
Forward

This book contains lessons about the life of Moses. Your students will learn the history of how the children of Israel were rescued from bondage in Egypt and see how Jesus came to rescue us from the bondage of sin. They will be excited by God's awesome display of power and encouraged to always trust and obey the commandments of our Lord.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositively. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from a curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called *Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life* that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website:

<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

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Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)

Sheila Scroggins

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Teaching Schedule

Date	Teacher	Lesson	Memory Verse
		Baby Moses Exodus 1 - 2	<i>The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? (Psalms 118:6)</i>
		Moses Acts in Anger Exodus 2	<i>Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. (James 1:19-20 NIV)</i>
		The Call of Moses Exodus 3	<i>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 NKJ)</i>
		Signs for Moses Exodus 4	<i>He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. (Isaiah 40:29).</i>
		Moses and Aaron Visit King Pharaoh Exodus 4 - 7	<i>Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say. (Exodus 4:12)</i>
		The Plagues of Egypt (part 1) Exodus 7 - 8	<i>Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)</i>
		More Plagues (part 2) Exodus 9 - 10	<i>For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:13 NKJ)</i>
		The Passover Exodus 11 - 12	<i>... John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)</i>
		Crossing the Red Sea Exodus 13 - 14	<i>God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear (Psalms 46:1-2a)</i>
		The Complaining Israelites Exodus 15- 17	<i>...be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5)</i>
		The Ten Commandments (Part 1) Exodus 19 - 20	<i>Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another... (2 John 6)</i>

Date	Teacher	Lesson	Memory Verse
		The Ten Commandments (Part 2) Exodus 20	<i>Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, [and] Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-40)</i>
		The Golden Calf Exodus 19 - 32	<i>You must not have any other god but me. (Exodus 20:3)</i>
		Building God's House Exodus 25 - 36	<i>Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)</i>
		Miriam Becomes a Leper Numbers 12:1-16	<i>Do everything without complaining and arguing. (Philippians 2:14)</i>
		Twelve Spies Numbers 13 – 14	<i>So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD! (Psalms 31:24)</i>
		Rebellion of Korah Numbers 16 – 17	<i>Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. (Hebrews 13:17)</i>
		Moses Sins Numbers 20:1-12	<i>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)</i>
		Serpent on a Pole Numbers 20:14—21:9	<i>And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)</i>
		Balaam's Donkey Numbers 22, 23, 24	<i>Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4:29)</i>
		Death of Moses Deuteronomy 34:1-12	<i>There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. (Deuteronomy 34:10 NKJ)</i>

Baby Moses

(Exodus 1 - 2)

Introduction

Do you sometimes get fearful and worried? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Sometimes people are afraid of lightning and thunder. You might worry that your home would be wrecked or your family hurt. Sometimes it's worrisome when you hear people argue.

Do you think fearful thoughts come from God? No! All of us are afraid sometimes, but letting fear control us is a sin.

What can you do about fear? Today we're going to see how one person in the Bible faced a fearful situation.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we want to learn how to deal with our fears. Give us all good listening ears so that we might hear what You have to tell us this morning. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? (Psalms 118:6)

Lesson

Today we begin a new series of lessons from the second book of the Bible, Exodus. It is more than 400 years after Joseph and his brothers lived in the land of Egypt.

[Teacher explain that children of Israel are also known as *Hebrews*, because they spoke the Hebrew language, as *Jews* because they practiced the Jewish religion and as *Israelites* because they were the children of Israel, or simply as *Israel*.]

Exodus 1:6-7

In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

While the Israelites were living in Egypt their population grew and grew. By now they had a new Pharaoh (*Pharaoh* is an Egyptian term for *King*) that didn't regard Joseph like the old one did; he was afraid of the Israelites who were foreigners in his country.

Sometimes people are afraid of people from another culture. If a large group of people from the Amazon moved here and set up a village and carried on with a life style that was appropriate for the jungles of South America, wouldn't you feel somewhat afraid? That's how this new Pharaoh felt.

The Israelite's lives were very different than the Egyptians. The Israelites worshiped one God; the Egyptians worshiped many gods. The Hebrews lived in tents and were shepherds and farmers; the Egyptians lived in cities and built the pyramids.

So as the Israelites increased in numbers, the Egyptians became more and more fearful of them.

Exodus 1:8-10

Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country."

Pharaoh was afraid the Israelites were becoming so numerous that they would go to war against him and try to take his kingdom away. So, he made them slaves. He thought if they had to work hard, they wouldn't have the time or strength to fight against him.

Exodus 1:11-12

So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply

centers for the king. But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.

Even though the Egyptians tried to wear down the Israelites by working them practically to death and mistreating them, they couldn't keep the children of Israel from increasing in numbers. God had promised Abraham that He would make a great nation of his descendants and it was surely coming to pass!

Exodus 1:13-14

So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

The Egyptians forced the Israelites to work long hours in the mud pits making bricks. They were watched closely by mean slave masters who forced the slaves to keep working as fast as possible. They couldn't even take a few minutes' rest! They made the Israelite's lives miserable.

Then one day Pharaoh came up with a terrible, wicked plan. He ordered the midwives to kill all the boy babies born to the Hebrews.

Exodus 1:16

"When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live."

Pharaoh was trying to kill off the Hebrew race. Is it right to take a baby's life? No! And thankfully the Hebrew midwives chose to obey God's rules over Pharaoh's.

Exodus 1:17

But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.

This was a very serious matter for the midwives to go against the king. Pharaoh was the most powerful man in Egypt. Going against his command was a crime punishable by death. Do you think the

midwives were fearful? These women showed great courage and love for God by risking their lives to disobey Pharaoh's command.

Exodus 1:20

So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful.

God honored the midwives for having the courage to take a stand for what they knew was right.

In this situation disobeying the authority was proper. God does not expect us to obey those in authority when they ask us to disobey Him or his Word. We, too, need to take a bold stand for what we know is right. If we're asked to disobey God's Word, we must obey God rather than man. (Acts 5:29)

But, Pharaoh was determined to have his way...

Exodus 1:22

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live."

Then baby Moses was born. Let's see what his mother did...

Exodus 2:1-2

About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months.

That must have been hard to hide a baby for three months. I know some babies that do a lot of loud crying!

Exodus 2:3

But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.

Moses' mother put him in a basket and floated him down the river. Can you imagine setting your baby off to drift down a river, not

knowing what would happen to him? It was a very brave thing for her to trust God to care for her baby. God wants you to face your problems with courage like Moses' mother did.

Where does courage come from? Courage comes from knowing that God is with you and that He is in control of everything.

When you have a fearful problem to face you need to:

- Think about God's love for you and how He controls everything
- Ask God to help you be brave and do what He tells you.

God tells us: "*The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?*" (Psalms 118:6)

Moses' mother had courage and trusted God to care for her baby; Moses' big sister, Miriam, was concerned about the welfare of her baby brother, too.

Exodus 2:4

The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

God did have a plan for Moses....

Exodus 2:5-6

Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.

So the Princess of Egypt found Moses and love filled her heart for him. She felt sorry for the crying baby.

Exodus 2:7

Then the baby's sister approached the princess. "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.

I'll bet that Miriam was fearful when she approached the princess. But she swallowed her fear and took courage.

Let's see how God honored her bravery...

Exodus 2:8-9

"Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother. "Take this baby and nurse him for me," the princess told the baby's mother. "I will pay you for your help." So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

God rewarded Moses' mother's courage by allowing her the joy of safely caring for her own baby! While Moses was a little boy, his mother taught him to love God.

God's plan always works out in amazing ways. How could Moses' mother know when she set him adrift on the river how things would end up? She faced her problem with courage!

The problem looked hopeless to Moses' mother. But God used her courageous act of saving and hiding her baby to begin His plan to rescue his people from Egypt.

Exodus 2:10

Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."

This is how Moses, who was a Hebrew by birth, was brought up in the household of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. But he never forgot that his mother taught him to love and obey God.

Closing Prayer

Lord, You want us to face our fears with courage. Please help us to learn how to think and act in a calm, brave way when we get afraid. Help us to have courage like the midwives had. Help us to swallow our fear, like Miriam did, and to face our problems with courage, like

Moses' mother. We always want to remember that You have given us power to overcome our fears. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Make a Poster:

Copy the example on the next page on card stock for the children to decorate and take home as a reminder. Recommend that the children put it someplace where they can read it each day then when they come to Sunday school next week, they can share how God gave them courage to face a difficult problem in their life.

Game Center

Let the children work on the *Baby Moses* word search or send it home as a "take home" paper.

Or, use the following questions in a game of your choice:

1. What brought the children of Israel to Egypt to live? (A famine.)
2. What book in the Bible is the story of Moses? (Exodus)
3. Why was Pharaoh afraid of the Israelites? (They were increasing in numbers and they were foreigners in his country — culturally different. He was afraid they would organize and threaten his kingdom.)
4. How did Pharaoh try to kill the Israelite's spirit and stop their growth? (He made them slaves and forced them to build cities.)
5. What is a slave and do they have rights? (Someone who is under the control of someone else.)
6. What kind of slave masters did Pharaoh have in Egypt? (Ruthless; they tried to keep the slaves working as fast as possible.)

7. What is a midwife? (A woman who helps a mother give birth.)
8. Why did Pharaoh ask the Hebrew midwives to kill all the new born baby boys? (He hoped to kill off the Hebrew race.)
9. What are some other terms for the children of Israel? (Israelite, Jew, and Hebrew.)
10. If someone in authority told you to do something that is against God's law, what would you do? What if they threatened to kill you if you didn't do as they asked? (Teacher, let the child respond.)
11. What did Moses' mother do when she could no longer hide baby Moses? (She put him in a basket and floated him down the river.)
12. Where does courage come from? (Knowing that God is with you and that He is in control of everything.)
13. When you have a fearful problem to face what should you do? (1, think about God's love for you and how He controls everything. And, 2, ask God to help you be brave and do what He tells you.)
14. What happened to Moses after his mother set him to float down the river? (The princess came down to bathe at the river and found him. She felt sorry for the crying baby. Then Miriam came and suggested that she go find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

When you have a fearful problem to face,

- ♦ Think about God's love for you and how He controls everything.
- ♦ Ask God to help you be brave and do what He tells you.

Moses Acts in Anger

(Exodus 2:11-25)

Introduction

Imagine being adopted by a princess and growing up in a king's palace. You could have everything you wanted – beautiful clothes, delicious food, an excellent education. How would you feel, though, if you learned that you had brothers and sisters who had not been so fortunate? While you lived in luxury, they lived in poverty and were cruelly treated. Wouldn't you want to help them?

The Bible tells us about a situation very much like that...

Opening Prayer

Father, we all get angry about things at times. People do unfair and unwise things and sometimes we lash out and react in our anger. But, You don't want us to blow up. Help us to listen this morning so that we might learn how You want us to control our anger. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. (James 1:19-20 NIV)

Lesson

Last week we began studying about the life of Moses. This week he is now about 40 years old. He's been watching how the Egyptians have been mistreating the Israelites outside of the palace where he grew up.

Exodus 2:11

Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews.

As Moses grew up he must have been told by his adoptive mother how she found him in the river (see verse 10). He knew he wasn't an Egyptian by birth; he knew he was a Hebrew. One day he became angry as he watched a Hebrew man get beaten by one of the cruel Egyptian slave masters.

Exodus 2:12

After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

Moses was so angry he killed the Egyptian! Moses' anger toward the Egyptians for the cruel way they were treating his people had become so great that he let it overcome him. Moses had reason to be angry. It was wrong for the Egyptians to harm the Hebrews, but acting in anger was not the way to solve the problem.

Have you ever been so angry that you acted without thinking? [Teacher, let the children share.] Perhaps someone hurt your younger brother or sister, and you wanted to hurt him back.

God wants you to control your temper and seek His way to solve your problem. [Teacher, review the Memory Verse.]

Acting in anger will not solve a problem; it will only make it worse. Getting revenge is not your job. God will take care of the wrongdoing Himself (Romans 12:19). God is always fair and right. He is perfect, so He is the only One who can perfectly judge someone else. He might not do it the way you think He should, or even when you think He should, but He wants you to control your temper and let Him work things out in His time and in His way.

Moses needed to let God take care of this situation in His own way and time, but instead Moses lashed out in anger, killing the Egyptian.

The next day, Moses saw two Hebrews fighting and he got mad at one for hitting the other.

Exodus 2:13

The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight.

But the Hebrew men were offended by Moses....

Exodus 2:14

The man replied, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Everyone knows what I did."

Moses thought he had made sure that no one was watching before he killed the Egyptian. But as it turned out, someone did see.

Sometimes we mistakenly think we can get away with doing wrong if no one sees or catches us. Sooner or later, however, doing wrong will catch up with us as it did with Moses. Even if we are not caught in this life, we will still have to face God and His judgment in the life to come.

When Pharaoh heard of the murder, Moses' life was in danger

Exodus 2:15

And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian. When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well.

Moses' angry action had only made the problem worse. Now, instead of being able to help his people, Moses was in danger himself.

What does God want you to do when you are tempted to act in anger? [Teacher, let the children respond.] You can whisper a prayer for God to help you. You can stay quiet. Maybe you should calmly walk away rather than fight. You can go to your parents for help to solve the problem.

Acting in anger won't solve any problems. [Teacher, review the Memory Verse.] God will help you to control your temper and show you His way to solve your problem.

But Moses had acted in anger, and now his life was in danger.

Moses probably thought that he had ruined any opportunity to deliver his people from slavery, but God was not finished with Moses. Moses settled in the wilderness of Midian with the family of Jethro. There he married Jethro's daughter and became a shepherd.

God used this time to teach Moses humility and to give him other skills he would need to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt in God's way and in God's time.

In Egypt, the Hebrews cried out to God in their suffering.

Exodus 2:23

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God.

While Moses was living in the wilderness with the family of Jethro, the king of Egypt died. They got a new Pharaoh who made life even harder for the children of Israel. But, God heard their prayers and was preparing a deliverer for them.

Exodus 2:24-25

God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

Who remembers the promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? (That He would make a great nation of their descendants.) God never forgets His promises!

Closing Prayer

Father, we know that acting in anger only makes a problem worse. We want to learn how to deal with our anger. Help us to think before we react. We want to please You, Lord, with all our thoughts and actions every day. Thank You for loving us and forgiving us when we blow it. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

1. What made Moses so angry that he killed an Egyptian? (He saw an Egyptian beat a Hebrew man.)
2. Have you ever been so angry that you acted without thinking? (Let the child share.)
3. How does God want you to deal with your anger? (He wants us to control our anger and seek His way to solve our problems; let Him work things out in His time and in His way.)
4. What happened the next day when Moses saw the two Hebrew men fighting? (Moses scolded the two men, but they scolded him back saying, "What right have you to judge us? Are you going to kill us like you did that Egyptian?" Moses thought no one knew of his murdering the Egyptian.)
5. What happened when Pharaoh heard of Moses' murdering the Egyptian? (Pharaoh sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled to Midian.)
6. What should you do when you are tempted to act in anger? (Pray and ask God to help you, stay quiet, calmly walk away rather than fight, or go to your parents for help.)
7. What is our memory verse? (Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19-20 NIV)
8. What did Moses do in Midian? (He was a shepherd, worked for the family of Jethro, married Jethro's daughter, and had a family.)
9. God wasn't finished with Moses yet. What was God doing in Moses for the 40 years that he lived out in the wilderness of Midian? (God was building into Moses meekness and other character traits.)
10. What was the promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? (That He would make a great nation of their descendants.)
11. How often does God come through with His promises? (Always!)
12. What's a promise that God has made to you? (That He'll never leave me nor forsake me, that He loves me with an everlasting love, that He forgives me of my sins, etc.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Call of Moses

(Exodus 3)

Introduction

If God ever asked you to do something that seemed very hard, or even impossible, what would you do? Would you tell God you can't do it? What if God asked you to be kind to someone that was deformed or mentally retarded? What if God asked you to not be angry at someone who was mean to you? Some things seem impossible to do even though you know God would want you to do it.

Our lesson this morning is about a time God told Moses to do something that seemed impossible to him. Do you think Moses obeyed? Let's find out...

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to be obedient to You no matter what You ask us to do. Help us to learn the life lesson You have for us today from Moses' life. Give us good listening ears; help us to listen with our hearts this morning. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

Lesson

Moses lived his first 40 years as a pampered son of an Egyptian princess in a palace in Egypt. His next 40 years he lived out in the wilderness in Midian as a shepherd tending sheep and living in a tent. What a contrast! As an Egyptian prince he had everything done for him; as a shepherd he had to do everything for himself. What a humbling experience this must have been for Moses!

Moses probably thought he had ruined any chance he had to deliver his people from slavery. But God was preparing him for leadership. Living the life of a shepherd, Moses learned about the ways of the people he would be leading and also about life in the desert. Moses

probably didn't appreciate this lesson, but God was getting him ready to free Israel from Pharaoh's grasp.

Moses was 80 years old where we pick up the story this morning and God speaks to him from an unexpected place...

Exodus 3:1-2

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up.

This must have really caught Moses' attention — a burning bush that wasn't burning up. So naturally he went over to examine it.

Exodus 3:3

"This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

God can speak to us in unusual ways, too. Sometimes God speaks to us through other people or through our own thoughts and dreams. He will also speak to us when we read the Bible, God's Word. We need to listen with our hearts, be curious, like Moses was with this burning bush, and be open to God's surprises.

Exodus 3:4-6

When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. "Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

How would you react if God appeared to you?

At God's command, Moses removed his sandals and covered his face. He was showing his reverence for the all-powerful God who created all things, the One who is perfect and separate from anything that is sinful. He was standing before God Himself!

God is our friend, but he is also our sovereign Lord. When we come to Him in worship, we need to come as though we were an invited guest before a king with respect and humility. Moses was awe struck when

God spoke to him. He removed his sandals and hid his face to show his reverence for God.

Exodus 3:7-8

Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.

God was telling Moses that He had come to rescue His people and that Moses would lead them out of Egypt to the promised land. Who remembers where the promised land was? [Teacher, point to it on the map.]

This land was not sitting empty, however, it was filled with other groups of people who were not followers of the only true God. As we will learn in the weeks ahead, the children of Israel will have to take the land from these various tribes. But first God has to get His people out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:10

Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

At age 40 Moses proudly thought of himself as the man for the job. But then God sent him out to the wilderness to live for 40 years as a shepherd. Finally, when Moses was 80 years old, God called him to be the deliverer. Why wasn't Moses ready 40 years earlier? (He was filled with self-importance and hadn't learned yet to trust in and rely upon God for strength and direction in life.) Moses needed to see his own weakness before God could use him.

Exodus 3:11

But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

What a different man Moses was now. 40 years ago he thought he could go in as a mighty warrior and rescue the children of Israel with triumph. Now he was humble and unsure of himself.

Moses knew that freeing the children of Israel from Pharaoh was a big job and that there was no way he could do it by himself. He felt as if he just didn't have what it would take on the inside to do such an important job.

Have you ever faced a situation that seemed like a mountain too large for you to climb? Maybe in your heart you've said, "I can't tell others about God; I don't know how," or "I'm not strong enough to say, 'No' to sin;" or, "I'm not brave enough to live for God in front of my friends." We are not smart enough, good enough, strong enough, or brave enough to do these things for God by ourselves. But God doesn't want you to do anything without His help. He wants you to trust Him to do these things through you. He wants you to trust God to give you power to do what He asks.

The Bible says, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:13). We aren't strong enough in ourselves, but the all-powerful God is and can do anything. He wants you to trust Him to help you do what He asks.

Moses knew that he couldn't do this big job all by himself. So, God assured Moses that He will be with him...

Exodus 3:12

God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

God promised He would go with Moses. But Moses wonders what he could say to the Israelites to convince them that he had actually heard from God. Moses asks God, "What if they ask me what Your name is? What shall I tell them?"

Exodus 3:13

But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

Did you ever wonder what God’s name is?

Exodus 3:14

God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”

God’s name is “I AM.” Who has an idea of what that means? It’s a description of God’s character. God is like a circle. He had no beginning and He will have no end. He just is! He is the eternal, ever-present One. He is always present everywhere. He always was and He always will be. God is everything we need.

God wanted Moses and the people to know that He is the all-powerful God who would be with them to give them the power to follow Him. He wanted them to trust God to give them the power they would need to do what He asked.

When you trust God’s power, you can do anything for Him. God’s word says, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:13). His name is “I AM.” He is everything you need. He is your wisdom to help you tell others about Him. He is your peace on the inside to help you not to be nervous in front of others. He is your strength to help you say “No” to sin. He is your courage to help you be brave enough to live for Him. Ask God to help you trust that He will give you the power you need.

God was asking Moses to do a hard thing, but He wanted Moses to trust God’s power to help him do it. And God told Moses exactly what He wanted him to do...

Exodus 3:16-17

“Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.”’”

Do you think God kept His promises?

Closing Prayer

Father, we want to trust You to give us the power we need to do what You ask us to do. We don’t want to be like Moses who tried to wiggle his way out of doing what You had asked him to do. Thank You for giving us the help we need to do what feels impossible. We love You and want to please You in everything we do. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Let the children work on the *Moses and the Burning Bush* word search, or send it home as a “take home” paper.

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Where did Moses live his first 40 years? (As a pampered son of an Egyptian princess in a palace in Egypt.)
2. Where did Moses live his second 40 years? (As a shepherd out in the wilderness in Midian.)
3. What did the 40 years living out in the wilderness do in Moses’ life? (Living the life of a shepherd, Moses learned about the ways

of the people he would be leading and also about life in the desert.)

