:8 (and review verses 1-7; REVIEW SHEET)

Today's Clue:

GOD'S TEMPLE

Home and Heart:

As of today, there is no temple in Israel. There is no descendant of David on a throne there either. Leaders from all over the world do not go there to seek wisdom as they did long ago. Israel is not the greatest or most powerful nation on earth anymore. Does God *really* keep all His promises? Can you think of New Testament events or verses to answer these questions?

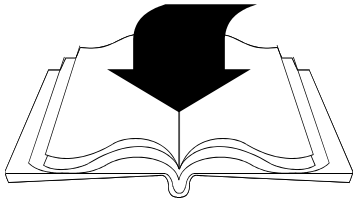
What is wisdom? One definition is knowing what is right and then doing it, or using your knowledge and abilities in a way that is pleasing to God. How did Solomon become so wise? Read 1 Kings 3:7-12. Is this kind of wisdom only for kings or great leaders? Read and discuss James 1:5-6. Once a person is wise, does he automatically do the wise thing in every situation? Did Solomon stay wise throughout his life? What happened? Read 1 Kings 11:1-2. Are you always wise? What do you think is the wisest thing a person could do?

Although at one time Solomon was the wisest man on earth, in the end he became very foolish. How did this happen? Read Proverbs 4:23. What does this verse mean? How does a person go about doing this? Has God given Christians any "tools" for this? [His Word, the Holy Spirit, the example of Jesus, prayer, good parents, teachers, other Christians, etc.] How can memorized scripture help you to guard your heart? (See Ephesians 4:32 and Proverbs 3:5.)

Read Psalm 27:4 and Psalm 84:10. Can these verses be true without a temple in Jerusalem? How? Is there a way to come into God's presence and worship Him? (Look at John 4:23-24.)



DISCOVER MORE



1 Kings & 2 Chronicles

1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles are often called “books of history” because they tell us about the important events in the history of the people of Israel. But as you read these books, it becomes very clear that the main subject in these books is God! Israel’s history is all about how the one true God showed His great love, mercy, and faithfulness to His covenant-breaking people. Using the lines below, write the books of history, in order, starting with Joshua and ending with Esther, and then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

BOOKS OF HISTORY IN THE BIBLE

In what chapter of 1 Kings does Solomon pray to God for wisdom?

In what chapter of 1 Kings is the ark brought into the temple?

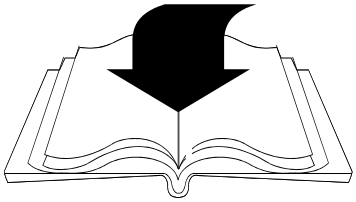
In what chapter of 1 Kings is Solomon’s turning away from God described?

In what chapter of 2 Chronicles is the building of the temple described?

In what chapter of 2 Chronicles is Solomon’s prayer dedicating the temple found?



REVIEW



John 1:1-8

WHAT MISSING WORD DOES EACH LETTER STAND FOR?

In the beginning was the A, and the Word was with God, and the Word was B.

He was in the C with God.

All D were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

In Him was E, and the life was the F of men.

The Light G in the darkness, and the darkness has not H it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was I.

He came as a J, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through Him.

He was not the Light, but came to K witness about the Light.

_____ beginning

_____ God

_____ John

_____ life

_____ Light

_____ bear

_____ shines

_____ things

_____ overcome

_____ witness

_____ Word

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In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 27
God's Prophets Foretell Coming Judgment and Deliverance

Themes:

- God punished His sinful people by dividing them into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah.
- God sent prophets to His people warning them of judgment if they did not repent.
- God sent enemy nations to take Israel and then Judah into captivity.
- God promised to send a new type of King to rule over His people.
- God promised to make a new kind of covenant with His people.

Scripture:

Portions of 1 and 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Micah

Memory Verse:

John 1:9 (and review verses 1-8)

Today's Clues:

GOD WITH US, RULER FROM BETHLEHEM, NEW COVENANT

Home and Heart:

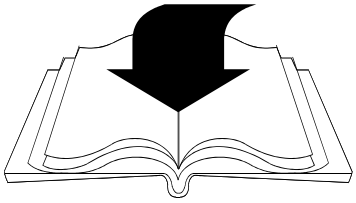
Read the message of warning from Joel 2:1-2 and the call to repentance in verses 12-13. These verses were given specifically to the people of Judah many years ago. The people did not pay attention to God's warnings and did not repent. Does the Bible have verses with warnings for all people? What about verses that call all people, including you, to repent? Read and discuss some of these verses. (John 3:36; Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9; etc.) Do you heed these warnings? Are they calling you to repent? How do you respond to God's call?

Read and discuss Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14, and Jeremiah 31:31-33. Each of these passages has a special message of hope for God's people. Why was it important for God's prophets to be given these clues by God? Since we have the New Testament, we have already seen how God fulfilled these promises in Jesus. Why is it important for us to know that these clues were given to God's prophets long before Jesus was born? What does this prove? Can God be trusted to keep His promises?

Did the prophets always tell people what they wanted to hear? Do you think their warnings were popular? What was the purpose of these warnings? Suppose your parents warn you ahead of time about the punishment you will receive if you do not change a certain behavior. Will you have any excuse when you are punished after behaving that way? Why not? Did Judah and Israel have any excuse for not listening to God's warnings? Could they say God was being mean or unfair? Why not? Are there times when what you read in the Bible isn't what you want to hear? For example, read Colossians 3:20. Would there be a reason that you might not want to hear these words? But do you NEED to hear these words? Why?



DISCOVER MORE



Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah records the words God gave to the prophet Jeremiah. He was a prophet to the smaller nation of Judah. Jeremiah is sometimes called the "weeping prophet" because he often was given messages of warning and judgment to speak to God's rebellious people. He had a very long and difficult job since Judah did not listen to God's warnings. Jeremiah lived to see God's promises of judgment come true—Jerusalem was destroyed by the nation of Babylon. But God also gave Jeremiah messages of great hope. And Jeremiah knew that some day in the future, God would keep these promises, too. This week, read through the following passages in Jeremiah. Then, write down a few key words or phrases that summarize each passage.

Jeremiah 11:1-17

Jeremiah 23:1-7

Jeremiah 31:1-14

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 28
A Man of Sorrows

Themes:

- God had promised His people a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant.
- Isaiah foretold of a Man who would bear the sins of God's people, take upon Himself their punishment, and heal them.
- God promised His people a new kind of heart.

