

GOD'S HAND IN OUR LIVES

*Secondary Student Workbook for
Lessons on the Old Testament*

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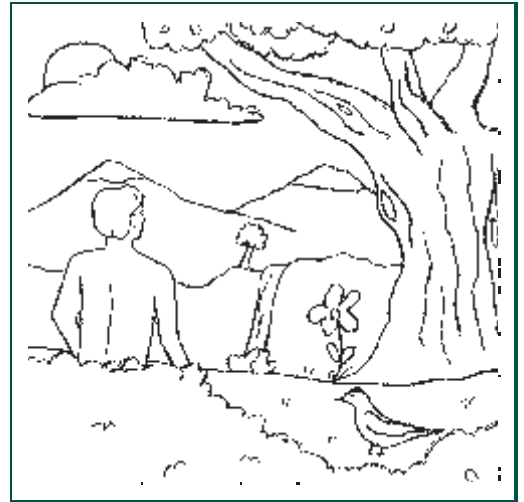
Creation

Genesis 1 - 2:7; 2:18-25

What do you think it means to be created in the image of God?

How do you see God's great power at work in the Creation account?

How do you see God's great love at work in the Creation account?



Prayer

Dear Triune God, You are the One who created the universe, from the greatest oceans and mountains to the smallest flowers, animals, and minerals. You also created me and all people. In all this You have shown Your incredible power and love. Thank You for being a God who so loves His people that You would come to this earth in order to die for us. We look forward to being with You in the new paradise of heaven. Please guide our study of creation today. We offer You praises in Jesus' Name. Amen

The Story - Genesis 1-2:7; 2:18-25

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. {2} The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

{3} Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. {4} And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. {5} God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

{6} Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." {7} Thus

God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. {8} And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

{9} Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. {10} And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

{11} Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. {12} And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. {13} So the evening and the morning were the third day.

{14} Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; {15} "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. {16} Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. {17} God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, {18} and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. {19} So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

{20} Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." {21} So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. {22} And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." {23} So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

{24} Then God said, "Let the earth bring

forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. {25} And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

{26} Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

{27} So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

{28} Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

{29} And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. {30} "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

{31} Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

(Genesis 2) Thus the heavens

and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

{2} And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. {3} Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

{4} This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, {5} before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; {6} but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. {7} And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

{18} And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

{19} Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird

of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. {20} So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.

But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. {21} And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. {22} Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

{23} And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." {24} Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

{25} And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Outer Aim - The Triune God created all things.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks below. Place the letters in parentheses () in order on the blanks at the bottom to find the attributes of God see in His creation.

1. In the beginning, God created the _____ and the earth.
2. The ____ (____) _____ was hovering over the face of the waters.
3. The earth was without ____ (____) _____ and void.
4. On the first day, God spoke and there (____) _____ .

5. On the second day, God created the _____ () _____.
6. On the third day, God made the _____ and _____ () _____.
7. On the fourth day, God used His () _____ to create the _____, _____, and _____.
8. On the fifth day, God created the _____ and winged _____ () _____.
9. On the sixth day, God created land _____ () _____.
10. God used His _____ () _____ to create all these things.
11. God crowned His creation by making _____ and _____ () _____.
12. God commanded them to be _____ and _____ () _____.
13. He also _____ () _____ them to _____ the earth. (Gen. 1:28)
14. On the _____ () _____ day God rested.
15. All that He made was _____ () _____ . (Gen. 1:31)

God's attributes: _____, _____, and _____.

<u>ANSWER WORDS</u>				
commanded	multiply	Spirit of God	fruitful	man
firmament	very good	seventh	heavens	Word
Word	form	woman	subdue	sea creatures
was light	moon	stars	sun	seas
animals	birds		dry land	

Inner Aim - I am God's creation whom He still preserves.

What God's Word Tells Us - God uses His power, wisdom and love to daily care for you! List 10 ways that He does so. (*Hint: Use the explanation to the First Article below for ideas.*)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Passages - Read the passages and answer the questions.

1. *Genesis 1:27 – 28 “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Was the creation of man unique? How?

2. *Ephesians 4:24 “...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.”*
Colossians 3:10 “...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...”

What is the image of God?

3. *Genesis 8:22 “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”*

How does this verse reassure you?

4. *Psalm 145:15-16 "The eyes of all look expectantly to You and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."*

What is the Holy Spirit telling you about your Lord?

Psalm 139: 13-14 - "You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

Hebrews 11:3 - "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

First Article

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind and all my senses, and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards me from every evil.

Hymn - TLH 39 1, 2, 5

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is
Thy Health and Salvation!
Join the full throng;
Wake, harp and psalter and song;
Sound forth in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth,
Who, as on wings of an eagle,
Uplifteth, sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your amazing creation! Teach me to remember how You created all things so that when I see all the wonderful things in the world, I will remember that You are the one who gives them to me. Thank you for making me and taking care of me each day. Amen.

The Fall Into Sin & The Promise of A Savior

Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3

Today we will learn about a special tree that God put in the middle of the garden. We will see how sin entered the world and spoiled God's beautiful creation.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, open our hearts as we hear Your Word today so that we will have a better understanding of sin and of Your great love for us and all mankind. Make us truly sorry for our sins and help us to obey Your commandments. Thank You for sending a Savior to take the punishment for our sins. Amen.



The Story - Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. {16} And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; {17} "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

{2} And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; {3} "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

{4} Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. {5} "For God

knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

{6} So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. {7} Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

{8} And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. {9} Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

{10} So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

{11} And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

{12} Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

{13} And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

{14} So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. {15} And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

{16} To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

{17} Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and

have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. {18} Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. {19} In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

{20} And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

{21} Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. {22} Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"; {23} therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. {24} So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Outer Aim - Adam and Eve fell into sin when they disobeyed God.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions from the lesson above.

1. What kind of tricks did the devil use to tempt Eve and to make her doubt God?

2. Eve told the devil that God had said they should not eat of the tree or even touch it. What part of that was not true?
3. How did Adam and Eve show that they were sinful immediately after they ate from the tree?
4. How was the serpent punished?
5. What would Adam and Eve's life be like now because of their sin?
6. Why did God not want Adam and Eve to stay in the Garden of Eden after they had sinned?
7. What did God do to prevent Adam and Eve from returning to the garden?

Inner Aim - Sin infects us all but we have God's undeserved love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following verses in Genesis 3 and tell what happened because of Adam and Eve's sin:

1. vs. 7 _____
2. vs. 10 _____
3. vs. 16 _____
4. vs. 17 _____
5. vs. 19 _____
6. vs. 24 _____

Your Turn - Read the story of Jesus' temptation in Luke 4:1-13. Now discuss the following questions.

1. What will we say if our "friends" want us to do something we know is wrong?
2. Why is it so hard to do what is right?
3. What will we want to do daily because of our sinful flesh?

Passages

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Hymn - TLH 245 v. 1, 3, 4, 6

God loved the world so that He gave
His only son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which thou hast done,
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Thy Baptism grants the highest good.

God would not have the sinner die,
His Son with saving grace is nigh,
His Spirit in the Word doth teach
How man the blessed goal may reach.

Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Prayer

Dear Lord, we know that we are sinful just like Adam and Eve. We need Your help every day to keep from doing all the wrong things that the devil tempts us to do. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Help us to live as Your children and to look forward to living with You in heaven. Amen.

Cain & Abel

Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26

Why do you think the cross and heart are together?

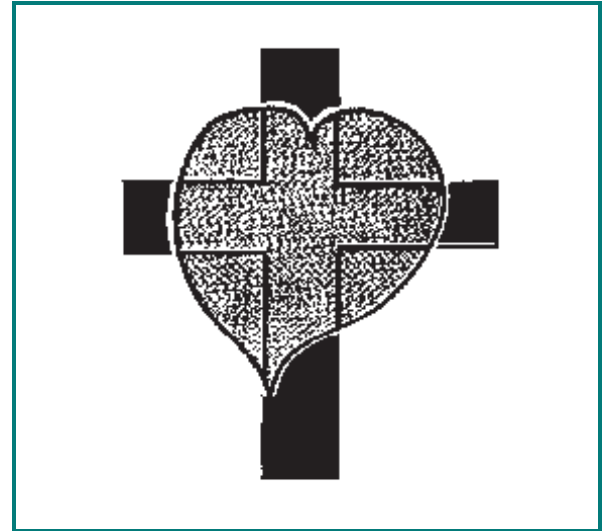
Where does all sin begin?

How are our hearts cleansed from sin?

In our lesson today we will see how sinful thoughts in the heart can lead to sinful actions.

Prayer - TLH #400 v. 5

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.



The Story Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." {2} Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. {3} And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. {4} Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, {5} but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

{6} So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? {7} "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you

should rule over it."

{8} Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

{9} Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

{10} And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. {11} "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. {12} "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be

on the earth."

{13} And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! {14} "Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

{15} And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

{16} Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden...

{25} And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." {26} And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Outer Aim Cain murdered his brother Abel.

What the Story Tells Us - Put an **X** before each **TRUE** statement.

1. ____ Cain and Abel brought offerings to God.
2. ____ God was pleased with Cain's offering.
3. ____ God accepted Abel's offering because Abel believed in the promise of a Savior.
4. ____ Cain was jealous of Abel.
5. ____ Cain let the devil rule in his heart.
6. ____ Cain asked God to forgive his sin.
7. ____ Cain wandered far from home and from God.
8. ____ You should love your neighbor as yourself.
9. ____ It is all right to think evil as long as we don't actually do it.
10. ____ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer.
11. ____ God will forgive us all our sins because Jesus died for us.

Inner Aim Sin begins in the heart but righteousness begins with Christ.

What God Tells Us - Discuss these questions as a class.

1. Why do we give offerings to the Lord?
2. When is God pleased with our offerings?
3. Name some ways in which we "give" to the Lord even if we don't have any money.
4. Trace the sins of Cain all the way through the story and show how one sin led to another.
5. Talk about some things that make you feel angry. Discuss how these feelings could lead to sinful actions.
6. Why is it impossible for us to overcome our sinful thoughts and actions on our own?

Your Turn - Using your Bible, look up James 1:15 and write down the progression of sin.

Passages

1 Samuel 16:7b - "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 John 3:15 "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor's body, but we should help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

Hymn - TLH 655

I pray Thee, dear Lord Jesus, my heart to keep and train
That I Thy holy temple from youth to age remain.
Turn Thou my tho'ts forever from worldly wisdom's lore;
If I but learn to know Thee, I shall not want for more.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, So often we are like Cain with feelings of anger, jealousy and hatred in our hearts. Often these feelings turn into actions and we say and do things that hurt others. Send Your Holy Spirit to make our hearts clean and full of love for others. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for all our sins. In His name we ask for Your forgiveness. Help us to live as Your children. Amen.

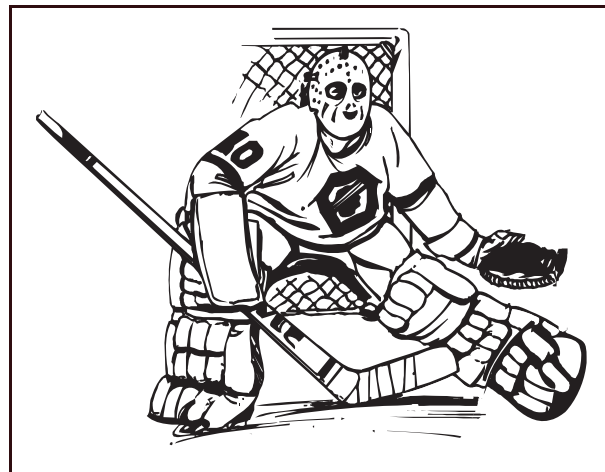
Noah & the Flood

Genesis 6-8

How does a hockey goalie protect himself from the puck, sticks and other players?

What would happen if he didn't have protection?

How does God protect us from evil?



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, As we prepare to study Your Holy Word, give us Your Holy Spirit so that we may understand and believe the great truths of Your Word. Lead us to know that You will protect us from this wicked world, by giving us faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Noah and the Flood – Genesis 6-8

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, {2} that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

{3} And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." {4} There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

{5} Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. {6} And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on

the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. {7} So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. {8} But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

{9} This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. {10} And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

{11} The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. {12} So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

{13} And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the

earth. {14} " Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. {15} "And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. {16} "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third decks. {17} "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. {18} "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark -- you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. {19} "And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. {20} "Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. {21} "And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."

{22} Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Genesis 7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen *that* you *are* righteous before Me in this generation. {2} "You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female; {3} "also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. {4} "For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." {5} And Noah did according to all that the LORD

commanded him. {6} Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

{7} So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. {8} Of clean animals, of animals that *are* unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, {9} two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. {10} And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. {11} In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. {12} And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

{13} On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark -- {14} they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. {15} And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which *is* the breath of life. {16} So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

{17} Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. {18} The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. {19} And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. {20} The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. {21} And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every

creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. {22} All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry *land*, died. {23} So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained *alive*. {24} And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. {2} The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. {3} And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. {4} Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. {5} And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

{6} So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. {7} Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. {8} He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. {9} But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. {10} And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. {11} Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth;

and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. {12} So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

{13} And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. {14} And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

{15} Then God spoke to Noah, saying, {16} "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. {17} "Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that *is* with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." {18} So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. {19} Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, *and* whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

{20} Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. {21} And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

{22} "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Notes:

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions from the story.

1. What did the sons of God begin to do?
2. How did most men now live their lives?
3. What did God say He would do to the earth and everything on it?
4. What were the dimensions of the ark God told Noah to build?
5. How high did the flood water rise?
6. How long did water cover the earth after the rain stopped?
7. About how many months total were Noah and his family on the ark?
8. What was Noah's first act once he and his family were off the ark?
9. What two promises did God give to Noah?

Outer Aim

God cleansed the earth which had become corrupt and violent, but He graciously preserved His children.

What God Tells Us - Discuss the following questions.

1. Even though the people of the world had become very wicked, what shows that God still loved them and was patient with them?
2. Why did it show great faith on Noah's part to follow God's command to build the ark?
3. Why did God save Noah, his family, and some of each species of animal He created, instead of destroying the whole world?
4. What are some ways that the wicked world today tempts us to sin?
5. Even though God promised never to destroy the world with a flood, God does punish sin. How does He save us from the punishment we deserve?
6. How does God protect us from the wickedness that surrounds us and tempts us everyday?
7. How can God's promise to Noah to never again destroy the world with a flood comfort us regarding all of God's promises?

Inner Aim

The evil world around us is always ready to help Satan lead believers away from God, but by God's grace we are able to resist those temptations and continue to trust in our Savior Jesus Christ for salvation.

Passages

Proverbs 1:10 – *My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.*

Mark 16:16 – *He who does not believe will be condemned.*

Ephesians 2:8 – *By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

Psalm 5:4 – *For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.*

Psalm 34:8 – *Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.*

2 Cor. 6:14 – *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*

Hymn

Choose two of the verses of Hymn #446 (TLH) and explain how they fit the inner aim of our lesson today.

Prayer

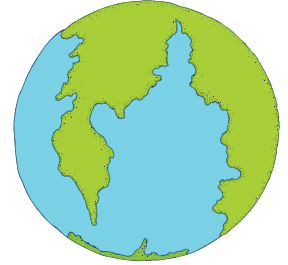
Dear Father in heaven,
Just as You saved Noah and his family from the destruction of the evil world of their day, protect us also from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our flesh with Your gracious gift of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



Tower of Babel

Genesis 10:1, 32 & 11:1-9

Salga por favor de sus biblias.
Elimini le vostre matite.
Commençon par une prière



Can you understand the three directions that are written above?
Do you think that you would be able to follow the directions that were just given?
What would you do if you could understand some of the people here, but not the others?
Why do people speak different languages?

Prayer

Lord, today You will be showing us how different languages came to be. More importantly, You will be showing us a great weakness of some people in the Old Testament. Help us to learn from this story how You want us to live so that we do not fall into this sin as did the people at the Tower of Babel. Be with us today as we study Your Word for our good. Amen.

Please get out your Bibles. (Spanish) Take out your pencils. (Italian) Let us begin with prayer. (French)

The Tower of Babel - Genesis 10:1, 32 & 11:1-9

(Genesis 10:1) Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

(32) These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

(Genesis 11:1) Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. {2} And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

{3} Then they said to one another,

"Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. {4} And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

{5} But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. {6} And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

{7} "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

{8} So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

{9} Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Outer Aim - God confused the languages of the people of the world and caused the people to spread out and fill the world.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions about the lesson.

1. Why did everyone alive at this time speak the same language and dialect?
2. Was there a sin involved with speaking the same language? If so, what sin?
3. Where did the people decide to settle down? Find this place on a map.
4. Was there a sin involved with settling down in one place? If so, what sin?
5. What did the people decide to build here and why?
6. Was there a sin involved with building this structure? If so, what sin?
7. Why did the people finally do what God had commanded them, namely to "fill the earth"?

Inner Aim - Pride is a sin which God will help us overcome.

What God Tells Us

All sin is rebellion against God. That means whenever we do something that is a sin, we are saying that we know better than God does. Explain how the following sins are rebellion against God.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Shoplifting/stealing | 3. Hurting or harming our neighbor in any way |
| 2. Cursing/swearing | 4. Pride |

Of the sins identified with the people in this story, pride is one of the easiest into which we fall. Some Bible heroes also fell into the sin of pride. Look up the following references and tell who fell into the sin of pride and explain how their actions were prideful.

1 Chronicles 21:1ff -

Sometimes God intervenes to stop sin. He often sends consequences for sin as well. In the first example above, how did God intervene? What consequences did He send?

Your Turn - Jesus our Savior is a wonderful example of how we should humble ourselves in the world. Unfortunately, our sinful nature causes us to sin through pride almost daily. In the first column in the table below, give some examples of how pride can affect our lives today. In the second column in the table below, tell how we should humble ourselves and rightly give glory and praise to God for those same things.

HOW PRIDE CAN AFFECT OUR LIVES TODAY	HOW WE SHOULD HUMBLE OURSELVES AND GIVE GLORY AND PRAISE TO GOD

Look through the newspapers or magazines provided. Find any articles that show man's sinful pride. What should be everyone's attitude toward talents or abilities which he or she may have?

Discussion - Discuss the following. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your reasoning.

"The skyscrapers and big cities of the present world are in many ways modern towers of Babel."

Passages - Explain how each passage below talks about sinful pride, praising God, or both.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

Galatians 6:14 - But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1 Corinthians 10:17 - For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Hymn - Look at hymn #175 in TLH and explain why it would be a good prayer to help us with sinful pride .

Prayer

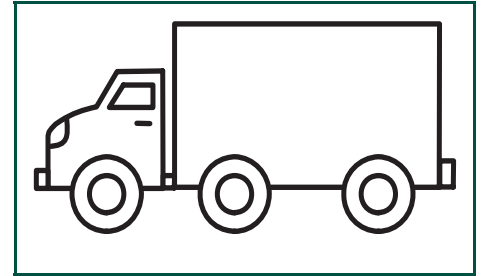
Lord God, all people from Adam and Eve to today, suffer from sinful pride. Help us to be aware of this sin and teach us to give glory to You for everything that we can do. Only with Your help can we avoid this sin. Send us Your Holy Spirit to give us that strength we need to give all glory to You. We pray this in Your glorious name. Amen.

Call of Abram/Abram & Lot

Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18

For what could this truck be used?

Has your family ever had to move to a new location? If you moved, how would people treat you; what might they think of you and your family?



When we arrive at a new location, we are faced with situations that can be scary.

In our story today God tells Abram to move. Abram trusted God and went as directed. From Abram's move, we will learn how we are to treat others, both family and strangers, as we sojourn here on earth.

Prayer

God of Abram and my heavenly Father, guide me as I study Your Word. Help me to understand and learn from the lessons that You used to guide my forefathers. Show me the truths that You shared with them so that I may pattern my life to know the way to You, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Promises to Abram: Genesis 12:1-9 and 13:1-18

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. {2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. {3} I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

{4} So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. {5} Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they

departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

{6} Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. {7} Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

{8} And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. {9} So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. {2} Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

{3} And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, {4} to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

{5} Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. {6} Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. {7} And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

{8} So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. {9} "Is not the whole land before you? Please

separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

{10} And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. {11} Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. {12} Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. {13} But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

{14} And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward; {15} "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. {16} "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. {17} "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

{18} Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Outer Aim - God's hand in Abram's life led him to earthly and eternal treasures.

What the Story Tells Us – (T)true or (F)alse. Circle the correct answer.

1. **T** or **F** God told Abram to travel alone to the a land that God would give him.
2. **T** or **F** Abram was seventy-five years old when God told him to move.

3. **T or F** God promised Abram great riches and honor in the land of promise.
4. **T or F** Abram settled in the area between Bethel and Ai.
5. **T or F** The first thing Abram did was build an altar.
6. **T or F** The Lord blessed Abram with much wealth because of Abram's faith.
7. **T or F** A strife between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot was over pasture land for the flocks.
8. **T or F** Abram put Lot first and offered him the choice of land to settle in.
9. **T or F** Lot settled in Shechem because the pasture land was very rich there.
10. **T or F** God scolded Abram for not keeping the best for himself.

Inner Aim - God's hand supports and saves those who put their faith and trust in Him.

What God Tells Us - Some thoughts to consider.

1. Leaving home and going away to school or moving to a new location is not easy. Letting the Lord guide you while you live here on earth is very rewarding. Give some examples.
2. Satan looks for opportunities of broken family ties and selfish separations. As Christians we must make sure that wherever we live here on earth we trust in the Lord to protect us. We are never alone. What are some of the things we can do to stay strong in the Lord?
3. As we wander through this life we must remember that we are children of God. How we behave, treat others, dress, and talk tells those around us about us and about our faith in God. We must make sure that we live and function as children of God. Give some examples of how dress and speech can be offensive to the Lord and what we can do about this problem.
4. A child of God lets people know that God is first in his life, always, everywhere. We will want to call on God's name for help and live not in a careless, non-respectful way. What are some ways in which individuals can relieve stress without taking the name of the Lord in vain?

5. Abram allowed Lot to choose where he wanted to live even though it all was promised to Abram. We need to remember that everything on earth belongs to our heavenly Father and He is allowing us to be part of it. List several ways in which we can share with others the things that we have.
6. As a child of God we want to share the great news of our Savior from sin. Everywhere Abram went he built an altar to the Lord and called upon Him name. What are some things that we can do to help spread the great news of salvation for all men?

Passages

Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:5 "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Luke 18:29-30 "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

1 Peter 2:11-12 "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Hymn - Read over hymn 586 verses 1, 4, and 7. Remember we are only sojourners here on earth. Our home is heaven. While we live here may we always live lives pleasing to our heavenly Father.

A pilgrim and a stranger,
I journey here below;
Far distant is my country,
The home to which I go,
Here I must toil and travail,
Oft weary and opprest;
But there my God shall lead me
To everlasting rest.

Who would share Abraham's blessing
Must Abraham's path pursue,
A stranger and a pilgrim,
Like him, must journey thro'.
The foes must be encountered,
The dangers must be passed;
A faithful soldier only
Receives the crown at last.

There I shall dwell forever,
No more a parting guest,
With all Thy blood-bought children

In everlasting rest,
The pilgrim conflicts o'er,
All earthly griefs behind me,
Eternal joys before.

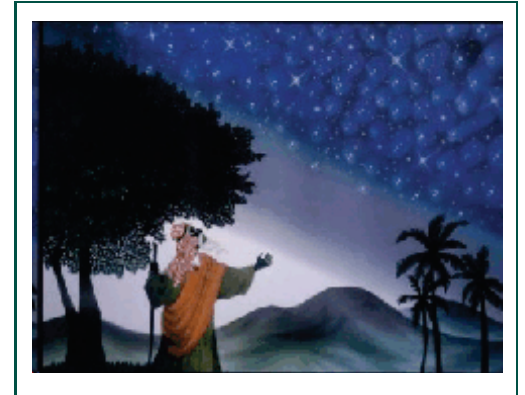
Prayer

God of Abram and my God in Jesus, I thank You for introducing me today to Abram, one of my wonderful grandfathers whom I will get to know better in our heavenly Canaan. Thank You for leading him onward and forward in his life so that he could stay close to You and learn to depend on You always. Do so for me, too, please, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Birth of Isaac Announced

Genesis 15:1 - 18:15

Name some promises that people have made to you.
How do you feel when promises are not kept?
Why is it difficult for some people to keep their promises?
Today, you will learn about Someone who always keeps
His promises.



Prayer

Dear Lord, You have made many promises to us. Through Your Word, strengthen our faith in those promises. Send Your Holy Spirit to show us that You always keep Your promises! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

The Story - Genesis 15:1-18:15 (excerpts)

God's Promise to Abram

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

²But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

⁵Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness...

The Sign of God's Promise to Abraham

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ²And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

³Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴"As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land

of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

⁹And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;...

¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

¹⁹Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him ...²¹But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."²²Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

...²⁶That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael;²⁷and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

A Son Is Promised

Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. ²So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them,

and bowed himself to the ground,³and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. ⁴Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant."

They said, "Do as you have said."

⁶So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."

⁷And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. ⁸So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

So he said, "Here, in the tent."

¹⁰And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."

(Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

¹²Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

¹³And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, "Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?" ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid.

And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

Outer aim – God keeps all His promises.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks below. The answers can be found in the WORD BOX. Then unscramble the letters on the lines which have the arrow > pointing to it, and place them in the last blank to discover a wonderful truth!

son	Sarah	descendants	Savior
Abraham	reward	Lord	covenant
believed	appeared	childless	three
promised	make	circumcise	stars

1. The Lord told Abram that He would be Abram's "exceedingly great >_____."
2. Abram was concerned that he was ___ >_____.
3. The Lord promised that Abram would have as many descendants as the >_____ in the sky.
4. This promise was very important because the _____ >_____ of all people was to come from Abraham's family.
5. Abram _____ >_____ the Lord.
6. When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord again promised to _____ >_____ His covenant with Abram.
7. A _____ >_____ is an agreement between two people.
8. Abram's name was changed to _____ >_____, meaning "father of many."
9. God told Abraham that his _____ >_____ would receive the land of Canaan.
10. The Lord commanded Abraham to _____ >_____ all the males in his family.
11. The Lord _____ >_____ to Abraham outside his tent.
12. Abraham invited the _____ >_____ men to stay for a meal.
13. Abraham and >_____ prepared the food.

14. The Lord > _____ Abraham that he would have a son by next year.

15. She laughed because she felt she was too old to have a > _____ .

16. God told them, "Nothing is too hard for the __ > _____ ."

17. The Lord always _____ !

What God's Word Tells Us - Apply these Bible truths to your life.

There are times when our faith, like Abraham and Sarah's, becomes weak.

1. What three things are working to cause us to doubt God's promises?

_____ , _____ , _____

2. How is our faith strengthened? (*Hint: see Romans 10:17 and I Corinthians 12:3b below in PASSAGES*)

3. Where can we hear God's Word? (*Name at least 3 places.*)

Inner aim – Our faith is strengthened by God's repeated promises in His Word.

Your Turn - It's your turn to be strengthened by the Lord's promises! Look up the following Bible passages. Write the promises that the Lord has made and kept for you!

Psalm 50:15 _____

John 3:16 _____

Psalm 91:11

Revelation 2:10b

I John 1:9

Psalm 55:22

Passages

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

I Corinthians 12:3b - "...and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

Romans 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Hymn - TLH 373 v. 1, 6

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain:
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief is flown,
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Prayer

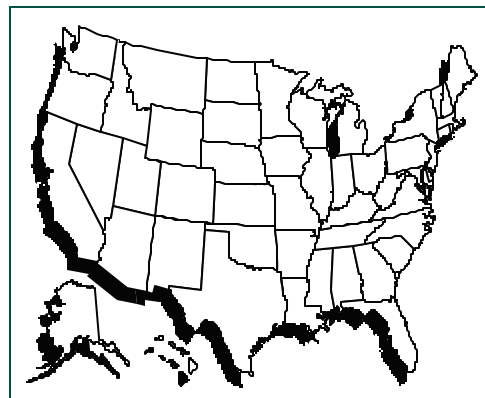
Holy Spirit, the devil, the world, and my sinful flesh are working to keep me from listening to Your promises and following You. Keep me in the faith that trusts Jesus and His Word. Remind me of my God's promises. I ask this in the Name of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18-19

We know that every person has a reputation. But did you know that some cities or areas of a country also have a reputation? The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah also had a reputation, and it was a very bad reputation which was well deserved. Let's see if you can match the place and its reputation.

- Bible Belt of the US -
 - Gambling city in the US -
 - City where you go if you want to be in the movies -
 - States with hillbillies -
 - State with lots of retired people -
 - New Age religion centered here-
 - Bigamists (men who have two wives) live here -
 - City full of gay people -
- Seattle, WA
 - Arkansas, Tennessee
 - Salt Lake City, UT
 - Las Vegas, Nevada or Atlantic City, NJ
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Florida or Arizona
 - the Southeastern section of the United States
 - Hollywood or Los Angeles, CA



Prayer

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 18:16-19:29

Genesis 18:16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. {17} And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, {18} "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? {19} "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

{20} And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is

great, and because their sin is very grave, {21} "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

{22} Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. {23} And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? {24} "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? {25} "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the

righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

{26} So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

{27} Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: {28} "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"

So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

{29} And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."

{30} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

{31} And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

{32} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

{33} So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. {2} And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the

night in the open square."

{3} But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. {4} Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. {5} And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

{6} So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, {7} and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! {8} "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

{9} And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

{10} But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. {11} And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

{12} Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city; take them out of this place! {13} "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

{14} So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

{15} When the morning dawned, the

angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

{16} And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. {17} So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

{18} Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my Lord! {19} Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. {20} See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." {21} And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not

overthrow this city for which you have spoken. {22} "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

{23} The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. {24} Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. {25} So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. {26} But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

{27} And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. {28} Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

{29} And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

Outer Aim - God answered Abraham's faithful prayer and showed mercy to Lot by rescuing him from wicked people.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions about the story.

1. Why did the angels go to Sodom?
2. Why did Lot invite them to stay with him?
3. What were the men of the city trying to do?
4. Why didn't Lot's sons-in-law go with the rest of Lot's family?
5. Lot was afraid to go to the mountains when he escaped. What did he ask instead?
6. What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah?
7. What was the reputation of the city of Sodom?
8. What do we also learn to do from Abraham's prayer?
9. What sin did Lot's wife commit that caused her to be turned into a pillar of salt?

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up each of these passages in your Bible. Explain how each of them applies to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then explain how each of them applies to you.

Psalms 34:7-8

Luke 11:28

John 3:16

II Timothy 1:8-9

II Timothy 4:18

Titus 3:3-7

Inner Aim - God shows mercy to us by rescuing us from Satan and this sinful world.

Your Turn - Unscramble the words from the the Bible passage 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and put the letters in the box. Then use the numbered boxes to make the Bible passage from Luke 17:32 at the bottom.

DGO				RUO				SIOAVR					
		10				8			12			14	

SEERISD							LAL				ENM			
		2			1				9			3	15	

OT			EB			DAEVS					AND TO
	11			6	4						

MECO					TO THE
			5		

WEGOKENDL											OF THE TRUTH.
				13						7	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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9	10	11	12
---	----	----	----

13	14	F	15	.
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Hymn - TLH 414 v 1, 2, 6

The man is ever blest
 Who shuns the sinners' ways,
 Among their counsels never
 stands,
 Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God
 His study and delight
 Amid the labors of the day
 And watches of the night.

He knows, and He approves,
 The way the righteous go;
 But sinners and their works
 shall meet
 A dreadful overthrow.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, We are sorry that we don't listen to You the way we should. Please help us to remember to come to You in prayer, and remind us that You always hear and answer our prayers. Thank You also for taking care of us all the time. Thank You for protecting us from danger. Most of all, thank You for saving us from our sins so we will go to heaven. Amen.

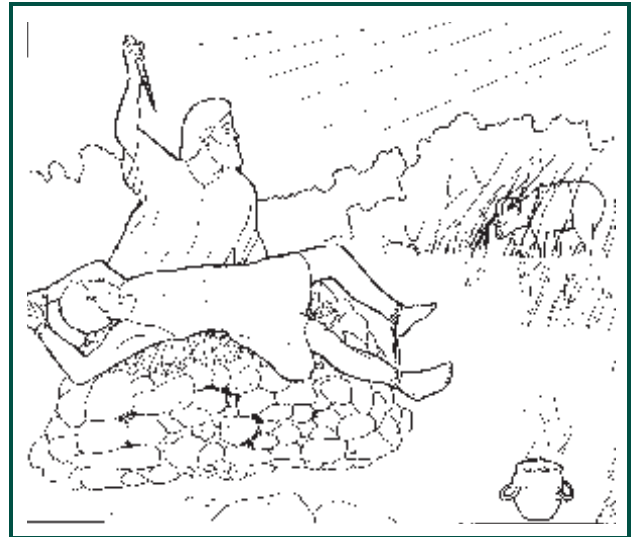
Isaac's Birth/Abraham Offers Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Does this picture of Abraham and Isaac remind you of another time when a Father gave His Son as an offering?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We come before You this day asking You to guide our hearts and minds as we study Your Word. Help us to know and understand Your will in our lives. Help us to believe Your promise that You will bless us and will forgive us when we have a weak faith. Amen.



The Story Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. {2} For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. {3} And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him; whom Sarah bore to him; Isaac. {4} Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. {5} Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

{6} And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." {7} She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse

children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!"

And he said, "Here I am."

{2} Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

{3} So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. {4} Then on the

third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. {5} And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

{6} So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. {7} But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"

And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

{8} And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

{9} Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. {10} And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. {11} But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

So he said, "Here I am."

{12} And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

{13} Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. {14} And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

{15} Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, {16} and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; {17} "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. {18} "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

{19} So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Outer Aim

God strengthened Abraham, Sarah and Isaac to live their lives dependent upon Him.

What The Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was it unusual for Abraham and Sarah to have a baby?
2. Why did God make them wait so long for the child He had promised them?
3. Why did God tell Abraham to offer Isaac up as burnt offering to Him?
4. Why was Abraham able to do what God asked of him?
5. Why was Isaac so important to Abraham?
6. Why was Isaac so important to all believers?

What the Bible Tells Us - Look up the following passages. Tell whether they show a strong faith or a weak faith.

Gen. 12:1-4	_____	Gen. 17:17	_____
Gen. 15:1-6	_____	Gen. 18:11,15	_____
Gen. 16:1,2	_____	Gen. 22:8	_____

What was the blessing Abraham and Sarah needed that we all need according to Rom. 4:1-8?

Inner Aim

Jehovah brought Abraham to revere, love, and trust in Him above/before anything else.

Your Turn - Discuss the following.

Describe how Abraham's offering his son Isaac is like God offering His Son Jesus?

Describe how Jesus and Isaac were alike. Describe how Jesus and Isaac were different.

Tell how God's ways of dealing with Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac show His ways of dealing with all sinful men.

Passages

Hebrews 12:5-7 "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; {6} For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"

Philippians 2:13 "...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Hebrews 6:13 "for when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying 'surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.'"

According to these passages what truths do we know about God's ruling in the lives of sinful mankind? Underline the words in the passage that answer the question.

Hymn - TLH #517 v.1,2

The will of God is always best
And shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest,
He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need,
He chastens with forbearing;
They who depend on God, their Friend,
Shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust,
My Hope and Life abiding;
And to His counsel, wise and just,
I yield, in Him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares,
Upon my head He numbers.
By night and day God is my Stay,
He never sleeps nor slumbers.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, We praise You for Your goodness and mercy. Thank You for giving us faith in Your Son Jesus. Forgive us for our times of weak faith when we like Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac don't love and trust only You. Give us a strong faith so we may find our greatest joy and hope in the fulfillment of all Your promises. Amen.

Isaac's Marriage to Rebekah

Genesis 24

Can you tell how the hand of God is working in the woman in the picture?

Can you tell how the hand of God is working for the man in the picture?

Prayer

Dear LORD, As Your dear children we come to You today to ask You to guide our hearts and minds as we study Your Word. Bless us as we learn from Abraham and his servant Eliezer to rely on You as they did. Please gently lead us on all our earthly paths. Amen



The Story - Genesis 24

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. {2} So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, {3} "and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; {4} "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

{5} And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

{6} But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. {7}

"The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. {8} "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." {9} So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

{10} Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. {11} And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at

evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. {12} Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. {13} "Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. {14} "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'; let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

{15} And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. {16} Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up. {17} And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

{18} So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. {19} And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." {20} Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. {21} And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

{22} So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, {23} and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your

father's house for us to lodge?" {24} So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." {25} Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

{26} Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD. {27} And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren." {28} So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

{29} Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. {30} So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. {31} And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

{32} Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. {33} Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

{34} So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. {35} "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. {36} "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. {37} "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You

shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; {38} 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' {39} "And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' {40} "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. {41} 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

{42} "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, {43} 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," {44} 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

{45} "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' {46} "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. {47} "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. {48} "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

{49} "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

{50} Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. {51} "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

{52} And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. {53} Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

{54} And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

{55} But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

{56} And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

{57} So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." {58} Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

{59} So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. {60} And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

{61} Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

{62} Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. {63} And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. {64} Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; {65} for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

{66} And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. {67} Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Outer Aim The LORD led Isaac and Rebekah into marriage for His saving purposes.