4. In what unusual way did God speak to Moses? (From a burning bush that didn't burn up.)
5. What are some ways that God speaks to us? (Through other people, through our own thoughts and experiences, through the scriptures.)
6. Why did Moses take off his shoes and cover his face? (He was showing reverence for the all-powerful God.)
7. In what attitude of heart should we come to God in worship? (We need come as though we were an invited guest before a king with respect and humility.)
8. What did God tell Moses from the burning bush? (That He had heard the cries of His people and had come to rescue them. And, that He wanted Moses to lead them out of Egypt.)
9. Why didn't God send Moses when he was only 40 years old? Why did He wait until Moses was 80? (Moses was filled with self-importance and hadn't learned yet to trust in and rely upon God for strength and direction in life. Moses needed to see his own weakness before God could use him.)
10. Why did Moses feel inadequate to go before Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt? (He didn't think the people would really think that he was being sent by God.)
11. What is God's name and what does it mean? (I AM. He always was and He always will be. He had no beginning and He will have no end. He just is!)
12. What is today's memory verse? (*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Philippians 4:13)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Signs for Moses

(Exodus 4:1-20)

Introduction

What are some of the hard things God expects you to do? He wants you to be:

- Forgiving, even to someone who has wronged you
- Kind to someone, even if they are deformed or mentally retarded
- Caring to someone, even if they have an incurable disease

Can you do these things? (Not without the power of the Holy Spirit.) God wants to give us the power we need to be obedient to Him, but if we forget that, we can feel insecure and unable to do what we know He wants us to do.

Our lesson today is about a time that Moses forgot to trust God for the power he needed to do an impossible task.

Opening Prayer

Father, open our hearts to the things You want to speak to us this morning. We don't want to miss the lessons You have for us from this part of the Bible. When we go home after church this morning we want to be stronger in our faith in You. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Memory Verse

He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. (Isaiah 40:29).

Lesson

We've been learning about the life of Moses.

Let's review some of the major points in his life:

- As a baby, Pharaoh ordered all the boy babies to be killed, but what happened? (His mother hid him and then floated him down a river, trusting that God would take care of him.)

- As a boy, Moses was brought up in a palace by a princess living the life of luxury.
- As a young man, he saw how the Pharaoh mistreated the Israelites. One day, as he watched a Hebrew man get beaten by one of the cruel Egyptian slave masters, he got angry. What happened? (Moses killed the Egyptian.)
- At the age of 40, instead of being able to help his people, Moses was in danger himself. Where did he go? (He fled to the land of Midian and became a shepherd. What a humbling experience!)
- At the age of 80, God spoke to Moses from an unexpected place. Where? (From a burning bush.) God called Moses to do a huge task. What was it?

Last week we learned that God asked Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. But Moses didn't think he could do it. God assured Moses that He would provide all he needed.

This morning we will continue the story in Exodus chapter 4 where God is speaking to Moses from the burning bush and Moses is still arguing with God.

Exodus 4:1

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'"

Even though God had just told Moses that He was the great I AM and would provide everything that Moses needed to lead the people out of Egypt, Moses continued to argue with God.

Moses still didn't think he could do what God was asking him to do. So, God gave Moses four miracles to prove that nothing is too hard for God.

Moses, being a shepherd, carried a staff. A shepherd's staff was commonly a three- to six-foot wooden stick with a curved hook at the top. The shepherd used it for guiding his sheep.

God asked Moses to throw his staff on the ground.

Exodus 4:2-3

Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. "Throw it down on the ground," the LORD told him.

So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back.

Next God asked Moses to pick up the snake. Moses must have been scared, but he obeyed God's command...

Exodus 4:4

Then the LORD told him, "Reach out and grab its tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd's staff in his hand.

Moses' staff was just an ordinary stick; not a magic wand. But God used it to teach Moses an important lesson.

Exodus 4:5

"Perform this sign," the LORD told him. "Then they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you."

God wanted to show His miraculous powers to prove that He was not limited in what He could do.

Next, He told Moses to put his hand inside his robe.

Exodus 4:6

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out again, his hand was white as snow with a severe skin disease.

Leprosy was one of the most feared diseases of Moses' time. There was no cure and it caused a great deal of pain and suffering before death. This must have really scared Moses to see leprosy on his own hand.

Exodus 4:7

"Now put your hand back into your cloak," the LORD said. So Moses put his hand back in, and when he took it out again, it was as healthy as the rest of his body.

God wanted Moses to know that He had all power.

Exodus 4:8-9

The LORD said to Moses, "If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. And if they don't believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground."

Still Moses wasn't completely convinced. He gave God yet another excuse.

Exodus 4:10

But Moses pleaded with the LORD, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."

Moses was saying he wasn't good at speaking in front of people.

Exodus 4:11

Then the LORD asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD?"

God reminded Moses that He had created Moses' mouth! He knew Moses' abilities and He would help him know what to say.

If God asks us to do something He will help us get the job done. We can trust God to provide the right words to say and give us the strength, courage, and ability we need.

Exodus 4:12

Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say."

But Moses still tried to wiggle out of doing God's will...

Exodus 4:13

But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."

Moses was begging God not to choose him to lead the people out of Egypt. Moses asked God to send someone else!

At this point God gets angry with Moses...

Exodus 4:14-16

Then the LORD became angry with Moses. "All right," he said. "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say.

God chooses Aaron, Moses' brother, to go with Moses as a spokesman.

Then God tells Moses to take his staff with him so he can perform miracles.

Exodus 4:17

And take your shepherd's staff with you, and use it to perform the miraculous signs I have shown you.

Finally, Moses realized that God would provide the power he needed to carry out the job God had given him to do, and he decided to go. So, he said *good bye* to Jethro, left the land of the Midianites, and headed for Egypt.

Exodus 4:20

So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey, and headed back to the land of Egypt. In his hand he carried the staff of God.

God had a plan for Moses' life and He's got a plan for yours, too. He wants you to trust Him to give you the power to do what He has called you to do. You need to ask God to help you to trust His power. We also need to obey Him.

Do you remember what God's name is? I AM. He is everything you need. He is your wisdom, your peace, your strength, and your courage to do what He asks you to do. Remember, *He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.* (Isaiah 40:29).

Closing Prayer

Lord, Moses forgot that it is You that gives us the power to do what You ask us to do. Help us to learn to trust You and to rely on You for the wisdom and the confidence to do what we know is right, no matter what others say or think. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in game of your choice:

1. Why did Moses almost die as a baby? (Pharaoh ordered all the boy babies killed.)
2. Where did Moses grow up? (He was raised by a princess in a Palace.)
3. What did Moses do when he saw a Hebrew man get beaten by one of the cruel Egyptian slave masters? (He killed the Egyptian.)
4. From what unusual place did God speak to Moses? (A burning bush.)
5. What were the four miracles God gave Moses to perform to show that he was God's representative? (The staff turned into a snake, the snake turned back to a stick, and, the hand turned leprous and back to normal.)
6. Still Moses wasn't convinced that he could do the job. What was Moses' next excuse for not doing God's will? (He said he wasn't good at speaking.)
7. Who did God send alongside of Moses to be his spokesman? (Aaron, his brother.)

8. What did you learn today that God wants you to do? (Trust and obey.)
9. What is today's memory verse? (*He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.* Isaiah 40:29).

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Moses and Aaron Visit King Pharaoh

(Exodus 4:17 - 7:13)

Introduction

The last two weeks we have learned that God spoke to Moses from a very unusual place. Who remembers where? (From a burning bush)

God spoke to Moses from a burning bush to get his attention because He had a very important job for him to do. What job did God give Moses to do? (Lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land.)

Moses was overwhelmed by the task God gave him to do. On one hand, it wouldn't be easy to convince the children of Israel that God had chosen him to lead them out of Egypt. And, on the other hand, it wouldn't be easy to convince Pharaoh to let the people go. He didn't want to lose his free workers.

Last week we learned that Moses tried to wiggle out of this big job God had given him to do. He argued and argued with God. First, Moses told God he didn't have the qualifications, he said, "Who am I to go before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" But God told him, "I will be with you." And, then God gave him some signs of His power.

Who remembers what God did to prove to Moses that He is all powerful (He turned Moses' staff into a snake and then back into a stick; and then, He caused Moses' hand to get leprosy and then He healed it.)

Next, Moses told God he was not good at speaking to people. He said, "Lord, I'm not very good with words." What if the people don't believe me? So, God told Moses that he could take his brother, Aaron, with him to do all the talking.

Before we start our lesson this morning, let's open in prayer.

Opening Prayer

Father, help us to remember that you are always with us and that you will give us everything we need to accomplish what You ask us to do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say. (Exodus 4:12)

Lesson

We pick up the story after Moses said, "good bye" to Jethro and left the land of the Midianites and headed for Egypt.

The first thing Moses did was meet with his brother, Aaron, to tell him what God had said they must do.

Exodus 4:28

Moses then told Aaron everything the LORD had commanded him to say. And he told him about the miraculous signs the LORD had commanded him to perform.

Then, Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called the leaders of the children of Israel to a meeting.

Exodus 4:29-31

Then Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called all the elders of Israel together. (30) Aaron told them everything the LORD had told Moses, and Moses performed the miraculous signs as they watched. (31) Then the people of Israel were convinced that the LORD had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

The people were happy to hear that God had seen their misery and was going to set them free.

Exodus 5:1

After this presentation to Israel's leaders, Moses and Aaron went and spoke to Pharaoh. They told him, "This is what the LORD, the God of

Israel, says: Let my people go so they may hold a festival in my honor in the wilderness.”

But Pharaoh wasn't happy about letting his slaves go.

Exodus 5:2

“Is that so?” retorted Pharaoh. “And who is the LORD? Why should I listen to him and let Israel go? I don't know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.”

Pharaoh would not listen to Moses and Aaron because he did not know God. In fact, Pharaoh thought he was a god!

Exodus 5:3

But Aaron and Moses persisted. “The God of the Hebrews has met with us,” they declared. “So let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness so we can offer sacrifices to the LORD our God. If we don't, he will kill us with a plague or with the sword.”

Pharaoh didn't take Moses seriously and just thought he was distracting the people from their work.

Exodus 5:4-5

Pharaoh replied, “Moses and Aaron, why are you distracting the people from their tasks? Get back to work! (5) Look, there are many of your people in the land, and you are stopping them from their work.”

Pharaoh thought the people must have too much time on their hands and laid more work on the people.

Exodus 5:6-7

That same day Pharaoh sent this order to the Egyptian slave drivers and the Israelite foremen: “Do not supply any more straw for making bricks. Make the people get it themselves!

The Egyptians no longer brought the Israelites straw to make the bricks. They had to go and find it for themselves. But they still had to make just as many bricks as they did before.

The taskmasters were brutal. They whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster. This made the people angry. They went to Pharaoh to ask him to be merciful, but Pharaoh wouldn't back down. So, the people came back in anger against Moses and Aaron...

Exodus 5:21

The foremen said to them, “May the LORD judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!

The people were saying to Moses and Aaron, “*You have only made things worse for us. Now the Egyptians are trying to kill us.”*

Moses and Aaron were so discouraged, they went back to talk with God.

When we get discouraged that's exactly what we need to do, too — talk to God, tell Him what you feel and ask Him for wisdom.

Exodus 5:22-23

Then Moses went back to the LORD and protested, “Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!”

Moses is saying, “*Why did You ever send me if You were going to do this to them? Ever since I gave Pharaoh Your message, he has only been more and more brutal to them, and You have not delivered them at all!*”

Moses expected faster results and fewer problems. When God is at work, setbacks and hardships may still occur. Remember, problems develop our patience and character by teaching us to trust God to do

what is best for us. We need to look for ways to honor God in our present situation, and remember that He will not abandon us.

God encourages Moses by reminding him of His promise...

Exodus 6:6-8

“Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”

Once again, God tells Moses and Aaron to go back to Pharaoh and tell him he must let the people go.

Exodus 7:2-3

Tell Aaron everything I command you, and Aaron must command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country. But I will make Pharaoh’s heart stubborn so I can multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.

Notice that God said that He would “harden Pharaoh’s heart...” God is saying that He will cause Pharaoh to stubbornly refuse to obey God’s command. Why would God do that? Let’s go on....

God then explains His plan to Moses to bring great judgment on the Egyptians.

Exodus 7:4-5

Even then Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you. So I will bring down my fist on Egypt. Then I will rescue my forces—my people, the Israelites—from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.”

If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it or the people could have thought that they were special. That would have been prideful! God

wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and the Israelites so they would be without a doubt that He is the only true God, the master of the universe!

Then the Lord told Moses and Aaron that the Pharaoh will demand that they show him a miracle to prove that God has sent them...

Exodus 7:8-9

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Pharaoh will demand, ‘Show me a miracle.’ When he does this, say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down in front of Pharaoh, and it will become a serpent.’”

God wanted Moses and Aaron to show His power to the Egyptians so they will believe that He is God.

Exodus 7:10

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did what the LORD had commanded them. Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a serpent!

Pharaoh was not easily impressed. He called for his magicians...

Exodus 7:11-12

Then Pharaoh called in his own wise men and sorcerers, and these Egyptian magicians did the same thing with their magic. They threw down their staffs, which also became serpents! But then Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.

How were these magicians able to copy Moses’ miracles? Do not underestimate Satan’s power. The Egyptians practiced sorcery in their religion. Although miracles can help us believe, it is dangerous to rely on them since Satan can imitate some parts of God’s work and lead people astray. We need to let the Word of God be the basis of our faith, not signs and wonders.

Pharaoh still would not listen to Moses and Aaron even when he saw the miracle of the rod turning into a snake.

Exodus 7:13

Pharaoh's heart, however, remained hard. He still refused to listen, just as the LORD had predicted.

Moses was finding out that doing God's will wasn't all that easy. Pharaoh was a real stumbling block to leading the people out of Egypt, wasn't he?

It was tough trying to convince Pharaoh that he needed to believe in God and to do what He commanded. Sometimes it's hard to convince people that God is the only true God and that we should follow His way. God sometimes uses hard circumstances to get people's attention.

Pharaoh would not listen to Moses because he did not know and respect God. We meet people like that, too. We need to pray that God will help them see who He really is.

God wants us to keep on telling people about Him. Be persistent! Don't get discouraged, no matter what others say or think. *Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.* (Exodus 4:12)

Closing Prayer

Lord, thousands of people are rejecting You every day and it grieves our hearts to think that they will spend all of eternity in hell separated from You. Give us the courage and the persistence to keep on telling people about You even when they reject us and our message. Help us not to get discouraged. We want You to use us to help people see who You really are so that Your name will be high and lifted up throughout the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Let the children work on the *Moses and the Burning Bush* word search or send it home as a "take home" paper.

Use the following review questions in a game of "Dodge Ball." Have the children stand in a circle. The child who gets hit by a nerf ball has to answer a question. Then that child gets to throw the ball at another child.

1. Why were the children of Israel in Egypt? Why didn't they live in Israel? (A great famine in the Land brought Jacob's (or Israel's) family to Egypt because there was plenty of food there.)
2. What were the Israelites doing in Egypt at this point in their history, 400 years later? (They were working as slaves making bricks which were used as the building materials for Pharaoh's building projects.)
3. How did they make the bricks? (They mixed straw with mud to make the bricks stronger and more durable.)
4. Why was Moses trying to wiggle out of the task God had assigned him to? (He knew it wouldn't be easy to convince the children of Israel that he was God's chosen one AND he knew it wouldn't be easy to convince Pharaoh to let the people leave.)
5. Why did Pharaoh want to keep the people and not let them go? (He didn't want to lose all his free laborers.)
6. What miracles did God do to finally convince Moses that He would provide the wisdom, peace, strength and courage he needed to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land? (The rod turned into a

snake and back to a stick, and the hand turned leprous and back to normal.)

7. What was Pharaoh's reaction to Moses and Aaron when they told him that God wanted them to go into the wilderness to hold a feast? (Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?")
8. Why didn't Pharaoh listen and obey God's command? (He did not know or respect God; he didn't believe in God.)
9. What did Pharaoh do to the people of Israel after they asked to leave? (He laid more work on them. They had to make bricks without straw yet produce the same number of bricks.)
10. How did the people feel towards Moses and Aaron when Pharaoh laid more work on them? (They were angry against Moses and Aaron and blamed them for the extra work.)
11. How did Moses and Aaron feel towards God when the people turned against them? (They were angry and discouraged. Moses expected faster results and fewer problems.)
12. Why does God allow us to go through trials? (They help develop our patience and character by teaching us to trust God to do what is best for us.)
13. How did God encourage Moses? (By reminding him of His promise to bring the people into the land and out of bondage.)
14. When we are discouraged what's the best way to get a good attitude again? (By remembering God's promises like Moses did!)
15. Why was it God's plan to harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to

the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)

16. What did Moses and Aaron do when Pharaoh asked for a miracle to prove that God had sent them? (Aaron took Moses' rod and cast it before Pharaoh and it became a serpent.)
17. When Moses' rod turned into a serpent, what did Pharaoh do? (He sent for his magicians and they threw down their rods and they became snakes, too.)
18. What did Moses' serpent do to the other snakes? (Ate them.)
19. How were these magicians able to copy Moses' miracle? (By the power of Satan. Not all signs and wonders come from the hand of God.)

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The Plagues of Egypt

(Exodus 7:14 - 8)

Introduction

What does it mean to be stubborn? A person who is stubborn is strong willed and refuses to listen and obey. They are hard to handle. Have you ever been stubborn? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Why do you get that way? Stubbornness is a form of self-centeredness. A stubborn person wants something their own way and is unwilling to even listen to suggestions about doing it another!

We've been learning about Pharaoh and how he refused to listen to Moses and Aaron when they told him that God wanted his people to leave Egypt and go out to the wilderness to worship Him.

God wants us to set aside willfulness and self-pleasing actions for the sake of building others up for their good.

Let's try to learn some lessons from Pharaoh's mistake this morning!

Opening Prayer:

Lord, soften our hearts this morning and help us to see how wrong it is when we are stubborn about getting things our own way. Help us to be more "others" centered and realize that when we are stubborn we can cause other people a lot of trouble. Stubbornness can blind us to the truth. So, Lord, help us to not be selfish, but humble. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)

Lesson

God had chosen Moses and his brother, Aaron, to lead His people out of Egypt into the wilderness to worship God. But Pharaoh wouldn't listen to Moses. He didn't believe in God; he thought that he himself was a god. He thought he was the most powerful being in all the universe! So he refused to acknowledge the existence of God.

Exodus 7:14-16

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is stubborn, and he still refuses to let the people go. (15) So go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes down to the river. Stand on the bank of the Nile and meet him there. Be sure to take along the staff that turned into a snake. (16) Then announce to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you, "Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness." Until now, you have refused to listen to him.

Because Pharaoh refused to believe in God and do what He commanded, the Lord wanted to prove His mightiness to Pharaoh.

First plague: bloody water

Exodus 7:17-18

So this is what the LORD says: "I will show you that I am the LORD." Look! I will strike the water of the Nile with this staff in my hand, and the river will turn to blood. (18) The fish in it will die, and the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink any water from the Nile."

God dramatically turned the waters of the Nile into blood to show Pharaoh who He was. Wherever there was water, it turned into blood: rivers, lakes, streams, even water in pots and pans in people's kitchens. All the fish in the water died and the water smelled so bad the people couldn't drink it.

Egypt is a large country, but most of the people live along the banks of the Nile River. The river makes life possible in a land that is mostly desert. It provides water for drinking, farming, bathing, and fishing. You could say that the Nile is the people's life source!

How do you think the Word of God is like the Nile? [Teacher, let the children respond.] The Word of God is like living water to us. It is our spiritual source of life. Without the Word of God we would die. Just like we need to drink water every day to survive, we need to drink from the Word of God every day. [Teacher, discuss how we can “drink” from the Word of God.]

Without the Nile’s water, the people of Egypt could not exist. Imagine Pharaoh’s fear when Moses turned this precious river to blood!

You would think this would get his attention, but NO! Pharaoh was stubborn and didn’t believe God did this. So he called some of his magicians and they also turned water into blood.

Exodus 7:22-23

But again the magicians of Egypt used their magic, and they, too, turned water into blood. So Pharaoh’s heart remained hard. He refused to listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had predicted. (23) Pharaoh returned to his palace and put the whole thing out of his mind.

Pharaoh was unimpressed. So, God sends a second plague.

Second plague: frogs

Exodus 8:1-2

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go back to Pharaoh and announce to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. (2) If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs across your entire land.

Exodus 8:3-4

The Nile River will swarm with frogs. They will come up out of the river and into your palace, even into your bedroom and onto your bed! They will enter the houses of your officials and your people. They will even jump into your ovens and your kneading bowls. (4) Frogs will jump on you, your people, and all your officials.”

When Aaron pointed the rod toward the river, the land was covered with frogs. They were everywhere! But once again Pharaoh called his magicians and they made frogs come up on the ground.

But Pharaoh didn’t like having the frogs around. So, he told Moses he would let the people go, if he would just ask God to get rid of the frogs. (It’s funny he didn’t ask his magicians to get rid of them! I guess they could only copy or imitate God, they couldn’t come up with anything new on their own!)

So, Moses asked the Lord to get rid of the frogs...

Exodus 8:13-14

And the LORD did just what Moses had predicted. The frogs in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields all died. (14) The Egyptians piled them into great heaps, and a terrible stench filled the land.

But, when Pharaoh saw that the frogs were gone, he hardened his heart and refused to let the people go, just as the Lord predicted.

When we are disobedient it is a sign that we are being self-centered. Sometimes our disobedience brings suffering upon others. Even after repeated warnings, Pharaoh still refused to obey God. He hardened his heart every time there was a break in the plagues. His stubborn disobedience brought suffering upon himself and his entire country.

Third plague: gnats

Exodus 8:16

So the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Raise your staff and strike the ground. The dust will turn into swarms of gnats throughout the land of Egypt.”

It happened like God had said and soon gnats covered the people and animals. They bit the people and made their skin itch.

This time the magicians couldn't make gnats appear. But it didn't matter. Pharaoh still wouldn't let the people leave to worship even when the magicians begged him to.

Exodus 8:18-19

Pharaoh's magicians tried to do the same thing with their secret arts, but this time they failed. And the gnats covered everyone, people and animals alike. (19) "This is the finger of God!" the magicians exclaimed to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart remained hard. He wouldn't listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.

