

AMO[®]
TEACHER GUIDE
AND RESOURCES

GENESIS
UNIT 2

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AND RESOURCES
GENESIS UNIT 2

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- Graphic Organizers
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- Memory Verse Cards
- Parent Prayer and Blessing Cards

Genesis Unit 2

Reading for Reasoning Overview

Lesson	Reading	Principle	Vocabulary	Memory Verse	Record	
1	Teacher: Genesis Unit 2 Overview Student: Acts 7:2-8 (NIV)	God is the Author of history and times all events in the interests of His eternal plan in Jesus Christ.	history	For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ. Ephesians 1:9, 10, Phillips Translation	Genesis 1 title page Bible Bookcase Land of the Patriarchs map study	
2	Teacher: Genesis 11:24-32 Student: Genesis 12:1-10	A divine calling requires the individual to walk by faith and not by sight.	calling		Land of the Patriarchs map study	
3	Student: Genesis 13:1-18 Teacher: Genesis 14:12-24	Without faith it is impossible to please God.	faith		Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6a	Land of the Patriarchs map study
4	Student: Genesis 15:1-10 Teacher: Genesis 15:11-21	When we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.	trust			Profile of Abraham graphic organizer
5	Teacher: Genesis 16:1-8 Student: Genesis 16:9-16	God's promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His word and His timing.	promise		Abram believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6	Profile of Hagar graphic organizer
6	Student: Genesis 17:1-10 Teacher: Genesis 17:15-22	God's covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.	covenant			Profile of Abraham graphic organizer
7	Student: Genesis 18:16-33 Teacher: Genesis 19:1-3, 15-30	The one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on others.	compromise		Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. Luke 17:33	Profile of Sarah graphic organizer
8	Student: Genesis 21:1-11 Teacher: Genesis 22:1-19	Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as we trust and obey Him.	Jehovah-jireh			Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer

Genesis Unit 2

Reading for Reasoning Overview

(continued)

Lesson	Reading	Principle	Vocabulary	Memory Verse	Record
9	Teacher: Genesis 24:1-40 Student: Genesis 24:54-67	Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.	fellowship	Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14	Profile of Isaac graphic organizer
10	Teacher: Genesis 25:1-11 Student: Genesis 25:19-34	Eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions.	inform		Profile of Esau graphic organizer
11	Student: Genesis 27:1-17 Teacher: Genesis 27:18-41	God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.	good	God works all things after the counsel of His will. Ephesians 1:11	Profile of Jacob graphic organizer
12	Student: Genesis 28:10-22 Teacher: Genesis 29:1-20	God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.	forsake		Profile of Jacob graphic organizer
13	Student: Genesis 29:21-35 Teacher: Genesis 30 select passages	That which we sow, we shall also reap.	reap	Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid ... for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6	Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer
14	Student: Genesis 31:1-17 Teacher: Genesis 31:22-29; 31:38-32:2	As Christians, we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.	reconcile		Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer
15	Teacher: Genesis 32:1-21 Student: Genesis 32:22-32	Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.	humble	For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 14:11	Profile of Jacob graphic organizer
16	Student: Genesis 33:1-17 Teacher: Genesis 35:1-21	Forgiveness opens the door for brethren to fellowship in unity.	forgiveness		Profiles of Esau and Jacob and Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizers

Lesson	Reading	Principle	Vocabulary	Memory Verse	Record
17	Student: Genesis 37:1-14 Teacher: Genesis 37:15-36	Adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.	prove	Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2, 3	Profile of Joseph graphic organizer
18	Student: Genesis 39:1-9 Teacher: Genesis 39:10-23	God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.	blessing		Purity Promise graphic organizer
19	Student: Genesis 41:1-16 Teacher: Genesis 41:25-52	The testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.	endurance	And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:4	Profile of Joseph and Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizers
20	Student: Genesis 41:53-42:9 Teacher: Genesis 42:10-28	Blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.	prosperity		Profile of Joseph graphic organizer
21	Teacher: Genesis 43:15-23, 26-30; 44:1-7, 14-21 Student: Genesis 45:1-15	In God's sovereignty, He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.	sovereignty	But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach. James 1:5	Profile of Joseph graphic organizer
22	Teacher: Genesis 46:26-47:12 Student: Genesis 48:1, 8-22	God's covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.	generation		Patriarchs' map study Profile of Joseph graphic organizer
23	Teacher: Genesis 49:1-27 Student: Genesis 49:28-33	Prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.	prophecy	God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28	Profile of Jacob graphic organizer
24	Teacher: Genesis 50:1-14 Student: Genesis 50:15-26	A sincere confession of sin should include restitution.	restitution		Profile of Joseph graphic organizer