What the Story Tells Us - Tell what each of the following verses from Genesis 24 teach.

1. Genesis 24:7
2. Genesis 24:12
3. Genesis 24:26, 27
4. Genesis 24: 50, 51
5. Genesis 24:52
6. Genesis 24:58

What the Bible Tells Us - Think of some of the difficulties we might face if the person we marry does not believe in the Triune God as we do. Listed below are some examples in the Bible where believers married or joined themselves with unbelievers.

- ▶ Samson and his first wife
- ▶ Samson and Delilah
- ▶ King Solomon
- ▶ The Children of Israel with unbelievers along their march to the Promised Land
- ▶ Esau and his wife

1. Can you think of any others?
2. What was the result of these unions?
3. Keeping these things in mind tell why it is so important for us to choose Christian friends.

4. It is also important for us to choose a husband or wife from fellow believers.
Why was it important that Isaac's wife believe in the Savior as Isaac did?

Inner Aim In order to carry forward the family tree of the Seed/Savior, the LORD joined Isaac with Rebekah.

Passages - Discuss together how these passages apply to the lesson today and to your life.

Isaiah 65:24 "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

Hymn - TLH #412 v.1-3

May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.

So may we join Thy name to bless,
Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,
From sin and strife to flee.
One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee

Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for all the blessings we receive from You. Help us see Your working here among us as perfect and always for our good. Help us to love and trust only in You, and please strengthen our faith to help us as we struggle with growing up and making the right choices in our lives. We pray that when the time is right, You will help us choose the right person to marry. Amen.

Jacob Receives the Blessing

Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-40

This is a drawing of stew and goat skin.
They will both be misused in the lesson today.
Listen carefully to see how all four people of this
family needed to remember that God's will
shall and will be done.



Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with grace divine,
And let Thy truth within us shine. Amen

The Story - Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40

This is the genealogy of Isaac,
Abraham's son.

Abraham begot Isaac. {20} Isaac
was forty years old when he took Rebekah
as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian
of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the
Syrian.

{21} Now Isaac pleaded with the
LORD for his wife, because she was barren;
and the LORD granted his plea, and
Rebekah his wife conceived. {22} But the
children struggled together within her; and
she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So
she went to inquire of the LORD.

{23} And the LORD said to her: "Two
nations are in your womb, Two peoples
shall be separated from your body; One
people shall be stronger than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger."

{24} So when her days were fulfilled

for her to give birth, indeed there were
twins in her womb. {25} And the first came
out red. He was like a hairy garment all
over; so they called his name Esau. {26}
Afterward his brother came out, and his
hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name
was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old
when she bore them.

{27} So the boys grew. And Esau was
a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but
Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.
{28} And Isaac loved Esau because he ate
of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

{29} Now Jacob cooked a stew; and
Esau came in from the field, and he was
weary. {30} And Esau said to Jacob,
"Please feed me with that same red stew,
for I am weary." Therefore his name was
called Edom.

{31} But Jacob said, "Sell me your

birthright as of this day."

{32} And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

{33} Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

{34} And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

{1} Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

And he answered him, "Here I am."

{2} Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. {3} "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. {4} "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

{5} Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.

{6} So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, {7} 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' {8} "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. {9} "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. {10} "Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."

{11} And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. {12} "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

{13} But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

{14} And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. {15} Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. {16} And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. {17} Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

{18} So he went to his father and said, "My father."

And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

{19} Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

{20} But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

{21} Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

{22} So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." {23} And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. {24} Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?"

He said, "I am."

{25} He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you."

So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. {26} Then his father Isaac said to

him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

{27} And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed. {28} Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. {29} Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"

{30} Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. {31} He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

{32} And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"

So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

{33} Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him; and indeed he shall be

blessed."

{34} When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me; me also, O my father!"

{35} But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

{36} And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

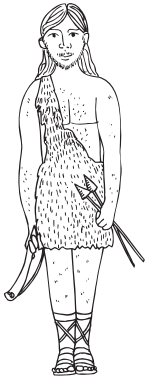
{37} Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

{38} And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me; me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

{39} Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. {40} By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

Outer Aim - It was the LORD's will that Jacob was given the blessing that the Savior was to come from his family.

What the Story Tells Us - Using the Bible's description of Esau and Jacob in Genesis 25, briefly describe Isaac and Rebekah's children.



ESAU

JACOB



What the Bible Tells Us - Put these sentences in the order they happened in the lesson by placing the numbers 1, 2, 3 etc. in the blank to indicate the correct order..

- _____ Rebekah helped Jacob prepare food and dress like Esau.
- _____ Esau came in to Isaac and realized Jacob now had the blessing and birthright.
- _____ Isaac told Esau to hunt food and come back for the blessing.
- _____ Jacob went into Isaac dressed like Esau and received the blessing.
- _____ Rebekah overheard Isaac tell Esau to come for the blessing.

Your Turn - Sometimes God answers prayers with "Yes," "No," "Wait." Can you think of times in your life where your prayers had these answers? Discuss this together with the class.

How long did Isaac and Rebekah wait for children? (Subtract Isaac's ages in v. 20 and 26)

Have you had to wait for a prayer to be answered? How about your prayers for your future life?

When might God say, "Yes," to a prayer.

When might God's answer be, "No."

Inner Aim It is God's will that we receive earthly blessings and eternal salvation through Jesus.

Passages

James 1:14 - Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires.

1 John 3:15 - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

God's good and gracious will is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and stops every evil will and plan of those who do not want us to hallow His name or let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, of the world, and of our own flesh. His will is also done when He gives us strength and keeps us firm in His Word and in faith for as long as we live. This is God's good and gracious will. (Sydow

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Hymn - TLH #418 v. 1, 2, 7, 8

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done."

Renew my will from day to day;
Blend it with Thine and take away
All that now makes it hard to say,
"Thy will be done."

Tho' dark my path and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,
"Thy will be done."

Then, when on earth I breathe no more,
The prayer, oft mixed with tears before,
I'll sing upon a happier shore,
"Thy will be done."

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank You for helping us learn the lesson today. Help us to believe and trust that Your will be done. We know it is Your will that all people be saved because of Your Son, Jesus', death on the cross. Help us to spread that saving message to our friends, family and neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jacob Flees From Esau & Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:41 - 28:22

This is Jacob. He received his father's blessing and birthright. You notice he is alone. He has also traveled by foot 500 miles. Listen carefully to hear why Jacob is 500 miles from home and alone.

Prayer

Lord open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain. Amen



The Story - Genesis 27:41 - 28:22

So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

{42} And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. {43} "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. {44} "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, {45} "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

{46} And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

(Genesis 28) Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. {2} "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. {3} "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; {4} And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham." {5} So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

{6} Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," {7} and that Jacob

had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. {8} Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. {9} So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

{10} Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. {11} So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set.

shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. {15} "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

{16} Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." {17} And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

{18} Then Jacob rose early in the

And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. {12} Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. {13} And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. {14} "Also your descendants

morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. {19} And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

{20} Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, {21} "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. {22} "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

What the Story Tells Us -Answer these questions about the story.

1. Why did Esau want to kill Jacob?
2. Where did Rebekah want Jacob to go to keep safe?
3. Besides keeping safe, what else did Isaac wish Jacob to do?
4. Describe Jacob's dream.
5. What did Jacob do with the rock his head rested on?
6. What name did he give the place?
7. What promise did he make to God if he would safely return to that place?

Outer Aim - God stayed with Jacob and blessed him even when he had to flee from his angry brother.

What the Bible Tells Us - Use Genesis 28:13-15 to fill in the blanks of the blessings Jacob received from God.

{14}... "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the _____ on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. {14} "Also your descendants shall be as the _____ of the earth; you shall _____ to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the _____ of the _____ shall be _____. {15} "Behold, I am with you and will _____ you wherever you go, and will _____ you back to this land; for I will not _____ you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Inner Aim - God is always with us and blesses us with true faith.

Your Turn - What do you know about angels? Read these passages and discuss the questions.

Ps. 91:11 - He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

1. Why are the angels sent by God?

Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2. Whom did God create the angels to serve (minister)?

3. Look up these angels that appeared in visible form. Write the name of the person to whom they appeared.

Luke 1:11-12 _____

Luke 2:8-9 _____

Luke 1:26-27 _____

Mark 16:1, 5-6 _____

Passages

Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

John 1:51- And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #425 v.1, 5, 6

All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Tho' all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never —
As God wills, so be it ever —
I to Him commit my way.

If on earth my days He lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in His grace.

Prayer

My Father in heaven, I am just beginning my journey in life. Since I do not know what awaits me in life, please take me and my future into Your hands. Help me to trust in You and Your saving Gospel so that I can share that "Good News" with others. Amen.

Jacob Returns to Canaan

Genesis 32, 33, 35

Teenagers today are under a lot of pressure from their peers. The world tries very hard to force them to make split-second decisions whether they understand the consequences or not. Have you ever felt that pressure? Friends may try to encourage you smoke, do drugs, steal, and worse. We make mistakes; we are sinners. But that does not make it right. The Lord reminds us to face up to faults and mistakes; to look to Him for guidance and love but above all for forgiveness.



In today's lesson, Jacob is ready to return home. He left home in a hurry because he was pressured into doing something that was not right. Jacob was not pressured by his friends to lie and cheat his father and brother but by his own mother. Now he feels the need to return home, ask for forgiveness, and raise his family in the land of Canaan.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we know that You care for us better than we could ever care for ourselves, You alone know what is best for us. We ask You now to give each of us the unshakable confidence in You as our Protector and Provider. Grant that through the study of this lesson we might come to realize that just as You were with Jacob and brought him safely through many adversities, so You will always protect and provide for each one of Your children. Bless our study of this truth, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 32, 33, 35

Jacob makes the final preparation for returning home. The Lord reassured Jacob that this was the right thing by sending angels to meet Jacob. When Jacob left home, he was fleeing from Esau, his brother. Still unsure how his brother Esau would accept Jacob's return, special preparation needed to be made. First Jacob sent messengers ahead to inform Esau that he was coming home. The messengers returned to

Jacob and told him that Esau, along with 400 men, was coming to meet Jacob. This news caused Jacob to be afraid. Why 400 men? Was Esau still upset with his brother?

Looking to his human understanding, Jacob divided his family and possessions into two groups. If Esau destroyed the first group, then the second group could escape. Next, Jacob turned to the Lord in prayer requesting that the Lord grant him a safe

home-coming. Jacob reminded the Lord of the promises that God had given to him, such as the promise of becoming a great nation. Jacob, trusting in the knowledge that it was the Lord's will that he return home, sent the first group of animals and servants to his brother Esau. Jacob instructed the servants to tell Esau that these were gifts from his brother. After the first group left Jacob moved his two wives, their servants, and his eleven sons over a brook to protect them in case Esau did not accept Jacob's gifts.

That night, while waiting to learn of Esau's response to Jacob's gifts, Jacob wrestled with a Man until the breaking of day. The Man was the Lord. As morning was waking, Jacob would not let go of the Man. Jacob requested a blessing from the Man. The Lord blessed Jacob by changing his name to Israel because he had struggled with God and with men, and prevailed.

As the sun rose, Jacob saw Esau coming. Scared by the vision of his powerful brother and his 400 men, Jacob quickly divided his children and servants putting the maidservants first, then Leah and her children, finally Rachel and Joseph. Then Jacob went out to greet his brother by bowing to the ground seven times. Esau ran to meet Jacob, embraced him, and they wept in joy together. Esau was impressed with Jacob's family. It was a wonderful family reunion blessed by the Lord.

Esau did not wish to accept the gifts that Jacob had given him.

However, Jacob insisted. Esau wanted everyone to return home together. Jacob, concerned for his family, encouraged Esau to go on ahead. He and his family would follow. Esau went on home.

Jacob and his family safely made their way back to Succoth in Canaan where he purchased some land, built a house and provided for his livestock. The Lord directed Jacob to move to Bethel and dwell there. Before moving, Jacob knew that some of the servants and family members still believed in false gods and were carrying idols with them. Jacob asked that these gods be put away. Jacob buried these idols and the family moved on. The Lord protected Jacob's family as they moved from place to place in Canaan. At Bethel, Jacob built an altar to the Lord. It was here that the Lord first appeared to Jacob when he was fleeing his brother many years before. The promise of the Lord then was fulfilled; God had been and continued to be with Jacob. It was here that the Lord repeated His promises to Jacob.

Shortly after the stop in Bethel, Rachel gave birth to her second son. While in childbirth, Rachel died. Jacob named the child Benjamin and buried his wife at Bethlehem.

Jacob finally returned to his home and to his father Isaac. Shortly after Jacob's return, Isaac died at the age of 180 years. Esau and Jacob buried their father together.

The Lord continued to bless Jacob (Israel), and Jacob showed his love in return by building altars and praising God.

Outer Aim - God helps Jacob realize that it is He who has preserved and blessed him.

What the Story Tells Us - If the statement is true circle the "T". If the statement is false circle the "F".

- T or F 1. As Jacob started back to Canaan, God appeared to him.
- T or F 2. Esau sent messengers to greet his brother Jacob.
- T or F 3. Jacob was sorry for his sin against his brother; he wanted Esau's forgiveness.
- T or F 4. It was God's idea that Jacob return to Canaan.
- T or F 5. Jacob was poor when he left Canaan; now he was returning home rich.
- T or F 6. Jacob tried to buy his forgiveness from Esau.
- T or F 7. The Lord blessed Jacob with a new name: Israel.
- T or F 8. Esau was not happy that his brother had returned.
- T or F 9. The Lord assured Jacob about his return home and blessed him.

What the Bible Tells Us - Look up the following Bible references and explain how you can apply them to your life today.

1. Psalm 121. _____

2. Psalms 18:2. _____

3. James 1:7. _____

Passages

Psalm 145:15 - The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season.

1 Peter 5:7 - casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Hymn - TLH #428 v.1, 2, 4, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

Where should you be looking for your strength today?

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, whenever I am tempted to put my trust in myself remind me always to put my trust in You. Let me never forget that You are my strength and that You are always with me and will never leave me. Apart from You I can accomplish no good thing. Strengthen the faith with which You have blessed me and help me to always trust in You as my Savior and Provider. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.

Joseph Sold Into Slavery

Genesis 37

What do these things all have in common?

Could anything good come out of being in these circumstances?

Who makes sure good things come out of bad situations?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Whenever something unfortunate happens to me in this life, help me to think about Joseph and all of the difficult things that happened to him. Remind me that just as You never abandoned Joseph, so You will always be with me. Help me to remember that You will allow in my life only that which You will also work out somehow for my spiritual good. Let me never stop trusting in You alone. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.

Broken Arm

Science Test ✓ D-

Not Enough \$\$\$

Argument With Friends

The Story - Genesis 37

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

{2} This is the history of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

{3} Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. {4} But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

{5} Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. {6} So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: {7} "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my

sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

{8} And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

{9} Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

{10} So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" {11} And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

{12} Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. {13} And

Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them."

So he said to him, "Here I am."

{14} Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me."

So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. {15} Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"

{16} So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."

{17} And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. {18} Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

{19} Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! {20} "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

{21} But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." {22} And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"; that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

{23} So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. {24} Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

{25} And they sat down to eat a

meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.

{26} So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? {27} "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

{28} Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

{29} Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. {30} And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

{31} So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. {32} Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

{33} And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

{34} Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. {35} And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

{36} Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Outer Aim

Joseph is envied by his brothers and sold into slavery in Egypt.

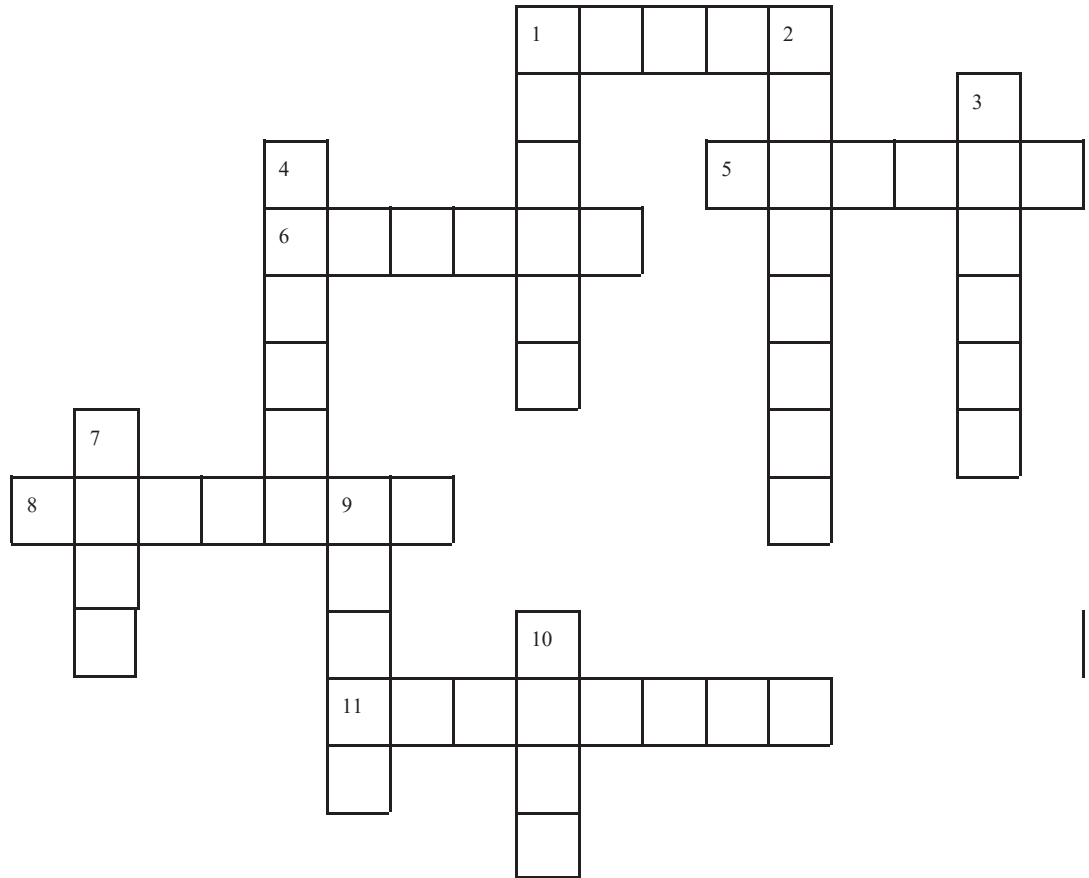
What the Story Tells Us - Complete the Crossword Puzzle below using words from the lesson.

ACROSS

- 1. ____ had 12 sons.
- 5. He gave one son a tunic of many ____.
- 6. The other sons **e**____ this son.
- 8. After the father heard of his son's death he ____ for him and refused to be comforted.
- 11. This person bought Joseph as his slave.

DOWN

- 1. ____ was loved the most by his father.
- 2. His ____ hated him.
- 3. Joseph had 2 ____ where his family bowed to him.
- 4. ____ saved Joseph from being killed by the other brothers.



- 7. The other brothers ____ him for 20 pieces of silver.
- 9. The Midianites sold Joseph in ____.
- 10. The brothers' jealousy led them to want to ____ Joseph.

What the Bible Tells Us - What would you say? Look up the following Bible passages and match them to the situation in which they would be most helpful.

A. Psalm 27:14

B. Colossians 3:9

C. Matthew 5 :44

D. Isaiah 40:31

- _____ 1. Peter's sister had just told their mom she was going to the library. Peter knew she was going to see a movie with her friends.
- _____ 2. Timothy's mother had been sick for many years. It was getting very hard for him to watch her suffer.
- _____ 3. It made Sue sad to see how tired her father was each night after a long day at work. She wished she knew a passage that would help him feel better.
- _____ 4. Paul didn't want to go to school. He was angry about being teased so much.

Inner Aim God begins His plan to rescue the family of Israel and keep His promise to send the Savior through their descendants.

Passages- Discuss how these passages apply to Joseph's life and your own life.

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH #424, v. 1, 3

My God, my Father, make me strong,
When tasks of life seem hard and long,
To greet them with this triumph song:
Thy will be done.

With confident and humble mind
Freedom in service I would find,
Praying thro' ev'ry toil assigned:
Thy will be done. Amen.

Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 39 - 41

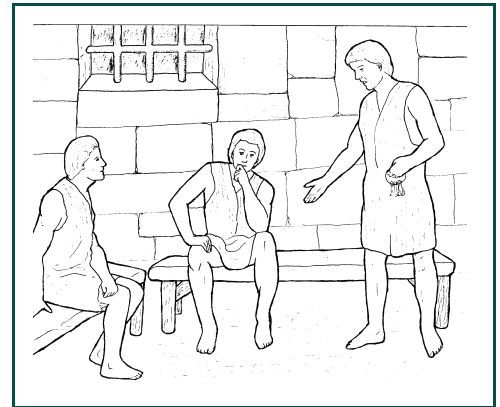
Have you ever had troubles in your life?

Are there times when you feel alone, as though your friends have deserted you?

What do you do for help and comfort at these times?

Have you wondered why these things happen?

Joseph suffered many hardships while he was in Egypt, but God did not forget about him. God had a plan for him. We, too, realize that God is always with us and has a plan for us as well.



Prayer

Dear Lord, As we study today about Joseph's experiences in Egypt, help us to understand Your reason for it by seeing how Joseph and all of Your children benefited from his situation. Help us also remember that You are constantly our Guide. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 39 - 41 A Paraphrase

When Joseph arrived in Egypt with the traveling merchants, he was sold to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was a Captain for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. He became Potiphar's slave; he had to do everything that Potiphar told him to do.

At first Joseph was just another servant in Potiphar's house. But it did not take long for Potiphar to notice that there was something special about Joseph. Potiphar saw that Joseph believed in God and that He was with Joseph in all that he did. Everything that Joseph did for Potiphar turned out well. Potiphar thought, "The one Joseph calls Lord is with him. His Lord makes Joseph successful in all that he does."

Potiphar gave Joseph more jobs to do in his house. Finally he made Joseph in

charge over all of his house and all that he had. Potiphar trusted Joseph with everything.

Potiphar's wife, however, was a wicked woman. She noticed that Joseph was a very handsome young man and sinful desires came into her heart. One day she asked Joseph, "Come, be like a husband to me."

Joseph told her "No," at once. He said, "My master put me in charge over his whole house. He trusts me, and you are his wife. I cannot do this thing with you. How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

But Potiphar's wife kept on trying to make Joseph sin with her. Each time she asked him, Joseph would say, "No." Finally one day as Joseph was doing his work and

no one else was nearby, Potiphar's wife caught hold of his robe and begged him to sin with her. Joseph immediately ran out of the house and left his robe in her hand.

Potiphar's wife was very angry with Joseph because he dared to say "No" to her! She then called the other servants together and told them a lie. She told them that Joseph had tried to make her sin with him! When Potiphar came home, she told him the lie and showed him Joseph's robe.

Potiphar was very angry when he heard his wife's story. He had Joseph thrown into prison. Joseph was sent to a special prison where officers of Pharaoh were sent when they had done some crime while they were serving him.

Joseph in Prison

Joseph had to stay in the king's prison. This did not mean that God had forgotten all about Joseph. The keeper of the prison liked Joseph very much and he trusted him. He eventually made Joseph his helper. That meant that Joseph had the job of looking after the other prisoners. It was in this way that God was blessing Joseph while he was in prison.

One day two of the Pharaoh's officers were put into that same prison because they had done something wrong against Pharaoh. One of these men was the chief butler and the other man was the chief baker. Joseph was also in charge of these two prisoners.

It happened that one night both of these prisoners had dreams. Joseph noticed the next morning that they looked sad and confused. He asked them what the problem was, and they said, "We have had dreams, but there isn't anyone that can tell us what these dreams mean."

Joseph told them that it was God's business to explain dreams, but he asked them to tell him about their dreams.

The chief butler told his dream first. He said, "In my dream I saw a vine sprout, and it grew three branches. The branches then sprouted and blossomed and then bunches of ripe grapes appeared on the branches. I was holding Pharaoh's cup in my hand, and I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup. I then gave the cup of juice to Pharaoh to drink."

Joseph said, "This is the meaning of your dream. The three branches stand for three days. In three days Pharaoh is going to let you out of prison and make you his chief butler again." Joseph also added, "But remember me when this happens. Please be kind and tell Pharaoh about me. I was taken out of my country and I have done nothing wrong for which I should be put in prison."

The chief baker was happy to hear the meaning of the chief butler's dream so he told his dream to Joseph. He said, "In my dream I saw myself with three baskets of baked goods on my head. But the birds came and ate the bread out of the baskets."

Joseph then told him, "The three baskets also stand for three days. In three days the Pharaoh will cut off your head and hang your body on a tree. The birds will eat the flesh off your bones."

Three days later Pharaoh had a birthday and had a big celebration. He had his men bring the butler back to the palace and he was given his job back. But Pharaoh had the chief baker hanged on a tree just as Joseph said he would.

The chief butler, however, forgot all about Joseph and didn't tell Pharaoh all of the things that Joseph had asked him to say.

Joseph Made Ruler

Two years passed and Joseph was still in prison. It was then that Pharaoh himself had a dream. He dreamed that he was near the Nile River, and he saw

something very strange. Out of the river came seven very fine, fat cows that began eating the rich grasses by the river. After that seven very skinny, hungry-looking cows also came out of the river and stood beside the seven fat cows. The skinny cows then ate the healthy cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. He soon fell asleep again and had another very strange dream. In a field he saw a stalk with seven plump, full heads of grain. Then seven more heads grew out of the stalk. These grains were dry and shriveled. The thin heads then swallowed up the plump heads! Then Pharaoh woke up, and he was very troubled about these two dreams.

Pharaoh called all of his magicians and wise men and told them about his dreams, but none of them could tell him what the dreams meant. It was then that the chief butler remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh, "When I and the chief baker were in prison, we too, had dreams that troubled us. There was a young Hebrew man there who was the helper in the prison. He explained to us the meaning of our dreams, and everything came true just as he had told us it would."

Pharaoh called for Joseph right away. After Joseph had shaved and had changed his clothes, he was brought before the king.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had dreams, but there is no one that can tell me what they mean. I heard that you can explain dreams."

Joseph answered, "I do not have that kind of power, but God will give you the answer to these dreams."

Pharaoh told his two dreams to Joseph. Joseph then told Pharaoh, "Both of your dreams have the same meaning. Through these dreams God has shown what He will do here in Egypt. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain stand for seven good years. More

than enough food will grow during these seven good years. The seven skinny cows and the seven shriveled heads of grain stand for seven bad years. After the seven good years, there will be seven bad years. The famine will be so bad that hardly anything will grow."

"God sent these two dreams for a good reason. God wants you to know that He had decided to do this, and it will happen soon. You should get ready for the seven bad years. You should choose a very wise man to be in charge of gathering food from all over Egypt. Have men from all over the country help with this. Let them store up food in the cities during the seven good years so that there will be plenty of food on hand during the seven bad years. You and your people will not starve and die during the famine."

Pharaoh thought that this plan was a good one. He chose Joseph to be that man in charge of storing up food in Egypt. He said, "Since God has shown you the meaning of the dreams, there is no man as wise as you are in all of Egypt. You will be the most important ruler in Egypt. Only I, Pharaoh, will be higher than you." He then gave Joseph his special ring which showed that he had the power to rule. He also gave Joseph fine clothes and had him ride in one of his chariots so that the Egyptian people would know that he was to be honored as a ruler in Egypt.

The seven years came and plenty of food was saved in storehouses all over Egypt. Then the seven bad years came, just as God had said it would. Pharaoh had the hungry people go to Joseph, and he made sure that food was passed out to them. But the famine was everywhere around Egypt as well, and people from other countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain so that they would not starve and die.

Outer Aim - God watched over and blessed Joseph's life.

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss with your class how God used these apparent hardships in Joseph's life to prepare him for life as a ruler.

1. Joseph is sold as a slave to Potiphar.
2. Joseph is wrongly accused of a sin and placed in prison.
3. The chief butler forgets about Joseph and he remains in prison for an additional two years.
4. *Joseph was able to give witness to God in these situations, and he remembered to give all glory to God.*
5. *Joseph also continued to serve his Lord, even in the face of adversity.*
6. *Joseph didn't despair and forget God.*
7. *Joseph also learns that God's timing is perfect.*

Inner Aim - As God guided and blessed Joseph's life, so our Lord does for us. Our God watches over and blesses the lives of His children. God guides our lives for our good.

What the Bible Tells Us - Look up the following passages. Discuss how these passages apply to Joseph and his experiences in Egypt. Then explain in a few sentences each how these passages also apply to us today in our lives. Share these applications with your class.

Romans 8:28 -

Acts 17:28a -

Passages

1 Corinthians 10:31 - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Philippians 2:13 - For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Hymn - TLH #457, v. 1-3

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh,
what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to
God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it
to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – Take it to
the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge –
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I know You are always with me, guiding me, protecting me, and making all things work out for my good. Please give me strength to overcome temptation, for without You I am helpless against the attacks of the devil. Please help me to give all glory to You for the gifts and abilities with which You have blessed me. Please forgive me all my sins and keep me forever as Your child and heir. In Jesus saving name. Amen.

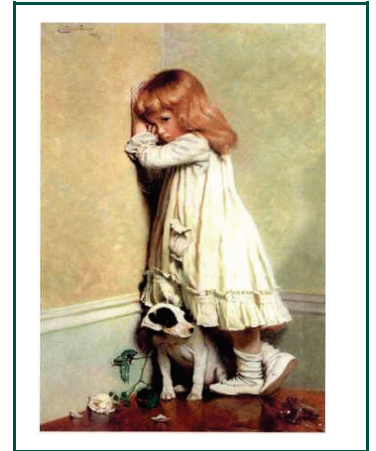
Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Genesis 42

Think (privately) of a time you were in trouble for doing something sinful.) Yours was probably not a pleasant situation --but it's very important that correction takes place. Sin can separate us from God. Sin is dangerous to our souls. Our sin must be pointed out so we can repent and have it removed through forgiveness.

This process of correction doesn't usually **feel** good – but we should realize how good this is for our spiritual health.

It is an act of love when God protects our souls from sin. In today's Bible reading you will hear of God using Joseph to help his brothers see their sins and seek forgiveness!



Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for bringing us together to learn about You in this class today. Please lead us to understand through this Bible lesson why You discipline us as You disciplined the brothers of Joseph. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 42

When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" {2} And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

{3} So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. {4} But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him." {5} And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

{6} Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. {7} Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he

acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?"

And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

{8} So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. {9} Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

{10} And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

{11} "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

{12} But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

{13} And they said, "Your servants are

twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

{14} But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!' {15} "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

{16} "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!" {17} So he put them all together in prison three days.

{18} Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: {19} "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses. {20} "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

{21} Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

{22} And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us." {23} But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

{24} And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

{25} Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them. {26} So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

{27} But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the

encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack. {28} So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!"

Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

{29} Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying: {30} "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. {31} "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies. {32} 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

{33} "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone. {34} 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

{35} Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. {36} And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

{37} Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

{38} But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss these questions.

1. If Joseph had simply revealed himself to his brothers what may have remained?
2. Discuss different ways in which you have been corrected in an attempt to identify your sin and move you toward godly repentance.
3. Discuss these sayings from God's Little Instruction Book Volumes I, II, & III. "Too many parents are not on spanking terms with their children." Basis – Proverbs 13:24

"Whenever a man is ready to uncover his sins, God is always ready to cover them."
Basis – Proverbs 28:13
4. Discuss how radiation treatment of cancer can actually kills cells and makes people sick...but gets rid of the life threatening cancer. Discuss how this is like our inner aim.
5. Discuss how in muscle building the muscle cells are actually damaged before they come back stronger than they were before lifting weights. Discuss how this might be like our inner aim.

Hymn - TLH #342 v. 1, 5

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

O my Savior, help afford by Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

Passages - Concordance Activity - Search for passages that emphasize the Lord chastises those He loves. Search for passages that emphasize chastisement as a good thing. List your passages below in the correct column.

The Lord Chastises Those He Loves

Chastisement is a Good Thing

Prayer ACTivity - Write a group prayer that reiterates main lessons of the day. This acrostic approach can help you remember how to build a prayer. **ACTS**

A (Acknowledge who you are praying to along with a characteristic)

C (Confess)

T (Thank)

S (Supplicate – ask)

Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt Again

Genesis 43-45

Imagine a parent who would take a syringe containing a disease and inject the disease into his/her infant's blood stream. This certainly would be a bad thing, right!?

The truth is this injection of disease can actually help save a child's life! How you ask? Good question, but before we go on let's recognize that this is a scenario that surely looked bad, or wrong, at first. Let's find out how it is indeed good for an infant.

The act of injection referred to earlier is called an immunization. Our bodies are better at fighting disease the 'second time around.' So, in an immunization a weakened form of the disease is introduced to the child's blood stream so the child's immune system can learn to fight the disease. The idea is once the immune system learns to fight, using a weakened enemy, it will be better prepared if a stronger form of the disease attacks!

In today's lesson we will acknowledge how God is in control of our lives and try to identify how He takes things that seem bad to us and turns them into good - life saving, **soul saving** good!



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for allowing us to meet again today to study Your Word. Help us apply this lesson to our own lives so that our faith in Your Son, Jesus, is strengthened. In His name we ask this. Amen.

The Story

The famine in Canaan and the surrounding area was severe. After the food that his sons had purchased from Egypt ran out, Jacob told them to go back and buy more. Judah reminded his father that they had been told to bring their youngest brother back with them, or they would not be allowed to buy any more grain. This worried Jacob very much, but after much persuading, he finally agreed to let Benjamin go along. Judah promised, "I myself will be surety (one

who is responsible for another) for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever."

Jacob told his sons to take some gifts along to Egypt: a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. He also told them to take double the amount of money required to purchase the grain. He did

this because the last time they had gone, their money had been found inside their grain sacks, making it look like they had stolen the grain.

So the brothers returned to Egypt and stood before Joseph, the Egyptian ruler in charge of selling grain. Again they did not recognize him. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he ordered one of his servants to slaughter an animal and prepare a feast to eat at noon with his unsuspecting brothers.

As they prepared to buy more grain from Joseph's steward, the brothers were afraid. They explained what had happened when they found the money in their sacks the last time. But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out of prison to them and took them to Joseph's house.

When Joseph appeared at noon, the brothers all bowed to him and offered their gifts. Joseph asked about their father's health. He then said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said to Benjamin, "God be gracious to you, my son." Joseph was so moved to see his younger brother that he had to leave the room to go out and weep. When he had washed his face and composed himself, he returned and joined the feast. Joseph arranged the brothers at the table in order from youngest to oldest, which surprised them since they had not told him their ages. Benjamin received five times as much food as the others.

After the feast, Joseph commanded the steward to fill the men's sacks with food and to put each man's money in the sack again as well. Joseph also told him to put his special silver cup in the mouth of Benjamin's

sack. The steward did as he asked.

When the brothers had left Egypt, Joseph ordered the steward to go after them. He accused them of stealing his master's silver cup. The brothers were astonished and afraid. They couldn't believe it was true, and were so convinced of their innocence, they promised that if the cup were found in one of the sacks, that owner of the sack would be killed. The steward told them whoever had the silver cup would become his slave instead. As planned, it was found in Benjamin's sack. The brothers tore their clothes; they were very upset. Then they went back to Egypt.

Judah pleaded with Joseph. He told him the whole story about Jacob's loss of one son and their promise to bring Benjamin back safely. Judah told Joseph he would remain instead of Benjamin as a slave, because it would surely kill Jacob if his youngest son did not return to him.

At last Joseph knew it was time to reveal the truth. He asked all his servants to leave the room, and then he wept aloud so that all heard him. He cried, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" His brothers were shocked and couldn't answer.

Then Joseph said, "Please come near to me." Again he repeated, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not be angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither

plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of his entire house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

Joseph went on to tell them that he wanted them to go back and get Jacob because he wanted them to live in the land of Goshen. Then he embraced Benjamin and wept. He kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and they talked together for some time. Pharaoh also heard about the situation, and assured Joseph that his father and family

would be richly provided for in Egypt. He sent donkeys, carts, food, and supplies with them all so they could go back to Canaan and get Jacob. When the eleven brothers got home, they told Jacob, "Joseph is alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. But when they told him all the words that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts that Joseph had sent to carry him, he started to believe them.

Then Jacob said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Outer Aim - The Lord sent Jacob and his family to Egypt to make a great nation of them.

What the Story Tells Us -Answer the following from the story.(Teacher should read through questions beforehand and guide discussion during the reading to emphasize important parts of the reading.)

1. Can you identify the 'bad' event that brought Joseph's brothers back to Egypt?
2. What great benefit did the brothers gain by returning to Egypt?
3. Jacob worried about sending Benjamin. This was evidence of his lack of trust that the Lord does indeed work all things out to our good. It is easy for us to have such a lack of trust as well. What good was the Lord working out for Jacob when he was asked to send his son Benjamin to Egypt?
4. Forgiveness of sins is one of the greatest gifts God gives us. The Lord used Joseph as a tool to bring the brothers to repentance and recognize the forgiveness they have - which leads then to a 'change of heart.' Quote evidence from Scripture that the brothers have indeed been led to a change in they way they act.
5. How could Judah's actions in this section of scripture be a picture of Christ?