Some people think, "If only I could see a miracle, I would believe in God." God gave Pharaoh just such an opportunity! When gnats infested Egypt, even the magicians agreed that this was God's work. But still Pharaoh refused to believe. He was stubborn. Stubbornness can blind a person to the truth.

Fourth plague: flies

Exodus 8:20-21

Then the LORD told Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand in Pharaoh's way as he goes down to the river. Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. (21) If you refuse, then I will send swarms of flies on you, your officials, your people, and all the houses. The Egyptian homes will be filled with flies, and the ground will be covered with them.

The next day there were thick swarms of flies in the palace and in every home in Egypt. Can you imagine how horrible this was? But there were no flies where the Israelites lived! God protects His people.

Pharaoh was beginning to think he better listen. He quickly called for Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh agreed to let the people go if Moses would just call upon God to get rid of the flies.

Exodus 8:31-32

And the LORD did as Moses asked and caused the swarms of flies to disappear from Pharaoh, his officials, and his people. Not a single fly remained. (32) But Pharaoh again became stubborn and refused to let the people go.

Pharaoh was a stubborn man! He saw God's great power, but he still refused to obey. But God kept giving Pharaoh many chances to do the right thing.

Last week we learned why God hardened Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites. Who remembers the reason? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)

Next week we will continue to learn about the rest of the Plagues that God sent. He really had to work hard to get Pharaoh to believe in Him, didn't He? Sometimes people blind themselves to the truth, just by their own self-centered stubbornness.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we don't ever want to be so hard hearted and stubborn as Pharaoh was. Next time we find ourselves being stubborn, Lord, help us to remember all the pain and suffering that Pharaoh brought on the people by his refusal to listen and obey. We would never want to be the cause of other peoples' discomfort. Help us to be "others" centered. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What does it mean to be stubborn? (To be selfish and strong willed, to refuse to listen and obey.)
2. Why was Pharaoh stubborn? (Pharaoh himself was considered a god; he thought he was the most powerful being in the universe; he didn't believe in God.)
3. How did God try to prove His mightiness to Pharaoh? (By sending the plagues.)
4. What was the first plague? (Turning the water into blood.)
5. Why was turning the water into blood such a fearful thing to the Egyptians? (The Nile was their life source.)
6. What was the second plague? (Frogs.)
7. Why did Pharaoh ask his magicians to make more frogs? Why didn't he ask them to get rid of the frogs? (The powers of Satan can't come up with anything new on their own. All they can do is try to imitate the things of God.)
8. What did Pharaoh's hard heart and his refusal to obey God cause his people? (Lots of pain and suffering.)
9. What was the third plague? (Gnats.)
10. What did the magicians do when Moses and Aaron produced the Gnats? (They could not bring forth gnats, so they told Pharaoh that this was the work of God's hand.)
11. Stubbornness can _____ a person to the truth. (Blind.)
12. What was the fourth plague? (Flies.)
13. There were swarms of flies everywhere but where? (Where the Israelites lived.)
14. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)
15. Why is it wrong to be stubborn? (It blinds you to the truth and it can cause pain and suffering to others. It's a selfish attitude and God wants us to be "others" centered.)
16. What is today's memory verse? (*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Plagues on Egypt

(Exodus 7:14-12:30)

God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Set God's people free!" But Pharaoh's heart was hard. He didn't even listen.

So God sent plagues to bother Pharaoh—icky, yucky plagues. How many plagues did God send before Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave? To find out, fill in the blanks and complete the math problem.

THE _____ DAYS OF CREATION (INCLUDE THE DAY OF REST)

NoAH Took _____ OF EACH ANIMAL

SARAH and ABRAHAM HAD _____ SON

4 CHARIOTS +

THE _____ COMMANDMENTS

the Nile River

the Nile River

PLAGUES _____

Extra! Extra! Extra!
Circle the plagues God sent on the Egyptians.

Blood	Fire	Tornadoes
Snakes	Livestock	Locusts
Frogs	Boils	Spiders
Gnats	Chicken Pox	Darkness
Flies	Hail	Death of firstborn

More Plagues

(Exodus 9 - 10)

Introduction

How strong are you? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Who is the strongest man in the world? How do you think he compares to the strength and power of God? This morning we're going to see just how strong our God is.

Opening Prayer

You are an awesome God. This morning I ask You to reveal to our understanding just how powerful and strong and mighty You are. Excite our hearts! Cause us to fall down on our knees and worship You as we never have before. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Memory Verse

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Matthew 6:13 NKJ)*

Lesson

We've been learning about how God called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. When Moses asked Pharaoh to let the people go, what did he say? (No!)

Why was Pharaoh so reluctant to let the people go? (The Hebrews were Egypt's free labors – the builders of their great cities. As Egypt's leader, Pharaoh did not easily let such a great resource go.)

Last week, we learned that because of Pharaoh's hard heartedness and stubbornness, God sent 10 plagues upon the Egyptians. We covered the first four last week. Let's review them:

- 1st Plague: Turning the water into blood
- 2nd Plague: Frogs
- 3rd Plague: Gnats
- 4th Plague: Flies

How did Pharaoh's magician's miracles compare to Moses'? (The powers of Satan can't come up with anything new on their own. All they can do is try to imitate the things of God. They couldn't get rid of the plagues, nor could they bring forth gnats.)

Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)

So today we're going to learn about the next 5 plagues. Turn with me to Exodus 9.

Fifth plague: diseased livestock

Exodus 9:1-3

"Go back to Pharaoh," the LORD commanded Moses. "Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you continue to hold them and refuse to let them go, the hand of the LORD will strike all your livestock—your horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats—with a deadly plague.

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to warn him a disease would come and kill all the animals. But, notice in the next verse, God promises that the Israelite's animals would not be touched.

Exodus 9:4

But the LORD will again make a distinction between the livestock of the Israelites and that of the Egyptians. Not a single one of Israel's animals will die!

It happened just as the Lord announced would happen. But still Pharaoh's mind remained unchanged and he would not let the people leave. So, God sends the sixth plague.

Sixth plague: boils

Exodus 9:8-9

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a brick kiln, and have Moses toss it into the air while Pharaoh watches. The ashes will spread like fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, causing festering boils to break out on people and animals throughout the land."

Moses might have been getting tired and discouraged about asking Pharaoh time and again to let the people go. But he continued to obey. He didn't give up. He knew it was the right thing to do.

Still Pharaoh wouldn't listen. He continued to be hard hearted and stubborn. So, God sends a seventh plague.

Seventh plague: Hail

Exodus 9:13-14

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Tell him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you don't, I will send more plagues on you and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth.'

God continued to prove to Pharaoh that He is the almighty God, ruler of the universe. God is constantly trying to prove His power and strength to us every day, as well. But, too often when we are successful at something, we take the credit, don't we? Like if you get a good grade on a test at school or hit a home run in softball, isn't it easy to think, "Wow, wasn't I awesome?!" We should be thanking God for giving us the ability.

But, Pharaoh still thought that he was a god. Here's what God said to Pharaoh...

Exodus 9:17-18

But you still lord it over my people and refuse to let them go. So tomorrow at this time I will send a hailstorm more devastating than any in all the history of Egypt.

Exodus 9:23

So Moses lifted his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed toward the earth. The LORD sent a tremendous hailstorm against all the land of Egypt.

All of Egypt lay in ruins. Everyone in the fields was killed and trees and crops were ruined. The only place where no hail had fallen was where the people of Israel lived.

Exodus 9:25-26

It left all of Egypt in ruins. The hail struck down everything in the open field—people, animals, and plants alike. Even the trees were destroyed. The only place without hail was the region of Goshen, where the people of Israel lived.

God again protected the Israelites from the disaster, just like He promises to put a hedge of protection around us, as well.

Wouldn't you think God had sent enough plagues to make Pharaoh listen? But no, Pharaoh's heart was still stubborn.

Notice in this next passage God's earnest desire. He wants everyone to know that He is the only true God, that there is no other. He is the King of the universe. No one is as mighty and He deserves our worship...

Exodus 10:1-2

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Return to Pharaoh and make your demands again. I have made him and his officials stubborn so I can

display my miraculous signs among them. I've also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them—and so you will know that I am the LORD.”

God told Moses to tell his children about the miracles he was witnessing. What stories Moses had to tell his grandchildren! It is important to tell others all about God's wonderful miraculous deeds. It encourages others to believe in Him and to trust Him to work in their life, too.

Eighth plague: locusts

Exodus 10:3-5

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: How long will you refuse to submit to me? Let my people go, so they can worship me. If you refuse, watch out! For tomorrow I will bring a swarm of locusts on your country. They will cover the land so that you won't be able to see the ground. They will devour what little is left of your crops after the hailstorm, including all the trees growing in the fields.

Even the people in Pharaoh's court begged Pharaoh to listen and obey God.

Exodus 10:7

Pharaoh's officials now came to Pharaoh and appealed to him. “How long will you let this man hold us hostage? Let the men go to worship the LORD their God! Don't you realize that Egypt lies in ruins?”

The Egyptian people realized how powerless their own gods were to stop the plagues. They realized that the God of the Hebrews is a living and personal Being, the only true God, and the only God who should be worshiped. God was proving to both the Hebrews and the Egyptians that he alone is the living and all-powerful God.

But, Pharaoh refused...

Exodus 10:13

So Moses raised his staff over Egypt, and the LORD caused an east wind to blow over the land all that day and through the night. When morning arrived, the east wind had brought the locusts.

Exodus 10:15

For the locusts covered the whole country and darkened the land. They devoured every plant in the fields and all the fruit on the trees that had survived the hailstorm. Not a single leaf was left on the trees and plants throughout the land of Egypt.

Exodus 10:20

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart again, so he refused to let the people go.

Ninth plague: darkness

Exodus 10:21-22

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Lift your hand toward heaven, and the land of Egypt will be covered with a darkness so thick you can feel it.” So Moses lifted his hand to the sky, and a deep darkness covered the entire land of Egypt for three days.

God sent darkness like black, black night so the people could hardly move.

Exodus 10:23

During all that time the people could not see each other, and no one moved. But there was light as usual where the people of Israel lived.

Exodus 10:27

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart once more, and he would not let them go.

Over and over again God showed Pharaoh how powerful and strong He is. But Pharaoh refused to humble himself before God. We

shouldn't wait until a catastrophe forces us to make a decision to follow Jesus. We should choose to make Him our God and savior today.

God is an awesome God isn't He? He deserves our worship and our obedience. As a closing prayer, this morning, I want to read a passage of scripture to you from 1 Chronicles 29:11-13...

Closing Prayer

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. (1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV) Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Go around the class and ask each child to name a plague, adding a new one to the list with each answer. If the child can name one, he gets an opportunity to choose 2 cards from the Plague Concentration Game. (Water turned to blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Diseased Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of First Born.)

Or, Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who can name the most number of plagues of the nine we've learned about so far? (Water turned to blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Diseased Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, or Darkness.)

2. How was it that the Israelites were not bothered by the plagues that came upon the Egyptians? (God can do anything! He is almighty!)
3. In what way have you noticed that God is the almighty God, ruler of the universe – powerful and strong? (Let the child respond.)
4. Why didn't Pharaoh think he needed to listen and obey God? (He thought he was a god and that he was the most powerful person in the world.)
5. Did the hail fall everywhere? (The hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt...only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.)
6. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart against the Israelites? (If Pharaoh let the people go right away, it would have been so easy that Moses could have taken the credit for it. God wanted to prove His mighty power to both the Egyptians and to the children of Israel so that they would have no doubt that He is the only true God, master of the universe!)
7. Why is it important to tell others about God's wonderful miraculous deeds? (It encourages others to believe in Him and to trust Him to work in their life, too.)
8. What did the Pharaoh's servants ask Pharaoh to do? (Let the people go!)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]



1 River turned to blood
Exodus 7:21



6 Boils (skin sores)
Exodus 9:10



2 Frogs everywhere
Exodus 8:6



7 Lightning and hailstorm
Exodus 9:23



3 Gnats
Exodus 8:17



8 Locusts
Exodus 10:14



4 Swarms of flies
Exodus 8:24



9 Darkness for 3 days
Exodus 10:22



5 Livestock died
Exodus 9:6



10 Death of firstborn
Exodus 12:29

The Passover

(Exodus 11 - 12)

Introduction

Suppose you were told that a terrible storm was coming — one that could destroy everything in its path — but you were given some simple instructions that were guaranteed to protect you if you would follow them exactly. Would you follow those instructions? Sure, you would! You would be foolish not to accept the one way that would protect you from destruction by the storm.

The Bible tells us that the Hebrews faced one terrible night of suffering and destruction far worse than any storm. If they would follow certain instructions they would be delivered from that which was going to happen and be set free from a cruel king who wanted them for his slaves. It began in Egypt with a message from God to Pharaoh.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts this morning so that we might see You for Who You really are and so that we might fall madly in love with You this morning. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

... John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

Lesson

We have been studying about how Moses was used by God to lead the children of Israel out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt. The Israelites were slaves suffering under the cruel Pharaoh.

You and I have never been slaves to a wicked king, but we are slaves in another way. Each of us is born with a 'want to' to sin that keeps us

under Satan's power. Sin is anything you think, say, or do that does not please God. When you continue to lie to your parents or cheat on tests or say dirty words, you are showing that you are a slave to sin.

God hates your sin because it keeps you apart from Him. The punishment for sin is death — the kind of death that means you will be separated from God forever. But God wants to free you from the bondage of your sin, just as He wanted to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.

God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. He used the plagues to teach both the Egyptians and the children of Israel that He is our Almighty God, ruler of the universe. So far we have learned about nine plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians. Today we will learn about the final plague.

Tenth plague: the death of the firstborn

Exodus 11:1

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that he will force you all to leave."

So far none of the previous nine plagues convinced Pharaoh to listen and obey God's command to let the children of Israel go. God is saying here that the next one will finally cause Pharaoh to drive the people out.

Exodus 11:4-5

Moses had announced to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die."

Can you imagine such a scary night? God gave Moses and Aaron instructions for the children of Israel to follow so they would be safe from the coming plague.

[Teacher, go over the five instructions twice: first just explain what God told Moses to do, then go over them again explaining the significance these instructions have for the Christian.]

1st Instruction: Perfect Male Lamb

Exodus 12:5

The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

Each family must choose a perfect male lamb.

For the Christian, the lamb is a type (picture) of Christ, who was sinless (without blemish.)

John 1:29

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

2nd Instruction: Blood on the doorframe

Exodus 12:7

They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.

They were to kill the lamb, placing its blood on the door posts and across the top frame.

The lamb had to be killed in order to get the blood that would protect them. In killing the lamb, the Israelites shed innocent blood. The lamb was a sacrifice, a substitute for the person who would have died in the plague. From this point on the Hebrew people would clearly understand that for them to be spared from death, an innocent life had to be sacrificed in their place.

For the Christian, this is a picture of the cross, as the blood was sprinkled onto the top frame of the door, then onto both side frames of

the door. Jesus' death on the cross, the spilling of His blood, is what paid the penalty of our sins and satisfies the Father's need to punish all sin.

1 John 1:7b

...the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Hebrews 9:22

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

3rd Instruction: Bitter Herbs and Unleavened Bread

Exodus 12:8

That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.

The family was to bar-b-queue the lamb whole and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

They ate unleavened bread because they didn't have time to let their bread rise. They needed to be ready to leave on a moment's notice.

They ate bitter herbs such as horseradish and parsley to remind them of the bitterness of slavery. [Teacher, bring some bitter herbs to class for the children to taste.]

For the Christian, leaven (yeast) represents sin in our lives. Eating unleavened bread is a picture of how we need to remove the sin from our lives.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

Bitter Herbs reminds the Christian of the bitterness of our sins, the penalty for which is death.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

4th Instruction: Be Ready

Exodus 12:11

“These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD’s Passover.

They were to eat fully dressed with their shoes on ready to leave at any moment.

The Christian needs to be ready and waiting for the Lord’s return. He could return at any moment.

Luke 12:40

You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

5th Instruction: No Broken Bones

Exodus 12:46

Each Passover lamb must be eaten in one house. Do not carry any of its meat outside, and do not break any of its bones.

The family must stay within the house through the night. They were to eat the whole lamb and not break any of its bones.

For the Christian, this is a picture of Christ’s death when He died without breaking a bone.

John 19:31-36

It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.) These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,”

God loved the Israelites and provided a way for them to escape the death penalty by applying the blood to the door frames. Not only would the blood of the lamb free them from death that night, but it would result in their freedom from slavery.

God loves you, too. He created you and wants you to live with Him in heaven someday. But, God is holy, 100% perfect, and He cannot have sin in heaven. That is why He has made a way for you and me to escape the penalty of eternal death and be set free from the bondage of sin. His way is through the perfect Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

God has provided a way for you to be protected from sin’s punishment. The Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, died on the cross to take that punishment for you. He died and gave His life’s blood for your sin. You must be willing to admit to God that you are a sinner. You must believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross to take your punishment. If you believe with all your heart that the Lord Jesus died, giving His life’s blood for you, you can be saved from the punishment of your sin.

Every year the Jews celebrate the Passover. They never want to forget how they had been protected from death by the blood and set

free from their slavery. Every firstborn child of the Egyptians died, but the Israelite children were spared because the blood of the lamb had been placed on their door frames. Each year the people pause to give thanks to God for saving them from death and bringing them out of a land of slavery.

As Christians, we should often look back on our salvation experience and say a “thank-You” prayer to God for setting us free from the bondage of sin. The Lord’s Supper is our Passover remembrance of our new life and freedom from sin.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I believe that You died and were buried and placed in a sealed tomb. Three days later, Your tomb was found empty! You had risen from the dead, just as You said You would. That proved that the Father had accepted your payment for my sin.

You are alive today in heaven making a place ready for me! Thank You for dying on the cross and taking the punishment that I deserve. Thank You for making it possible for me to come and live with you in heaven. I wait anxiously for that day when I will be with You for ever more.

Learning Activities

Activity

Have Communion with the children.

Game Center

Put the slips of paper in a container. Let each child draw a riddle. Read it aloud and let the child try to answer it. If he cannot, let the other children respond.

Riddles

My blood was put on the door posts of all Israelite houses. What am I?

I caused much sadness for the Egyptians when I came to their houses one night. What am I?

I asked Pharaoh many times to let the Israelites go. Who am I?

I was Moses’ brother. Who am I?

I’m the place where the Israelites wanted to be. What am I?

Moses used me to show Pharaoh how powerful God is. What am I?

We were brutal and whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster and wouldn’t bring them any straw to make the bricks. Who are we?

I’m the thing that helps develop your patience and character and teaches you to trust God. What am I?

I promised the people they would get out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Who am I?

I demanded that Moses and Aaron show me a miracle to prove that God was mighty in power. Who am I?

Pharaoh called us in to do miracles like Moses. Who are we?

I’m the thing the rod turned into. What am I?

I’m the reason that the magicians could do miracles. Who am I?

Answers to the Riddles

1. My blood was put on the door posts of all Israelite houses. What am I? (A lamb.)

2. I caused much sadness for the Egyptians when I came to their houses one night. What am I? (Death.)
3. I asked Pharaoh many times to let the Israelites go. Who am I? (Moses.)
4. I was Moses' brother. Who am I? (Aaron.)
5. I'm the place where the Israelites wanted to be. What am I? (The Promised Land.)
6. Moses used me to show Pharaoh how powerful God is. What am I? (Moses' rod.)
7. We were brutal and whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster and wouldn't bring them any straw to make the bricks. Who are we? (The taskmasters.)
8. I'm the thing that helps develop your patience and character and teaches you to trust God. What am I? (Problems in life.)
9. I promised the people they would get out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Who am I? (God.)
10. I demanded that Moses and Aaron show me a miracle to prove that God was mighty in power. Who am I? (Pharaoh.)
11. Pharaoh called us in to do miracles like Moses. Who are we? (The magicians.)
12. I'm the thing the rod turned into. What am I? (A serpent.)
13. I'm the reason that the magicians could do miracles. Who am I? (Satan.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Exodus Circles

GOD **ISRAEL** **AARON** **MOSES**

Read the statements below. Put each number in a circle above under the correct name of the one who said or did it.

1. Sent Moses to free the slaves.
2. Told Pharaoh God's words.
3. Went with Moses to Egypt.
4. Sent plagues on the Egyptians.
5. Complained to Moses.
6. Told Israel not to fear.
7. Held his rod out over the water.
8. Protected the people from Pharaoh's army.
9. Crossed the sea on dry land.



Who or What Am I Game Questions

Put the slips of paper in a container. Let each child draw a riddle. Read it aloud and let the child try to answer it. If he cannot, let the other children respond.

1. My blood was put on the doorposts of all Israelite houses. What am I? (A lamb.)
2. I caused much sadness for the Egyptians when I came to their houses one night. What am I? (Death.)
3. I asked Pharaoh many times to let the Israelites go. Who am I? (Moses.)
4. I was Moses' brother. Who am I? (Aaron.)
5. I am the place where the Israelites wanted to be. What am I? (The Promised Land.)
6. Moses used me to show Pharaoh how powerful God is. What am I? (Moses' rod.)
7. I was brutal and whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster and would not bring them any straw to make the bricks. Who am I? (The taskmasters.)
8. I am the thing that helps develop your patience and character and teaches you to trust God. What am I? (Problems in life.)
9. I promised the people they would get out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. Who am I? (God.)
10. I demanded that Moses and Aaron show me a miracle to prove that God was mighty in power. Who am I? (Pharaoh.)
11. Pharaoh called me in to do miracles like Moses. Who am I? (The magicians.)
12. I am the thing the rod turned into. What am I? (A serpent.)
13. I am the reason that the magicians could do miracles. Who am I? (Satan.)
14. I am the place the Israelites lived when they were in slavery to Pharaoh. Where am I? (Egypt)
15. I am the place the children of Israel were heading to when they crossed the desert. Where am I? (The Promised Land.)

