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Chosen for a
Purpose

Teacher

CHOSEN FOR A PURPOSE

(TEACHER)

Adapted to ^{new} format
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~~based on~~ original by C.W. McClelland.
written by

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Young People, Teacher

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CHAPTER ONE

THE LAND PROMISED

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Genesis 11:26-12:20

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 12

MEMORY VERSE: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out not knowing where he was to go" (Hebrews 11:8).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that God blessed Abram (Abraham) because he obeyed him.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

Abram lived a life of outstanding faith and obedience, and he was known as a friend of God. Read James 2:23. God later changed his name from Abram to Abraham which means "the father of multitudes." He was a descendant of Shem and the son of Terah. Abram's father was an idolater. He served other gods as recorded in Joshua 24:2. Abram became an ancestor of the Hebrew and other nations.

Abram was born in Ur of Chaldeans where he lived with his father, Terah, and brothers, Nahor and Haran. He married Sarai. Haran died before his father, and then Terah took his sons and moved to a place named Haran. Terah died there.

Abram, at the age of 75 years, was called by God to leave many of his family and his father's house. God told him to go to a land he would show him. Abram did not know where this land was. He did not know anything about the land, but he had great faith in God. He was willing to do what God said.

God chose Abram to be his representative. He would be responsible for receiving and passing God's revelation on to all people. When he was called he left Haran with Lot, his nephew, and moved to Canaan passing through Shechem and later Bethel. He built an altar to God in each of those places.

God promised Abram he would possess the whole land of Canaan. Abraham (God changed his name from Abram to Abraham.) declared his faith in God and worshipped him. God was faithful to do all he promised Abram. We will learn more about his care for his chosen people as we study the lessons in this book.

Abraham died at the age of 175 years and was buried beside Sarah, his wife, who was first called Sarai, in the cave of Machpelah which he had purchased from Ephron, the son of Zohar, the Hittite. Read Genesis 25:7-10.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Teacher, introduce the lesson by telling this story: "Elijah received a letter in his village inviting him to a course he had wanted to attend in the city. He had never been to the city before, so he was worried about how he would get to the school without problems. Later he remembered to pray and asked the Lord to lead him on the journey."

Ask: "Why do many people worry or even lose hope when asked to do something they have never done?" Listen to the discussion of your students.

Say: "Abram, in our lesson today, could teach us how we should to deal with uncertainty. Please turn to Genesis 12:1-9."

EXAMINATION

Say: "Abram was called by God to go to a land he would show him. Abram did not know where the land was. He had not talked with other people who had been there. He did not even have a road map to help him on his way. But without hesitation, Abram left Haran to follow as God lead. He went trusting the Lord. "Genesis 12:3 tells us God promised blessings to Abram." Have a student read verses 1-3.

Say: "God said he would use Abram and his descendants to bless all the people of the world."

Have another student read verses 4-9.

Say: "Lot was Abram's nephew. The two men had great possessions in Haran, so they made a large procession as they started their journey. They took everything they would need including tents in which to live. They had many animals and many servants.

"When they came to a place called Shechem, the Lord appeared to Abram. He gave him a promise."

Ask: "What was that promise?" (verse 7) "What did Abram do?"

Say: "Abram built an altar to God at Shechem when he assured him he would give him the land. When he came to the mountain east of Bethel he built another altar and called on the name of the Lord. Bethel meant 'the house of the Lord.'

"Abram was going toward the Negeb, and there was a famine in the land. Because of the famine he went to Egypt because his animals needed pasture.

"Abram had showed great faith, and God had been faithful to do all he had promised. But we see in Genesis 12:10-20 that Abram became afraid. He deceived the Pharaoh because of his fear." Have someone read those verses.

"We learn in the next chapter that Abram went back to Bethel. This is important for us to remember because Bethel was where Abram had last met with God."

APPLICATION

Say: "God had blessed Abram in a wonderful way because of Abram's faith and obedience. Abram showed his great faith by going into an unknown land. He had seen God's mighty works and had his great promise, but when he went near Egypt, Abram became afraid.

"Do you ever get afraid of something which is unknown to you? Has this ever happened just after you have had a special time of trusting God and seeing him work in your life? We feel more comfortable with something we have known for a long time. We like to be able to see how it is going to work out.

"God required Abram to exercise great faith. He had to trust God to take care of him when he could not take care of himself. He had to walk in unknown places believing God would provide for him.

"Do you have faith to follow God anywhere he leads you? Even faith is a gift of God. He will increase your faith if you will ask him.

"God called Abram to leave everything he had known. He was to leave his family, his friends, his customs and his way of life. He did not know what lay ahead. God calls people today to leave the life of sin which they have enjoyed and go forward with him into a new life. His promises are great for those who will obey. They will have eternal life in heaven and God's presence with them all their days of life on earth. God promised to be their God, and they will be his people. It all depends on the faith and obedience of each person.

"When Abram went back to Bethel, he renewed his life and fully trusted in God. Bethel was the place where Abram had most recently built an altar and worshipped God. He had to go back to God and get direction for his next step. Christians today should renew their faith when they wander from God. Revelation 2:5 says, 'Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first...' Do you need to go back to God?

"The Bible teaches in Proverbs 3:5-6, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.' Also read Psalms 46:1-3.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that your students will trust the Lord and be able to serve him.
2. Pray that they will allow the Lord to lead in their lives.

CHAPTER TWO JOSEPH LEAVES THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Genesis 37 and 39

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 37:12-14, 19-21, 26-28; 39:1-4

MEMORY VERSE: "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:1).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that God blessed Joseph even in hard times.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

Jacob and his two wives, Rachel and Leah, stayed with his uncle who was also their father, Laban. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah because Rachel was beautiful. However, Rachel was barren and was very sad. She wanted a child very much. Later God opened her womb, and she conceived. She bore a son whom she called Joseph meaning "increase" or "may God add." Read Genesis 30:22-24.

Joseph was the eldest son of Rachel, the eleventh of Jacob. Jacob favoured him very much. He made him a long robe with sleeves, which made the brothers jealous. The boy often told his father the things his brothers were doing, and so this also made them very unhappy. Joseph also had dreams which foretold his future greatness. He told his brothers his dreams, and this stired the fires of envy and hatred in them.

Joseph believed he was to be distinguished above others, even his own family. He had been chosen both by God and by his father to be the one through whom divine blessings would flow. God had planned wonderful blessings for him in the future. Joseph is likely to have lived between 1720-1570 B.C. Joseph became the ancestor of two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Have the class discuss this problem: "People born in a family love each other very much in their childhood. Sometimes, however, when they grow older, they begin to be jealous of one who does something special. It may be that one does better in school than the others. Maybe one gets a better job, or has more money than the others. What do you think brings this problem?" Listen to the discussion, and then have someone read the Introduction from their book.

Say: "God is the giver of life, and everyone is blessed according to his plan. Today we will study about Joseph and learn of his problem."

EXAMINATION

Say: "Joseph was sent by his father, Jacob (who is also called Israel), from Hebron to go to Shechem. He sent him to see how his brothers were getting along. They were looking after their father's animals and had taken them to where they could find green grass and water. Jacob wanted to know about their welfare. When Joseph arrived at Shechem he found they had gone on to Dothan, so he went there.

"In Genesis 37:18 we begin to read that the brothers saw him coming in the distance, and they plotted to kill him. One wanted to kill him, but Reuben said they should just throw him into a pit. He hoped secretly to return later and rescue his brother.

"When the brothers sat down to eat, a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants from Gilad appeared in a distance. Judah suggested they sell their brother to them as a slave. The Ishmaelites later sold Joseph to Potiphar, an official in the court of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

"The brothers then dipped Joseph's coat in the blood of a goat and showed it to their father. He thought Joseph had been killed." Read Genesis 37:34.