Inner Aim - The Lord works all things for the good of His people.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

Try to come up with a time in your life when you feel the Lord was turning something bad into your good.

Your Turn

Concordance Activity:

- Search for passages that show God is in control of our lives.

Passages

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Isaiah 42:16 - I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Matthew 6:25 - "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Philippians 4:6,7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #435

My spirit on Thy care,
Blest Savior, I recline;
Thou wilt not leave me to despair,
For Thou art Love divine.

Whate'er events be'tide,
Thy will they all perform;
Safe in Thy breast my head I hide
Nor fear the coming storm.

In Thee I place my trust,
On Thee I calmly rest;
I know Thee good, I know Thee just,
And count Thy choice the best.

Let good or ill befall,
It must be good for me;
Secure of having Thee in all,
Of having all in Thee.

Prayer ACTivity

Write a prayer that will remind us of the main points presented in this lesson. Use the acronym ACTS as explained below.

A (Acknowledge who you are praying to along with a characteristic)

Ex - Dear just and forgiving Father in Heaven.

C (Confess)

Ex. - We admit that we sinfully resist the correction of Your Word. We ,at times. lack the wisdom to see that it is out of love for our souls that You instruct our parents to punish us.

T (Thank)

Ex. - We praise You for Your indescribable love that led You to send Your Son to save us from our sins and for those you have placed over us to help us recognize our need for repentance.

S (Supplicate - ask)

Ex. - We ask for the continued blessing of the Holy Spirit to lead us to confess and repent of our sins and that through Christ we may one day be with You in heaven. Amen.

Jacob and His Family Live in Egypt

Genesis 46 - 50

A young son is gone. A father is struck with heartache at the absence of his son, his favorite son. Years pass as the father, though accepting the death of his son, continues to long for the boy. Then years later, completely out of nowhere comes news that the young man is not dead but alive. The father, naturally aged but more so because of the grief in his life, is filled with shock mixed in with excitement.

As the picture clears and this good news is verified, the father learns that not only is his son alive, but also he is a leader in for the most powerful nation in the world. To top this all off the son wants his father to come to the foreign land so that he can take care of his father.

This sounds like a made-for-television movie or a title from the best seller's list but it is not. This is the true story of how God uses Joseph to care for his father, Jacob, and at the same time protecting the Lord's promise of a Savior to the world during the time of a worldwide famine. Let us journey back and learn how the Lord continues to protect while blessing his people.



Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for showing us Your loving plan for our salvation. Though mankind, lost in sin, does evil things yet You continue to show mercy and turn evil into good for the sake of Your kingdom and our salvation. Oh Lord, fill us with Your Spirit as we study Your gracious Word together that Your name may be magnified in our hearts and that Your kingdom come to us all. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

God directs Jacob to Journey to Egypt - Genesis 46-50

Jacob agrees with his sons to leave the land of Canaan, a land of famine, and travel to Egypt. He agrees to do this only because he believes it is the Lord's will. Jacob is assured of the Lord's hand since the Lord had kept Joseph alive. To reassure Jacob, the Lord appeared to Jacob in a vision and promised to be with him. The Lord repeated His promise that He would make of Jacob's family a great

nation and would one day return the family to the promised land of Canaan. The total number of Jacob's household that moved to Egypt was 70.

Jacob Settles in Goshen

As Jacob and his family neared the land of Goshen he sent Judah to greet Joseph. Joseph and his sons went to the land of Goshen to meet Jacob. When Jacob saw Joseph he was ready to die

because he now knew that Joseph was alive. Joseph presented his family to Pharaoh. After a visit, Jacob, now one hundred and thirty years old, blessed Pharaoh. Joseph saw to it that his family was situated in the land of Goshen which Pharaoh had given to Joseph's family.

The family of Israel lived in the land of Egypt, the country of Goshen. There the Lord blessed them with growth and many possessions. Jacob lived for another seventeen years before he died.

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons

As was the custom in those days when a family member was about to die, the time had come for Jacob to pass on the family blessings. When Joseph heard that his father's health was failing he took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to their grandfather. The blessing Joseph would have received Jacob gave to Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob went on to bless all of his sons. The special blessing, the blessing of the Savior did not go to the first born, Reuben, but Judah.

Jacob's Last Words to His Sons

When Jacob finished blessing all of his sons, he breathed his last and died at the age of one hundred forty-seven years. Joseph had the Egyptian physicians embalm his father's body so that it could be carried back to Canaan for burial. All Egypt mourned for Joseph's father for seventy days. Pharaoh gave his permission to

Joseph allowing him to go with his brothers to the land of Canaan and bury his father.

Joseph Reassures his Brothers

When Joseph and his brothers returned from Canaan a fear came over the brothers. Now that their father was dead the brothers were concerned that Joseph would carry out an act of revenge on them for being mean to Joseph. After all it was their desire to get rid of Joseph and the act of selling him into slavery that was very tough on their father, Jacob. Joseph reassured his brothers of the Lord's hand. Joseph pointed out to them that the Lord used their evil and turned it into good. By having Joseph in Egypt the Lord provided a way to save his family from the famine. Moreover, the Lord provided the way for the promise of a Savior to be preserved.

Death of Joseph

Joseph was blessed with a good life in Egypt. His family grew and he had the joy of seeing his grandchildren. Before Joseph died he reminded his family that the Lord would move them back to the promised land of Canaan. He made his family promise that when they went back to Canaan they were to take his body with them. Joseph died at the age of one hundred ten years; his body was embalmed and placed in a coffin awaiting the day when it would be transported back to Canaan with his family.

Outer Aim - God builds and preserves His chosen nation from which the Christ would be born.

What the Story Tells Us -Choose the correct answer.

1. Jacob [blessed – did not believe] his sons when they returned from their second journey to Egypt bearing gifts from Joseph.

2. The Lord appeared to Jacob [during the day – in a vision] reassuring him that going to Egypt was the right thing to do.
3. The Lord [did – did not] promise to return Jacob's family to Canaan.
4. Joseph was [excited – sad] to see his father again.
5. [Joseph – Pharaoh] gave Jacob and his family the land of Goshen to live in.
6. [True or False] Being pleased with everything that Joseph had done for Egypt, Pharaoh blessed Jacob.
7. Jacob was [130 – 147] when he moved to Egypt.
8. As Jacob's health [improved – failed] Joseph, his sons, and his brothers gathered to receive their blessings from their father.
9. Jacob gave the blessing of a Savior to [Joseph – Judah].
10. Joseph was [117 – 110] years old when he died.

Inner Aim - God's hand supports and saves those who put their trust and faith in Him.

What the Bible Tells Us - Use the following for Group Discussion.

1. When a relative, friend, or neighbor is grieved by the lost of a family member how can we help them deal with this grief?
2. God shows Jacob and his family that by remaining obedient to Him He can help overcome personal grief, brotherly hatred, and worldwide famine. What should this reminder move us to remember?
3. Jacob was an elderly man by this time. He had dealt with many issues during his 130 years. Faced with death because of the famine and aware of the instructions of his forefathers to live in the land of Canaan, Jacob realized the hand of the Lord and moves to Egypt. The Lord reassures Jacob by appearing to him and repeating His promises. How does the Lord reassure us as we continue on our life's journey on earth?

4. The Lord had a plan and Joseph was part of it. Through Joseph's faithfulness to God, the Lord blessed all of Egypt and the countries that surrounded it. Pharaoh and the people of Egypt were grateful to Joseph and his God. How did Joseph's words and actions while in Egypt help to spread the knowledge of the only true God?

5. What are some ways that we, living in the foreign world called earth, can show our love for God and spread His love to all?

6. The time had come for Jacob to pass on the blessing of a Savior. In giving the blessing to Judah, Jacob reminded all of his children of the comfort that this Savior would bring. Name several times and/or ways that we should discuss the comfort of the Savior with our family; with our relatives; with our community; with the world.

7. Jacob blessed the most powerful, earthly ruler in his day, Pharaoh. How should we treat those who have been placed in authority over us at home, at school, in our community, and in our country?

8. The reunion of Jacob and Joseph was a joyful occasion. Sometimes reunions are not joyful because of disagreements among family members. This was evident with Joseph and his brothers after Jacob died. Joseph's brothers, even after seeing, hearing, and living all the events of the past several years, feared the power of an earthly ruler, Joseph, instead of the heavenly king God. Joseph had to point out to his brothers God's hand in everything that had happened. God may turn what is evil into our good. Give examples of how we can prepare now so that our family reunions will be joyous occasions both the reunions here on earth and our reunion in heaven.

Passages

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Luke 17:3-5 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

Hymn - Read over TLH #410. May Jesus be our guide as we travel through our lives here on earth. May His strength be our relief that makes us patient and enduring until we are in heaven.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.

When we seek relief from a longfelt grief;
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

If the way be drear, if the Foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe
To our home we go.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us,
Still support, control, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your Word is so precious to us because there we see Your hand in the lives of Your people down through the generations. You have always made all things work together for the good of those that love You. As we see these things we pray that You will give us Your Spirit that we may recognize Your hand in our lives guiding, leading and blessing us each day. Amen.

Early Life of Moses

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

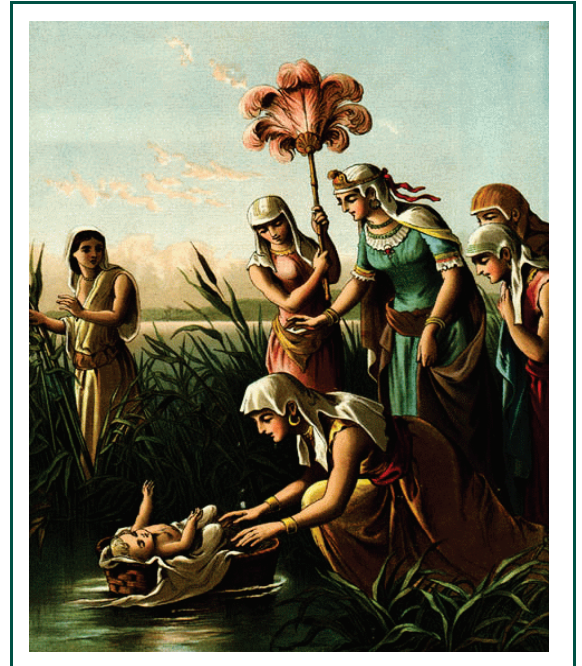
Why is this baby in the water?

Who are the ladies around the baby?

What important part would this baby later have in helping God's people?

Prayer

Lord, open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain. Amen.



The Story - Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: {2} Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; {3} Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; {4} Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. {5} All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

{6} And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. {7} But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

{8} Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. {9} And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and

mightier than we; {10} "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

{11} Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. {12} But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. {13} So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. {14} And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage; in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All

their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

{15} Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; {16} and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." {17} But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. {18} So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

{19} And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

{20} Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. {21} And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

{22} So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

{2:1} And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. {2} So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. {3} But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. {4} And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

{5} Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. {6} And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

{7} Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

{8} And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. {9} Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So

the woman took the child and nursed him. {10} And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So

she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."



Outer Aim - God's people suffered under Pharaoh and the cruel taskmasters of Egypt.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions about the story. Discuss the answers together.

1. Pharaoh was hoping that the Israelites would become weaker and die if he worked them harder? Why did this *not* happen?
2. Why do you think the Egyptians hated the Israelites so strongly?
3. Were the midwives sinning when they disobeyed the command of the Pharaoh that ruled over them? Support your answer with a bible passage.
4. If bad things happen to a nation, does that mean that God is angry at them? Explain your answer by examples in the story.

Inner Aim God strengthens His people to do His will and wait with confidence and faith for their deliverance.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look at the passages on page 3 and tell who these apply to in the *STORY*, and how they apply to *YOU*. The first one has been done for you.

Passage	Applies to in the STORY	Applies to YOU
<i>Romans 8:31b - If God is for us, who can be against us?</i>	God's people had God on their side protecting them against the Egyptians.	God is protecting us from our enemies.
<i>Exodus 20:13 - You shall not murder.</i>		
<i>Acts 5:29b - We ought to obey God rather than men.</i>		

<i>Psalms 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.</i>		
<i>1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.</i>		

Hymn - TLH #528 v. 1, 3

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
 For when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly.
 If Christ, my Head and Master, befriend me from above,
 What foe or what disaster can drive me from His love?

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood
 Alone are my salvation, the true, eternal good.
 Without Him all that pleases is valueless on earth;
 The gifts I owe to Jesus alone my love are worth.

Prayer

Lord God, You always hear the cry of Your people and come to deliver them. We praise You for coming to us by sending us a Child, Your Son, Christ Jesus. By Him You have delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, hell and the power of the devil. We thank You for this undeserved mercy. And we pray that You will fill us with Your Spirit that do not judge people by the color of their skin or their nationality. Help us rather to share Your love with all people. And so may we live a life of thankfulness by our words and actions. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

The Call of Moses

Exodus 2:11 - 4:20

How could a burning bush be part of God's promise?

Are you sometimes afraid?

Why was Moses afraid?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we know Your promises and that You never fail to keep them. Please help us to hear You and never be afraid to do Your calling. In Your holy name we pray. Amen



The Story - Exodus 2:11 - 4:20

Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. {12} So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. {13} And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

{14} Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

{15} When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. {16} Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. {17} Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

{18} When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"

{19} And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us

from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

{20} So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

{21} Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. {22} And she bore him a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

{23} Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. {24} So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. {25} And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

(Exodus 3) Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. {2} And the Angel of the

LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. {3} Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

{4} So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am."

{5} Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." {6} Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

{7} And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. {8} "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. {9} "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. {10} "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

{11} But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

{12} So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

{13} Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

{14} And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

{15} Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

{16} "Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; {17} "and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'"

{18} "Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' {19} "But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. {20} "So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

{21} "And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. {22} "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

(Exodus 4) Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

{2} So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

He said, "A rod."

{3} And He said, "Cast it on the ground."

So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. {4} Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), {5} "that they may believe that the LORD God of their

fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

{6} Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.

{7} And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.

{8} "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. {9} "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

{10} Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

{11} So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? {12} "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

{13} But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

{14} So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. {15} "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. {16} "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. {17} "And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

{18} So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive."

And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." {19} And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." {20} Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

Outer Aim - Moses received a special call from God.

What the Story Tells Us - Retell the story in 6 sentences.

Inner Aim - The Lord calls human instruments to carry out the work of His kingdom.

For Discussion - Discuss the Inner Aim above and the following questions.

Do we ever receive a special call from God?

How can we know when this happens?

What are some of the special attributes you may have that will help you?

Can weaknesses be overcome and help you?

Why are we sometimes afraid to act for God?

What God's Word Tells Us - Read and discuss the Bible verses from Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, {25} choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, {26} esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. {27} By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Passages

1 Samuel 12:20 "Do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart."

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hymn - TLH 416 Consider your strengths and weaknesses. How can this hymn help you?

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word and make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way, restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands — 'tis a delightful road —
Nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God. Amen

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for calling us into Your kingdom and blessing us with Your forgiveness and love. We pray that You will fill us with Your Spirit that we may gladly serve You in any way we can that Your name may be glorified and Your kingdom come to many. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

The Plagues

Exodus 5 - 10

The people and animal in the picture are suffering a terrible attack of flies sent by God. Why? That will not be the only suffering sent to the people of Egypt. Let's find out more.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn about the plagues You sent on Egypt. Show me how Your will is done at all times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Plagues - a paraphrase of Exodus 5 - 10

God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in the land of Egypt. God sent Moses and Aaron to see Pharaoh, the great king of Egypt. The Lord told Moses and Aaron that when Pharaoh asked them to perform a miracle Aaron should take his staff and throw it down before Pharaoh and it would become a snake.

Aaron and Moses did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw down his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh summoned his wise men, sorcerers, and magicians to perform the same act. Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. They did this by their secret arts. Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron.

The Lord came to Moses and said, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him and take in your hand the staff that was

changed into a snake. Then say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you; Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord; with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron raised his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile and the water was changed into blood. All the fish in the water died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink any water.

Pharaoh's magicians did the same thing by their secret arts. Pharaoh saw all this and did not care. He went back into his palace and would not listen to the Word of the Lord. Seven days passed and

the Lord came to Moses and asked him to go speak to Pharaoh again. Moses went to Pharaoh and told him that if he would not let the Israelites go the Lord would send a plague of frogs on the whole country.

The frogs descended upon the land. They came into the palace and into Pharaoh's bedroom. They got into all the water and food. They swarmed up on all the people.

Pharaoh called to Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses replied, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

"Tomorrow," replied Pharaoh.

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh and prayed to God to remove the frogs. God did as Moses asked and there were piles of dead frogs all over the land. When Pharaoh saw that relief had come to his people he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said he would do.

God told Aaron to stretch out his staff over the land and strike the dust on the ground. Throughout the land of Egypt the dust on the ground became gnats. They came up on all the people and animals.

Pharaoh's magicians went to Pharaoh and told him that this was the finger of God. But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he did not let the people go to worship Him he would send swarms of flies over the land of Egypt. They would fill the houses and cover the people. There would be nothing that would not be covered by flies. However the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived was not swarmed by flies.

The Lord did as He said and swarms of flies ruined the land of Egypt. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "GO, sacrifice to your God here in the land."

But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, as He commands us."

Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."

Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the Lord, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only be sure that Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord."

Moses left Pharaoh and prayed that the Lord would take away the flies. The Lord did as Moses asked. However by the time all the flies had gone Pharaoh had hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to tell him that unless he let the people go to worship the Lord, He would send a horrible sickness on the livestock in the fields - on the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. Yet the Lord would not touch the animals belonging to the Israelites. The

next day the Lord sent the disease and it killed all the livestock in Egypt but none of the Israelite's livestock was hurt.

Pharaoh sent me out to investigate and found out what the Lord had said was true. Yet his heart was unchanging and he would not let the people go.

The Lord told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it up into the air. The soot became a fine dust that covered the whole land of Egypt and caused festering boils to break out on all the men and animals. Pharaoh's magicians couldn't even try to copy Moses and Aaron because they were covered with boils. God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to the words of Moses and Aaron.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him that if he would not let the people go the Lord would send the full force of His plagues against the land of Egypt. He would do this to show Pharaoh that He had all power. Moses told Pharaoh that tomorrow a horrible hailstorm would strike and those who feared the Word of the Lord should bring their livestock in out of the fields.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt - on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt." When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the Lord sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. It was the worst storm Egypt had seen since it had become a nation. The only place it did not hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

Pharaoh summoned Moses to him and said, "This time I have sinned. The Lord is right, I and my people are wrong. Pray to the Lord for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to

stay any longer."

Moses replied, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the Lord. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the Lord's. But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the Lord God."

When Moses had prayed to God and the storm had stopped Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said through Moses.

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says; 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship Me. If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians - something neither your fathers nor your forefathers have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'"

After Moses had said this he left Pharaoh. Pharaoh's officials said to Pharaoh, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is ruined?"

Pharaoh brought back Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, worship the Lord your God. But just who will be going?"

Moses answered, "We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you if I let you go, along with your women and

children! Clearly you are bent on evil. No! Have only the men go; and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand out over the land so that the locusts would swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields.

Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the Lord your God to take this deadly plague away from me."

Moses prayed and the Lord changed the direction of the wind and not a locust was left in the land of Egypt. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not let the Israelites go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that the darkness will spread over Egypt - darkness that can be felt."

Moses did as the Lord told him and a

darkness spread over the land of Egypt that lasted for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

Pharaoh called Moses to him, "Go, and worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshiping the Lord our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the Lord."

But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

"Just as you say," Moses replied, "I will never appear before you again."

Outer Aim - God's will is done for the Children of Israel in Egypt.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer each question.

1. How did God show Pharaoh His power?

2. How did Pharaoh respond to the plagues?

3. What did God finally do?

What God Tells Us - Divide into three groups. Each group select one **IDEA** from the story. Then discuss each idea in reference to the three **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** that follow.

IDEAS:

1. To show Pharaoh that He was the true God, God sent horrible plagues on the Egyptians.
2. Pharaoh continued to harden his heart.
3. God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he could not repent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. List passages from Scripture that teach us this idea.
2. Why do you think that the Holy Spirit wrote this information for us, and why is it relevant for us today?
3. How can we apply what the Lord is teaching us here to our own personal lives?

Inner Aim - God's will is done in our life.

Passages

Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Philippians 1:21 - For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 31:1 - In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.

Psalms 27:1 - The Lord is my Light and Salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

The Conclusion to the 10 Commandments (Sydow Catechism © 2000)

What does God say about all of these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who do not obey these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His anger and not do anything against what He commands. God also promises grace and every blessing to those who obey these commandments. Therefore, we should love and trust Him and willingly do what He commands.

Hymn - TLH #517 v. 1, 2

The will of God is always best and shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest, He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need, He chastens with forbearing;
They who depend on God, their Friend, shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust, My Hope and Life abiding;
And to His counsel, wise and just, I yield, in Him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares, upon my head He numbers.
By night and day God is my Stay, He never sleeps nor slumbers.

Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Tenth Plague/The First Passover

Exodus 12

How many of the nine plagues from the last lesson can you name? See page 2 for help.

After each plague Pharaoh promises to let God's people go from Egypt but then changes his promise. In Exodus 11 God promises a tenth plague that would guarantee Pharaoh would release the Israelites. Let us study that final plague.

Prayer

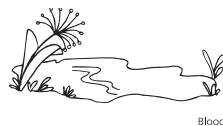
Dear Heavenly Father, Please send Your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn about the Passover lamb and about Jesus, our true Passover Lamb who died for the whole world's sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Tenth Plague & The First Passover

The Passover Feast Instituted

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, {2} "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. {3} "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. {4} 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. {5} 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may



Blood



Boils



Darkness



Death of a 1st son



Flies



Frogs



Hail



Gnats



Locusts

take it from the sheep or from the goats. {6} 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. {7} 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. {8} 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. {9} 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire; its head with its legs and its entrails. {10} 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. {11} 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your

sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. {12} 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. {13} 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The First Passover

{21} Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. {22} "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. {23} "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. {24} "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. {25} "It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. {26} "And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' {27} "that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. {28} Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses



and Aaron, so they did.

{29} And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. {30} So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

{31} Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. {32} "Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

{33} And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." {34} So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. {35} Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. {36} And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

{37} Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. {38} A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds; a great deal of livestock. {39} And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

{40} Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. {41} And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years; on that very same day; it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD

went out from the land of Egypt. {42} It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Outer Aim

God saved His people from death and delivered them from Egypt.

What the Story Tells Us - Change these false sentences to true sentences by crossing out the wrong word (s) and writing the correct word above it.

1. The LORD spoke to Moses and Abraham about the Passover feast.
2. The lamb that was killed should be sickly.
3. The blood from the lamb was to be spread on the ground.
4. The feast included unleavened bread, bitter herbs and boiled lamb.
5. The LORD would visit the homes that had blood on the doorposts.
6. The youngest child in the family of the Egyptians was killed.
7. Pharaoh told Moses and God's people to stay in Egypt.
8. The children of Israel got clothing and copper and silver items from the Egyptians.
9. There were 6,000 men that left Egypt.
10. The children of Israel had been in Egypt 100 years.

What God Tells Us - Compare the lamb of the Passover feast and Jesus, our Passover Lamb by completing the chart below. The answers are below the chart, but mixed up.

Lamb of the Passover Feast	Jesus, our Passover Lamb

without blemish

blood shed on the cross
saves us from eternal
death

killed

killed

without sin

blood saved the
firstborn from death

Your Turn - Draw a picture of a Passover meal or describe the meal. Be sure to label the three (3) things in the meal that God commanded for the Old Testament Jews to eat.

Inner Aim - Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us.

Passages - Fill in the missing words from the Bible passages. Use your Bible if you need help.

John 1:29 "Behold! The _____ of God who takes away the _____ of the _____."

1 Corinthians 5:7 Christ our _____ is sacrificed for us.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Knowing the you were not _____ with corruptible things, like _____ or _____, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious _____ of Christ, as of a lamb without _____ and without _____.

Hymn - TLH #147

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
The sin of the world, have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
The sin of the world, have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
The sin of the world, grant us Thy peace!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You are the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. We pray that You would help us see how You delivered Your people out of Egypt protecting them from death through the blood of the Passover lamb. Help us to believe that the blood of Jesus, the perfect Passover Lamb, protects us from eternal death in hell and gives us life in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Israel Leaves Egypt

Exodus 13:17 - 15:2

Would you want to have an enemy army following you?
Would you remember to trust God to protect you?
In today's lesson the Children of Israel will be followed by the army of the Egyptians.
We will find out how the Children of Israel needed reminding to trust God for help.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please help us to learn the lesson in today's story to trust in You. Help us to study Your Word and grow in knowledge and understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Israel Leaves Egypt

Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." {18} So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

{19} And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."

{20} So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. {21} And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of

cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. {22} He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: {2} "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. {3} "For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' {4} "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

{5} Now it was told the king of Egypt

that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" {6} So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. {7} Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. {8} And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. {9} So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

{10} And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. {11} Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? {12} "Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

{13} And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. {14} "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

{15} And the LORD said to Moses,

"Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. {16} "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. {17} "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. {18} "Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

{19} And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. {20} So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

{21} Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. {22} So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

{23} And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. {24} Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. {25} And He took off their chariot wheels, so

that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

{26} Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." {27} And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. {28} Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. {29} But the children of Israel

had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. {30} So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. {31} Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses. {1} Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! {2} The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the letter of the correct answer. (See next page.)

1. ____ The Children of Israel left Egypt and headed toward The ____.
2. ____ They took the bones of ____ along.
3. ____ The LORD went before Israel in a ____.
4. ____ Pharaoh pursued Israel with 600 ____.
5. ____ Moses stretched out his ____ and the LORD caused the sea to part.
6. ____ The Egyptian chariots lost their ____ while pursuing Israel in the sea.
7. ____ The Red Sea returned and ____ the Egyptian army.
8. ____ Israel feared and ____ the LORD when they saw this great work.
9. ____ Moses the Israel sang, "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my ____."

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| A. chariots | B. Red Sea |
| C. believed | D. covered |
| E. Joseph | F. salvation |
| G. pillar of cloud and fire | H. rod |

Outer Aim**God teaches the Children of Israel to trust Him to take care of them.**

What God Tells Us - Discuss the following questions.

1. Of what are you afraid? List as many as you can.

2. When we are afraid or doubt, what have we forgotten.

3. Read and discuss Psalm 46:1-3 underline or highlight the first sentence and memorize it as a prayer. *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.”*

Your Turn - Draw a picture of what you think the pillar of cloud and fire looked like.

PILLAR OF CLOUD (by day)

PILLAR OF FIRE (by night)



Inner Aim - God will take care of us as we travel through life.

Passages - Discuss the following passages and how they apply to the lesson.

Psalms 46:10 - Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Romans 8:31 - If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Hymn - Worship Supplement 2000 #784

Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
Direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For You, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that You will strengthen my steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So take my hand and lead me unto the end.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

There are many times that we become afraid of many things. Sometimes we do not know where to turn for help. Remind us that You saved the nation of Israel by leading them through the Red Sea. Remind us that You sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us be quiet, and allow You to take care of us. Amen.

Israel in the Desert

Exodus 15:22 - 17:16

Look at the picture. These men are defeating the enemy of war. How is it happening? Who is on their side? Let's read today's lesson and find the answers.



Prayer TLH 496 v. 3

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands.

The Story

God's people, the Israelites, were on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. God had delivered them from Pharaoh and his army by parting the Red Sea and leading them through it. Surely God was with them! However, it did not take long for them to doubt God's goodness and to forget to trust in Him.

Following the pillar of cloud, which showed that God was with them, Moses led the people to the Wilderness of Shur. They traveled through the barren desert for three days without finding any water. At last they came to the waters at Marah. To their great disappointment the water was so bitter that they could not drink it. After only three days the people were forgetting to trust in God. They began to

murmur against Moses. "What shall we drink?" they said. Moses turned to the Lord who was ready to help. God showed Moses a tree. When Moses cast this tree into the waters, the water became sweet. The need of the people was well supplied.

When the people continued their journey, they came to a wonderful oasis called Elim where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. God gave them this pleasant place to rest for a month.

After this time of rest, the journey went on through the Wilderness of Sin. Instead of trusting in God, the complaints began again. "Oh that we had died in Egypt where we sat by the pots of meat and ate bread until we were full. Did you

God's Hand in Our Lives

Old Testament

Israel in the Desert - Lesson 24

bring us out to this wilderness to die of hunger?" they groaned.

God again patiently supplied this need. He told Moses, "I will rain bread from heaven."

Moses and Aaron told the people, "At evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of Egypt and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your murmurings against the Lord. God will send meat to eat in the evenings and bread in the morning, and you shall know that the Lord is God."

That evening so many quails came up and covered the camp that the people could easily kill them for meat. The next morning dew lay about the camp. When the dew dried, there remained a small round substance as fine as frost. It was like white coriander seed and tasted like wafers with honey. All the people asked, "What is it?! (Manna)

Moses explained, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat." Everyone was to gather one omer (two quarts) for each person in their household each day. If anyone tried to save it overnight, it grew worms and smelled bad. On the sixth day they were to gather twice as much, for none would appear on the Sabbath day, the day of rest. On the seventh day the extra bread did not have worms or smell bad.

The Israelites were commanded to save an omer of manna in a pot as a remembrance of God's goodness to them.

The Lord supplied this manna for forty years until they entered the Promised Land.

After setting out on their journey once more through the Wilderness of Sin, the people arrived at Rephadim, only to find that there was no water. Instead of remembering how God had taken care of their needs before, they demanded of Moses, "Give us water to drink. Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

God told Moses to lead the people to a rock at Horeb. When he would strike the rock with his staff, water would come from it. Moses obeyed the Lord and the people had water. He called the place Massah (temptation), and Meribah (quarrel).

While the Israelites were camped at Rephadim, the Amalekites attacked them. Moses told Joshua to pick some men and lead them out to fight the Amalekites the next day.

During the battle, Moses stood at the top of a hill overlooking the battlefield with his staff in his hand. As long as Moses held up his hands in prayer, the Israelites were winning the battle. However, when his hands grew tired and sank down, the Amalekites began to be stronger. Aaron and Hur found a rock for Moses to sit upon, and they each propped up one of his arms until sunset. By that time, with God's help, Joshua and the Israelites had won a great victory.

Outer Aim - God continues to provide for a complaining people.

What the Story Tells Us - Look at the COMPLAINT/PROBLEM of Israelites. Find the SOLUTION given by God through Moses from the story and write it.

Israel's COMPLAINT/PROBLEM

SOLUTION from God

1. The water at Marah was bitter
2. The oasis at Elim
3. No food at the Wilderness of Sin
4. Rephadim had no water
5. The battle against the Amalekite enemies

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the Bible passage below. Then list the blessings God has given you for your life on earth and for your life to come in heaven.

Psalm 103:1-3 - Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

Earthly Blessings

Spiritual Blessings

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Map Work - Use the map to do the following activities.

1. Trace the route which the Israelites traveled.
2. Draw...

- ▶ a tree in the water at Marah
- ▶ palm trees at Elim
- ▶ manna and quail in Wilderness of Sin
- ▶ a rock with water pouring out of it at Rephadim
- ▶ Moses with his hands held out at Rephadim



Passages

Psalm 103:1-3 - Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
What does this passage mean for us?

Hymn - TLH # 434

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Thro' each perplexing path of life
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread
And raiment fit provide.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Now with the humble voice of prayer
Thy mercy we implore;
Then with a grateful voice of praise
Thy goodness we'll adore.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

All too often it is true that the more You give us, the less satisfied we are. May our faith not depend on how much we have but on You alone. When we need something, instead of complaining, help us to ask You for what we need with thanksgiving. Keep us from complaining and whining. Feed us today on Jesus, Who is the "Bread of Life" and the "Water of Life." Amen.

The Giving of the Law

Exodus 19:1-20 - 20 - 24:1-18

Do you know what those letters mean for a ship or anyone in distress? Save Our Ship

These letters can be applied to the Law (Shows Our Sins) and the Gospel (Shows Our Savior).

Today's lesson is the Giving of the Law. Let us see how the S.O.S. can be applied to today's lesson.

S.O.S.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Today let me see Your Holiness reflected in Your Law. Use that Law to convict me of my own sins. Also let me today see Your Holiness reflected in the face of Jesus Christ and the glory of the Gospel. Assure me of the forgiveness of my own sins in Jesus. Amen.

The Story - Exodus 19, 20 & 24

Three months after the children of Israel had left Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai and camped near Mt. Sinai.

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.'"

So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back

the words of the people to the LORD.

The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever. Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. Let them be ready for the third day when I will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Tell the people, "Do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death, whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

It came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was completely in smoke and the whole mountain quaked greatly, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. When the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

All the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be gods of silver or gold.

'An altar you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings and I will bless you.'

Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD. Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and

seventy of the elders of Israel shall worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near the LORD."

So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD.

Moses rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

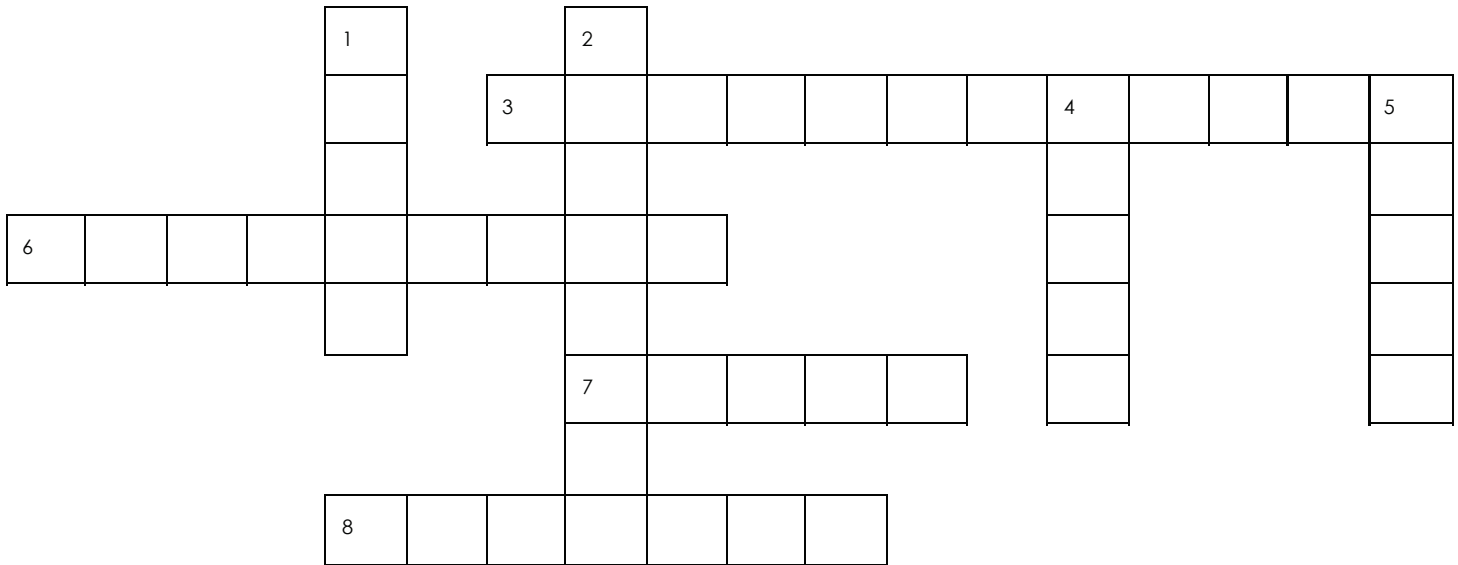
Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

So Moses went up to the mountain of God and Joshua with him. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Outer Aim - God gave His Commandments to the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle below.



Across

3. God gave Moses the 10 _____ .
6. This flashed in the sky by Mt. Sinai.
7. Moses left _____ and Hur in charge of the people in his place.
8. This was heard in the sky by Mt. Sinai.

Down

1. Moses stayed on the mountain _____ days and nights.
2. God commanded the people not to go near or touch the _____.
4. _____ went up Mt. Sinai to meet God.
5. The name of the mountain was Mt. _____.

What God's Word Tells Us - Read through Exodus 20:1-17. Fill in the blanks of the 10 Commandments. *The Commandment wording is from Sydow Catechism 2000.*

(Exodus 20:1) And God spoke all these words, saying: {2} "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. {3} "You shall have no other gods before Me. {4} "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; {5}

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, {6} but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

{7} "You shall not take the name of

the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

{8} "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. {9} Six days you shall labor and do all your work, {10} but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. {11} For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

{12} "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

{13} "You shall not murder.

{14} "You shall not commit adultery.

{15} "You shall not steal.

{16} "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

{17} "You shall not covet your neighbor's house;

you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

1st You shall have no _____.

2nd You shall not take the _____ of the _____ your God in _____.

3rd Remember the _____ to keep it _____.