16. I am the first place the Israelites camped after passing through the Red Sea where the lake had bitter water. Where am I? (Marah.)
17. I am the place where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments. Where am I? (Mount Sinai.)
18. I am the place where the children of Israel first entered the Promised Land. Where am I? (River Jordan.)
19. I am the place where the Israelites fought their first battle and God gave them some very unusual battle plans. Where am I? (Jericho)
20. What am I? I am the place where the Israelites wanted to be.
21. What am I? I am the thing that helps develop your patience and character and teaches you to trust God.
22. What am I? Moses used me to show Pharaoh how powerful God is.
23. Who am I? I was Moses' brother.
24. Who am I? I promised the people they would get out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
25. Who am I? I asked Pharaoh many times to let the Israelites go.
26. Who am I? I demanded that Moses and Aaron show me a miracle to prove that God was mighty in power.
27. What am I? I caused much sadness for the Egyptians when I came to their houses one night.
28. Who am I? Pharaoh called me in to do miracles like Moses.
29. What am I? My blood was put on the doorposts of all Israelite houses.
30. What am I? I am the thing the rod turned into.
31. Who am I? I was brutal and whipped the Israeli workers to get them to work faster and would not bring them any straw to make the bricks.
32. Who am I? I am the reason that the magicians could do miracles.
33. Where am I? I am the place the Israelites lived when they were in slavery to Pharaoh.
34. Where am I? I am the place the children of Israel were heading to when they crossed the desert.

35. Where am I? I am the first place the Israelites camped after passing through the Red Sea where the lake had bitter water.
36. Where am I? I am the place where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments.
37. Where am I? I am the place where the children of Israel first entered the Promised Land.
38. Where am I? I am the place where the Israelites fought their first battle and God gave them some very unusual battle plans.

Crossing the Red Sea

(Exodus 13 - 14)

Introduction

Do you ever wonder why certain things happen to you — especially hard things? One minute everything seems to be going fine, then suddenly everything seems to be out of control! The Hebrews were finally leaving Egypt and everything seemed fine — for a while!

Opening Prayer

This morning, Lord, we want to give You our full attention. Open the eyes of our understanding and speak to our hearts in a special way. Teach us more about how awesome and loving You truly are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear (Psalms 46:1-2a)

Lesson

The children of Israel were slaves in Egypt living under the authority of the cruel taskmasters of Pharaoh. God wanted to deliver his people from this bondage, but Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, was stubborn.

We learned over the past few weeks how God finally convinced Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave. He sent ten horrible plagues. The last plague was when the angel of death came into the land and killed the firstborn child in every family.

God had the angel of death pass over the homes of the Hebrew families who had sprinkled blood on the door posts of their homes. But, can you imagine that night for everybody who didn't obey God's command? Everywhere people must have been crying. Even the Pharaoh must have cried. His son was dead, too.

Finally, Pharaoh was willing to obey God and let the people leave Egypt. The Israelites must have been very excited and thankful. But, they knew there was no time to waste, either. Pharaoh might change his mind again. They knew if they were going to get out of Egypt, they had better get going at once.

Can you imagine the chaos of two million people packing and getting ready to move to a new land! All of their possessions had to be loaded onto donkeys and camels and into carts or into backpacks. They had to gather their belongings as fast as they could and begin the journey to the Promised Land.

Exodus 13:17-18

When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.

God doesn't always work in the way that seems best to us. Instead of guiding the Israelites north along the direct route from Egypt to the promised land, he took them south by a longer route to avoid fighting with the Philistines. God knew they weren't prepared to face another nation in a war.

If God does not lead you along the shortest path to your goals in life, don't complain or resist. Follow him willingly and trust him to lead you safely around unseen obstacles. He can see the end of your journey from the beginning, and he knows the safest and best route.

Exodus 13:21

The LORD went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.

God gave the children of Israel a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire so they would know day and night that God was with them on their journey to the promised land. These pillars were what guided them and gave them a sense of security of God's presence.

What has God given us so that we can always know our way in life? (The Bible.) Look to God's Word for reassurance of His presence. As the Hebrews looked to the pillars of cloud and fire, we can look to God's Word day and night to know He is with us, helping us on our journey in life. The Bible is like a compass and a map — it shows us the way we are to live our lives.

Pharaoh thought that the people were only going out to the wilderness for one day to worship their God. But when he found out they had packed up everything and were moving out for good, he regretted letting the people go.

Exodus 14:5-6

When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. "What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?" they asked. So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops.

Pharaoh pulled his great army together and went after the Israelites, which really scared them!

Exodus 14:10-12

As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the LORD, and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'"

Trapped against the sea, the Israelites faced the Egyptian army sweeping in for the kill. This seemed like a hopeless situation with no way for them to escape. The Israelites thought they were doomed.

After seeing the power of God performing the 10 plagues, wouldn't you think they would know by now that God had the power to protect them? No! Their response was fear and despair!

The situation the Israelites were in certainly seemed hopeless. Where was their trust in God? Instead of trusting God, they complained bitterly to Moses. Why did Moses bring them to this scary place? Had He brought them out here just to be killed by their enemy?

The children of Israel are just like you and me. God has given us these examples in the Bible so that we can learn to trust Him the first time. By remembering God's faithfulness in the past, we can face hard times with confidence rather than with fear and complaining.

In their complaining, they were forgetting something very important about God: nothing that happens is ever out of God's control. Israel had to learn that God is able to protect them.

Moses encouraged the people to watch the wonderful way God would rescue them.

Exodus 14:13-14

But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

The people were scared. They grumbled and complained. But Moses had a positive attitude.

We may not get chased by an army, but we may still feel trapped at times. Instead of giving in to despair, we should adopt Moses' attitude to trust in the Lord.

Exodus 14:21-22

Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the LORD opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

There was no apparent way of escape, but the Lord opened up a dry path through the sea. When things were at their very worst, God

showed the people in a most amazing way that He is Ruler over all. Even the waves of the sea are under His command.

Sometimes we find ourselves caught in a problem and see no way out. Don't panic; God can open up a way of escape for us!

Nothing that happens is ever out of God's control. He controls all of nature and everything that touches your life and He will allow only what is best for you. You may not understand why some things happen or how they will work out, but you can trust that God is working out His plan. Remember today's memory verse: *God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear* (Psalms 46:1-2a)

The Egyptian army followed Israel into the divided sea...

Exodus 14:23

Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea.

Let's see how God disables the Egyptians...

Exodus 14:24-25

But just before dawn the LORD looked down on the Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their forces into total confusion. He twisted their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive. "Let's get out of here—away from these Israelites!" the Egyptians shouted. "The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

If a chariot lost a wheel, it would go around in circles!

Exodus 14:26

When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the LORD said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers."

Exodus 14:28

Then the waters returned and covered all the chariots and charioteers—the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived.

The God who created the earth and water performed a mighty miracle at exactly the right time to demonstrate his great power and love for his people.

Exodus 14:29-31

But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides. That is how the LORD rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore. When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the LORD had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

God had saved His people again! Safely on the other side of the sea, Israel could see that God had been in complete control, working out His plan for them all along! They shouldn't have doubted that God would lead and guide and protect them. They should have remembered how God had always been there for them in the past and trusted that He would help them!

We must always trust and obey God and then give Him all the praise and thanks He deserves when He delivers us out of danger.

All the people were so thankful to be safe from Pharaoh's army, Moses' sister wrote a beautiful praise song to God. [Teacher, turn to the song in Chapter 15 and share some of it with the class.] Worship is a great way to express our thankfulness to God. Let's do that right now as we close in prayer...

Closing Prayer

Lord, we want to praise You this morning for always being in control of every situation, even when we don't see the whole picture. Help us to trust You when we are scared or afraid. We love You, Lord, and thank You for leading us and guiding us through each and every circumstance in life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What finally convinced Pharaoh to obey God and let the people go? (The 10th plague – the killing of the first born.)
2. Why did the Israelites have to pack up and leave Egypt in such hurry? (They knew that Pharaoh might change his mind again.)
3. Why didn't God lead the people on the shortest route to the Promised Land? (He took them south by a longer route to avoid fighting with the Philistines. God knew they weren't prepared to face another nation in a war.)
4. In what form did God go before the people by day and at night? (By a pillar of cloud in the day and by a pillar of fire by night.)
5. Why did God lead them by these pillars day and night? (So they would know that He was with them day and night!)
6. What has God given us so that we can always know our way in life? (The Bible)
7. How can the Bible help us on our journey in life? (It is like a map and a compass — it shows us the way to live our lives.)
8. Why did Pharaoh chase after the children of Israel? (He regretted letting his slaves go.)
9. Why did the Israelites complain to Moses? (They were afraid of the Egyptian army closing in on them.)
10. Why did the situation seem hopeless to the Israelites? Why did they think they were doomed? (They were trapped against the sea with the Egyptian army coming in from behind.)
11. After watching God's powerful hand deliver them from Egypt, why were they fearful? (They didn't trust God.)
12. What helps us to have confidence in God when we're in the midst of a trial? (By remembering God's faithfulness in the past. And by remembering that God is always in control.)
13. When there was no apparent way out, how did the Lord open up a way of escape? (He parted the Red sea.)
14. What did God do about the Egyptian army? (He took off the wheels of their chariots and then closed the sea over them.)
15. What did Moses and the people do to express their Thanksgiving to God? (They sang a beautiful praise song.)
16. What is today's memory verse? (*God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear* (Psalms 46:1-2a).

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The Complaining Israelites

(Exodus 15 - 17)

Introduction

Do words like these ever come out of your mouth?

- “Why can’t I have it? Everybody else has one!”
- “I want my own room; I hate sharing a room with someone else!”
- “I wish I could be taller; I hate being the shortest one in my class!”

Do you ever find yourself complaining? Do you let others know that you are displeased or dissatisfied with what you’ve got in life? Some of us are quick to complain when things don’t go the way we think they should. [Teacher, discuss some things that children may complain about — home, parents, appearance.]

The people of Israel had just seen God do some amazing things to bring them out of bondage in Egypt. Surely they could follow God without complaint, knowing He was taking care of them — couldn’t they?

Opening Prayer

Lord, we love You and want to know You better. We want to understand just how awesome and powerful and incredibly loving and caring You are. Open the eyes of our heart this morning so that we might see You more clearly. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

...be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Lesson

We’ve been studying about how God worked many powerful signs and wonders in the lives of the Israelites. He had sent the plagues to

the Egyptians and finally Pharaoh let the people go. Then Pharaoh had a change of mind and chased after the children of Israel. But God parted the Red Sea and they escaped. Now they were ready to go to the land that God had promised them.

After all these fantastic miracles, did the people trust that God would continue to guide them and care for them and provide for their needs? Let’s pick up the story in Exodus 15:22...

The First Complaint: no water!

Exodus 15:22

Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the desert of Shur. They traveled in this desert for three days without finding any water.

The Israelites had to cross the wilderness to get to the Promised Land. It was very big and totally barren. It was mostly sand and stone. They had been so anxious to leave Egypt they hadn’t prepared themselves for just how big and barren it would be out there. After three days in the wilderness without water they began to worry and complain. Then, they came to a pool of water.

Exodus 15:23-24

When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means “bitter”). Then the people complained and turned against Moses. “What are we going to drink?” they demanded.

The name of this lake was *Marah*, which means “bitterness.” After seeing God open the Red Sea for them to escape from their enemy, the Israelites should not have doubted that God would take care of their every need. But instead they complained.

God has provided everything you need in life; maybe not everything you want, but everything you need. Complaining is sin. It’s like slapping God in the face and saying, “What You’ve given me isn’t good enough!” When you complain, you are saying that He doesn’t know how to care for you or meet your needs.

You please God when you show contentment in your life. His word says we are to “do all things without complaining” (Philippians 2:14). God wants you to be satisfied with His care for you.

From their complaining it was clear that the Israelites were not content with God’s care for them. So, Moses cried out to the Lord.

Exodus 15:25a

So Moses cried out to the LORD for help, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink.

After Moses prayed to God, He showed him a tree and told Moses to throw it into the water. The bitter taste disappeared and the water became drinkable.

At first the Israelites couldn’t drink the water because it was like acid. God wanted to teach the people a lesson. This water is a picture of the unbelieving, grumbling attitude of the people who would not trust God. The tree is a picture of the cross that Jesus was crucified on. Can you see the lesson? When you put Jesus into your attitudes they turn sweet!

The Israelites traveled on. Pretty soon the people ran out of the food they’d brought from Egypt and they began to worry again. Soon they were complaining.

The Second Complaint: no food!

Exodus 16:2-3

There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. “If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

So you see, even after the miracle of throwing the tree into the bitter waters of Marah to sweeten them, they were complaining about the

lack of food. How quickly they forgot how faithful God had been to them all along.

The people complained and said they wanted to go back to Egypt! But, they didn’t really want to be slaves back in Egypt again; they just wanted life to get easier. In the pressure of the moment, they were only thinking of the quickest way of escape from a tough situation.

When pressure comes your way, don’t look for the easy way out. Instead, think about God’s power and wisdom to help you deal with the situation. Maybe He’s trying to teach you something! Maybe He’s trying to teach you to trust Him in all situations.

The children of Israel never thought of asking God to help them. But God spoke to Moses...

Exodus 16:4-5

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.”

Exodus 16:11-12

Then the LORD said to Moses, “I have heard the Israelites’ complaints. Now tell them, ‘In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

God promised to meet the Hebrew’s need for food in the desert, but He decided to test their obedience. God wanted to see if they would obey his detailed instructions. He told them to only gather enough for each day, no more and no less. They were to eat it all and not save any overnight for the next day. And, on the sixth day, gather enough for two days so that they might rest on the seventh.

We learn to trust Him as our Lord only by following His exact instructions. Even when we don’t understand them.

Did the Israelites follow His instructions?

Exodus 16:13-15

That evening vast numbers of quail flew in and covered the camp. And the next morning the area around the camp was wet with dew. When the dew evaporated, a flaky substance as fine as frost blanketed the ground. The Israelites were puzzled when they saw it. "What is it?" they asked each other. They had no idea what it was. And Moses told them, "It is the food the LORD has given you to eat.

They called the bread from heaven *Manna*, meaning, "What is it?"

Let's look ahead to see more about what it looked and tasted like.

Exodus 16:31

The Israelites called the food manna. It was white like coriander seed, and it tasted like honey wafers.

[Teacher, bring in some coriander seed and some sweet wafers for a taste experiment.]

See also Numbers 11:7-9 [Teacher, read....]

The manna looked like small coriander seeds, and it was pale yellow like gum resin. The people would go out and gather it from the ground. They made flour by grinding it with hand mills or pounding it in mortars. Then they boiled it in a pot and made it into flat cakes. These cakes tasted like pastries baked with olive oil. The manna came down on the camp with the dew during the night.

Did the Israelites follow God's instructions about gathering and eating the manna?

Exodus 16:19-20

Then Moses told them, "Do not keep any of it until morning." But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. Moses was very angry with them.

Exodus 16:23-24

He told them, "This is what the LORD commanded: Tomorrow will be a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath day set apart for the LORD. So bake or boil as much as you want today, and set aside what is left for tomorrow." So they put some aside until morning, just as Moses had commanded. And in the morning the leftover food was wholesome and good, without maggots or odor.

But did everybody listen to the instructions?

Exodus 16:27

Some of the people went out anyway on the seventh day, but they found no food.

This is unbelievable to us! Why didn't they obey? They underestimated the power of God. Their concept of God was way too small.

Look how God reacted to their stubbornness:

Exodus 16:28

The LORD asked Moses, "How long will these people refuse to obey my commands and instructions?"

God provided this bread from heaven the whole time it took them to get to the Promised Land.

Exodus 16:35

So the people of Israel ate manna for forty years until they arrived at the land where they would settle. They ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

What is the bread of heaven a picture of? (Jesus)

The Third Complaint: no water!

Did the Israelites stop complaining? No! They set off on their journey again and, again there was no water for the people to drink.

Exodus 17:3

But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

Moses goes to the Lord in prayer...

Exodus 17:4

Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

And the Lord answers Moses...

Exodus 17:5-6

The LORD said to Moses, "Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on. (See also Numbers 20:8-13)

The striking of this rock to provide life-giving water was to be a picture of what the Lord Jesus Christ would come to do many years later. The Bible refers to Jesus as a rock (1 Corinthians 10:4). The water is a picture of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said,

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) (John 7:37-39)

Moses' staff is a type or picture of the cross of Jesus. When Moses struck the rock it was a picture of Jesus being crucified or 'struck down' for the sins of the world to provide everlasting life for all. Notice that Moses only had to strike the rock one time. This is important to

remember because as we will read in a few weeks, the Israelites come back to this very same rock about 40 years later, run out of water and complain to Moses again. That time God tells Moses to only speak to the rock. You see Jesus only had to be stricken once for all. After that anyone who wants the power of the Holy Spirit need only ask for it.

God knew the people needed food and water; He planned all along to provide for their needs. But He wanted them to be content in knowing He would provide everything they needed instead of complaining about what they didn't have.

When others think of you, are they reminded of your complaining, or do they think of you as someone who is content? Being content is a godly attitude. It's being sure of the fact that God knows your needs and will always be faithful to you.

When you are tempted to complain, think about all the ways God cares for you and say a "thank-You" prayer to Him instead. Ask Him to help you be content. Remember today's memory verse,

"...be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Closing Prayer

Father, we don't want to be complaining-type people. Help us whenever we are tempted to grumble, to get our eyes off what we think we don't have and help us to see all that we do have. Give us thankful hearts this morning for all You have done and all that You promise to do for us. We love You and never want to forget how wonderful You are to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

[Teacher let each of the children thank God for something.]

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

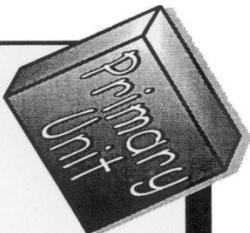
Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. In our lesson this morning the Israelites complained about three things. What were they? (No water, no food, and no water, again.)
2. After the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, why did the people panic when they ran out of water? (They had a limited understanding of who God is; they doubted His ability to care for them and meet their needs.)
3. What happened when they got to the waters of Marah? (The water was bitter and the people could not drink it. They panicked and began to complain to Moses.)
4. Does God provide everything you want in life? (No, but He does provide all that you need.)
5. Why is complaining a sin? (When you complain, you are saying that God doesn't know how to care for you or meet your needs.)
6. What did God tell Moses to do about the bitter waters at Marah? (Throw a tree in the bitter waters.)
7. When Moses threw the tree into the bitter water, what was that a picture of? (The water is a picture of the unbelieving, grumbling attitude of people who would not trust God. The tree is a picture of the cross that Jesus was crucified on. When you put Jesus into your attitudes they turn sweet!)
8. From today's lesson, what was the second thing the children of Israel complained about? (The lack of food.)
9. Why did the people complain and say that they longed to go back to Egypt? (The people were hungry and they remembered all the food and water that was available to them in Egypt. And, they still didn't understand the power of God nor trust Him to provide for their needs.)
10. When you get into a tough situation is it best to look for the quickest way out of it? (No, it's best to follow God's leading which may not be the quickest way out; just the best.)
11. Why did they call the bread from heaven, Manna? (It means, 'What is it?' They didn't know what it was.)
12. What was Manna like? (It was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.)
13. God promised to meet the people's need for food, but he decided to test their obedience. What were God's detailed instructions about the manna? (He told them to only gather enough for each day, no more and no less. They were to eat it all and not save any overnight for the next day. And, on the sixth day, gather enough for two days so that they might rest on the seventh.)
14. What happened when some of the people didn't follow God's instructions about the manna? (Some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank.)
15. Are we supposed to follow God's instructions even when we don't understand them? (Yes!) How about our parent's instructions? (Yes!)
16. Why did God tell the people to gather enough for two days on the sixth day of the week? (So they could rest on the seventh and spend time worshiping God and meditating on Him and fellowshiping with their friends.)

17. What happened when some of the people went out on the Sabbath day to gather the manna? (There wasn't any!)
18. What should you do if you are ever tempted to complain about things? (Think about all the ways God cares for you and say a "thank-You" prayer to Him instead. Ask Him to help you be content. And remember today's memory verse.)
19. From today's lesson, what was the third thing the people complained about? (No water.)
20. When there was no water, what did God tell Moses to do? (Strike the rock, and water will come out of it.)
21. What was striking the rock a picture of? (Jesus who would be struck down for the sins of the whole world to provide living water for all.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]



Manna Math

Look in Exodus 16 for the answers to the following questions. Put your answers at the right of the directions.

1. In what verse do the Israelites say "what is it?" Put your answer on the line.

2. Add the number of the month the Israelites set out from Elim (verse 1).
+ _____
3. Add the number you find in the word "before" (verse 9).
+ _____
4. Add the day the Israelites were to gather twice as much manna (verse 22).
+ _____
5. Add the number of the day known as the Sabbath (verse 26).
+ _____
6. Add the number of days the Israelites were to gather food (verse 26).
+ _____

Your answer should be the number of years the Israelites ate the manna in the wilderness (verse 35).



The Ten Commandments (Part 1)

(Exodus 19 - 20)

Introduction

Have you heard of the Ten Commandments? Do you know what they are for? (To get you to heaven.) Can you tell me each of the Ten Commandments? The Lord gave us these rules to live by. Did you know that breaking even one of these ten rules only once in someone's whole life brings that person under condemnation? Only by keeping all of the Ten Commandments every minute of every day all of your life will you be perfect enough to be suitable to enter heaven. God said in Deuteronomy 27:26, "Cursed is anyone who does not obey these laws." If it is this important to God that you keep the Ten Commandments shouldn't you know what they are?

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to be pleasing to You. Since we call ourselves Christians, we want every one of our thoughts, words, and actions to bring Your name blessing and honor. Teach us this morning how we are to live. Help us to listen and understand with our hearts this morning. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another... (2 John 6)

Lesson

After escaping through the Red Sea, the children of Israel kept walking and walking over the desert sand, traveling through the wilderness, heading to the land that God promised to Abraham.

Exodus 19:1

Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

About two months after they left Egypt, they reached Mt. Sinai. They camped there for about one year. And it was here that God gave them detailed instructions about how to live and how to worship Him.

God told Moses why He considered the children of Israel, "His Chosen People."