Scripture:

Isaiah 1:4a; Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 53:3-5

Memory Verse:

John 1:10 (and review verses 1-9)

Today's Clues:

SIN BEARER, HEALER

Home and Heart:

Read Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; and 53:3. In these passages, God gave His prophets a glimpse of something He was planning to do for His people in the future. These descriptions were written about 700 years before Jesus was born. Does it appear as if these verses all describe the same man? Why not? Tell your child to think of these descriptions as individual pieces of a puzzle. If you pick up one or two pieces, is it sometimes hard to understand how and where these pieces fit into the finished puzzle? How can this help us understand the descriptions of God's future promises that He gave to the people of the Old Testament? Have you seen these passages fulfilled in the New Testament? How?

Read Jeremiah 17:9 and Isaiah 1:4a. Do these verses *only* describe God's people of the Old Testament? Are there other verses that show that these verses also describe you? (See Romans 3:10-12, 23.) Do you need what God promised in Isaiah 53? Who is this Man? When you see God's special promises fulfilled, how should you respond? Do you believe Jesus has carried your sin and been punished for you? Do you trust Him as your perfect Sin Bearer?

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. Ezekiel was God's prophet, too. God gave him messages of warning, repentance, and hope. What type of message was verses 26-27? What is a heart of stone? What are stones like? How did the people of Israel demonstrate having a "hard heart" toward God? What is a heart of flesh? What is flesh like? What will God cause this new heart to do? Can people change their own hearts? Why is this impossible? Can a stone make itself soft and moldable? When it comes to God, is your heart more like stone or flesh? How would a heart of flesh show itself in its thoughts, words, desires, and actions? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:17.

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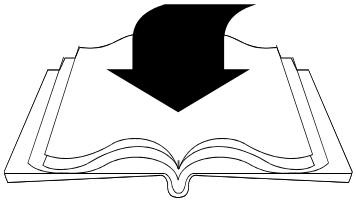
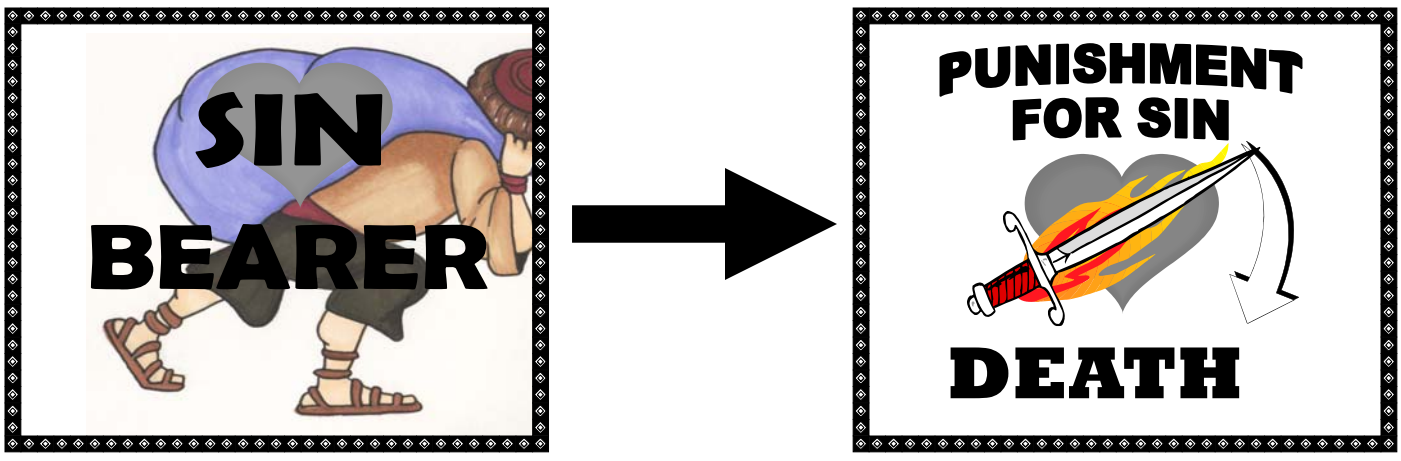


ISAIAH

Isaiah 53 gives us an amazing picture of Jesus—700 years before He was born in Bethlehem! How was Isaiah able describe what Jesus did on the cross before it happened? Isaiah was God's prophet—His special messenger—and God gave Isaiah just the right words to write down. God had already planned exactly what He was going to do for His sinful people. Through His prophets, God gave His people clues about their coming Deliverer. This week, read Isaiah 53:4-9. Then read Matthew 26:47-27. On the lines below, write what you find in Matthew showing Jesus is the Man described in Isaiah 53. One is done for you:

Jesus was rejected by His own people (Matthew 27:22).



In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 29
God's Anointed One

Themes:

- Through His prophets, God predicted the re-building of Jerusalem and the temple, and the return of His people.
- God promised to send His Anointed One to bring good news to His sinful people.

Scripture:

Portions of Isaiah 44-45; 61:1

Memory Verse:

Review John 1:1-10

Today's Clue:

GOD'S ANOINTED ONE

Home and Heart:

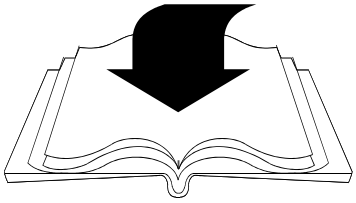
Read and discuss Isaiah 44:24, 28; 45:13b; and 46:10b-11. The prediction about a man named Cyrus was made long before Cyrus was born. Could Cyrus have made himself be born at just the right time and in just the right place? Read Ezra 1:1-3. What words does the Bible use to show that the idea to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple came from God and not from Cyrus? Should knowing this make you more in awe of God and His Word? Why?

Read Nehemiah 9:6-37. These verses give a summary of Israel's history. The people are reminded of God's goodness, faithfulness, and mercy, and of Israel's wickedness and faithlessness. Why was it important for the people to be reminded of this? Why is it important for each of us to be reminded of this? Is there something you were disciplined for as a young child that you still remember clearly? As you look back, do you better understand why your parents disciplined you? Do you remember your parents' forgiveness? Does that help you to better love and trust your parents? What does God want His people to learn from their past history? Do you need to learn these lessons, too? Why?

Read Isaiah 61:1-3 concerning God's Anointed. What does the word "anointed" mean? [To be chosen and equipped for a special purpose.] The Jewish people often use the word "Messiah" to refer to this Man. How are sinners like poor people? (What do sinners need?) How are sinners brokenhearted? Do you feel this in your own heart? How are sinners like captives or prisoners? What do the words "bind up" mean? What would it be like for a sinful heart to be "fixed"? What would liberty be like for a sinner? Why couldn't Cyrus do this for God's people? Do you know the identity of the Man speaking in this verse? Why do you think it is Jesus? How has Jesus set sinners free from their captivity to sin and death? Have you experienced this? Or do you still feel like something is weighing down your heart?

