### Q16 One Story for all Time

**Kindergarten –3rd grade**

This quarter is focusing on the “big picture”, searching for a common thread of redemption found in numerous stories throughout the entire Bible. Time does not allow this quarter to focus on the minor details of any particular story; the details will be studied in another quarter.

The stories are presented in chronological order and will have the 20 Bible Timeline cards displayed in class as a continuous visual aid. An interactive bulletin board can also be used to incorporate vocabulary and key/memory verses.

Each lesson is formatted with an overview, the referenced timeline card, and a cliffhanger at the end of class to help the students have an interest in coming back for the next lesson.

At the end of the quarter, children should be able to grasp the following concepts:

* God is eternal
* God created man & desires to have a relationship with man
* Man sins and separates himself from God
* God has a plan to reconcile man to Himself
* That plan is Jesus Christ

Children should also be able to recognize that they are “this side” of eternity, and that God’s plan is not finished yet. Jesus will come back to gather His own unto Him.

As you teach the lessons, please remember to bring out the point that God had a plan and that the people were looking for a savior. Was it Moses? Was it David? Was it Isaiah? No. Only one could meet the requirements of a Savior. All of these men sinned and fell short. (Romans 3:23) But the perfect one did come, and that perfect one was Jesus.

Mtn View Church of Christ

4-year Bible Curriculum

Written Summer 2013

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Dear Parents,

During this quarter, your children will be learning the story of God’s redemption plan that was set in place since the beginning of time. This quarter will cover that concept through the entire Bible in chronological order. Specific details of all the stories cannot be covered in so little time. Certain stories will be looked at in order to highlight God’s plan in action.

At the end of the quarter, your child should be able to grasp the following concepts:

* God is eternal
* God created man & desires to have a relationship with man
* Man sins and separates himself from God
* God has a plan to reconcile man to Himself
* That plan is Jesus Christ

# Syllabus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson** | **Title/Topic** |
| 1 | Eternity |
| 2 | Foundation of the World |
| 3 | Paradise Lost |
| 4 | The Flood |
| 5 | A New Beginning for Earth |
| 6 | Abraham Called |
| 7 | Abraham’s Family Grows |
| 8 | Israel in Egypt |
| 9 | Walk not like an Egyptian |
| 10 | Wanderings |
| 11 | A New Leader |
| 12 | Taking the Land |
| 13 | The Cycle of Shame |
| 14 | Give us a King Part 1 |
| 15 | Give us a King Part 2 |
| 16 | Wisdom is not Enough |
| 17 | Divided Kingdom |
| 18 | Judah Alone |
| 19 | Captivity |
| 20 | Return |
| 21 | 400 years of silence |
| 22 | The time has come |
| 23 | More about Jesus |
| 24 | Death/Burial/Resurrection/Ascension |
| 25 | Kingdom Comes |
| 26 | To the uttermost parts of the earth |
| 27 | Early Church |
| 28 | Looking Forward |

### Q16 One Story for all Time

**Key Verses / Memory Verses**

Following is a list of recommended key verses or memory verses for the quarter. It is not recommended to use ALL of them, but to choose one chunk of scripture to refer to throughout the entire quarter, encouraging the children to memorize portions of it.

###### Ephesians 1: 3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known[c] to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

###### Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

###### Luke 10:23-24

23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

###### Luke 1:67-75

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people

69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**Lesson 1 Eternity**

#### Timeline Card #1: Eternity

In this lesson, you will discuss the eternal nature of God and answer several questions about God. As you discuss this lesson, you may want to tell the students, “We are talking about this point in time (Eternity), but God talks about it all throughout the Bible”. Scriptures will be pulled from the entire Bible for this lesson.

# VOCABULARY

**Plan:**

(noun) an orderly arrangement of parts of an overall design or objective

(noun) a method for achieving an end

(noun) A diagram or list of steps with timing and resources, used to achieve an [objective](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objective_(goal))

(verb) Decide on and arrange in advance

1. *Who is God?*
   1. **Eternal** Ps 90:2, I Tim 1:17
   2. **Creator** Isaiah 40:28, Jer 32:17
   3. **Everywhere** Ps 139:7-13
   4. **All-knowing** Ps 139:1-5
   5. **The Alpha & Omega**  **(Beginning & End)** Revelation 1:8
   6. **Perfect** Matt 5:48
   7. **Not a liar** Numbers 23:19
   8. **The great “I AM”** Exodus 3:13-15
2. *Where is God?* 
   1. God dwells in a temple not made with hands, in the heavenly places
      1. Acts 17:24 “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man”
      2. Ps 113:5 “Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high?”
      3. Isaiah 37:16 “Lord of Hosts, God of Israel, who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”
      4. I Chron 23:25 “For David said, “The Lord, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people, and He dwells in Jerusalem forever.”
      5. I Cor 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
3. *What is a plan?* 
   1. See Vocabulary above
4. *What was God’s plan? Why did He create us? Where did He create everything?* 
   1. God created us for his own good pleasure.
      1. Phil 2:13 “for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
      2. Eph 1:4 “even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him”
   2. God’s plan was laid out from the beginning of time for God to create a way for man to be reconciled to Him. The promise was made at the first sin and continued throughout the Bible.
      1. Matt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
      2. I Peter 1:18-20 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.
      3. Eph 1:7-10 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
      4. Eph 3:10-11 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
5. *When did He carry it out?* 
   1. He carried out His plan throughout all time. When the fullness of time came, God sent his son Jesus.
   2. Gal 4:4-5 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.
6. *When was Christ?* 
   1. Christ was in the beginning, and without Him, nothing was created
      1. John 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
      2. Heb 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

**Cliffhanger:** So, what will God do with all this awesome power and how long will it take to carry out his plan? Come back next time to find out more.

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**Lesson 1 Eternity**

# Attributes of God

Find these words in the word search that describe God.

E Q W B K O N N L E P W N P E

T R D N M K E R R E E F F Y J

E Q O E P V X E H L R M K R W

R M G T A F H X E P F R U D C

N A G E A W J Y G M E M S S R

A J H Z Y E Q A W E C X Z B X

L L I R D N R N O T T N D Y D

M S E L A G I C N A V C Z L F

F V E L S I M V N G O D W K X

E C P U M C L H A V I L C I H

V P Y A V Y A W N N J N V P W

I H Q P Q W S G M K E B N T J

A L P H A E R H I Y S J E Y K

I O Y E B L J U Q V U J T A A

W E N N P L L R Q J S D W T F

ALPHA

CREATOR

ETERNAL

EVERYWHERE

GOD

HEAVEN

JESUS

OMEGA

PERFECT

PLAN

TEMPLE

**Lesson 2 Foundation of the World**

##### Timeline Card #2 Before the Flood

In this lesson, you will discuss the perfection of God’s creation, in particular you will discuss man, woman, & family. You will not discuss the fall of man until the next lesson.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

God created everything, and it was good. It was perfect. One part of God’s creation was man & woman.

Genesis 1:26,27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”… So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Gen 2:18

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Gen 2:24

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.” Gen 1:28

God created man, woman, and family. He set in order how the family should work. We are told in the New Testament how the family should work.

“The head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God”. I Cor 11:3

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church.” Eph 5:22-23

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” Eph 5:25

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, this is the first commandment with a promise, that it may go well will you and that you may live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Eph 6:1-4

“Honor your father and mother” is a repeat of the commandment given to the Israelites by Moses in Exodus 20:12

God gave man & woman a place to live, the Garden of Eden. It was a place of perfection, where God walked with man. Gen 3:8 The Garden of Eden can be viewed as a metaphor of man’s relationship to God. At this point in time, all is perfect. Gen 2:1-3 “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.”

God also setup 2 trees in the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good & evil, and the tree of life. Gen 2:9

**Cliffhanger:** So, how long will all remain perfect? Come back next time to find out.

**Tree of life** (Optional topic to discuss)

God sets up the tree of life in the Garden of Eden and then deny access to it after Adam & Eve have sinned. Gen 3:22-24 “Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man and at the east of the Garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

With the exception of Solomon comparing things to the tree of life in Proverbs, the tree of life is not mentioned again until Revelation.

Rev 2:7 “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Rev 22:2 “ On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

Rev 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”

Rev 22:19 “and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

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**Lesson 2 Foundation of the World**

Put the following in the order that God says in the Bible. Put the highest authority on the top, and the lowest on the bottom.

Children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

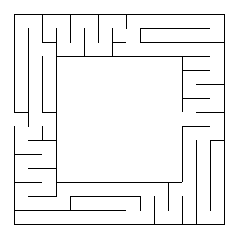
God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Woman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Help this family get back to the Tree of Life:



**Lesson 3 Paradise Lost**

##### Timeline Card #2 Before the Flood

In this lesson, you will discuss the fall of man and the concepts of redemption and law. The emphasis will lie on the concept that God created us with the ability to choose to do good or evil, and that God desires us to choose to do good.

Most children know the story of Adam & Eve and the serpent. The serpent tricked Eve and talked her into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good & evil. And Adam ate, too. (Gen 3:6) Then their eyes were opened. Man & woman sinned. They hid from God because they were ashamed. Since they chose to do wrong, they could no longer live in the Garden of Eden with God, because God is perfect. “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5. God cannot have association with sin or evil. Therefore, he had to be separated from mankind. God exiled man & woman from the Garden and punished them. But, he still desires a relationship with mankind.

But, even from the beginning, God had a plan. God’s plan is to redeem mankind, to allow mankind to once again have a relationship with God. In Genesis 3:14-15 “The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” This is a prophecy from God, and promises the coming of someone who will crush Satan’s head (evil).

Keep an emphasis throughout the quarter to look for the good man to fulfill this prophecy; we will find MANY good men, but none of them are good enough; until Jesus.

## VOCABULARY

**Prophecy:** A statement that something will happen in the future. A prediction of the future, made under divine inspiration. The power or ability to know what will happen in the future.

**Redemption**: the act of buying something back, or paying a price to return something to your possession. To rescue, deliverance from sin, atonement for guilt,

**Redeem:** to buy back, to get or win back**:** to free from captivity by payment of ransom, to release from blame or debt, to free from the consequences of sin

**Law**: a binding custom or practice of a community: a rule of conduct or action enforced by a controlling authority, the revelation of the will of God

1. *Why do we need redemption?*
   1. Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
2. *How are we redeemed?* 
   1. Through faith in Jesus. Romans 3:22-25 “There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**and ***all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus***. **25**God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.”

Because we are human like Adam & Eve, and many other characters in the Bible, we also sin and do not keep the law perfectly. No one can. That is why we need to be redeemed, or saved. God put the choice out there for mankind (& us) to decide whom to follow: good or evil. God spelled out His desires for us, promising good things to those who obey and punishment to those who do not obey. Your students will understand this as the relationship to their own parents; they are punished for disobedience and rewarded for obedience.

God created man in His image. (Gen 1:26) He gave us free will. We are responsible for our own actions. We can love God, or choose to do evil. Abel chose to love & obey God, and Cain chose to do wrong. Look what God told Cain in Gen 4:6 “The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

God desires that we seek Him because we love him, not because we have no other choice.

Acts 17:26-27 says “And he made from one many every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, *that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him*…”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says “Also, *he has put eternity into man’s heart*, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that *there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live*; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil-this is God’s gift to man.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 says, “I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, *loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him*, for he is your life and length of days…”

Romans 6:16 says, “Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness?”

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

Romans 8:2 says, “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin & death.”

**Cliffhanger:** God created man & woman and they chose to do wrong. God put man & woman out of the Garden of Eden. Mankind (men/women) is not perfect, what will happen next? Will mankind choose to obey God or choose to do evil?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lesson 3 Paradise Lost**

**Circle the correct answer.**

1. What choice did Adam & Eve make about the tree of the knowledge of good & evil?
   1. To do right
   2. To do wrong
2. What did God do to mankind after they sinned?
   1. Let them stay in the Garden of Eden
   2. Exiled them from the Garden of Eden
   3. Put them in time out
3. Did God punish the serpent for deceiving mankind?
   1. Yes
   2. No
4. Did God have a plan before he created man & woman?
   1. Yes
   2. No
5. Did God make a way for mankind to have a relationship with him again?
   1. Yes
   2. No
6. What does redeem mean?
   1. To buy back
   2. To rescue
   3. To free from the consequences of sin
   4. All of the above

Draw a picture from today’s lesson:

**Lesson 4 The Flood**

##### Timeline Card #3 The Flood

In this lesson, you will discuss Noah & the flood. The focus will not be on the details of the story, but, rather, the following:

* Noah was an heir of righteousness
  + (Righteousness is attained by faith AND obedience)
  + (It is only by the grace of God that any person is saved)
* We have a choice & opportunity to obey God, even when everyone else does wrong
* God saved a remnant of the faithful people from an evil world
* God uses water as a way to salvation

**VOCABULARY:**

**Grace:** a temporary exemption, favour, acceptance. From the root word khaw-nan meaning to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, to have pity upon. Some people like to say that grace is God giving us what we do not deserve.

**Righteousness:** (From Thayer) State of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God, correctness of thinking, feeling, & acting. (From Strong's) From the word Dikaios: *Approved or acceptable of God*

**Remnant:** usually a small part, a fragment or scrap. A surviving group of people.

**Salvation:** the state of being saved or protected, deliverance from the power and penalty of sin; redemption.

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Most all children know the story of the flood and the ark. This lesson will review Noah from a different perspective. Let us compare 2 verses in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:31 says, “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

Genesis 6:5-6 says, “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”

Approximately 1500 years after God created man, he regretted that he made man. (As a comparison, Jesus lived about 2000 years ago, and the earth is approximately 6,000 years old since God created it.) Mankind (all the people on the earth) had chosen to do evil and had chosen not to obey God. How sad! But…

Genesis 6:8, 9 says “But Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord…Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.”

*What is grace?*

Grace is when God looks at us, and likes us anyway, despite the wrong we do. God gives grace to us when do not deserve it. We cannot earn it or demand it. It is His to give as He wills to do. Without the grace of God, no one will be able to go to Heaven. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Acts 15:11 says, “But we believe that we (the Jews) will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they (the Gentiles) will.”

*How is righteousness counted to us so that we may obtain grace?*

Through faith. Faith that God keeps his promises, and faith that Jesus was the Son of God who died for our sins, was buried, and overcame death (rose on the 3rd day).

Romans 4:20-25 says “No distrust made him (Abraham) waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as *righteousness*.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for yours also. *It (righteousness) will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”*

*What does righteousness mean?*

Righteousness is being right in the eyes of God, or being found in a right relationship with God.

In the Old Testament, under the Law of Moses, Deuteronomy 6:25 says “And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.”

God is righteous. Righteousness is “virtue, purity of life, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting.” God is all of these. I Sam 12:7 says, “Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your fathers.”

1 Sam 26:23 says, “The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness…”

Ps. 5:12 says “For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.”

Ps. 34:19 says “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

Romans 6:13 says “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been bought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”

Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah…in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he…became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

God told Noah he was going to destroy the whole world except Noah’s family and two of every animal.

Genesis 6:17-19 says “For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you.”

Genesis 6:22 says “Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.”

Tell the children: Could you imagine if you were the only one in the whole entire world that obeyed God? Have you ever been in a situation where everyone else around you did something that you knew was wrong? Did you do the wrong thing too, since they all did it? Next time, remember Noah and be strong to stand up for the right thing and to choose not to do wrong.

As we continue to study the stories in the Bible, we will see more examples when only a few people were obeying God, and God protected or saved them. This is what we mean when we say that God saved the remnant.

Noah and his sons and their wives were saved from the flood because they obeyed God and built the ark and got on the ark. The apostle Peter compares Noah & the ark to baptism for Christians. We are saved when we obey God and are baptized as he asked us to do.

1 Peter 3:19-21 says “…They formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

**Cliffhanger**: God destroyed the world, except for 8 faithful souls. What will happen next? Will man choose to do right or wrong?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lesson 4 The Flood**

Match the word with its definition:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Grace | \_\_\_\_\_. A small part, or A surviving group of people. |
| 2. Righteousness | \_\_\_\_\_. The state of being approved or acceptable of God |
| 3. Salvation | \_\_\_\_\_. Favor. God giving us what we do not deserve. |
| 4. Remnant | \_\_\_\_\_. Being delivered from punishment (of sin) |

Answer each question:

1. How much did Noah do that God commanded? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What saves us today, like the flood saved Noah & his family? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many other people should we wait on to do the right thing before we do the right thing? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 5 A new beginning for Earth**

##### Timeline Card #4 Scattering of the People

***This lesson requires preparation time familiarizing you with the map of the scatterings of the people.***

In this lesson, you will define covenant. You will also explain how mankind continues to do wrong and how God scatters the people, setting the stage for a nation that is set apart to be God’s people. Maps will be available as visual aids.