4th You shall honor your _____ and your _____ that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

5th You shall not _____.

6th You shall not _____.

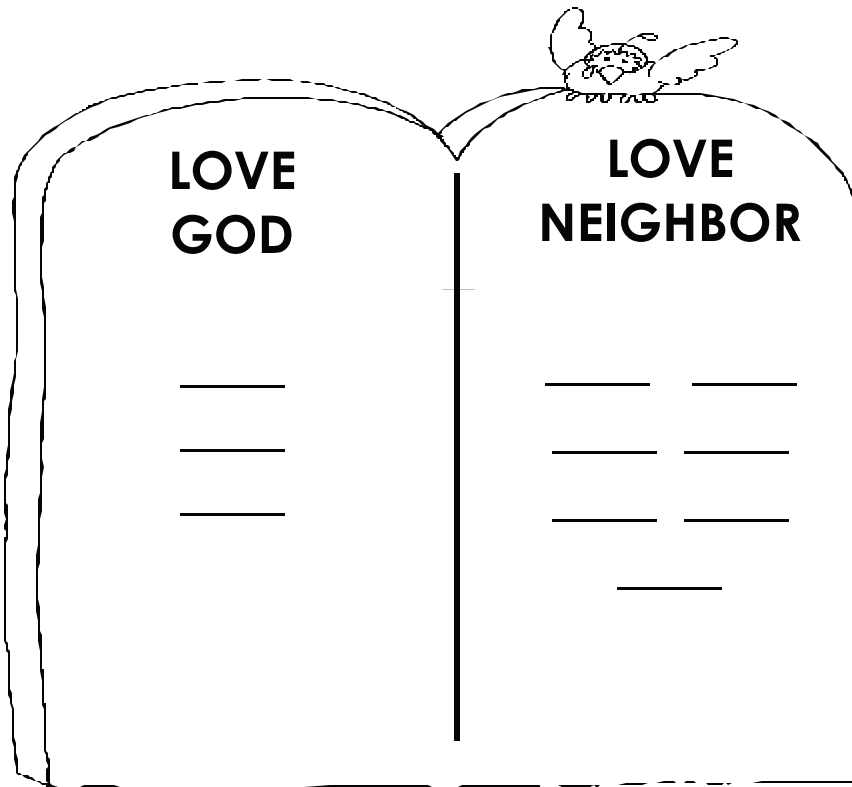
7th You shall not _____.

8th You shall not bear _____ against your _____.

9th You shall not _____ your neighbor's _____.

10th You shall not _____ your neighbor's _____, nor his workers, nor his animals, nor _____ that is your neighbor's.

Complete the table by writing the Commandment number from page 4 under the correct side of the table.



Inner Aim - The Commandments show our sinfulness and our need for a Savior.

Passages

Leviticus 19:2 - You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:22-24 For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate
And seek deliv'rance ere too late.

To those who help in Christ have found
And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight
And should be done as good and right.

The Law is good; but since the Fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

God's holy law reveals to us our own deep sinfulness. We are not holy and can not come to You. However, You sent Jesus to reveal to us the forgiveness of our sins. Thank You for the lesson today about Your holy Law and also Your blessed Gospel. Amen.

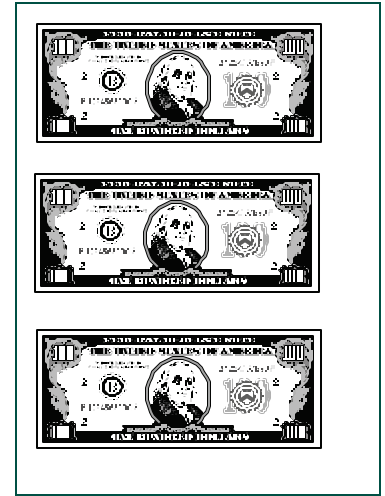
The Golden Calf

Exodus 24:12-18; 31:18 - 32:35; 34:1-7, 28-33

Look at the money pictured at the right.
How can this be a problem for Christians and others.
Which of God's commandments deals with loving anything more than God?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to see that often we let things of this world become more important in our lives than You. May I through the power of the Holy Spirit fear, love and trust in You above all things. Bless the Word we are about to study that we may grow in knowledge of You. Amen.



The Story - Exodus 24, 31, 34 excerpts

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on Mt. Sinai and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

So Moses went up to the mountain of God with his assistant, Joshua. Before he left Moses said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain for six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and was on the mountain

forty days and forty nights.

After God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of stone. God's wrote His commandments on these stones.

The people grew restless waiting for Moses those forty days. They came to Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us. We do not know what has become of Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt."

Aaron said to them, "Bring me your golden earrings." So all the people brought their gold to Aaron and he fashioned it and made a molded calf of gold.

Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Aaron also built an altar before it.

Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, ate and drank, and did sinful idol worship before the golden calf.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"

The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and I will destroy them and make of you a great nation."

Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains?' Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets. The tablets were written on both sides.

When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp."

But Moses said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, nor of defeat, but the sound of singing I hear."

When they came near the camp, they saw the calf and the dancing. In his great anger Moses cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?"

So Aaron said, "Do not be angry. You know how evil these people can be."

Then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

Moses told these sons of Levi to kill those who still wanted to worship the golden calf. About three thousand men were killed.

Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day."

The next day Moses and the people prayed to the LORD to forgive them their sin of idol worship. God forgave them but did send a plague to the people because of this sin against the First Commandment by worshiping the golden calf.

The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. Come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. Let no man or animal be

near the mountain.”

Moses did as the LORD said and he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And the LORD wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony the skin of his face shone from talking with the LORD.

When Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses gave them the tablets containing the LORD's Commandments and told them all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

Moses had finished speaking with them and put a veil on his face.

Outer Aim - The children of Israel committed the sin of Idolatry.

What the Story Tells Us - Make these false statements true by crossing off the incorrect word(s) and writing the correct word(s) above them.

1. Moses went up Mt. Horeb to receive God's commandments.
2. Joshua and Hur were left in charge of the people.
3. Moses stayed on the mountain 25 days and nights.
4. The people wanted Aaron to make them some food.
5. Aaron made a golden snake for them to worship.
6. When Moses saw the people worshipping the false god he threw down the two tablets of plastic.
7. The sons of Daniel helped Moses find and kill those who still worshiped the idol.
8. God told Aaron to come again to Mt. Sinai for new tablets of commandments.
9. Moses face disappeared after he had spoken to the LORD.
10. God gave the 7 Commandments for all people to obey.

What God's Word Tells Us - Think about Moses and Aaron. Compare how they were as good and poor leaders of God's people.

What did Aaron do while Moses was on Mt. Sinai that showed he was a poor leader of God's people?

What should he have said to the people when they came to him asking for a false god?

How did Moses show he was a good leader of God's people in this lesson? (At least 2 examples.)

Inner Aim - God commands that He be the most important thing in our lives.

Your Turn - Read and discuss the following Bible passage and how it applies to you and your life. Your teacher or you may even have some examples.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Passages

Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

(Sydow Catechism © 2000)

Hymn - TLH 430 v. 1, 4, 8 Use a highlighter or light crayon to highlight each name of Jesus.

What is the world to me with all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my Treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, my soul's Delight shalt be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest — what is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth and all that Mammon offers,
Yet never is content tho' gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my Wealth — what is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my Treasure,
My Life, my Health, my Wealth, my Friend, my Love, my Pleasure,
My Joy, my Crown, my All, my Bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: what is the world to me!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, today we learn about how quickly God's people turned to other gods. Keep anything from becoming more important to us than Jesus and His Word. Take care of us and our families today. We thank You that You love us enough to forgive us when we do forget about You and do bad things. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior from sin. Amen.

Worship in the Tabernacle

Exodus 35-40; Leviticus 24; Numbers 6, 15

Do you know what the picture shows? It is the Tabernacle of the Children of Israel when they were in the wilderness coming from Egypt to Canaan.

Why did the LORD command Moses and the Children of Israel to make this tabernacle? What would all the sacrifices, offerings and worship services point towards? See if you can remember these questions and find the answers in today's lesson.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank You that You have made me, redeemed me and brought me to saving faith. I thank You for my church and Sunday School, for my pastor and teachers who have brought me Your holy Word. May Your Word strengthen and guide me in my life.

Help us to listen and learn today's lesson about Old Testament worship. Help us to also learn that You, O Lord Jesus, are the only way of salvation. Send Your Holy Spirit to be with us and our teacher so that the lesson taught will bring Your true message to our hearts. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

(Taken from Exodus 35-40, Leviticus 24 and Numbers 6:15)

Sabbath Regulations

Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do: work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

In Exodus and Numbers we hear about men who were collecting sticks on the Sabbath and they were stoned for their disobedience to this law.

Offerings for the Tabernacle

Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel asking for those with a

willing heart to bring offerings for the building of the tabernacle. He also asked for people to give of their talents as well. Many people were needed to work on the outside and inside of the tabernacle, all the cloth hangings and garments to be worn by the priests, and also the furnishings for the inside and the LORD would give exact directions to follow.

The children of Israel left Moses and brought back articles for the tabernacle. Men and women brought jewelry of gold, silver and jewels, spices and oil, cloth, skins, and wood. People gifted and skilled at certain tasks also came forward to work. The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done. God also called two

certain men, Bezalel and Aholiab, to be overseers of the tabernacle workmanship and building. The LORD used their special abilities and gave them and able hearts to fulfil His plans. Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.

The children of Israel brought so much in offerings that Moses had to stop them from bringing more. THEY HAD GIVEN MORE THAN WAS NEEDED!

Building the Tabernacle

Then all the artistic workers made curtains woven of fine linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread with designs of cherubim on them. They were made the size the LORD had told Moses and were held together by gold clasps.

They made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle and a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that. Boards covered in gold and held together with gold bars and silver sockets made up the outer sides of the tabernacle. All of the tabernacle had to be able to come apart and be carried and moved as the children of Israel roamed in the wilderness.

The Ark of the Covenant or Testimony

Then Bezalel made the ark of wood and overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it. He made wooden poles covered with gold so that the ark could be carried.

The mercy seat was also of pure gold with two cherubim on each side of the mercy seat facing each other with wings touching covering the mercy seat. This ark of the covenant was placed in a special room called the Holy of Holies. This area was only visited once a year and only by the High Priest.

Other Furnishings

Other furnishings of the Holy Place outside of the Holy of Holies included a table for showbread, a golden lampstand, and an altar covered in gold to burn incense. This area

was only seen by the priests who burned incense for offerings.

The area outside of the Holy Place had an altar of burnt offerings made of wood covered with bronze. Once again all of these furnishings had to be made to be moveable and were exactly the size the LORD commanded. There was also a bronze basin or large bowl on a pedestal.

How the Priests Were Dressed

The garments of the High Priest were made with blue, purple, and scarlet thread. They made an ephod and breastplate of gold, blue, purple and scarlet thread and woven linen. Bells of pure gold were put on the hem of the robe. Onyx stones set in gold were engraved with the names of the twelve sons of Israel and then placed in the breastplate. This ephod and breastplate were worn by the High Priest. The High Priest and other priests also wore a turban of linen on their head and a sash of linen with blue, purple and scarlet thread woven into it.

The Work Completed

Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses. They brought all that they had made to the tabernacle and Moses blessed them and placed them in the tabernacle as the LORD had commanded him to do.

The Cloud and the Glory

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night.

The Priestly Blessing

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the

way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Laws Concerning Offerings

The LORD commanded Moses to burn many sacrifices for offerings. There were rules

for burning animals and rules for bringing grain and drink offerings. Each type of offering had an amount and a method for taking before the LORD. The priest was in charge of the offerings and sacrifices. Every sacrifice pointed to the coming Christ Who would be the One Sacrifice needed to save all people from their sins.

Outer Aim - The LORD established sacrifices and services for the welfare of His people and to the glory of His Name.

What God's Word Tells Us - Everything in the Old Testament worship pointed to Jesus, the coming Messiah. In the Bible passages below underline the names and works of Jesus that come from this worship in the tabernacle. *(There may be more than one in each.)*

Hebrews 8:1 - "We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man."

Hebrews 8:6 - "...as He is also Mediator of a better covenant."

Hebrew 10:19-20 - "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."

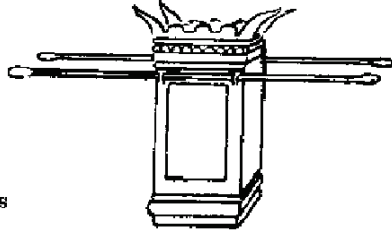
1 Peter 1:18-19 - "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Inner Aim - Every Christian is called upon by God to publicly worship Him by hearing His Word, repenting of his sins and receiving the Good News of forgiveness through Jesus.

What the Story Tells Us - Place the items of the Tabernacle in their proper place by drawing lines from the items at the top to the diagram at the bottom of the page.



Golden Candlesticks

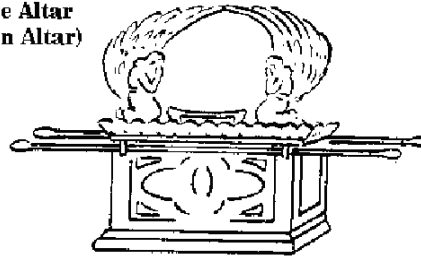
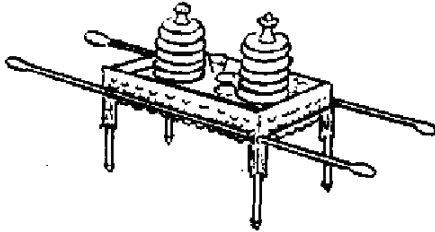


Incense Altar
(Golden Altar)

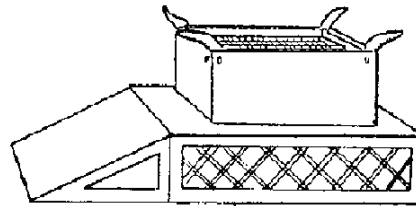


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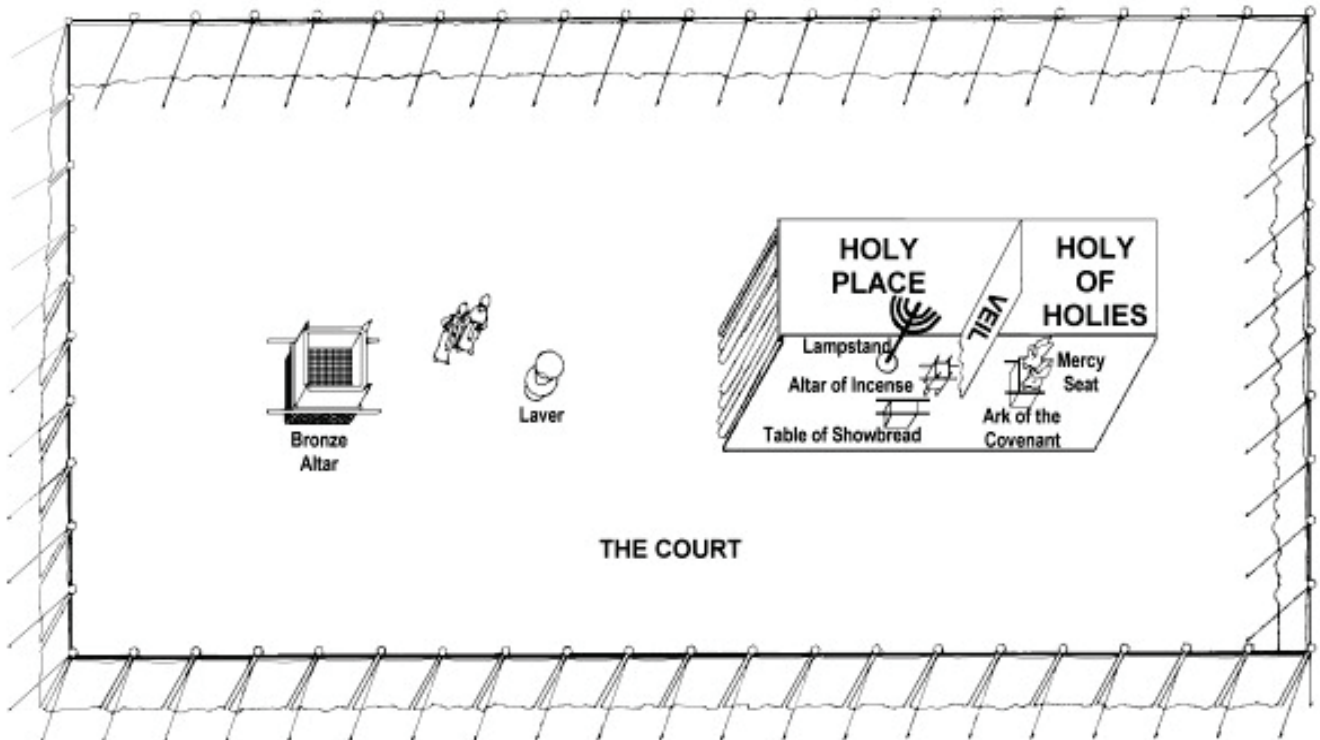
Table of Shewbread



The Ark of the Covenant
(Mercy Seat and Cherubims)



Brazen Altar (Sacrificial Altar)



Your Turn - Read the Third Commandment. Find the Bible passages and answer the questions.

1.

1. Who listened to Jesus in Luke 10:39?

2. Finish this passage: "Blessed are those who _____ the _____ of God and _____ it." Luke 11:28

3. Look at Acts 17:10-11. What group studied the Scriptures after Paul and Silas spoke to them?

4. Fill in the rest of Psalm 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, " _____
_____."

The Third Commandment ©Sydow Catechism
Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of it; but we should regard God's Word as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Passages

1 John 1:7 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Psalm 27:4 - "One thing I have desire of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD."

Numbers 6:24-26 - "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift us His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #2, v. 1-2, 6-7

To Thy temple I repair;
Lord, I love to worship there
When within the veil I meet
Christ before the mercy seat.

I through Him am reconciled,
I through Him become Thy child.
Abba, Father, give me grace In
Thy courts to seek Thy face.

While Thy ministers proclaim
Peace and pardon in Thy name,
Through their voice, by faith, may
I Hear Thee speaking from the
sky.

From Thy house when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say, "I
have walked with God today."

***Find and underline or highlight references to the Old Testament worship in these hymn stanzas.
(There are at least 4)

The Twelve Spies

Numbers 13 - 14

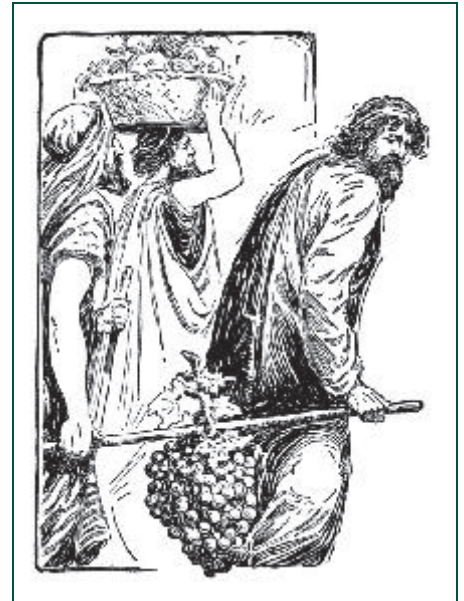
"A land flowing with milk and honey." What does that mean? Does it sound like bad land?

The LORD had promised this land to Abraham and his descendants. Moses had led the children of Israel to the border of the land.

Why won't the children of Israel live in this wonderful land for 40 more years? Why would those 20 years old and older never see this "land flowing with milk and honey?" Let's look at today's lesson for the answers.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn not to make the same mistake Israel did and distrust You, but give me a faith like Caleb and Joshua who said, "The LORD is with us." In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Twelve Spies - Numbers 13 - 14

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel. From each of the 12 tribes you shall send one of their leaders."

So Moses sent them saying, "Go and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land."

So they went up and spied out the land and they returned after forty days.

They brought back word to them and showed them the fruit of the land and said, "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the

land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large."

Then Caleb, one of the leaders who had gone in to spy on the land quieted the people and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

But the other spies said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "All the people whom we saw in it are giants of men and we look small to them."

So all the congregation wept that night and complained against Moses and Aaron. They said, "If only we had died in

the land of Egypt or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua and Caleb, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

All the congregation said to stone Caleb and Joshua with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." Moses said to the LORD, "Now if You kill these people, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, 'Because the LORD

was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' Now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great. Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I have pardoned, according to your word, but those who are twenty years and older who have rejected Me certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers. They shall wander in the wilderness forty years - one year for every day the spies were gone. They shall die in the wilderness and their children shall know the land which they have despised. But Joshua and Caleb, because they followed Me fully, shall see the land."

The 10 spies who made a bad report died of a plague before the LORD. Joshua and Caleb survived.

Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. But they tried to enter Canaan through the mountains.

Moses said, "Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD will not be with you."

But the people went up to the mountaintop anyway. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites drove them back so they could not enter Canaan.

Outer Aim - Many of God's people did not enter the Promised Land due to their lack of trust.

What the Story Tells Us - Number the following sentences in order 1-7 how they happened in the lesson.

- _____ Moses pleaded with God for the people.
- _____ The people tried to go into the land anyway, but were kept back by the Amalekites and Canaanites.
- _____ They returned and 10 of the spies said they should not go into the land because the people were too strong. Caleb and Joshua said, "The LORD is with us. Let us go at once and take over the land. "
- _____ 12 leaders, 1 from each tribe, were sent out and told to bring back fruits of the land and a report.
- _____ God told Moses to send out spies into Canaan.
- _____ God would not let Israel go into Canaan for 40 years. Only those under age 20 would ever see the Promised Land. (Except for Caleb and Joshua)
- _____ The children of Israel listened to the bad report and wanted to stone Caleb and Joshua and go back to Egypt.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following Bible Passage and the fill in the blanks using the words from the passage.

Romans 15:4 - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1. This passage tell us to use the _____.
2. They were written for our _____.
3. They give us _____, _____, and _____.

Inner Aim - Our life is a time of grace and blessings to help unbelievers find Jesus, their Savior.

Passages - Fill in the blanks. Look up the passages in the Bible. (NKJV)

Numbers 14:18 - The _____ is _____ and abundant in _____, _____ iniquity and transgression.

James 5:16 - _____ your trespasses to one another, and _____ for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a _____ man avails much.

Hymn - TLH #434 v. 1-5

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Thro' each perplexing path of life
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread
And raiment fit provide.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Now with the humble voice of prayer
Thy mercy we implore;
Then with a grateful voice of praise
Thy goodness we'll adore.

Prayer

Dear Father,
We learned today how the children of Israel cut themselves off from the blessed land of Canaan by choosing not to trust in You for guidance. Help us always to remember to look to You with faith and firmly believe Your words, so that we do not miss out on any of the blessings You have in store for us. Teach us to live our lives that others may learn about You, and also take part in all the blessings You offer, especially the blessing of a Savior from sin. Amen.

The Bronze Serpent in the Wilderness

Numbers 20:14 - 21:9 & Deuteronomy 2:1-9

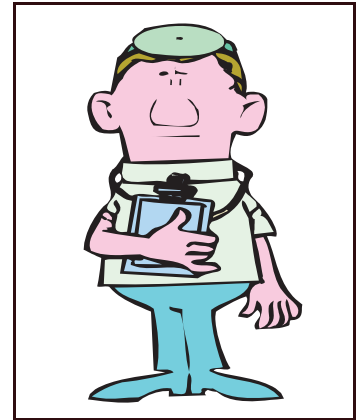
If you were sick, you might go to this man for help.

What other kind of sickness do people have besides bodily sickness?

To where do we turn for the cure of soul sickness?

Prayer

Create in me a clean heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Thy Word
And naught but what Thou wilt desire,
With such new life my soul inspire. Amen.



The Story - Numbers 20:14 - 21:9

Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. "Thus says your brother Israel:

'You know all the hardship that has befallen us, {15} 'how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers. {16} 'When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt;

now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border. {17} 'Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory."

{18} Then Edom said to him,

"You shall not pass through my land, lest I come out against you with the sword."

{19} So the children of Israel said to him,

"We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will

pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing more."

{20} Then he said,

"You shall not pass through."

So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand.

{21} Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

{22} Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

{23} And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: {24} "Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah. {25} "Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; {26} "and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his

people and die there."

{27} So Moses did just as the LORD commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. {28} Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. {29} Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim, then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners. {2} So Israel made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities." {3} And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah.

{4} Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people

became very discouraged on the way. {5} And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." {6} So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. {7} Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. {8} Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." {9} So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Record Any Notes Here:

Outer Aim - When the children of Israel turned away from God, He chastised them and lovingly brought them back.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions from the Bible lesson.

1. What land were the Israelites not allowed to pass through?
2. Who died at the top of Mount Hor?
3. Who was appointed the next High Priest?
4. Whom did the Lord deliver to the Israelites?
5. As the Israelites were going around Edom, how did they begin feeling?
6. What did the people complain about?
7. To whom did they complain?
8. What did the Lord send to the people?
9. What began to happen to many of the people?
10. What did the people say in their requests to Moses?
11. What did the Lord tell Moses to do?
12. How were the people cured?

Inner Aim 1 - Although God deals severely with sinfulness, He deals graciously with repentant sinners.

What God Tells Us - Read and discuss the following.

1. Read I Corinthians 10:5-11. These verses speak of the many chastisements God sent His people.
 - a. Why did God send the serpents to the Israelites?
 - b. How are we often like the children of Israel in this lesson?
 - c. Why does God often send chastisements to His children?
 - d. What will God do if we confess our sins and repent of them?

2. The bronze serpent is a type, or picture, of our Savior Jesus Christ. For each of the following statements from the lesson, explain what they are a picture of regarding us and our Savior.
 - a. The Children of Israel were infected by a poisonous venom:
 - b. If left to run its course, the snakebite would result in death:
 - c. The bronze serpent was raised up on a pole:
 - d. Those who looked at the bronze serpent would be cured of the snakebite and live:

3. Read John 3:14-16 (see passages section). From this passage and from your previous answers, explain why the Israelites with the bronze serpent, and we with our Savior, must by faith, not reason, receive the cure and live.

Inner Aim 2 - The bronze serpent is a picture of Christ on the cross, the cure for our souls.

Passages - Discuss together how these passages apply to our lesson today.

John 3:14-16 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Lamentations 3:22-24 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Hymn - TLH #171, v. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7. Read these verses and discuss them.

Upon the cross extended,
 See, world, thy Lord suspended,
 Thy Savior yields His breath.
 The Prince of Life from heaven
 Himself hath freely given
 To shame and blows and bitter death.

Who is it that hath bruised Thee?
 Who hath so sore abused Thee
 And caused Thee all Thy woe?
 While we must make confession
 Of sin and dire transgression,
 Thou deeds of evil dost not know.

I caused Thy grief and sighing
By evils multiplying
As countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
With which Thy soul is cumbered,
Thy sorrows raised by wicked hands.

The load Thou takest on Thee,
That pressed so sorely on me,
It crushed me to the ground,
The cross for me enduring,
The crown for me securing,
My healing in Thy wounds is found.

A crown of thorns Thou wearest,
My shame and scorn Thou bearest,
That I might ransomed be.
My Bondsman, ever willing,
My place with patience filling,
From sin and guilt hast made me free.

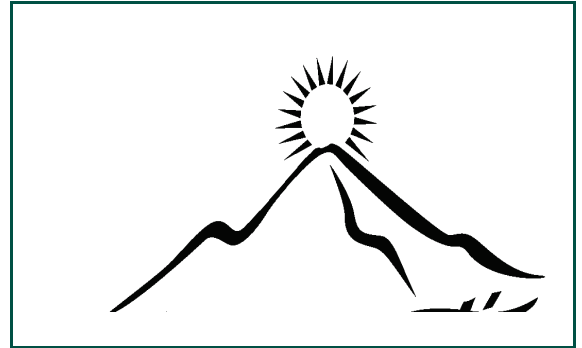
Prayer

Thy cross I'll place before me,
Its saving power be o'er me,
Wherever I may be;
Thine innocence revealing,
Thy love and mercy sealing,
The pledge of truth and constancy.

The Last Days of Moses

Numbers 20:1-13, 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 6-8, 18:15-18, 31-34

We have learned how Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Forty years later, when Moses' life was almost over, God took him to the top of another mountain. In our story today we will hear about what God did for Moses on top of Mt. Nebo. We will also look ahead to another time, hundreds of years later when Moses was on a mountain with Jesus.



Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to learn more about You and Your will for us through our study of Your servant Moses. Teach us the importance of listening to Your Word and living according to it. Bless our study and increase our faith and trust in You. Amen.

The Last Days of Moses

Numbers 20:1-13; 27:12-23 Deuteronomy 6 - 8; 18:15-18; 30-34

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Children of Israel came to the east side of the Jordan River. The land of Canaan lay on the other side of the Jordan River. God's servant Moses had led the people out of Egypt to the border of the promised land; however, he would not be able to enter Canaan with them. Earlier, Moses had disobeyed God's command when God told him to speak to the rock in order to get water for the people.

(Numbers 20:7-12) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, {8} "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

{9} So Moses took the rod from before

the LORD as He commanded him. {10} And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" {11} Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

{12} Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

At this time Moses was 120 years old. For the first 40 years of his life, he had been a prince in Egypt. He spent the next 40 years of his life tending

sheep in the land of Midian near Mt. Sinai. During the last 40 years of his life, he was the leader of the Children of Israel as they journeyed to the promised land.

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible as God gave him the words to write. In the book of **Genesis** he told of how God created the world and took care of His people until they were delivered from the bondage of Egypt. Then Moses recorded the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to Mt. Sinai in the book of **Exodus**. After God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, he recorded all of God's laws and instructions for His chosen people in the book of **Leviticus**. In **Numbers**, Moses recorded the 40 years of wandering from Mt. Sinai to the borders of Canaan.

Now Moses knew that he would soon die, so he called the people together. His farewell address is recorded in the book of **Deuteronomy**. Moses reminded the people of how God had taken care of them on their long journey to the promised land.

(Deuteronomy 7:6) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

(Deuteronomy 8:2) "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

He also told them again that the Savior would come as God had promised. Through Him they would someday enter the Promised Land of Heaven.

(Deuteronomy 18:15) "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear."

He reminded them that as God's people they should obey His commandments and live as His children.

(Deuteronomy 6:5-9) "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all

your soul, and with all your strength. {6} "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. {8} "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {9} "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Finally Moses told the people that they should not be afraid to conquer the land of Canaan because God would be with them.

(Deuteronomy 31:6) "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

The Lord told Moses to go to the top of Mt. Nebo, and He would show him the land that He had promised Abraham and all his descendants. The Children of Israel were very sad as they watched their beloved leader climb the mountain where he would die.

After God showed Moses the beautiful land of Canaan, Moses died. God Himself buried Moses. No one knows where he was buried.

Many years later Moses returned to this earth one more time. When Jesus took His disciples to a mountain to show them His glory before He died on the cross, Moses appeared on that mountain with the prophet Elijah.

Through the story of Moses we can see how God takes care of His servants and uses them to accomplish His work. We can also learn how important it is not to change what God tells us to do in His Word. We pray that God would use us to do His work and that He would teach us to obey Him in all that we do.

Outer Aim - Moses prepared God's people for his death.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Moses hit the rock instead of speak to it?
2. Why is it important for us to never make changes in what God says in His Word?
3. How is Moses an example for us both in what we should do and in what we should not do?
4. Was Moses more concerned about himself or about the Children of Israel when he knew he wouldn't be entering the Promised Land with them? How do you know this?
5. Compare our journey through life to the Israelite's journey through the wilderness.
 - a) Who led the Children of Israel?
 - b) Who leads us?
 - c) What dangers did the Children of Israel face?
 - d) What dangers do we face?
 - e) Where did the journey end for the Children of Israel?
 - f) Where will our journey through life end?

What God's Word Tells Us - Use your Bible for the following.

Numbers 27:12 - 21

What did the Lord tell Moses to do? (vs.12)

What did God say would happen? (vs.13)

Why did it have to be this way? (vs.14)

What did Moses want the Lord to do? (vs.15 -17)

What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? (vs.18-21)

Deuteronomy 34

Where did Moses go? (vs.1)

What did the Lord show him? (vs.1-3)

To whom had the Lord promised this land? (vs.4)

What happened to Moses? (vs.5)

Who buried him? (vs.6)

How is Moses described physically? (vs.7)

How is he described as a prophet? (vs.10-12)

Passages

Deuteronomy 6:5 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good.
Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Revelation 14:13 - Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Deuteronomy 18:15 - The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.

Inner Aim - God wants us to prepare for our death.

Hymn - TLH #410

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.

If the way be drear, if the Foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
Fro through many a woe to our home we go.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief;
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won.
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us,
Still support, control, protect us,
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.

Whom are we asking to lead us in this life?

When will "our rest be won"?

Where is our "fatherland"?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do. Many times we want to do things our own way instead of Your way. Forgive us for not always listening to what You tell us to do in Your Word. Thank You for giving us pastors and teachers to be our leaders and to teach us about Jesus our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

Israel Enters the Promised Land

Joshua 1, 3-5

What are these priests carrying?
They are in the middle of the Jordan River. Why
are they not getting wet?
What miracle was done by God and what
reminder did God's people have for
future generations?
Let's read to find out the answers.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Today we will hear about Joshua leading the Children of Israel with God's help. Please be with us as we learn about Your Word so that we may then tell others of the Good News found in the Bible and one day consider teaching or preaching Your Word to others . In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Story - Joshua 1, 3-5

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: {2} "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. {3} "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses..." "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

{6} "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an

inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. {7} "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. {8} "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. {9} "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the

LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

{10} Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, {11} "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"...

{16} So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. {17} "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. {18} "Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

(Joshua 3) Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. {2} So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; {3} and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. {4} "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

{5} And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD

will do wonders among you."

{6} Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

{7} And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. {8} "You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

{9} So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." {10} And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: {11} "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. {12} "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. {13} "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

{14} So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, {15} and as those who bore the ark came to the

Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), {16} that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. {17} Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

(Joshua 4) And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: {2} "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, {3} "and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'"

{4} Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; {5} and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, {6} "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these

stones mean to you?' {7} "Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

{8} And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. {9} Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

{10} So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. {11} Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people...{13} About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

{14} On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

{15} Then the LORD spoke to Joshua,

saying, {16} "Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

{17} Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan."

{18} And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

{19} Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. {20} And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. {21} Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' {22} "then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; {23} "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, {24} "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is

mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

(Joshua 5) So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel...

{9} Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

{10} Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. {11} And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. {12} Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

Outer Aim - God was with Joshua and the Children of Israel and led them into the promised land of Canaan.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE with answers from the Bible Lesson.

ACROSS

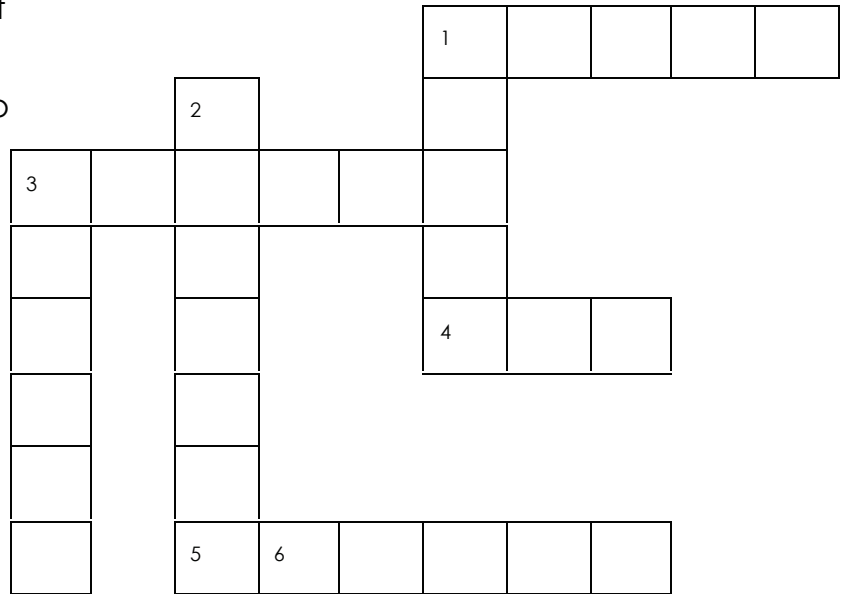
1. Who had died at the beginning of this lesson?

3. What river did the people have to cross?

4. The ____ of the Covenant was carried into the river.

5. What 12 things did men pick up and bring out of the dry river bed?

7. What was the name of the special place of the memorial of stones?



DOWN

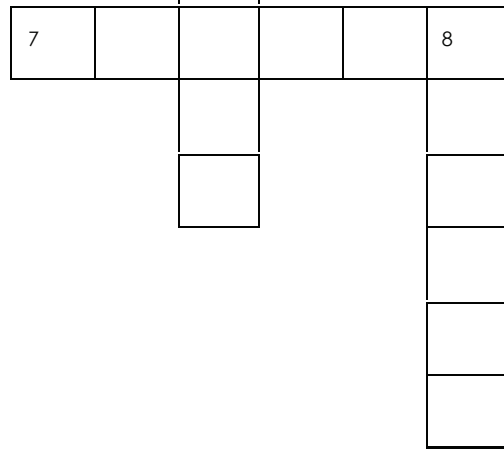
1. What did God no longer send for the people to eat?