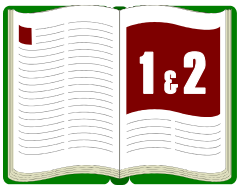


DISCOVER MORE



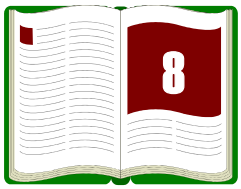
NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah describes the return of God's people from exile to the land God promised them. Nehemiah was an Israelite living in Persia. The king of Persia sent Nehemiah back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This week, read the chapters of Nehemiah listed below and answer the questions.



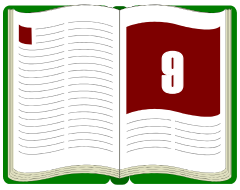
What did Nehemiah do when he heard about the condition of Jerusalem?

Why did the king grant Nehemiah's request to rebuild Jerusalem?



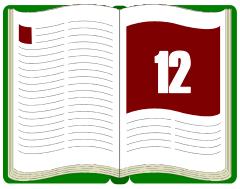
Did the people understand what was read from the book of the Law?

According to verse 9, what was Ezra's "job"? What was Nehemiah's "job"?



Write down four different words that this chapter uses to describe God:

Write down three different words that this chapter uses to describe God's people:



How did God's people celebrate the dedication of the wall?

What was heard far away?

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 30
The Day of the Lord's Coming

Themes:

- More than 400 years separates the events of the Old and New Testaments.
- God promised to send a messenger to prepare the way for the coming King.
- John the Baptist was born in fulfillment of God's promise.
- God is faithful to all His promises.

Scripture:

Zechariah 9:9; Malachi 3:1a; 4:5-6a; Luke 1:13-14, 16-17, 57, 60b

Memory Verse:

John 1:11 (and review verses 1-10)

Today's Clue:

KING ON A DONKEY

Home and Heart:

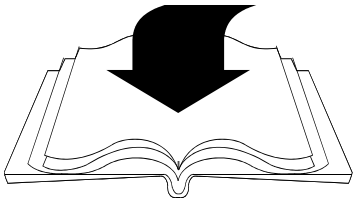
Read Zechariah 9:9. How does the last part of verse 9 describe this King? [Humble and riding on a donkey.] Is there anything unusual about this? Are great kings usually humble people? Do great kings ride on donkeys? Can you think of a place in the Bible where this prediction is proven to be true? [Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey.] Did Jesus look like a king at the time? Why not? What was He going to do? Read and discuss Philippians 2:8-11.

Read Malachi 4:5-6. These are the last words of what we call the Old Testament. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets. Through Malachi, God made a promise to send a special messenger to prepare the way for the coming King. More than 400 years passed, and still no messenger came. It appeared as if God was silent. He sent no new prophets during this time. Recall a time when your child had to wait a long time for something special. Suppose you told your child that your family would be going on a special vacation six months from now. But what if, as the days and weeks passed, you never mentioned the trip again and wouldn't even answer questions about it? Can you imagine what that would feel like? Would your child become discouraged? Would he begin to have doubts? As you look back through the Old Testament, did God prove Himself to always be good and trustworthy? Is He the same God today? Do you trust Him with all the things that happen—or don't happen—in your life?

Read and discuss John's birth in Luke 1:57-79. What did God plan to do through John? How does this show God's continued love, mercy, and faithfulness toward His people?



DISCOVER MORE



THE PROPHETS

In the Old Testament, Isaiah through Malachi are often called the books of the prophets. Sometimes Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (also written by Jeremiah), Daniel, and Ezekiel are called the "major" prophets, while the others are called the "minor" prophets. The prophets were men God chose as His messengers—to communicate His words. Listed below are all 17 books of the prophets, but the spelling of each has been scrambled. See if you can unscramble them.

PANIZAEHH _____

MAJIREEH _____

SOAM _____

MANUH _____

CLAMIHA _____

SALEMANITTON _____

HIMCA _____

KAHUKABK _____

LANDIE _____

EJOL _____

NOAHJ _____

GAGAHI _____

HAHARECIZ _____

KEELIZE _____

SOHEA _____

DIBOHAA _____

AISIAH _____

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 31
The Promised King and Savior Is Born

Themes:

- God prepared the way for Jesus with the birth of John the Baptist.
- Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin, fulfilling the Old Testament promise.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling the Old Testament promise.

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-33; Matthew 1:18-23; John 19:36; Luke 2:1, 3-7

Memory Verse:

John 1:12 (and review verses 1-11)

Clues Fulfilled By Jesus' Birth:

CHILD OF PROMISE, GOD WITH US, RULER FROM BETHLEHEM

Home and Heart:

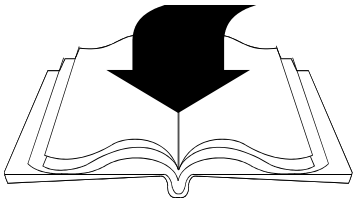
Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20. God's people were waiting for a great King like David. Do the events surrounding Jesus' birth seem "kingly"? Why not? Were His parents royal people? Were they rich and important? Was He born in a palace? Who were some of the first people to whom the angels announced His birth? Do you think all of these things would make it more or less likely for people to believe He was the long awaited King? Why do you think God did things this way? What is more important, to judge things by what you think they should be like, or by what God's Word says is true? Is this sometimes hard for us to do? Why?

Caesar Augustus was the most powerful ruler on earth at the time of Jesus' birth. He was a Roman and not a believer in the one true God. Read Proverbs 21:1. How did God use Caesar to fulfill the Old Testament promise from Micah 5:2? Did Caesar know he was fulfilling God's plans? Does a person need to agree with God's plans for them to come true? Read and discuss Job 42:2.

Read and discuss Mary's prayer of praise in Luke 1:46-55. Does it sound like Mary doubted that God would keep His promises from long ago? Why not? Was she proud that of all the women in the world, she alone was chosen to give birth to God's Son? What verses show her attitude? Who does she give all the credit to and why? Do you ever feel like boasting about something wonderful you have been given? Why would it be wrong to boast about a gift that was given to you? How was the birth of Jesus a gift to God's people? Do you need this gift, too? Have you received the gift of Jesus? What might this look like in your life?



DISCOVER MORE



MATTHEW & LUKE

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the gospels. The word *gospel* means "good news." The gospels are good news because they tell about the long-awaited King and Savior God promised: Jesus! This week, read Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-18, and Luke 2:1-40. You will often find the words: "...to fulfill…" These words show that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises. After reading each passage, use the chart below to check off which events are described in each. Taken together, these passages provide a more complete picture of events of Jesus' birth.