**VOCABULARY:**

**Covenant:** A pledge between God & man, An agreement in writing under a seal, A divine ordinance with signs or pledges, A binding agreement, an action in which damages were sought for breach of a sealed agreement

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After the earth dried up from the flood, Noah & his family came out of the ark. God’s wrath (evil continually upon the earth) has been appeased through punishment (flooding the earth) and Noah’s obedience. Gen 8:20 “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

God established the covenant of the rainbow. [Define covenant for the children.] Genesis 9:11,16 says “I establish my covenant with you that… never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth…When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

Ask the children if they have ever seen a rainbow. Make the point that when God makes a covenant with man, He NEVER breaks his covenant. Hebrews 6:18 says, “it is impossible for God to lie.” God formed the covenant with Noah more than 3,000 years ago, and He is still keeping that promise. The rainbow is the first covenant God made with mankind. He will make multiple covenants with mankind throughout the Bible. We will talk more about covenants in future lessons.

Noah obeyed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. He saved his family and some of every animal from the flood. Is he the one God was talking about in Genesis 3? No, he is not. Noah also did some wrong things. He was not perfect. (See Genesis 9:20-27 for more info.)

Genesis 9:1 “And God blessed Noah & his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

Genesis 9:18-19 says, “The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed [scattered].” (Thought: Genesis 10 lists the genealogies, but they were not dispersed until after the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11).

Genesis 11:1-7 says “Now the whole earth had one language and the same words…Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth…And the Lord said…’Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.”

God told them to fill the earth, but they were all collected in one area and trying to build a tower & city that would make a name for them. It seems they knew they should be more spread out. So, GOD dispersed them, since they did not do it on their own.

Pull out the maps. Now you will discuss Noah’s sons and where each of them (& their descendants) settled. See Genesis 10 for descriptions of sons & territories. Cities & names to point out:

* Japheth
  + The coast lands people (vs 5)
* Ham:
  + The father of the Canaanites
  + Kingdom of Babel (vs. 10)
  + The land of Shinar (vs. 10)
  + Assyria & Ninevah (vs11)
  + Casluhim (father of the Philistines) (vs. 14)
  + Sidon, Gaza, Sodom, Gomorrah, Lasha (vs. 19)
* Shem:
  + Mesha to the hill country of the east (vs. 30)
  + Terah, Abram, & Lot came from Shem (Gen 11:27)
    - There are 10 generations from Noah to Abram
  + Therefore, all the Israelites are descended from Shem

You will refer back to these descendants and their territories in future lessons. It is recommended to hang the map somewhere or to keep student copies to refer back to.

**Cliffhanger:** God has set the people off of the ark and scattered them around the world. Some people are obeying God and some are not. What will happen next?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 5 A new beginning for Earth

1. What sign did God give for his covenant with all flesh?
   1. Rainbow
   2. Lamb
   3. Ark
2. When Noah & his family came off of the ark, what did God tell them?
   1. Stay together and build a great city
   2. Fill the earth
   3. Do whatever you want to do
3. Which one describes Noah?
   1. Noah never did anything wrong
   2. Noah did wrong sometimes but still tried to obey God
   3. Noah did not obey God in anything
4. Who did Abraham descend from?
   1. Ham
   2. Shem
   3. Japheth
5. Who did the Canaanites descend from?
   1. Ham
   2. Shem
   3. Japheth

**Lesson 6 Abraham called**

##### Timeline card #5 Patriarchs

***Please read Hebrews 5:1-10 & Hebrews 7:1-28 before teaching this lesson.***

In this lesson, you will talk about the following:

* God called Abram out of his homeland and established a covenant with him
* Abraham met Melchizedek, high priest of God
* Abraham rescued Lot 2 times
* God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah and set them as an example of unrighteousness

*Locate Ur, Haran, and Canaan on a map.*

Acts 7:2-4 says “The God of glory appeared to…Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran.”

Genesis 11:31-32 “Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.”

When Abram was 75 years old, in Genesis 12:1-7 “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. **And I will make of you a great nation**, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “**To your offspring I will give this land**.” So he built there an altar to the Lord who appeared to him.”

Hebrews 11:8 says, “By *faith* Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance.”

God made 3 promises to Abraham (nation, seed, land). He also told Abraham about things that would happen in the future. This future telling from God is a prophecy. Genesis 15:13-14 says, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.” *Let’s watch in future classes for this prophecy to come true.*

“When Abram’s possessions and Lot’s possessions became great, the land could not support both of them dwelling together.” (Gen 13:6) So, Abram & Lot separated. Lot went into the Jordan Valley and Abram went to the land of Canaan (Gen 13:12). After a while, there was a battle, and Lot was taken prisoner. When Abram found out about it, he went to rescue Lot. Abram and his allies won the battle and brought Lot & his family back to their home.

After winning the battle, Abram met Melchizedek, priest of God Most High (Gen 14:18). Melchizedek blessed Abram. “And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” (Gen 14:20) This is all we hear about Melchizedek in the Old Testament. But, in the New Testament, we read that God set Melchizedek was set as high priest as part of His plan.

The high priest was someone chosen to be a representative of the people to God. He had special duties to perform, and entered the Most Holy Place one day per year to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people. But the High Priest had to first offer sacrifices for his own sins. (Hebrews 9:7) Who are some of the High Priests that we know? [Melchizedek, Aaron, Jesus, Caiaphus, etc.] Some of them were righteous, and some were not.

When Jesus came to earth as a man, Jesus was “designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb 5:10) Jesus serves as our high priest forever, because He never dies. As high priest, he “secured an eternal redemption.” (Hebrews 9:12)

When Abraham was somewhere between 75 & 85 years old (Gen 12:4, 15:1-4, 16:16) and still had no children, he talked to God about it. God told him “Your very own son shall be your heir.” (Gen 15:4). Genesis 15:6 says, “And he [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he [the Lord] counted it to him [Abraham] as righteousness.” Abraham’s belief in what God said was what made him righteous here.

Time & time again, Abraham believed God and obeyed. *God desires that we believe him and obey him*. We often call this faith & obedience. Romans 1:5 & Romans 16:26 talk about “the obedience of faith”.

When Lot and Abraham separated, Lot chose to go to the Jordan Valley. Evil men lived in the valley. Lot & his family lived in Sodom. The Bible says “Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.” Genesis 13:13 God said, “their sin is very grievous (grave)” (Strong’s: to be heavy in a bad sense [burdensome]) Gen 18:20. God sent two angels to Sodom to save Lot & his family. Only Lot & 2 of his daughters survived. “Then the Lord rained on Sodom & Gomorrah sulfur & fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.” Gen 19:24-25 God destroyed the valley because of the evil of the people that lived there. This is not the first time God destroyed something because of the evil that was there. With Noah, God promised that he would never again destroy the whole earth by water. And He has not. This time, he destroyed a portion of the earth with fire & brimstone.

Sodom is mentioned in the Bible approximately 18 more times after it is destroyed. It is used as: 1-an example or comparison of the wickedness of man or 2-of God’s coming judgment.

“If by turning the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah to ashes, he condemned them to extinction, *making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly*; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment…” (2 Peter 2:6-8) Jude 1:6-7 expresses the same idea as 2 Peter.

Optional discussion: God WILL punish the ungodly people, even if it does not happen right away. Some people do wrong things and do not seem to get punished, but God sees their actions and will punish them at the time of judgment.

**Cliffhanger:** Abram is faithful & obedient. Is he the savior that God prophesied about?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lesson 6 Abraham called**

Fill in the blanks

1. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God and it was counted to his as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. God made Abraham 3 promises:
   1. I will make of you a great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. In you all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the earth shall be blessed.
   3. To your offspring I will give this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. God prophesied that:
   1. Abraham’s descendants would be sojourners in a land for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.
   2. Abraham would go to his fathers in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he was called to go out to a land he would receive as an inheritance. (Heb 11:8)
5. Melchizedek was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God Most High.
6. Melchizedek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham.
7. Abraham gave Melchizedek a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of everything.
8. God destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

### Lesson 7 Abraham’s Family Grows

##### Timeline card #5 Patriarchs

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* God establishes the covenant of circumcision with Abraham
* God promises the birth of Isaac
* Abraham is called to sacrifice Isaac
* God repeats the promises to Isaac
* Jacob & Esau are born
* Jacob is chosen over Esau

(Gen 17) When Abram was 99 years old, he had another meeting with God. God restated the promises he already made to Abram, established the practice of circumcision, and promised the birth of Isaac through Sarah.

Gen 17:1-8 “When Abram was 99 years old the Lord appeared to Abram & said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me & you, and may multiply you greatly. **I will make you exceedingly fruitful & I will make you into nations**, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring…**to be God to you and to your offspring after you**. And **I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan**, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” Gen 17:10-11,14 “**This is my covenant which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: every male among you shall be circumcised….and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you**…Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

During this same conversation, “God said, “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.” Abraham fell on his face and laughed about this, saying, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (Gen 17:19)

Gen 17:26 “*That very day* Abraham & his son Ishmael were circumcised. And all the men of his house…were circumcised with him.” Once again, we see Abraham believing God and obeying him.

Soon after this, the Lord appeared to Abraham again. Three men came to visit. Abraham welcomed them and fed them. While they were there, Sarah overheard them saying that “I will surely return to you about this time next year and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Gen 18:10) “So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out and my lord (Abraham) is old, shall I have pleasure?” Sarah laughed, too, like Abraham did. The Lord said, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gen 18:14)

The Bible tells us in Gen 21:2 “The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son…” How exciting! Sarah has a son of her own! They named him Isaac, as God told them to do. [You could relate this to the children by bringing in an example of a married couple that wanted a child and did not/could not have one. Today, they adopt & are so happy when they get a child.]

Genesis 22:1-3 “After these things, God tested Abraham and said to him…“Take 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. So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.” Genesis 22:3 Again, we see Abraham obeying God because he believed God (he had faith). Hebrews 11:19, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

Abraham did not have to kill Isaac. God stopped Abraham from killing him. Genesis 22:11-13, “But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He [the angel] said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.” Abraham did many good things in his life. He was a righteous man. But, he was not the man to fulfill the prophecy of Genesis 3. We will have to keep looking for him.

Isaac grew up, married Rebekah, and had two sons, Jacob & Esau. After Jacob & Esau were grown up, God repeated the promises to Isaac. Genesis 26:2-5, “And the Lord appeared to him [Isaac] and said… “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for **to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands**, and **I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father**. **I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven** and will give to your offspring all these lands. **And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

Jacob was younger than Esau, but Jacob was the son to whom the promises were repeated. Genesis 28:13-15, “And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. **The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.** **Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth**, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, **and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed**. 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 promised you.”

**Cliffhanger:** God has repeated promises from Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Jacob has 12 sons. To which son will the promise be repeated?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 7 Abraham’s Family Grows

1. What are the 3 promises God made to Abraham?
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Abraham sacrifice to God on the mountain?
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the 3 men that God made the 3 promises to in this lesson:
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Circle these words in the puzzle:

ABRAHAM ESAU

FAITH ISAAC

JACOB LAND

NATION OBEY

OFFERING PROMISE

SACRIFICE SARAH

SEED

N S E D E E S W K J F J E U A

K K C S A R A H R X A G S N B

O U I H N E G C Q J I C I L R

I L F V S G Y A L M T A M L A

G F I X Y S H L D W H L O D H

B U R Y V J M X J H E P R G A

O W C O E Y Y L L A P Z P R M

C I A Z F B I A J K R Q O V O

A N S J C F O N V U O U E T H

J H D I V F E D H B O N W B U

Q F N Z S I L R Y O E O E C N

M V J N N A C Q I L P I S O L

R F A K D D A M P N I T A K E

E R K F D X N C W M G A U X P

V M S B A G T E E P M N G N B

### Lesson 8 Israel in Egypt

##### Timeline card #6 Exodus

This lesson is packed full. In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* Abraham’s descendants are now in Egypt
* Abraham’s descendants grow in number
* They are in the land of Goshen living there, but separated from the Egyptians
* God is preparing them to be His chosen people & to establish themselves as their own nation
* The time has come for God’s people to leave Egypt
* Moses is chosen to lead God’s people

I recommend beginning by singing the 12 sons of Jacob song.

To the tune of “Ten Little Indians”:

*Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,*

*Dan then Naphtali,*

*Gad also Asher,*

*Issachar, Zebulun,*

*Joseph, and Benjamin,*

These are the sons of Jacob

Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him and sold him into slavery. “But God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.” (Acts 7:9-10) When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt for food, Pharaoh found out about Joseph’s family and told Joseph to move all of his family to Egypt.

Joseph said to his brothers: “And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here…God sent me before you *to preserve for you a remnant on earth*, and to keep alive for you many survivors.” (Gen 45:5-8)

Gen 45:17-20, “And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘…go back to the land of Canaan…and take your father and your households, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt.”

Genesis 46:2-4, “And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “…I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, *and I will also bring you up again*.” So Jacob went.

“All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob’s son’s wives, were sixty-six persons in all.” Gen 46:26

Genesis 47:27, “Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen.”

Jacob knew that Egypt was not his homeland. When Jacob grew old & was about to die, he blessed his sons & Joseph’s sons and told them to bury him in Canaan, not in Egypt. (Gen 49) They did as Jacob commanded them. (Gen 50:12-14)

*So, is Joseph the son through whom the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob continue?* No, he is not. It is Judah. Gen 49:8-10, “Judah, your brothers shall praise you…your father’s sons shall bow down before you. The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of all the peoples.”

When Joseph was about to die, “Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob…and you shall carry up my bones from here.” Joseph also knew that Egypt was not his homeland. *Optional*: sing the song “This world is not my home”. Explain that we live on earth, but our home is in heaven. (Heb 11:16)

Exodus 1:6-10, “Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them…”

The king of Egypt made the Israelites work as slaves (Ex 1:14) and told the midwives to kill any baby boy that was born to the Hebrews (Israelites) (Ex 1:16). “But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.” (Ex 1:18) Then Pharaoh told them to throw all baby boys in the Nile River (Ex 1:22).

The Israelites are not happy at all with being slaves. They began to grumble and complain. And God hears them. God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and decided to send someone to set his people free.

God appeared to someone in a burning bush and said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob…I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and *I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to…the place of the Canaanites*, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites…***Come, I will send you*** to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the

children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:6-10) Do you remember who that man was? It was Moses.

The Bible tells us “Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians…” (Acts 7:22).

Was Moses brave & ready to go to Pharaoh right away? No, he asked God several questions about it. During this same conversation at the burning bush, God told Moses, “I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty…so you shall plunder the Egyptians” (Exodus 3:19-22). This is another prophecy from God. Moses decided he would believe God and obey.

“Moses…went to back to the land of Egypt” Exodus 4:20. Moses went and met his brother, Aaron, as God told him to do. Then Moses & Aaron went to the elders of Israel and told them what God told them to say. (Ex 4:27-30). “And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.” (Ex 4:31) “Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.” (Ex 5:1-2)

“And the Lord said to Moses, “…I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring…my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them. Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them.” (Ex 7:1-6)

**Cliffhanger:** God (through Moses & Aaron) has told Pharaoh to let his people go. Pharaoh has refused to let them go. What is going to happen next?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 8 Israel in Egypt

Circle the correct answer.

1. Why did Jacob’s sons go to Egypt?
   1. To get food
   2. To go on vacation
   3. To bring Joseph back
2. What did Pharaoh say about Joseph’s family coming to Egypt?
   1. They cannot live in Egypt
   2. They must be slaves to the Egyptians
   3. Give them the best of the land in Egypt
3. How did Jacob know that it was good for him to go to Egypt?
   1. God appeared to him in a vision
   2. He had a good feeling about it
   3. He was young and liked to travel
4. Through which of Jacob’s sons did the promises of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob continue?
   1. Joseph
   2. Judah
   3. Levi
5. Did God know about the afflictions of the Israelites while they were in Egypt?
   1. Yes
   2. No
6. Who did God choose to lead his people out of Egypt?
   1. Peter
   2. Moses
   3. Joshua
7. Did Moses know the ways of the Egyptians?
   1. Yes
   2. No
8. Who went before Pharaoh with Moses?
   1. Aaron
   2. The elders
   3. No one

### Lesson 9 Walk not like an Egyptian

##### Timeline card #6 Exodus

*See map in separate file*

In this lesson you will discuss the following:

* God brings plagues upon Egypt to show His power
* God institutes the Passover as a reminder to Israel
* Israel exits Egypt & is saved through the Red Sea
* God gives The Law to Israel
* God’s prophecy to Abraham comes true (400 years of bondage)

Just as God said, Pharaoh did not let the people go. So, God displayed his power by sending 9 plagues to Egypt (Exodus chapters 7-10):

1. Water turned to blood
2. Frogs
3. Gnats (lice)
4. Flies
5. Disease of livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness

Each time, Pharaoh still refused to let them go. “The Lord said to Moses, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely…So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord...every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill…but…you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.” (Ex 11:1-7) Moses & Aaron told this to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh still did not listen to them or let them go. (Ex 11:10)

Then Moses went and spoke to the Israelites about this last plague upon Egypt (Exodus 11:21). God gave them instructions to choose a lamb on the 10th day of the 1st month and to roast it & eat it on the 14th day of the 1st month. They were to put the blood from the lamb on the doorposts & lintels. “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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations…” (Ex 12:13-14).

“Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses & Aaron, so they did. At midnight the Lord struck down 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 the livestock. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone!”” (Ex 12:28-32)

The Egyptians wanted them to go away quickly. They were afraid that they would ALL die (Ex 12:33). The Egyptians gave the Israelites sliver, gold, clothing and anything they asked for. “Thus they plundered the Egyptians” (Ex 12:36). Do you remember that God told Moses this would happen when he talked to him at the burning bush? (Ex 3:19-22) God knows the future and God is in control.

The Israelites leave Egypt and travel around where God tells them to go. Then God hardened Pharaoh’s heart again, and the Egyptians started chasing after the Israelites (Ex 14:8-9). The Israelites were camped at the Red Sea when the Egyptians caught up to them. They got scared and thought they were going to die. “And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and *see the salvation of the Lord*, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you…” (Ex 14:13-14)

God told Moses to lift up his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it. Then the cloud of the Lord moved between the Israelites & the Egyptians to protect them. The Red Sea divided, and the “the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left” (Ex 14:29).

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, the Egyptians followed them. God made the sea return to its normal course, and it destroyed the Egyptians. The Bible says, “of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained” (Ex 14:28). “Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses” (Ex 14:31). This is the 2nd time God saved His people through water. The 1st time was Noah & the ark. Do you think we will see God’s people saved by water again? [Yes, this is a pre-figure to baptism].

Do you remember the prophecy to Abraham that we talked about in Lesson 6? Genesis 15:13-14, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.”

Remember, God always keeps his promises. Genesis 25:8, “Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, and old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.” Exodus 12:40-41, “The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord [God’s people] went out from the land of Egypt.”

These people have been slaves in Egypt for their entire lives. Now they are free! What are they going to do? Where will God send them? Well, God sends them into the wilderness because they are not ready to fight (Ex 13:17). God provides them with food and water (Ex 15:22-27, Ex 16:4, Ex 17:1-7). But God has something else to give them, too. He gives them His law.

Exodus 19:5-6, “Now therefore, **if** you will indeed **obey** my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples…and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Note: you can also draw out this point from Exodus 16:4.) God has always wanted his people to believe him AND obey him (we call this faith & obedience). The Israelites believe in him. Now they need to learn to obey him.

They go to Mt. Sinai, and God gives them His laws. He appears before all Israel in a cloud on the mountain and speaks to them. “Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “*Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you,* ***that you may not sin***” (Exodus 20:18-20).

If time permits, you could discuss some of the laws that were given, i.e. the 10 commandments (Ex 20:3-17).

During this time at Mt. Sinai, God also tells the people that he is taking them to the land promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. He says, “I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice” (Exodus 23:20). [I believe this is a pre-figure of Jesus in John 14:2.] “And they [the people] said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient” (Exodus 24:7).

**Cliffhanger:** The people have heard God’s laws and said that they will obey. Will they really? What will happen when they mess up?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 9 Walk not like an Egyptian

O E K G S F B O S E I L F P L

R B L A G I D D J I H A A E O

Y E E K O R P N V O N S F G C

S Y T Y R S V E D K S M F D U

B Q R A F T L I I O D U O S S

B B G O W B A V V A E C I L T

T E F S S O W E R I A N I S S

I X L T L R R K S L I O B S F

P Q C I L N N Z K E H L M V A

M R S H E E B I S M H N X B J

W L H T S V V D S Y Z V V P M

Z I I S F O E N U Z Y J H N N

J N M A W X F O J I P X H B G

M G M G H V A Q N H L M E Z L

F R H O A R A H P O W A R U T

Circle these words in the puzzle above:

BELIEVE BOILS DARKNESS

FIRSTBORN FLIES FROGS

HAIL LAW LICE

LOCUSTS OBEY PASSOVER

PHARAOH SINAI WATER

Circle the correct answer:

1. God brought plagues upon Egypt:
   1. To show His power as the one & only God
   2. To make them mad
   3. Because he was bored
2. Who died in the Red Sea?
   1. All of the Egyptian army & Pharaoh
   2. Some of the Egyptian army
   3. No one
3. Where did God give the Israelites His laws?
   1. Red Sea
   2. Egypt
   3. Mt. Sinai

### Lesson 10 Wanderings

Timeline Card #7: Wandering in the Wilderness

In this lesson, you will discuss the following:

* God establishes the priesthood & laws for worshiping Him
* God leads the people in the form of a pillar & a cloud
* The 12 spies are sent into the land & bring back report
* The Israelites are sentenced to wandering in the wilderness 40 years
* The Israelites rebel against Moses, Aaron, & God
* The Israelites prepare to enter the promised land

**VOCABULARY**

**Tabernacle:**

* Dwelling place
* Residence
* Habitation
* Tent

**Priest:**

* From “kahan”, meaning one who mediates in religious services
* Principal officer
* Literally, one officiating

In our last class, the Israelites heard some of God’s laws and agreed to obey. In today’s lesson, they are still at Mt. Sinai and still receiving instruction from God. God has many, many things to teach the Israelites. It won’t be easy.

While camped at Mt. Sinai, Moses takes several trips up & down the mountain to talk to God and then come talk to the people. On one of these trips up the mountain, Moses receives the details about how to worship God. The Lord told Moses in Exodus 28:1, “Bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.” A **priest** is one who mediates (works with 2 parties to bring about agreement or reconciliation) in religious services. The high priest goes between God & the people.

The Israelites camped at Mt. Sinai for a total of 11 months & 5 days (according to this site: <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-travel-times-distances-days.htm>).

*How did the people know where to go, when to stay at camp, and when to leave?*

* “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people” (Exodus 13:21-22).
* “On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. *At the command of the Lord the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the Lord they camped*” (Numbers 9:15-18).

When they left Mt. Sinai, they traveled where God showed them. They continued to complain and to disobey. God continues to teach them right from wrong and to punish them. When they came to the Wilderness of Paran in Numbers 13:1-33, “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe…send a man, every one a chief among them.” So Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan… At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel…at Kadesh. …So they [10 of the 12 spies] brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.”

“And Joshua…and Caleb…who were among those who had spied out the land…said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us. ***Only do not rebel against the Lord***. And do not fear the people of the land…the *Lord is with us; do not fear them*.” (Number 14:6-9)

The people heard 2 different reports. They believed the 10 faithless spies instead of the 2 faithful spies. The 10 spies did not believe God. They saw the people in the land and thought they could not win a battle against them. The people were very upset. They cried, they complained, and then they said, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt” (Numbers 14:4). They want to go back to being slaves in Egypt!

*What did Moses think of this? What did God think of this?* Let’s read what the Bible says:

* “And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me? And ***how long will they not believe in me***, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them” (Number 14:11-12)
* And Moses said, “Now if you kill this people…then the nations who have heard your fame will say, ‘It is because the Lord *was not able* to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.” (Numbers 14:15-16)
* “Then the Lord said, “I have pardoned…But truly, as I live…none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness…**and have not obeyed my voice**, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers…But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and *has followed me fully*, I will bring into the land into which he went…Now…turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea.” (Numbers 14:20-25)

Remember, we said it would not be easy to teach these people to believe God & obey Him. God continues to be patient with them. Those who do wrong are punished, and many die, as God promised they would. But, he does not destroy the whole nation at once. There are some (a remnant) among them that are faithful and obedient, just like God said about Caleb. And God is saving them.

While they are wandering in the wilderness, a man named Korah gathered 250 men with him who all decided they did not want Moses & Aaron to be their leaders any more. They said to Moses & Aaron, “Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”… When Moses heard it, he fell on his face, and he said to Korah and all his company, “In the morning the Lord will show who is his, and who is holy, and will bring him near to him…*it is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together*” (Numbers 16:1-11).

The next day, the presence of the Lord was there and the ground swallowed up Dathan & Abiram and their households. Then the fire from the incense consumed the 250 men including Korah, and a plague killed 14,700 more people (Numbers 16:12-50).

These men were rebelling against God and decided that Moses & Aaron were not the only ones that could lead the people. But God made it clear that these are the men *He chose* to lead His people.

In Numbers 21:4-9 the people are camped at Mount Hor. They are impatient and complain again about food & water. They said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food. Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.” Then the people asked Moses to pray for them because the sinned. After he prayed, God told Moses to make a serpent and put it on a pole. “So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.” [Tell the children to remember this story, because God uses it as an example during the life of Christ.]

*Did Moses or Aaron or Miriam ever do wrong like the other Israelites did?* Yes, they did. They are just people too.

* Moses got mad at the people and struck a rock at Meribah when he was supposed to speak to it. (Numbers 20:10-13)
* Aaron helped the Israelites build a golden calf & also disobeyed at the waters of Meribah. (Exodus 32:2-5, Numbers 20:10-13, 24)
* Miriam & Aaron rebelled against Moses as a leader (Numbers 12:1-15)

*What was their punishment?*

* They were not permitted to enter the promised land (Numbers 20:1, Numbers 20:12, Numbers 20:24)

When the Israelites rebelled against God at Kadesh Barnea, the Lord told them, “All of your number, listed in the census from 20 years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb…and Joshua. But your little ones…I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. Bust as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness” (Numbers 14:29-33).

So, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. At the end of the 40 years, in Numbers 26, Moses is ordered to take a census of the people while “in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho” (Numbers 26:63). So they counted and listed all the people age 20 and over. “But among these there was not one of those listed by Moses and Aaron the priest, who had listed the people of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai…Not one of them was left, except Caleb…and Joshua” (Numbers 26:64-65).

The people have wandered for 40 years, and now it is almost time for them to enter the Promised Land. Aaron & Miriam have already died in the wilderness. Moses is still their leader, but he will not be able to enter the Promised Land either.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, *that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd*.” So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight…at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation.” And Moses did as the Lord commanded him” (Numbers 27:12-22).

Moses asked that the Lord appoint someone who will lead the Israelites after Moses is gone. God chose Joshua. And, Moses laid his hands on Joshua and commissioned him as the new leader. Moses did this in the presence of the priest and the entire congregation, so that they would all know that God chose Joshua to be their next leader.

“Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo…and the Lord showed him all the land…And the Lord said to him, “This is the land…I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab…but no one knows the place of his burial to this day…and the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab 30 days” (Deuteronomy 34:1-8).

**Cliffhanger:** What will the Israelites do now that their leader, Moses has died? What kind of leader will Joshua be?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 10 Wanderings

1. In the Law of Moses, whom did God set to lead worship and to act as a mediator between God & man?
   1. Priest
   2. Prophet
   3. Preacher
2. What did the Israelites see that let them know God’s presence was with them?
   1. A rainbow
   2. A pillar of cloud & a pillar of fire
   3. A bright star
3. How many spies did Moses send to spy out the land?
   1. 3
   2. 12
   3. 40
4. What did the people say after they heard from the spies?
   1. Let’s go take the land!
   2. Let us go back to Egypt!
   3. I’m not scared!
5. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
   1. 7 days
   2. 3 months
   3. 40 years
6. Whom did the ground swallow up?
   1. Jonah
   2. Dathan & Abiram
   3. Rahab
7. When the people were bitten by snakes for complaining, what did they have to do to be saved?
   1. Look upon Moses’s bronze serpent
   2. Get the venom out of their leg
   3. Pray
8. Did Moses & Aaron get to enter the Promised Land?
   1. Yes
   2. No
9. Whom did God choose to lead the people after Moses?
   1. Caleb
   2. Jacob
   3. Joshua

### Lesson 11 A New Leader

Timeline Card #8: Invasion & Conquest

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The Israelites give a spiritual re-dedication to the Lord
* Joshua takes over for Moses as leader
* The Israelites prepare to take the land that God promised them
* The Israelites conquer Jericho

In our last lesson, the Israelites had completed their 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness, and God was preparing them to enter the Promised Land. They are now a **nation**, a people with a set of laws and a leader. Deut 26:5-6 says, “…And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.”

(See also Deuteronomy 4:6 & Deut 27:9.) This is a fulfillment of another promise to Abraham. Genesis 12:1-2, “the Lord said to Abram…”I will make of you a great nation…”

The Israelites are in the plains of Moab (Deut 2:14-18) and are receiving the retelling of the law that was given (to the 1st generation) at Mt. Sinai. This 2nd telling of the law is given to the 2nd generation. Included in this telling of the Law is a promise of blessings for obedience and of cursing for disobedience. “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut 28:1-2). “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut 28:15).

Do your parents do this to you? Do they punish you for doing wrong? And do they reward you for doing right? God gave this job to parents, to discipline their children.

The Israelites have to decide to dedicate themselves to loving God and keeping his commandments. In Deuteronomy 26:17, they have done just that; “You have declared today that the Lord is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice.” They did this shortly before Moses died.

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.”… Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.” (Joshua 1:1-6)

“And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’” (Joshua 1:10-11) Do you know how many people there are in the camp now? There are 601,730 men from age 20 & up who are able to go to war (Numbers 26:2 & 26:51). That does not include women, children, and old men. So, it is probably more than 1 million people all together.

“And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses!”” (Joshua 1:16-17)

And Joshua sent 2 men to spy out the land, especially Jericho (Josh 2:1). So, the spies went to the city of Jericho and met a woman named Rahab. She hid them from the king’s men who were looking for them. She told the spies, “I know that the Lord has given you the land…we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath” (Joshua 2:9-11).

Rahab believes in the power of God! All the people of Jericho are afraid of the Israelites. She asked the spies to spare her life & her father’s household, because she helped them. The spies promised to save her household, if Rahab’s family would all gather in one room and hang a scarlet cord in the window (Josh 2:18).

The spies got away safely. And, listen carefully to the report they brought back to Joshua. Joshua 2:24 says, “They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”” How different this report than the 12 spies that went into Canaan from Kadesh Barnea!! They *believe* God this time.

Before they can go to take the land, they have to cross the Jordan River. Do you remember when the 1st generation crossed the Red Sea? God helped them, didn’t He? Well, He helps them again here. The Bible tells us in Joshua 3:15-17, “Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.”

So, they crossed over the Jordan River and setup a memorial of 12 stones to remember that God dried up the waters for them (Joshua 4:21-24). The Israelites have now set foot in the Promised Land! After more than 400 years away from the land, they have returned to it! But, it is not theirs yet. They cannot just walk in and choose a house they like and start living there.

First, God tells Joshua to circumcise the men. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant between God & Abraham. All of the men of the 1st generation were circumcised in the wilderness, but they all died. The 2nd generation had not been circumcised yet (Joshua 5:2-7). They camped at Gilgal until they were all healed.

Second, they celebrated the Passover. “While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year” (Joshua 5:10-12). We discussed in Lesson 9 that God provided food & water for the Israelites while they were in the wilderness. The manna started in the wilderness and stopped when they entered the Promised Land.

So, now this generation has heard the laws of God, agreed to follow them, received a new leader whose mission is to lead them into the promised land, witnessed a miracle when they crossed the Jordan River on dry ground, been circumcised according to the covenant with Abraham, and celebrated the Passover to remind them of God’s deliverance. Do you think they are ready to conquer the land? Are they physically ready? Yes. Are they spiritually ready? We shall see.

God tells them He has given Jericho into their hand (Joshua 6:1). He tells them to march around the city one time each day for 6 days, blowing their horns. On the 7th day, they are to march around the city 7 times, and to shout the 7th time around. They did as God commanded. On the 7th day, after the people shouted, “the wall fell down flat” (Joshua 6:20). The two spies saved Rahab and her family as they promised (Josh 6:23).

**Cliffhanger:** The Israelites won! They probably feel very excited. They obeyed God & it went well with them. Do you think this increased their faith? They are off to a good start. Will it be this easy to conquer the rest of the land?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 11 A New Leader

Fill in the blanks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ became the leader after Moses died.
2. God promised the people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if they obey Him.
3. God promised the people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if they do not obey Him.
4. Approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people crossed the Jordan River.
5. The Israelites crossed the Jordan River on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ground.
6. They celebrated the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at Gilgal.
7. The woman that hid the spies was named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. The men marched around Jericho for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days.
9. On the last day, the wall of Jericho \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. The two spies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rahab & her household.

### Lesson 12 Taking the Land

##### Timeline Card #9: Invasion & Conquest

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The Israelites are defeated at Ai
* The Israelites are deceived by the Gibeonites
* Cities of refuge are established
* The land promise to Abraham is fulfilled
* Joshua gives his farewell address & dies

In our last lesson, Joshua led the Israelites to victory against Jericho. This was a great victory for the Israelites.

Just as God spoke to Moses and told him of things to come, He also spoke to Joshua. God told Joshua, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you…that you may have good success wherever you go” (Joshua 1:6-7).

God told Joshua several times to be strong & courageous. Why did he have to tell him this so many times? Listen to what God says about the people they will be fighting. “Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the sons of Anak?’ (Deut 9:1-2)…AND… “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt…You shall not be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you.” (Deut 7:17-18 & 21-22). So, they are to be brave because the enemies will be bigger & stronger than they are, and it is going to take some time to drive them all out of the land.

After Jericho, the next battle they have to fight is a city called Ai. Joshua again sent spies to check it out. The men came back and said, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few. So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai,” (Joshua 7:3-4).