"Genesis 39:1-4 reveals that, while Jacob mourned, Joseph became a slave in Potiphar's house and was made an overseer of his master's house and all his belongings.

"Genesis 39 tells also that temptation came to this house, and Joseph suffered an unjust imprisonment. Through all of it, however, God was with Joseph. After some time Joseph rose to the second highest office of the land. He became second only to the king."

Ask: "Who can tell us what happened next?" (If no one is prepared to tell this part of the story read the last paragraph of the Interpretation in the Student book or tell the story from Genesis 42-47.)

APPLICATION

Say: "God directs the steps of everyone who fears him and follows his plans. He does not change."

Ask: "How do you think you would feel toward brothers who treated you the way Joseph's brothers treated him?" Let the class discuss this briefly. Have them include ways Joseph could have responded.

Ask: "What was Joseph's reaction?"

Say: "Joseph forgave his brothers although they had wronged him. He did not seem to have any hatred in his heart against them."

Ask: "Is it easy to forgive someone who has done something against you?" Allow discussion.

Say: "Joseph loved and forgave his brothers, and the Lord blessed him for it. Later in his life he was able to minister to his family in a time when they had a great need. He did it in a beautiful way, without trying to get revenge."

Say: "There is another lesson for us to learn from this story. Jacob favoured Joseph. This caused great problems in his family. It also causes trouble for people today who favour one person over another. Christians ought to love all people the same because all are made in the image of God. Christians should love one another so the world will know they are disciples of Christ. Read John 13:34-35. Christians should help others out of their love for Christ."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for a greater ability to forgive those who offend you.
2. Pray that you and your students will love and respect people without thinking of any wrong one does to the other.

CHAPTER THREE LIVING IN EGYPT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1-7

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Exodus 5:1-8; 6:1; 12:29-41

MEMORY VERSE: "It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that God is always with them, and he will never fail them.

TEACHING AIDS: Each student will need a Bible.

BACKGROUND STUDY

Joseph had become second only to the king in Egypt, and so he brought his family to Egypt to live. They were about 70 people. They settled in Egypt because there was a severe famine in Canaan, but Egypt had plenty grain. The people of Israel had become many. Joseph, the son of Jacob, and his descendants multiplied in great numbers while in Egypt.

After the death of Joseph, his brothers and all that generation, there arose a new king (or Pharaoh) who did not know about Joseph and all he had done. (Exodus 1:8) The king saw that the children of Israel were growing in large numbers, they were very strong and they had filled the land. Therefore he became afraid of them, and so he made them his slaves. He assigned them hard work to do and treated them very badly. The king also decided to kill all the boy babies born to the Hebrew women. This plan had problems because the midwives were God-fearing, and so they did not kill the babies. Read Exodus 1:15-22.

Despite all the problems, the Lord had plans to bring these people out of their bondage to the land he had promised them. Read Exodus 3:7-8.

Baby Moses was born at the time the little boys were being thrown into the Nile River, but his mother planned a way to spare him. He was even raised in the palace as the son of the daughter of the Pharaoh. When Moses was about 40 years of age, God called him to lead his people out of bondage. Moses gave many excuses to keep from doing this because he thought he could not do it, but God promised to be with him.

The first 12 chapters of the book of Exodus talk of how God prepared and brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. Teacher, today you will let the students help you teach by looking up the answers to many questions in their Bibles.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Introduce the lesson by saying: "There are many people in the world today who do not have freedom. They cannot make decisions for themselves about their future. Some cannot own property or choose their own occupation. They cannot worship God as they want."

Ask: "Why does this happen?" Allow discussion.

Ask: "What can be done about it?" (Be sure the students understand that they should pray for these people in their need.)

Say: "The children of Israel, God's chosen people, also had a great need. They lived in slavery in Egypt, and those who were in charge of them mistreated them badly. In God's perfect time he called Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage to go to the Promised Land.

"You would get a blessing if you would read the whole story in the first 15 chapters of Exodus. Perhaps you could begin to do this in your quiet time with God each day."

EXAMINATION

Say: "Moses made many excuses when God called him. He thought he could not do what God told him to do, but God promised to be with him. Turn to Exodus 4:1-10 to see what those excuses were and what God said about them." Let students tell about this in their own words.

Continue: "Moses' courage grew as he began his work and saw that God really was with him. His brother, Aaron, was his helper and his spokesman, like God had promised. They went to the Pharaoh and told him what God had said."

Ask: "Did the Pharaoh let the people go?" (Exodus 5:1-8) "What did he do?" (Exodus 5:7)

Ask: "What did the children of Israel think about this?" (Exodus 5:21)

Ask: "Moses went back to God with the problem, and God made many promises in Exodus 6:1, 6-8. What are they?"

Say: "The troubles continued for the Israelites, and the Pharaoh refused to let them go. Finally God brought plagues upon the Egyptian people. Look in Exodus 7-11, and name some of the plagues."

Ask: "What finally caused the Pharaoh to let the people leave?" (Exodus 12)

APPLICATION

Say: "God is a wonderful, merciful and just God. He does not ever forget his people. He does not ever forget his promises to them.

"God promised to deliver all people from Satan's bondage, and he did it through his Son, Jesus. Please turn to Colossians 1:13-14." Have someone read those verses.

Say: "God chose Moses, he kept him safe and he prepared him for his work. God also chose you for a special job, and he will keep you and prepare you for it. Please look at Philippians 1:6." One should read this verse.

Say: "People often get impatient for their troubles to be over very soon. They are not willing to wait until God has taught them what they need to learn. This was true in Egypt, and it is true today. God teaches us that he will be with us through all we do. We must learn to have faith in him and to wait patiently for his perfect time. Please turn to Isaiah 40:31. Who will read that to us?"

Say: "The Lord is always with us. He goes before us and prepares our way. He will never fail us. May he help us to wait patiently for him."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that you and your students will be willing to wait upon the Lord.
2. Commit yourself to him to use you as he wants. Pray that your students will also do this.

CHAPTER FOUR WILDERNESS WANDERINGS

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:2-3; 17:2; Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 25 - 14:2, 11

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Exodus 16:2-3; 17:2; Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 25 - 14:2, 11

MEMORY VERSE: "The righteous shall possess the land, and dwell upon it for ever" (Psalms 37:29).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that they must keep their faith in God to enjoy his blessings.

TEACHING AIDS: Try to bring a road map (of any country) to class.

BACKGROUND STUDY

God had promised Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation, that the land of Canaan would be his and his descendant's. See Genesis 13:15. When the people had to leave that land because of famine, they went to Egypt. They became slaves there to the Pharaoh, but God delivered them from that bondage. He used Moses to lead them out of bondage.

When the people got out of Egypt, they started toward Canaan. They were about 600,000 men. A pillar of cloud went before them in the day time to lead them. At night a pillar of fire gave them light so they could travel day and night. (Exodus 13:21-22)

They went as far as the Red Sea where they set up camp. They saw mountains to the left and the right, and the sea was ahead of them. Then the Pharaoh hardened his heart and decided to go after them. When the Israelites saw the Pharaoh's army coming, they became very afraid. They complained to God and to Moses, but God promised to work for them. Read Exodus 14:10-31 about the crossing of the Red Sea.

Even after this miracle, the troubles of the Israelites were not over. Read Exodus 33. They still failed to trust God.

The people soon realized they missed some things they had had in Egypt. When they came to the wilderness, there was no water. On their fourth day they came to the waters of Marah, but the water was bitter. They complained to Moses, and God showed him a tree. Moses threw the tree in the water, and the water became sweet. (Exodus 15:22-25)

Later they came to the wilderness of Sin, and they had no food. The people murmured again, and the Lord provided them bread in the mornings and in the evenings they had the flesh of quails. This interesting story is in Exodus 16.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask a student to read the Introduction from his book.