Event	Matthew 1:18-25 2:1-18	Luke 2:1-40
Caesar Augustus makes a decree	☐	☐
Jesus is born in Bethlehem	☐	☐
There is no room at the inn	☐	☐
Jesus is born in a manger	☐	☐
The angels announce Jesus' birth to shepherds	☐	☐
The wise men (Magi) come to worship Jesus	☐	☐
Herod gives orders to kill the male children	☐	☐
Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt	☐	☐
Jesus is brought to the temple in Jerusalem	☐	☐

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 32
Jesus: Son of Man

Themes
- Jesus became fully human.
- Jesus became fully human to save the people of Abraham, the children of Abraham.
- Jesus' family tree fulfills the Old Testament promises.

Scripture:
Luke 2:40; Matthew 8:24; John 4:6; 11:35; 19:28; Hebrews 2:16-17a

Memory Verse:
John 1:13 (and review verses 1-12)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:
GOD'S IMAGE BEARER, ABRAHAM—ONE MAN BLESSING THE WORLD, ISRAEL—GOD'S CHOSEN NATION, LION OF JUDAH

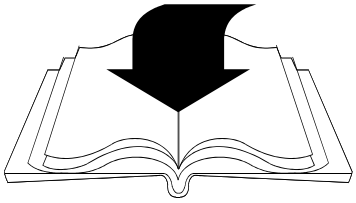
Home and Heart:
God created the first man, Adam, in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). All of us are descendents of Adam. How are we like Adam? Jesus was also a descendent of Adam. How was Jesus like Adam, and us? Can you think of examples from the Bible? Is it hard for you to imagine Jesus as a real Person? Why? Why is it important to know Jesus was fully human? Read and discuss Hebrews 4:15. How does the fact that Jesus became human, like us, make Him able to sympathize with our weaknesses?

At baseball games, sometimes a team will use a pinch-hitter. Maybe a certain player strikes out every time he comes to bat. His team is losing and really needs another run. The coach may decide to use a pinch-hitter—another player who comes in to bat in place of the player who strikes out. Would the coach use a dog for this? Or a plant? Or an elephant? Why not? Read Hebrews 2:14-17a. Why do humans need someone like a "pinch-hitter"? What have we continually failed to do? [Keep God's commands.] Why would God choose to send Jesus, as a real human, to save His people? What did Jesus come to do for His people (verses 14b-15)?

Read the account of Jesus praying before His death (Luke 22:39-44). In what ways do you see Jesus' humanity in these verses? What words show He had real feelings and emotions? Can you relate to these feelings? Have you felt troubled? Have you struggled to do what you know is right? How can it help you to know that Jesus has experienced these same kinds of things, yet never sinned? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Why is Jesus able to sympathize and comfort people who have real suffering and pain? What was He able to also experience in His own human body?



DISCOVER MORE



MARK

This week, read from the gospel of Mark, making a check mark in the empty square next to each passage as you read it. Think about how Jesus was the "Son of Man"—fully human like us. How did Jesus' being human help Him sympathize with our weaknesses, as Hebrews 4:15 states? Look for ways Jesus demonstrated He was God's Son. What was He able to do that no other human could do?

MARK 1:9-45	
MARK 2:1-17	
MARK 4:21-43	
MARK 6:1-6	
MARK 14:32-42	
MARK 15:33-37	

List some ways Jesus was fully human like you:

List some ways Jesus was unlike any other human:

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 33
Jesus: Son of God

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully Man.
- Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises concerning His deity.
- Because Jesus is God, He is able to do what God's people could not do—save sinners.
- Jesus is the only way sinners may be saved.

Scripture:

Matthew 8:23-27; John 1:1-3, 14, 51; 6:32-33, 35; 8:53, 56-58; 14:6

Memory Verse:

John 1:14a (and review verses 1-13)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

BREAD FROM HEAVEN, I AM, ONE WAY

Home and Heart:

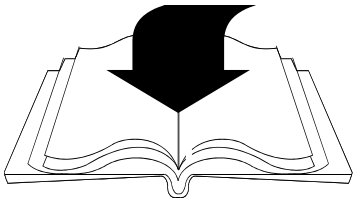
Read Colossians 1:15-19. Who do these verse describe? What does it mean that Jesus is the "image" of the invisible God? (See Hebrews 1:3a.) What does it mean that "all the fullness of God" dwells in Jesus? What does the word "preeminent" mean? Think of attributes of God; He is holy, almighty, eternal, righteous, faithful, wise, good, merciful, etc. Do these attributes also belong to Jesus? [Yes.] Have your child recall ways Jesus demonstrated His *deity* (God-ness) while He lived on earth as a man. Because Jesus is fully God, what is He able to do that no other person could do? (Read verses 20-22.)

Read Philippians 2:5-8. Even though Jesus is fully God, what did He do? (You may need to explain that Jesus never stopped "being fully God" while He was on earth. Rather, He gave up some of the privilege and status of His God-ness. For example: Jesus is almighty, yet in obedience to His Father, Jesus did not use this power at times.) According to these verses, did Jesus do this willingly? How should this serve as an example for us? Why does verse 5 say we should have this mindset, too? How would that be lived out? (Read verses 3-4.) Is this hard to do? Why?

Point out that there are many religions in the world that believe Jesus was just "a good man," just "a good teacher," or just "one of God's prophets." According to the verses read in this lesson, was Jesus *just* a good man, teacher, and prophet? Who does the Bible say Jesus really is? Does this matter? Why? Read and discuss John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. What do these verses say? Can salvation come through anyone else? Who do you believe Jesus is?



DISCOVER MORE



JOHN

The gospel of John starts with the familiar words, *"In the beginning,"* to show us that Jesus is eternal and fully God. Although Jesus is not named in Genesis 1:1, He was with God at the very beginning. In fact, John 1:3 goes on to explain that the world was created through Jesus. The gospel of John gives many examples of Jesus' *deity.* The word deity is very important; it means "God-ness" or "being God." Because Jesus is fully God, He was able to do things no ordinary man could ever do. Jesus was also able to make claims about Himself no one else could. This week, read the following passages in John. In these passages are some "I am" statements of Jesus—special claims Jesus made about Himself. Fill in the missing words for each statement on the lines below.

John 6:25-40 **I am** the _____ of life.

John 9:1-7 **I am** the _____ of the world.

John 10:1-15 **I am** the _____ of the sheep.

I am the good _____.

John 11:17-27 **I am** the _____
and the life.

John 14:5-7 **I am** the _____ and the _____
and the life.

John 15:1-8 **I am** the true _____, and My Father is the gardener.