They were all so disappointed, and Joshua fell on his face to pray to God. “The Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have **stolen and lied** and put them among their own belongings. Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies…I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you” (Joshua 7:10-12). God told Joshua to assemble the men by tribes. And, God identified the tribe, the clan, the household, and finally the man that sinned. His name was Achan, of the tribe of Judah.

“Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.” And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”” (Joshua 7:19-21) Achan brought out the things that he had stolen & hidden. “And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today.”” (Joshua 7:24). Achan and his sons & daughters and oxen and donkeys were killed that day. They chose to do wrong and sinned against God. They had to be punished.

After Achan’s punishment was completed, “the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear…Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves” (Joshua 8:1-2). So, Joshua led the men against Ai again. They won this time, and they took the plunder that the Lord said they could take. They had a victory again!

After they conquered Jericho and Ai, some of the other nations became fearful of the Israelites and “gathered together as one to fight against Joshua & Israel” (Joshua 9:2). One nation decided to do something different, though. The inhabitants of Gibeon decided to make a covenant with the Israelites. Well, how do you think they did that?

Listen to what God told the Israelites in the plains of Moab when Moses was still alive. Deut 7:1-2, “When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, ***the Hivites***, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. ***You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them***.”

The Gibeonites (also called the Hivites, see Joshua 9:3,7, 11:19) got some worn out clothing and bags and pretended that they had traveled a long way to meet the Israelites. Joshua said to the Hivites, “Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?” (Joshua 9:7). They told Joshua that they had come “from a very distant country” (Joshua 9:9). The Israelites did not seek counsel from the Lord and made peace with them to let them live (Joshua 9:14-15).

Three days later, the Israelites “heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them” (Joshua 9:16). The people were angry, but they could not destroy the Hivites. So, they made them servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water (Joshua 9:27). The Israelites compromised God’s law and did what they wanted to do without seeking counsel from God. They knew not to make a covenant with any of the people in the land, but thought it would be okay to make a covenant with people far away. The problem was, they were not far away.

After this incident, Joshua and the Israelites did as God told them. They went from town to town, “and struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, he left nothing remaining…just as the Lord God of Israel commanded” (Joshua 10:28,30,32,33,35,37,39,40). *Show the maps to the children to show them the areas that Joshua conquered.* According to a commentary, it took about 7 years to conquer the land. (Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts)

Joshua 11:23 says, “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.”

So, now the national campaign for all of Israel to go and conquer the land has finished. God tells Joshua to divide the land to Israel for an inheritance, as He commanded (Joshua 13:6-7). God also pointed out that there were some regions still not conquered, and that the Lord would drive them out (Joshua 13:1-2, 6). Joshua divided the land as God told him.

After the land was divided, God told Joshua to appoint the cities of refuge. So, they set up 6 cities of refuge, 3 cities west of the Jordan River, and 3 cities east of the Jordan River (Joshua 20:1-9). These cities were safe places for people who had accidentally killed another person. God provided a safe place for those who had made mistakes. God is also our refuge. Psalms 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” The cities of refuge also act as a pre-figure to Jesus. See Hebrews 6:18-20 and this website: <http://www.bridgetothebible.com/Bible%20Lists/6%20cities%20of%20refuge.htm>. *Note, this website is simply a commentary that compiles information about the cities of refuge and the laws according to them, and makes application to Jesus. Use discernment when reading it.*

Now the land has been conquered and divided and the cities of refuge have been established. Joshua 21:43-45 says, “Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.” This fulfills another promise to Abraham: the land promise (Gen 12:1-7).

Joshua knows he has reached the end of his life. He gathers all the tribes of Israel, the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers to Shechem. Joshua spoke many things to them (Joshua 23:4-24:28). Here are some of the key points:

“4 Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off…5 The Lord your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the Lord your God promised you. 6 Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses…9 For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day. …11 Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God. 12 For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, 13 know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you…until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you.

14 And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you…15 But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the Lord your God has given you, 16 if you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them.

24:13 “I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.’

14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served… 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed…Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.””

“So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance. After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old” (Joshua 24:28-29).

**Cliffhanger:** The Israelites have renewed their covenant to serve the Lord. Now Joshua has died. What will the people of Israel do next? Who will be their leader?

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

### Lesson 12 Taking the Land

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Israelites lost the battle of Ai the first time because *(someone sinned/they did not have enough fighting men)*.

1. *(Achan/Caleb)* coveted spoils from Jericho and took them.
2. The other nations were *(shorter and weaker/taller and mightier)* than the Israelites.
3. God told the Isrealites that they *(could/could not)* make covenants with the people of Canaan.
4. They made a covenant with *(the Hivites of Canaan/a people far away)*.
5. Joshua led the Israelites in battle for about *(3 months/7 years)*.
6. Joshua divided the land *(the way he wanted to/like God told him)*.
7. Joshua setup *(48/6)* cities of refuge.
8. Joshua told the people to *(marry/drive out)* the remnant of the nations.
9. The people made a covenant to worship *(the Lord their God/other gods)*.
10. God *(broke/fulfilled)* another promise that He made to Abraham.
11. Joshua died when he was (young/old).

### Lesson 13 The Cycle of Shame

##### Timeline Card #10: Judges

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The Israelites abandon God in a generation
* They fall into a cycle of shame
* God raises up a judge to bring them back to Him
* Everyone does what is right in their own eyes
* Ruth is an example of a faithful servant during this time of disobedience

VOCABULARY

**Judge:** to pronounce sentence (for or against); to punish; to govern; to act as law-giver; to decide controversy (Strongs & BDB)

**Plunder:** to destroy, to rob, to take spoil

In our last lesson, Joshua gave his farewell speech and sent each tribe to its own inheritance. Before going, they renewed their covenant to serve the Lord. Joshua has died, and now Israel needs a new leader. Do they get a king? No. God raises 15 judges in different portions of the land to rule over Israel for approximately the next 300 years (Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts). Define judge for the students, if needed. See *Israel’s Judges* map and The *Period of the Judges* chart.

Remember that the Lord said He would help to drive out the remaining people from the land (Joshua 13:1-2,6). The book of Judges begins by listing each tribe and what they did when they settled in their inheritance. Some of the tribes conquered the peoples left there, and some of the tribes did not. Here are 2 random examples:

* “And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai” (Judges 1:10)
* “Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land” (Judges 1:33)

Let’s read what the Bible says happened next:

“When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all…who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. …*And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”*

“*And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals.* ***And they abandoned the Lord…They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them…***So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers…Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm... And they were in terrible distress.” (Judges 2:6-15)

Do you remember that the Lord had told the Israelites to teach these things to their children? God knew the Canaanites would cause problems for the Israelites if they did not conquer them all. Did they do a good job of that? No, as a nation, they did not. Let’s continue reading:

“Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they ~~whored~~ [went] after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge…but whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers…So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, “***Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not.***” So the Lord left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.” (Judges 2:16-23)

What can we learn from this today? God told the Israelites what to do, and He knew what was best for them. But, they did not obey God. They thought they knew themselves what was best. The Bible has a few things to say about that.

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

We should listen to God and obey Him, because He really does know what is best for us. What is it He wants from us? He wants us to believe and obey.

During these 300 years of being ruled by the different judges, the Bible says, “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25). To some of those people, the right thing was to follow the other gods. To some people, the right thing was to follow God.

Let’s look at a story about a faithful family that happened during this time.

“In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons…They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there…” (Ruth 1:1-2)

But the husband and the sons died. Then the wife, Naomi, heard that the famine in Judah was over. She planned to return to Judah and told her daughters-in-law to go back to their mothers’ households.

“But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God…and when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more” (Ruth 1:16-17).

When they returned to Bethlehem, Ruth went to a relative’s field to gather some food. The owner of the field was Boaz.

“Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, …And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” …“All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

Boaz was a close relative of Naomi’s. According to Israelite law, if a man died, the closest relative was to redeem the woman and take her as his own wife and to assist in helping buy back their land if needed (Leviticus 25:25-28). Boaz saw the good things that Ruth had done for Naomi and he redeemed her. He bought back the land for Ruth & Naomi and took Ruth to be his wife. (Ruth 4:1-13) Boaz and Ruth had a son.

“Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”…They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David” (Ruth 4:14-15). (Explain to the students that this is King David.)

Ruth was not of Israelite birth. But, she acted more Godly than many of the Israelites did. She represents the faithful remnant that we have discussed in previous lessons.

**Cliffhanger:** The Israelites have been under the rule of judges for almost 300 years. They have been marrying the foreigners and worshiping their gods. What will they do next?

### NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 13 The Cycle of Shame

Circle the words in the puzzle

G X L E S U V F M D T V F P H

J I X K C J I C D I L H S T M

W Y D J I A T K J D D S Q N M

N V E E C J E L Q E M I Z D F

Y M O B O P C P G T S O A S T

B A A L O N C H J M P I A N T

O I M O A N T W K E N T K B C

Z R F N Q U L X S T M E Z R P

R H I W R O X G Z M K E H U L

E S D D Q K E Y T T F B U T K

D R J K O H N B Q B L S O J E

E E G D U J R E D N U L P A P

E E V P B P B Q C I P V C W Z

M R C K B B C Z U W Z P N C C

C O N I A D B J K Y B I V Z E

BAAL BOAZ GIDEON

JUDGE MIDIAN MOAB

NAOMI OBEY PEACE

PLUNDER REDEEM RUTH

### Lesson 14 Give us a King Part 1

*Timeline Card #11: United Kingdom*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The Israelites ask Samuel for a king
* The Israelites effectively reject God as their leader
* The people choose Saul, based on stature
  + Kingship brings servitude & a lack of separateness
* Samuel remains faithful, as do some others
* David proves his worthiness in defeating Goliath
* God regrets Saul (1 Sam 15:35)
* God chooses David, based on his heart
* David becomes a king “in waiting”

In our last lesson, we learned about the Israelites being led by judges, and about them falling into captivity by their enemies. The last judge to serve over Israel was Samuel. Samuel was faithful to the Lord and helped the Israelites get back their stolen items and have victory over their enemies. When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel. But, they were not good judges. The people were not happy. “Then all the elders of Israel…came to Samuel…and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. ***Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations***.” But the thing displeased Samuel …and Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, ***for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them***…only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them”” (1 Samuel 8:4-9).

Samuel told the people what the king would do to them. Samuel said, ““And in that day you will cry out because of your king, ***whom you have chosen for yourselves***, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.” But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be ***like all the nations***, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles”” (1 Samuel 8:18-20). God chose Israel to be his special people, to be different from all the other nations. Now they are asking for a king so that they may be more like the other nations.

The Lord told Samuel, “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines” (1 Samuel 9:16). That man’s name was Saul. The Bible describes Saul this way; “There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people” (1 Samuel 9:2).

Samuel anointed Saul as king, and then presented him to all Israel. He gave a farewell speech, as did Moses and Joshua. He told Israel, “And now behold the king ***whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked***; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king… Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you” (1 Samuel 12:13-15,24). Samuel reminds the people to obey God, even when they have a king. *Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts* commentary says, “The earthly king would represent the nation before God and would be ultimately responsible to Him. Indeed, the book [1 & 2 Samuel] clearly reveals that the success or failure of the anointed king would be determined by his obedience or disobedience to the Law and his commitment to the will of God”.

“When Saul had taken the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned he routed them. And he did valiantly and struck the Amalekites and delivered Israel out of the hands of those who plundered them” (1 Samuel 14:47-48). Saul defeated many of the enemies of Israel. But, he did not always obey God. He did some wrong things.

First, he made sacrifices to God that only the priest was allowed to do. God punished Saul for doing this. “And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue” (1 Samuel 13:13-14).

Second, Saul did not destroy the Amalekites like God told him to. For this disobedience, God told Samuel, “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments” (1 Samuel 15:11). Samuel was very angry with Saul for doing this. He went to talk to Saul. Saul said, “I have performed the commandment of the Lord. And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”…” 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, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

Saul was not obeying God. And, God was not happy with Saul. After this incident, God told Samuel to go anoint a new king that God had chosen. So, Samuel went to Bethlehem like God told him. Samuel met the sons of Jesse and thought Eliab would be chosen. “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. ***For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart***” (1 Samuel 16:7). God chose David, Jesse’s youngest son. Samuel anointed him. We will learn more about David in our next lesson.

When David was anointed, “the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward…now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him” (1 Samuel 16:13-14). Saul searched for someone to play music for him to make him feel better. He found David. “And Saul loved him greatly” (1 Samuel 16:21).

Saul continued to be king until he died, even after the Spirit of the Lord departed from him. He was also still fighting the enemies. He had trouble defeating the Philistines, though. Saul offered a reward to the man that would kill Goliath. The men were afraid, and for 40 days no one would come out to fight Goliath. Well, you probably all know the story about how David killed Goliath with a sling and a stone (1 Samuel 17:50). Saul put David in charge of his army. But, then Saul became jealous of David. “Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed Saul” (1 Samuel 18:12). “So Saul was David’s enemy continually” (1 Samuel 18:30).

Saul tried multiple times to kill David. David had multiple chances to kill Saul and did not kill him. Then in another battle the Philistines killed Saul’s 3 sons. Saul was also badly wounded in that battle. “Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it” (1 Samuel 31:4). Thus, Israel’s first king has died.

**Cliffhanger:** What will happen now that the king is dead?

### NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 14 Give us a King Part 1

Fill in the blanks:

1. Samuel was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.
2. Israel asked Samuel for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. The Israelites rejected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when they asked for a king.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chose the first king of Israel.
3. There was not another man more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than Saul.
4. Saul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ obey God.
5. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Saul from being king.
6. God told Samuel to anoint a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. David \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make Saul feel better.
9. David killed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Saul put David in charge of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Saul tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ David.

### Lesson 15 Give us a King Part 2

*Timeline Card #11: United Kingdom*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points. The timeline for this lesson will be followed through the book of 1 Chronicles.

* Royal succession
* God makes a covenant with David (2 Sam 7:8-16)
* One will build God’s house
* Sin/forgiveness/consequences
* David’s reaction is different from Saul’s
* Selected Psalms

In our last lesson, king Saul died. “So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the Lord in that he did not keep the command of the Lord…he did not seek guidance from the Lord. Therefore the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse” (1 Chronicles 10:13-14).

What books of the Bible do we go to in order to read about King David? 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles, and Psalms. (He is mentioned in 1 Samuel prior to becoming king.) David was king of Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4). David wanted to build a house for God and the ark of the covenant to live in. God responded to this and made a covenant (promises) with David. Let’s read some of the things God told David:

“Thus says the Lord: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in. For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling…I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. **And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of earth**…When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom**. **He shall build a house for me**, and **I will establish his throne forever**. I will not take away my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you” (1 Chronicles 17:4-15).

Then, David spoke to the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? … And what more can David say to you for honoring your servant? … There is none like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides you…and who is like your people Israel, ***the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people***, making for yourself a name for great and awesome things, in driving out nations before ***your people whom you redeemed from Egypt***?” (1 Chronicles 17:16-22).

Do any of these promises sound similar to the promises he made to Abraham? God told Abraham that he would make his name great (Genesis 12:2). David is a descendant of Abraham, of Jacob, of the house of Judah. David was born in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 17:12).

“And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went. So David reigned over all Israel, and he administered justice and equity to all his people” (1 Chronicles 18:13-14). David did many good things for the Lord and for Israel. Is he the good man we are looking for from Genesis 3? He is very similar to that man in many ways, but he is not “the” good man. David does wrong things, too.

In the springtime one year, David took another man’s wife. The woman’s name was Bathsheba. When she found out she was going to have a baby, David had Bathsheba’s husband killed, and took her to be his wife. “But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord” (2 Samuel 11:27). “And the Lord sent Nathan to David” (2 Samuel 12:1). “Nathan said to David, “Thus says the Lord, to God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel…Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? …Now therefore the sword shall never depart form your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord, “Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. … For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun”” (2 Samuel 12:7-12).

“David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”” (2 Samuel 12:12). David was a writer as well as a king. He wrote most of the book of Psalms. Psalms 51 was written after this story. Let’s look at some of Psalms 51:

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. …

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. …

Create in me a clean heart, o God, and renew a right spirit within me. …

Then I will teach transgressors you ways, and sinners will return to you. …

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be please with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (Psalms 51)

What type of response is this from David after he sinned? Does he sound like he is sad that he did wrong? Or, does he sound like he did not do wrong? How did Saul respond when Samuel spoke to him? He acted like he had not done wrong. That is what David means when he writes “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit”. God wants us to admit when we do wrong, and turn away from it.

In Acts 13:22, God says “I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will”. God was pleased with David, even though he had done wrong. David did many good things for God while he was king. He led by example.