Exodus 19:5-6

Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

God's reason for rescuing the Israelites from slavery was that He wanted Israel to become a model for everyone else in the world to follow. He said I want you to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." God wanted the children of Israel to be spiritual leaders showing everyone else in all of humanity how to live according to God's way and how to properly serve and worship Him, the only true and living God of the universe. He wanted Israel to represent God's way of life, to teach his Word, and to show everyone else the Way to everlasting life with Him.

This was God's plan all along. That's why He promised Abraham that He would make his descendants into a great nation. He chose this one nation and put it through a training program, so that one day it could be a channel for His blessings to the whole world.

Exodus 19:10-11

Then the LORD told Moses, "Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch.

The people had to prepare themselves for God's appearance. They needed to wash their clothes to be ready to meet God. This would

remind them how pure and clean they needed to be in the presence of God. They were to set themselves apart from their daily routine in order to dedicate themselves to God.

Just like the children of Israel needed to get their minds and hearts ready to meet with God, when we meet God for worship, we need to get our minds and hearts ready. We should set aside the cares of everyday life.

Exodus 19:16-20

On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. The LORD came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

This was the scene when God gave the people The Law.

Sometimes God speaks to his people with a majestic display of power; at other times he speaks quietly in a still small voice. Here at Mount Sinai, the awesome display of light and sound was necessary to show Israel God's great power and authority. God wanted to show the people just how important the Ten Commandments are to Him. Only then would they listen to Moses and Aaron. The people were trembling with fear when God spoke.

The Law is made up of ten rules to live by that's why we call The Law "The Ten Commandments." The first four have to do with our relationship to God. The last six have to do with our relationship to our fellow-man.

The order that God gives us the commandments is important. We need to put God first.

Commandment #1 — Do not have any other God

Exodus 20:2-3

"I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. "You must not have any other god but me.

This is the first commandment because if you obey it by truly loving God and putting Him first in your life, you will find yourself obeying the other nine commandments.

The Israelites had just come from Egypt, a land of many idols and many gods. Because each god represented a different aspect of life, it was common to worship many gods in order to get the maximum number of blessings. When God told His people to worship and believe in Him, that wasn't so hard for them — He was just one more god to add to the list. But when He said, "You shall have no other gods before me," that was difficult for the people to accept. But if they didn't learn that the God who led them out of Egypt was the only true God, they could not be his people — no matter how faithfully they kept the other nine commandments.

By honoring and loving God, you learn to honor and love others. The one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, deserves your love, worship, and obedience far above anything or anyone else. Today we can allow many things to become gods to us. Money, school, play, sports heroes, singers, TV and movie stars, friends — none of these should be as important to you as God. No one sets out with the intention of worshiping these other things. But by the amount of time we devote to them, they can grow into gods that ultimately control our thoughts and energies. Letting God hold the central place in our lives keeps these things from turning into gods.

Jesus said, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."
(Matthew 4:10)

Because people do not always keep the first commandment, God gave the second...

Commandment #2 — Do not worship idols

Exodus 20:4

"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.

A carved image is an idol made from wood or stone or metal. It may be a huge statue or even a tiny good luck charm. It may look like something God has made — an animal, bird, fish or human form. God cannot be reduced to an idol. And people who make idols come to believe that the idol itself is a god. They trust the idol rather than look to God.

Psalm 115:3-8,

Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes. Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell. They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters." (Luke 16:13)

Commandment #3 — Do not misuse God's name

Exodus 20:7

"You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

How do you think people can misuse God's name? When something unexpected happens, have you ever heard someone say, "Oh my God!?" That is misusing God's name in a disrespectful way.

When you or I use the name of God or His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, in a thoughtless way or as a swear word, we dishonor God. God's name is special because it carries his personal identity. Using it carelessly or in a curse is so common today that we may fail to realize

how serious it is. The way we use God's name shows how we really feel about him. We should respect his name and use it appropriately. Only speak God's name in praise or worship, not as curse or in a joking manner.

Only use God's name in ways that show your love and respect for Him. Ask God to help you honor His name and to protect it, too.

Jesus said, "Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne..." (Matt 5:34)

Commandment #4 — Set aside a special day for God

Exodus 20:8

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

The word Sabbath comes from a Hebrew word meaning to "stop or to rest from work." Holy means "to set apart." God was telling the people to set aside a special day each week for rest and worship. Israel observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week, our Saturday. Because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, His followers began to set aside Sunday as their special day of worship.

As a day of rest, the Sabbath was God's gift to His people. God knew that doing ordinary work seven days a week would be too tiring for us. When we use one day in seven as a day of rest and worship, we demonstrate how important God is to us and it gives us the extra benefit of refreshing our spirits.

Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27, 28)

So far we have looked at the first four commandments, the ones that tell us ways to love God. The next six commandments tell us ways to love each other. We will look at those next week.

Conclusion

What is the punishment due a person for not keeping one of the Ten Commandments? (Death!) God's Word says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

Did the children of Israel obey these Commandments? (No!) Have you always obeyed the Ten Commandments? (No!) God knew no one could keep them perfectly. God gave us these commandments to show us that we are helpless to be perfect and to realize our own inability to be righteous. This will be the only thing that causes us to stop trying to be good enough on our own and to run to God for forgiveness and mercy.

When we study the Ten Commandments, we see how perfect God is and how sinful we are. Only one person who lived in this world always kept the Ten Commandments. That was God's perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Breaking these commandments is sin, and God says the punishment for sin is death. Because the Lord Jesus never sinned, He could take that punishment for us. He died on the cross and rose again. If you will admit your sin and trust the Lord Jesus to forgive you, He will come to live inside you and give you His power to obey God's commandments.

God wants us to be in a place of humility before Him. He wants us to come to Him and say, *"I know what Your perfect standard is, Lord. And, I know that I can never meet Your demands. Thank You for sending Jesus who took the punishment that I deserve. I surrender to You and ask You to forgive me and thank You for providing a way to live with You forever in heaven when I die."*

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, have each child pray a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord.]

Learning Activities**Craft Corner****Game Center**

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Why did God choose the children of Israel to be "His Chosen People?" (To be an example to the rest of mankind, spiritual leaders, to show everyone else God's way.)
2. Why did God tell Moses to have the people wash their clothes before He would speak to them? (He wanted the people to prepare themselves, set themselves apart.)
3. Why did God speak to the people with a majestic display of power? (He wanted to show the people just how awesome and important the Ten Commandments are.)
4. What is the first commandment? (You shall have no other gods before me.)
5. What are some things that take the place of God in our lives? (Money, school, sports, TV, movie stars, friends)
6. What is the second commandment? (You shall not make for yourself a carved image.)
7. What does it mean to take the name of the Lord your God in vain? (To use it in an empty or thoughtless way or as a swear word.)
8. What does the word "Sabbath" mean? (To stop or to rest from work.)
9. How do we keep the Sabbath holy? (By setting aside a special day each week for rest and worship.)

10. What do the first four commandments have to do with? (How to worship and respect God.)
11. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we couldn't keep them? (He wanted us to realize our own inability to be righteous. To humble us and to be thankful that He sent Jesus.)
12. What is the punishment due a person for not keeping one of the commandments? (Death!)
13. What is the only thing that will cause us to stop trying to be good enough on our own and to run to God for forgiveness and mercy? (We must realize our own inability to be righteous.)
14. What is today's Memory Verse? (*Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another... 2 John 6.*)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Ten Commandments (Part 2)

(Exodus 19 - 20)

Introduction

What must you do to be saved? Are you to keep the Ten Commandments? Are you to do good deeds and hope that the good things you do in life outnumber the bad? What does the Word of God tell us? Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." What does it mean to believe on Jesus? It means to trust that what He did for us on the cross paid the penalty for our violations against God's law.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to understand Your ways. Please open our ears this morning so that we might know You better. Use the Word like a flash light on our path; show us Your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, [and] Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Lesson

Last week we began our study of the Ten Commandments. We learned that in order to be perfect as God is perfect we need to keep all of the commandments all of the time — every minute of every day of our lives. The Bible tells us "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws." (James 2:10).

That's why it is important for us to know what the commandments are, isn't it?

We looked at the first four commandments that tell us ways to love God. This week we will look at the commandments tells us ways to love each other.

Commandment #5 — Honor your father and mother

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This is the only commandment with a promise attached...

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

To honor means to prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable. Why are your parents valuable to you? They are God's gift to you. Think of all they do and have done for you. They protect you from many dangers. They provide things you need like food and clothing. They even give you things you do not need but like to have — toys, bikes, special treats. You can honor them by obeying them, by being kind to them, by speaking to them and about them with respect. Perhaps you have substitute parents. God wants you to honor them, too. Even if you don't live with your parents all the time, honor them in every way you can. People who honor their parents are people who please God and receive His promise of blessing.

Jesus said, "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37)

Commandment #6 — Do not murder

Exodus 20:13

You must not murder.

Murder is taking someone's life in an unlawful way. Life is precious. God breathed His life into the first man, Adam. So everyone's life is important — your life, the lives of those you love, the lives of strangers, the lives of unborn babies. Life is God's gift; and we are responsible not only not to take another's life, but to protect the lives of others.

Jesus said, "*But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.*" (Matthew 5:22)

Commandment #7 — Be faithful in marriage

Exodus 20:14

You must not commit adultery.

Adultery is when a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband. This commandment shows how God looks at marriage. God planned the first marriage. He created Eve especially for Adam and planned that they should stay together (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5, 6) After you are married, you should be true to your own husband or wife. People joined together in marriage must be careful not to "fall in love" with anyone else. Marriage vows say, "Till death do us part" or "As long as we both shall live." Committing adultery is breaking those vows by doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.

Disobeying this command causes great unhappiness. While you are young, learn to turn from sinful things like listening to dirty stories, looking at evil pictures, watching films that cause wrong thoughts. Determine, with God's help, to keep yourself pure. And begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring into your life the right person for you to marry. Then trust Him to do what's best for you. If you obey God's laws, He will help you to enjoy life, married or single.

Jesus said, "*Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" (Matthew 5:28)

Commandment #8 — Do not steal

Exodus 20:15

You must not steal.

Stealing is taking or keeping something that is not your own. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the only ways to steal. Borrowing something from a brother or sister or friend and failing to return it is stealing. Copying answers from somebody else's school paper is stealing. Cheating in a game is stealing another's chance to win. The Bible says we should love our neighbors as ourselves. If we love others as we love ourselves, we will want the best for them and will not steal in any way.

Jesus said, "*If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.*" (Matthew 5:40)

Commandment #9 — Do not lie

Exodus 20:16

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Giving false testimony means lying. This commandment means that we should always tell the truth. We give "false testimony" by leaving something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, or inventing falsehoods. God's Word tells us to, "put away lying" (Ephesians 4:25). What is a lie? It is anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing something that is not true. You can tell a lie by the way you act as well as by what you say. Often gossip is lying — saying something unkind about someone when you aren't sure it is true. Exaggeration is lying — telling a story better than it really happened. It is lying to make promises you know you cannot keep.

It is wrong to lie because it is against the very nature of God. The Devil is the "father of lies" (John 8:44), but Jesus said, "*I am the...truth*" (John 14:6). Deception is a way of life for many people, but God's children must not give in to it.

Ask the Lord to help you tell the truth. (Psalm 119:29)

Jesus said, “*And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.*” (Matthew 12:36)

Commandment #10 — Do not want what belongs to others

Exodus 20:17

“You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

To covet is to wish to have the possessions of others. It goes beyond simply admiring someone else’s possession or thinking, “I’d like to have one of those.” Coveting includes envy — resenting the fact that others have what you don’t. To covet means to want something that you cannot afford to buy or something that belongs to someone else. When you feel you just have to have something and you will not be satisfied until you get it, that is coveting.

When we do not let God control our wants, our coveting will lead us to break other commandments, too. God has promised to meet all your needs. Happiness won’t come by getting what you want. Happiness comes by being content with what you have (Hebrews 13:5). Are you thanking God for all that He has given you?

Jesus said, “*Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.*” (Luke 12:15).

Conclusion

The Ten Commandments tell us how to live so that we don’t offend God or hurt other people. God gave us the Ten Commandments for our own protection. He knows that if we obey all these laws we will be happy. He wants us to obey them. But, in order to be saved by keeping The Law you would have to keep it absolutely in very point throughout your whole lifetime.

Last week we talked about the fact that no one but Jesus Christ could ever do that! According to Galatians 3:24, the purpose of the law was not to save you, but to show you what sin is, and to point you to Jesus who took the punishment for your sin.

Jesus summed the Commandments up in our Memory Verse for today: “Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:37-40)

By fulfilling these two commands, a person keeps all the others. Jesus says that if we truly love God and our neighbor, we will naturally keep the commandments. We should always do all we can to show our love for God and others. Ask God to give you the desire to always do the loving thing.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to take the punishment that I deserve. Lord, if you hadn’t made a way of escape for me I’d be doomed to spend all of eternity in hell apart from You. Help me to live my life worthy of your gift of salvation. I want every thought I think, every word I speak and everything I do to bring your name honor and blessing. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What must you do to be saved? Are you supposed to keep the Ten Commandments? Or do good deeds? (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross.)
2. What do the first four Commandments have to do with? (Our relationship with God.)
3. In order to be perfect as God is perfect how many of the Commandments do we need to keep? (All of them all the time.)
4. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother? (To prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable.)
5. Why are your parents valuable to you? (They are God's gift to you.)
6. Why is it wrong to murder? (God said not to do it. Life is God's gift; only He has the right to take a life.)
7. Is being angry with someone the same as murdering them? (Jesus said it was!)
8. What is adultery? (Doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.)
9. Name some ways people steal things besides robbing a bank and shoplifting? (Borrowing something and not returning it; copying answers from someone else's paper; cheating in a game.)
10. What does it mean to bear false witness against someone? (To lie. To leave something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, or inventing a falsehood.)
11. What is a lie? (Anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing an untruth.)
12. Why is it wrong to lie? (It is against the very nature of God.)
13. Who is the Father of Lies? (The Devil.)
14. What does it mean to covet? (To wish to have someone else's possession to the point of envy.)
15. Who is the only person that ever kept the Ten Commandments perfectly? (Jesus!)
16. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we couldn't keep them? (He wanted us to realize our own inability to be righteous. To humble us and to be thankful that He sent Jesus.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Golden Calf

(Exodus 19 - 32)

Introduction

Imagine being invited to visit a king in his palace. How would you act? Would you run into the throne room, laughing and talking? Would you ignore the king or call him by his first name? I'm sure you would act quietly and show great respect for a king. Now suppose you were invited to meet with the King of all kings, God Himself. How would you act? The people of Israel had that privilege. How do you suppose they behaved?

Opening Prayer

Father, You alone deserve our reverence and worship. Show us once again in a fresh new way this morning just how awesome and wonderful You are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not have any other god but me. (Exodus 20:3)

Lesson

During the past two lessons we learned the Ten Commandments.

God gave the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel because he wanted them to be a model for everyone else in the world to follow. He said I want you to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." God wanted the children of Israel to be spiritual leaders showing everyone else in all of humanity how to live according to God's way and how to properly serve and worship Him, the only true and living God of the universe.

He told them if you will obey the Ten Commandments, you will be my own special people. And the people promised to obey all of God's laws.

Exodus 19:8

And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded." So Moses brought the people's answer back to the LORD.

So Moses went up to the top of Mount Sinai and told God that the people promised to obey His law.

Then, God told Moses to go back down the mountain and tell the people to prepare to meet with God.

Exodus 19:10

Then the LORD told Moses, "Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing.

Why would there have to be such careful preparations before they could meet with God? It was because God is holy and His people must show Him loving respect.

We are not to approach God lightly, as if He were not important. He is the most important One in all the universe! Our great God is holy — He alone deserves our reverence and worship.

God spoke to the people and gave them the Ten Commandments audibly in an awesome display of His mighty power and the people trembled.

Exodus 19:16-18

On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently.

After God spoke to the people and gave them the Ten Commandments, God told Moses to remind the people not to forget the 2nd Commandment. Do you remember what that is? (Do not worship idols.)

Exodus 20:22-23

And the LORD said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: You saw for yourselves that I spoke to you from heaven. Remember, you must not make any idols of silver or gold to rival me.

God was reminding and warning the people, "You heard me when I told you the Ten Commandments. You know that I am a living God, not one made of stone or wood! Remember, you must not make or worship dumb idols. Worship Me alone."

Exodus 24:12

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people."

At this point, the people had only heard God speak the Ten Commandments. Now God wanted to write the Commandments down for them so they wouldn't forget them.

Exodus 24:18

Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

[Teacher, while you turn the pages of the Bible from Exodus 24 to 31, explain that...] God gave Moses a lot of information while he was up there, that's why it took 40 days to get all that God told him.

Exodus 31:18

When the LORD finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.

Have you ever had to wait a long, long time for someone to come? The children of Israel grew tired of waiting for Moses to return from Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 32:1

When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt."

Does Aaron remind the people of God's first two commands? (No!)

Exodus 32:2-4

So Aaron said, "Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me." All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Wait a minute! Who brought the people out of slavery? Not a golden calf! It was the Lord! How could they forget God's amazing miracle of parting the Red Sea!?

Exodus 32:5-6

Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!" The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.

Wow! How quickly they forgot they had promised to obey all that God had commanded them! And, God saw what was going on, too...

Exodus 32:7-8

The LORD told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

God was so mad that He wanted to wipe the children of Israel off the face of the earth and start over with Moses' descendants.

Exodus 32:9-10

Then the LORD said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation."

But, Moses asked God for mercy.

Exodus 32:11-13

But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. "O LORD!" he said. "Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? Why let the Egyptians say, 'Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth'? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.'"

Moses reminds God of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to make the Israelites a great nation. But God hadn't forgotten His promise; He didn't bring disaster on the people.

Exodus 32:14

So the LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

Then when Moses came down the mountain, he has a fit when he saw what had been going on while he was gone.

Exodus 32:19-20

When they came near the camp, Moses saw the calf and the dancing, and he burned with anger. He threw the stone tablets to the ground,

smashing them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf they had made and burned it. Then he ground it into powder, threw it into the water, and forced the people to drink it.

Although Moses had pleaded to the Lord for mercy for the people, he was angry that they would even think of dishonoring God in such a sinful way. They seemed to have forgotten how holy God is and how He alone should be revered and worshiped.

Like the Israelites, many people today seem to have no respect or reverence for God. They dishonor Him by what they say and do. We must always remember that God is holy — He alone deserves our reverence and worship.

Even when you are outside of church you should be careful how you speak about God. Never use His name lightly or as a swear word. Your reverence for God shows others that you have a special relationship with Him.

The people of Israel had forgotten their special relationship with God and were behaving in a very sinful way by worshiping the golden calf. But, Moses went back up the Mountain and pleaded with God to forgive the people. And, God gave Moses another set of the commandments.

Closing Prayer

Father, we would never want to bring Your name dishonor. People know that we call ourselves Christian; help us to always reverence you in everything we think, or say, or do. We love you Lord and want our lives to speak to others of your love and mercy and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What are God's rules for life called? (The Ten Commandments.)
2. Why did God choose Israel to give His Ten Commandments to? (He wanted them to be spiritual leaders showing everyone else in the world how to live according to God's way and how to properly serve and worship Him.)
3. When Moses told the people God wanted to give them His rules for living, what did the people promise to do? (Obey all of God's laws.)
4. Why did the people have to wash their clothes to get ready to hear God tell them His commandments? (God is holy and the people needed to prepare themselves before coming into His presence.)
5. How did God display His mighty power when He told them His commandments? (Thundering, lightning flashes, sound of trumpets, mountain smoking.)
6. What did the people do when they saw God's display of His mighty power? (They trembled and stood afar off. Then they told Moses not to let God talk to them; they were afraid they'd die!)
7. How many days was Moses up on the mountain? (40)
8. What did the people do while Moses was gone? (They made a golden calf.)
9. Which commandments did they break by making the golden calf? (#1 and #2.)
10. What did God want to do to the people because of His anger? (He wanted to wipe them out and start over with Moses' descendants.)
11. What did Moses remind God of when He said He wanted to wipe out all the people? (His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)
12. What did Moses do when he got back down the mountain? (He threw the 10 commandments down and broke the tablets of stone. Then he burned the golden calf and ground it into dust. Then he put the gold dust into the water and made the people drink it.)
13. Why is it important for us to show honor and respect for God? (He is holy and deserves our reverence.)
14. What does it show other people when we show our respect towards God? (That we have a special relationship with Him.)
15. How can you show honor and respect towards God? (By being careful how we speak His name. Never use His name lightly or as a swear word.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

The Ark of the Covenant

In the Tabernacle was a room called the Most Holy Place. In that room was a box or chest called the Ark of the Covenant.

What was in the Ark?

Use the code to find out what 3 things were in the ark. (Hebrews 9:4)

1.

✱	□	●	✱	✱	□	□	□	✱	○	✱	■	■	✱
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2.

✱	□	□	■	▲	□	□	✱
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3.

▲	▼	□	■	✱	▼	✱	○	●	✱	▼	▲	□	✱
▼	✱	✱	✱	□	◇	✱	■	■	✱	■	▼		

Code

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
✱	○	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱	✱
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
●	○	■	□	□	□	□	▲	▼	◆	◇

Building God's House

(Exodus 20:3-6; 31:18; 32; 34)

Introduction

Can you imagine making a house beautiful enough for God to live in? I wonder what kind of a house God could live in? How big do you think it would have to be? How would you decorate it?