2. Who held the ark of the covenant in the middle of the river so the people could cross?

3. Whom did God choose as the leader after Moses?

6. How many stones were carried out of the river for the memorial?

8. How did the kings of the land feel about the Children of Israel?



Inner Aim - God is with us as we travel on this earth and will lead us into the promised land of Heaven.

What God's Word Tells Us - Find Joshua 1:6 and write it on the lines below. Then make a list of things of which you are afraid and a list of things and people God gives us to make us strong and of good courage.

Joshua 1:6 _____

Things that make me afraid:

- ▼ kidnappers
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼

Who and what God gives me to make me strong and courageous:

- ▼ pastors
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼
- ▼

Passages

Joshua 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage.

Romans 8:31- If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

Your Turn - The Children of Israel were given a pile of 12 stones as a memorial or reminder of God's help for them in crossing the Jordan River. Draw a line to match the Christian symbol we have and its meaning or reminder to us.



☎ Baptism ☎

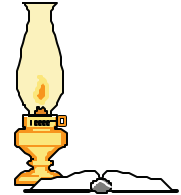
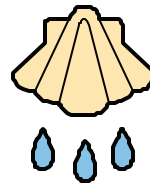
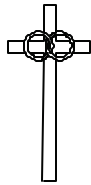
☎ Father, Son, Holy Spirit ☎

☎ Christ's Suffering ☎

☎ God's Word is a Light ☎

☎ Marriage in Christ ☎

☎ Jesus Christ, the Beginning and End ☎



Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us fall the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light
For us be ever veiled in night.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide.

In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Today we learned about how important it is to listen to Your Word and to Your promises. Help us to be strong and courageous in our faith life. Give us faithful leaders such as Moses and Joshua and help me to consider becoming a Pastor, Day School Teacher or Sunday School Teacher. Help us to remember all You have done for us so that we can serve You all our days. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23

What does impossible mean?

Name some things that seem as if they would be impossible to accomplish.

Prayer

Lord who makes and controls all things in this world, today we are studying about how You can make all things possible for You are omnipotent. As we learn to understand and trust Your power and wisdom, help us to obey You in all things and not question what You command us to do. Help us learn today from the Children of Israel that all things are possible with You. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6:1-27

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

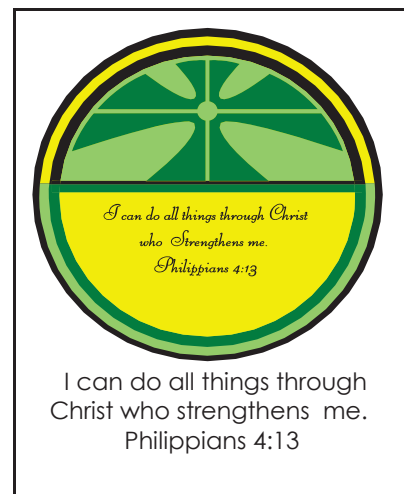
{2} And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. {3} "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. {4} "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. {5} "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

{6} Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." {7} And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march

around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

{8} So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. {9} The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {10} Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout." {11} So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

{12} And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and



blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {14} And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

{15} But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. {16} And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! {17} "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. {18} "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD." {20} So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the

foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

{27} So the LORD was with Joshua,

sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. {21} And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

{22} But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

{24} But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. {25} And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

{26} Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its

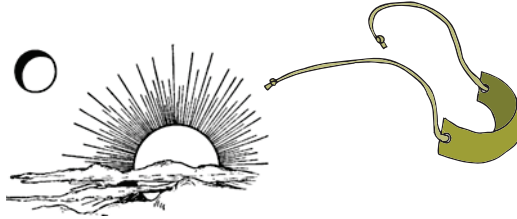
and his fame spread throughout all the country.

What the Story Tells Us - Take turns briefly summarizing the story 4 times from a different point of view. Use no more than 3 sentences in your summaries. Tell or write the story as would (1) Joshua, (2) a soldier in the city of Jericho, (3) a soldier of the Children of Israel and (4) as Rahab.

Outer Aim - Our all-powerful God used Joshua and the Children of Israel to destroy the wicked city of Jericho.

What God Tells Us - What is wrong with the attitudes portrayed in the following sentences?

1. "The people of Jericho, as other Godless people, get away with evil all the time."
2. "The people of Jericho deserved to die because they were so Godless."
3. "No one could destroy such a powerful city as Jericho."
4. "We shouldn't have killed all the people of the city. We could have saved them."
5. "God won't destroy us because we are not as wicked as were the people of Jericho."



Passages - Decide which passage listed below could be applied to the improper attitudes displayed above. Place the number of the situation above in the blank by each passage below.

- ___ Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- ___ Psalm 103:8-9 - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.
- ___ Job 20:4-7 - Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'
- ___ Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.
- ___ Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Inner Aim - In His wisdom and almighty power, God will both care for the God-fearing and punish the ungodly.

Your Turn - In our story today, the "impossible" happened, the huge walls of Jericho just fell down. The Bible references listed below show other "impossible" things that are possible. Read the references and explain briefly that "impossible" thing.

1 Samuel 17:40-51

Joshua 10:12-14

Matthew 17:20

Matthew 9:20-22

1 Thessalonians 4:14

Hymn - Stanzas 1 and 4 of Hymn 528 could be sung by both the Children of Israel at Jericho or by us in our life. Read those stanzas and explain what comfort could be taken by both of the groups mentioned.

If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

My Jesus is my Splendor,
My Sun, my Light, alone;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awe-full throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

Prayer

Lord with You, all things are possible. Today we saw how You helped the Children of Israel overcome impossible odds by defeating the people of Jericho. Even more unlikely is the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus to save us who are as wicked as those people in Jericho. Teach us to have faith that You are in control and that You are always making sure that everything that happens is for our good. We pray this in Your name, Lord, and in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

Gideon

Judges 6-8

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
What does that mean?
Let's see how that passage will fit today's lesson.

Prayer

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe.

That will not murmur nor
complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God. Amen.



The Story

In the years that followed the death of Joshua, the children of Israel lost sight of the True God. They instead turned against God by worshiping false gods. One such false god was named Baal. Because of this great sin, the Lord allowed the enemies of His people, the Midianites and the Amalekites, to overrun Israel. They raided the homes of the children of Israel and stole their cattle and grain. For seven years this happened until finally the children of Israel turned to the Lord and cried out for help.

One day the Angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Gideon was frightened. He did not know that this was the Angel of the Lord. How did this Man find him? (Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress, which was low in a rock,

almost like in a cave.) What did He want? The Angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to defeat the Midianites and the Amalekites. "How can I save Israel?" Gideon asked. "I am the least in my father's house!" Gideon asked the Man for a sign that would tell him that this message was from God. Gideon asked the Angel to stay for a meal. A young goat and baked bread was prepared for the guest. When the meal was brought, the Angel told Gideon to place the food on the rock and pour the broth over the food. The Angel touch the meat and the bread, and fire came out of the rock and burned the meal. Then the Angel disappeared. Gideon realized then that the Man with whom he had been speaking was the Angel of the Lord.

That night the Lord told Gideon to take his father's oxen and tear down the

altar of Baal that his village had erected. In the morning the town's people were very angry. They came to Gideon's father and demanded that he give them Gideon so that they could kill him. Joash, Gideon's father, told the town's people that if Baal was really a god, that he could defend himself against someone that breaks down his altar. The men left Joash's home and called Gideon Jerubaal.

Soon the enemies came again to the land of the Israelites. God told Gideon to prepare an army, but before doing so Gideon asked for two signs. First, he placed a fleece on the ground and asked God to allow the dew to be only on the fleece and not on the ground. In the morning there was no dew on the ground, but the fleece was filled with water. Then Gideon asked God to keep the fleece dry, while covering the ground with dew. The following morning everything was just as Gideon had asked.

Now Gideon called together an army. Thirty-two thousand men gathered to fight with Gideon, but God told Gideon his army was too large! Gideon called his army together and told any man who was afraid of the upcoming battle to leave and return to his home. Twenty-two thousand men left and ten thousand stayed to fight. The Lord told Gideon again that his army was too large. This time Gideon told the men to go to the water and drink from it. Some men knelt on both knees and lapped up the water like a dog. Three hundred of the men took cupped water into their hands and drank by taking their hands to their mouths. The Lord directed Gideon to take the 300 men and go meet the enemy.

That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up and go down to the camp of the enemy and I will give you the victory." The Lord suggested that if Gideon were afraid that he should go with his servant and listen to what the enemy was saying.

Gideon and his servant Purah crept down to the Midian camp and there listened to a dream that one of the soldiers had had. The soldier was retelling a friend about a dream where a round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into their camp. It hit a tent with such force that it knocked the tent down. The soldier explained the dream to be that the barley loaf was Gideon and that the battle would be a victory for Gideon and his God.

At midnight, Gideon gathered his 300 men and gave each man a pitcher which held fire inside and a trumpet. At the sound of Gideon's trumpet the other men blew their trumpets and broke the jars containing the fire, and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The enemy soldiers woke from their sleep, and in their confusion at the sounds and the light of Gideon's army they killed each other. Those that were left fled with Gideon's army pursuing them.

Gideon and his men, along with the children of Israel, chased their enemies and defeated them in battle. They enjoyed many years of peace under the blessing of the Lord.

Outer Aim - Gideon was chosen by God and given gifts to set God's people free from their enemies.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. What did God do when the children of Israel turned from obeying Him?
2. How many years of suffering did the children of Israel endure before they cried to the Lord in repentance?
3. To whom did the Angel of the Lord come?
4. Who is the Angel of the Lord? How do we know this?
5. What was the first sign of the that was given to Gideon?
6. What did God tell Gideon to destroy?
7. How did the townspeople react to this action?
8. What alternative action did Gideon's father suggest?
9. What was the next command given to Gideon by God?
10. What were the next two signs sent to Gideon by God?
11. What did God say about Gideon's army?
12. How was the final selection made?
13. How many soldiers were cut from the first count?
14. What did Gideon hear in the enemy camp?
15. What was Gideon's battle plan?
16. What did the enemy soldiers do when Gideon blew his trumpet?
17. What did the children of Israel ask Gideon to do?
18. How did Gideon answer Israel?

Inner Aim - We are chosen by God and given gifts for the work of the Church.

What God's Word Tells Us - Think about the following "Thought Problem."

We are to "walk by faith, not by sight!"

1. How did Gideon "walk by faith, not by sight"?
2. List some situations when we "walk by faith, not by sight" today:
3. Was it wrong of Gideon to ask for signs? Why?
4. What signs of God's presence can we expect today?
5. When else in the Old Testament did the Angel of the Lord appear to men? Why did the Angel come down to earth?

Passages

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens.

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #427 v. 1-3, 7

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

In ev'ry condition - in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea
The Lord, the Almighty, thy strength e'er shall be.

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed;
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!" Amen.

Samson

Judges 13-15

The children of Israel again sinned against God by serving false gods. God let their enemies, the Philistines, rule over them for forty years. Finally, God decided to help His people by sending them a very special judge named Samson.

Prayer

I walk in danger all the way. The tho't shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.
This Foe with hidden snares may seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray.
I walk in danger all the way.

I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay when Satan's power assails me;
And by His footsteps led, my path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way. Amen.



The Story

Before Samson was born, the Angel of the Lord came to a woman from the tribe of Dan. The woman had not been able to have any children. When the angel appeared he said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son." The angel warned the woman to drink no wine and eat nothing that was unclean. He instructed the woman that her baby boy would be a Nazarite. His hair must not be cut. The baby would grow and deliver the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines.

The woman went to her husband, Manoah, and told him of all that was said and done. Manoah prayed to the Lord to revisit him and his wife and teach them how to raise such a special boy. The angel returned to the household of Manoah and

repeated the instructions of how to raise their baby. Manoah took a young goat and together with grain sacrificed the offering on a rock. As the flame blazed up toward heaven, the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame, Manoah then realized that it was the Angel of the Lord.

And so Samson was born and the Lord blessed him as he grew to adulthood.

When Samson was grown, he saw a young Philistine woman and he wanted to marry her. His parents wanted their son to marry a woman of his own faith. But Samson insisted and so his father and mother arranged the marriage. On their journey to the bride's home, a lion came roaring toward Samson and he killed the lion with his bare hands. On a later trip, he returned to the spot where the dead lion's

carcass lay. There was a swarm of bees and their honey dwelling in the carcass. Samson ate of the honey and gave some of the sweet substance to his mother and father.

At the wedding feast Samson presented a riddle to the male guests. The wager or bet was thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. The riddle went like this: Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet. After three days the exasperated wedding guests went to the new bride and threatened her with death if she wouldn't get the answer from her new husband. Samson gave in to his new wife and told her the answer to the riddle and she gave the answer to the Philistines. The men came to Samson on the 7th day of the feast and repeated the answer to the riddle. "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" Samson left the feast and went to another town and killed 30 Philistines and took their clothing and gave it to the men at the feast. Samson left the area for awhile and his bride was given to another man.

Samson returned some time later to see the young woman and became angry that the woman had married another man. He caught 300 foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then tied a torch of fire to their tails and let them run in the wheat fields of the Philistines. The fires destroyed the crops of the people of Philistia and they were very angry with Samson. They followed Samson to his hiding place and asked the men of Judah to capture Samson for them. 3000 men of Judah went to Samson and he gave himself to them to be handed over to the Philistine enemies. When the group came close to the enemy people, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson in power and the ropes that were holding him melted away. Samson found a jawbone of a donkey and with it killed 1000 men. Samson became thirsty and

cried to the Lord for water. The Lord opened up a hollow place and out of it came water.

Samson led the children of Israel for 20 years.

Samson fell in love one more time with another Philistine woman. Her name was Delilah. The rulers of Philistia came to Delilah and asked her to betray Samson and find out the secret to his great strength. Delilah did as the rulers requested, and she went to Samson and asked him the secret to his strength. Three times Samson told her silly things to try, and three times Delilah called the Philistines into her house to seize Samson, but Samson's strength was still with him. Finally Delilah pestered Samson so much that he could no longer take it. He told her, "My hair has never been cut, because I have been a Nazarite to God from my birth. If my hair is cut, then my strength will leave me." That night, after Delilah had lulled Samson to sleep on her lap, a barber came and cut Samson's hair. When the Philistines came to capture Samson, he thought he could escape. But he could not, for the Lord had left him. The Philistines captured Samson, poked out his eyes, chained him up, and made him grind grain in their prison.

How sad the children of Israel were! How sad Samson was! But while Samson was in prison he began to realize that he should have trusted in the Lord and not in himself. In prison his hair began to grow back.

Later a group of over 3000 Philistines met at the temple that was dedicated to their heathen god, Dagon. They were offering a sacrifice to Dagon and celebrating the capture of Samson. Samson was brought out of prison to be used as entertainment for the many people. Samson asked a little boy who brought him up from prison to lead him to a place between two pillars that

supported the temple. Samson prayed, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" God heard Samson's prayer and gave him his strength

back. Samson pushed and pushed on the two great pillars until they broke apart and the whole heathen temple fell to the ground. Samson died, but in his death Samson was given his greatest victory by God.

Outer Aim - God used Samson to free Israel from their enemy.

What the Story Tells Us - Circle the letter of the correct answer or answers for each question.

1. The Angel told Manoah's wife that her son would be a ____.
a. Levite b. Judge c. Nazirite
2. As a Nazirite Samson was not supposed to ____.
a. drink wine b. cut his hair c. get married
3. Samson killed ____ men to pay a debt. a. 30 b. 300 c. 3000
4. Samson told a riddle about a _____. a. donkey b. lion c. barley cake.
5. Samson burned the fields of the Philistines by using _____.
a. burning oil b. torches c. 300 foxes
6. Samson killed 1000 Philistines using _____.
a. a spear b. the jawbone of a donkey c. a slingshot
7. The Lord gave Samson a drink of water by ____
a. leading him to an oasis b. creating a stream in an old river bed
c. allowed a stream of water to flow from a hollow place
8. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named ____
a. Manoah b. Ruth c. Delilah
9. Delilah was commanded by the rulers of the Philistines to find out Samson's ____
a. home b. secret to his strength c. next attack against the Philistines
10. Samson suggested that his strength might be in ____
a. seven fresh thongs that could be tied about him b. new ropes that could hold him down as a prisoner
c. weaving his 7 braids of hair into a loom
11. Samson became weak as any other man when ____
a. his eyes were gouged out b. his hair was shaved off c. he was put into prison
12. The Philistines wanted Samson to entertain them at the feast of ____
a. the harvest b. their god Baal c. their god Dagon

13. Samson's last victory against the heathen nation of the Philistines was
 a. with his own death b. was given to him by God c. he killed 3000
 Philistines in their own temple

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. The Nazarite was a special person dedicated to God for a particular task or period of time. What was Samson's particular task and what was Samson's period of time?

2. There were certain things that a Nazarite was not allowed to do. What were they?

Numbers 6:3

Number 6:4

Numbers 6:5

3. How was the history of Samson similar to the history of Israel during the period of the Judges?

4. How is Samson a type or picture of Christ?

Inner Aim - God uses us to accomplish His plan for mankind.

Your Turn - Connect the number in the first column with a line to the correct phrase in the middle column and continue the line to the correct ending statement in the third column.

7	pieces of silver	who mocked Samson and his God
1100	changes of clothing	of Samson as Judge over Israel
20	worshippers of Dagon	paid to Delilah if she found the source of Samson's strength
40	years	shaved from Samson's head
1000	Philistine men	killed by Samson as he swung the jawbone of a donkey
30	braids of hair	caught by Samson, set on fire, and turned loose into harvest fields
3000	years	to the man that could unravel Samson's riddle
300	foxes	the Children of Israel suffered by their Philistine oppressors

Passages

2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Psalms 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Hymn - TLH #409

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us
And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading,
Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus,
To His image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us,
Sunshine follow on the storm.
Tho' we sow in tears of sorrow,
We shall reap in heav'nly joy;
And the fears that now annoy
Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with Thee;
There, oh, share Thy joy with me!

Let us also die with Jesus,
His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us,
Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living,
Flesh and blood and die to sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to Thee
There to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus;
Since He's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us,
Jesus, Thou art now our Head,
We are truly Thine own members;
Where Thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly,
Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to Thee,
Also there eternally.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, Just as You gave the special gift of strength for Samson to use in Your service, so you have given each of us special abilities that can be used in Your work. Help us to develop these gifts according to Your will and may we ever use them to glorify Your name. Thank You, above all, for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

These are rosary beads. Do you know what religion uses them?

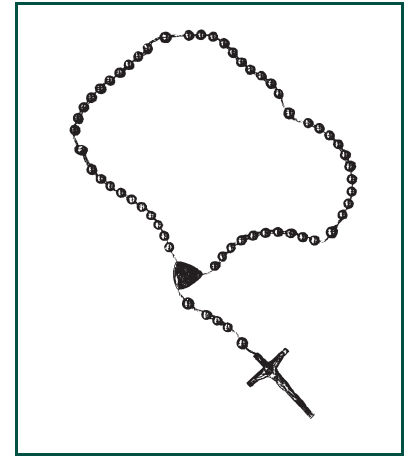
Why is it wrong to believe that praying over and over will help you get to heaven? Who is the only Way to heaven?

Today we will find out about Ruth. Her family did not believe in the true God. What did she do?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Ruth. Help us to learn from Your Word and then apply Your Word to our lives as Ruth did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

Ruth 1:1-10, 14-17, 19-22, 2:1-13, 15-17. 19-20, 23, 3:1-3, 6, 9, 12, 13b, 16, 4:1-6, 13, 17

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion – Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of

Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them bread.

Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

"The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

So she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

"I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech; his name was Boaz.

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

"And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

"Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Then she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

"Also let some grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "The man is a relative of ours, one of our near kinsmen."

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our kinsman? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking."

So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a near kinsman."

"Now it is true that I am your near kinsman; however, there is a kinsman nearer than I."

"It shall be that if he will perform the duty of a near kinsman for you – good; let him

do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives!"

So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Then he said to the near kinsman, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

"And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Then Boaz said, "On the day that you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance."

And the near kinsman said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying; "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

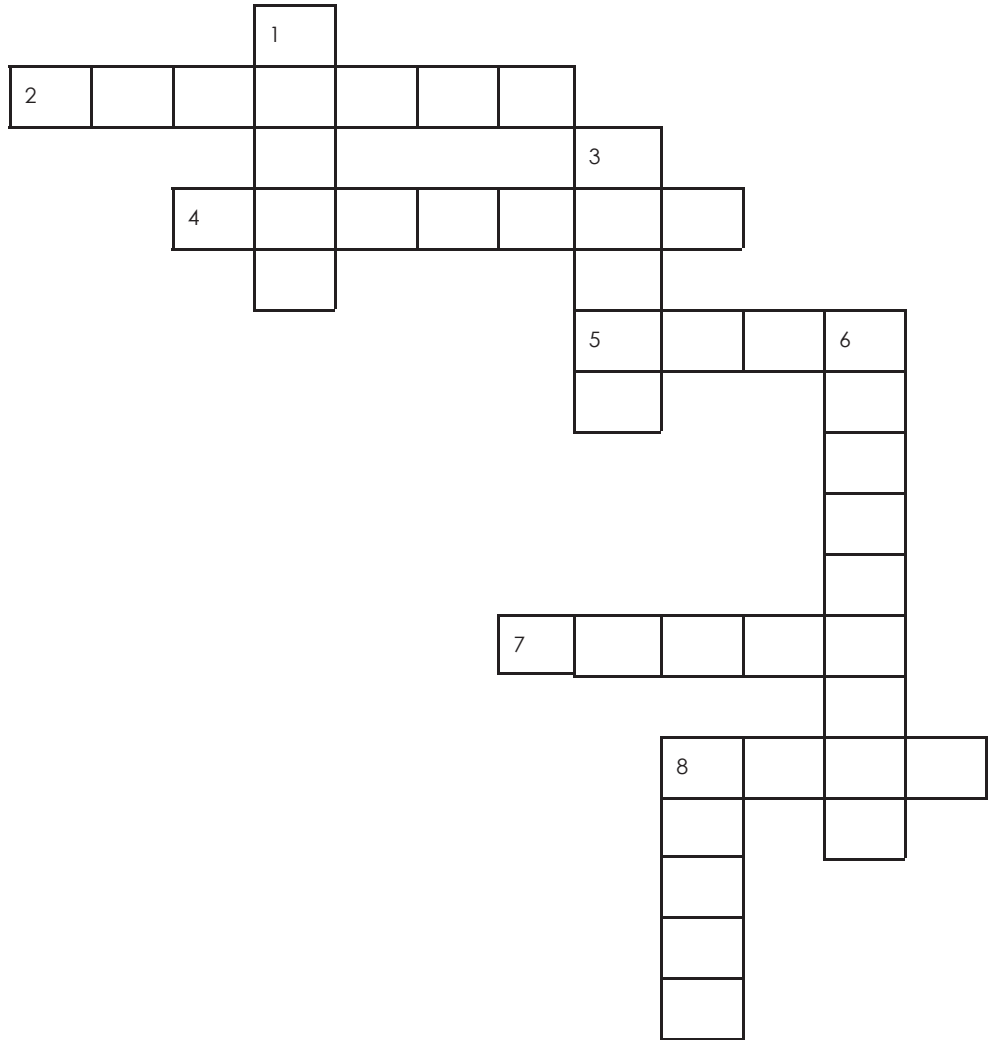
Outer Aim - God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the crossword puzzle using words from the Word Box.

NAOMI	MOAB	DAVID	ORPAH	GLEANED
JESSE	KINSMAN	BETHLEHEM	OBED	

ACROSS

2. What Ruth did in Boaz's field.
4. Boaz was this for Ruth and Naomi.
5. The country from which Ruth came.
7. The grandson of Ruth and Boaz.
8. The son of Ruth and Boaz



DOWN

1. The king of Israel from whose family Jesus came.
3. The name of Elimelech's wife.
6. The city in Judah in which Elimelech's family lived.
8. The name of Naomi's daughter-in-law (not Ruth).

Inner Aim - God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. How did Ruth follow the 1st Commandment?
2. How did Ruth follow the 4th Commandment?

3. In Luke 18:29-30 Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." Walking by faith, Ruth left her family and false God and trusted the true God to work in her life. Name the many blessings God gave Ruth.

4. Name some blessings God has given you in your life.

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
 His will abideth holy;
 As He directs my life for me,
 I follow meek and lowly.
 My God indeed in ev'ry need
 Doth well know how to shield me;
 To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good.
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm, for with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, We know Your love for us because You sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Savior, not only of the Jews, but also for us who are not Jews. You know how best to direct our lives for our own good and the eternal good of others. We pray that You would give us trusting and faithful hearts to follow Your direction throughout our life.

Encourage us when we are tempted to discouragement. Strengthen us when we feel weary. Make our words and actions a blessing to others that through us others may also share in the blessings that You richly provide us. We ask this, trusting that You will receive our prayer because of Jesus who redeemed us. Amen.

Samuel

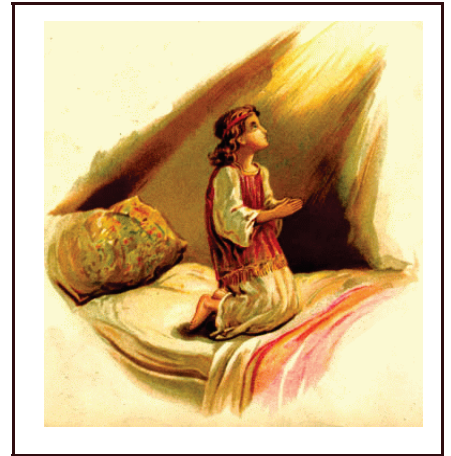
1 Samuel 1 - 7

*What do you remember about Samuel?
Do you know what is happening in this picture of him?
He would grow up to be a great prophet of the LORD.
Let's read now about Samuel, God's prophet.*

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Samuel. Help us to learn from Your Word so that we can grow up to serve You as Samuel did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

There was a certain man, Elkanah. He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children, which made her very sad.

Elkanah went yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD in Shiloh. On one of these temple visits Hannah prayed to the LORD and made a vow saying, "O LORD, if You will look on me in my sadness and will give me a son, I will give him to You all the days of his life."

Hannah spoke in her heart; but her lips moved and the High Priest Eli thought she was drunk. Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk?"

Hannah answered, "No, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I am not drunk, but have poured out my soul before the LORD."

Then Eli said, "Go in peace, and God grant your prayer which you have asked of Him."

Hannah and Elkanah returned to their house at Ramah. Hannah conceived and she bore a son, Samuel."

Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice but Hannah did not go along until Samuel was

old enough to live without her feeding him.

Now when he was old enough, Hannah took him up with her, along with an offering and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. Samuel was young. They brought the child, Samuel, to Eli. Hannah said, "I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD for this child. The LORD has answered my prayer and I have lent him to the LORD for as long as he lives."

Hannah then said a prayer of praise. Samuel lived in the temple and helped Eli, the priest.

The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were also priests but they were corrupt. They did not love and obey the LORD, but sinned against the people and the work of the temple. The sin of these young men was very great before the LORD.

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child. He wore a special linen skirt and every year Hannah would make him a robe and bring it to him as she came to make the yearly sacrifice with Elkanah. The LORD was with Hannah so that she bore three sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile the child Samuel grew

before the LORD. Now Eli was very old; and he heard all the sinful things his sons did to all Israel, but he did not try very hard to stop them from sinning.

One night, while Eli was lying down in his room and Samuel was lying down in his room, the LORD called Samuel. Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." Samuel went and lay down.

Then the LORD called again, "Samuel!"

So Samuel went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Eli answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

The LORD called Samuel again the third time. Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you did call me."

Then Eli knew that the LORD had called Samuel. Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down and if He calls you say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'"

So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

Then the LORD told Samuel about the judgment the LORD would send on Eli and his family for the sins of Hophni and Phinehas. So Samuel lay down and was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

Then Eli called Samuel and said, "What is the word that the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me."

Then Samuel told him everything, and Eli said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. Israel was defeated by the Philistines.

The Israelites said, "Why has the LORD

defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

So the people sent to Shiloh for the ark of the covenant and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

Now when the Philistines fought them, Israel was defeated and the ark of God was captured. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were killed.

Then a man ran from the battle and came to Shiloh. Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for he was worried about the ark of God. Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see. And when the man came into the city and told how the battle was lost and the ark stolen, all of the people cried out.

When Eli heard the noise he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean?"

And the man came quickly and told Eli, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."

Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward and he died, for the man was old and heavy. Eli had judged Israel forty years. Phinehas' wife also died that day giving birth to a son. The judgment of God came to pass.

When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon, their false god, in the city of Ashdod. The next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again, and the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face before the ark of the LORD. The head and arms of Dagon were broken off.

Because the Philistines took the ark of

the covenant, the LORD struck them with tumors. And when the men saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us." They said, "What

So they carried the ark of the God to Gath, but the people of Gath also were struck with tumors. Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. When the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!. Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us." The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months before it was returned to Israel. Then Samuel spoke to all of Israel, saying, "If you

shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath."

return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

So the children of Israel put away the false gods and served the LORD only. So the Philistines were subdued, and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel. Samuel was a prophet of Israel all the days of his life.

Outer Aim - God provided a spiritual leader for Israel.

What the Story Tells Us - Cross off the incorrect word in the following sentences and write the correct word from the lesson above the incorrect word.

1. Hannah was happy that she had no children.
2. The LORD answered her prayer and gave her a son, Elkanah.
3. Hannah brought Samuel to the priest, Simeon, in the temple.
4. Hophni and Phinehas were good priests for the people of Israel.
5. Eli called to Samuel one night and told him about a judgment that would come.
6. The Amalekites defeated the Israelites and took the ark of the covenant.
7. Baal the false god, fell apart before the ark of God.
8. The enemies that stole the ark got colds from keeping the ark of the covenant.
9. They returned the ark after seven years.
10. Samuel was a doctor of the Israelites all his life.

Inner Aim - God still provides His people with faithful spiritual leaders.

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the following Bible passage and discuss the questions that follow.

Acts 17:10-11 - Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

1. Who are the people preaching God's Word in this Acts passage?
2. To what city had they gone?
3. How did the people make sure the words of the preachers were true?
4. How should we make sure the words of our pastors and teachers are true?

Passages

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Psalms 1:6 - For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

John 17:3 - And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Hymn - TLH #296 v. 1, 4

Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.
Death's dread pow'r in me is rife;
Jesus, may Thy Word of Life
Fill my soul with love's strong fervor
That I cling to Thee forever.

Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heav'n enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heav'nly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee. Amen.

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,

You have given us Your Word. By it You guide us to live lives pleasing to You. You lead us to believe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior from sin and eternal damnation. As You gave the Israelites a faithful teacher in Samuel, so give us faithful pastors and teachers to teach what we should believe and do according to Your Word. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saul

1 Samuel 8 - 15

Israel had been ruled by God through prophets. Now they wanted a king to rule over them.

What are some demands a king will make?

Today we will read about Israel's first king. Let's see what problems Israel now has.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send Your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn about Saul, the first king of Israel. Please be with the leaders over us – pastors, teachers, government, police, and others – so that they are good leaders. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Saul

Samuel, the prophet of God, was old. His sons were prophets over Israel, but they were not God-fearing like their father. Because of this the elders of Israel asked for a king. They also wanted to be like other nations who were ruled by a king.

Samuel didn't like the idea, but he prayed about it. God told him, "It is not you they have rejected as their king, but Me. Listen to what they want, but warn them and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.

Samuel warned the people, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and put them in his army or he will set some to plow his ground. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves. He will take a tenth of your grain and he will take your servants and animals."

The people still wanted a king.

God chose Saul from the tribe of Benjamin, Kish was his father.

Some donkeys were lost so Saul and his servant went to find them. They didn't find the donkeys but traveled to ask the prophet Samuel. Samuel told them the donkeys were found. He also told Saul that Saul was the man God chose for a king. Samuel anointed Saul as king. Then Samuel said that when they left they would meet some men who would give them bread and the spirit of the Lord would be with Saul. Saul was then to meet Samuel in Gilgal in several days to sacrifice to the Lord.

Things happened just as Samuel said it would. Samuel called the people together at Mizpah to tell them what God said. "I am the God who brought you out of Egypt, but today you have rejected Me by asking for a king."

So God chose Saul for a king. When

Samuel first made the announcement about the new king, Saul hid himself. When he was found the people cried out, "Long live the king!" Saul was taller than anyone else.

Samuel set down some rules, wrote them down and sent the people home.

There was much fighting during Saul's reign, but at first the Lord was with him, and the people rejoiced greatly.

Samuel again reviewed with the people how God had helped them in the past and how He was with the leaders like Moses and Jacob and how when the people disobeyed God, things did not go well. The same would be with a king.

Jonathan, Saul's son, went to fight the Philistines, but didn't tell his dad. The Philistines were afraid because of Jonathan.

Saul gave an unwise command to his men. He told them not to eat at all that day. Jonathan did not hear this command and ate some honey he came across. The other men were very hungry and weak, but Jonathan was refreshed. He said that more Philistines would have been killed that day if the men had eaten.

When Saul heard that Jonathan had disobeyed his command he would have killed his son, but the other soldiers pleaded for him and Jonathan was spared.

One time Saul was at war with the Amalekites. God told Saul to destroy all the people and animals. Saul and his

army killed many of the people and animals, but spared the life of King Agag and some of the best sheep and oxen.

Samuel came to Saul and asked him why he had disobeyed God. At first Saul lied and told Samuel he had done what the LORD said.

Then Saul said, "We kept the animals to sacrifice to God." Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." Samuel then killed the enemy king, Agag.

Samuel left Saul and mourned for him because of Saul's unbelief. Samuel never again went to see King Saul. The LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

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Outer Aim - God gave His people a king when they asked, but Saul did not stay a faithful king.

What The Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the correct word then find the answer in the WORD SEARCH. (Words go forward, down and diagonal. One word is backwards in the puzzle.)

1. _____ was God's prophet in this lesson.
2. Israel asked for a _____.
3. God told Samuel, "It is not you they have _____ as their king, but Me."
4. _____ was chosen as the first king of _____.
5. _____ was his son. This son fought against the _____.
6. This son ate _____ and disobeyed a law Saul had made.
7. Saul disobeyed God's law by burning a _____ instead of waiting for Samuel to do it.
8. One time Saul and the army were to destroy the enemies, the _____ and all their _____.
9. Instead they kept the best animals and spared the life of the enemy, King _____, whom Samuel later had to kill.
10. The LORD _____ that He had made Saul king over Israel.

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

What God Tells Us - God wants us to remember His chosen representatives in our prayers asking God to guide them. Make a list of some of these leaders in your life. Then write a prayer about one of these representatives and take turns sharing your prayers.

LEADERS AT HOME

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LEADERS AT CHURCH &
SCHOOL

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LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT

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→

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Prayer

Your Turn - Read the following passage.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

Give an example of when you may have to obey God and His Word rather than one of God's representatives.

Passages

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

Hymn - TLH #295 v. 1, 5, 6

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

The Law is good; but since the Fall,
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone. Amen

Prayer

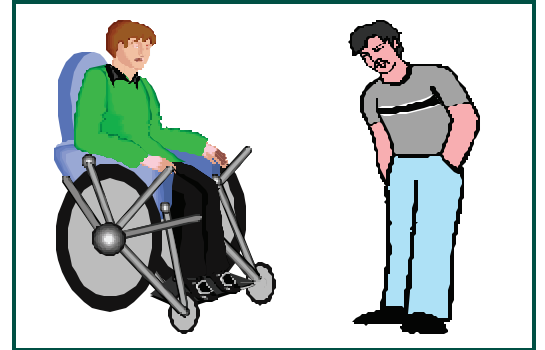
Dear heavenly Father, who clearly shows us what You wish for us to do and to avoid doing in Your Word, prevent us from following our own ways when they are contrary to what You expect of us. Give us the desire and the strength to follow where You lead us. When we fail to do as we should, lead us to ask Your forgiveness and comfort us with the assurance that our sins are forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

David Anointed King

1 Samuel 16

Which of these 2 would you choose for a friend?
The boy on the right steals from people. Would he make a good friend?

Did you look at the outward appearance to decide on a friend? In today's lesson we will learn that God looks at the heart and not the outward appearance to choose a new king to replace the now unbelieving Saul.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please bless the study of Your Word today in our class. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and help me to share Your message of salvation with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

David Anointed King - 1 Samuel 16

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

{2} And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' {3} "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

{4} So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

{5} And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the

sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

{6} So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him."

{7} But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

{8} So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." {9} Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." {10} Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." {11} And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?"

Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

{12} So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking.

And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

{13} Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

{14} But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

{15} And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. {16} "Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

{17} So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

{18} Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

{19} Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." {20} And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

{21} So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. {22} Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

{23} And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions from the lesson. The verse number is in parenthesis to help you.