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 34
Jesus: Perfect Law Keeper

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully human.
- Jesus was tempted just like Adam, but did not sin.
- Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all other people have failed.
- Jesus was victorious over Satan, fulfilling the Old Testament promises.

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11; 5:17; Romans 5:12

Memory Verse:

John 1:14b (and review verses 1-14a)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

GOD'S HOLY LAW, PERFECT OBEDIENCE—LIFE, HEEL AND SERPENT

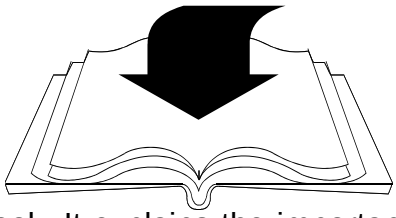
Home and Heart:

Review the events of Genesis 3:1-19. What was the outcome of Adam's "contest" with the serpent? Read Romans 5:12. How is this verse proven to be true in the world? Was Adam the only one affected by this? Do you think you could have done a better job than Adam? Why or why not? Explain to your child what the word "inherit" means. When Adam and Eve had children, their children inherited their guilt and *sin nature*. Read Romans 5:19a and 3:23. Why is this a problem for us, too? Read Romans 5:18. Does God know and understand our problem? Is there any help for us? Read Romans 5:19b-21. How can Jesus' perfect obedience (righteousness) help unrighteous sinners? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Review the contest between the devil and Jesus from Matthew 4:1-11. What did Jesus use as a "weapon" to defeat the devil? [God's Word.] Have you ever used God's Word to keep you from sinning in a certain situation? Can you give an example of a verse that has helped you? Are you ALWAYS successful? Why not? Is there a way Jesus' success can also cause you to succeed? For example, what if you are on a team in which only one of the players is able to score runs or goals? Are you still a winner if your team wins, but you fail to score even once? When the first place ribbons are handed out, will you get one along with the other team members? What was the "prize" Jesus earned because of His perfect obedience to God? [Eternal life.] How does a person become a member of Jesus' winning "team"? Read and discuss Ephesians 2:4-9. What does God do for those on Jesus' "team"? Is the prize something we have earned? What is "grace"? [Grace is God's kindness to undeserving sinners. Grace is a free gift from God.] What is "faith"? [Trusting in and depending on Jesus for Who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do.]

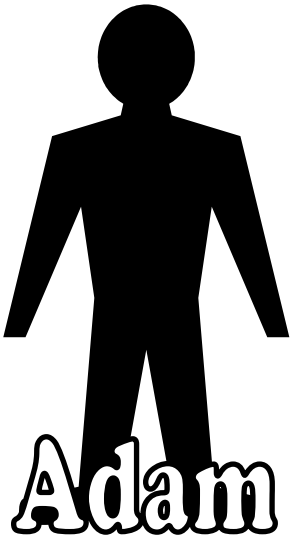


DISCOVER MORE



ROMANS

Romans is a very special book. It explains the importance of Jesus' perfect righteousness—His perfect law-keeping—and how this was necessary for Him to save unrighteous people (sinners). This week, read Romans 5 and look at the figures below, representing Adam and Jesus. Read the eight words or statements in the middle box. Draw lines connecting each word or statement to what each man had rightfully *earned*. Then, look at the figure in the box labeled, "A sinner saved by GRACE through FAITH in CHRIST JESUS." According to Romans 5, which underlined words or statements from the middle box would belong to a person trusting in Jesus alone for his salvation? Write the correct underlined answers in the bottom box.



peace with God

condemnation

death

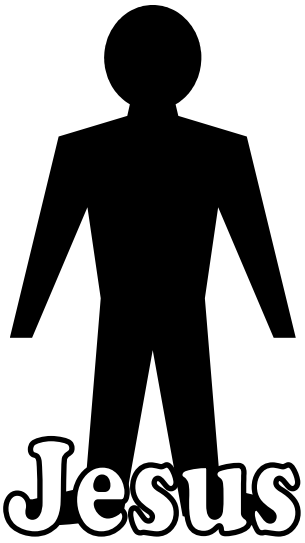
sin

unrighteousness

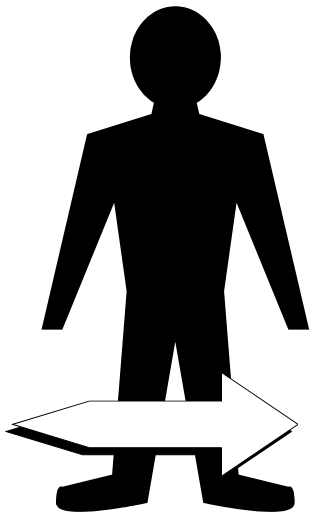
righteousness

ungodliness

eternal life



A sinner saved by GRACE **through** FAITH **in** CHRIST JESUS



In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 35
Jesus: The Final Word

Themes:

- Jesus is God's Anointed One, the Messiah.
- Jesus speaks with final authority.
- Jesus is God's greatest Prophet.
- Jesus brings completion to the Bible and explains the whole message of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 4:14-21, 32; 7:14b-15a, 16b; Mark 1:25b-26a; 2:10-12a; 10:52a; Deuteronomy 18:15; Hebrews 1:1-2a

Memory Verse:

John 1:15 (and review verses 1-14)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

GOD'S ANOINTED ONE, GOD'S PROPHET

Home and Heart:

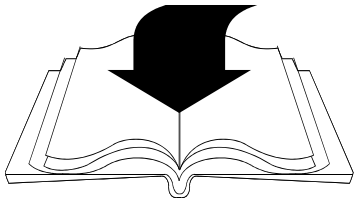
Read Matthew 5-7. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained what it truly means to live as people of God. Much of what Jesus spoke about were commands given in the Old Testament, but Jesus explained them more fully. For example, in Matthew 5:21-22 Jesus spoke in terms of the heart—our attitudes and desires. When Jesus, God's Word, became flesh, did He bring God's commands to us written on stone tablets? Why not? Read the promise made in Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-27. How can God's commands be written on your heart?

Read the conversation between the two men and Jesus in Luke 24:13-27. Why didn't the two men understand that Jesus had come to earth to die on the cross? Read verses 36-45. Why was Jesus able to interpret and explain Old Testament Scriptures to them? Why did Jesus wait until *after* His resurrection to more fully explain how the Old Testament pointed to Him? (Read 1 Corinthians 2:7-8.)

Read and discuss John 1:11, and then read the words Jesus spoke to a group of unbelieving Jews in John 5:36-40 and 8:14-18. Do all people respond to Jesus, God's final Word, in the same way? What did these people refuse to believe? Does it matter whether or not a person believes Jesus is the message of the Bible? Does it matter whether or not you believe that everything Jesus said is true? Read and discuss John 3:35-36.