Opening Prayer

Father, we look forward to coming to heaven and seeing you face-to-face and seeing the beautiful place that you live. We know from the Bible that heaven is a wonderful place; no more tears, no sadness, the streets are paved with gold. But our little human minds cannot begin to really get hold of the magnificence of Your glory that we will behold. Help us to listen with our hearts today as we learn about how Moses built you a house out in the wilderness. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

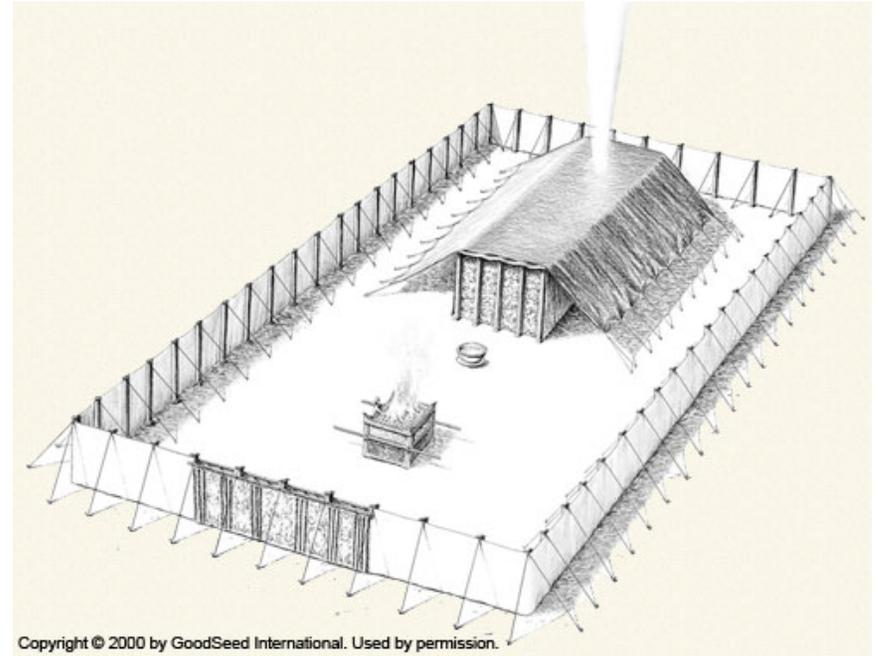
Memory Verse

Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)

Lesson

The Ten Commandments wasn't the only thing that God gave Moses up on Mount Sinai. Moses was up on the mountain for 40 days and God gave him lots of other instructions. God gave Moses exact instructions for building the tabernacle—a dwelling place for Him and a place to keep the ark. The tabernacle was to be a beautiful place where God could reveal himself to his people.

The people were blessed to supply the building materials that God required including rare and beautiful fabrics, precious metals like gold and silver, precious jewels, special wood, and animal skins. God used the talents of His people as they constructed the exact design Moses received on Mt. Sinai. Its design was simple.



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The tabernacle and its furnishings have many lessons for us.

[Teacher, describe the features of the tabernacle twice: first just explain each feature, then go over them again explaining the significance they have for Christians.]

A Fence of White Linen

The tabernacle was surrounded by a fence made of white woven hangings. That's why the people also called the tabernacle, the "Tent of Meeting" or just the "Tent" because it was built in such a way that it could be taken apart and carried with them wherever they went on their journey.

The tent poles were carved acacia wood covered with gold. The curtain hooks were loops of blue and gold fasteners. This created the *Outer Court*.

The white linen fence was the first thing you saw when you came to the tabernacle. The white linen reminds us that we need to have our sins forgiven before we can approach God.

Psalms 51:7

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Only One Gate

There was only one entrance into the tabernacle. They called it *The Gate*.

This reminds us of Jesus:

John 10:9

Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

Jesus is the only way to get to God.

John 14:6

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

The Brazen Altar or Altar of Burnt Offering

Upon entering the gate, the first thing you came upon was the *Brazen Altar* where you burned an animal offering.

The Altar was made out of wood, covered with bronze and it was set up on a mound of earth. The wood is a picture of the cross and bronze in the Bible always stands for judgment. This is a picture of Jesus lifted up on the cross where He took the judgment for our sins.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus is the Lamb of God!

The Laver

The people could only come into the Outer Court to burn their animal sacrifice at the Brazen Altar. Only the priests went beyond the Bronze Altar to the *Laver*.

The Laver was a large bowl filled with water where the priests washed their hands and feet before entering the *Holy Place*. It was made of bronze and lined with mirrors so you could see your reflection in the water.

This is like the Word of God. When we look into God's Word it shows us what we are really like on the inside. When we see God's perfection in His Word, we become aware of just how far we miss the mark.

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

What should you do if you sin? How do you get clean again?

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

After washing their hands and feet at the Laver, the priests could enter the Holy Place.

The Holy Place

Inside the court yard was another tent that had two rooms inside of it. The first room was called the *Holy Place* and the inner room was called the *Most Holy Place*. The whole thing was covered with animal skins to protect it from the sun and rain. Some people think they might have used the skin of dolphins or seals from the Red Sea.

There were three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place: the Golden Lamp Stand, the Table of Showbread, and the golden Altar of Incense.

The Golden Lamp Stand

The *Golden Lamp Stand*, also called a Menorah, was a seven branched candle holder. It was filled with oil every day and never allowed to go out except when the tabernacle was being moved.

The Golden Lamp Stand reminds us of Jesus:

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Jesus is the light of the world that never goes out!

Table of Showbread

Once a week on the Sabbath, the priests baked twelve loaves of bread and put them on a table in the Holy Place called the *Table of Showbread*. At the end of the week the priests removed it and ate the old loaves right there in the Holy Place, and then put the freshly baked bread on the table.

Who does the bread remind you of? Jesus!

John 6:35

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The bread also speaks of our need for spiritual food.

Matthew 4:4

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

We depend upon God's Word for our spiritual food. When we have communion and eat the bread, we remember that Jesus is the bread of life!

The Altar of Incense

The *Altar of Incense* sat in front of the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. God commanded the priests to burn incense on the Golden Altar every morning and evening. The incense was to be left burning continually throughout the day and night as a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

The incense was a symbol of the prayers of the people going up to God.

Revelation 5:8b

... they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

The smoke from the burning incense is a picture of our prayers going up to heaven. Our prayers smell good to God.

Most Holy Place

The *Most Holy Place*, also called the *Holy of Holies*, represents heaven itself, God's dwelling place. The High Priest was the only one who could enter the Most Holy Place and he could only go in there on one special day in the year. Anyone else who tried to enter it would die.

Hebrews 9:7

But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

The High Priest went into the Most Holy Place to meet with God and ask Him for forgiveness for the people.

Jesus is our High Priest!

Hebrews 4:14

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.

A priest is anyone who represents God to people and presents people to God – a "Go Between". You and I are called to be priests.

The Veil

A *Veil* or curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Women spun special threads out of gold and embroidered cherubim or angels using bright colored thread.

The veil represented the Lord's body which was broken for us. The moment Jesus died on the cross, God tore the veil from the top to the bottom.

Mark 15:37-38

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Through Jesus, every believer can now enjoy direct access to God.

Hebrews 10:19-20

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By this death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.

Ark of the Covenant

Inside the Most Holy Place was the Ark of the Covenant. It was a box that contained the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, a pot filled with manna, and Aaron's rod.

Mercy Seat

The lid to the Ark was called the Mercy Seat. Every year, the high priest would enter the Most Holy Place and sprinkle blood from a bull onto the Mercy Seat. God promised that when He saw the blood, it would cover over man's sin.

Hebrews 9:22

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

Before Jesus came and shed His blood for us, the high priest had to come in and do this every year using animal blood. But animal blood wasn't satisfactory. Jesus' blood has covered over our sins permanently.

When the tabernacle was completed, God blessed their handiwork by covering the tent with a cloud and filling the sanctuary with His glory.

Closing Prayer

Father, we stand in awe of You for designing the tabernacle out there in the wilderness with so many signs pointing to Jesus. Jesus didn't even come on the scene for many hundreds of years, but you knew before the foundations of the world that we would need a Savior. Thank You for your wonderful plan to save me from my sins. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Make tabernacles out of shoe box lids:

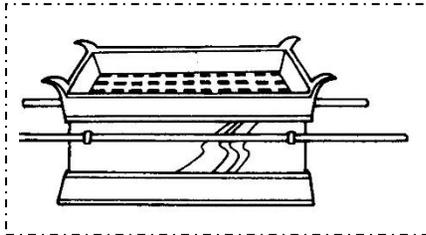
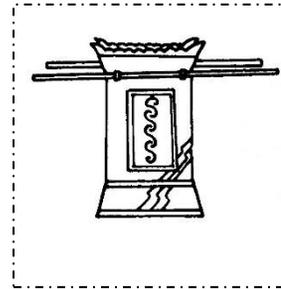
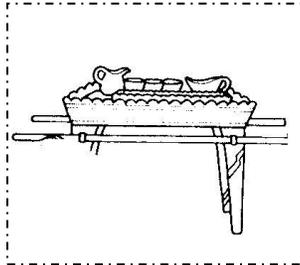
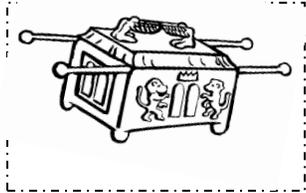
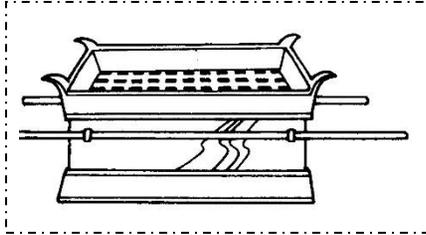
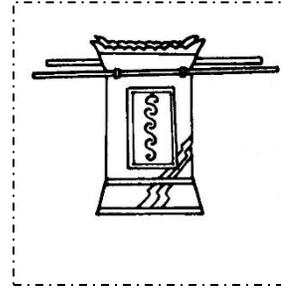
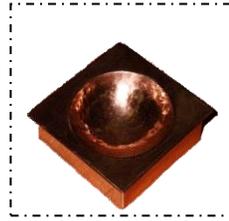
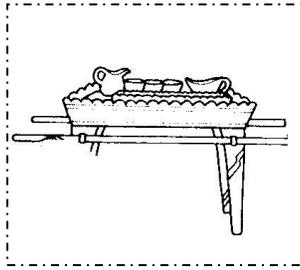
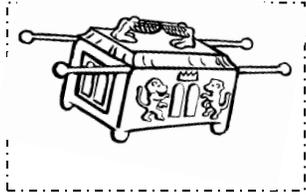
- Paint the edges of a shoe box top white to represent white linen curtains that enclosed the outer court.
- Copy the Tabernacle patterns onto colored construction paper. Use yellow for the various pieces of furniture, purple for the Holy Place tent, and red for the roof of the Holy Place and the veil.
- Inside the shoe box lid create the Holy Place using the purple construction paper tent walls. Cut them out and fold on dotted lines.
- Fold a long side of the veil piece about ¼ inch over tooth picks and glue in place to make the curtain entrance between the two rooms. The curtain will hang on the purple Holy Place tent walls.
- Have the children cut out the furniture pieces along the dotted lines leaving a long "tail" to fold under to glue or tape in the appropriate places.
- Have them label the Ark of the Covenant, The Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place or draw people or animals, as they wish.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What were the leaders of the tabernacle called? (Priests)
2. Name two of the three pieces of furniture that were placed in the Holy Place. (Lamp stand, Table of Showbread, and Incense Altar)
3. What piece of furniture was placed in the Most Holy Place? (Ark)
4. What piece of furniture was placed in the courtyard of the tabernacle? (Bronze Altar and Laver)
5. What piece of furniture contained the Ten Commandments, manna, and Aaron's rod? (Ark of the Covenant)
6. What piece of furniture burned oil to light the holy place? (Lamp stand)
7. Where did the priests offer incense every morning and night? (Incense Altar)
8. Where did the high priest sacrifice the animals? (Bronze Altar)
9. What was used for burnt offerings? (Bronze Altar)
10. What piece of furniture held 12 loaves of bread that represented the 12 tribes of Israel? (Table of Showbread)
11. What piece of furniture had a mercy seat with two golden angels on it? (Ark)
12. Where did God's presence dwell? (The Most Holy Place)
13. Where did Moses meet with God? (Mt. Sinai)

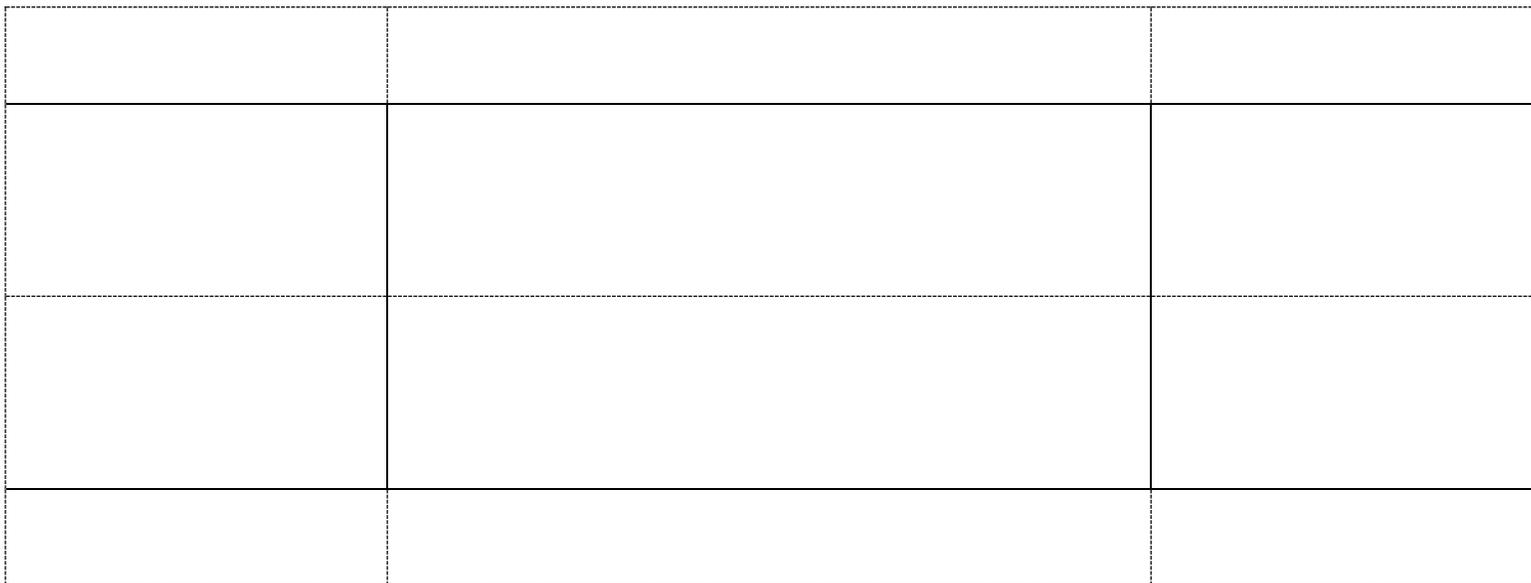
[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]





Roof for Holy Place

Walls for Holy Place



Miriam Becomes a Leper

(Numbers 12:1-16)

Introduction

Have you ever heard the word “murmur?” Do you know what it means to murmur? In the bible, it means to complain or to be constantly talking about something that you don’t like. The bible tells us that God dislikes it very much when people murmur or complain.

Let’s find out how God teaches Moses’ sister and brother an important lesson about how important it is for us to respect people in authority over us.

Opening Prayer

Father, You have placed certain people to be leaders over us—our parents, teachers, and coaches. Give us ears to hear Your voice this morning as You teach us an important lesson about respecting those people that You have given us to lead us and guide us and to protect us. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Do everything without complaining and arguing. (Philippians 2:14)

Lesson

We have been learning about God’s people, the Israelites, and their journey through the wilderness. Did you know that they wandered through the wilderness for forty years? The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land should have only taken a few months. But, because the people murmured and complained so much, God allowed them to wander in the desert for forty long years.

Moses didn’t have an easy job taking care of two million people and listening to all their complaining. He was glad he had his older brother and sister to help him.

Remember Miriam and Aaron? They were Moses’ older sister and brother.

Miriam was the one who stood at a distance to find out what would happen to baby Moses when his mother put him in a wicker basket and sent it down the Nile river.

Later Miriam wrote a beautiful worship song thanking God for parting the Red Sea and allowing them to escape from Pharaoh. God used Miriam to speak His heart to the people.

Aaron was Moses’ older brother. God had been using him to be Moses’ right-hand man. But remember what happened when Moses went up on the mountain for forty days?

While Moses was up on the mountain getting the Ten Commandments from God, Moses left Aaron down at the bottom of the mountain in charge of the people. Do you remember what he did? The people were getting tired of waiting for Moses to come down off the mountain. So, Aaron gathered all the gold from the people, melted it down and made for them a golden calf to worship.

But later, when God gave Moses the directions for how to build the Tabernacle, He told Moses to make Aaron the first high priest. It was an honor for Aaron to be used by God to teach the people how to worship Him.

But traveling through the wilderness was hard for the people.

They had moved away from their comfortable homes in Egypt and were now living in tents out in the hot desert. Food and water were scarce. Slowly the people began to get an attitude. They forgot how hard life was for them back in Egypt working as slaves for the Pharaoh. The people began to complain and grumble. Some of the people even began to wish they were back in Egypt again living as slaves.

Soon even Moses’ own brother and sister were complaining against him. At first Miriam and Aaron began to make fun of Moses’ wife because she was from a foreign country. [Remember, Moses had married his wife when he was over in Midian *before* He called him from the burning bush and told him to lead the people out of Egypt.]

Numbers 12:1

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman.

Then Miriam and Aaron started grumbling and finding fault with Moses.

Numbers 12:2

They said, "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he spoken through us, too?" But the LORD heard them.

Have you ever felt jealous of your little brother or sister? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Miriam and Aaron were older than Moses, they probably thought they could do a better job of leading the people.

It is true that God had used Miriam and Aaron to help Moses, but God had appointed Moses as their leader. But they didn't want to obey him! Instead of following his instructions, they wanted to do their own thing. After all he was only their little brother!

Do you suppose God heard Miriam and Aaron quarrelling with Moses? Does God hear you if you quarrel with your brother or sister? God does hear and it makes Him sad.

Let's see how Moses reacted to Miriam and Aaron.

Number 12:3

(Now Moses was very humble—more humble than any other person on earth.)

Moses kept silent when he was attacked by his brother and sister. He trusted that the Lord would take care of the situation for him.

When someone makes fun of you or calls you a name, you need to just keep silent and let God handle the situation. It's really easy to let yourself fight back, but you have to control your anger. God promises to stick up for us.

All of a sudden God's voice rang out.

Numbers 12:4

So immediately the LORD called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, "Go out to the Tabernacle, all three of you!" So the three of them went to the Tabernacle.

The tabernacle was the tent they used as a temporary church while they were crossing the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Miriam and Aaron probably knew that they were in big trouble with God.

Numbers 12:5

Then the LORD descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Aaron and Miriam!" he called, and they stepped forward.

When they reached the tabernacle, God was waiting for them in a cloud. God told Miriam and Aaron to step forward.

Do you think that Miriam and Aaron were sorry they had questioned Moses' authority? They were probably afraid of what God might do next. They had good reason to be afraid because God was not pleased with them.

God scolded Aaron and Miriam; He reminded them that He had chosen Moses to be the leader.

Numbers 12:9

The LORD was very angry with them, and he departed.

After He had finished speaking, the cloud with God's presence left. As they stood there looking at each other, Moses and Aaron probably gasped in horror.

Numbers 12:10

As the cloud moved from above the Tabernacle, there stood Miriam, her skin as white as snow from leprosy. When Aaron saw what had happened to her,

Their sister Miriam was covered with leprosy. In Bible times leprosy was a very dreaded disease. It is a skin disease that literally eats away your skin and your nerves. A leper's skin was covered with

sores. This disease was very contagious; there was no cure for it in those days so people who had it were sent away to live outside the camp for the rest of their lives. They called it *the disease of the walking dead*.

Can you imagine the horror the three must have experienced? Even though Miriam and Aaron had rebelled against Moses' spiritual authority, they were brothers and sisters and they still loved each other very much. The moment Miriam became leprous they forgot their jealousy towards Moses and began to cry out and beg God to heal Miriam.

Numbers 12:11

he cried out to Moses, "Oh, my master! Please don't punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed.

When Aaron saw what had happened to Miriam, he cried out to Moses and asked him to forgive them for speaking against him.

Then, Moses called to God and asked God to heal her.

Numbers 12:13

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, I beg you, please heal her!"

When God heard Moses weeping on behalf of his sister, His heart was softened. But He still wanted to teach Miriam a lesson. God wanted her and everyone else to know that it is wrong to disobey the person who is a leader over you. So, God gave Miriam "time out."

Numbers 12:15

So Miriam was kept outside the camp for seven days, and the people waited until she was brought back before they traveled again.

A week must have seemed like a long time to Miriam. I'm sure she did a lot of thinking and praying during that week. When she returned to the camp I'm sure she had learned the lesson God wanted her to learn.

God takes sin seriously, especially the sin of speaking against those people that are leaders over you. God expects us to respect authority. He wants us to listen and obey our parents, our teachers, our coaches, our baby sitters, and he even wants us to respect our brothers and sisters, too!

When we sin or do wrong, it separates us from God, just like Miriam had to stay outside the camp for seven days. God doesn't want us to be separated from him forever. That's why He made a way for us to come to Him. He did this by coming to earth and dying on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. He died in our place for all our wrongs.

If we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, He will take us to Heaven to live with Him some day.

Closing Prayer

Father, we are sinners and deserve to be forever separated from You. But You came and took the punishment that we deserve so that we could be forgiven. Thank You that You have made a way for us to come to live with You in heaven. We look forward to that day that we can see You and talk with you face-to-face just like Moses did. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Who were Miriam and Aaron? (They were Moses' older sister and brother.)