Genesis Unit 2

Treasure Chest of Words

Words are the keys that unlock the treasure chest of ideas!



Words are the building blocks of ideas. Man cannot think without words. As Christians, we need a noble and biblical vocabulary that will guide our reasoning and decision-making, as well as our ability to communicate in the marketplace and persuade others with our words of faith, just as Jesus and the Apostle Paul did in the first century. Words are spirit, Jesus said (John 6:63). Words have the power to create or destroy (Proverbs 18:21). Through the study of the Word of God, a child's vocabulary is greatly enhanced as you, the teacher or reader, mediates the language and begins using the words to create new realities (Numbers 14:28).

Following are the Key Student Vocabulary Words from the reading lessons of Genesis Unit 2. Definitions are taken from many dictionaries. They are to be used in the curriculum by pinning the Key Word, that you have printed for each lesson, onto the Treasure Chest Bulletin Board. Leave all the words out on the bulletin board until the next lesson—the Bible reading word, the literature word, and the Christian history word. We have printed ours on cardstock, but plain paper works just as well. Use these words throughout the weeks as you speak to the children. Help build the children's thinking and reasoning skills by asking them to include these words in their conversation and as they answer questions.

Words to Treasure

"Good words are worth much and cost little."
~George Herbert

potential
noun
Anything that may be possible; the inborn capacity for coming into being.

literature
noun
Learning.
The expression of life in words of truth and beauty.