REVIEW



John 1:1-15

WHAT MISSING WORD DOES EACH LETTER STAND FOR?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the A was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the B was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the C has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might D through him. He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. The true Light, which enlightens E, was coming into the world.

He was in the F, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not G Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not H Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become I of God, who were J, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became K and dwelt among us, and we have seen His L, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of M and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and N out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me O before me, because He was before me.'")

___ BELIEVE

___ BORN

___ CHILDREN

___ CRIES

___ DARKNESS

___ EVERYONE

___ FLESH

___ GLORY

___ GRACE

___ LIFE

___ RECEIVE

___ KNOW

___ RANKS

___ WORD

___ WORLD

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 36
Jesus: Great High Priest

Themes:

- The Old Testament appointment of temple and priests was temporary, pointing to something much better—Jesus.
- The fullness of God dwells in the Person of Jesus.
- Jesus alone brings His people into the presence of God.
- Jesus is our great High Priest, the one Mediator between God and sinful man.

Scripture:

John 2:13-21; Colossians 1:19; Hebrews 5:1-3; 6:19-20a; 7:23-26; 9:24

Memory Verse:

John 1:16 (and review verses 1-15)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

GOD'S TEMPLE, ONE HIGH PRIEST

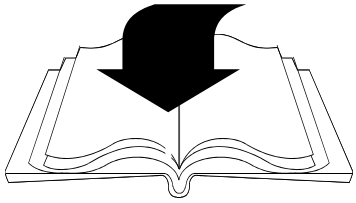
Home and Heart

Discuss the word "mediator." It may be helpful to show your child some type of electrical adapter (e.g., a three-prong to two-prong adapter) and demonstrate how it works. Point out that the adapter acts as a type of "mediator" between one thing and another. Without the adapter, there would be no way to "connect" the two objects. Why do people need a mediator to "connect" with a holy God? Read Habakkuk 1:13a and Isaiah 59:2. How is Jesus a perfect mediator? Read and discuss Hebrews 2:17-18. Why is it important that Jesus is faithful and merciful? Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Why is it important that Jesus can sympathize with us? Why is it important that He never sinned? Why can people who trust in Jesus be confident? Read Hebrews 7:23-26. Why is it good news that Jesus continues as High Priest forever? Read Hebrews 9:24. Is He only allowed to enter God's presence once a year? Why is He always in God's presence? Do you ask Jesus to intercede for you? Do you believe He is acting in heaven on your behalf? In what ways? Read Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17:6-26 and 1 John 1:9; 2:1.

Read the story of Jesus cleansing the temple in John 2:13-16, and His words in verses 19-21. The temple Jesus cleansed in these verses no longer exists because it was destroyed soon after Jesus died on the cross and returned to heaven. It has never been re-built. Why is it good news that we no longer need to go to one certain PLACE to worship in God's presence? How is having Jesus as our "temple" good news? If you want to pray to God in the middle of the night, do you need to go to some special place? Why not? Do you need to travel to a certain place to be forgiven for your sins? Why not? Read and discuss John 4:20-21, 23-24.



DISCOVER MORE



HEBREWS

Remember the last time you saw your shadow? Your shadow isn't "you," it's just a fuzzy and darkened image of you. Hebrews uses the word "shadow" to refer to the Old Testament tabernacle, priests, and sacrifices. This is because they were like faint and darkened images of something. Just as your shadow points to something much better—you—the Old Testament shadows pointed to something much, much better…Jesus! This week, read the following verses from Hebrews. Each describes how Jesus came as the one, final, perfect High Priest. As you read, you will see how much better He is than the Old Testament priests, who were temporary "shadows," pointing to the coming of Jesus. Use the boxes below to compare the Old Testament priests to Jesus.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTS WERE SHADOWS BECAUSE...

Hebrews 5:1-3

Hebrews 7:23

Hebrews 9:6-7

Hebrews 10:11

JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST IS BETTER BECAUSE...

Hebrews 4:14-16

Hebrews 7:24-27

Hebrews 9:24

Hebrews 10:12

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 37
Jesus: Lamb of God

Themes:

- The Old Testament system of priests, sacrifices, and temple was temporary, pointing to something much better—Jesus.
- Jesus offered Himself as the one perfect sacrifice for sin.
- Jesus' death fulfilled the Old Testament promises.

Scripture:

Hebrews 9:11-12, 25-26; 10:4, 11; John 1:29; 1 Peter 2:24

Memory Verse:

John 1:17 (and review verses 1-16)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

SIN BEARER, PUNISHMENT FOR SIN—DEATH, THE PASSOVER SACRIFICE

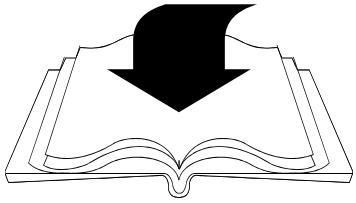
Home and Heart:

How was the sacrifice Jesus offered different from any other? Read and discuss Hebrews 9:23-28. Why was it necessary for Jesus to offer Himself? (Have your child recall the illustration of the cake mix and the car oil. Car oil is not the right kind of substitute for vegetable oil. In a similar way, the death of animals is not the right kind of substitute for sinners.) Read Hebrews 10:4. Why was Jesus the perfect substitute for sinners? [He was fully man, but without sin.] Because of this, what was He able to do for sinners? Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:22-25. What Old Testament passages does Peter want us to recognize in these verses? [Isaiah 53.] Do you take the punishment of death seriously? What kind of death is the Bible talking about? [Hell—experiencing God's fierce anger forever. (Matthew 25:41.)] How does it feel to have someone willing to take your sin and be punished in your place? What does it mean to die to sin and live to righteousness? Do you feel you have died to sin? What might that look like in a person's life? What might living to righteousness look like? If a person gives no evidence of dying to sin and living to righteousness, what might it mean?

Read and discuss Hebrews 10:11-12. Why did Jesus "sit down" after He had made an offering for sin? What was the single offering He made? Did He make this offering on your behalf? Do you feel like your sins have been removed, or do you feel guilty? Do you feel forgiven by God because you are trusting in Jesus? Or do you still feel alienated by God because of your sin? Because of what Jesus has done, how should you respond to Him? Read and discuss Acts 3:18-20 and Hebrews 10:19-23 (especially the call to respond in verses 22-23). What does it mean to "draw near with a true heart"? What does "in full assurance of faith" mean?