God chose Solomon to build his house (temple). David knew this, and did not become upset that he could not build God’s house. Instead, he started making preparations and getting everything ready for Solomon to build it. He gathered great quantities of iron, bronze, cedar, stone, gold, and silver (1 Chronicles 22:2-16). “When David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel” (1 Chronicles 23:1). David assembled the Levites together and organized them for the service of the house of the Lord (1 Chronicles 23:32). He assembled the sons of Aaron and organized them as priests to come into the house of the Lord (1 Chronicles 24:19). He assembled the musicians who were trained in singing to the Lord (1 Chronicles 25:7). He also assembled gatekeepers to watch the gates of the temple (1 Chronicles 26). And he appointed some as treasurers (1 Chronicles 26:20-32).

Then David assembled and gave his farewell speech to the leaders, elders, stewards, and officials. Let’s look at some of the things he said to them, “Observe and seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever. … And you, Solomon, my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and undertakes every plan that thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever” (1 Chronicles 28:1-10).

David then explained to all the assembly that God chose Solomon to reign as king and to build the temple. David then gave many of his personal possessions of gold and sliver for the temple. He asked the assembly, “Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?” (1 Chronicles 29:5). The assembly gave their offerings of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and precious stones. “Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly” (1 Chronicles 29:9).

Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly… and all the assembly blessed the Lord, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the Lord and to the king” (1 Chronicles 29:10,20).

**Cliffhanger:** What will Israel do when David dies and Solomon takes the throne?

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### Lesson 15 Give us a King Part 2

Circle the correct answer.

1. Did God allow David to build a house for him to dwell?
   1. Yes
   2. No
2. God made a covenant with David. Circle the promises that he made to him:
   1. I will make your name great
   2. Your son will build a house for me
   3. I will establish your son’s throne forever
   4. You will be 10 feet tall
3. David is a descendant of Abraham & Jacob through this tribe:
   1. Reuben
   2. Levi
   3. Judah
4. David reigned over all Israel with:
   1. Justice & equity
   2. Yelling & screaming
   3. Whatever he wanted to do
5. What did God do to David when he took Bathsheba?
   1. Punish him
   2. Laugh at him
   3. Ignore him
6. How did David respond to God after he sinned?
   1. He said he did not sin
   2. He admitted his sin
   3. He was angry with God
7. Who did God choose to build his house?
   1. David
   2. Solomon
   3. Heman (1 Chronicles 25:1)
8. When David spoke to the assembly, what did he tell them?
   1. Seek the commandments of the Lord
   2. Worship idols
   3. Do what you see right in your own eyes
9. After David was done speaking, what did the people do?
   1. Blessed the Lord & bowed their heads
   2. Did what they wanted to do
   3. Worshiped idols

### Lesson 16 Wisdom is not Enough

*Timeline Card #11: United Kingdom*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* Under Solomon, the kingdom experiences prosperity galore (from God)
* Solomon succumbs to distractions & a loss of focus
* God takes the kingdom away, except for Judah, for David’s sake
* Consequences of obedience/disobedience

In our last lesson, David gave Israel his farewell speech and appointed Solomon as king. Solomon ruled over Israel for 40 years (1 Kings 11:42). We read about King Solomon in 1 Kings & 2 Chronicles in the Old Testament. Solomon also wrote some of the books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and possibly Song of Solomon. Solomon was the wisest man to ever live. He got his wisdom from God. God was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom, and God told Solomon “Because you…have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold…I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ***And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days***” (1 Kings 3:10-14).

Israel had peace on all sides for all the days of Solomon (1 Kings 4:25). Solomon began building the temple in his 4th year as king. This is the 480 years after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt (1 Kings 6:1). It took 7 years to build the temple (1 Kings 6:38). “So Solomon build the house and finished it” (1 Kings 6:14).

Solomon was a Godly king when he took the throne. He spoke to the people of Israel and said, “All the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments…” (1 Kings 8:60-61).

“…King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules” (1 Kings 10:23). Perhaps the most famous visitor Solomon had was the Queen of Sheba. She was amazed at Solomon’s wisdom (1 Kings 10:1-13). Solomon became very wealthy. He also took more land for the nation of Israel. (See map “*Solomon’s Empire*”). Solomon “spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005” (1 Kings 4:32).

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are full of Solomon’s wise sayings. Let’s look at a few of them: (R*ead some of these, or some of your own favorites*)

Proverbs 1:8: “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching”

Proverbs 8:11: “For wisdom is better than jewels”

Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

Proverbs 12:22: “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord”

Proverbs 13:1: “A wise sons hears his father’s instruction”

Proverbs 19:17: “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed”

Proverbs 22:15: “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him”

Proverbs 23:22: “Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old”

Eccles. 3:1: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”

Eccles. 8:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might”

Eccles. 12:13-14: “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil”

King Solomon did many good things. The Israelites had peace, land, wealth, and God. But, Solomon is just a man, too. And he did wrong. “Now King Solomon loved many foreign women.” He had 700 wives and 300 concubines. These were the women God told had them not to marry because they would “turn away your heart after their gods.” “For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father” (1 Kings 11:1-4)

“And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord…he did not keep what the Lord commanded” (1 Kings 11:9-10). The Lord told Solomon that he was going to tear the kingdom from Solomon and give it to his servant. But, because of King David and the covenant God made with him, he would not tear the entire kingdom away from Solomon. Solomon’s son would rule over one tribe, and his servant would rule over 10 tribes (1 Kings 11:11-13). Then God raised up adversaries (an enemy; one's opponent in a conflict, or dispute) against Solomon. “And Solomon slept with his fathers [died]” (1:kings 11:43).

**Cliffhanger:** Solomon did many wise and good things, but he also did wrong. What will happen to the nation of Israel now?

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### Lesson 16 Wisdom is not Enough

Circle the correct answer.

1. Solomon is in the (***Old Testament/New Testament***).
2. Solomon was the ***(wisest/most foolish)*** man to ever live.
3. Solomon was very ***(rich/poor)***.
4. When Solomon was king, Israel had ***(more land/less land)***.
5. When Solomon was king, Israel had ***(peace/wars)***.
6. Solomon had the temple built in ***(3 days/7 years)***.
7. A famous person to visit King Solomon was ***(King of Rome/Queen of Sheba)***.
8. Solomon wrote ***(14 / 3,000)*** proverbs.
9. According to Solomon, which is more valuable? ***(jewels/wisdom)***
10. Solomon had ***(1 / 700)*** wives.
11. When Solomon was old, the Lord was **(pleased/angry)** with him.

Copy this: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Eccles. 12:13

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### Lesson 17 Divided Kingdom

*Timeline Card #12: Divided Kingdom*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The kingdom of Israel divides into 2 kingdoms
* The Northern kingdom falls into idolatry & sets up their own places of worship
* Ahab & Jezebel are an example of the evil & idolatrous attitude of the Northern kingdom
* The Southern kingdom has both good & bad kings
* The lineage of Judah/David is preserved in the Southern kingdom
* God sends prophets to speak to the kings
* Israel is taken away into Assyrian captivity as prophesied

At the end of the last lesson, God told King Solomon that he would tear the kingdom away from him, and King Solomon died. Solomon appointed his son, Rehoboam, to reign after him. Rehoboam took the throne, but the people were not happy with him and followed after Jeroboam. And so, the kingdom split with the tribe of Judah following Rehoboam, descendant of David, and the remaining tribes following Jeroboam of the tribe of Ephraim (1 Kings 11:26, 1 Kings12:16-24). God’s prophecy came true.

From this point forward, the nation of Israel is 2 nations, known as the Northern Kingdom & the Southern Kingdom, Israel & Judah. Israel had 19 kings that did not follow after the Lord. They worshiped idols. Israel had multiple families (dynasties) that took the throne. Judah had 19 kings also. Some of them did not follow the Lord and some of them did. ALL of the kings of Judah were descendants of David. Even when the king was not faithful to God, the Bible says, “for David’s sake, the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem, because David did what was right in they eyes of the Lord and did not turn aside form anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite” (1 kings 15:4-5).

When Jeroboam was king, he feared that the people of Israel would turn back to following King Rehoboam when it was time to travel to Jerusalem to make sacrifices to the Lord. So, Jeroboam built 2 golden calves and setup places to worship in the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Jeroboam told the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Then this thing became a sin. … He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites” (1 Kings 12:28-31).

The kings led the people in the wrong direction. However, there were still some people that were faithful to God. In 1 Kings 19:18, God told Elijah in the northern kingdom, “I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” When King Asa ruled in Judah (King Asa was a good king), he put away the idols from the land and renewed a covenant with the Lord. “And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the Lord his God was with him” (2 Chronicles 15:9).

The Northern Kingdom was a kingdom for 209 years. The Southern kingdom was a kingdom for 345 years (*Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts*). During this time, God was speaking with his people. He sent prophets (a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God) to speak to the kings. Most of the prophets were sent to Israel to tell the king that something bad would happen because he was not following the Lord.

One of these prophets was Elijah. He had to send a message to King Ahab. Listen to what the Bible has to say about Ahab. “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him” (1 Kings 16:29-33). Ahab was an evil king, and he had an evil wife. Her name was Jezebel. Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:13), and she threatened to kill Elijah. She did many other things that were wrong in the sight of the Lord. “But there was none like unto Ahab, who did sell himself to do that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up” (1 Kings 21:25).

There were many prophets during the 209 years that Israel was a kingdom. Some of the accounts of the prophets are in the Bible: Elijah, Hosea, Amos, Obadiah, and Micah. These all spoke of the judgment that would come upon Israel for disobeying God. God foretold that Israel would be defeated by the Assyrian army and would be carried away to another land.

“In the fourth year of King Hezekiah [king of Judah], which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed“ (2 Kings 18:9-12).

**Cliffhanger:** Israel did not follow God and was carried away captive to another land. What will happen to Judah now?

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### Lesson 17 Divided Kingdom

**Northern Kingdom Southern Kingdom**

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Put the following items in the correct column:

Israel

Judah

Bad kings

Good & bad kings

Idols

David’s descendants

Jerusalem

Dan & Bethel

King Ahab & Queen Jezebel

Assyrian captivity

Jeroboam

Rehoboam

Golden calves

King Asa

### Lesson 18 Judah Alone

*Timeline Card #13: Judah Alone*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* King Hezekiah inquires of God
* Assyria is defeated at Jerusalem
* King Josiah finds the law and turns to God
* God punishes his people and turns away from Jerusalem
* Messages from the prophets
* God has a plan in place, long before things ever happen

In the last lesson, the Northern Kingdom was defeated by the Assyrians and carried away to another land (2 Kings 17:6-7). In this lesson, we will discuss the good and bad kings of Judah and then look at the prophets of this time. We will conclude with the defeat and capture of Judah.

Hezekiah was king of Judah (the Southern kingdom) when Israel (the Northern kingdom) was taken away. Listen to what the Bible says about King Hezekiah, “And he [Hezekiah] did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. … He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, ***so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.*** For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but *kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses*. And the Lord was with him” (2 Kings 18:3-7).

When Hezekiah had been king 14 years, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came to Judah and captured all its fortified cities (2 Kings 18:13) [except Jerusalem]. The Assyrians teased and mocked King Hezekiah and God. “And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the people of the earth, which are the work of men’s hands” (2 Chronicles 32:19). Wow! Sennacherib does not know the Lord God, does he?

Hezekiah spoke to Isaiah the prophet about this. Let’s listen to what the Lord said about Sennacherib:

“Whom have you mocked and reviled?

Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights?

**Against the Holy One of Israel!**

By your messengers you have said, ‘With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon …

**Have you not heard that I determined it long ago?**

**I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass,** that you should turn fortified cities into heaps of ruins …

**For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant** …

(2 Kings 19:20-31)

“And the Lord sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. … **So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib** king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies” (2 Chronicles 32:21-23). The people praised God for saving them, and Judah continued as a nation on their own land for 136 years after Israel was taken away by the Assyrians (*Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts*).

After King Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh became king. Manasseh did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 21:1-2). And so did his son after him.

Then Josiah became king. He made repairs to the temple, found and read the book of the covenant [Law of Moses], inquired of God, made a covenant to keep the words of the Lord, and reinstated the Passover (2 Kings 22:3-13, 23:1-3, 23:21-23). Listen to what the Bible has to say about Josiah, “Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him” (2 Kings 23:25). God also said to Josiah (through the prophets): “**Because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord**… I have heard you…therefore…you will be gathered to your grave in peace and **your eyes will not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place**” (2 Kings 22:18-20). Josiah followed God, and God did not bring the punishments upon him.

At the end of Josiah’s reign, the Bible says, “Still the Lord did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. And the Lord said, “**I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there**.”” (2 Kings 23:27).

After Josiah died, there were more kings that did evil in the eyes of the Lord. One of those kings was Jehoiakim. The Bible says, “And the Lord sent against him [King Jehoiakim] bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and **sent them against Judah to destroy it**, **according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servants the prophets**” (2 Kings 24:1-4).

Let’s focus on the prophets for a moment. God sent prophets to Judah just as he had sent prophets to Israel. Some of the kings listened to the prophets and some did not. Some of the messages of these prophets are written in the Bible for us to read and learn from: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Micah (*Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts*). Some of the messages from God were good news, and some were bad news.

We have talked for several lessons about how God had a plan in place, and what he plans comes to be. I hope you are seeing this through the prophecies and their fulfillments. Isaiah wrote this message from God, “I am God, and there is not like me, *declaring the end from the beginning* and from ancient times *things that are not yet done*, saying, “…*I will accomplish all my purpose*…I have spoken and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it” (Isaiah 46:9-11).

God simply wanted his people to believe and obey him. He wanted them to serve only him, not any other gods. Here is another message from God:

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

“I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.

**Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments!**

Then your peace would have been like a river…

your offspring would have been like the sand…

their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me.” …

“There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.” (Isaiah 48:12-22)

Micah was another prophet that spoke at about the same time as Isaiah. Here is a message he brought. Listen to how sad and angry God must have been with his people:

Hear what the Lord says:

**“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!**

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and **redeemed you** from the house of slavery,

and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember … that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

*Will the Lord be pleased* with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

**He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you**

**but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**” (Micah 6:3-8)

When Zedekiah was king, the Bible says, “In the…nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. And he **burned the house of the Lord** and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. …**and broke down the walls around Jerusalem**…And the rest of the people who were left in the city…Nebuzaradan …carried into exile” (2 Kings 25:8-11).

**Cliffhanger**: Judah has been carried off to Babylon, far away to the east of Jerusalem. God has said that he has a plan. What is next for the Israelites?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 18 Judah Alone

Circle the correct answer.

1. Who was the king of Judah when Israel was taken away by Assyria?
   1. Hezekiah
   2. Ahab
   3. Moses
2. Which one describes Hezekiah?
   1. He did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord
   2. He worship the Lord God and idols
   3. He worshiped only the Lord, the God of Israel
3. Did Assyria defeat Jerusalem?
   1. Yes
   2. No
4. Circle all the things Josiah did when he was king.
   1. Repaired the temple
   2. Read the book of the law of Moses
   3. Setup the Passover again
   4. Forgot God
5. What did God do about the wrong things that Judah had done?
   1. He was happy
   2. He decided not to punish them at all
   3. He cast off the city of Jerusalem and allowed it to be destroyed
6. Circle all the things the prophets do.
   1. Bring messages from God to the people
   2. Try to be the king
   3. Tell about things that will happen in the future
7. Does God know the future?
   1. Yes
   2. No
8. Who defeated Judah and carried them away?
   1. Babylonians
   2. Egyptians
   3. Assyrians

### Lesson 19 Captivity

*Timeline Card #14: Captivity*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* God punishes His people for their disobedience
* God continues to communicate with and be with His people
* God promises a remnant will return
* God is in control
* Babylon falls

In our last lesson, the people of Judah were carried off to Babylon. There were a few of the poorest people left in Judah to tend the land, but most of them were carried off to Babylon. Now they are captive in another land, similar to how they were slaves in Egypt at the time of Moses. God allowed them to be carried off to captivity because of their disobedience. He told them they would be punished if they did not obey. Do your parents ever punish you if you do wrong? Yes, hopefully, they do. And, they should. The Bible tells us, “the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in” (Proverbs 3:12). God did not completely abandon his people even when they were being punished.

While they are in captivity in Babylon, God continues to communicate with them through the prophets (ex. Jeremiah 29:1). Through the prophet Jeremiah, he tells them they will be in captivity for seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11-12), and he promises that a remnant shall return to their land (Jeremiah 16:15 & Jeremiah 29:10-14). Through the prophet Ezekiel, he tells them, “For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, *you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant*, yet I will remember my covenant with you…Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed…I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 16:59-63). God wants his people to realize the wrong they did and turn to him and obey him. This is called repentance.

It is during this time of captivity in Babylon that the story of Daniel takes place. Remember how Daniel & his friends did not eat the king’s food, but only ate vegetables? And Daniel was able to interpret dreams, and the king gave him high honors and had him serve in the king’s court (Daniel 2:48-49). Daniel worshiped only the Lord God and obeyed him (ex. Daniel 6:10). He also read the books of the law and the prophets (Daniel 9:2).