2. What did Aaron do while Moses was meeting with God up on the mountain? (He made a golden calf for the people to worship.)
3. Why did Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses? (They were jealous of his authority. They didn't want to obey him.)
4. What did Moses do when his brother and sister made fun of his wife? (He kept silent. He didn't try to fight back. He trusted God would take care of the situation.)
5. What did God do when Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses? (He told them to come to the tabernacle!)
6. What is the tabernacle? (The temporary church they used while crossing the desert on their way to the Promised Land.)
7. In what form did God show Himself to Miriam and Aaron? (He was in a pillar of cloud.)
8. How was Miriam punished for making fun of Moses' wife? (Suddenly Miriam became leprous.)
9. What is leprosy? (It is a very contagious skin disease that eats away at your skin and nerves. In Bible times there was no cure for it.)
10. When people got leprosy in Bible times what happened to them? (They were sent to live out the rest of their lives away from everyone else.)
11. What did Aaron do the moment he saw what happened to his sister? (He cried out to Moses and asked him to forgive them.)
12. How did God teach Miriam a lesson? (He made her go outside the camp for 7 days, kind of like a "time out.")
13. When we sin or do wrong, it separates us from God. What has God done for us to make it possible for us to come to Him? (He took the punishment for our sins.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Twelve Spies

(Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14)

Introduction

Has anyone ever asked you to do something wrong or go along with something that you knew was wrong? In today's lesson, two people know what is right to do. We'll find out if they stand up for what is right or go along with what is wrong.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want our lives to be pleasing to You. Help us to be strong. Give us a heart to follow You with all of our hearts. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

*So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD!
(Psalms 31:24)*

Lesson

We have been following God's people as Moses led them through the desert from Egypt to the Promised Land. Remember that God had promised them that He would take them to a wonderful land that was very beautiful and full of delicious fruits and vegetables.

It was only a few months since they had escaped from the Egyptians through the Red Sea. Now the children of Israel were standing on the edge of the Promised Land. They must have been excited! They had heard all their lives about this land that was promised to them by God Himself, and now here they were, standing on the edge of the land, ready to enter in to all that waited for them.

They must have been dying of curiosity, wondering what this Promised Land was like. Were there a lot of people or just a few like in the desert? Were they strong or weak? What kind of towns did they live in? What was the soil like? What kind of crops could they grow?

God told Moses to choose one leader from each family group of the children of Israel to go exploring so they could see what the land was like.

Numbers 13:17-20

Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

The 12 spies went up and explored the land. After 40 days the men returned. They brought back with them some of the delicious fruits and vegetables they found up there. In fact, one cluster of grapes was so large, it took two of the spies to carry it back on a pole between them!

Numbers 13:27

This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces.

But ten of the spies had some bad news:

Numbers 13:28

But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!

The descendants of Anak were giants! They had heard that these people were expert warriors. This news disturbed the people! It scared them. Only two spies had faith in God. Caleb and Joshua trusted that God wouldn't allow anything to happen to them.

Numbers 13:30

But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

Caleb and Joshua knew that with God's help, they could do anything. But, the other spies did not have faith in God. They were afraid.

Numbers 13:31-33

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

They told God's people that there was no way that they could take over the land. They saw the warrior's strength and their own weaknesses. And all the people were discouraged and scared. They began to argue and complain. They even thought about getting another leader and going back to Egypt and back into slavery!

Numbers 14:1-4

Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

Can you imagine that! They wanted to trade their freedom for slavery again! They had forgotten all the ways that God had helped them. He freed them from slavery, made a way for them to pass through the Red Sea, gave them food in the desert, and protected them and guided them. All they could think about was their problems; they only looked at their own weaknesses and inadequacies. What they needed to was to remember their blessings.

When you are afraid, if you think about the many blessings you have from God, it will help you remember that we have an awesome God who loves us and will protect us from evil.

Caleb and Joshua spoke to the people and tried to encourage them to trust God. They knew that with God all things are possible.

Numbers 14:7-8

They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey."

They tried to remind the people to have courage. God had promised to never leave them or forsake them; they had nothing to fear. God would protect them and give them all the strength and wisdom they needed to take the land from the people that were living there.

When you get afraid, you can have trust in God, too. He is always with you and God has all power and all wisdom.

But the people wouldn't listen to Caleb and Joshua. They became angry and even tried to kill them. This made God mad.

Numbers 14:11

And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them?"

God threatened to wipe out the people like He did with the Great Flood in Noah's time. He said He wanted to start all over again with the human race. But Moses begged God to forgive the people.

Numbers 14:19

In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.

God loved His people and He forgave them for the sin of unbelief. But He also knew that they would have to be punished for their sin. Because they did not trust God, they had to stay in the hot desert for 40 more years!

Numbers 14:21-23

But as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the LORD's glory, not one of these people will ever enter that land. They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice. They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it.

God proclaimed that anyone who was over the age of 20, who had doubted God, would not enter the Promised Land. The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land should have taken only a few months, but the children of Israel were forced to wander in the desert for another 40 years until all of the people who had not trusted God died.

The people were sorry for their sin of unbelief. They told God they were sorry for the things that they had done. But they had to suffer the consequences of their sin.

When we do wrong, we must suffer the consequences, too. God knew that we are born with a “*want to*” to do things our own way instead of the way that pleases God.

When we sin it separates us from God. And, He doesn't like that anymore than we do. So, He thought of a plan. He made a bridge so that we could get to Him. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for all our sin. To cross the bridge to God, we must trust in Jesus, believe that He died for our wrongs, and ask Him to forgive us of our sins.

Have you crossed that bridge? Have you told God that you know you are a sinner? Have you asked Him to forgive you of your sins? Have you made a decision to follow Jesus? This morning, let's bow our hearts together and do that right now.

Closing Prayer

Father, we were born with a *want to* to do things our own way. No one had to teach us to lie or cheat or steal. We know that we are sinners. But, Lord, we want our lives to please You. Thank You that you have made a bridge for us so that we can come to You. Thank You, Jesus, for taking the punishment for our sins so that we can come and live with You in Heaven someday. Forgive us of our sins. We want to follow Your ways for the rest of our lives until that wonderful day when we can see you face-to-face. We love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Play a game like *Pin the Tail on the Donkey*. Blow up 12 purple balloons and attach them to heavy white poster board like a cluster of grapes. Allow a blindfolded child to use a push bin to pop an inflated balloon. Put one of the following review questions inside each of the balloons:

1. Why were the people crossing the desert? (They were heading from Egypt to the Promised Land.)
2. What were the people doing down in Egypt? (They were slaves to the Pharaoh)
3. When they got to the edge of the Promised Land, who did Moses send in to look the land over? (12 spies)
4. When the spies came back, what did they bring with them? (Fruits and vegetables, including some huge grapes.)

5. Why were the 10 spies fearful about going into the land? (They saw the giants and the fortified cities and their faith in God was weak.)
6. Who were the two spies that had great faith in God? (Caleb and Joshua.)
7. What crazy thing did the people want to do because of their fear? (They wanted to get another leader and go back to Egypt!)
8. What did God want to do with the people for lacking faith in Him? (He wanted to wipe them out and start over!)
9. What did Moses do when God said he wanted to wipe out the people? (He begged God to forgive them.)
10. What punishment did the people receive from God for their sin of unbelief? (They had to stay in the hot desert for 40 more years!)
11. When we sin it separates us from God. What is the “bridge” that God made for us to come to Him? (Jesus!)
12. How do you cross the “Jesus Bridge?” (By confessing your sins and asking Him to be your Lord and Savior.)

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Rebellion of Korah

(Numbers 16 – 17)

Introduction

[Teacher, bring in a stick or wooden staff. Ask the children if they think it could produce blossoms or ripe fruit.] This wood came from an almond tree. Do you think it could blossom and produce almonds? (No! It's dead!) Do you think that God could make this stick sprout buds and blossoms and produce ripe almonds? (Yes! He can do all things! There's nothing too hard for God!)

Today we learn how God showed His power to the children of Israel.

Opening Prayer

Father, touch our hearts this morning with the knowledge of Your power and might! You are the all-knowing, all-wise, all-loving God who sees us and knows our names. Help us to fall more in love with You today as we learn of Your greatness. Give us a renewed desire to follow hard after Your ways in everything we think, everything we say, and everything we do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. (Hebrews 13:17)

Lesson

Last week we learned that after twelve spies went into the Promised Land to check it out, only two of the spies came back with a good report. The other ten spies discouraged the people. They said they couldn't take the land away from the giants; their cities were too well fortified. Their faith in God was weak and soon they had discouraged all the people. They complained against Moses and threatened to get a new leader and go back to Egypt.

This sin of unbelief grieved God. And as a punishment to the people who didn't trust Him, God made them stay in the hot desert for 40 more years!

It was hard for Moses to tell the people that they couldn't go into the Promised Land. But he knew God was right. The people were not ready to follow God. Their faith was not strong enough.

The people were very upset. To think of spending forty more years in the wilderness was horrible! And, why should they? Who was Moses anyway to tell them to return to the desert?

So Korah started a rebellion. He stirred up two hundred fifty other leaders and together they went to see Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 16:3

They united against Moses and Aaron and said, "You have gone too far! The whole community of Israel has been set apart by the LORD, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to act as though you are greater than the rest of the LORD's people?"

How disrespectful! These people didn't appreciate all that Moses had done for them. They thought Moses was acting like he was more important than the rest of the people and they blamed Moses for their troubles. They had forgotten that God Himself had chosen Moses and Aaron to be their leaders! It was God, not Moses, who had told the people that they must go back into the desert for another 40 years. But the people were jealous of Moses' authority.

Moses told Korah and all the men with him to meet with him at the gate of the tabernacle, that God would decide who should be the leaders.

Listen to what Korah said...

Number 16:13-14

Isn't it enough that you brought us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us here in this wilderness, and that you now treat us like your subjects? What's more, you haven't brought us into another land flowing with milk and honey. You haven't given us a new homeland with fields and vineyards. Are you trying to fool these men? We will not come."

Moses demanded that they meet at the gate of the tabernacle.

Numbers 16:16

And Moses said to Korah, “You and all your followers must come here tomorrow and present yourselves before the LORD. Aaron will also be here.”

Moses told them that God would decide who should be the leaders.

Numbers 16:19

Meanwhile, Korah had stirred up the entire community against Moses and Aaron, and they all gathered at the Tabernacle entrance. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to the whole community

The Lord told everyone who faithfully followed Moses and Aaron to get away from the tents of Korah and his men. Then Moses tells the people how God will show them who He has chosen to be the leader.

Numbers 16:28-30

And Moses said, “This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things that I have done—for I have not done them on my own. If these men die a natural death, or if nothing unusual happens, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD does something entirely new and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and all their belongings, and they go down alive into the grave, then you will know that these men have shown contempt for the LORD.”

Hardly had Moss finished speaking when the ground began to rumble.

Numbers 16:31-33

He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them, and everything they owned. So they went down alive into the grave, along with all their belongings. The earth closed over them, and they all vanished from among the people of Israel.

Korah and all his followers and all of their belongings were swallowed up into the earth.

Then God wanted to prove once and for all who he had chosen to be the high priest over the people. He told each tribe to bring a rod with the name of the leader of that family group carved on it. Aaron’s name was on the rod from the tribe of Levi.

Numbers 17:1-3

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the people of Israel to bring you twelve wooden staffs, one from each leader of Israel’s ancestral tribes, and inscribe each leader’s name on his staff. Inscribe Aaron’s name on the staff of the tribe of Levi, for there must be one staff for the leader of each ancestral tribe.”

Moses laid the rods in the tabernacle next to the Ark of the Covenant that contained the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were carved. Then God told Moses how he was going to stop the people from complaining against him.

Numbers 17:5

Buds will sprout on the staff belonging to the man I choose. Then I will finally put an end to the people’s murmuring and complaining against you.”

The next morning there was a big crowd at the Tabernacle to learn the results. Which if any of the twelve rods had blossomed?

Numbers 17:8

When he went into the Tabernacle of the Covenant the next day, he found that Aaron’s staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds!

Moses brought out the rods. How surprised everybody must have been when they saw that one of the rods had budded! It was blooming and had ripe almonds hanging from it!

Now everyone knew that God has chosen Aaron to be their high priest. There was no question about it.

The Lord told Moses to place Aaron's rod in the Ark of the Covenant with the Ten Commandments to remind them that God had chosen Aaron.

Numbers 17:10

And the LORD said to Moses: "Place Aaron's staff permanently before the Ark of the Covenant to serve as a warning to rebels. This should put an end to their complaints against me and prevent any further deaths."

If there was ever any doubt again about Moses' and Aaron's authority over the people, they could show them Aaron's rod that budded.

So, what's the lesson here for us today? To respect authority! God has placed certain people in our lives to be our spiritual leaders, such as our parents, pastor, or Sunday school teacher. He's put them there to guide us so that we will grow up to be faithful followers of Jesus.

God's word says:

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

God expects us to respect our spiritual leaders and show our appreciation to them!

God did everything He could to show love to Korah and his men; but, they refused to obey Moses' authority over them and God couldn't do anything more to save them. God didn't want to kill Korah and all those people; He created people and loves everyone. But, God has to punish sin. The Bible tells us that the *wages of sin is death*. That's eternal separation from God. That's why Jesus came to die on the cross; He took the punishment for our sins. Jesus died in our place so that we don't have to. If we believe that, our sins will be forgiven. And

when God forgives our sins, He forgets all about them! When we are forgiven by God, He restores us to right standing before Him and we are back in fellowship with Him—no more separation from God.

Let's thank Him for dying on the cross for our sins and taking the punishment that we deserve.

Closing Prayer

Father, forgive us for the times that we are rebels against our parents and teachers. Thank You for providing these leaders to us. Help us to remember that You have given us these people to be there for us to guide and protect us. Help us to show our appreciation to them for all that they do for us by listening and obeying them. And, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I love You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Why couldn't the people go into the Promised Land? (They didn't have strong enough faith in God.)
2. What complaint did Korah and his followers have against Moses? (They blamed Moses for their troubles and questioned his authority over them.)
3. Where did Moses tell Korah to meet with him? (At the gate of the Tabernacle.)
4. When everyone met at the gate of the Tabernacle, what did God tell Moses and Aaron to do? (Get away from the tents of Korah.)

5. What happened to Korah and his followers? (The ground opened up and swallowed them!)
6. How did God prove once and for all who He had chosen to be high priest over the people? (Aaron's rod budded.)
7. Where did God tell Moses to put Aaron's rod for safe keeping? (In the Ark of the Covenant.)
8. What else was in the Ark of the Covenant? (The Ten Commandments and the jar of manna.)
9. What lesson did God want us to learn from today's story? (To respect and appreciate authority.)
10. Why has God given us leaders? (To protect, guide, and help us to grow up to be followers of Jesus.)
11. Why did God have to kill Korah? (Korah didn't repent. He didn't respect Moses' authority over him. All sin deserves death; God has to punish sin.)
12. How can you be sure that you are not eternally separated from God? (Believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment you deserve.)
13. How can you show your parents that you appreciate their leadership over you? (Listen to them and obey them!)

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Moses Sins

(Numbers 20:1-13)

Introduction

What kind of punishment do you get when you are naughty? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Do you think your parents are fair when they punish you for doing wrong? Do you think you deserve to be punished? What would happen if you didn't get punished?

Do you think that God punishes people when they disobey Him? How does He punish people? Do you think that is fair?

Today we're going to learn about a time that Moses sinned against God. And, find out how God punished Moses for disobeying Him.

Opening Prayer

Father, You expect us to follow the Ten Commandments You gave Moses in the desert. We want to be obedient to You. We want every thought, word, and deed that we do to please You. You say in your word that every sin must be punished. Help us to learn to take that seriously. Thank You that You still love us even when we sin. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

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

Lesson

For almost forty years, thousands of Israelites had been wandering in the wilderness! They should have been in the new land many years ago.

Why weren't they in the new land as Moses had promised? (Because they didn't trust and obey God!)

Remember when Moses sent the 12 spies into the Promised Land? What happened? Ten of the spies scared the people by telling them that there were giants in the land and the cities were too well fortified. They convinced most of the people that they couldn't conquer the new land. They chose to believe those ten doubting spies instead of trusting God.

The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land should have taken only a few months, but the children of Israel were forced to wander in the desert for another 40 years until all of the people who had not trusted God died.

They did not learn from their mistakes. They kept forgetting God's punishment for doubting Him and not trusting Him. All they did was grumble and complain. They didn't remember how good God had been. He had protected and provided for them for 40 long years while they wandered in the desert.

Once again, the people began to grumble and complain again. Soon they were complaining against Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 20:2-5

There was no water for the people to drink at that place, so they rebelled against Moses and Aaron. The people blamed Moses and said, "If only we had died in the LORD's presence with our brothers! Why have you brought the congregation of the LORD's people into this wilderness to die, along with all our livestock? Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us here to this terrible place? This land has no grain, no figs, no grapes, no pomegranates, and no water to drink!"

They cried against Moses and Aaron, accusing them of trying to kill them! Moses and Aaron went to meet with God at the gate to the tabernacle.

Numbers 20:6

Moses and Aaron turned away from the people and went to the entrance of the Tabernacle, where they fell face down on the ground. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to them,

God heard their prayers.

Numbers 20:7-8

and the LORD said to Moses, "You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the entire community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over there, and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough water from the rock to satisfy the whole community and their livestock."

What did God tell Moses to do? (Speak to the rock and tell it to pour out water.) Let's see if Moses did what God told him to do.

Numbers 20:9-10

So Moses did as he was told. He took the staff from the place where it was kept before the LORD. Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. "Listen, you rebels!" he shouted. "Must we bring you water from this rock?"

Moses got the rod and went back to the people and called them to come together at the rock. But he was very, very angry...

Numbers 20:11

Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. So the entire community and their livestock drank their fill.

When you're angry you don't always think straight, do you? Moses was so angry he didn't speak to the rock as God had told him to do; he struck the rock with the rod, not once, but twice!

God loved the people so much he made the water gush out of the rock so that they and their animals could drink. But Moses had disobeyed God.

Do you think that God would have to punish Moses for disobeying Him? Yes! All sin must be punished. Let's see how God punished Moses for being disobedient.

Numbers 20:12

But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them!"

Not go into the Promised Land! After all those years of traveling over dusty sand! Moses must have wept many bitter tears. How he must have regretted not obeying God!

Even though Moses obeyed God many times before, God expected him to set an example for the people he was leading.

God expects you and me to set a good example to others, too. When you do naughty things, that brings disgrace to God's name. You are not being a good example to others. God wants you to lead others to Him.

Do you think that God loved Moses less for being disobedient? God still loved Moses even though he had sinned against Him. God loved him with a Father's love; just like he loves you.

There is always forgiveness with God. If you do anything that displeases God all you need to do is go to Him in prayer and ask Him to forgive you. Then you must stop doing those things that are not God pleasing.

You have to understand, that even though God forgives you for your sin, sin must be punished. There are consequences to your sin. Some sins have bigger and longer lasting consequences. For Moses, he was never allowed to go into the Promised Land.

Do you think that was fair of God? [Teacher, let the children discuss.]

Did Moses throw a fit and quit serving God because he couldn't go into the land? No, he knew he had done wrong. He kept right on loving and serving God. Moses knew God to be fair. He would trust God with his punishment.

In accepting his punishment without complaint, he became a good example to the people following him. He showed people that he still believed in God and trusted Him. Moses knew God was good.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that there is forgiveness with You. I know that You said that all sin must be punished! But, praise You for sending Jesus to come and take my place on the cross. Thank You, Jesus, for taking my punishment! I owe You my life. Please give me the power of the Holy Spirit so that every thought I have, word that I speak and thing that I do will be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Why did it take 40 years for the children of Israel to get from Egypt to Israel? (Because they didn't trust God)
2. Why did the Israelites keep grumbling and complaining? (They didn't trust God.)
3. When the people complained against Moses and Aaron, where did they go to meet with God? (The gate to the tabernacle.)
4. What did God tell Moses to do? (Speak to the rock and tell it to pour out the water.)
5. What did Moses do instead of obeying God? (He struck the rock twice with his rod.)

6. Did water come out of the rock even though Moses disobeyed God? (Yes, it gushed out and all the people and their animals had their fill.)
7. Do you think that God had to punish Moses for disobeying Him? (Yes, all sin must be punished.)
8. How did God punish Moses for disobeying Him? (He didn't allow Moses to enter the Promised Land.)
9. Was God's punishment fair to Moses? After all, Moses had faithfully led the people through the desert for 40 long years. (Yes, all sin has consequences.)
10. Do you think that God loved Moses less for being disobedient? (No! God loved him with a Father's love; just like He loves you.)
11. What should you do if you do anything that displeases God? (Go to Him in prayer and ask Him to forgive you. Then you must stop doing those things that are not God pleasing.)
12. If you ask God to forgive you when you sin, do you think you should NOT get punished? (Even though God forgives you for your sin, sin must be punished. There are consequences to your sin.)
13. Do you think it was fair of God to keep Moses from entering the Promised Land? (Yes, all sin must be punished.)
14. How did Moses react when God told him he couldn't go into the Promised Land? Did he throw a fit and quit serving God? (No! He kept right on loving and serving God. Moses knew God was fair. He trusted God's punishment as being right and fitting.)
15. How did Moses show the people that he still believed in God and trusted Him? (He accepted his punishment without complaint.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.FreeChildrensMinistryLessons.com>]

Serpent on a Pole

(Numbers 20:14 – 21:9)

Introduction

Suppose you were going on a trip to someplace you had never been before. Someone who knows how to get there gives you very simple instructions: “It’s not hard! Just follow this road and look for the sign. You can’t miss it.” But then you think, “I don’t know if I can believe this! After all, it sounds much too easy! I’m sure there must be another way.” And so you decide to go your own way, taking many different roads and becoming completely lost. Does that sound like a foolish thing to do?

God has told us in His Word, the Bible, that there is only one way to get to heaven to have eternal life with Him. But many people hear what that way is and they say, “Oh, that can’t be right. It’s too easy. Surely there must be some other way.” And so they live their whole lives trying to get to God some other way, and they end up being lost from God forever.

How sad! God has made His way clear and simple for us to follow. Do you know what that way is? Something unusual that happened to the people of Israel in the wilderness can help us to understand God’s way for us to have eternal life.