Say: "We can understand why Thomas was walking through the forest, but why were the children of Israel wandering in the desert?" Let the students recall some of the previous chapters so they know the children of Israel had not trusted God. They had complained and doubted every time they came to a difficult situation. They had seen God's great work for them, and they had God's promises but they could not seem to believe him.

EXAMINATION

Say: "God provided everything his people needed, and yet they complained and doubted him. He led them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. He gave them water and made it sweet for them to drink. When they needed food, God provided bread and quails. In Exodus 17:1-6 we see the people needing water again, and God provided water from a rock." Read those verses.

Say: "The people, however, had lost confidence in God's leadership and his care, and so they wandered in the wilderness. The journey would have been very short, but they had spent forty years and were not in the Promised Land yet.

"Finally they camped in the wilderness of Paran. The Lord told Moses to send men to spy out the land of Canaan." Tell the students to turn to Numbers 13.

Continue: "God said Moses should send 12 men, one from each of the tribes, so they could see what the land was like. Moses gave them their instructions, and he told them to bring some of the fruit of the land so all the people could see." Have a student read Numbers 13:17-20. Now have the students look in that chapter and find out what report they spys brought back.

Say: "The spys returned after 40 days, and all agreed that it was a land flowing with milk and honey. They even brought some of the fruit, which was very nice indeed. But the men agreed that the people were very large. Their cities were well guarded. Ten of the men said they would never be able to take the land. But there were two spys named Joshua and Caleb. These two men remembered God's promises. They remembered that God had done wonderful things for them, and they had faith that he would help them take the land. They tried to convince the people, but they were not able to do so.

"Because of the doubt of God's chosen people, God decided they would not be allowed to go into the Promised Land. They had to return to the wilderness. Those who were children would go in some day, but the parents would die in the wilderness. The two spys who had faith would be allowed to go in and lead the children after their parents were gone."

APPLICATION

Say: "It is easy for us to see the mistakes of the children of Israel. God had blessed them so much, but they did not have faith in him."

Ask: "Is it as easy for us to see our own sin?" (Do not wait for answers.)

Continue: "We have experienced God's blessings many times. He has provided all we need, but do we sometimes complain and doubt instead of trusting and having faith in him? We even have the extra blessing the Israelites did not have. We have the Bible to tell us how God has provided for his own in the past. We have his promise that he never changes, so he will provide for us too.

"Joshua and Caleb were the only spics who gave the correct report about Canaan. They did not deny that the people were big. They admitted that the cities were well protected, but they knew God could lead them to conquer the land.

"The other 10 spys gave a report that lacked courage. They led the people to be weak and doubt God. Because of their report, the people suffered, and they did not get to live in the Promised Land."

Ask: "Do you want to give courage or doubts to other people?" (Do not wait for answers.)

Say: "Sometimes you will be able to encourage other people by your faith. Ask God to help you be a blessing to other people who are watching your life. Ask him to increase your faith."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Thank God for the opportunity to teach this lesson, and ask him to help you encourage your students to have greater faith.
2. Pray that you will always be trustworthy before him and other people.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE LAW OF THE PROMISED LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Exodus 20:1-25

MEMORY VERSE: "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that the law of God was written to help people obey him.

TEACHING AIDS: Chalk board or a large paper

BACKGROUND STUDY

Exodus is one of the books of the law. As you study this lesson, you will learn that God helped his people with written words to know what obedience to him really is. God had to write it for his people. He had seen how disobedient they were, so he began to state clearly what obedience to him really is.

The book of Exodus was written by Moses. Exodus means "a going out." It tells about the children of Israel as they were on their way to the Promised Land from Egypt. Moses was their leader.

In Exodus we can also read about God's call to Moses, the hard times of God's chosen people and the wonderful way God led them out of bondage. God led them out of Egypt by many miracles, but they failed to trust him and obey him along the way to the Promised Land. Their sin continued, and God knew he had to give them some laws. The laws would not stop their sin, but they would help them know what they could or could not do. God gave his people the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 19 shows the what the people had to do to prepare to receive the laws. God himself spoke his laws, which shows their authority and helps us know they are for all people of all times. They are a guide to holiness. God is not happy with those people who displease him by breaking his laws.

First God gave four laws which show how a person should relate to him. The last six laws show men how to relate to one another.

In this lesson we will look at the laws of God and see what he expects us to do. Obedience to God's laws is necessary for the Christian. When a person becomes a new Christian, he receives the Holy Spirit. He helps that one obey God. The Holy Spirit brings an awareness of God which keeps the faith of the Christian strong.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "What laws were given to the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai?" Write the words, The Ten Commandments, on the chalkboard or paper.

Ask: "What was the position of the Israelites at the end of the chapter we studied the last time we met? Where were they?" If students are not able to answer, let them look back in their books to see what the answer is.

Ask: "Was God pleased with his chosen people?" (No, he was disappointed because they did not trust him.)

Say: "Let us see what God did about the sin of his people at this time."

EXAMINATION

Say: "God saw his people getting very far away from him. They were sinning against him and against each other. They were living according to their own wishes instead of doing his will. God knew he must give them his written law.

"God called his servant, Moses, and told him to bring the people together at the foot of Mount Sinai. God told Moses and Aaron to go up on the mountain, but the people were not allowed to with them. They gathered at the foot of the mountain. They were able to hear God's voice, but they could not see him.

"God spoke his laws and wrote them on stone tablets for the people to have. These written laws would show the people how God wanted them to live. They would always know what they should do to please him. Let us read those laws together from Exodus 20:1-17." Have students read these verses.

Say: "You will notice that the first four Commandments tell man how to act toward God. The first thing we learn is that God is supreme. Man should have no other gods before him."

Ask: "What are some other gods people have in their lives today?" (Let students answer. They should include money, jobs, education and family.)

Say: "God says these things should not be more important than he is in any person's life. Second, God said men should not make graven images to worship. No idol or image deserves any worship. It is sin to do so.

"God said thirdly that man should honour his name. He should not use the Lord's name except in great respect.

"Next, God told his people how to observe the Lord's day, the sabbath. We observe this day on Sunday. It is a day which is different from all other days of the week. It is a day of worship and rest.

“The last six commandments tell man about his responsibility to other men. God expects total obedience of his laws. The first law talks about a person’s responsibility to his parents. This commandment has a promise in it. What is that promise?”
(that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you)

Say: “Next, it says men shall not kill. Jesus had something to say about this verse. Please turn to Matthew 5:21-22. Who will read that for us?” Wait for reading and any discussion.

Say: “The next commandment has to do with adultery. Let us see what Jesus said about that one also. Look at Matthew 5:27-28.” Have one read that verse.

Say: “The next law prohibits stealing. We can understand some of this, but have you thought about stealing someone’s good name by saying bad things about him? What about taking a small thing like a pencil or pen from someone who has many of them? Can God let that pass by as if he had not seen it?”

“The next commandment speaks about telling lies. God expects his children to wrap themselves in truth.” Read Ephesians 6:14. There is no place in the Christian life for lies.”

“Lastly, we are not ever to want or covet something that belongs to someone else. We must be happy that they have it.”

APPLICATION

Ask: “Is it easy to break God’s law?”

Ask: “How can we avoid breaking the law of God?” Again allow time for discussion. Lead your students to see that they must obey God by claiming his promises and seeing that he is faithful. They need to read God’s Word to know what he expects of them.

Say: “The Christian also has a special blessing in the Holy Spirit. He comes to live in every person who accepts Jesus as Saviour. The Holy Spirit stays with each believer and helps him know what is right and what is wrong. He is a constant companion and counsellor. God provided the Holy Spirit to help us obey him. Will you acknowledge him today and ask him to help you live by God’s laws?”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that each student will understand that the law of God applies to us today.
2. Pray that non-Christians will accept Jesus as their Saviour during this study.
3. Pray that the Word of God will be heard around the world today.