God showed the prophet Ezekiel a valley of dead, dry bones. He told Ezekiel to prophecy to the bones to live. Ezekiel prophesied, and they lived. They had flesh and skin and breath and they stood up on their feet (Ezekiel 37:1-14). God used this as an example of what he would do to his people that were carried off. They were without hope and cut off from God. God will bring them back. The Lord says, “And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord: I have spoken, and I will do it” (Ezekiel 37:14). He went on to say, “And I will make them one nation in the land…and one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms” (Ezekiel 27:22).

He also spoke this through Ezekiel: “…Thus says the Lord God: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.’ Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’ And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. ***And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them…that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them***. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads” (Ezekiel 11:16-21). He wants them to come back to him, to love him and obey him.

How are they going to get back to their land? Through the prophet Isaiah, God predicted that Babylon would be destroyed and that the house of Israel would return to their land. Listen to how God describes their destruction:

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, …

will be like Sodom and Gomorrah

when God overthrew them.

It will never be inhabited

or lived in for all generations;…

But wild animals will lie down there,

and their houses will be full of howling creatures; …

its time is close at hand

and its days will not be prolonged. (Isaiah 13:19-22)

Once again, God shows that he is in control. He has caused Judah to be taken into captivity. But, he has been with the prophets, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, even in captivity and caused Daniel to prosper. He was also with Shadrach, Meschach, and Abed-nego and other faithful Israelites. God has prophesied that he will destroy the Babylon that took Judah captive.

Daniel was serving in the king’s court when King Belshazzar (Nebuchadnezzar’s son) had a feast. Do you remember the story of the hand writing on the wall? God was punishing Belshazzar for not honoring the Lord. “That very night, Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom…” (Daniel 5:13-31). When Belshazzar was killed, the city of Babylon was destroyed and the Medes took control of the Babylonians. Daniel then went to serve in King Darius’s court (Daniel 6:1-3).

Daniel also saw visions and told of things to come. Let’s look at one of his visions:

“I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven

there came one like a son of man,

and he came to the Ancient of Days

and was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion

and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages

should serve him;

his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

which shall not pass away,

and his kingdom one

that shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)

We see that other nations destroyed Israel and Jerusalem and even Babylon. Who do you think this vision is talking about? It is talking about Jesus and the church. The church is a kingdom that no one will ever be able to destroy. I think God wanted to give his people hope. We will talk more about that in a future lesson.

**Cliffhanger:** The Medo-Persian empire now has the Israelites captive. What will happen to God’s people now that Babylon has been defeated?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 19 Captivity

I O U Z I J F F S H R X Q P H

V B A Q G V X V F U J H R Y A

H F O P Z H I V X Y I O H K I

G Z F B A B Y L O N P R S M A

E Z E K I E L I K H R C A G S

L E I N A D G E E C T Y Q D I

U F X V J I J T I I X R F D B

W K W M A X Q J X U A U W P T

Y T I V I T P A C I S S U J S

O U V V S U H L S E R L T S R

U B A P E W E R B A U F O O X

I P E Z F X E H T T G Y G D H

O G N Y X P W O X B F G G Y I

X J S J O A V C C X M K N W E

T Q L Y L L Q F P M E D E S T

**Circle these words in the puzzle above:**

BABYLON CAPTIVITY CYRUS

DANIEL DARIUS EZEKIEL

IDOLS ISAIAH LAW

MEDES OBEY PERSIA

PROPHET

### Lesson 20 Return

*Timeline Card #15: Return*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points & events:

* Persia is in control now
* God is in control of world events
* King Cyrus decrees that Israel can return to their land
* The temple and the wall of Jerusalem are rebuilt
* Worship is restored in Jerusalem

In the last lesson, the Israelites were still in Babylon, but the Medes & Persians were now in control. Some of the Israelites have been moved to the Persian city of Susa, not too far from Babylon. During this lesson, we will be in the books of Ezra & Nehemiah.

The Bible tells us in the book of Ezra, “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, *that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled*, *the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus* king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:1-4).

Can you believe it? The new king took control and told the Israelites that they could go back to their homeland and rebuild their temple to their God! How exciting that must have been for them! They had been in a foreign land for 70 years. Some of them chose to go back to Jerusalem, but some of them chose to stay in Babylon and Susa. They were about 900 miles from home (*Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts*). That is as far as Atlanta, GA to New York City, NY (881 miles). They had to walk. They did not have cars. But, they took everything they had with them. And, King Cyrus even let them take back the vessels of the house of the Lord that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken away (Ezra 1:7).

***If times permits, read portions of Isaiah 44:21-45:13.***

When they returned to Jerusalem, the city (as well as other cities) was in ruins, and there were other people living there. The Israelites had a lot of work to do. They built an altar to the Lord and started offering burnt offerings morning and evening, according to the Law of Moses (Ezra 3:6).

They knew who the priests and Levites and temple servants were. They were able to keep their family records and trace their family tree back to one of the 12 tribes (12 sons of Jacob). They also were able to keep the written Law of Moses even when Jerusalem was destroyed and they were carried away. Do you think God helped make sure those things happened? Yes! I do! The written Law of Moses was very important for the Israelites to be able to know what God wanted them to do and how to believe and obey him. Also, the lineage was very important, because the priests had to be descended from Aaron (a Levite), and the prophecy of the coming Messiah was going to be from the tribe of Judah.

The people started building the foundation of the temple 2 years after they returned to their land. The other people that were living there did not want them to do this, and they tried to stop them (Ezra 4:4). They fought and complained to the king, and the work to rebuild was stopped for a while (Ezra 4:24). After some time of disputing and having another king come to power, the Bible says, “They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artexerxes king of Persia; and this house was finished on the 3rd day of the month of Adar, in the 6th year of the reign of Darius the king. And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy” (Ezra 6:14-16). Then they kept the Passover.

After the temple was rebuilt, some more of the Israelites in Susa & Babylon returned to Jerusalem. With them came Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the cupbearer (chief advisor) to the king of Persia. The king of Persia appointed him governor of Judah. Nehemiah is an Israelite. He was very upset to hear that the walls of Jerusalem were not rebuilt. When he came back to Jerusalem, he encouraged the Israelites to rebuild the wall in only 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15). Their enemies around them were scared when the wall was finished, because they realized it was done with the help of God (Nehemiah 6:16).

After the wall was finished, Ezra stood before all the people and read them the book of the Law of Moses. And Ezra, Nehemiah, and the priests taught the law to the people so that they would understand (Nehemiah 8:8-9). After the people heard the word and understood it, they later fasted and put on sackcloth “And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and their iniquities of their fathers” (Nehemiah 9:1-2). Then they made a covenant to “walk in God’s Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and statutes” (Nehemiah 10:29). Some of them had married foreign women that worshiped other gods. They had to separate from these women, because they did not worship the Lord (Ezra 10:44 & Nehemiah 13:23-30). Some of the changes they had to make took time.

God’s people have been returned to their land, and God’s house has been rebuilt. The wall has been rebuilt around the city, and the people have once again been taught God’s laws. They have once again dedicated themselves to following God. Why did all of this need to happen?

Because God has a plan in place, and his plan is not complete yet. He has prophesied of things that have not happened yet. We are still looking for the good man that God spoke of in Genesis 3. God has a plan for a savior to come, through the line of Judah. That savior has not come yet. God spoke of a kingdom that will never be destroyed. That has not happened yet.

**Cliffhanger:** What will happen now that they are “back home” and worshiping God again?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 20 Return

Circle the correct answer.

1. Who wrote a decree for the Israelites to return to their land?
   1. Nebuchadnezzar
   2. Cyrus
   3. Pilate
2. Did they build an altar to worship God when they returned to Jerusalem?
   1. Yes
   2. No
3. What was Jerusalem like when they got there?
   1. Ruins with other people living there
   2. Beautiful & empty
   3. Just like it was before they left
4. Did the Israelites still have their family history and the Law of Moses?
   1. Yes
   2. No
5. Who helped rebuild the wall of Jerusalem?
   1. Samson
   2. Nehemiah
   3. David
6. What did the people do when they heard the Law of Moses?
   1. Repent and separate themselves from the foreigners
   2. Laugh and do what they wanted to do
   3. Worship the Lord and idols
7. Did any of the Israelites stay in Babylon & Susa?
   1. Yes
   2. No
8. Is God’s plan done yet?
   1. Yes
   2. No

### Lesson 21 400 years of silence

*Timeline Card #15: 400 years of silence*

*See Map “Succession of Four World Empires”*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* God had warned that He would cease to communicate w/Israel Amos 8:11
* Things are not where God wants them to be yet; it will just take time
* Empires:
  + Persian Empire
    - Allowed Jews to return to the land
    - Jews preserved threw Esther (about 480 BC, before Ezra returned to Susa)
    - Malachi written
    - Daniel dies
  + Greek Empire
    - Established a universal language
    - Septuagint translated into Greek
    - Maccebean Revolt revived Jewish nationalism
  + Roman Empire
    - Rome kicked Greece out of other parts of the land
    - This is essentially the end of Daniel’s dreams
    - Rome established Infrastructure (road system, easy travel, free access), peace
    - Daniel’s dreams predict that the kingdom will be established in days of this empire

In our last lesson, the Israelites were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and live in their own land again. Some of the Israelites returned, but some of them stayed in Babylon and Susa. Do you remember the story of Queen Esther? This is the time when that story happens. Esther was living in Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire. (The Medes & Persians had defeated the Babylonians that had taken the Israelites captive to Babylon.) Haman plotted to kill the Jews during this time when some of the Israelites had returned to their homeland to rebuild the temple and the wall. Some of the Jews were still living in Susa, some were in Babylon, and some were in Jerusalem. Queen Esther helped to save the Jews by going to see the king and letting him know about Haman’s plot to kill the Jews. Think for a moment what might have happened to God’s plan if Haman had gotten away with his plan to kill the Jews. Surely God is in control!

Daniel is also in Susa at the same time as Queen Esther. Do you remember that he had visions and dreams of things yet to come? He interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the statue. Daniel interpreted that this vision was about 4 world powers (empires) that would rule over the Israelites. They were:

* Babylonians
* Medo-Persians
* Greeks
* Romans (Daniel 2:31-44)

The Babylonians were already in power when King Nebuchadnezzar had the dream and Daniel interpreted it. Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold (Daniel 2:38). The Medo-Persian Empire came to power as we saw already. Let’s look at more about these kingdoms.

Let’s start with the Medo-Persian Empire. Malachi the prophet was prophesying and writing during this time. Malachi was the last of the prophets to speak to the people for God. After Malachi, God did not speak to his people for 400 years. Another prophet, Amos, predicted that this would happen. In Amos 8:11-12 the Bible says, ““Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.””

The last thing Malachi wrote was to obey God and to watch for another prophet. Listen to what the Bible says, ““Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.” We will talk in our next lesson about who is this “Elijah the prophet”. Do you find it interesting that the last thing God speaks to his people is to remember his laws and statutes? God has given his people what they need. He has told them of things that are going to happen. Now he is going to wait for what the Bible calls “the fullness of time”. Daniel died during the time of the Medo-Persian Empire (*Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts*).

After the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greeks become the world power. When the Greeks conquered the land, they made everyone learn their language: Greek. They also moved people around from one land to another and put Greek people to live in the cities they conquered. When Ptolemy conquered lands, he moved 100,000 Jews to Alexandria, Egypt. While they were in Alexandria, the Septuagint, (the first 5 books of the OT) was translated from the Jewish language (Hebrew) to Greek. What a wonderful thing! Now, many more people in the world can read God’s word. [Side note: could people who were not Israelites be saved? Yes, they could if they obeyed God’s laws and lived like a faithful Israelite. These people were called proselytes.] Now there are Jews in several places around the world.

The Greek rulers wanted people to all become like the Greeks. This was not a good thing for the Jews. The Greeks wanted all their people to worship all the Greek gods. They setup a statue of one of their gods at the altar of the Lord. They sacrificed pigs on the altar, which was against God’s law. They did not allow Jews to practice circumcision, which they were commanded to do by God. They were not allowed to observe the Sabbath day, and copies of the Hebrew scripture were destroyed (Charles Pfeiffer, *Between the Testaments*, p. 81). Antiochus Epiphanes was the Seleucid (Greek) ruler for a while. He removed the high priest from Jerusalem and setup Menelaus as high priest. Menelaus was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, not from the tribe of Levi. Menelaus allowed Antiochus Epiphanes to take many gold and silver items out of the temple. Antiochus Epiphanes even entered the most holy place (holy of holies)! Remember, only the high priest could enter the most holy place, and only once a year, and only after offering sacrifices first for his own sins (Hebrews 9:6). What a terrible thing for Antiochus to do! Daniel had prophesied about Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel 8:9-14, 8:23-26, and 11:21-35. Listen to some of what is said about him, “Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action” (Daniel 11:31-32).

Because of these things the Greeks did to make the Jews be more like the Greeks, there was an event called the Maccabean Revolt. It was like a civil war among the Israelites. A group called the Hasidim refused to become like the Greeks. There were other Jews that agreed to go along with the changes. This revolt created a strong interest in God’s law. The Israelites really cared about God’s law again, and many of them tried to go back to the law, to worshiping just the way God wanted them to do. We call this a reform or reformation. The people care again, and they are not apathetic anymore. God does not like us to be lukewarm, neither hot nor cold. That’s what apathy is like, lukewarm water. God says he will spew you out of his mouth if you are lukewarm (Revelation 3:16). God wants us to worship him and obey him and be “hot”.

After the Greeks, came the Romans. When the Romans conquered the land and became the world power, some good things happened. They removed the Greeks from the land. The empire had peace and stability. They had a well-developed and safe transportation system. Most people still spoke the Greek language, and Jews everywhere were zealous for God’s will. Jews were spread to other lands again; a group of them were carried off to the city of Rome.

In the eyes of the other world powers, the land of Israel is small and unimportant. So, the Babylonians, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans did not usually spend too much of their time fighting over it. Sometimes they left Jerusalem all alone until there was a problem. Sometimes they just picked the people up and moved them to another place. In God’s eyes, however, this little nation is very important. Do you see how it would could work in God’s plan that Jews live all around the world, giving more people an opportunity to hear about him and to obey him?

The Roman Empire takes us to the end of Daniel’s vision of the statue. Daniel 2:40,44 says, “And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. …And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.”

**Cliffhanger:** The “fullness of time” seems to have come. What could this kingdom be? When will it happen?

### Lesson 21 400 years of silence



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 21 400 years of silence

Circle the correct answer

1. Who helped save the Jews from Haman’s plot to kill them?
   1. Daniel
   2. Queen Esther
   3. Ruth
2. Who was in control after the Persian Empire?
   1. The Greeks
   2. The Egyptians
   3. The Assyrians
3. Circle all of the things that the Greeks made the Israelites do:
   1. Learn Greek language
   2. Worship Greek gods
   3. Live with Greek people
   4. Stop circumcision
   5. Stop observing the Sabbath
4. What was the Maccabean Revolt?
   1. A civil war among the Jews about the changes the Greeks brought
   2. A war with a Trojan horse
   3. A battle in the Mediterranean Sea
5. Who entered the most holy place when he was not allowed to?
   1. Caesar the Roman
   2. Antiochus Epiphanes the Greek
   3. Rufus the Edomite
6. Circle everything that happened when the Romans were in control:
   1. Peace & stability
   2. A common language (Greek)
   3. Good transportation
   4. Freedom to travel
   5. An interest in God’s law
7. Where did the Jews live after the Romans came into control?
   1. All of them were in Israel
   2. Scattered around the world (Egypt, Babylon, Susa, Rome, Assyria)

### Lesson 22 The time has come

*Timeline Card #16: Life of Christ*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* God is speaking to His people again
* The timing of Jesus’ life was part of the plan
* Prophecies are being fulfilled
* John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus
* Zechariah prophecies
* Many believe that Jesus is the Messiah
* Jesus has come to save people from their sins
* Jesus can perform miracles
* Jesus is a powerful teacher
* The leaders plot to kill him

In our last lesson, God gave prophecies to his people and then stopped talking to them. We have talked about how God had a plan since before he created the world. God is perfect. Man is not. (Romans 8:28) God cannot dwell with evil (Psalms 5:4). God had a plan to redeem us, to bring us back into a relationship with him. God’s plan was to send Jesus to earth to teach us and to become a perfect sacrifice for a new covenant.

Listen to these two passages that talk about God’s plan and the fullness of time:

“**When the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law” (Galatians 4:4-6).

“In him [Jesus Christ] we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the riches of his **grace**, …making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as **a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth” (Ephesians 1:7-10).

After approximately 400 years of God not speaking to his people, he sent an angel named Gabriel to speak to Zechariah, a priest of the temple. Gabriel told Zechariah, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, …your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. …And many will rejoice at his birth, …and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and **power of Elijah**, *to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children* … **to make ready for the Lord a people prepared**” (Luke 1:13-17). When this baby John was born, “his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, **for he has visited and redeemed his people** and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

…to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we…might serve him…in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for **you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways**, to **give knowledge of salvation to his people** in the **forgiveness of their sins**, because of the tender mercy of our God” (Luke 1:67-78).

Before the 400 years of silence, the prophet Malachi said, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. *And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children* and the hearts of children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:5-6). Later, when Jesus was preaching & teaching, he said John the Baptist was this Elijah of whom Malachi spoke (Matthew 17:11-13).