DISCOVER MORE



HEBREWS

Hebrews explains how the Old Testament system of temple, priests, and sacrifices was temporary, until God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus is the final and great High Priest Who offered Himself as the one perfect sacrifice. By His sacrifice, He is able to completely take away sins and forgive sinners. Also, as the final High Priest, Jesus acts as the perfect *Mediator* between God and man. This week, read the following portions of Hebrews and match the words listed with their correct definition: Hebrews 8:1-13; 9:1-28; 10:1-14. Some of this reading may be difficult, so you may want your parents or an older brother or sister to help you.

Shadow

- A person who acts as a "go between" in order to bring about a right relationship between a holy God and sinful men

Covenant

- Makes holy

Mediator

- A formal agreement that God makes between Himself and one or more people

Redemption

- Something that is "out of date" and no longer works

Sanctifies

- A payment that is made in order to "free" something: Jesus paid the penalty for sin in order to "free" sinners from death and hell

Obsolete

- A certain set of rules that must be followed

Regulations

- A faint or darkened image that gives a "hint" of something that is not fully seen

Inheritance

- When something that is owned by someone else is then given to you to own

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 38
The Mystery Is Solved!

Themes:

- Jesus came to establish a new covenant between God and His sinful people.
- The new covenant promises deliverance from sin and death because of what Jesus has accomplished.
- The new covenant is everlasting and has been made official by the shed blood of Jesus.
- The new covenant is for all people who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 26:28; Romans 8:1-2

Memory Verse:

John 1:18 (and review verses 1-17)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

NEW COVENANT, COVERING FOR SIN, GOD WILL PROVIDE THE LAMB, ONE LOVED SON, HEALER, DELIVERANCE, EVERLASTING COVENANT, BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, THE BRONZE SERPENT

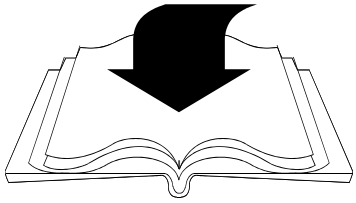
Home and Heart:

Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:21 and then Romans 6:23. Why is eternal life through Jesus a gift? Is this gift yours? How can it be yours? Read and discuss John 3:16-18.

Read John 19:36a. Recall that we read this verse in the very first lesson. According to this verse, was Jesus' death on the cross an accident? Why not? Who planned it? When did God plan Jesus' death? Was this plan made after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden? Did God say something like, *"Oh no! They sinned. Now I need to come up with a plan to save them"*? Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:9. When is "before the ages began"? Use the illustration of a puzzle. Point out that before a puzzle is made and cut into pieces, the maker has the whole picture. Then, each piece is cut to fit perfectly into that picture. Show the child the set of clue cards. Explain that before the world was created, God already had the "picture" of Jesus on the cross perfectly planned. At just the right time, God revealed each clue and then completed His plan in Jesus. How does knowing this help you to better understand what Jesus did on the cross? Did God do it because He was forced into it? Did Jesus do it because He was forced into it? How does it make you feel when someone does something for you because he wants to do it instead of being forced to do it? Read and discuss Romans 5:6-11. What should *your* response be if you have been saved by His love? What should your response be if you are not yet trusting in what Jesus has done? Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 and Romans 2:4.



DISCOVER MORE



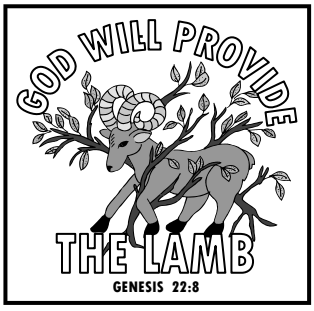
CLUE REVIEW

Jesus' death on the cross for sinners was no accident. Everything happened according to plan—God's plan. The Bible story, from the very first words in Genesis, is about this plan, and Jesus is the hero of the story. Jesus came to make a new, everlasting covenant between God and His sinful people. This is the message of the Bible. It was written down so that you might believe in Jesus and have eternal life through Him! This week, read the New Testament verses in the order listed below. Draw a line matching each verse to the Old Testament clue that was fulfilled.



Matthew 26:27-28





John 3:14-15

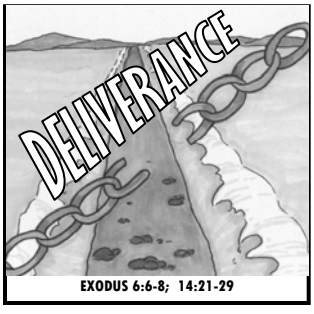




John 3:16



Colossians 1:13-14



Hebrews 9:15



Hebrews 13:20-21

1 Peter 2:24

In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 39
Jesus: Returning King

Themes:

- Jesus' resurrection is proof that the new covenant has been fulfilled and accomplishes what it promises.
- Jesus fulfills the Old Testament clues concerning the throne of David.
- Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the throne in heaven.
- Jesus will someday return to this earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

Scripture:

John 11:25; 12:12-15; Luke 1:32-33; Hebrews 8:1; Matthew 25:31

Memory Verse:

Review John 1:1-18

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

KING ON A DONKEY, DAVID'S EVERLASTING THRONE

Home and Heart:

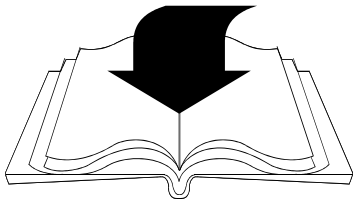
Why is it difficult for some people to believe Jesus is now in heaven reigning as King? What do you see in the world and your own life that make this hard to understand and believe? Read and discuss Romans 8:18-25. What "groaning" do we see? Should this surprise us? Does God know about it? Is it part of His plan? What has yet to be revealed? Define hope and then compare your definition with Hebrews 11:1. Do you have this? If not, have you asked Jesus for faith to believe what you haven't yet seen?

Read Revelation 19:11-16. Who is the Rider? How is Jesus different from what He was like at His first coming? Compare these verses to Philippians 2:7-11. Will everyone acknowledge Jesus when He returns to earth? Will everyone be glad to see Him? Why not? Who will be happy? Who will be terrified? Compare these reactions using 1 Peter 1:8-9 and Revelation 16:15-17. Are you looking forward to His return?

Even though we can't yet SEE Jesus on His throne, He is reigning in the heart of everyone who trusts Him. If you are a Christian, you EXPERIENCE Jesus' reign because you understand He is ruling over your life, family, church, and everyone in the world. What does Jesus' rule look like in a person's life? Would someone talking with you know Jesus is reigning in your life? Read Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46. What are the two judgments Jesus will give when He returns? What will decide whether He sends someone to heaven or hell? (Read John 3:16-17.) Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation? Are you confident that you will be welcomed into His kingdom?