Opening Prayer

Father, You have given us Your word, the holy Bible. In it You have given us everything we need to know about life and godliness. It is a light to our feet as we walk in a dark world. Help us to listen to Your voice and to trust and obey You. We want to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

Lesson

The forty years that the children of Israel were to wander in the wilderness was almost over. They were getting really close to the time they could finally enter into the Promised Land. Moses was planning the way for them to take and the shortest way to get there was through Edom. But the king of Edom would not allow the children of Israel to pass through his country.

Numbers 20:17

Please let us travel through your land. We will be careful not to go through your fields and vineyards. We won’t even drink water from your wells. We will stay on the king’s road and never leave it until we have passed through your territory.

Moses promised the king of Edom that the children of Israel wouldn’t disrupt anything in his land if he would just let them take the short cut into the Promised Land. But the king of Edom refused to let them come into his land.

Numbers 20:18

But the king of Edom said, “Stay out of my land, or I will meet you with an army!”

The king of Edom told Moses if they came into his land he would mobilize his army and come out against them.

Numbers 20:21

Because Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through their country, Israel was forced to turn around.

So the children of Israel had to go all the way around Edom and that was so discouraging that they started to bitterly complain again.

Numbers 21:4-5

Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”

The people complained against God and Moses. They were sick and tired of wandering through the wilderness. They were sick and tired of always having to search for water to drink. And, they were sick and tired of having nothing but manna to eat.

They didn't appreciate the fact that God Himself provided the Manna – this special bread from heaven – for them every day.

Do you ever complain about things when they aren't the way you would like? God calls complaining sin. Sin is anything you do, say, or think that displeases God.

Have you ever complained about the meals you are given at home? God wants you to be grateful to your mom and dad for providing food for you to eat!

Complaining about anything is sin. God hates our sin and he hated the sin of the Israelites as they complained about the food and water God was miraculously providing for them in the wilderness. Do you think that God had to punish them for their sin? Let's see...

Numbers 21:6

So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died.

God sent thousands of poisonous snakes among the people. Wow! That would have been scary, don't you think? These snakes began to bite the people and many of the people died. So they quickly ran to Moses for help.

Numbers 21:7

Then the people came to Moses and cried out, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes." So Moses prayed for the people.

They confessed their sin of complaining. So Moses asked God for help. God told Moses to do a strange thing. He didn't tell him how to get rid of the serpents, but how to make the people well.

Numbers 21:8

Then the LORD told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!"

Even though the people had sinned, God still loved them. Although God is holy and hates your sin, He still loves you. God makes a way for us to have fellowship again with Him even though we are sinners.

God told Moses to make a brass serpent and put it on a pole. When the people looked at it, they would get well. They had to believe God in order to be healed.

Numbers 21:9

So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

[Teacher, display a stick with a rubber snake wrapped around it.] How do you think the people responded when Moses told them if they wanted to be healed of their snake bites they had to look at a carved snake on a pole? I can imagine there were many people who thought this sounds pretty silly, "I don't see how looking at a brass serpent could make me well." But, if they didn't look, they died. They *had* to trust and obey God, even if it didn't make sense to them.

God made a really simple way for them to be healed and live! All they needed to do was look at the brass snake on the pole.

Some people may have thought it seemed too simple. But, God only gave them one way to be healed and live.

The Israelites had admitted their sin. Now all they needed to do was to trust God by looking at the serpent of bronze lifted high on a pole and believe. Then their bodies could be healed of the poisonous snakebites.

That serpent of bronze placed on a pole was a picture of what God would do years later in providing the only way for our sins to be

forgiven. If you look up at the Lord Jesus who willingly died on the cross for your sins, you can be saved from a life of spiritual death.

Years later, when Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night, Jesus told him,

John 3:14-15

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

How glad the Israelites must have been that God had provided a way for them to be healed and that He had made that way so simple that even the children were able to look at the serpent of bronze and live! God's way for your sin to be forgiven is simple, too. You need to admit to God that you have sinned and that your sin keeps you apart from Him. You need to believe that the Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin when He died on the cross. It's the only way God has given you to be healed of the poison of sin.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that you have made a way for us to live with you forever in heaven. We look forward to that day that we can see you face-to-face. While we wait for that day, help us to always want to trust and obey You no matter what You ask us to do. Even when it seems silly to us, remind us by the power of the Holy Spirit that Your way is always right. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Why did the children of Israel have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years? (They didn't trust and obey God.)
2. Why did Moses want to take the people through the land of Edom? (It was the shortest way into the Promised Land.)
3. When the king of Edom wouldn't let them cross through his land, what did the Israelites do? (They started to grumble and complain.)
4. What did the people complain about? (The food and water.)
5. Do you ever complain about the meals that you are given at home? What does God want you to do instead of complaining? (To be grateful that you have something to eat.)
6. What did God do to punish the people for complaining? (He sent poisonous snakes that bit the people.)
7. Did God tell Moses how to get rid of the snakes? What did God tell Moses to do? (God told Moses to make a brass serpent and put it on a pole.)
8. If you had been one of those people getting bitten by all those snakes what would you have thought when you heard Moses tell you to look at the brass serpent on a pole?
9. What does that brass serpent on a pole remind you of? Why? (Jesus hung on a cross.)
10. What is the only way you can be healed of the poison of sin in your life? (By believing in what Jesus did on the cross.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.FreeChildrensMinistryLessons.com>]

Balaam's Donkey

(Numbers 22, 23, 24)

Introduction

Do you know the difference between knowing God in your head and knowing God in your heart? In today's lesson we will learn about a guy who said he was a follower of God, but if you could see inside his heart, you'd know that he didn't know God at all.

He was more interested in the things of this world. And, God had to use a donkey to teach him a good lesson.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to be true followers of You. We want to be sure that we really know You—not just about You. Give us a heart to be faithful and true to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4:29)

Lesson

We have been learning about how the children of Israel have been traveling across the desert for 40 years, heading for the Promised Land.

We pick up the story today when they arrive in the lowlands of Moab. They have set up their tents along the Jordan River.

Numbers 22:1

Then the people of Israel traveled to the plains of Moab and camped east of the Jordan River, across from Jericho.

All the people in the area were terrified of the Israelites. They had heard about all the amazing things that the God of Israel had done for

them: how He opened the Red Sea so they could escape from the Egyptians on dry land, how He had provided Manna from heaven for them every day for 40 years, and many other amazing things.

Balak, the king of Moab, had heard how the Israelites were marching through the country conquering the land. When he heard of their arrival in Moab he was terrified.

Numbers 22:3

And when the people of Moab saw how many Israelites there were, they were terrified.

There was a man named Balaam who lived in Moab. He said he was a prophet of God and many important people came to him for help. There was just one thing wrong with Balaam: He didn't really know God personally; he was greedy and made people pay him for helping them.

One day Balak, the king of Moab, sent a messenger to Balaam to ask him for help. He wanted Balaam to ask God to curse the children of Israel! Why anyone would think that they could get God to bring great evil upon His own chosen people, I do not know! But, Balak sent this message to Balaam:

Numbers 22:6

Please come and curse these people for me because they are too powerful for me. Then perhaps I will be able to conquer them and drive them from the land. I know that blessings fall on any people you bless, and curses fall on people you curse."

Balaam asked God what to do. But, if he really knew God, he would have known that God would NOT let him bring great evil upon His people! God's word promises us if we believe in Jesus, He will protect us from all evil. (See Isa 54:7, Prov 26:2)

Numbers 22:12

But God told Balaam, "Do not go with them. You are not to curse these people, for they have been blessed!"

At first, Balaam did what was right.

Numbers 22:13

The next morning Balaam got up and told Balak's officials, "Go on home! The LORD will not let me go with you."

When the king of Moab heard Balaam's answer, he was upset. So he sent other messengers to ask Balaam to help him.

Numbers 22:16-17

They went to Balaam and delivered this message to him: "This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Please don't let anything stop you from coming to help me. I will pay you very well and do whatever you tell me. Just come and curse these people for me!"

Balak wanted to make sure that Balaam knew that he would be given much money if he came and cursed the children of Israel.

Again Balaam asked God if he could go. I guess he was hoping God would change his mind. And surprisingly, God does grant permission.

Numbers 22:20

That night God came to Balaam and told him, "Since these men have come for you, get up and go with them. But do only what I tell you to do."

God tells Balaam that he can go to the king of Moab, but he was to speak only what God told him to say.

So the next morning, off he went...

Numbers 22:21

So the next morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and started off with the Moabite officials.

Even though Balaam seemed to be following God, God knew that he had other plans in his heart. God knew that Balaam was greedy for money. It seems that Balaam wanted to do what God told him to do, but his desire to please himself was stronger than his desire to please God.

God knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. We may say all the right things, but God knows what we are really thinking and planning in our hearts.

Numbers 22:22a [Teacher, read...]

But God was angry that Balaam was going, so he sent the Angel of the LORD to stand in the road to block his way.

While Balaam was riding along, his donkey did some strange things!

Numbers 22:22b-23 [Teacher, read...]

As Balaam and two servants were riding along, Balaam's donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. The donkey bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat it and turned it back onto the road.

Because of his spiritual blindness, Balaam could not see the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His sword drawn, but the donkey could. When the donkey saw the Angel, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam could not believe what his donkey was doing. He beat the donkey for going off the path.

Numbers 22:24-25

Then the Angel of the LORD stood at a place where the road narrowed between two vineyard walls. When the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, it tried to squeeze by and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. So Balaam beat the donkey again.

Again, Balaam was furious and beat the donkey again.

Numbers 22:26-27

Then the Angel of the LORD moved farther down the road and stood in a place too narrow for the donkey to get by at all. This time when the donkey saw the Angel, it lay down under Balaam. In a fit of rage Balaam beat the animal again with his staff.

For a third time, the Angel stood near a narrow place with no room to go around. Frightened and bewildered, the donkey just gave up and lay down in the road. And for a third time, Balaam beat the donkey.

Numbers 22:28-29

Then the LORD gave the donkey the ability to speak. "What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?" it asked Balaam. "You have made me look like a fool!" Balaam shouted. "If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!"

Suddenly, the donkey started talking! She asked Balaam why he beat her three times. Balaam told the donkey that he beat her because she had made a fool out of him in front of the special messengers sent by the king of Moab. He was more concerned about what others thought of him than in pleasing God.

Numbers 22:30

"But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life," the donkey answered. "Have I ever done anything like this before?" "No," Balaam admitted.

Finally, Balaam could see the Angel of the Lord...

Numbers 22:31-32

Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him. "Why did you beat your donkey those three times?" the Angel of the LORD demanded. "Look, I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me.

Next, the Angel explains that the donkey had saved his life three times by blocking him for going to Moab. God knew what Balaam wanted to do.

Numbers 22:33

Three times the donkey saw me and shied away; otherwise, I would certainly have killed you by now and spared the donkey."

Balaam knew that God saw his greedy heart and the sin that was inside. He had only been thinking about the money; not about God's people! So, he fell to his knees and asked forgiveness.

Numbers 22:34

Then Balaam confessed to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I didn't realize you were standing in the road to block my way. I will return home if you are against my going."

The Angel told him to go to the king of Moab, but he was to speak only what God told him to say.

Numbers 22:35

But the Angel of the LORD told Balaam, "Go with these men, but say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam went on with Balak's officials.

Balaam wanted to curse God's people because the king of Moab had promised to pay him a lot of money to do that! But now he saw the Angel of the Lord and knew that God wanted him to bless His people.

Numbers 22:38

Balaam replied, "Look, now I have come, but I have no power to say whatever I want. I will speak only the message that God puts in my mouth."

Balaam may have looked like a follower of God on the outside, but inside, he really was doing whatever he could to get money and worldly possessions. Balaam might have fooled many people, but he did not fool God.

We may fool others and they may think that we believe in Jesus and know Him. But, God knows our hearts. He knows if we really trust Him or just say we do in front of others. God sees us wherever we are and knows if we act one way in church and another way at home or at school.

It's one thing to come to church on Sunday and sing praise songs and pray; but what really counts is how we act when we're not at church.

Do people know that you are a follower of Jesus by the way you act at home or at school or in your neighborhood?

Our words matter. Our words can bring life or death to others. God wants us to use words that bring joy and blessing.

God wants you and me to be His messengers to all the people that we come in contact with all week long. The Bible says, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:35) God wants us to love people by being kind and helpful and courteous.

We are to honor God with our words and actions.

God wants us to be true believers in Jesus. He will do anything He can to get our attention. He really wanted Balaam to be a true believer and in order to get his attention he used a donkey to do it!

Closing Prayer

Father, I pray that You will help us to have right attitudes this week. Help us to live what we say we believe. Give us a desire in our hearts to want to be more and more like Jesus in every way. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity Center

Act out the story! Let the children retell the story in their own words, make a cartoon strip of the story, or play *Pin the "Balaam" on the Donkey*.

Game Center

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. Why was the king of Moab afraid of the children of Israel?

(Because there were thousands of people coming into his country and he was afraid they would try to conquer his land and take it away from him.)

2. Why did many important people come to Balaam for help? (He said he was a prophet of God.)
3. What was wrong with Balaam? (He was greedy for money; he charged people to help them.)
4. What did the king of Moab ask Balaam to do? (Curse the children of Israel.)
5. When Balaam wouldn't come to Moab to curse the people, what did the king of Moab do? (He was mad and offered him more money.)
6. At first God told Balaam not to go to Moab; then he changed mind. What did God tell Balaam to do the second time? (Go, but only say what He told him to say.)
7. What did Balaam's donkey see that Balaam didn't see on their way to Moab? (The Angel of the Lord.)
8. How many times did Balaam's donkey see the Angel before Balaam saw it? (Three)
9. What did Balaam do when his donkey seemed to be misbehaving? (He beat it.)
10. Then, suddenly, what amazing thing did the donkey do? (He started speaking to Balaam.)
11. What did the donkey say to Balaam? ("What have I done to you that you have struck me these three times?")
12. Why did Balaam say he beat his donkey? (Because she had made a fool out of him.)

13. What did the Angel tell Balaam about his donkey? (She had saved his life three times.)
14. What did Balaam finally tell the king of Moab when he got there? (The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak.)

Review Questions for Younger Kids

1. Who was the king of the Moabites who wanted to hurt God's people? (Balak)
2. Who did Balak try to pay to curse the Israelites? (Balaam)
3. What did Balaam's donkey see in her path? (An angel with a drawn sword)
4. What did Balaam do every time his donkey tried to get out of the way of the angel? (He beat her)
5. What did Balaam's donkey do that no other donkey has ever done? (She talked to him)
6. Did Balaam curse God's people like King Balak wanted him to? (No, he blessed them.)
7. Why did Balak want Israel to be cursed?
8. Who did God send to stop Balaam from cursing God's people? (The Angel of the LORD)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit <https://www.FreeChildrensMinistryLessons.com>]

Moses Dies

(Deuteronomy 34:1-12)

Introduction

If God told you that you only had a few days to live, what would you do?

Today we're going to learn what Moses did when the Lord told him it was time to come to heaven.

Opening Prayer

Father, Thank You that you sent Moses to be the savior of the children of Israel. Thank You that You gave him the strength and the wisdom he needed to lead the people to the Promised Land. He was a type of Jesus who is our Savior. If we would follow Jesus, He will lead us to our Promised Land, heaven, to be with You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. (Deuteronomy 34:10)

Lesson

Moses was one hundred twenty years old. And the Lord told him that it was time for him to die. So, Moses began to think back over his life and about all the things he had done in all those years.

He thought of the miraculous way God arranged for him to grow up in the Egyptian Pharaoh's household. And how God worked it out for his mother and his sister, Miriam, to be there, too, to care for him.

Does anyone remember how Moses, a Hebrew, got adopted by the Egyptian princess and grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh? The Pharaoh had passed a law that all Hebrew boy babies had to be killed at birth. So Moses' mother hid him until he was several months old.

Then she put him in a basket and floated him down the Nile River. The Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and wanted to keep him. Moses' sister, Miriam, had been watching from a hiding place. So then she suggested to the Princess that she go and get a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby which the Princess thought was an excellent idea!

God made sure that Moses lived! He had a plan and purpose for Moses' life!

What splendor he enjoyed as a boy growing up in the palace. And he also got the special advantage of a good education.

As Moses was thinking about his life, he surely remembered the day he killed the Egyptian and had to run for his life. Do you remember that story? He saw an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew slave and was overcome with anger. So, he killed the Egyptian. Then he fled for his life out to the wilderness.

He spent 40 long years out in the wilderness taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. At the time he probably thought he would spend the rest of his life as a shepherd.

But then one day God called him and told him to go to Egypt and lead His people to a new land. Do you remember that story when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush?

Then Moses recalled how God used him in a powerful way to convince the Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Do you remember what God did through Moses? He sent ten plagues: water turned to blood, fleas, frogs, and finally the last one was when God sent the angel of death to kill the first born boy child of every household that did not have lamb's blood painted on their door posts.

Moses must have remembered the day the children of Israel fled from the Pharaoh's army when the Red Sea opened up and they went across on dry land.

And I'm sure he remembered the day he went up to the top of Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments.

There were many events Moses would never forget. And as he remembered his life, he fell on his knees and prayed to thank God for being so good to him and His people.

Then, while Moses was thinking back on his life, God called him to come up to the top of Mount Nebo.

Deuteronomy 34:1

Then Moses went up to Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab and climbed Pisgah Peak, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him the whole land, from Gilead as far as Dan;

God pointed out the land across from Jericho. Moses looked at the land and thought how wonderful and exciting it would be to live there.

Deuteronomy 34:4

Then the LORD said to Moses, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have now allowed you to see it with your own eyes, but you will not enter the land."

God had promised Abraham that the land of Israel would be for his descendants. And the promise was passed down to his son, Isaac, and to Isaac's son, Jacob. And Jacob's name was changed to Israel. And Israel had 12 sons. These are the children of Israel, the Jews, this land is their land; God gave it to them and God never goes back on a promise.

But, Moses wouldn't be going there. Do you remember why? Moses had disobeyed God. Remember? When the children of Israel complained about not having enough water to drink, God told Moses to speak to the rock and it would pour forth water. But, Moses was so angry with the people that he struck the rock, not once, but twice!

God in His graciousness and love for the people gave them water from the rock, but because Moses disobeyed God's command, He didn't allow Moses to go into the Promised Land.

Moses understood that God was right. He loved God very much and trusted His decision. It always pays to do as God commands.

Deuteronomy 34:5-6

So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said. The LORD buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place.

Later God resurrected Moses and took him to heaven.

Deuteronomy 34:7

Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever.

He was able to hike up to the top of Mount Nebo and see the whole of the Promised Land from the mountain top before he died! He was still in great physical shape at age 120!

Deuteronomy 34:8

The people of Israel mourned for Moses on the plains of Moab for thirty days, until the customary period of mourning was over.

The people felt very sad they had lost their great leader. But God had already chosen a new leader whose name was Joshua.

Do you remember Joshua? He was one of the two good spies that trusted God. Moses passed his leadership of the people on to him.

Deuteronomy 34:9

Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him, doing just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Moses was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He was the only one to whom the Lord spoke face to face.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. The LORD sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and

all his servants, and his entire land. With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.

Moses truly was a man of God.

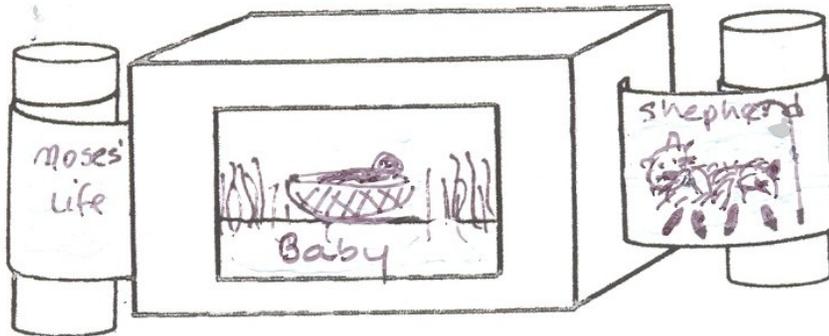
Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for raising up such a powerful leader. Give us a desire to be a strong leader, like Moses, in our homes and in our schools. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Shoebbox Filmstrip



1. Cut a window in the bottom of a shoebox and slits in the sides.
2. Cut butcher paper strips that can be pulled through the slits.
3. On the paper, have the children draw pictures of each event in Moses' life that will fill the screen.

4. After threading the filmstrip through the slits, secure each end to an empty cardboard (toilette paper) tube.

Game Center

Make this a final wrap up of the whole series of lesson on Moses. Create a big "Game Show" type game with questions drawn from all 21 lessons. Decorate with crepe paper streamers and balloons to make it a festive, end-of-year blow out.

Divide the class into two teams. Ask a question and the first team to hit a buzzer gets to answer the question. If that team fails to get the right answer, the other team can try. Give big points and prizes for all.

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. How old was Moses when he died? (120 years old)
2. Did Moses die by the sea shore or up on a mountain top? (Mountain top.)
3. What did Moses remember before he died? (All the wonderful things that God had done in his life.)
4. When Moses was born, how did God make sure he lived? (His mother floated him down the river in a basket and the Egyptian princess found him.)
5. Where did Moses grow up? (In the Egyptian Pharaoh's Place.)
6. Why did Moses have to run for his life out to the desert? (He killed an Egyptian man who was mistreating a Hebrew man.)
7. What did Moses do out in the desert for 40 years? (He was a shepherd.)
8. How did God speak to Moses when he was still out in the desert as a shepherd? (He spoke to Moses from a burning bush.)

9. What 10 things did God do through Moses to get Pharaoh's attention? (He sent 10 plagues.)
10. What amazing thing happened when the Pharaoh's army chased the children of Israel out of Egypt? (The Red sea opened up and the got over to the other side on dry land.)
11. What did Moses get from God on the top of Mount Sinai? (The Ten Commandments.)
12. Why didn't God let Moses go into the Promised Land? (He had disobeyed God and struck the rock instead of speaking to it.)
13. Did Moses think that God's punishment was unfair? (No! Moses loved God and trusted His decision.)
14. Who did God choose to be the leader of the children of Israel after Moses died? (Joshua)

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