1. Name the prophet of God. (1)
2. What did God want him to do? (1)
3. What did Samuel fear Saul would do to him? (2)
4. From whose family will the new king come? (1)
5. Name 3 sons who were not chosen. (6, 8, 9)
6. What did Samuel say of these sons? (10)

7. After 7 older sons passed by Samuel, who was called? (13)
8. Describe David. (12)
9. How did Samuel show David was king? (13)
10. What troubled King Saul? (14)
11. How did David help Saul? (23)

Outer Aim - God chose a new believing king for His people.

What God Tells Us - Read the passage. Then circle the words that are important when choosing a good friend or future spouse and cross off the words that are not important.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 *“For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*

handsome		thin		rich
	God-fearing		strong	
kind		pretty		smart
	helpful		loving	
tall		faithful		obedient

Inner Aim - God knows all things, even the thoughts and intents of our heart.

Your Turn - Look at Ruth 4:13,17 below. That is the “family tree” of King David. Put the names of the people in David's family. There is a hint for each name.

Ruth 4:13 - So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Ruth 4:17 - Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David."

(B) _____ David's Great-Grandfather	(R) _____ David's Great-Grandmother
(O) _____ David's Grandfather	
(J) _____ David's Father	
David, future King of Israel	

Passages - Discuss the following passages and how they apply to the lesson.

1 Samuel 16:7 - For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Psalms 147:11 - The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #394 v. 1-3

My faith looks up to Thee;
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside. Amen.

David and Goliath

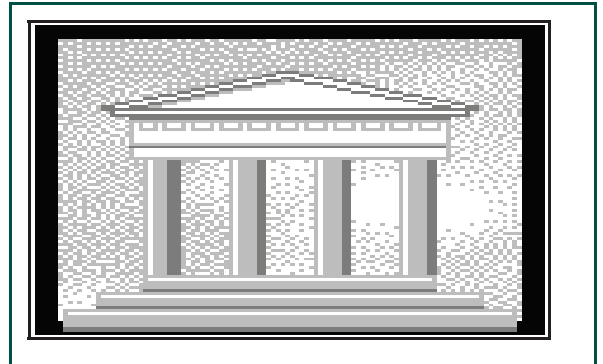
1 Samuel 17

The government has had serious problems with a new foreign policy plan. They need someone to go overseas and present the revision of their plan to the leaders in the other country.

They call you to go. Can you do it? Will you agree to go over knowing that peace between countries could depend on the result of your meeting? You might feel worried or stressed about such a situation. Why? Why would you not need to worry?

This is not likely to happen, is it? However, it may help you to understand in this Bible account the position in which David found himself. David felt no worry, no stress about the situation. Why?

What are some situations that seem overwhelming to you? The next time you are facing one of these situations, think back to the reason David was so calm in the face of the enemy.



Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank You for the assurance of Your presence in our lives. You alone know what our future holds. Please help us to trust in You as we daily work to continue in Your path for us. Amen.

David and Goliath - 1 Samuel 17

Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. {2} And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. {3} The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

{4} And a champion went out from

the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. {5} He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. {6} And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. {7} Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

{8} Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why

have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. {9} "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." {10} And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." {11} When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

{12} Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul. {13} The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. {14} David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. {15} But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

{16} And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

{17} Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. {18} "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them." {19} Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

{20} So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. {21} For

Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. {22} And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. {23} Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them. {24} And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

{25} So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

{26} Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

{27} And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

{28} Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

{29} And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" {30} Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did. {31} Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul;

and he sent for him.

{32} Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

{33} And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

{34} But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, {35} I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. {36} "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." {37} Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

{38} So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. {39} David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them.

And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off. {40} Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

{41} So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. {42} And when the Philistine looked about

and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. {43} So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. {44} And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

{45} Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. {46} "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. {47} "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

{48} So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. {49} Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

{50} So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

{51} Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.

And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. {52} Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as

far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. {53} Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. {54} And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

{55} When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?"

And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

{56} So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

{57} Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

{58} And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?"

So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

Outer Aim - The Lord enabled David to overcome Goliath.

What The Story Tells Us - Read TLH #427 and write down how the promises stated in this hymn parallel the specific details of 1) today's story and 2) examples from your own life.

Stanza 1:

Stanza 2:

Stanza 3:

Stanza 4:

Stanza 5:

Stanza 6:

Stanza 7:

What God's Word Tells Us - What great feat was accomplished in today's story? Who accomplished it? Look up the following references. What purpose did God use each of these people for?

A. Genesis 12:1-4

B. Acts 2:1-11

C. Exodus 3:11-15

D. Ruth 4:13-22

E. Acts 8:26-40

F. Isaiah 7:14

Inner Aim - The Lord is able to deliver and save.

Passages

Psalm 46:1- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hymn - TLH #262 v. 1, 2

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

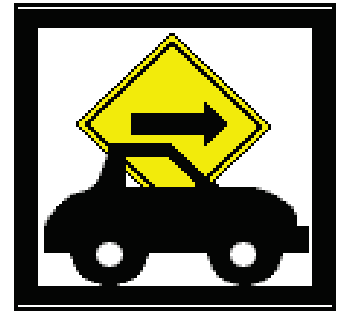
Prayer

O dearest Jesus, You have promised that You will be with us always, even unto the end of the world. You are our Lord and Savior. Defend us from our enemies and lead us into all truth. Deliver us from every evil, physical and spiritual. Forgive our frequent lack of faith. Help us to rely upon You more and more in everything. Amen.

David Becomes King

1 Samuel 31 - 2 Samuel 7

Do we always know which way to go?
Who is the one who knows the direction of our lives?
Why might He allow twists and turns in our lives?



Prayer

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing as we study Your Word. Please open our hearts and our minds so we may be able to understand the greatness of Your blessings for David, and each of us. Help us remember especially the blessing of forgiveness because of Jesus. Amen.

David Becomes King - 1 Samuel 31 - 2 Samuel 7

In a battle with the Philistines near Mt. Gilboa, many of the children of Israel died. Saul was wounded with an arrow, but three of his sons, including Jonathan, were killed. Afraid of falling into enemy hands, Saul asked his armorbearer to kill him, but was refused. Saul fell on his sword and died, and the armorbearer did the same. The children of Israel, seeing their leader was dead, abandoned nearby cities. The Philistines moved into them and hung Saul's and his sons' bodies on a wall. When the Israelites from Jabesh Gilead heard it, they traveled all night to remove the bodies and bury them.

After the battle, a man who'd escaped from the camp of Israel told David what happened. Wanting a reward, he claimed to have answered Saul's cries to be killed. David and his followers tore their clothes and mourned and fasted until

evening. The man was executed, at David's command, for striking down the Lord's anointed king. David wrote a beautiful song to honor Saul and his son Jonathan.

Then David, asking the Lord what to do, was told to go to Hebron. David brought his wives and his followers, and was anointed king over Judah. David commended the men of Jabesh Gilead for their kindness shown to Saul.

Abner, commander of Saul's army, made another of Saul's sons, Ishbosheth, king over the land of Israel. Abner's forces met David's forces, led by Joab, and after fighting all day, Joab won. During the battle, Asahel, Joab's brother, ran after Abner. When he wouldn't turn away, Abner killed him. Only 20 of David's army died that day, while 360 were lost on Ishbosheth's side. A short peace was

followed by a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. During this time, David was also blessed by the birth of many sons.

Abner, angry with Ishbosheth, promised David his loyalty if David would make a treaty with him. David agreed, but asked that his first wife, Michal, be returned to him. Abner also asked the elders of Israel to take David's side. After Abner and David met at a feast, Joab heard of it and called Abner back. Convinced Abner was tricking David and vengeful of Asahel's death, Joab killed him. David, greatly upset when he heard the news, mourned Abner's death. All Judah joined him.

When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled. Afterward, two army captains came to Ishbosheth's house and killed him in his bed. Going all night across the plain, they presented his head to David. Not pleased with what they had done, David had them executed.

Then every tribe of Israel swore allegiance to David, and the elders anointed him king over all. In Hebron David reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. He was thirty years old when he first became king.

Jerusalem, controlled by the Jebusites, was David's next conquest. Not deterred by their taunts that the lame and the blind would defeat him, he took over the city, named it the city of David, and added many buildings. So David went on and became great, and the Lord of Hosts

was with him. Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. So David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for His people Israel's sake.

When the Philistines heard David was king, they came ready to fight. Asking the Lord's guidance, David was told the Philistines would be delivered into his hand. After the battle, he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." On another occasion, the Lord instructed David to circle the Philistines from behind, and when their marching was heard in the mulberry trees, to advance quickly. "For then the Lord will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines," David was told. And David did so, as the Lord commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

Afterwards, David retrieved the Ark of the Covenant from Baale Judah. On route, a man named Uzzah touched the ark when the oxen pulling it stumbled. Angry at Uzzah's disrespect, the Lord struck him dead. Showing mercy to those who fear Him, the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom, where the ark was kept for a time. After the ark had been carried into Jerusalem six paces, David sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. He also danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. When his wife Michal disdained his actions, David said "It was before the Lord...Therefore I will play music

before the Lord.”

During a time of peace granted by the Lord, David wished to build a temple for the ark. “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains,” he said to Nathan the prophet. However, the Lord instructed

David through Nathan that his son, who would rule a greater kingdom, would build the temple. The even greater descendent, the “king of kings and lord of lords,” would also come from David’s line. His kingdom would be eternal. David thanked the Lord for His great mercy and praised God.

Outer Aim - The Lord richly blessed David as King of Israel.

What The Story Tells Us - Put the answers to the questions in the blanks. If a letter has a number below it, put that letter in the blank at the bottom of the page.

1. What wounded Saul? _ _ _ _
1
2. What did the man who told David he'd killed Saul want? _ _ _ _ _
2
3. How did David react? _ _ _ _ _
3
4. What did David's men do to the man? _ _ _ _ _
4
5. Who did David turn to? _ _ _ _
5
6. What did the people do to David at Hebron? _ _ _ _ _
6
7. What part of the land did David rule first? _ _ _ _ _
7
8. Who was crowned Israel's king? _ _ _ _ _
8
9. What did Joab do to Abner? _ _ _ _
9
10. Where did Ishbosheth die? _ _ _ _
10
11. Where did David drive the Philistines to? _ _ _ _ _
11
12. David said his dancing was “_ _ _ _ _ the Lord.”
12

WORD BOX
Ishbosheth
before
fasted
kill
execute
arrow
Gezer
Judah
reward
LORD
anoint
bed

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
11 1 5 3 6 9 10 8 4 6 2 10 1 12 7 8

What God's Word Tells Us - List 7 twists and turns in David's life that God worked out for good.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Inner Aim - The Lord richly blesses us.

Passages

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 28:20 Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Hymn - TLH #391

Blessed are the sons of God,
They are bought with Christ's own blood;
They are ransomed from the grave,
Life eternal they shall have:
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity!

They are justified by grace;
They enjoy the Savior's peace;
All their sins are washed away,
They shall stand in God's great Day:
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity!

They are lights upon the earth,
Children of a heav'nly birth;
One with God, with Jesus one;
Glory is in them begun:
With them numbered may we be
Here and in eternity!

Prayer - Read David's prayer of thanksgiving in 2 Samuel 18-29. Write your own prayer of thanksgiving for some things God did for you.

David & Bathsheba

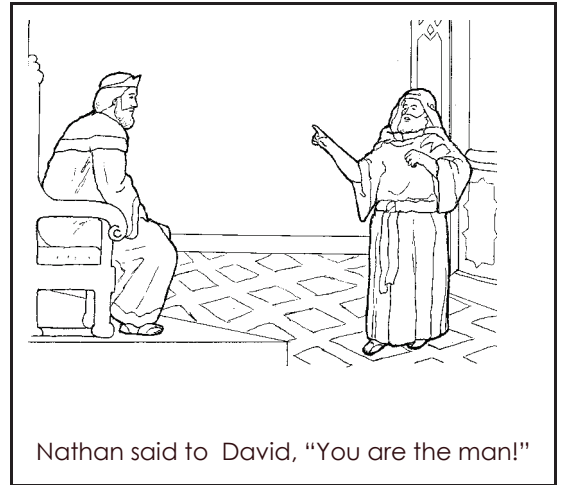
2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:25

Do you recall any Bible stories where a friend or stranger brought someone to repentance?

Today we will hear of the Prophet Nathan and King David.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Help us to listen to Your Word today so that we learn of sin and repentance. Your Word shows us our sin and also shows us our Savior, Jesus Christ. Be with us as we study. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

{2} Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. {3} So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" {4} Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. {5} And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

{6} Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent

Uriah to David. {7} When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. {8} And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. {9} But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

{10} So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

{11} And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my

house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

{12} Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. {13} Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

{14} In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. {15} And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

{16} So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. {17} Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

{22} So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. {23} And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. {24} "The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

{25} Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

{26} When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. {27} And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

{1} Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There

were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. {2} "The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. {3} "But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

{4} "And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

{5} So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! {6} "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

{7} Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. {8} 'I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! {9} 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. {10} 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

{11} "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your

wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. {12} 'For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'

{13} So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

{14} "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

{15} Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. {16} David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. {17} So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

{18} Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

{19} When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." {20} So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

{21} Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

{22} And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' {23} "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

{24} Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him, {25} and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Outer Aim - Nathan led David to repent of his sin.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions.

1. Whom did David see while walking on his roof?
2. What was David's sin?

3. What did David do to Uriah?
4. Why was this a sin?
5. Why did God send Nathan to David?
6. What did David say after he heard the story about the rich man and the poor man?
7. What did David say after he heard he was the rich man?
8. What did Nathan tell David?
9. What happened to David's son?
10. What reason did David give for not being sad?
11. How did the Lord bless David and Bathsheba?

Inner Aim - God leads His children to repentance through His Word.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss these questions.

1. Think of a time when you did something wrong and you were punished for it. Why do your parents discipline you when you do bad things?
2. How can we follow David's example when we sin?
3. Who had forgiven David's sins as well as our own? How did He forgive those sins?
4. Did we do anything to deserve the salvation Jesus won for us? Why did He do this for us?

Your Turn - Fill in the blanks then find the answers in the WORD SEARCH.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ was the king of Israel. | J E S U S V D I
O T J D J R C L |
| 2. He committed _____ with Bathsheba. | A D U L T E R Y
B A Q S U P N E |
| 3. Breaking any of God's commandments is a _____. | A V V I A E S K
K I B N M N O U |
| 4. _____ died to take away all of our sins. | S D Z X E T U L
O F O R G I V E |
5. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God will _____ all of our sins.
 6. _____ was the commander of the army.
 7. God sent Nathan to David so that David would confess his sin and _____.

Passages - Read and discuss these passages.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:20 - But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,
John 1:29 - "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance.
And he went out."

1 John 2:1-2 - And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Hymn - TLH 416, v. 1-4

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands
'Tis a delightful road
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

Prayer

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us
And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His foot-steps treading.
Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Savior, lead, I follow Thee. TLH 409 vs. 1

Absalom's Rebellion

2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33

Introduction:

- ◆ Let each student estimate how much the hair on their head weighs. Compare this to Absalom's 5 pound mop that he cut off each year.
- ◆ If you were trying to take over the United States, how would you do it?
- ◆ If you regained your kingdom after a coup, how would you punish the guilty party?
- ◆ Look at the picture from the story. What would you do if you had a son who was rebelling against you?



Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, bless our study today so that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of Your Word. Be with us today and always. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

The Story - 2 Samuel 13:30 - 18:33 (Paraphrased)

Absalom, David's son, killed his half-brother Amnon who had defiled his sister Tamar. Because of this, Absalom fled from Jerusalem to Syria and stayed there for three years. David was concerned about his son and mourned for him daily.

Joab, David's commander-in-chief, devised a clever scheme to get David to permit Absalom to return to Jerusalem in peace. David agreed with Joab's request and Absalom returned to Jerusalem, but he did not see David for two more years.

We learn that Absalom was a very good-looking man with an abundant amount of hair. He was considered the most handsome man in all of the land of Israel by many. At the end of each year,

Absalom cut his hair because it became too heavy for him. His hair weighed about five pounds.

Finally Absalom desired to see his father. When David heard this, he was very happy and called Absalom to him. King David was so happy that he kissed his son.

Absalom wanted David's throne and he tried to steal it by getting the people to rebel against the king. Absalom would sit outside the city gates and interfere with any business intended for the king. Absalom promised justice if he were made king. He eventually gained a large enough following to lead against the king in order to take over the throne. David

and his army fled Jerusalem so that he could spare the city from as much war and destruction as possible. David wept as he and his men climbed the Mount of Olives in escape. As David continued to confess his faith in God, Absalom took control of Jerusalem.

While David and his men wandered, they prepared themselves for battle against Absalom's army. David stayed behind as his men headed into battle. David told his generals to deal gently with his son. David's army defeated Absalom's army and caused Absalom to



flee on his mule. As Absalom passed under a tree, his head got caught among the branches, causing him to hang from the tree. When Joab approached Absalom, "he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree." II Sam. 18:14.

When David found out that his son was dead, he wept and said, "O my son Absalom-my son, my son Absalom-if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" II Sam. 18:33

Outer Aim - Absalom rebelled against his father, King David, and tried to steal the kingdom from him.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions from the lesson.

1. Who did Absalom kill?
2. Why did Absalom do this?
3. Where did Absalom go after this?
4. Why did Absalom come back?
5. How did Absalom get many people to rebel against David?
6. Where did David and his army flee to get away from Absalom?
7. Who ended up winning the battle?

8. How did Absalom die?
9. How did David feel after he heard the news about Absalom's death?

Inner Aim - The Lord will deliver us from all evil.

What God Tells Discuss these questions.

1. Do you think David was afraid of Absalom? Why or why not?
2. When Absalom took over Jerusalem, David's faith in God did not waver. What does this tell us about David's relationship with God?
3. How did God protect David through this battle?
4. God delivered David from the evils Absalom wanted to commit to David. What Petition of the Lord's Prayer talks about God preserving us from evil?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you discuss the following.

- ▶ If God will deliver us from all evil, then why do we still have problems in our lives?
- ▶ In spite of all that David went through (his son Amnon being murdered, his kingdom being torn from him by his son Absalom, being cursed at, and finally Absalom's death) David still manages to praise God and confess his faith in him. What can we learn from David's attitude when we deal with the problems in our lives?
- ▶ After David found out that Absalom died, he said that it would have been better for him to die instead of Absalom. Why did David say this?
- ▶ What should this reply of David make us want to do with the unbelievers that we meet in our lives?
- ▶ God has called us to faith through the Holy Spirit because of Jesus's perfect life, death, and resurrection. Because of this we should want to confess our faith in Christ to all we meet despite all the evils that come our way.

Passages - Tell how each passage relates to the account of Absalom's rebellion.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Acts 14:22 "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

2 Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

1 Peter 1:5 - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

Hymn - TLH 428 v. 1, 2, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
I am trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free!

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Prayer

Dear Lord, In today's lesson, we learned that You delivered King David from his troubles with Absalom. But King David, along with all other people, have a bigger problem. This problem is sin. In our life on earth, we face all sorts of temptation from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Whenever we fall into sin, call us to repentance and restore us unto Your fold. Give us strength to endure all the various trial and tribulations that come our way. We know that You can and will deliver us from every evil. In Jesus' saving Name. Amen.

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 1-11

It usually isn't enough just to say words; you need to mean them.

For example, it wouldn't make any sense at all if you would tell your parents, "I love you," but then go about disobeying them and mistreating them.

Saying words like, "I love you," would be much better followed up with helping to keep the house clean, doing the dishes, or mowing the lawn.

See if you can find the ways in which King Solomon showed or failed to show his love for his God.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, You have given me so much. Please help me to learn from Solomon so that I, too, will use the time, talents and treasures You have given me in a God-pleasing way. Be with me as I listen and study Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 1-11

SOLOMON ANOINTED - Now when King David was old, advanced in years, he ordered Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to anoint Solomon as king over Israel. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

DAVID'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLOMON - When the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man; and walk in the ways of the LORD your God, to keep His statutes, commandments, judgments and testimonies, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you

to build a house for the sanctuary."

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the courts of the house of the LORD and of all the chambers all around. The leaders of the tribes of Israel offered willingly for the house of the LORD gold, silver, bronze, iron, and precious stones; with a loyal heart they offered willingly to the LORD. And David rejoiced greatly and blessed the LORD.

So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER - And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David. Now the king went to Gibeon to

sacrifice there.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil."

And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor riches, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor. So if you walk in My ways, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and offered up burnt offerings.

SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT - Then two women who were harlots came to the king. And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son."

Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

And he said, "Divide the living child in two,

and give half to one, and half to the other."

Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

SOLOMON PREPARES TO BUILD THE TEMPLE

- Then Solomon sent to Hiram, king of Tyre, saying, "Behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD. Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and I will pay you wages for your servants." So Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs.

And Solomon sent thirty thousand workers to Lebanon. And Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains, besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work.

And they quarried large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE - In the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, Solomon began to build the house of the LORD.

Its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits. The vestibule in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the breadth of the house, and its width extended ten cubits from the front of the house.

Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around.

And the temple was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE - And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. It was twenty cubits long, wide, and high. The whole temple he overlaid with gold. He was seven years in building it.

THE DEDICATION - And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, to the Most Holy Place. And when the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "LORD God of Israel, behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day.

"When Your people are defeated before an enemy; when the heavens are shut up and there is no rain; when there is famine in the land, or pestilence, whatever plague or sickness there is; whatever prayer and supplication is made by anyone toward this temple, then hear in heaven and forgive Your people who have sinned against You."

And Solomon arose from before the altar of

the LORD, and blessed all the congregation of Israel.

And Solomon offered a sacrifice to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him.

SOLOMON'S LAST DAYS - But King Solomon loved many foreign women. When he was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

So the LORD became angry and said, "Because you have not kept My covenant, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David." Now it happened at this time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you.'"

SOLOMON'S DEATH - And the period that Solomon reigned over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His Name in Solomon's rulership of Israel and in the building of the Temple.

Inner Aim - We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talent, treasure) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

What the Story Tells Us - Complete the Crossword Puzzle with answers from the story.

Across

2. what a woman mistakenly killed by rolling on it in the night
4. Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding one of these to judge the people

7. the third king of Israel

9. the capital city of Israel

Down

1. the king of Tyre

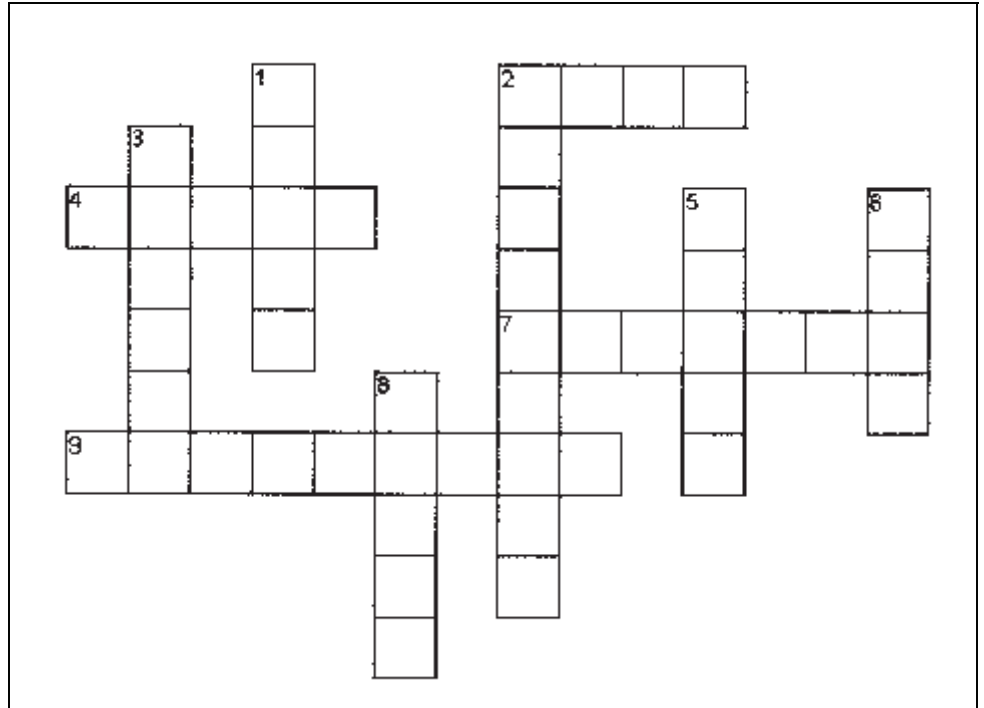
2. Solomon's mother

3. what Solomon spent 7 years building in Jerusalem

5. what Solomon's unbelieving wives led him to worship

6. Solomon was one

8. Solomon's father



What God's Word Tells Us

SOLOMON BECOMES KING - Find the correct answers below.

1. Solomon became the (second — third — fourth) king of Israel.
2. Who were the priest and prophet involved in Solomon's anointing as king?
3. When David died, where was he buried? (Jerusalem — Bethlehem — Hebron — Gibeon)
4. What preparations had David made for the building of the Temple? Choose one.
() He had prepared the foundations.
() He had caused much of the lumber to be cut.
() He had prepared the pattern (plans) for it.
5. T F The people gave willingly of their time and treasures for the Temple construction.
6. T F It was extremely noisy while the Temple was being built.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER — Put the proper word in the blank.

riches	Gibeon	Israel	ask	wise	understanding
sacrifice	pleased	fame	dream	prayer	

King Solomon went to _____ to offer a _____. While he was there the LORD appeared to him in a _____, saying, "_____ whatever you want of Me."

Solomon asked for a _____ and _____ heart to be able to judge God's great people, the children of _____.

The LORD was _____ with Solomon's _____, and gave him not only what he had asked for, but also great _____ and _____ as well.

THE TWO WOMEN — True and False

1. T F The two women were next door neighbors.
2. T F Each woman had a child.
3. T F The one child died because of a high fever.
4. T F The mother of the dead child exchanged him for the living one.
5. T F This was done while the mother of the dead child was sleeping.
6. T F The mother of the living child discovered the trade in the middle of the night.
7. T F At the trial both mothers claimed the living child.
8. T F The king actually intended to have the child cut in two.
9. T F The real mother said, "Give her the child; don't kill him."
10. T F Solomon gave the living child to the wrong mother.

WORK ON THE TEMPLE

1. Hiram was king of (Ammon — Syria — Egypt — Tyre).
2. What kind of wood did Solomon want from Hiram? *Circle all correct answers.*
poplar — maple — fir — cedar — oak — cypress

3. Write down how many men of Israel did each of the following:
 - a. helped cut trees in Lebanon _____
 - b. were burden bearers _____
 - c. quarried stone in the mountains _____
 - d. overseers and managers _____
4. The whole Temple was overlaid with (bronze — silver — gold — copper).
5. How long did it take to build the Temple?
6. What does it mean to "dedicate" the Temple?
7. When Solomon said, "LORD, the heavens cannot contain You," what was he revealing about God?
 - a. He is holy.
 - b. He is omnipresent.
 - c. He is eternal.

SOLOMON'S LATER YEARS

1. What led King Solomon away from the LORD?
 - a. His great wealth
 - b. His great fame
 - c. His heathen wives and concubines
2. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have?
3. Does this mean that we today should be careful who we take as a spouse?

4. What did God cause to happen because of Solomon's sin?
 - a. The people rebelled against him.
 - b. God caused a large part of the kingdom to be torn from his family.
 - c. Solomon's enemies overpowered him.
5. How long did Solomon reign?
6. Who took over the throne after Solomon?
7. THOUGHT QUESTION: Did Solomon die a believer?

Passages

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalm 26:8 - LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 84:12 - O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #466 v. 1, 4

Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
 Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
 Chosen of the Lord and precious,
 Binding all the Church in one;
 Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
 And her Confidence alone.

Praise and honor to the Father,
 Praise and honor to the Son,
 Praise and honor to the Spirit,
 Ever Three and ever One,
 One in might and one in glory,
 While unending ages run. Amen.

The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 12-14

Have you ever heard anyone say he is 'older and wiser' than he was before? Why do you suppose you get wiser with age? Today's lesson shows what can happen if you disregard the advise of older and wiser people.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have given me many people in my life to guide me. Please help me to listen and act on the good advise of those older and wiser who have studied Your Word. Give me the attitude to listen and study Your lesson today and then apply it to my life. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 12-14 (excerpts)

Rehoboam went to Shechem to be made king. So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt), that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and we will serve you."

So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived.

And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him.

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! Now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you

with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day. Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men.

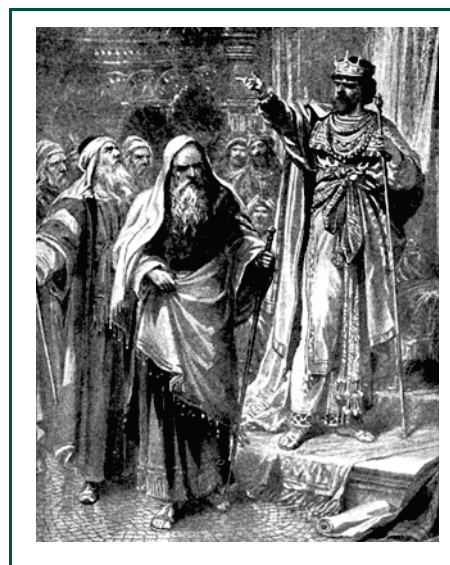
Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, they departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the cities of Judah.

Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem. So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, "Speak to Rehoboam the



son of Solomon, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me." ' ' Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD.

Then Jeroboam built Shechem and dwelt there. Also he built Penuel.

Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods!" And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin.

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'" And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar.

Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

But the man of God said to the king, "It was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return

by the same way you came.'" So he went another way.

Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. And their father said to them, "Saddle the donkey for me." So he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?"

And he said, "I am."

Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

And he said, "I cannot return with you. For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'"

He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.) So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'"

So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him. When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey and lion stood by the corpse. Men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion."

Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey. And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to

the city to mourn, and to bury him. Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him.

So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam.

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. Go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah.

the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

"Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

"Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. For the LORD will strike Israel, He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD.

But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. (For he had been warned by God.) Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news. Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart; but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back;

"Therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel. The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in

The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem.

Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images.

It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything.

And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God's kingdom of Israel is divided.

Inner Aim - Disobedience to God has dire consequences.

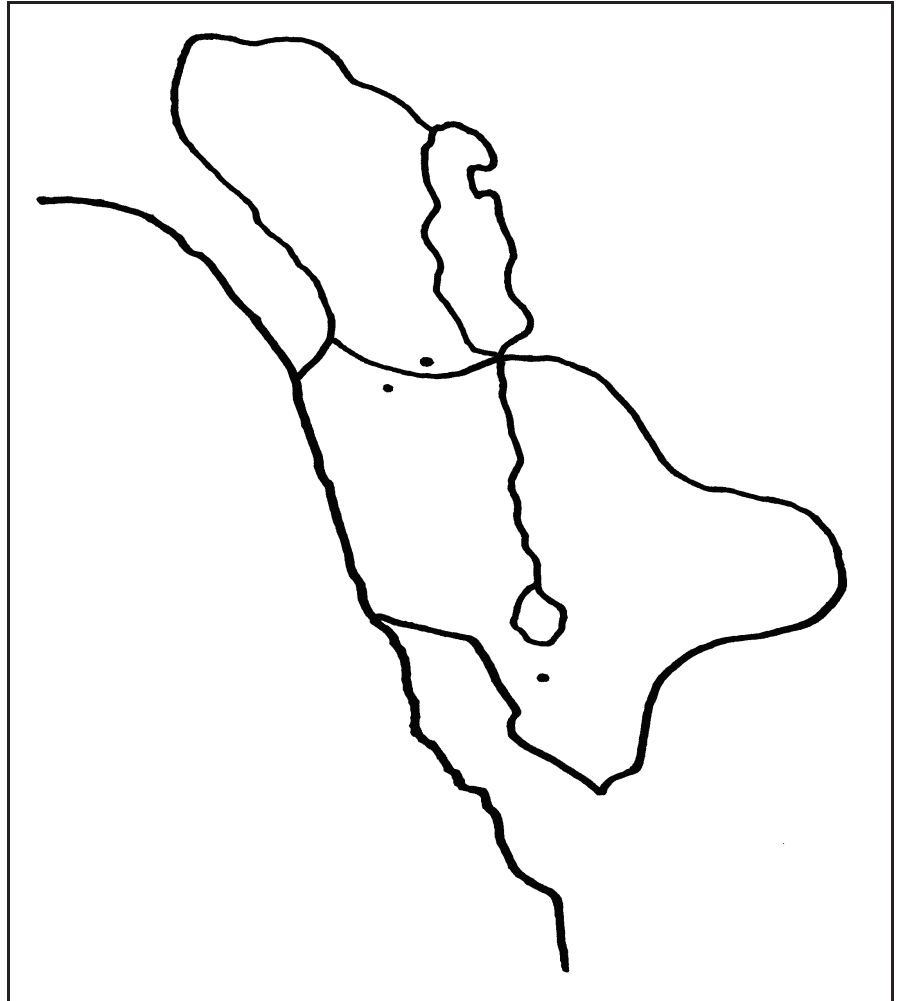
What the Story Tells Us -Fill-in the blanks with words from the word box. Not every word in the word box will be used. Some of the words will be used more than once.

Rehoboam	Egypt	idolatry	Elijah	home	sin
Moab	officials	Josiah	county	died	Judah
friends	Ahijah	city	harder	Benjamin	two
Jeroboam	Israel	ashes	Bethel	back	withered

1. After Solomon died, _____ was made king of Israel.
2. _____ came back from _____ to ask that the burdens of the people be lessened.
3. Rehoboam got advice from _____ groups of people. The advice he followed was from his _____.
4. Rehoboam would make life _____ for the people in his kingdom.
5. Ten of the tribes of Israel decided to follow _____. The two tribes that stayed with Rehoboam were _____ and _____.
6. Jeroboam's kingdom was called _____. Rehoboam's kingdom was called _____.
7. Jeroboam introduced _____ to his kingdom. He placed idols in _____ and _____.
8. A prophet of the Lord talked to the people of Israel. As he talked, Jeroboam stretched out his hand, it _____. Then _____ poured out of the altar as a sign that Jeroboam's kingdom would be destroyed.
9. The prophet of the Lord was to go _____. He was tricked and _____ because he did not listen to what the Lord told him.
10. _____'s son got sick. He tried to trick _____ to find out what the Lord's plan was for his son.
11. Ahijah, the Lord's prophet, knew about Jeroboam's trick. Jeroboam's family would be punished because of his _____. Dogs would eat the family members that died in the _____. Birds would eat the family members that died in the _____.

Your Turn - Map Skills - THE DIVIDED KINGDOM. Follow the directions to put the items on the map.

1. Label the northern part Israel.(10 tribes of Israel)
2. Label the southern part Judah. (Judah and Benjamin)
3. There are 3 cities on the map, Label the city to the far north Dan. Label the city near the southern border of Israel Bethel. Label the only city in Judah Jerusalem.
4. Label the sea in Israel Sea of Galilee.
5. Label the sea near Judah Dead Sea.
6. Label the river between them Jordan River.
7. Color Israel yellow.
8. Color Judah red.
9. Color the seas and rivers blue.



What God's Word Tells Us

Discussion Questions. These questions are to be discussed as a whole class or in small groups.

1. Several people in today's story disobeyed God's commands. Why is it such a bad thing to disobey God?
2. What were the serious consequences for each of the king's disobedience to God? How does this disobedience to God affect the relationship of the people and God?
3. We know that if we believe we will go to heaven because Jesus died for our sins. So, does it matter if we disobey God? Can we prevent ourselves from disobeying God?
4. There are many ways in which we are disobedient to God today. What are some ways that we are disobedient? What are some factors that affect how we act towards God?
5. How has disobeying God affected your life? Give an example of this.

Passages

Psalm 119:105 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Hymn/Prayer - TLH #462 or v. 1, 3, 4, 5

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Should I with scoffers join
Her altars to abuse?
No! Better far my tongue were dumb,
My hand its skill should lose.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise. Amen.

The Prophet Elijah

1 Kings 16:29 - 17:24

Have you ever had to tell someone God's Word to correct him when he was caught up in sin?
What are two ways the person caught in sin might react to you bringing him God's Word?
Think about this as you study how Elijah confronted King Ahab with his sin of idolatry.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us so freely of Your Son to take away our sins. Help us to give freely and generously to those in need and in our offerings at church. Help them to be gifts of love. Please give us the faith to trust that You will provide for all of our needs. Amen.

The Story

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. {30} Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. {31} And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. {32} Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. {33} And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

{34} In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken

through Joshua the son of Nun.

(1 Kings 17) And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

{2} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {3} "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {4} "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

{5} So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. {6} The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

{7} And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. {8} Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, {9} "Arise,

go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." {10} So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." {11} And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

{12} So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

{13} And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. {14} "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'"

{15} So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. {16} The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

{17} Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. {18} So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

{19} And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. {20} Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" {21} And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

{22} Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. {23} And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

{24} Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth."

Outer aim – God provides for all of Elijah, the widow and her family's bodily and spiritual needs.

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss your answers.