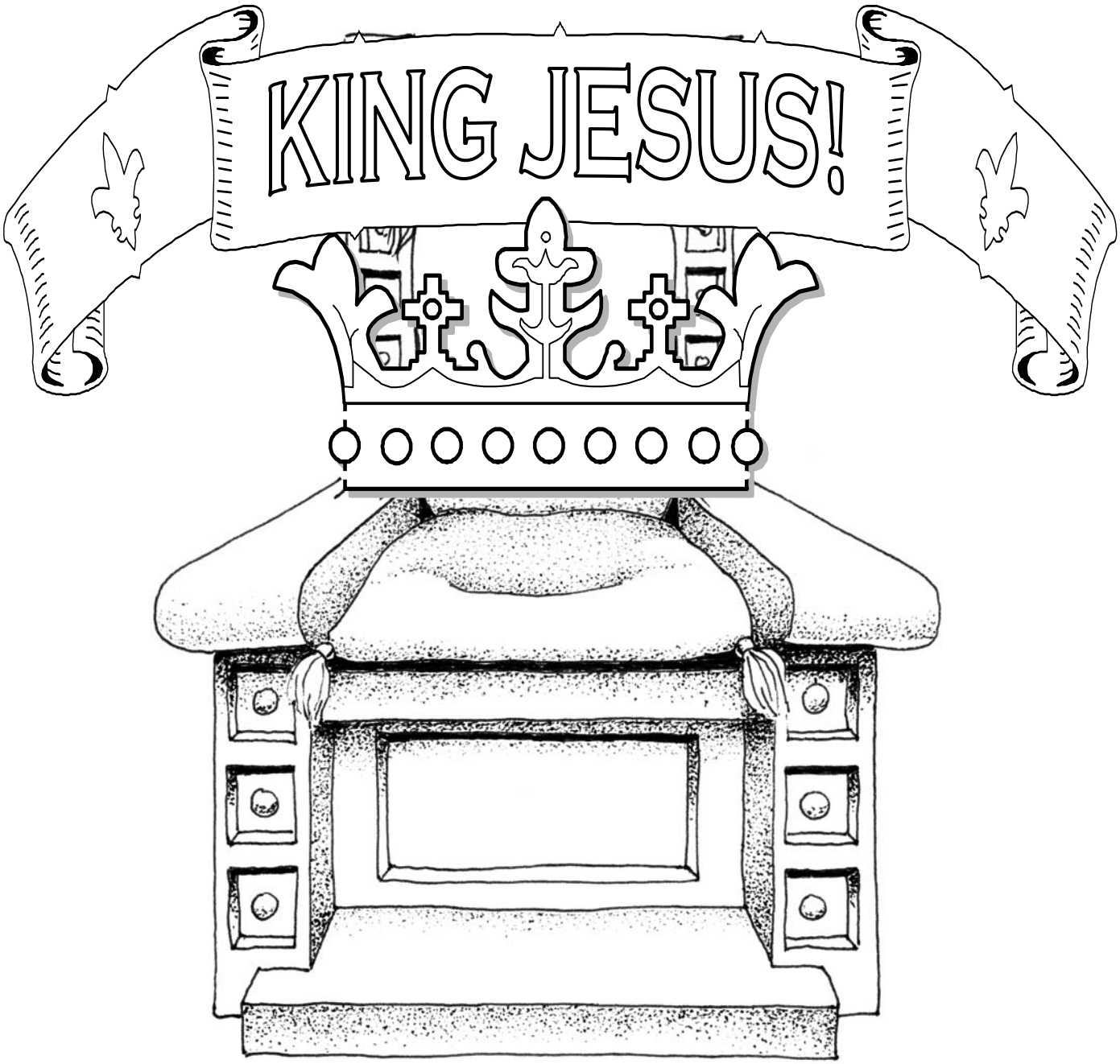


DISCOVER MORE



REVELATION

Revelation is the last book of the Bible. Although it is very difficult to understand, there are key passages that give us a picture of Jesus' return and His reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. One of the most beautiful pictures in this book is in chapter 7, verses 9-17. This week, read this passage, and then color and decorate the picture of the throne, crown, and banner below to make it as beautiful as possible—recognizing that Jesus' real throne will be more amazing and awesome than you could ever imagine!



In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 40
A Story for You

Themes:

- God desires to save sinners through what Jesus has done on the cross.
- All people respond to Jesus, either in belief resulting in eternal life, or unbelief resulting in condemnation.
- God has written all people into the story of the Bible—it has a personal message for each of us.

Scripture:

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43; Romans 3:23; John 3:16-18a, 36

Home and Heart:

How many responses are there to Jesus? Read John 3:16-18, 36. What might rejecting Jesus look like? Read and discuss the following five examples. Unbelief and rejection of Jesus takes many different forms:

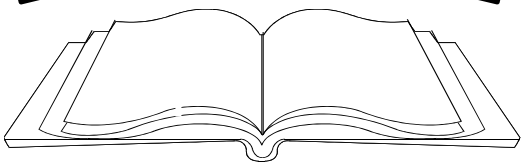
A boy says he is not interested in the Bible—it's boring.
A girl says she will wait until she is older to decide.
A woman says the Bible is just a make-believe story.
A man says Jesus is okay for some people—those who think they need help.
A boy says he is sort of interested in Jesus, but he is interested in other things too, like sports—and those things are really important.

Do any of these examples sound like you? Are you believing in Jesus right now? If you are, how is this shown in your life? Who do you believe Jesus is? Are you depending on Him to forgive all your sins and make you right with God? Do you believe with all your heart that He will give you eternal life in heaven? Do you feel at peace with God, or do you feel as if He is angry at you? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; 6:1-2.

Read the following verses: Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 20:21; Romans 2:4; and 2 Peter 3:9. What is repentance? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Explain that repentance is "godly grief." Review the story of the lost son from Luke 15:11-24. Verses 17-20 demonstrate a repentant heart. True repentance involves understanding you are a sinner and deserve God's condemnation. It involves understanding you are completely helpless to save yourself. Do you have a repentant heart? Is your own sin a big deal, or do you believe you are "okay"? Do you think being good, reading your Bible, memorizing verses, and going to church will make your heart right with God?

Read and discuss Ephesians 2:1-9. What does it mean that we were all "children of wrath"? What does it mean to be "made alive"? How does this happen? Is it something we do? Do you need to become good before Jesus saves you? Why are grace and mercy gifts from God? When a person responds in faith to Jesus, what is the result? Do these verses describe you?

THE BIBLE IS A STORY FOR YOU!



For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already... Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Jesus died on the cross to...

In your own words, explain why Jesus died on the cross and what it means for you.
What is your part in the story of the Bible?