CHAPTER SIX WINNING THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Joshua 5:1, 6-7, 10; 6:1-20

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Joshua 5:1, 6-7, 10; 6:1-20

MEMORY VERSE: "...But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain" (Isaiah 57:13b).

LESSON AIM: I will help the students to learn that they need to obey God in order to have victory in life.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

The book of Joshua tells how Joshua led Israel to fight and conquer Canaan, the Promised Land. The Israelites had stayed in the wilderness 40 years so all the rebellious generation would die. That generation did not trust God's promises. God wanted a new generation to inherit the land he had promised their fathers. (Joshua 5:6-7)

Joshua 5:1: The Israelites had come to Jordan and were camping at Gilgal, on the Eastern border of Jericho. All the kings of the Amorites and of the Canaanites were scared of the Israelites. They had heard how God had dried up the waters of the Jordan River for them to cross over. They knew it was impossible for them to fight against the Lord God.

The Israelites had to perform two rituals as preparation for conquering the land. God commanded Joshua to circumcise all the Jewish males. They had not been circumcised because they had spent their lives wandering in the wilderness. Next, they observed the Passover feast to remember how God saved them from bondage in Egypt.

Why did they have to do all this? God wanted them to be prepared spiritually. They needed to know that God was the power behind them. Now the Israelites stood as the people of God. God assured them of success if they were faithful to him.

Joshua 6:1-7 says the city of Jericho was shut from the inside and the outside because of the Israelites. It was a fortress for the Canaanites, but the Israelites had to conquer it before moving forward.

The Lord promised Joshua victory. He said he had already given Jericho and all its inhabitants into his hands. God told Joshua how to capture the city. He gave him a battle strategy that was unusual. They must march around the city while blowing their trumpets! God was ready to show the Israelites his power.

In verses 8-16 we see that Joshua instructed the people of Israel in all the Lord had commanded him. He took the seven priests, the seven trumpets and the ark of the covenant. He took the armed men and the guard and all went marching around the city of Jericho once daily. They rose very early on the seventh day and went around seven times. The priests blew their

trumpets loud on the seventh time, and Joshua told the people, "...Shout for the Lord has given you the city" (Joshua 6:16). Only destruction followed their shout.

The city walls fell! The people of Israel went into the city and destroyed everything with their swords. Nobody, not even the animals, survived except Rahab, the harlot, who hid the messengers that were sent to spy out Jericho. The people of Israel gathered the silver, gold and the vessels of brass and iron to take to "...the treasury of the Lord" (verse 19). God considered these things to be sacred and valuable.

Verse 20 says the shout caused the city walls to fall flat. The Israelites went in and took the city. God did not fail the Israelites. He kept his promise and helped them win the land.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "How did God show his power to the Israelites when they reached the Jordan River? How did this affect the kings of the Canaanites?" Give the students time to discuss. Help them explain what happened.

Ask: "What does it mean to obey God's commands? What are some of the commands God has given us?" Give time for answers.

Have a student tell or read the Introduction story in their books.

Ask: "How were Jacob and John able to win the marathon race?" Someone should say they obeyed their coach's instructions. They prepared early enough to be fit on the day of competition. They were also determined to win.

Say: "Today we will study about how the Israelites had victory after obeying God's commands. They followed God's instructions, and he granted them success. Let us now turn to the book of Joshua."

EXAMINATION

Say: "God used Joshua to lead the Israelites to conquer Canaan. They needed to be faithful and obedient to God to have victory.

"God had already weakened the Canaanites by fear. How did this happen?" (Joshua 5:1) Ask if the students if they would be afraid to fight an enemy God had led through a river on dry ground.

"The Israelites had to prepare for this special work of God in their lives. He told Joshua to circumcise all the males. This had not been done because they had lived all their lives wandering in the wilderness. They also observed the Passover. Why?" (The people needed spiritual preparation in order to claim God's power and leadership.) "Then they stood as God's people after recommitting themselves to God.

“God tested the obedience and trust of his people by giving them an unusual way of fighting. He wanted to see if the Israelites were taking refuge in him. There was no doubt that they were to possess and inherit the land. God had promised it to their fathers, but obedience was the key to their victory.

“God had helped Israel ever since they came from Egypt. He had helped them prepare for the conquest. He had told them about the weapons to use. Victory was theirs if they would trust him. God had sent them the ‘...commander of the army of the Lord...’ (Joshua 5:14) to go before them.”

Ask: “Who gave the victory and the inheritance of the land?” (It was the Lord because of their obedience to him.)

APPLICATION

Say: “The Israelites had victory because they obeyed God. They trusted God’s power to give them the victory. Their battle to conquer Jericho was a big test to their faith. They did not go to war with swords and spears, but only by blowing the trumpets and shouting.

“Christians today are able to defeat the powers of Satan through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. It is through faith that Christians understand God and his Word. Through faith they understand how God works in their lives. Because of faith they do not feel ashamed to call God their Father.

“God has a plan for you. He wants you to claim it by faith and obedience.”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Ask God to show you his plan for your life.
2. Thank God for the many promises he has made to us. Ask him to help you and your students to claim them.
3. Ask God to help your students follow his plan for their lives. Ask him to enable them to be willing to trust and obey him.

CHAPTER SEVEN LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY IN THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 7

VERSES IN TODAY’S LESSON: 1 Samuel 7

MEMORY VERSE: “...And they said, ‘All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient’” (Exodus 24:7b).

LESSON AIM: I will teach the students that God rewards our faithfulness when we obey him.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

The Israelites were now living in the Promised Land. God had helped them conquer the nations that lived there. Now Canaan was their property as God had promised.

The Canaanites worshipped other gods, but God had commanded his children, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Now, however, they were being influenced by the Canaanites' gods. They started drifting from God. God, being a jealous God, made them suffer so they would turn back to him.

First Samuel 7:1-2 tells how the Israelites received the ark of the Lord after it had been with the Philistines for seven months. The Philistines had captured it after defeating the Israelites in war. Although the Israelites kept it for twenty years, they still cried to the Lord. Life was not as they expected.

The Israelites desired to honour God by living righteously. They knew this was God's plan for them. He wanted Israel to be an example to others. They were to obey him, trust him and follow his directions. Their lives could show God to other nations only if they did these things. In verses 3-4, Samuel told the people to rededicate themselves to God. They had to renew their covenant with God. He told Israel to direct their hearts to the Lord and serve him. Israel did exactly that! They turned to the Lord with all their hearts, minds and souls.

God had called Moses on Mt. Sinai and given him laws to guide the Israelites. They had often been reminded that God wanted their obedience. Their success as a nation would depend on their obedience and faithfulness to God.

"Then Samuel said, 'Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you'" (1 Samuel 7:5). The people responded to Samuel's call. They realized their sins and asked for forgiveness. They fasted and poured out their hearts to God. Samuel was ready to lead the people in a prayer of confession and petition. He gave a burnt offering to the Lord and led them to commit themselves to serving the Lord alone. He helped them become right with God.

In verses 8-10 we see that the Israelites depended on the Lord God for deliverance. They realized that only he could save them. Their cry to Samuel showed their willingness to follow and listen to him.

In 2 Samuel 6:5, 12-15 we see how David led the Israelites later on in worshipping God. He led the house of Israel in songs, playing the lyres, harps and symbols. Read verse 17. David was determined to lead Israel in worshipping God alone. They danced before the Lord, shouted and sounded the horn as they brought the ark of the Lord into the city of David.