1. Who was trying to stamp out the worship of the true God? (1 Kings 18:4)
2. What did King Ahab do to establish the worship of Baal and Asherah in his land?(1 K. 16:31-33)
3. What lesson did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the other people of Israel need to learn? How did God try to teach them that lesson?

4. God had two ways to try to teach them to worship the true God - He sent Elijah to speak God's Word and He sent troubles (drought in this case). Did King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the people of Israel learn their lesson from God?
5. This is one way people might react to God's correction. They reject God's Word and God's will for their lives with rebellious hearts and thereby actually harden their own hearts against God and His Word. Who sent Elijah to speak to Ahab about his idolatry?
6. Since Ahab was the King, what could Ahab have done to Elijah as an angry response?
7. Do you think Elijah knew this was a possibility before he went to Ahab? How was this a test for Elijah's faith?
8. Did this stop Elijah from going to speak God's Word to Ahab? How did Elijah put God's Kingdom and God's work before his own personal safety?
9. How was Elijah able to do this?
10. Speaking God's Word can be hard to do in the face of persecution. Elijah simply obeyed God's will in this matter and entrusted his life into the hands of the Lord. The widow also needed to learn some spiritual lessons. What does verse 12 tell us the woman thought would happen to her and her son?
11. Basically she thought, "My son and I are going to die. If we share with you we will die faster." Does this attitude show a trust in God? What promise of God's providence did Elijah make in verse 14?
12. Did the woman believe this promise? How do we know?
13. Who had given her the faith to believe this promise?
14. Later, when her son died, the woman thought God was punishing her. What did she believe God was punishing her for? (v. 18)
15. This is a common misconception among many people, "God is punishing me for my sins, that is why God has sent this trouble." Does God ever punish us for our sins? Who was punished in our place for our sins?
16. Trials in life are never a punishment for believers. Jesus was completely punished for our sins on the cross. Then why did God send the problems of drought and death to the widow?

Inner aim – God sends trials and sufferings to test us spiritually, to correct us and to strengthen our faith.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following Scripture references and then discuss the following questions.

James 1:24, Rom. 5:1-4

What should be our attitude when we are confronted by trials?
God sends trials to us as well. What are some trials people your age might face?
What good can come from trials? (See the above passages and also I Pet. 5:10.)

Hebrews 12:1-11

What do trials prove to us regarding our relationship to God? (vv. 6-7)
What do they prove regarding God's feelings toward us? (v. 6)
Who is our perfect example of bearing trials? (vv. 2-3)
What does God accomplish in our hearts through trials? (vv. 10-11)
How should we receive this chastening from God? (v. 9)

Isaiah 53:4-6

Are we being punished for our sins when we suffer trials? (vv. 5-6)
Who bore all the punishment for our sins?

Hebrews 2:18, 4:15

Do we ever suffer alone? Who else is helping us to bear the sorrow of this trial?
How was Christ tempted through His trials? (v. 4:15)
Who perfectly withstood every trial and temptation?
Who can sympathize with us and provide help when we need it?

Romans 8:16-18, 26-39

Who or what can separate us from God's love? (vv. 38-39)
Who helps us in our weakness by praying for us? (vv. 26, 34)
How do all things (even trials) turn out for the Christian? (v. 28)
How can we be conquerors in the midst of trials as verse 37 states?

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Name some trials St. Paul faced.
Didn't the Apostle Paul already have a strong faith? Why would God send him so many trials? (Hint: 2 Cor. 1:3-11 may help.)

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Who comforts us in our suffering? (vv. 3-4)
Who comforted Paul in his sufferings?
The Christian Church in Paul's day was suffering much persecution from Jews and government leaders. How could St. Paul use his experiences of suffering to minister to a Church that was suffering persecution?
Let's make up an example. Let's say you have been persecuted (ridiculed, excluded) by peers at school for being a Christian. Where should you look for comfort? How, then, can you comfort another person who is facing similar persecution?

Your Turn - Look up the Scripture references, then pick an answer from the word box below to answer the questions.

deliverance
pray

stop worrying
anxious

thanksgiving
Scripture

Psalm 46:10

What do we need to remember when things seem out of control in our lives? (This answer is not in the word box.)

What do you think it means to “be still”? _____

Psalm 50:15

Instead of worrying, what should we do when we have troubles? _____

What is God's promise in this passage? _____

Romans 15:4

Where will we find the comfort and hope we need? _____

The Psalms are especially full of encouragement for those who are facing trials. See Ps. 25; 27; 46; 85; 86; and many more. See also Is. 12; Is. 43:1-3; Is. 49:15-16.

Philippians 4:6-9

What shouldn't we be? _____

What should we have in our prayers along with requests? _____

What should we be thinking about? _____

(This answer is not in the word box.)

What should we be busy doing? _____

(This answer is not in the word box.)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

What could we possibly rejoice about and give thanks for during times of trouble? (Answer not found in box.)

Summing it up – During times of trials we should...

Trust God

Stop worrying

Remember Christ's example

Pray

Study God's Word

Give thanks

Let our mind dwell on good things

Be busy doing what is right and good.

Passages

Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Ps. 50:15

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Hymn - TLH 442 v. 1, 2

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that has freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive. Amen

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, When You choose to test us through trials, fill us with Your Spirit so that we do not turn away from You in rebellion. Instead, fill us with comfort from Your Word. Let Christ in His sufferings be our example. As Christ turned to You in prayer for comfort and strength, likewise help us to turn to You in prayer. Let our times of trial be times of faith strengthening for us. We pray that You will help us to use the comfort we receive from Your Word to comfort others in their distress. We thank You for the trials You send because You thereby prove to us Your love for us, and that You have truly made us Your own dear children. Help us to accept Your will for our lives with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

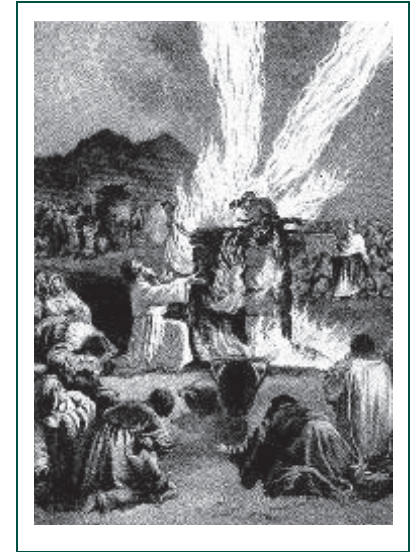
Elijah & the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18

YES. NO. NOT YET. Those are some of the ways God will answer our prayers. Today's story shows the LORD answering the prayer of Elijah. He will show once again that "The LORD, He is God!"

Prayer

Preserve Thy Word, O Savior, to us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish, enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
O, keep our faith from failing, keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us while wand'ring here below.
Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-40

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." {2} So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria...

{17} Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" {18} And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. {19} "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

{20} So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. {21} And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

But the people answered him not a word.

{22} Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. {23} "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. {24} "Then you call on the name of your gods, and I

will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

{25} Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

{26} So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

{27} And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

{28} So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. {29} And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

{30} Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. {31} And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." {32} Then with the stones he built an altar in

the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs (a measure) of seed. {33} And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four water pots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

{34} Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. {35} So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

{36} And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. {37} "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

{38} Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

{39} Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

{40} And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Outer Aim - God, through Elijah, led Israel to choose the LORD not Baal.

What the Story Tells Us - Make the False sentence True by crossing out one word in the sentence that is false and writing the correct word from the story on the blank. The number in () will help you find the answer in the Story on pgs. 1-2.

1. The LORD told Elijah to go see King Saul. (1) _____
2. Elijah wanted the people to gather on Mt. Horeb. (19) _____
3. There were also 100 prophets of Baal gathered there. (22) _____
4. The prophets of Baal would build one altar for a sacrifice and the Prophet Isaiah would build an altar for the LORD. (23-24) _____
5. The god who answered the prayers would send down rain on the altar to show they are the true god. (23-24) _____
6. When Baal did not answer the prophets they hit themselves. (28) _____
7. Elijah repaired the altar of the LORD by building an altar with 10 stones for the tribes of Israel. (31) _____
8. To show that the LORD has power Elijah had dust poured on the altar 3 times. (33-34) _____
9. The LORD answered Elijah's prayer by sending rain that consumed everything. (38) _____
10. The people cried, "Baal, He is God!" (39) _____
11. Elijah had the false prophets whipped. (40) _____

Inner Aim - God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

Your Turn - Fill in the chart below using the answers from the box.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ false god | ▶ answers prayers |
| ▶ true God | ▶ sent fire |
| ▶ hears prayers | ▶ sent no fire |
| ▶ can't hear prayers | ▶ has no power |
| ▶ can't answer prayers | ▶ has power to save |

the LORD	Baal
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶
▶	▶

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following passages in the Bible. Find the missing words and discuss their meanings together.

Romans 16:17-18 - Now I urge you, brethren, _____ those who cause divisions and offenses, _____ to the doctrine which you learned, and _____ them. {18} For those who are such do not _____ our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own _____, and by smooth words and flattering speech _____ the hearts of the simple.

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' _____, for theirs is the _____ of heaven.

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The First Commandment - Sydow Catechism ©2000

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Hymn - TLH #396

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe.

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God'

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt;

That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile;

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up the dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank You for the love You have shown me in so many ways. You have made me Your child and given me saving faith in Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit so that I will want to share with others that wonderful message of salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In His name I pray. Amen.

Elijah in the Wilderness

1 Kings 19

Raise your hand if you have brothers or sisters.

What do you do or should you do if you see them doing something your parents told them not to do?

How would it make you feel if they kept doing it and your parents didn't even seem to notice or care?

That's exactly how Elijah felt today in our story. He served the Lord faithfully and he just defeated the prophets of Baal by killing them on Mt. Carmel. All the

people saw that God sent down the fire to prove that He was the True God of Israel and not a false god. But still, the children of Israel kept on worshiping this false god. It made Elijah so upset that he didn't even want to serve the Lord by preaching anymore. He didn't think the people would ever believe and he just wanted to die.

Is this the kind of attitude that God wants us to have? Why not?

In today's story, we are going to see how God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving us the Gospel so we can listen and tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. Thank You for sending Him as our Savior. Help us to listen to the teacher. In Your name we pray. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 19

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. {2} Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

{3} And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. {4} But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and

came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" {5} Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

{6} Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

{7} And the angel of the LORD

came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." {8} So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

{9} And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{10} So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

{11} Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD."

And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; {12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. {13} So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{14} And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

{15} Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. {16} "Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. {17} "It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. {18} "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

{19} So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. {20} And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

{21} So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Outer Aim - God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was Elijah running into the wilderness?
2. Why was she going to kill him?
3. What was special about this food?
4. Why did God ask Elijah what he was doing in the cave?
5. What does Elijah's response show us about Elijah?
6. In whom was Elijah putting his trust and confidence?
7. How did God show that Elijah was being foolish?
8. Why do you think God came to Elijah in the still small voice and not the powerful destructive wind, earthquake, and fire?

9. What do you think that still small voice is?

10. How did God comfort Elijah by using the still small voice?

Inner Aim - The Gospel message is the still small voice that has the power to save us from our sins.

Your Turn - Read the Fourth Petition (©Sydow Catechism 2000) below and answer the questions.

The Fourth Petition

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

What does this mean?

God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers, but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Why wasn't Elijah's attitude very good when he was praying to God?

Elijah complained and felt sorry for himself. How did God respond to Elijah's complaints?

What does this show us about God?

Do we need to be concerned about our physical needs? What is the most important thing in life?

God's way of Salvation in the Gospel message seems foolish to so many people. What do they fail to realize about this Gospel message?

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Read Romans 1:16. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* Why does this passage fit our Bible story today?

2. Read I Corinthians 1:18-21. *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”* In our story today, what would the world think about God coming in the still small voice?

3. According to that passage why has God chosen to use the still small voice to save people?

4. What is the only way to Salvation which the world thinks is foolishness but is really the wisdom of God?

Passages

2 Timothy 2:19 - "The Lord knows those who are His,"

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!

In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Prayer

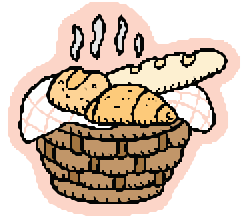
Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for giving us Your still small voice, the Gospel message which is the power of salvation for all who believe it. Let us trust in Your ways for they are good and perfect. Thank You for making Your plan of salvation complete for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross to take away all our sins. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-24, 22:30-38; 2 Kings 9:30-37

What are some things that God says everyone needs to live on this earth?
How many of these things do you have?
What are some things that you have beyond those needed things?



Prayer

Dear Lord, You have been so generous to me by providing everything I need for my body and my soul. Help me to remember this every day. Forgive me when I covet and when I hurt other people because of my selfishness. Lord, give me a contented and loving heart so that I may help and be of service to others and may avoid getting into things that help Satan. Lord, keep me faithful to You that I may join You in heaven. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 21, 22; 2 Kings 9

1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. {2} So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

{3} But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

{4} So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

{5} But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

{6} He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

{7} Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat

food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

{8} And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. {9} She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; {10} and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

{11} So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. {12} They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people. {13} And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. {14} Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

{15} And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was

dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." {16} So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

{17} Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, {18} "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. {19} "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" "

{20} So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD: {21} 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. {22} 'I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

{23} "And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

{24} "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

22:30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

{31} Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel." {32} So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out.

{33} And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

{34} Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." {35} The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. {36} Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

{37} So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. {38} Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.

2 Kings 9:30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. {31} Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

{32} And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. {33} Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.

{34} And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." {35} So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. {36} Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; {37} 'and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel.'" "

Outer Aim - As instruments of Satan, Ahab and Jezebel carried out the Devil's murderous plans.

What the Story Tells Us - Identify the person from the lesson who fits the description.

1. Rightfully owned a vineyard_____
2. Wanted to honor God with His inheritance_____
3. Was not happy with "no" as an answer_____
4. Pouted and was depressed_____
5. Set up an evil plan_____
6. Was lied about_____
7. Was killed because he had something someone else wanted_____
8. Was instructed by God to reprove a sinner_____
9. Went into battle with Jehoshaphat_____
10. Wore a disguise to try to protect himself_____
11. Died in the battle_____
12. Was thrown out a window_____
13. Was eaten, after dying, by dogs_____

What God's Word Tells Us - Mark each as (T)true or (F)alse.

1. ____ It is OK to go after anything you want.
2. ____ Godliness with contentment is great gain.
3. ____ The end justifies the means
4. ____ God knows when we covet.
5. ____ Coveting often leads to other sins.
6. ____ Coveting is unforgivable.
7. ____ Contentment is the opposite of coveting.
8. ____ Everything that is legal is right in God's eyes.
9. ____ Greediness can lead people away from God.
10. ____ The love of money is the root of all evil.

Your Turn

Friends of yours want you to help them get something they want that belongs to someone who wants to keep it. What do you do?

You realize that you are coveting a friendship. What sins might that coveting lead you to commit if you are not careful? Write a prayer to God that would help you to be free of coveting.

Inner Aim - A life without God always leads to disaster in time and for eternity. A life with God is full of blessing now and in eternity.

Passages

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Deuteronomy 5:7, 17, 19-21 - You shall have no other gods before Me... You shall not murder... You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Hymn - Read TLH #447 and answer these questions together with the class.

1. What are the "good fight" and "straight race"?
2. Which stanza talks about contentment?
3. What are 6 descriptive names used for Christ in this hymn?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You have been so kind to me in living a perfect life for me and dying for my sins. Lord, I do covet. Please forgive me when I do and keep me from sinning even more in an attempt to get what I want. Help me to trust in Your perfect wisdom, love, and power that will give me only what is good for me in my life. Amen

Elijah & Elisha

2 Kings 2-5

Some of the best lessons that we learn and cherish are those that we learned from our parents and grandparents. Those who have gone ahead of us have handed down to us all their adventures and experiences. They share these items with us sometimes in the form of stories while other times in forms of lessons. As we grow, we prepare to share these lessons with the generations that will follow us.

The Lord used this type of passing on information for thousands of years. He also guided younger prophets, pastors, by having them train with older, more experience prophets. Today's story tells us how God passed the leadership of His prophet Elijah on to Elisha.

Prayer

Dear Lord God, Please be with us and bless us with the same spirit that You gave to Your servants Elijah and Elisha. Fill each of us with love and selfless devotion to You. Guide us as we study and put Your truths into practice. We ask these things in the Name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.



Elijah & His Service to the Lord – Preparing Elisha - 2 Kings 2-5

Elijah had been called by the Lord to minister to the people of Israel. As you have learned in other lessons, the people of Israel were not God fearing. Their leaders had introduced the worship of false gods including the worship of Baal. The work of the Lord among the people of Israel was thankless. Elijah was consistently dealing with the problems not only of idol worship but famine, the wrath of the king and queen – Ahab and Jezebel, and the constant invasion of foreign armies.

Through it all Elijah kept focused on the Lord and received the blessings of being fed and protected. Though the desire to worship Baal and other man made objects was very strong, Elijah continued to proclaim the true Lord to the people of Israel. He challenged the prophets and followers of Baal at Mount Carmel. The Lord provided not only the fire but proof that there is but one true God, the

God that Elijah was proclaiming. Still, shortly after Mount Carmel, Elijah had to run for his life from the wicked Queen Jezebel. The Lord then strengthened His prophet, and Elijah returned to Israel and continued preaching the Word of the Lord.

As with time, Elijah grows old. His task in Israel had not been an easy one, and the time had come to pass his duties unto Elisha. Elisha had been called earlier by the Lord (2 Kings 19:15-21) to serve under Elijah. It was evident to all that with Elijah's growing older there was to be a new prophet of the Lord in Israel. The time was at hand for Elijah to go to heaven.

Elijah informed Elisha that he was going to Bethel to conduct some business. Elisha, strengthened by the Lord, insisted on going along and made a beautiful statement to his teacher "...As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!"

Elijah and Elisha made a trip to Bethel.

Near Bethel some prophets who were in training joined them. The impression is given that these students of the word were aware that Elijah's time here on earth was quickly coming to an end. Again, Elijah offered for Elisha to stay while he would go on to the east of the Jordan River. Elisha refused. The two men are watched from a distance by the prophets in training as this teacher and student traveled east toward the Jordan River.

When the two prophets came to the Jordan River, Elijah used his cloak and struck the water. The water divided, and the two prophets traveled across the Jordan on dry land. We can see the love these two men had for the Lord by the fact that they understood that it was God alone that parted the waters and provided a way for them to cross the river.

Once across the river, Elijah encouraged Elisha to request a blessing from him before the Lord would take Elijah away. Elisha the student asked for a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit. Elijah knew that this was a tough item to grant but gave his student a sign. If Elisha saw Elijah go up into heaven Elisha would know that the Lord had granted the request.

The two continued walking and talking. Suddenly a chariot of fire separated them. Elisha saw Elijah being taken up into heaven on a whirlwind. What a great blessing! Elijah was taken by the Lord into heaven and since Elisha saw it happen, it meant that the Lord would grant his request for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

Elijah's cloak was left behind. Elisha picked it up and headed back toward the Jordan River. At the river, he used the cloak as Elijah had, and the river was divided. The prophets who had been watching from afar understood that the Lord had passed onto Elisha the task of being a prophet to the people of Israel.

As with Elijah, the task of being prophet

of the one true God to Israel was not an easy one. Immediately Elisha was tested and strengthened by the Lord. Some disrespectful children from Bethel mocked and made fun of Elisha and the true Lord. Elisha cursed them, and two bears came out of the woods and mauled the forty-two children.

The king of Israel was Jehoram, the son of Ahab. Though Jehoram did not promote the worship of Baal, he did continue to do evil in the sight of the Lord. At the same time, the people of the country of Moab to the south rose up against Judah and Israel. The two countries joined forces against the Moabites. The king of Judah requested that the kings meet with the prophet of the Lord to know the Lord's will. Elisha, with direction from the Lord, helped the kings defeat the Moabites. It was again clear that the Lord had given His people the victory. Still the king of Israel returned to his country and continued in his sinful ways.

Love is the powerful tool of the Lord. This love was demonstrated by Elisha's dealings with the Shunammite woman. Elisha traveled a lot through Israel and Judah. Along the way, he came into contact with a man and woman. The woman was moved by her love for the Lord to convince her husband to provide a place for Elisha. When Elisha traveled through their area, he would rest at their house. In return for this wonderful offering, Elisha requested of the Lord that the couple be blessed with a child. The request was granted. The child was born, and the man and woman were very happy.

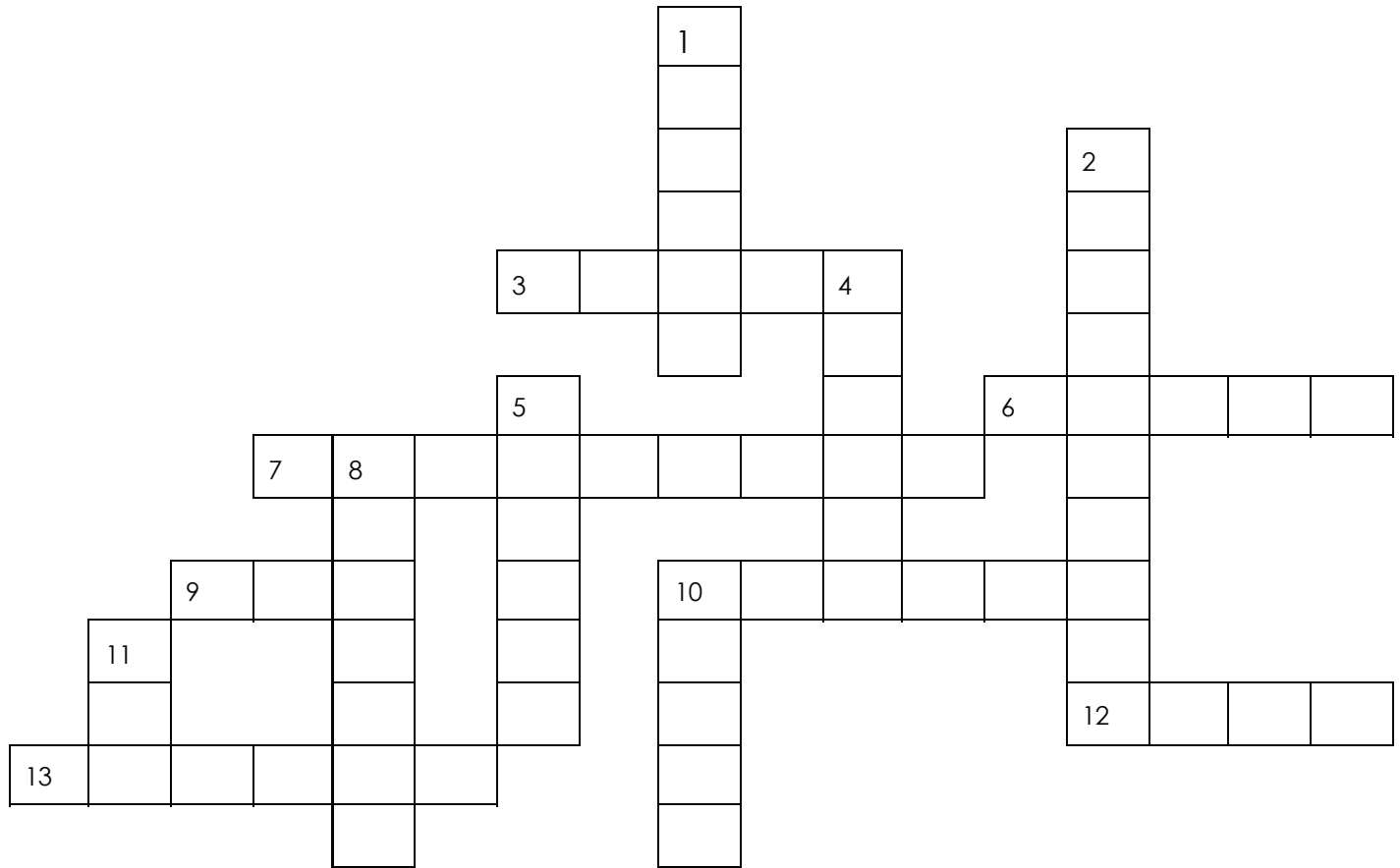
After a period of time, the child became sick and died. This was a very sad time in the lives of this family. The Shunammite woman immediately went to Elisha. Elisha returned to the family home and called upon the Lord to bring the child back to life. The Lord heard the prayer of Elisha, and the child was returned to his family.

Outer Aim - Elijah was taken bodily into heaven and Elisha served in his place.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following .

1. The Lord did many powerful things through Elijah and Elisha. List some of them. Does the Lord work those powerful miracles today? Why or why not?
2. How do you know that the Lord is with you? Give examples.
3. The young people in today's story were rebelling against God. They were making fun of God's servant. How did God react to this rebellion? Imagine that you are walking by as these young people are making fun of Elisha. What would you say to them? What do you say to people who make fun of you for going to church or a religious school?
4. Elijah and Elisha were dedicated to the Lord. It was evident through their work for the Lord. How do you show that you are dedicated to the Lord? How could you show your dedication to the Lord as an adult?
5. Elisha's needs were taken care of by a woman in the story. Did the woman expect something in return for her services? How did the Lord bless the woman? What lesson can we learn from the woman?
6. Some of the best lessons that we can learn in this life have been passed down to us from those who have gone ahead of us. Just as Elijah had strengthened Elisha to be a true prophet of the Lord, so our parents and grandparents have given to us important lessons on which to grow. The most important of those lessons, both to Elisha and to us, is to remain faithful to the Lord. If we do, the Lord will bless our families and our work here on earth.
7. Each of us has the power of God's Word. We study it as families and students in school. Learning to appreciate, believe, and trust in this word of God is the strongest and most important lesson that we can live by and pass on to those who look to us for guidance and direction in the future. We continue to study the Bible and marvel at the wonderful work that the Lord has done and is doing for each of us. Pass it on!

What the Story Tells Us - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE. The answers can be found in 2 Kings using the chapter and verse given.



Across

- 3. What killed the youth (3:24)
- 6. What the youth called Elisha (2:23)
- 7. How Elijah went to heaven (2:11)
- 9. What gift the Lord gave to the woman (4:17)
- 10. What was in the country of Gilgal (4:38)
- 12. What Elisha put into the bad water (2:20)
- 13. What the two boys would become (4:1)

Down

- 1. Which river Elijah and Elisha crossed (2:7)
- 2. What the boys were to collect from the neighbors (4:3)
- 4. Where a woman lived that made Elisha a room (4:8)
- 5. What Elisha did to ask how to help the boy (4:33)
- 8. How many men ate from the 20 loaves of bread and grain (4:43)
- 10. How many prophets were on the other side of the Jordan River (2:7)
- 11. What the containers were filled with (4:4)

WORDS

- baldy
- bears
- containers
- famine
- fifty
- hundred
- Jordan
- oil
- prayed
- salt
- Shunem
- slaves
- son
- whirlwind

Inner Aim - The same Lord who worked so powerfully through Elijah and Elisha has also promised to be with us today.

Passages

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Joshua 1:9 - The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Malachi 3:6 - For I am the LORD, I do not change.

Romans 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Revelation 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Hymn - TLH #434 v. 1-4

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Thro' each perplexing path of life
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread
And raiment fit provide.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

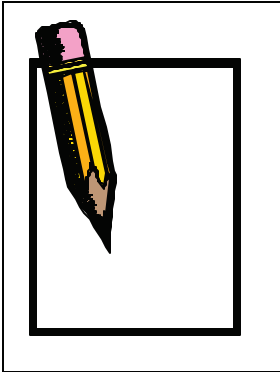
Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

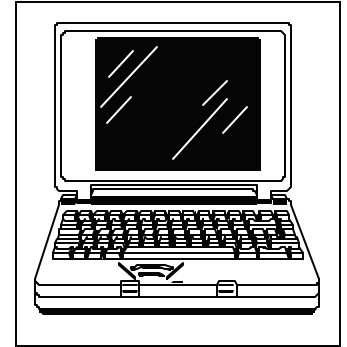
At times I can be frightened about the road that lies ahead. Help me remember that You will be with me wherever I go, just as You were with Elijah and Elisha. I know I will change throughout my life, but I am glad You will remain the same. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5



If you had an extremely difficult math problem to solve, which of these tools would you use? Why? In today's story we will see that sometimes the simplest solution is the best solution.



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for allowing us to gather in Your name today. Bless our study as we learn more about the great power of Your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Story - summaries and excerpts

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

{2} And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. {3} Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

{4} And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

{5} Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of

Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. {6}

Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

{7} And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

{8} So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying,

"Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

{9} Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {10} And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

{11} But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' {12} "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

{13} And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

{14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {15} And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

{16} But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive

nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. {17} So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. {18} "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon; when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

{19} Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. After Elisha refused a gift for healing Naaman of the leprosy, Gehazi had an idea. He ran after Naaman and told a lie, saying that Elisha had sent him because two young men were in need of money and clothing (Gehazi was really just being greedy and wanted the goods for himself). Naaman gladly gave him more than he asked for: two talents of silver and two changes of garments. Gehazi gave these things to his servants, who carried them for him so Elisha wouldn't notice them. Then Gehazi hid them in his house and dismissed the servants.

When Elisha asked him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" he said he had not gone anywhere. But Elisha knew the truth. Therefore, he cursed Gehazi and his descendants with the very leprosy of which Naaman had so recently been cured.

Outer Aim - The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. How did the Israelite servant girl demonstrate her faith?
2. How did the king of Israel demonstrate his “lack” of faith?
3. God through Elisha told Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River, a simple solution for his problem. Can you think of a “simple” solution to our sin that also involves water? Explain.
4. What difficulty did Naaman foresee would happen after his leprosy was cured? Can you think of a problem that might arise in your life because you are a Christian?
5. Our conscience is a gift from God that warns us when we sin or are being tempted to do so. Explain how one lie led to another for Gehazi.

Inner Aim - God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

What God’s Word Tells Us - Look up and copy the following Bible passages. Then explain how they are related to our story.

1 Corinthians 1:16

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - Fill in the blanks from TLH #264 v. 3-4. Then sing it together.

Preserve O Lord, thy _____, Thine own blest heritage;
_____, disperse, and scatter those who against Thee _____.
Let Thy _____ guide us, grant us Thy heavenly food;
Clothe us in Thy rich _____, bought with Thy _____ blood.

Preserve Thy Word and _____, the truth that makes us whole,
The _____ of Thy glory, the _____ that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, this dew of _____ grace,
_____ us while here living until we see Thy _____.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all our sins. Because of what He has done, we can be sure of our place in Heaven with You. Let us never think of the Gospel as "too simple" or foolish for us. It is Your Holy Word that leads us to You through the power of Your Holy Spirit! Keep us strong in the faith and help us love You more and more each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Jonah

Jonah 1- 4

What things in life are really hard for you to do?

What makes it hard for you to accomplish those tasks?

Does fear play a large part? How about not caring about the task?

Today's lesson about Jonah shows us that we humans often let our fears and personal feelings get in the way of trusting and obeying God and His Word.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have given us this day to study Your Word and learn about Jonah. Help us to listen about Jonah and learn the lesson You taught him. Help us to apply that lesson to our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - Jonah 1:1-2:1, 2:9-4:11

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, {2} "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

{3} But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

{4} But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. {5} Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load.

But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast

asleep. {6} So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

{7} And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

{8} Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

{9} So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

{10} Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told

them.

{11} Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"; for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

{12} And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

{13} Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. {14} Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You." {15} So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. {16} Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

{17} Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

(2:1) Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly...

{10} So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

(Jonah 3) Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, {2} "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

{3} So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. {4} And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

{5} So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them...

{6} Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes...

{10} Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

(Jonah 4) But it displeased Jonah

exceedingly, and he became angry. {2} So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. {3} "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

{4} Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

{5} So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. {6} And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. {7} But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. {8} And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

{9} Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

{10} But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. {11} "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left; and much livestock?"

Outer Aim - Jonah is called, flees and is swallowed by a great fish before he carries out the Lord's call to repentance to the city of Nineveh.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. At the beginning of the lesson, what did God tell Jonah to do?
2. What did Jonah do instead?
3. Why do you think God caused the storm at sea and the great fish to swallow Jonah?
4. What did Jonah learn about God from his experiences?
5. How does Jonah's lesson apply to us and to our lives as Christians?

What God's Word Tells Us & Passages - Study each Bible passage, then write or tell how it applies to today's lesson.

1. *Galatians 6:7 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
2. *Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*
3. *Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.*
4. *1 Timothy 2:3-4 - God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Inner Aim - God calls us to deliver the message of repentance to the unbelieving world.

Hymn - TLH #400 (Supplement 2000 #786 - alternate melody)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only , for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all, for Thee.

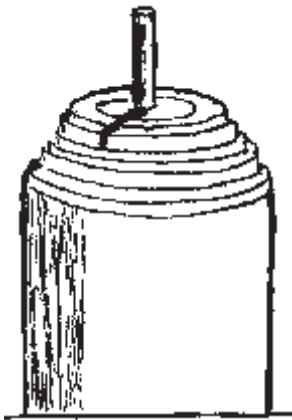
Prayer

Lord God, Heavenly Father,

I confess that like Jonah, I have often thought that my way of doing things was better than Your way. I pray that You would move me to humbly submit to Your will. Increase my faith that, although I cannot see everything that You can, I will be able to trust that You know best. Forgive me also for being cold and loveless toward my neighbor. Help me to speak Your words of Law and Gospel from a loving heart – a heart that desires all men to be saved. Amen.

Overthrow of Israel & King Hezekiah

2 Kings 17-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32



Do you know what the picture shows?

It is a sundial. These were used to tell time like a clock of today.

The shadow of the sun would move around like the hands of our clock.

What would you think if our clock would run backwards for 10 hours? That is what happened in the lesson of King Hezekiah.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help me to listen and learn today's lesson about prayer. Help me to also learn how important it is to keep You, O Lord, as the only way of salvation. Be with our teacher so that the lesson taught to us is Your true message. Hear our prayer. Amen.

The Story

While Ahaz was king of Judah, Hoshea became king of Israel and he reigned nine years. Hoshea did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and King Hoshea and all Israel were under Shalmaneser and paid him tribute money. But King Hoshea did not pay tribute after awhile and he was bound and put into prison.

The king of Assyria, Shalmaneser then took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria. For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had worshiped other false gods and made for

themselves idols to serve which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." They would not hear and they rejected the LORD's statutes and covenant that He had made with their fathers.

Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah.

So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria and they never returned. Then the king of Assyria brought people from foreign countries and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel. They took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. They did not fear the LORD either and the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

Then the king of Assyria

commanded, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there. Let him go and live there and teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods; according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. Also their children and their children's children continued doing as their fathers did.

During this time Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. He trusted in the LORD and removed the false gods that were in Judah. The LORD was with him and he prospered wherever he went.

King Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him even though Shalmaneser king of Assyria captured Israel and carried it away.

After King Hezekiah had been king in Judah 14 years a new king, Sennacherib, became king of Assyria. Sennacherib came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. Now Hezekiah had to pay the king of Assyria very much silver and gold. They even stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

After awhile the king of Assyria sent a great army against Jerusalem. King Hezekiah heard it and he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. Then he sent servants to Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid. I

will cause the king of Assyria to fall by the sword in his own land.'" "

Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from Sennacherib's hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

Then Isaiah sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard. Sennacherib shall not come into this city. For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians 185,000 and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses; all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home. Two of his sons later killed him and another of his sons became king of Assyria.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'"

Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to

your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David." "

Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?"

Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"

Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees."

So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward.

At that time Berodach-Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures; the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory; all that was found among his treasures.

There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon."

Isaiah said, "What have they seen in your house?"

Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah; all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city; are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah. So Hezekiah died and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - The LORD made the sundial shadow move backwards and added 15 years to King Hezekiah's life in answer to his prayer.

What the Story Tells Us - Write the correct answer in the blank from the story and then find the words in the WORD SEARCH.

1. King Hoshea and the kingdom of _____ worshiped idols and not the true God.
2. King Shalmaneser of _____ captured Israel and took them away never to return.

3. The kingdom of _____ remained and was not captured.
4. King _____ of Judah was a believer in the true God.
5. He _____ to the LORD when he was in trouble.
6. The LORD sent the prophet _____ to the king.
7. The LORD made the shadow on the _____ move backwards.
8. This showed the king he would not die but live 15 more _____.

H	A	S	S	Y	R	I	A
E	J	U	I	J	Y	I	V
Z	U	N	P	Y	E	S	B
E	D	D	I	E	A	R	O
K	A	I	S	A	I	A	H
I	H	A	N	R	Q	E	W
A	W	L	A	S	N	L	P
H	P	R	A	Y	E	D	L

Inner Aim - The LORD has promised to answer the prayers of those who believe in Him.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use the Bible to answer the following.

1. Judah could not have defeated the stronger Assyrians without the help of God. Look up the following Bible references to see who else overcame mightier enemies with God's help.