God is speaking to his people again, and it is time to get ready for Jesus to come! The time has come! The time has come! “John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘**Prepare the way of the Lord**; make his paths straight.’” (Matthew 3:1-3). “John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4).

According to prophecy, Jesus would be from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of King David. He was (Luke 3:31). According to Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Matthew 1:22-24 says, “an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] in a dream, saying, “Joseph, **son of David**, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.”

What an important time in history to be living. So many prophecies are being fulfilled, and God’s promise of a Savior, a new covenant and a new kingdom are all about to happen. Jesus himself talked about the importance of this time. The Bible says, “Turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it” (Luke 10:23-24). Note: There are approximately 25 references in book of Matthew for fulfillment of prophecy during the time of Jesus.

So that the people would believe that Jesus was sent from God, Jesus could perform miracles. He showed that he could heal people of diseases, control the weather, raise people from the dead, drive out demons from people, walk on water, and more. (See chart *The Miracles of Jesus Christ*.)

People were amazed at the teachings of Jesus. He had knowledge of the scriptures that compared to the scribes & Pharisees. These were the professionals; the people that were specially trained and spent their lives learning the scripture and teaching it to others. Mark 12:37 says, “The great crowd listened eagerly to him.” When Jesus was 12 years old, his parents did not find him when it was time to go home. “After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. *And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers*.”

This made the scribes and Pharisees jealous. They tried to test him or catch him in an error of his teaching. Matthew 16:1 says, “The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven”. More examples: Matthew 19:3-9, Matthew 22:15, Luke 20:20, Matthew 22:34.

Jesus came to save his people from their sins. “He [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”” (John 1:29) Jesus said of himself, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus did not sin. He was tempted by Satan and defeated him. The Bible tells us that Jesus is “one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ. Christ means “the Son of God”. Messiah means, “anointed one or a name of Christ“. Many people knew that Jesus was the Messiah, but some did not. Andrew, an apostle of Jesus, “found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ)” (John 1:41). When Jesus asked Simon Peter who he thought he was, “Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). The angels told the shepherds in the field “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, *who is Christ the Lord*” (Luke 2:11). “And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” …because they knew that he was the Christ” (Luke 4:41). At his crucifixion, “When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matthew 27:54)

There were some that were not so sure he was the Son of God. When they crucified him, some said, ““He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” (Luke 23:35).

The leaders of Jerusalem plotted to kill Jesus. They feared that they would lose their power and position in society. Matthew 24:3-5 says, “At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.” John 11:47-53 says, “So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” … **So from that day on they made plans to put him to death**.” “But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him” (Matthew 12:14).

**Cliffhanger:** Jesus is the Son of God, the chosen one. God has planned from the beginning of the world to send Jesus as a Saviour. Now there are those who want to kill him. Is this part of God’s plan? Will God let them kill him?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 22 The time has come

Fill in the blanks

1. In Jesus, we have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through his blood, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our trespasses (Ephesians 1:7).
2. God sent an angel to speak to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a priest at the temple.
3. John the Baptist came to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (Matthew 3:1).
4. Joseph took Mary to be his wife and did as the angel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him (Matthew 1:22-24).
5. Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:100.
6. Jesus could perform \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to prove that he was from God.
7. When asked by Jesus, Simon Peter said, “You are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the living \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 16:16).
8. The leaders plotted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (Matthew 24:3-5).

### Lesson 23 More about Jesus

*Timeline Card #16: Life of Christ*

During this lesson, the focus will be on the facts, not the “why”. In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* Jesus predicts his death, He is going to die
* Jesus is preparing for a new way
* Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey
* Jesus cleanses the temple
* Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
* Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper
* Jesus receives a mock trial & is sentenced to death

In the last lesson, we found out that there are people plotting to kill Jesus. As strange as it may seem, God planned for Jesus to die. Jesus knew he was going to die. According to commentary *Nelson’s Bible Maps & Charts,* Jesus began a year before his death to tell his disciples that he was going to die. He told them 4 different times:

* The first time was 8 days before his transfiguration. Mark 8:31-32 says, “And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly.”
* A 2nd time, Mark 9:30-32 says, “They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.”
* A 3rd time, Matthew 20:17-19 & 28 says, “And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”… “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.””
* And the final time, when they were in Jerusalem, Matthew 26:1-2 says, “When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, “You know that **after two days** the Passover is coming, and **the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified**.””

The last week before Jesus was crucified, he made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Listen to how the Bible describes it in John 12:12-19, “The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”” This prophecy is from Zechariah the prophet in the Old Testament. Zech 9:9 says, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The people are ready to make him a king.

After he came into town, he went into the temple and cleansed the temple, saying, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers” (Luke 19:46). This is one of the reasons the scribes & Pharisees wanted to kill him. But, they were not able to take Jesus until it was his time. A few days before, Jesus was in the temple and spoke of his time. John 7:25-31 says, “Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? … So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.”

At the Passover feast, Jesus had many things to say to his disciples. One of those things was that one of them would betray him. Betray means “to deliver one up to be judged, condemned, punished, put to death” (Thayer dictionary). John 13:1-30 says, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father…During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him …Jesus said, “I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.” … Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” …Satan entered into him [Judas]. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”” There is a prophecy from King David in Psalms 41:9, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.”

At this same dinner feast, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. He told his disciples in Luke 22:15, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” In Matthew 26:28, Jesus says, “this is my blood of the *covenant*, which is poured out for many for the *forgiveness of sins*.” Luke 22:20 calls it a new covenant.

God foretold of a new covenant to come. Jeremiah 31:31-34 says, ““Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a *new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah*, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant that they broke**, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: *I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will *remember their sin no more*.””

After this, Jesus continues to speak to the disciples. He tells them, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:12-13). He tells the disciples that he is going to leave, but the Holy Spirit will come to comfort them and to guide them into all truth.

After they eat the feast, they sing a hymn, and go to the garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus prays for strength (Matthew 26:36-46). While in the garden, Judas leads a crowd with swords and clubs to arrest Jesus by night (Matthew 26:47-56). Jesus is taken to Annas, then Caiaphas and the Council, then Pilate, then Herod, and back to Pilate. Jesus is given a mock trial, not a proper hearing and trial. They bring false witnesses against him, and the mob has decided they want Pilate to crucify Jesus.

**Cliffhanger:** Jesus is arrested and the people wanted him to be crucified. Will God let that happen?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 23 More about Jesus

C P M T B V D N W Y F B C O G

A A A E T S O M O C U L F W P

A T I S O R R N H E F C J T E

Q R J A S D E H M H P I E V D

A V G E P O H Y S P Z Q N E Y

D J S C R H V J I O J U A E J

J U D A S E A E Z R H T K M C

A N N A S I M S R P H N K O L

M W O V D D B I M P O U V R A

I J M B D J L J A D I E V U I

Y Q X I T Z U H I H N L F O R

H A I R A H C E Z A P Y A D T

B E T R A Y S S N W P V D T Q

O J L D Y W D T U X H G H C E

U O C R L X Q Y L Q K U O R S

**Find these words in the puzzle above.**

ANNAS BETRAY CAIAPHAS

COVENANT DEATH DONKEY

HEROD JEREMIAH JUDAS

PASSOVER PILATE PROPHECY

TRIAL ZECHARIAH

### Lesson 24 Death/Burial/Resurrection/Ascension

*Timeline Card #16: Life of Christ*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* Jesus is the Passover Lamb
* Jeus fulfills other prophecies
* Jesus dies & is buried
* Jesus rose from the dead
  + Talk in some detail about importance of the resurrection:
* Jesus appeared to many for 40 days
* Jesus gives his disciples his final Instructions
* Jesus returns to heaven

In our last lesson, Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion by the mob and Pilate (Mathew 27:21-26). Now, let’s look at his crucifixion. Let’s remember that God IS in control. Jesus had said many times that his time had not yet come. Now he has said that his time has come (Mark 14:41, Luke 22:14). We are going to look at several symbols around Jesus’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

First, Jesus was the Passover Lamb. Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:36). He was crucified on the day that the Passover lamb was sacrificed (Luke 22:7). The Passover Lamb was a memorial between God and the Israelites. When God saw the blood, he would pass over them, and not destroy them (Exodus 12:13). Later, Paul writes in 1 Cor 5:7, “For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.”

Second, Jesus was “lifted up” just like Moses lifted the bronze serpent on a pole that whoever looked upon the serpent was saved, Jesus that that “whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (Numbers 21:9 & John 3:14-15).

Third, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about him from the Old Testament. According to a commentary (<http://www.rickandmick.com/pages/resources/bible-studies/33-Did-Jesus-Fulfill-Prophecies.pdf>), there were over 300 prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament. Of these 300+, 29 of them were about his betrayal, death, and burial. Jesus perfectly fulfilled all of them. Let’s look at a few specific ones:

* Psalms 22:7-8 & Matthew 27:31 Jesus was mocked
* Psalms 22:16 & Luke 24:39 Jesus’s hands & feet were pierced
* Zechariah 12:10 & John 19:37 They will look on whom they have pierced
* Psalms 24:30 & John 19:36 None of his bones were broken
* Isaiah 53:12, Luke 22:37, 23:32-33 Numbered with the transgressors
* Isaiah 53:9 & Matthew 27:57-60 He was buried in a rich man’s tomb
* Zechariah 11:12 & Matthew 26:15 Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

Let’s not forget Genesis 3:15. Although the Bible does not clearly say anywhere that Jesus is a fulfillment of this prophecy, it could be argued that he is. Genesis 3:14-15 says, “The Lord God said to the serpent, …on your belly you shall go …all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” We have already shown that Jesus was offspring of Mary, who was descended from Eve (Luke 3:23,38 & Matthew 1:1,16,23). Hebrews 2:14 says, “that through death he [Jesus] might *destroy* the one who has the power of death, that is, *the devil*.” It is speculated that Satan (the serpent) bruised Jesus’s heel when Jesus died. But, Jesus crushed Satan’s head when he overcame death (2 Tim 1:10, Acts 2:24, Romans 6:9, 1 Cor 15:26,54,55).

Jesus did die on the cross. He was buried in a tomb just like any other man that dies. Think about how his followers must have felt. They thought Jesus was the Messiah. They mourned over his death. Listen to what the Bible says when the men told the story:

And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.** Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” (Luke 24:19-24)

His followers think it is all over now, and they go back to fishing, like they did before they met Jesus. John 21:3 says, “Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.”

On the first day of the week, Jesus did rise from the dead. The women that had followed him from Galilee went to the tomb early on the first day of the week. They saw the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, and two men dressed in white.

The men said to them, “What do you seek the living among the dead? He…has risen. Remember how he told you…that the Song of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words…told all these things to the 11 and the rest. …but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them” (Luke 23:55-24:11).

John 2:19-22 says, “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. *When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken*.”

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 explains why it is so important that Jesus did rise from the dead:

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **We are even found to be misrepresenting God**, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins**. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to the apostles and to many others for 40 days. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians about Jesus appearing to people after he rose from the dead. Listen to what he wrote:

…He [Jesus] was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time… Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all … he appeared also to me. (I Cor 15:3-8)

When Simon Peter and the others went fishing, Jesus met them on shore and told them to throw their nets on the other side. They caught so many fish they could not haul them in. John 21:12-14 says, “Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. … This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.”

Jesus let them touch the wounds on his hands and feet. He also ate food with them (Luke 24:36-43). These were physical evidences that he was in the flesh, alive, and not a hallucination or a spirit.

Luke 24:41-53 is the story of his ascension back to heaven. Let’s read about it in the Bible:

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and **forgiveness of sins** should be proclaimed in his name **to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.** And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were *continually in the temple blessing God*.

As part of Jesus’s final instructions to his disciples, he tells them to wait in Jerusalem. In Mark 16:15,19-20, we also read, “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation… So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.” Now they are joyous and are spending their time for God & Jesus, not fishing and other activities they did before they met Jesus.

**Cliffhanger:** What is this power from on high that they have to wait for? When will it come?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 24 Death/Burial/Resurrection/Ascension

Circle the correct answer.

1. Jesus (did / did not) know that he was going to die.
2. Jesus was the (Passover Lamb / Burnt Offering).
3. Jesus (did / did not) tell his disciples that he was going to die.
4. Jesus fulfilled (many, many / zero) prophecies from the Old Testament.
5. When Jesus died on the cross it (was / was not) part of God’s plan.
6. Jesus rose from the dead. (True / False)
7. After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to (12 / more than 500) people.
8. Jesus’ death brought (forgiveness of sins / no hope) to those who believed in him.
9. Jesus told his disciples to wait in (Jerusalem / Bethlehem).

### Lesson 25 Kingdom Comes

*Timeline Card #16: Early Church, #17: Letters to the Christians, #18 Missionary Journeys*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The kingdom is established –not physical but spiritual
* Jesus was the One!!
* The Holy Spirit is given
* The New covenant is established
* The Gospel spreads throughout the world and to the Gentiles, too

In our last lesson, Jesus died, arose from the dead, and went back to heaven. He told his apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. The apostles still wondered about when the kingdom was coming. At the moment when Jesus ascended back into heaven, listen to the conversation between the apostles and Jesus in Acts 1:6-11:

So when they had come together, they asked him, “*Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*” He said to them, “*It is not for you to know* times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Ten days later, on the day of Pentecost, the apostles received the promised power from on high and had a greater understanding of the kingdom. Acts chapter 2 records the events of that day. Let’s look at some of it:

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. …**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance …**

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, **devout men from every nation under heaven**. And at this sound the multitude came together, and … each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “…we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” …

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. …this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, **that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,…**

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, …

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth…**delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed…For David says concerning him, …

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

“Being therefore a prophet…he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ…Being therefore **exalted at the right hand of God**, and having **received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. … *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified*.”

The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the crowd all heard in their own language. This was a sign from God. This is what they were to wait in Jerusalem for. Now, the apostles have a greater understanding of the things Jesus had taught them. They realize the kingdom Jesus spoke of was a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly one. 1 Corinthians 15:50 says, “I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” Jesus spoke often of the “kingdom of heaven” and the “kingdom of God”. “Kingdom” is used in the gospels 103 times, according to a Strong’s concordance search. The apostles can do signs and wonders to help others believe that they are sent from God. This kingdom of God is the kingdom Daniel spoke of in King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. Daniel 2:44 says, “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom that shall never be destroyed,** *nor shall the kingdom be left to another people*.” The kingdom is the kingdom of heaven.

On this day of Pentecost, the Bible says there were devout men from every nation under heaven. Do you remember in previous lessons how we talked about Jews being carried away from Israel to other lands? They have come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and are now hearing about Jesus. They can go home and share the good news of Jesus with others. See map “*The Nations of Pentecost*”.

When they heard Peter preaching to them, they were cut to the heart and asked what they should do. Acts 2:38-39, “And Peter said to them, **Repent** and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

The gift of the Holy Spirit was promised to them, if they repented and were baptized. Acts 5:32 also says, “And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, *whom God has given to those who* ***obey*** *him*.” Since the beginning of this quarter, we have talked about how God wants his people to believe him and do what he says. We call this faith and obedience.

After Pentecost, Peter healed a lame man and preached another sermon. In Acts 3:25, Peter explains, “You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’” He explained that Jesus was the prophet and servant God sent to bless all nations.

Many Jews rejected Jesus as their Savior, even though he really was the Savior. The apostles are in Jerusalem, teaching that they witnessed Jesus being raised from the dead and ascending back into heaven, and that they have knowledge of the scriptures and power to do signs and wonders. Acts 4:1-4 says, “…the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, **greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.** And they arrested them. …But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.” Acts 4:10-12 says, “let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was **rejected by you**, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved**.”

When Jesus came, some things changed. Jesus did not destroy the Old Law; he fulfilled it. He put into place a new, better covenant. Under the new covenant, we live by faith, we can have forgiveness of sins, and we are baptized rather than circumcised. Hebrews 9 elaborates on this concept; “Therefore he [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant” (Hebrews 9:15). Hebrews 8:13 says, “In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” The Jews did have to make some changes in the way they lived. They no longer need to follow the Law of Moses; they follow the teachings of Jesus and the new covenant.

The apostles and believers were teaching Jesus boldly. Stephen preached a sermon, and the people were so angry, they stoned him to death. When he was put to death, the Bible tells us in Acts 8:1 & 4, “And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles… Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.” The good news of Jesus is being spread around the world, but the believers are being persecuted for it.

The book of Acts gives us a specific example of someone that did not live in Jerusalem, but was there to worship and came to believe in Jesus. Acts 8:27-39 tells us, “And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians …He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was …reading the prophet Isaiah. …So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” …Then Philip opened his mouth, and …told him the good news about Jesus. …and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”…and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. … and the eunuch…went on his way rejoicing.”