The Israelites obeyed God, and God was faithful to them. He protected and blessed them by giving them victory over their enemies.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Have a student read the Introduction from the student's book.

Ask: "How did the life of James affect Peter and Joseph?" Someone should say he showed a totally changed life. They saw that he was different from them.

Ask: "What can we learn from him?" (We learn that others should be able to see a difference in our words and deeds.)

Say: "People could see James living what he professed to be. His commitment to God influenced those who saw him. He was trying to be and to walk like Christ."

EXAMINATION

Say: "When the Israelites saw they were drifting from God, they wanted to return to him. They had forgotten to be faithful and to worship God alone.

"First Samuel 7:3-4 says Samuel called the people to rededicate themselves to God. They had to renew their covenant with God. He told them to put away the false gods and serve the Lord God only."

Ask: "Did the people turn to God?" Read verse 4.

Say: "Samuel gathered the people at Mizpah and led them in a prayer of confession and petition. They fasted and poured water out before the Lord. This symbolized their sins and desire for forgiveness.

Ask: "How did God acknowledge their righteousness?" (verses 10-11)

Say: "God was pleased with them. He protected them and gave them victory against their enemies. He gave them peace and blessed them. God was faithful to them. The Israelites built more altars to the Lord at Gilgal and Bethel. They wanted to have a place where they could meet to offer sacrifices and worship God. They aimed at obeying God as their Lord."

APPLICATION

Say: "Israel was regarded as God's nation, but they began to worship the gods of the land where they lived. God used Samuel to help them 'return unto the Lord.'

Ask: "What things do Christians worship today?" Let students name as many as possible. (money, wealth, cars, education, honour, etc.)

Say: "We may say God is our God while we actually worship other things. We must choose between worshipping God and things. God punishes men when they sin. But also he blesses them when they trust and obey him. God leads us in prayer and worship. He is with us personally and guides us in all we do.

"Learning Scripture verses can help us live righteously. How can this be?" Ask a student to read Psalms 119:9-11.

Say: "We can resist the devil's temptation by using God's Word that is in our hearts. Everyone who belongs to God is expected to obey him. We cannot obey only a part of God's command. We need to obey all. Everything!"

"Christians need God. We need his presence and guidance in our lives. We need to worship him daily. He will give us strength and knowledge to follow him.

"A Christian should learn to resist temptation through prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other believers and witnessing for Christ. We should be what God wants us to be. Salvation in Jesus should be our most valuable possession."

Ask: "What does Romans 12:1 tell us to do?" Have a student read this verse.

Say: "Being righteous is not a one-time event. It is something to do daily. We need to worship God everyday of our lives. Then we can live in fellowship with him. Then God will reward us for our faithfulness."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Ask God to help you and your students worship him in Spirit and truth.
2. Pray for your students to offer themselves to God as a living sacrifice. Pray that they will be willing to obey God.

CHAPTER EIGHT LIVING WICKEDLY IN THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Judges 13-16

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Judges 15; 16:1

MEMORY VERSE: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalms 51:10).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that disobedience to God brings punishment.

TEACHING AIDS: Chalk board and chalk

BACKGROUND STUDY

Samson's birth was miraculous. God removed barrenness from Manoah's wife, and she bore a son, Samson. He was to be a Nazirite. He was dedicated to God so his life would be different. As a Nazirite he was not to cut his hair, drink any wine or strong drink or touch anything dead. He was to live a righteous life before God. He was to follow and serve God. The Lord blessed him and the Spirit of the Lord was with him. Read Judges 13.

But as Samson grew, he began to forget God. He became the opposite of a Nazirite. He lived by his own desires. In Judges 14 we see that Samson's heart was filled with earthly love. He went to Timnah, a Philistine city, and fell in love with a Philistine woman. Was this right for him as a Nazirite or as an Israelite?

God had warned them against foreigners. They did not worship Yahweh, the true God. They were idolatrous. Their lifestyle would influence the Israelites, but Samson turned his ears from God. He ignored God. He told his father and mother, "...I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah; now get her for me as my wife" (Judges 14:2).

This was not God's plan for Samson. It was his own desire to be yoked with a non-believer. His marriage did not succeed. He ended up losing her!

God knew Samson's heart, but he was still ready to use him. Samson's sins, however, kept God from using him completely. He did not ever think of repenting!

Judges 15:1-8 tells how Samson received the news that his wife had been given to his friend. Samson did not take this problem to God. He acted his own way. He caught three hundred foxes, tied them in pairs, lit a torch and put it between their tails. He let them go in the Philistines grain fields burning everything.

The Philistines were angry and wanted revenge. They burned up his wife and her father with all their property. When Samson heard what had happened, he killed many Philistines, then he hid in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

The Philistines followed him wanting to capture him, but Samson was filled with the Spirit of the Lord. He killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone. God saved him from dying by giving him water. Read Judges 15:9-19.

Ignoring God in our lives leads into problems. Samson, a man of God and a Nazirite, put himself first instead of God. He followed his own desires and did not let God lead him. He failed to deliver the Israelites from their enemies.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "Did Anna, in the Introduction in your books, follow the recipe for preparing each food? Why did she not follow them when she had learned to use recipes? What happened?"

Ask: "Is it easy for you to follow your parents' and teachers' advice?" Ask why or why not? Write the answers on chalk board.

Say: "Likewise we cannot follow God in our own strength. Samson accepted God, but he did not let him control his life. He was faced with problems that kept him from doing God's work. Let us study about him now."

EXAMINATION

Say: "Samson could have done great works for God if he had not chosen to follow his own desires. God had planned his birth and said Samson would be a Nazirite. But Samson thought his own desires were better than God's way.

"Judges 14 says Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman. He went to his family and told them to get her for his wife. They were shocked. There were many Israelite women that Samson could marry, but he chose her without asking God.

Ask: "What happened when Samson visited his wife's home? Why did the marriage fail?" Have a student read Judges 15:1-2.

Say: "In verses 9-19 we are told that there was war between Samson and the Philistines. The Philistines thought they were fighting for their rights. Samson sought revenge for their evil deeds against him. God often rescued him, but Samson did not acknowledge the Lord's help. He thought God would help him regardless of his deeds because he was an Israelite.

"Disaster followed every move he made. He did not succeed because he ignored God. He thought his own desires were better than God's way."

APPLICATION

Say: "God's laws would have made Samson a great blessing to his people, but he chose to compromise with sin. Sin hinders our witness as Christians. We are all sinners, but God offers us forgiveness and a new beginning if we will ask him. God will use us when we choose to follow him."

Ask: "Could Samson succeed without God's help? Can Christians succeed without God?"

Say: "God knows each of us by name. He knows all our thoughts and deeds. He knows if we are really following him. God wants to use us to do the work he has given us. He wants us to tell lost people about him. We will do this only when we follow him.

Ask: "Whom should we follow as Christians? What must we do?"

Say: "Luke 9:23 answers that. We have to deny ourselves and follow Jesus daily, not just once per week, but daily. Then we can grow in our Christian life.

"An athlete cannot be crowned unless he competes according to rules. So it is with Christians. God cannot honour and bless you unless you follow him in truth. Love God, obey him and he will crown you with eternal life.

"Jesus wants us to show that we love him by keeping his commandments. He does not want us to do things from selfishness or conceit, but in humility. We should count others better than ourselves.

"The Christian life is not always easy. There are trials and temptations, but Jesus will help those who depend on him. We will only succeed if we give Christ the first place in our life."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that you will acknowledge God's leadership in your life.
2. Ask God to fill you with his Spirit and direct you in all truth.
3. Ask God to reveal your abilities to you so you can serve him better.