Exodus 14:26-28 - _____

Joshua 6:20-21 - _____

Judges 7 - _____

1 Samuel 17 - _____

1 Kings 18:16-40 - _____

2. Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." King Hezekiah proudly showed off all his wealth to the messengers from Babylon. Later that led to Babylon taking all that treasure and capturing the land of Judah. Can you think of a time when your pride made a problem for you?
3. 1 John 5:21 says, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." We are to be reminded that things in our life can become idols, which are more important than God. Share some ideas with the class of things that may become too important in your life.

Passages

Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 - For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

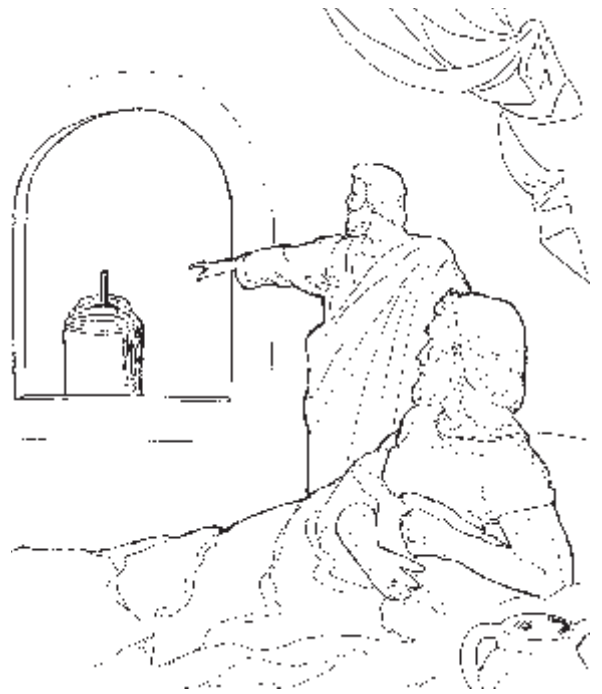
Hymn - TLH #326

Lord, to Thee I make confession;
I have sinned and gone astray,
I have multiplied transgression,
Chosen for myself my way.
Led by Thee to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at Thy terrors.

Yet, though conscience' voice appall me,
Father, I will seek Thy face;
Tho' Thy child I dare not call me,
Yet receive me to Thy grace.
Do not for my sins forsake me;
Do not let Thy wrath o'ertake me.

For Thy Son did suffer for me,
Gave Himself to rescue me,
Died to heal me and restore me,
Reconciled me unto Thee.
'Tis alone His cross can vanquish
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

Then on Him I cast my burden,
Sink it in the depths below.
Let me know Thy gracious pardon,
Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let Thy Spirit leave me never;
Make me only Thine forever.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You have told us to pray to You and You will hear our prayer. Please help us to love and serve You all our lives. Keep us faithful to Your Word so that nothing in our life becomes an idol and more important than You. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us love and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Amen.

Babylonian Captivity

2 Kings 23-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36; Jeremiah 34-39

What would it be like to have to leave your home and country?

What would it be like to leave as captives?

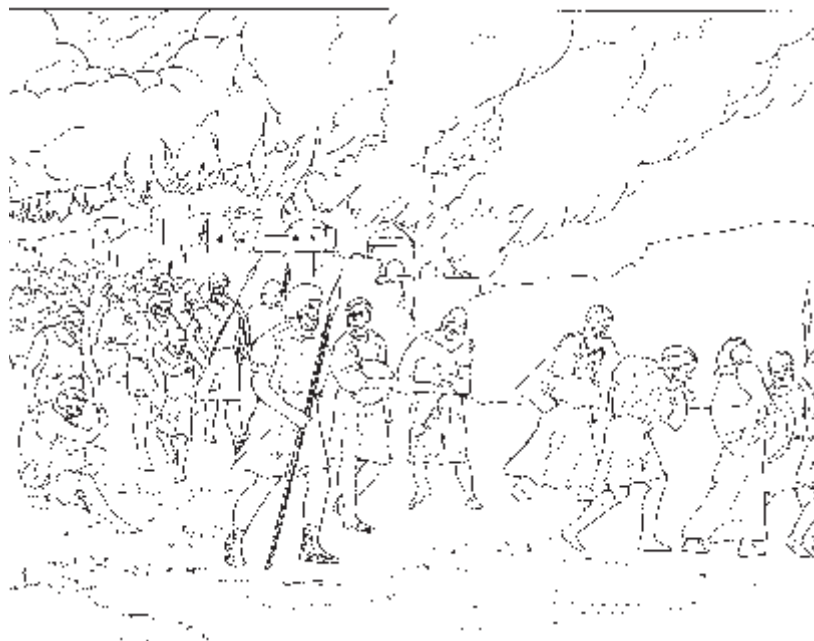
That's what happens in today's lesson to the people of Judah.

Why did God allow that to happen?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We know that we are sinful people and that You do not like sin. Help us to love You and our neighbor. Please do not let us be distracted while we learn about Your Word. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth so that we can go to heaven. Amen.



The Story

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David. He kept the laws of the LORD.

Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent a scribe to the house of the LORD, saying, "Go up to the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD and give the money to those doing the work to repair the temple."

Then the high priest said to the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD."

So the scribe went to the king bringing

the Book of the Law which had been found in the temple and he read it to King Josiah.

Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes in sorrow and repentance. He sent messengers to ask the prophetess what the word of the LORD would tell him and the people.

She said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods. But as for the king of Judah, because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place, you shall die in peace;

and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place. ' "

So they brought back word to the king.

The king went up to the house of the LORD with all the people, both young and old. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD. Then the king made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

King Josiah commanded that all the articles that were for the false gods to be brought out of the temple and burn them. He ordered all the false priests that conducted the worship of false gods be killed. Many idols and altars to false gods were destroyed and anything that had been dedicated to a false god by kings before him who did not worship the true God was burned.

Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." That same year this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem.

Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him. Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the worship of false gods in the past.

The LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen."

After all this, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight. Josiah went out against him.

Necho said, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you."

Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight and the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."

His servants therefore took him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Jeremiah, God's prophet, also lamented for Josiah.

The people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place. Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

Pharaoh Necho put Jehoahaz in prison at Egypt that he might not reign in Jerusalem. Jehoahaz died in Egypt. Necho imposed on the land a tribute of silver and gold. Then Pharaoh Necho made Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah king. So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh.

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. He burned the scroll that Jeremiah the prophet gave him. The scroll had a message of warning to the king and people of Jerusalem to repent of their evil ways.

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became under him for three years. So Jehoiakim died and

Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place. Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

The king of Egypt did not come out of his land anymore, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt.

At that time Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar. He was taken prisoner to Babylon along with the treasures from the temple and palace. Also King Nebuchadnezzar carried into captivity all Jerusalem, which was many thousands of people. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

Then the king of Babylon made Zedekiah king in Judah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He also did evil in the sight of the LORD. Zedekiah did not listen to the prophet Jeremiah either. Jeremiah warned him to turn away from the false gods and worship the true God. He continued his worship of false gods and put Jeremiah first

into prison and then had him put in a muddy pit. Jeremiah was later freed.

Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. After many months a famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then the city wall was broken through and the army of Babylon came into the city. King Zedekiah tried to escape, but was captured. He was blinded and taken to Babylon. This was in keeping with the prophesy of the LORD because of Zedekiah's unbelief.

Most of those who were left from the first captivity were taken captive to Babylon. The temple, palace and all the houses were destroyed by fire after all the valuables that were left were taken away.

But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.

After Nebuchadnezzar died, Evil-Merodach became king of Babylon. He released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

Outer Aim - Judah is taken to Babylon because of idol worship, but some faithful believers are preserved in Judah and Babylon.

What the Story Tells Us - Unscramble the words in the [] and write the word on the line.

1. [hsiaoj] _____ became king when he was only eight years old.
2. He did what was right in the sight of the [ROLD]_____.
3. A priest found the Book of the Law in the [plemte] _____.
4. The king repented and read the Book of the Law to all the [lopepe]_____.

5. All the [lodis] _____ were destroyed or burned.
6. The [sosapvre] _____ was celebrated.
7. Necho king of [typge] _____ killed Josiah.
8. [hamerjei] _____ was God's prophet to Judah.
9. Jehoiakim [nedubr] _____ the scroll from Jeremiah with God's message to repent.
10. [hadzikee] _____ also did not listen to Jeremiah's message from God to repent. He even threw Jeremiah into a muddy pit.
11. Nebuchadnezzar king of [noyblab] _____ took Judah captive.
12. Only some of the poor people were left in Judah as vinedressers and
[masrefr] _____.

Inner Aim - Though God punishes those who reject Him, He preserves His children and keeps His promises.

Your Turn - Write the names of the Kings of Judah in order from the story. Check whether they were a good king (one who loved God) or a bad king (one who didn't love God).

name	good	bad	name	good	bad
1 st			4 th		
2 nd			5 th		
3 rd					

What God's Word Tells Us - Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 below.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Think of something bad that has happened to you, your family or someone you know but that God turned it for good. Read the example to get you started. Share your story with the class.

Example:

BAD EXPERIENCE - Judith was hit by a car while riding her bicycle. She broke her leg and had to stay in bed.

GOOD OUTCOME - While staying in bed for 3 months Judith read God's Word every day and also read to her friends who came to see her.

BAD EXPERIENCE -

GOOD OUTCOME -

Passages

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful,
who will establish you and guard you from
the evil one.

1 Peter 1:5 - [You] are kept by the power of
God through faith for salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Hymn - Worship Supplement #800

Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, my children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

With every year I become more aware of the dangers that are all around me, including my own sinful flesh. It makes me so happy to learn that You have promised to take care of me, just as You preserved the nation of Judah. I am comforted that You will not leave me, and I pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to live in me, that I might always remain faithful to You. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.

Daniel

Daniel 1 - 2

What is a kingdom?

What is the Kingdom of God?

Prayer

Dear Lord, bless our study of Your Word today. Send us Your Holy Spirit to help us hear Your Word. Cause us to know more fully our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Story - Daniel 1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. {2} And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

{3} Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, {4} young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. {5} And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

{6} Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and

Azariah. {7} To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

{8} But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. {9} Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. {10} And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

{11} So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, {12} "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. {13} "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who

eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." {14} So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

{15} And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. {16} Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

{17} As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

{18} Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. {19} Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. {20} And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

{21} Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

(Daniel 2) Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. {2} Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. {3} And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."

{4} Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

{5} The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its

interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. {6} "However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

{7} They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

{8} The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: {9} "if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

{10} The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. {11} "It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

{12} For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. {13} So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

{14} Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; {15} he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. {16} So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

{17} Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah,

Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, {18} that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. {19} Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. {20} Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. {21} And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. {22} He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. {23} "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

{24} Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

{25} Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

{26} The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

{27} Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. {28} "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

{29} "As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. {30} "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

{31} "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. {32} "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, {33} "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. {34} "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. {35} "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

{36} "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. {37} "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; {38} "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all; you are this head of gold.

{39} "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. {40} "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and

crush all the others. {41} "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. {42} "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. {43} "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

{44} "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. {45} "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the

bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

{46} Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. {47} The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

{48} Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. {49} Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Outer aim – Earthly kingdoms rise and fall; the Kingdom of God destroys all earthly kingdoms and shall stand forever.

What the Story Tells Us - Recall details from the lesson and answer the following questions.

1. Why were young men of Israel brought to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar?
2. Who were four of the young Israelite men?
3. Why did Daniel ask to eat only vegetables and drink only water?
4. After the ten days, how had God blessed Daniel and the other three?
5. How did God additionally bless Daniel and the other three after their training was over?
6. When King Nebuchadnezzar had his troubling dream, what did he command his wise men to do?
7. When the wise men could not interpret the dream, what did Nebuchadnezzar do?
8. How did God give Daniel a way to spare his and his friends lives?

9. Before Daniel told the king the interpretation of his dream, how did Daniel give all glory to God?
10. In your own words, tell King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
11. Match the items in the king's dream with the earthly kingdoms they represent.

Head of gold -	- Greek Empire
Chest and arms of silver -	- Babylonian Empire
Belly and thighs of bronze -	- Early Roman Empire
Legs of iron -	- Later Roman Empire
Feet of iron and clay -	- Medo-Persian Empire
12. What did the stone "cut without hands" represent?

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. As King Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented, what will happen to all kingdoms of this world?
2. How did the fact that Daniel, rather than the other wise men, was allowed to interpret the king's dream show that God is in charge of the kingdoms of this world?
3. After the stone "cut without hands" (the kingdom of God) destroyed the statue, it grew larger and became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. How is this a picture of mission work?
4. Why can you be sure that you, a child of God, will live forever in heaven?

Inner Aim – Although our nation and all nations will one day be destroyed, we are believers and members of the Kingdom of God and so shall live forever.

Your Turn - How might you use Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo as role models in your life today?

Passages - Discuss how the following passages fit today's lesson.

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; {21} "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Psalms 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

Hymn - TLH 341 v. 1, 5

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thro' all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is given
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is King of all.

Prayer

O Lord, you have taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come". With these words you have taught us to pray to the Holy Spirit for growth of our faith in Christ and love towards all. You have also taught us to pray for Your final victory over all the kingdoms of the world. Amen.

Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

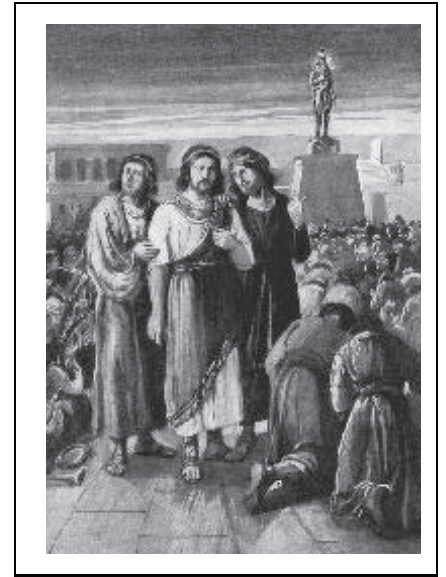
Daniel 3

Would you be willing to defend your beliefs? Are you willing to die defending them?

Today's lesson shows us the faith of three men who showed by their actions that they would not go along with the crowd and worship an idol.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with grace divine,
And let Thy truth within us shine. Amen



The Story - Daniel 3 (paraphrased)

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, made an image of gold, whose height was 90 feet and its width 9 feet. He then sent word to gather together all the important rulers and officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which the king had set up. So all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication.

Then a herald cried aloud, "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the music which the instruments play, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

So at that time, when all the people

heard the sound of the music, they worshiped the gold image.

At that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the music shall fall down and worship the gold image. There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought

these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed- Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed- Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. He commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. These three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was

astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here."

Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed- Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

Outer Aim - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego confessed their faith in the one true God even though it meant possible death.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these discussion questions together.

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar insist that all his people do?
2. Who refused to do this?
3. What was the punishment if they disobeyed?
4. When given a second chance, what was their answer?
5. As a response, what order did the king give to do to the furnace?
6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were confident that God could deliver them and that He would do so if it was His will. What were they willing to do in case God decided not to deliver them?
7. Whom did God send to deliver the three men?
8. If God allows struggles to come our way, does it mean that He does not love us? Why? What do they help us remember?
9. Will God ever send us more struggle than we can bear?
10. Whom does God send to deliver us from the struggles in this world?
11. Whom did God send to win the battle against sin, death, and the devil? How did he do this?

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the passages in the first column. In the spaces provided, tell how they apply to the story, then how they apply to our lives.

Passage	Application to the STORY	Application to YOU
Hebrews 1:14		

Passage	Application to the STORY	Application to YOU
Matthew 10:32b		
Isaiah 43:1-3		
Psalm 118:1-9		

Inner Aim - God wants us to confess and share our faith in the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Passages

Matthew 4:10 - You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape.

Hymn - TLH #447

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Cast care aside; upon thy Guide
Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its Life and Christ its Love.

Run the straight race thro' God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is All in all to thee. Amen

Prayer

Dear Lord God,

We know that we are often afraid of the world. We are tempted and asked to do many things that are contrary to Your Word. It fills us with doubt in Your power. For this forgive us and help us to have no fear of enemies. Thank You for sending Your Son to fight and win the battle against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. That battle that we could not fight on our own. Give us the understanding that You will never tempt us more than we are able. And finally, may Your will be done as You see fit. We look forward to the day when we will join You in the glory of heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1 - 24

Are you familiar with various superstitions, like lucky rabbits feet, throwing salt over one's shoulder for good luck, finding a four leaf clover? When people believe in these superstitions, what are they doing? What does the first commandment tell us about trust?

Today's lesson is an example to us of an individual who trusted in God even when his life was in danger.



Prayer

God Himself is present: let us now adore Him and with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple - all within keep silence, prostrate lie with deepest rev'rence.
Him alone God we own, Him our God and Savior; praise His name forever. Amen

The Story - Daniel 6

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom (of Babylon) one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; {2} and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. {3} Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. {4} So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. {5} Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him

concerning the law of his God."

{6} So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! {7} "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. {8} "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." {9} Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

{10} Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his

upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. {11} Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. {12} And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

{13} So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." {14} And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

{15} Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

{16} So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

{17} Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. {18} Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

{19} Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. {20} And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

{21} Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! {22} "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

{23} Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

{24} And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions; them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

{25} Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

{26} I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. {27} He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

{28} So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Outer Aim - Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in each blank with the correct answer. Then find the answers in the WORD SEARCH below.

1. _____ was the ruler in _____.
2. He chose governors and _____ to help him rule.
3. _____ was one of them chosen and he was a Jew.
4. Jealous rulers tricked the king to sign a _____ ordering idol worship.
5. This did not stop Daniel. He still _____ times a day as God had commanded.
6. Because of the law of the _____ the king could not change the law.
7. Daniel was thrown into the _____.
8. God sent an _____ to keep him safe.

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

Inner Aim - We are to obey God rather than men.

Your Turn - Answer the following questions together.

1. Why did Daniel do well as a governor under King Darius? What gifts had God given to Daniel to fulfill his duty to the king?
2. What sinful feelings grew in the hearts of the other rulers because of the way the king treated Daniel?
3. What did these sinful feelings lead them to do?
4. How did Daniel show that he trusted in God above all things?
5. How did God show that He has all power to care for His children?

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the following passage. Then write at least three sentences explaining how this passage relates to our lesson about Daniel and our lives as Christians today. Then talk about times or possible situations in which we should disobey men in order to obey God.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

Passages

Psalm 50:15) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matthew 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Hymn - TLH #428

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the God who blessed and protected Daniel, and You have promised to bless and protect me too. Help me to trust in You above all things and not to be afraid of anything that man can do to me. Help me to pray to You at all times, because I know that you have promised to hear me. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to forgive my sin. Amen.

Esther

Esther

This drawing shows someone's life being spared. Do you know whose life it is? This is Esther. What do you know about her? We'll read her story today to find out more.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for again bringing us together to study Your Word in Sunday School. Be with our teacher so that the lesson may be taught to Your glory and with us so that we will listen and learn about the truths of Your Scripture. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - Esther 1-10 paraphrased

There was a king of Persia named Ahasuerus, also known as Xerxes. He was ruler over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. His palace was in Shushan.

Once he made a feast and invited all his officials, nobles, princes and important powers of his kingdom. The feast lasted 180 days and the king showed off his riches and the splendor of his kingdom. Near the end of the feast days he had a special celebration for all his people with much expensive food and drink served in golden vessels. The queen of Persia, Vashti, was commanded to come before the king to show off her beauty to the people. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command and the king was furious. It would be a bad example for others if the wife of the king did not listen to her husband, therefore Queen Vashti was never allowed to come before the king again. A new queen was needed.

A beauty contest was held to find a

new queen. Many beautiful, young, unmarried women were brought to the palace including a young Jew named Esther. She had been raised in the house of her cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai worked in the king's palace.

After a year of beauty treatment each young woman was brought before the king. So Esther was taken to King Xerxes and he loved Esther more than all the other women, and so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

One day while near the gate of the palace Mordecai overheard a plot to assassinate the king. He told Esther who told the king, and the two gatekeepers who plotted the assassination were hanged. All of this was written down in the history book of the king.

After these things King Xerxes promoted a wicked man named Haman and set him above all the princes. All the king's servants bowed and paid homage to Haman, but

Mordecai would not bow or pay homage because he was a Jew and it was forbidden by God. This made Haman very angry and he planned how he might destroy Mordecai and his people, the Jews, who were captives in Persia.

Haman went to the king with his plan and said to the king, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed."

So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman saying, "The people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

Haman made the decree that in one year's time all the Jews in the provinces of King Xerxes were to be killed.

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth and ashes. All Jews everywhere mourned. Esther was also distressed.

Mordecai asked that Esther go before the king and plead for her people. King Xerxes did not know she was Jewish. It was also dangerous to go before the king without being invited. You would be killed for bothering him unless he held out his golden scepter to you, then you would live.

Esther was afraid to go to the king but Mordecai reminded her that she was a Jew. He also said, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther said, "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me for three days. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

After three days Esther put on her royal robes and went before King Xerxes. So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

The king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? It shall be given to you; up to half the kingdom!"

Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared."

The king and Haman went to Queen Esther's feast. Again the king asked what Esther requested. She asked that they again come to a banquet the next day and she would then tell her request.

Haman felt great pride that he was important to the king and queen but later when he saw Mordecai who did not bow down to him he was angry. He planned to ask the king to have Mordecai killed and even had a gallows built that would hang Mordecai one day.

But that night the king could not sleep. He commanded that the book about his history be read to him. There he heard and was reminded of how Mordecai saved his life from the two gatekeepers who were planning to kill him.

The king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?"

The servants said that nothing had been done to honor him. So the king asked Haman, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?"

Haman, thinking the king was talking about him, said, "Let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden be delivered to the man. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

The king said, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do this for Mordecai the Jew."

So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square. Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

Later the king and Haman went to dine



with Queen Esther. She now told the king her request, "If I have found favor, O king, please spare my life and the lives of my people. For we are to be destroyed because of the wishes of someone."

King Xerxes answered, "Who is he who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

Esther said, "The enemy is this wicked Haman!"

Then the king saw the gallows and said, "Hang Haman on the gallows!"

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. On that day King Xerxes promoted Mordecai to the position Haman had held.

Esther then went again to the king and he again held out the golden scepter for her. She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight let it be written to take back the letters sent by Haman ordering the death of the Jews."

Then King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in

the king's name, for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

So the king's scribes were called at that time and it was written that the Jews were permitted to gather together and protect their lives and to kill all the forces of any people or province that would assault them. The Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday.

When the time came for the enemies of the Jews to carry out the order of Haman the Jews gathered together and defeated their enemies, killing thousands. All the officials of the provinces even helped the Jews defeat their enemies and followed the order given by Mordecai and Esther. Haman's ten sons were also hanged.

Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces. A special day of celebration was established for the Jews to remember this time when God spared His people from destruction. It was called Purim.

Outer Aim - God, through Esther, saved Israel from destruction so that the promised Messiah could come from Judah.

Passage

Revelation 2:10 - "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."



What the Story Tells Us - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE using the words in the Word Box.

XERXES	MORDECAI	SCEPTER	BOW	GALLOWES
ESTHER	HAMAN	PERISH	FEAST	KILL

Across

- 4. ___ was a Jew who worked for the king.
- 5. Haman wanted to ___ Mordecai and the Jews.
- 7. Mordecai did not ___ down to Haman.
- 8. The king held out a golden ___ to show when a person had found his favor.
- 10. Esther invited the king and Haman to a ___.

Down

- 1. ___ was a wicked man who worked for the king.
- 2. Esther said, "If I ___, I ___."
- 3. Haman had these built for Mordecai.
- 6. ___ was the king of Persia.
- 9. ___ was the new queen of Persia.

Inner Aim - God, through the Holy Spirit in the Word, has led us to Jesus.

What God's Word Tells Us - Find the missing words in the Bible Passages below. Then discuss the questions together in class.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey _____ rather than _____.
When did Mordecai do what this passage said?

Psalms 37:5 - _____ your way to the LORD, _____
also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.
When did Esther remember these words?

Psalms 65:2 - O You who hear _____, to You all flesh will come.
What is God's promise to believers who pray to Him?

Your Turn - Find these Bible references and match the God-fearing leaders.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. _____ Genesis 41:41 | A. David |
| 2. _____ Exodus 4:21 | B. Moses |
| 3. _____ Judges 6:24 | C. Mordecai |
| 4. _____ 1 Samuel 16:13 | D. Daniel |
| 5. _____ 2 Kings 5:15 | E. Naaman |
| 6. _____ Daniel 2:48 | F. Joseph |
| 7. _____ Esther 10:2 | G. Gideon |

Hymn & Prayer- Worship Supplement 2000 #785

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

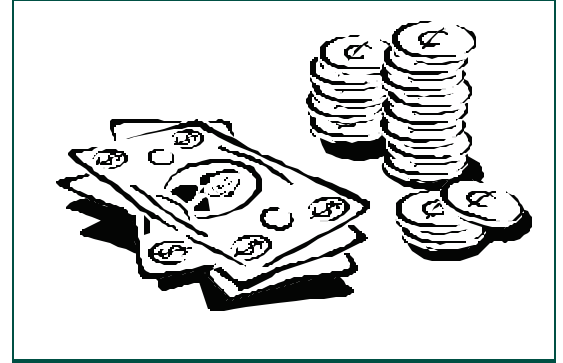
Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy. Amen.

Job

Job 1-2:1-10; 19:25-27; 38:1-3; 40:1-5; 42:1-6, 10-17

Would you be able to turn down that money so that you could hear God's Word?

You may have to make that choice as you get older and decide what you should do - go to church or work at a job. With God's help you will make a good decision. God gave a very rich man named Job the faith to love Him more than wealth.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please be with me today and through my life as I study Your Holy Word. Strengthen my faith so that I will be like Job and conquer every temptation of Satan with the Holy Spirit's help. Be with me today in class to listen and learn from my teacher. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. He was a believer in the Triune God. Job was very wealthy because he was blessed by the Lord. He had ten children; seven of them were boys and three of them were girls. Job owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, and he had many servants.

Often Job's sons would give great parties to which they would invite all of their brothers and sisters. After each party, Job would offer up offerings to the LORD to pray for each of his children.

Job was a child of the LORD and the LORD used Job as an example to the fallen angel, Satan. Satan had noticed the

faithful servant, Job, but he dared to ask God, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

He ventured to say that Job was faithful to the LORD only because the LORD had richly blessed Job with earthly treasures and possessions. Satan challenged God to take away the earthly "things," concluding that Job would curse God.

The Lord then said to Satan, "Behold all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person."

Satan left the presence of the LORD and during one of the parties held by Job's children, he began to destroy Job's possessions. The first news came by a servant of Job who witnessed that the

Sabeans raided Job's oxen and donkeys. They killed the servants tending the animals and took every beast back to their country.

While that servant was reporting the first loss, another servant came to Job with news that a fire from heaven had come down and burned up all of Job's sheep and also the shepherds guarding the flock.

It was while that report was given that still another servant came to Job with the news that three bands of Chaldeans had raided the grazing camel herd and driven them off. They killed all of the servants except the one who had fled to Job to report the loss.

Again, a fourth servant came to Job's door to announce that a great wind had destroyed the tents in which his children were feasting. All of his sons and daughters lay dead.

All of this news came to Job within a very short time. He heard it, stood up, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

In all this, Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Another day came when Satan presented himself before the LORD. Again, the LORD brought Satan's attention to faithful Job. Satan quickly responded that a man could stay faithful to God even if all his possessions were stripped from him, but if you would harm his own body then the faithful servant would curse his Lord and Master.

The LORD responded by permitting Satan to deal with Job as he wished, but the LORD would not permit Satan to end Job's life.

Satan went out and immediately struck Job with painful boils. The sores covered Job from head to foot, and Job was miserable. He sat down in a bed of ashes and used a broken piece of pottery to scratch his sores. Job's wife came and suggested that he curse God and die, but Job responded by saying, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"

So Job's reaction to what happened was remarkably patient. He even made the beautiful confession, "I know that my Redeemer lives." There were times, however, when he lost his patience. His suffering became so great that he cursed the day he was born. Three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, came to visit him. They suggested that Job's suffering was due to a sin he had committed. They advised him to repent. Finally, the LORD came and spoke with Job. He declared His power and wisdom. Job listened to the Lord and repented.

In the final verses of the story, the LORD restored twice as many camels, oxen, sheep, and donkeys to Job. Job and his wife had seven more sons and three more daughters. The daughters were more beautiful than any others in the land. Job was given a long life to enjoy all his family and possessions.

Outer Aim - God allowed Satan to take earthly possessions away from Job.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following from the story, unscramble the answer and write the answer in the boxes. Then use the numbers to make a confession of Job.

1. The land where the lesson takes place.

ZU

--	--

2. An animal which gives wool.

ESPHE

--	--	--	--	--

15 14

3. Animals of the desert with humps.

MASCEL

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7 9 21

4. People who work for another.

REAVNTSS

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11 20 5 22

5. The faithful man in this lesson.

BJO

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6. Animals which bray.

SEOKYND

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3 2 10

7. Another name for the devil.

ANAST

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8. These people took Job's oxen and donkeys.

SANBESA

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12

9. These covered Job's body.

OBSIL

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1 18

10. One of Job's friends.

LEZHAIP

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14 19

11. Another of Job's friends.

PZHOAR

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4 6 17

12. Another of Job's friends.

DIADLB

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13

Job said,

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What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following.

1. Give examples showing how Job was rich in an earthly, or material, way.
2. How was Job rich in a spiritual way?
3. Read Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." List some "treasures on earth" and some "treasures in heaven".
4. Why are spiritual gifts more important to us?

Passages

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 12:12 - rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer

James 1:2 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

Inner Aim - Material wealth is “here today, gone tomorrow,” but spiritual wealth lasts forever.

Hymn - TLH #200 v. 1, 2, 5-8

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead
He lives my ever living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save,
He lives all-glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless silence all my fears,
He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart,
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend,
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence give,
“I know that my Redeemer lives!”

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please give me patience to accept all of the troubles, trials and tribulations that You allow to come my way. Give me strength through Your powerful Word to stand firm in my confidence and trust in You and Your Son, my Savior, Jesus. Help me to always remember that You permit these troubles to come to us Christians out of Your love for us, and that You will use them for our eternal good. Lead me to acknowledge my sins which so often bring troubles upon me. Wash me daily with Jesus' blood. Help me focus my heart upon the perfect peace and joy of the heavenly home You have promised us through Jesus. I ask this in my Savior's name. Amen.

Return from Captivity & Rebuilding the Temple

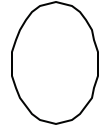
Ezra 1 - 10, Nehemiah 1-8

Look at the pictures of an egg, an unwrapped present and a newly married couple. Each of these pictures suggests a promise.

What good thing is being promised in each picture?

What bad thing might happen in each instance above?

Who is the one who promises to control all the good and bad that happens in the world?



Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us today to understand Your perfect love for all people. We thank You that You kept Your promise to seek and to save that which was lost. We ask that You bless our study this morning so that we may understand Your grace in our lives and learn that in all our troubles You are there to help. Teach us to realize how important it is that we hear and keep Your Word. Deliver us from every evil of body and life. Amen.

The Story

The children of Israel had been in captivity for 70 years under, first the Babylonians and then the Persians. It is at the end of the 70 years that our story begins in the land of Persia under King Cyrus.

Read Ezra 1 and answer the questions below.

What did Cyrus say God had told him?
What did he ask of the children of Israel?
What two things did Cyrus say should be given to the children of Israel by their neighbors?

Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua, the priest, about 50,000 people returned to the Promised Land of Canaan to live. The first thing they did when they returned to Jerusalem was to once again worship the Lord as He had

commanded them. An altar was built and sacrifices offered. The Feast of the Tabernacles was observed as before. Also, the foundations of the Temple were laid and construction was begun as Cyrus had commanded. Not everyone in the land was pleased about the rebuilding of the Temple. The Samaritans, a mixed race of people that were distantly related to the Israelites, did their best to halt the building of the Temple. They had originally offered to help in the building but their help was rejected by Zerubbabel and Jeshua because the Samaritans did not worship the true God. So, the Samaritans frustrated the Israelites in the efforts and were even able to get Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, to stop the building of the Temple by means of a deceitful letter sent to the king. For 16 years the work on the Temple ceased. It was not until God caused Zerubbabel and

Jeshua to write a letter to the new king, Darius, that work again resumed.

Read Ezra 5-6:12 and answer the questions below.

What did the letter ask Darius to do?

What did Darius find?

What decrees did Darius make?

Fifty-eight years later, Ezra the priest who also penned this part of the Bible, received permission from the Persian king to take another group of Israelites back to Canaan. Ezra was given the right to rule the area of Canaan and to appoint whomever he thought would be the best rulers. So Ezra led 1,800 men and their families and servants to Canaan safely, despite having no army. God protected them on their journey. When Ezra arrived, he found, to his great dismay that the children of Israel had forgotten the command God had given to them.

Read Ezra 9:1- 10:12 and answer the questions below.

What command of God had the children of Israel forgotten?

What did Ezra tell the people they must do?

What was the response of the people?

About ninety years had passed since the Israelites had returned to Canaan. During that time the Temple had been rebuilt and the people had rebuilt their own houses. Yet the walls of the city were still in ruin. God used Nehemiah to accomplish His purpose of rebuilding the city walls. Nehemiah was the cupbearer for the Persian king. Nehemiah learned about the sad situation in Jerusalem and received permission from the king to return to Canaan and supervise the rebuilding of the walls. Not only did the king give Nehemiah permission to return for 12 years,

he also appointed him governor and gave him the authority to collect, in the king's name, all the needed materials to rebuild the walls.

The work on the walls was opposed by the surrounding people who posed a threat with their armies. Because of the danger, Nehemiah organized the workers so that half would do the work and the other half would stand guard. All the workers were armed at all times. Nehemiah and the Israelites were even able to resist a surprise attack by their enemies. Nehemiah was also personally threatened with assassination plots which, thanks to God, failed. Some people tried to halt the work on the walls by using political methods and lying to the king of Persia. Despite all the efforts of the enemies of the children of Israel, the walls were completed in only fifty-two days.

Now everything was rebuilt and things were back to normal, right? Wrong. The children of Israel had greatly neglected the Law of God written by Moses. So Ezra the prophet was asked to read the law to the people.

Read Nehemiah 8 and answer the questions below.

As Ezra read the law, what did the priests and Levites be sure about?

What reaction did the people have when they heard the laws that they had been breaking?

What did the priests and Levites tell the people they should do?

What celebration did the people once again celebrate after many years of neglect?

Outer Aim - God delivered His people from their captivity and brought them back to the Promised Land.

What the Story Tells Us - Throughout the history of Israel, the children of Israel got into trouble because of their actions. In every case, God was there to overcome the troubles. Sometimes God would use individuals and sometimes God would use kings and entire nations to solve the problems of the children of Israel. Draw lines to connect the problem from the first column with the person or people, listed in the second column, that God used to solve that problem.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The children of Israel had been in captivity for 70 years and should return home..... | ...Ezra (the prophet) |
| 2. The children of Israel needed materials to build the Temple..... | ...Cyrus (the king of the Persians) |
| 3. The people neglected the Law of Moses and needed to be brought back..... | ...Nehemiah (the king's wine taster) |
| 4. The people had built their houses but had not finished the wall of Jerusalem..... | ...The people of Babylon |
| 5. The Samaritans had caused the building of the Temple to cease..... | ...Darius (a king of the Persians) |

What God's Word Tells Us

Read Jeremiah 25:1-11. What had God promised through the prophet Jeremiah?

Read Isaiah 44:24 - 45:13. What had God promised through the prophet Isaiah?

These two passages show that God does keep His promises. What other important promises did God make in the passages below that He has kept?

Isaiah 7:14 -

Micah 5:2 -

Genesis 3:15 -

Matthew 12:40 -

What great promises are will still looking forward to that we know God will keep?

Matthew 25:31-46 -

John 5:28-29 -

John 14:2-3 -

Matthew 28:20 -

Your Turn - It is easy to be critical of the children of Israel. Below are listed some of the things they did in this story. Next to the list, explain how we today, in some of the same ways, are often as guilty as the children of Israel.

Children of Israel	Us today
The people were living ungodly lives because they had married ungodly spouses who got them involved in sinful activities.	
The people rebuilt their own expensive houses but were not as interested in rebuilding the house of God.	
The people had ignored the Law of Moses to the extent that they forgot the basic celebrations and decrees of God.	
The people had many sins, but when they turned to God, He forgave them.	

Inner Aim - God Delivers Us from Every Trial

Passages

Psalms 136:1 - Oh, give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good! For His mercy endures
forever.

Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets,
who come to you in sheep's clothing, but
inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren,
note those who cause divisions and
offenses, contrary to the doctrine which
you learned, and avoid them.

Hymn - Answer the following questions about TLH #54.

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.

1. How would stanza one have been a comfort to the children of Israel?
2. How is stanza one a comfort to us in our lives?
3. What does stanza three say to comfort us as we approach the end of our lives?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Please help us to learn that, even though bad things happen in this life, You are always in control. As we studied the children of Israel today, we saw how God took care of their troubles and made things work out for the best in their lives. You have always promised to take care of us and You always will. Teach us to trust that always. In Your name we pray. Amen.