The gospel of Jesus is life-changing for many people. Perhaps the greatest example of conversion is the story of Saul-Paul. Saul approved of the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58). Saul found Christians and put them in prison (Acts 8:3). But, on the road to Damascus, God appeared in a vision to Saul and said to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? …I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting…rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do” (Acts 8:4-6). Saul went to the city and found Ananias. Ananias told him, “The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:14-16). Paul was baptized (Acts 9:18) and began proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. What a transformation! That is how powerful the good news of Jesus is. Remember, to repent is to turn away from doing wrong and to follow Jesus.

Up until this point, only the Jews and proselytes were being told the good news of Jesus and were being added to the church. Then Peter had a vision from God and was told to go preach to a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was not a Jew, but was in the Italian army. The Bible says he was, “a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God” (Acts 10:2). Here are a few things Peter said to Cornelius & his household:

“You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.” (Acts 10:28)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. (Acts 10:34-35)

Acts 10:44-48 says, “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. …Then Peter…commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” This is the first conversion of Gentiles to the gospel of Jesus. God showed Peter in the vision that he approved of this.

**Cliffhanger:** The kingdom has come. And, it includes Jews and Gentiles now. What will happen next?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 25 Kingdom Comes

Circle the correct answer.

1. Peter preached Jesus to “every nation under heaven” (Acts 2)
   1. On the day of Pentecost
   2. At the Roman Coliseum
   3. Never
2. Some of the people believed Peter & asked what to do. What did they do? (Acts 2)
   1. Get circumcised
   2. Get baptized
   3. Sprinkle ashes on their heads
3. Peter preached that Jesus was the fulfillment of a promise/prophecy to (Acts 2, 3, & 4)
   1. Abraham
   2. Moses
   3. David
   4. All of the above
4. Who was stoned to death for preaching Jesus? (Acts 7)
   1. Justus
   2. Stephen
   3. Ananias
5. Who traveled to Jerusalem to worship and came to believe in Jesus? (Acts 8)
   1. Ethiopian eunuch
   2. Egyptian landowner
   3. Roman centurion
6. Who was in the Italian army and was the first Gentile to be baptized into Jesus? (Acts 10)
   1. Cornelius
   2. Caesar
   3. Festus
7. How did Peter know that it was ok to go visit with the Gentile? (Acts 10)
   1. God told him in a vision
   2. Peter liked the man
   3. Paul told Peter to go

### Lesson 26 To the uttermost parts of the earth

*Timeline Card #16: Early Church, #17: Letters to the Christians, #18 Missionary Journeys*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* The apostles spread the gospel
* The gospel spreads and multiplies
* Congregations are established in multiple cities
* Repentance\corrections are needed to be acceptable to God
  + The struggle for the Jews is letting go of the Law of Moses
  + The struggle for the Gentiles is letting go of immoral behavior
* Christians have hope of eternal life
* The church is looking for moral excellence
* Salvation is through water

In the last lesson, the apostles received power from on high and began to spread the gospel [good news] of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Both Jews and Greeks believed that Jesus was the Son of God and were baptized for the remission of their sins. But, that is not the end. Now, they have to learn how to **live** for God on a daily basis. One Bible class teacher put it this way:

When Jesus was ready to ascend into heaven, he told his disciples to ‘go and do’ (Matthew 28:18-20). The rest of the New Testament is how the apostles ‘went and did’. The book of Acts is the stories of people being converted to the gospel. Romans to Revelations are “letters to Christians”; they are written to those who have already believed and been baptized.

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” In 1 Corinthians 14:37, Paul says, “acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.”

The apostles have to teach everyone how to live their lives in harmony with God’s expectations for good conduct & moral behavior. Romans 12:1-2 says: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship**. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” The books of Acts to Jude tell us how to live for God, how to treat others, how to conduct our worship, what not to do, and how to obtain eternal life.

I recommend reading 1 John chapters 1 – 3 about obeying God and abiding in God (the light). Key verses are:

1 John 3:10, “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

1 John 2:3, “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”

1 John 3:23-24, “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him.”

1 John 3:18, “let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

The apostles were working, and the gospel was spreading. Acts 9:31 says, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” After the gospel was spread to the Gentiles, Acts 12:24 says, “But the word of God increased and multiplied.”

See map “*The Life of Paul*” and show the places that Paul went to preach the gospel. Jesus told the apostles to “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Acts 9:15 says, “But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”

The apostles, including Paul, traveled to many places around the world, preaching the gospel. They established congregations in many of the towns that they visited. At the beginning of Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, the Bible says, “And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are” (Acts 15:36).

The church is looking for moral excellence. The gospel calls for people to repent (turn away). All people, including us, have to make changes in our lives to be more like what God would want us to be. 1 John 2:5-6 says, “By this we may know that we are in him: *whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked*.”

Many Jews and Gentiles believed the word of the Lord (a.k.a. the gospel, the way, the good news). But, there were many Jews that did not believe, and they went from town to town stirring up the people against the Christians (Acts 6:12, Acts 13:50, Acts 14:2, Acts 21:27). They tried to convince the Gentiles that they still had to follow the Law of Moses in order to be acceptable to God (Acts 15:5, Galatians 6:13). They changed the word of the Lord and confused some people. The apostles then had to go back and teach again (Romans 3:20, Romans 3:28, Romans 6:14, Romans 7:6, Galatians 2:16, Galatians 5:3, Hebrews 7:19, James 2:10).

For many Jews that became Christians it was a real struggle to let go of the Law of Moses and begin following the new covenant (a.k.a. New Testament). For the Gentiles that became Christians it was a struggle to put away their immoral behavior and turn away from the ways of the world (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). But, they were able to do it. And so are we.

Some of the books of the Bible in the New Testament are written to churches in certain towns and are written to correct their behavior. Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Corinth (Gentiles). They were doing some things wrong, things that we could easily do today. That is why they are written for us to read and learn from. Here are some of the things he wrote to them about:

* Do not have divisions among yourselves, but be of unity 1 Corinthians 1:10
* Do not allow fornication to continue, but discipline it for repentance 1 Corinthians 5:2,5
* Remain in whatever state you were when you were called (married/not married, slave/free, circumcised/uncircumcised) 1 Corinthians 7:20
* Partake of the Lord’s supper in a worthy manner 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
* Believe and accept the resurrection of the dead 1 Corinthians 15:13-14

The book of Hebrews is written to the Jews to prove to them that:

* Jesus is higher than the angels (Heb 1:4)
* Jesus is greater than Moses (Heb 3:3)
* Jesus is the greatest high priest (Heb 4:15),
* Jesus brought a new covenant and made the first one obsolete (Heb 8:13)
* Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for all time (Heb 10:14)
* We must have faith in order to be pleasing to God (Heb 11:6).

Hebrews 3:12-14 says, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, *if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end*.” Once we become a Christian, we must continue to be faithful until we die. We cannot give up when we get old or tired.

Christians (in the new covenant) have the hope of eternal life, eternal salvation in heaven with God (Romans 2:7, Romans 5:21, Romans 6:22-23, Titus 3:7, Hebrews 5:9, Hebrews 9:15, 2 Peter 1:11, 1 John 2:25, 1 John 5:11, 1 John 5:13, Jude 1:21). 2 Peter 1:11 says, “For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 1 John 5:13 says, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Just as it was for Noah in the ark and for the Israelites crossing the Red Sea when leaving Egypt and crossing the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land, the way to salvation is through water. 1 Peter 3:20-21 says, “they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

**Cliffhanger:** People who have believed in Jesus and been baptized are now being taught how to live on a daily basis. The word of God is growing. What will happen as time goes on?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 26 To the uttermost parts of the earth

Fill in the blank

1. After they were baptized, Christians had to learn to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God on a daily basis.
2. Jesus said, “…teaching them to observe all that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you (Matthew 28:20).
3. Romans 12:1 says “present your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a living sacrifice…to God, which is your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
4. 1 John 3:23-24 says, “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one another, just as he has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
5. Some of the Jews that did not believe in Jesus went from town to town \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up the people (Acts 6:12).
6. Hebrews 1:4 says that Jesus is higher than the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Hebrews 3:3 says that Jesus is greater than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Christians have hope of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 5:13).

### Lesson 27 Early Church

*Timeline Card #16: Early Church, #17: Letters to the Christians, #18 Missionary Journeys*

In this lesson, you will discuss the following points:

* Christian beliefs are being attacked
* People came along saying the resurrection did not happen
* People denied that Jesus came in the flesh
* Gnostics said he could not be deity & flesh
* Letters are written to give Christians hope b/c they are persecuted for their beliefs
* Elders are advised that savage wolves would arise from among them

In our last lesson, we talked about the apostles spreading the word of God, congregations being established in multiple cities, Christians needing to make changes in their lives to live as God would have them, and Christians having hope of eternal life. Today, we will discuss the various persecutions and criticisms that the Christians faced. We are looking at the books of Acts to Revelation.

“And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). Did you know the term Christians is found in the Bible? It is a name for the disciples of Christ, or followers of Christ. A disciple is a pupil, or a learner (Strong’s dictionary). As Christianity began to grow and spread around the world, so did the people and ideas that are against Christianity.

In our last lesson, we talked about how important it is to know that Jesus did rise from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:17). There were people going around telling Christians that there was no resurrection of the dead. “For the Sadducees say that there is not resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all” (Acts 23:8). “But avoid irreverent babble…among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, *saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some*” (2 Timothy 2:16-18). The apostles felt this was an important topic that needed to be addressed with Christians in many different congregations. The resurrection, or being raised from the dead, is mentioned in Acts17:32, Romans 6:5, 1 Corinthians 15:42, Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 2:12, Philippians 3:11, Hebrews 6:2, 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, and Revelation 20:6.

Other people denied that Jesus came in the flesh. 1 John 4:1-3 says, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for *many false prophets have gone out into the world*. By this you know the Spirit of God: *every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God*, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.” 2 John 1:7 says, “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, *those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh*. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.” Philippians 2:5-8 says, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, *being born in the likeness of men*. And being *found in human form*, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Having Jesus come in the flesh was part of God’s plan from the beginning. To deny that he came in the flesh is to deny God.

There were a group of people called Gnostics that tried to separate the two and tell Christians that Jesus could not be deity & flesh. Colossians 2:9 says, “For in him [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” John 1:1, 14 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. …And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Bible clearly tells us that Jesus was deity and flesh.

Some of the books of the New Testament were letters written to Christians to encourage them and to give them hope because they were being persecuted for their beliefs. Have you ever been teased or treated differently because you love God and believe in Jesus? Some people in the world today act that way as well, and treat Christians badly. Jesus himself, when he was alive on earth, told us in Matthew 5:10-12, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account*. Rejoice and be glad, for *your reward is great in heaven*, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Christians began in Jerusalem, but were scattered because of the persecution (Acts 8:1, Acts 8:4, Acts 11:19). The book of James is written to “the twelve tribes in the Dispersion” (James 1:1). James talks about faith in the entire letter. Faith in God and his promises are very important to obtaining salvation. James tells them their faith must be active (James 2:15-16).

The book of 1 Peter is also written “to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion” (1 Peter 1:1). Peter tells them that their trials are temporary (1 Peter 1:6), reminds them that the outcome of their faith is salvation (1 Peter 1:9), and encourages them to be holy as Christ was holy (1 Peter 1:16).

There are 27 books in the New Testament, written by 8 or 9 authors. What a wonderful thing to have God’s message written by multiple men over multiple years and to have them agree on so many topics. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, “**All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

The apostles had concerns about people that would come and teach something different from what the apostles taught. Galatians 1:6-7 says, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to *a different gospel*— not that there is another one, *but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ*.” 2 Corinthians 11:4 says, “For if someone comes and *proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed*, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or *if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted*, you put up with it readily enough.” 1 Timothy 1:3 says, “As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may *charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine*.” This phrase “teach any different doctrine” is “to deviate from the truth” (Thayer’s dictionary) or to “instruct differently” (Strong’s dictionary).

Paul cautioned that these who teach a different gospel would come from within, meaning that it would be other Christians that cause division or teach wrong things. In Acts 20:29-30 Paul is speaking to the elders of the church at Ephesus and says, “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.” The book of Jude warns about “certain people who have crept in unnoticed” (Jude 1:4), who “are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage” (Jude 1:16). “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit” (Jude 1:19).

Jude 1:20-21 says, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, *keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life*.” We see that even Christians in the 1st century had problems, persecution, and false teachers. Christians today often face the same problems. How important it is for us to study and know God’s word! Acts 17:11 says, “they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see if these things were so.”

**Cliffhanger**: What else is left to know about God’s plan? Is His plan finished? What does this all mean to me?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 27 Early Church

Circle the correct answer.

1. In Antioch the disciples were first called (Christians \ proselytes). Acts 11:26
2. The (Pharisees \ Sadducees) say that there is no resurrection. Acts 23:8
3. Some people denied that Jesus came in (flesh \ spirit). 1 John 4:1-3
4. In Jesus the whole fullness of (deity \ worldliness) dwells bodily. Colossians 2:9
5. Blessed are you when others (persecute \ love) you…for your reward is great in (earth \ heaven). Matthew 5:10-12
6. The book of James mostly talks about (sins \ faith).
7. Be (sinful \ holy) as Jesus is (sinful \ holy). 1 Peter 1:16
8. All Scripture is (ignored \ breathed) by God. 2 Timothy 3:16
9. Paul said that fierce (lions \ wolves) would come in among the Christians. Acts 20:29

### Lesson 28 Looking Forward

*Timeline Card #19: Eternity*

In this lesson you will discuss the following points:

* What remains to be fulfilled
* God made promises to men of old and has also made promises to us and you
* Trust the one making the promise, fulfill your part of it in order to receive the promise
* Imagery in Revelation of the tree of life

In our last lesson, we discussed the persecution of the Christians and the letters encouraging them to continue in their faith and watch for false teachers. Today, we will discuss what remains to be fulfilled and what our response to that should be.

God had a plan from the very beginning. He created mankind. Mankind sinned and separated himself from God. God planned a way for man to be brought back to God, through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is through the blood of Jesus that we have the hope of eternal life.

While Jesus was here on earth, he told us that he would come again. And when he comes again, it will not be to show us how to live or give us another opportunity to believe in him or to be another sacrifice for our sins. It will be to gather his chosen people to him in heaven. Hebrews 9:27-28 says, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so **Christ**, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time**, not to deal with sin but **to save those who are eagerly waiting for him**.”

There are many, many scriptures that talk about Jesus coming again. Let us look at some of them.

In John 14:2-6 Jesus says, “In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also*. And you know the way to where I am going … *I am the way, and the truth, and the life*. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

In Matthew 24:36-42 Jesus says, ““But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man …“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.””

In Matthew 24:27-31 Jesus says, “For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. …“And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.””

Acts 1:11 says, ““Men of Galilee,” they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

After Jesus ascended back into heaven, the apostles taught and wrote about his coming again. Let’s look at some of those passages.

Colossians 3:20-21 says, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it **we await a Savior**, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body…”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:2 says, “For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left **until the coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words…. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

Revelation 22:12 says, ““Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, **to render to every man according to what he has done**.”

So, if we know that Jesus is coming again to gather to him those who are waiting for him, and he will judge each according to his deeds, we need to be prepared for him to come again. Titus 2:12-14 says, “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives** in this present age, **while we wait for the blessed hope**—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **who gave himself for us to redeem us** from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

Remember, God always keeps his promises. 2 Peter 3:9 says, “**The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise** as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance**. *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief*, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

Explain to the children that we are “this side” of eternity and that the Bible applies to us today. The instructions given to the Jews & Gentiles at the time of the apostles are also written for us, nearly 2000 years later.

As we have discussed throughout the quarter, God expects us to believe him and obey him. The books of Romans to Revelation tell us how to live our lives in a way that is acceptable to God. 1 John 3:22-24 says, “And this is his commandment, that we **believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another**, just as he has commanded us. **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God**, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.” Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Can we earn our way into heaven? Certainly not! Let’s look at a passage that talks about this in Romans 3:21-31:

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law … the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** … so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. … Then **what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded**. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but **by the law of faith**. For we hold that **one is justified by faith apart from works of the law**.”

From this passage, we know that everyone has sinned. But, we are made right in God’s eyes because God decided to give us grace (grace is not giving us the punishment that we deserve) so that we could be redeemed (bought), and brought back into a relationship with him. So, none of us can boast about our salvation or our works.

We also read in the Bible that we must hold fast to our faith in God until the very end.

Hebrews 3:14-16 says, “For we have come to share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**. As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?”

Revelation 2:10 says, “**Be faithful unto death**, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Hebrews 2:1-3 says, “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, **lest we drift away from it**…how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?”

Late in his life, Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, “The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, **I have kept the faith**. Henceforth **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

We should all be diligent to obey God in order to make it to heaven with him one day. And so, we close out this quarter with this passage from Ephesians 2:4-10:

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith**. **And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God**, *not a result of works*, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

**Cliffhanger:** What will you do with Jesus?

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 28 Looking Forward

Write T for True or F for False.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is coming again.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Bible applies to me today.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We are saved by grace.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We cannot boast in our works.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We are redeemed by the blood of Christ Jesus.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s patience is to allow us to come to repentance.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ We will receive a crown of life if we are faithful unto death.

Draw a picture of your favorite thing you learned this quarter.