CHAPTER NINE

THE PEOPLE'S KING

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 8-9

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 8:1-10, 19-22

MEMORY VERSE: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

LESSON AIM: I will help my students learn to follow God's choice in their lives.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

In chapter eight we saw how the Israelites stopped following God. They turned to follow their own desires and made their decisions alone. Samuel was an old man by then. He made his two sons judges over Israel, but they became evil. They took bribes and did not give justice. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3.

Verses 4-5 tell how the elders of Israel went to Samuel with a demand. These elders were those who represented Israel. They wanted a change. They gave two reasons for their demand, Samuel's age and the corruptness of his sons.

Samuel was respected but his sons were not. They were the opposite of their father. They were greedy and accepted bribes, and they were unfair as judges. In fact the elders did not trust Samuel's sons as judges.

They said, "...Behold you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint for us a king to govern us like all the nations" (verse 5).

The people wanted a king! Why? They said Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways, they wanted someone who could judge them fairly and they wanted to be like the other nations. The people said they were concerned with the security of their nation. They wanted a king to bring justice among them and guide them in battles. They thought a king would make their nation stronger.

Read verses 6-9. Samuel did not want Israel to have a king. He felt that they were rejecting God. They had to depend only on God. He was their King! Samuel also thought they were rejecting him and his work. Samuel told God about the elders' demand, and God told Samuel to do what the people asked. He explained to him clearly whom they were rejecting. It was not Samuel; they were rejecting God himself. They had left God, their true king. But God told Samuel to warn them about the ways of a king. Read 1 Samuel 8:11-18 to find out the ways of the king the people wanted to rule them.

Verse 19 tells us that when Samuel explained to the people about the ways of a king, they rejected his appeal. They were determined to have a king no matter what! They understood Samuel well, but they just could not agree with him. They wanted a king, and they would have to live with their decision.

The Lord told Samuel to grant the people's request. The people went home after Samuel assured them that he would give them a king.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "Do you always find it easy to ask other people's advice before doing something? Name some things you would want advice before beginning?" Allow time for discussion. If students are slow to begin, suggest building a house, installing electricity, medical problems, etc.

Ask: "Who would you consult for that advice?"

Say: "Sometimes Christians forget to get advice in decision making. Sometimes they do not heed the advice they are given. The Israelites were no exceptions. They were God's people, but they failed to seek his advice. They made their own decisions and insisted on their own ways. God let them do as they wished."

EXAMINATION

Teacher, use your Background Study to explain how the elders came to Samuel with their demand for a king. Tell why they said they wanted a king. Have a student read 1 Samuel 8:5.

Say: "Israel wanted a king! They did not think of God as their heavenly King. They believed an earthly king would be best for them. They wanted to be like other nations!"

Ask: "What did Samuel think when he heard the elders' demand?"

Ask: "From whom did Samuel seek help?" (God)

Ask: "What did the Lord tell Samuel? Whom were the people rejecting?" Give time for answers to each question. Add information as necessary.

Say: "God had done a lot for Israel, but they thought an earthly king would serve them better. God did not refuse their demand. He told Samuel to get them a king. Life was not going to be easy for them. They would suffer the loss of much of their property, their sons and daughters." Read verse 19.

APPLICATION

Say: "Many Christians reject God as the Israelites did. How can people reject God today? (by refusing to accept him, by doubting him, by doing things their way, by failing to witness for him or failing to pray and read his Word)

“Sometimes Christians insist on something that is not God’s will, and God allows it to happen. Then they must suffer because of that bad choice.

“How can we avoid that experience? We should seek God’s will in all we do. We are his children. He gave us life, and we must use it to serve him. We must live for him. Nothing is too small for us to take to him. Nothing is too large for him.

“We should not choose from our own desires. We should not choose to please our friends. We should make choices that are acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. God will bless us when we follow him and his ways.

“The people failed to listen to the warnings of Samuel about a king although Samuel was God’s spokesman to them. Christians should be quick to listen to God’s warnings. We should not do things because other people do them. We should imitate Christ, walk like him and live like him. In doing this we will be witnessing for Christ.

“We must ask God to guide us. He might send someone to help us. He might use his Word, the Bible. He might give us the answer as we pray. God can use many ways to show us his will.

“God should control our choices. He has chosen you for a purpose. You need to choose to let him do his will in your life.”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Ask God to help your students seek his way in their lives.
2. Pray that they will depend on God’s guidance and leadership.
3. Ask God to help you be a good example to your students as a Christian.

CHAPTER TEN GOD’S KING

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16; 18; 21; 23

VERSES IN TODAY’S LESSON: 1 Samuel 16:1, 7, 10-13

MEMORY VERSE: “...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

LESSON AIM: I will encourage my students to let God make their choices.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

God accepted Saul as the first king of Israel. He was with him and protected him as he ruled over Israel, but Saul began to drift from God's way. He rejected God and followed his own desires. Finally, God rejected him as king and made his own choice. He knew there was a faithful man in the household of Jesse. He was God's choice for a king.

Samuel had anointed Saul and loved him because he was king. He also feared for the kingdom of Israel. All this made Samuel grieve. In 1 Samuel 16:1, God told Samuel to stop grieving for Saul. God did not want Israel to fall, so he planned to anoint a new king. God told Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem to Jesse's home.

The anointing was an outward sign that something or someone was being set apart for a special purpose. The Pharaohs of Egypt were anointed. Priests and prophets were anointed in Israel.

God told Samuel where to go and whom to see. Samuel did not know which of Jesse's sons he would anoint, but God promised to show him. Samuel was afraid Saul might kill him if he learned about his mission. God told Samuel to take a calf and go sacrifice in Bethlehem and to invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. Samuel obeyed God. God enabled Samuel to know exactly what to do.

We read in verse 7 that Jesse's sons passed before Samuel during the sacrifice. When Samuel saw Eliab, the first son, he thought God had chosen him. Eliab was big, strong and had a good appearance. But God told Samuel that Eliab was not the one. God knew his heart. He reminded Samuel that "...the Lord sees not as man sees..." God looks at a man's heart, not his outward appearance.

First Samuel 16:10-13 says seven of Jesse's sons passed by Samuel, but none was chosen. Samuel asked Jesse if he had other sons. Jesse told him the youngest was tending the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for him. A young, healthy, handsome boy called David arrived. God said David was his choice. God's choice changed David's life. The future king stood before Samuel. Samuel anointed David with oil while his family watched.

Verse 13 says, "...and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day..."

The sign of David's acceptance by God was his being filled with the Spirit of the Lord. He was now prepared to be God's servant. The Lord guided David from that day onward. God made the right choice for his people.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

If everyone has not read the Introduction in their books, have one read it.

Ask: "Why did Paul think he could not do what the pastor asked him? What happened when he tried to do it?"

Say: "Many times fear makes us hinder God from using us. We think we cannot do something before we try it. Turn to 1 Samuel 16. David did not know he had the qualities of a king. God revealed this to him when he accepted his new responsibility. He let God transform and equip him for a great work. David would not have known about his ability and gifts if he had refused Samuel's anointing. But he accepted it without questioning."

Ask: "Do you ever question God's message before accepting and acting on it?"

EXAMINATION

Say: "Saul had been king of Israel, but he failed in his job. He rejected God, and so God rejected him. Samuel grieved for him. He was the one who had anointed him as king. They had been together for a long time. Samuel grieved over his fall.

"God told Samuel to stop grieving for Saul. He had rejected him. He was not fit to be the king. God told Samuel to go to Jesse's home in Bethlehem and anoint one of his sons as the new king. God had chosen a king for his people."

Ask: "Did Samuel know which of Jesse's sons he would anoint? How did he find out who was chosen?" (The answer is in 1 Samuel 16:6-13.)

Say: "God had already prepared everything. He only wanted to use Samuel to confirm his choice. He knew David's heart. He had the characteristics of being a leader, a king. David did not know God's plan for his life, but he was willing to follow God's directions. He accepted his new responsibility without question.

"God was pleased with David. He blessed him and filled him with his Spirit. He never left him alone. He guided him from then on."

APPLICATION

Say: "Why was Saul chosen and finally rejected? Saul did not use his opportunity well. He used his position to glorify himself instead of God. He failed to obey and fulfil God's plan."

Ask: "What happens when Christians fail to obey God? What kind of picture do they show to other believers or non-believers? Does God punish them?" Give the students time to respond.

Say: "God hates disobedience and dishonesty. He does not spare those who use their positions for personal gain. He wants to use us in his plan for his glory.

"God chooses people even today. He wants us to do the work he gives us. When we disobey him he chooses someone else to take our place. All Christians belong to God. We have been called to be Christ's servants in whatever we do.

"The Holy Spirit changed David's life. This is true for people today. The Spirit in us shows the presence of Christ in our lives. This presence gives us power. We begin to do things we could not have done when we give our lives to Christ. It is not we who do it, but Christ who lives in us." Read Galatians 2:20.

“You have abilities God can use in his service. You can serve in his kingdom. You can use your efforts to serve God. In the same way that God worked through David, he can work through you to touch the lives of others. You have been called to do a special work within his purpose. Will you obey him and let him change your life?”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that each student will ask God to lead in his/her life.
2. Pray for your students to be obedient to God's call.
3. Ask God to fill them with his Spirit as they accept his call to serve him.

CHAPTER ELEVEN GOD'S CONDITIONS FOR LIVING IN THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 3:7-14; 5:12; 14:5-11

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: 1 Kings 3:7-14; 5:12; 14:5-11

MEMORY VERSE: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that people suffer when their leaders are corrupt.

TEACHING AIDS: Chalk board and chalk

BACKGROUND STUDY

Israel had now occupied the Promised Land. They had prospered and lived in peace. God appointed kings who governed Israel. Some of those kings were faithful to God and others were unfaithful. Trouble came into this land because of the evil of the unfaithful kings.

In 1 Kings 3:3-4 we read of Solomon, the king who loved God. He walked in the righteousness of his father, David. Solomon sought God's leadership. He burned incense and gave sacrifices to God.

In verses 5-9, God appeared to Solomon in a dream at Gibeon, a place of worship. God asked him what he desired from him. Solomon asked for wisdom and a heart to judge the people fairly. (verse 9) Solomon did not ask for riches, prosperity or honour. God was pleased with Solomon's request. Because Solomon asked unselfishly, God agreed to grant his wish. But God also said he would give Solomon many things he did not request. Read 1 Kings 3:13-14.

First Kings 5:12 tells us that God gave Solomon wisdom. He was able to live at peace with his neighbours. Immediately Solomon began to collect materials to build a temple for God. Truly his nation prospered during his leadership. In 1 Kings 14 we find an example of an evil king. King Jeroboam did evil before the Lord. God sent his message by Ahijah, the prophet, to

Jeroboam. It was a prophecy of doom for his family and for the nation of Israel. The prophet told him their child would die and his reign would come to an end. His family would not even have proper burials at death. Jeroboam's sins affected himself, his family and the whole nation. He led people into idolatry, so they had to pay for their sins. God gave up Israel and let them suffer.

Many other kings like Rehoboam, Ahab and Joash also rebelled against God. They used their powers and kingship to bring evil to their nation. God accused them of not keeping his commandments.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Tell this story: "Peter had a successful business. His success resulted from the faithful work of Gideon, one of his employees. After many years Gideon went to Peter and asked him if he could buy shares in his company and share part of the profit.

"Peter was very angry. He accused Gideon of wanting to control the company. He thought Gideon wanted his job. He sacked his faithful employee immediately.

"Gideon went out and started his own business which soon became a big success. But Peter's business began to fail."

Ask: "What was wrong in Peter's attitude toward Gideon? What might have happened if Peter had let Gideon have shares in his company?" Let the students respond.

Say: "Today we will see what happened to Israel's kings who were faithful and those who were not faithful to God."

EXAMINATION

Have the students open their Bibles to 1 Kings 3. Have them follow the Bible verses as you, Teacher, use the Background Scripture to tell how God honoured faithful kings like Solomon. Tell also how evil kings caused Israel to suffer. You will also get help from your Background Study and the lesson in the pupils' books.

Ask: "What was God's attitude toward Solomon? How did he help him prosper? What happened to the evil kings? How did this affect the nation of Israel?" Discuss together. Write lists of Solomon's blessings and Jeroboam's punishments on the chalk board.

APPLICATION

Ask: "Does God have conditions for his people who want to please him today? Let us think about them."

Say: "This lesson shows the importance of using our opportunities to glorify God instead of ourselves.

"God has given us the potential to serve in his kingdom. He will only use this potential if we are faithful and obedient to his will. Anyone who refuses to obey him loses the opportunity to be of service.

“God holds us responsible for our actions toward our fellowman. He will only bless people who share his love and mercy with those around them. But he will destroy those who oppress their fellowman.

“God requires total commitment to him as Lord and Saviour and a reflection of his living presence.

“Solomon asked God for wisdom. God gave him wisdom and also honour, riches, prosperity and long life which he did not ask. God blessed the nation of Israel because they honoured him and were faithful to him.

“God works in our lives to bring about his purpose as we obey him. He wants us to let him lead us in making decisions about what is right or wrong. But sometimes we fail and forget to realize what God is doing in our lives. We have to choose between trusting God and trusting earthly things (knowledge, riches, power). He judges our evil and sin.

“We must acknowledge God as the only God and allow him to completely remold our lives according to his will. We must seek God’s leadership and worship him with all our hearts, minds and souls. But we should remember that suffering and punishment await those who harden their hearts in responding to God’s call.

“Our relationship to God is very costly. We must deny ourselves certain things in order to serve God wholeheartedly.”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that God will help your students be faithful to him.
2. Ask God to show you your sins so you will be able to seek his forgiveness.

CHAPTER TWELVE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 24

VERSES IN TODAY’S LESSON: 2 Kings 24

MEMORY VERSE: “...Choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

LESSON AIM: I will lead my students to realize that those who forsake God will suffer the consequences of their sins.

TEACHING AIDS: Chalk board and chalk, a Bible for each student

BACKGROUND STUDY

God loved Israel, his chosen people. He brought them out of slavery in Egypt. He took care of them in battles. He gave them land on which to live. He gave them everything they needed as they settled in their new homes. But Israel did not obey God as they should. They worshipped other Gods and lived in sin. God could not be patient any longer, so he decided to stop them and their evil.

We read in 2 Kings 24:1-7 that the kings who were chosen to rule Israel rebelled against God. Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he began to reign. He did what was evil before the Lord just like his father had done.

Jehoiakim had agreed to serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, but he only served him for three years and then rebelled against him. God had spoken through the prophets about the punishment that would fall on them. God sent neighbouring nations to destroy Israel and remove it from his sight. He could not bear their evil any more. Innocent people suffered because of the sins of Jehoiakim.

Verses 10-14 tell us that Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to attack Jerusalem. He followed them just as they were mounting the attack. King Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, was forced to surrender to the Babylonians. He was taken prisoner with everyone who served in his palace.

The treasures of the Lord's house and the king's house were taken. They cut into pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon had made, as the prophets had predicted. All valuable things and people were taken to Babylon. Only the poorest people were left behind. The Babylonian army burned the temple and the king's palace.

Verses 17-20 say Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, the new king. He changed his name to Zedekiah. As a king Zedekiah did not obey God. He also did evil before the Lord God. He did what Jehoiachin had done, and God became angry with him. God cast them from his presence. He did not protect them any more because they had rebelled against him.

Next Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. The army of Babylon came and destroyed everything in Jerusalem. They killed Zedekiah's sons before him, burnt the temple, his palace and people's homes. Everything was destroyed. It was their evil that made God bring destruction upon the nation of Israel.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Say: "This lesson tells us about the judgement Israel faced when they rebelled against God. The kings became servants of Egypt or Babylon. Israel suffered greatly, and they longed for freedom.

"Israel had returned to its old idolatrous practices. The leaders and people believed God would not destroy them because they were his chosen people. They failed to understand the consequences of their sin and the judgement it would bring. They also failed to understand the consequences of their rebellion against God."

EXAMINATION

Divide your class into two groups and tell them to answer these questions.

Group 1: "What were the sins of Jehoiakim?" (Let students find the answer in 2 Kings 23:37). "What were the characters of the kings who were appointed at this time?" Students can write these on the chalk board. "Why was Jerusalem attacked by the army of Babylon?" (Read 2 Kings 24:3.)

Group 2: "What caused Judah to be punished?" Let this group give specific evidence of Judah's rebellion. (2 Kings 24 and 25) "What will cause judgement to come to us today?" Let them also give specific evidence.

After ten minutes, call the group together to give their reports. Discuss what could be done to prevent such judgement.

Say: "Now we know why Israel was destroyed. They were unfaithful before God. God initiated their destruction as punishment for their evil."

Have members find in 2 Kings 24:3 the reason why Babylonians besieged Jerusalem. (the sins of Manasseh)

Say: "The Lord's anger brought about the final destruction of Israel. He gave them to the Babylonians."

Help the students understand that this was the beginning of the judgement that came to Israel because of their attitude of rebelling against God.

Have students read 2 Kings 24:17-20 silently to answer these questions:

1) Who was Zedekiah? (verse 17) 2) What kind of person was he? (verse 19) 3) What did he do that caused Jerusalem to be destroyed? (verses 19-20)

APPLICATION

Say: "The Israelites angered God because of their wicked ways. God was so angry with Israel that he put them out of his land. They were taken into exile.

"God's purpose for man was to have fellowship with him, but sin separated man from God. We anger God when we compromise with sin. Israel had God's laws to follow, but they rebelled against him."

Ask: "What helps us to be faithful and obedient to God?"

Say: "The Bible teaches us how to live before God. There is no other book as important as the Bible. The Bible is the tool to show us wrongs in our lives. It shows the way to correct them. The Bible is very important to us because it deals with the problems that affect people today. We can only renew our relationship with God by studying his Word.

"God's judgement will be on those who disobey and rebel against him. Romans 6:23 says, 'For the wages of sin is death....' This is God's punishment for sinful man. Those who do evil will be separated from him forever. God's plan is for man to have eternal life. He is ready to forgive our sins. We must confess our sins, ask for forgiveness and allow God to recreate his image in us.

“Christians are God’s chosen people. We have a duty to stand against evil. God has planned for us to carry out his will in the world, but first we need to let him change our lives.”

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for your students have a personal relationship with Jesus that will lead them into the kingdom of heaven.
2. Pray that they will serve him only.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN A SAVIOUR FOR THE LAND

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 8:10; Jeremiah 31:31; Isaiah 53

VERSES IN TODAY’S LESSON: Hebrews 8:10; Jeremiah 31:31; Isaiah 53

MEMORY VERSE: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that God can bring salvation and new direction in the life of any person.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

God had said through prophets that he would send a Saviour who would save man from his sins. He would pay the price of man’s sin. The Saviour would bring righteousness and judgement. He would redeem Israel. This was how God would establish his kingdom on earth.

God prepared to send his Son, Jesus, into the world. He was to be sent to the chosen people of God, Israel. God wanted to use Israel to share his blessings with the whole world, but Israel rejected God’s plan. They rejected the Saviour and continued to look for a Messiah.

Jeremiah 31:31 tells of God’s prophecy that he would make a new covenant with the house of Israel. It was necessary because they had broken the first one. This new covenant would unite the fallen Israel. All men would come to know God and fellowship together. This new covenant was to be written upon men’s hearts and minds. It was not only going to be new but also different in quality and complete. They would not obey him because they were forced by the law but because they wanted to obey him. God promised to forgive and forget their sins.

The new relationship would be bound in God’s love. In the Old Testament man obeyed God by obeying the law. But now everything would depend on God’s grace and love. The new relationship would widen man’s relationship with God.

Isaiah 53:2-5 gives a picture of the Saviour who would be sent by God. He would grow among them. He would not have any unusual marks that man would look for in him. He would be despised and rejected. He would encounter sorrow, grief and bitterness. He would be a suffering servant who would redeem man.

In verses 6-12 we see that his suffering would be a result of sin. This sin is universal. It separates and scatters men like sheep. But this is a choice of man himself. God let his Servant pay for the sins of man instead of man paying himself. His suffering would lead to his death as an offering for man's sins.

He would suffer to fulfil the plan of God. Many people would be counted righteous through God's Servant who would bear their iniquities. Evil men would be separated from good people. The Saviour would intercede for those who receive him. He would share their grief and bear their punishment.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "What is a covenant?" (an agreement between two people) "Why did God make a covenant with his chosen people? Why did God make a new covenant?"

Ask: "How did God choose to renew his relationship with us?"

Say: "God fulfilled his promise when he sent his own Son into the world. Jesus Christ, the Saviour, came as part of God's plan to redeem mankind. Sin had separated man from God, but God did not want to lose his creation. He came up with a new idea of renewing his covenant with man.

"John 3:16 tells us God loved the world to the point of sending his only Son to take the punishment for man's sin. The most important decision of man is choosing his Saviour. Many people today have not made this decision."

EXAMINATION

Have a student read Hebrews 8:10. Then ask: "Why was it necessary for God to make a new covenant with the house of Israel? What was wrong with the first covenant?"

Ask: "What was the purpose of putting his laws into their minds and writing them on their hearts?"

Say: "God has been making covenants ever since the beginning of creation. He made covenants with Abraham, Noah, Moses and many others. His main purpose was that Israel would be his people, and he would use them to reach other nations. Instead they failed to receive him and rejected him. God had to make a new plan. The only way he could reach man was by sending his Son, Jesus Christ.

"Prophets told of the coming Saviour. Look at Isaiah 53. This whole prophecy was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus. He was despised and rejected by men. He was a man of sorrow and grief. He bore the sins of the whole world. He did not say a word to defend himself when judged. He suffered and died for all mankind.

"This could not happen without God's love. It was God's love that made him send his only Son to take the place of man on the cross. Jesus brought salvation to anyone who would believe in him. All his efforts are directed toward the individual.

"Hebrews 8:10 says, '...I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts....' God wanted each person to be responsible for his own choice."

APPLICATION

Say: "The word, covenant, means an agreement between two or more people. The New Testament uses covenant to describe the relationship between God and man. God initiated everything. In the Old Testament, God's prophets told of the coming of the Saviour. This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

"Jesus changed man's relationship with God. He made it possible for Christians to communicate directly with God. He was the bridge for man to reach God.

"Ephesians 1:3-6 says God chose us before the world was created. God's plan from the time of creation was to send Christ to die so those who would believe in him could have eternal life.

"God's love for man was so great that he sent his own Son to suffer and die for us. (Read John 3:16.) Christians understand that God loves them personally. Man cannot buy salvation. Jesus paid the price. We must accept his payment to get eternal life.

"It is God who draws men to himself. He has done so through Jesus Christ. He also works through people. He uses his people to reach others. God wants all people to be saved!"

Ask: "Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour? If not, you can do so today. Christ died for you, and he will give you the strength to live for him."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Ask God to help your students trust Jesus as their Saviour.
2. Pray for the students to show God's love to those who are not Christians.