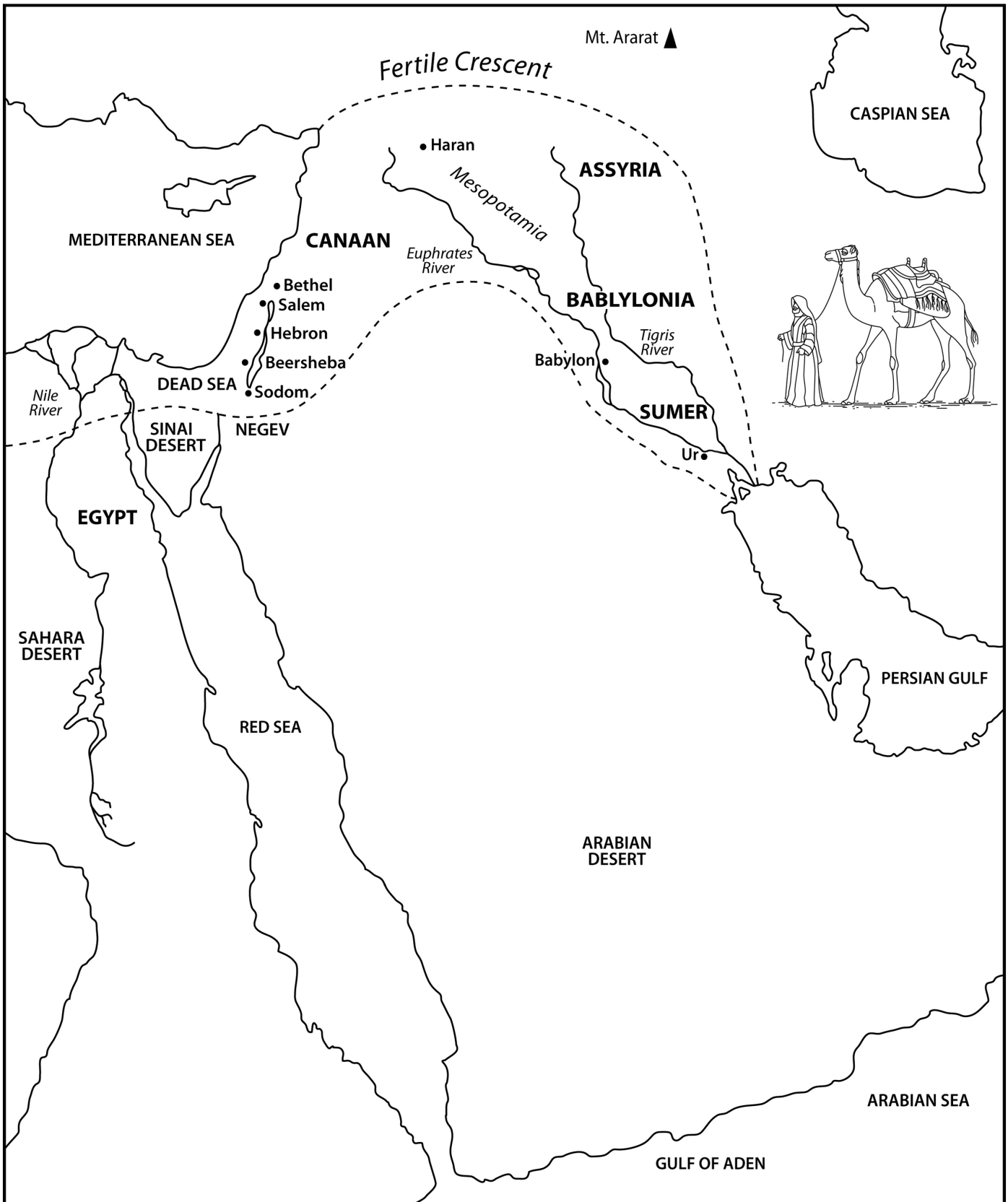
liberty
noun
Freedom from restraint or control in mind or body.

The graphic shows a treasure chest on the left with coins spilling out. Three word cards are pinned to a bulletin board background. The words are 'potential', 'literature', and 'liberty', each with its part of speech and definition.

Words to Treasure

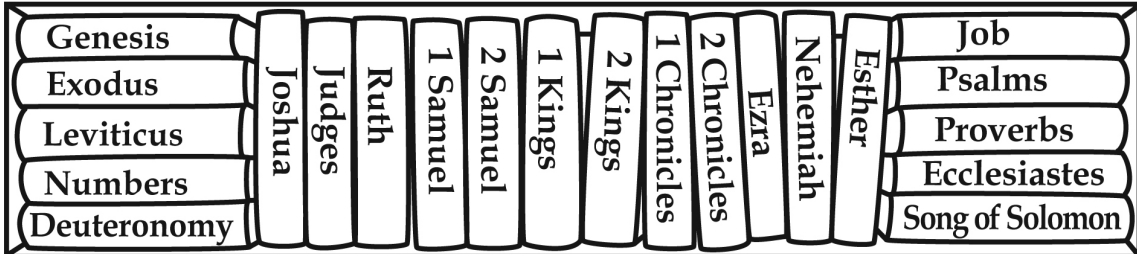
1. **history** (n.) 1) The record of God's relationship to man. 2) The arena wherein God's will expresses itself in action.
2. **calling** (n.) A divine summons or invitation; vocation.
3. **faith** (n.) The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)
4. **trust** (n.) Confidence; a resting of the mind on the character, friendship, or other sound principle of another.
5. **promise** (n.) The assurance that God has given in His Word of bestowing blessings that cannot fail His people.
6. **covenant** (n.) A solemn promise between two parties that is binding forever.
7. **compromise** (v.) To make choices that weaken your faith or beliefs; to not agree with what you previously believed.
8. **Jehovah-jireh** (n.) One of God's great names in the Bible that means "The Lord will provide."
9. **fellowship** (n.) The companionship and mutual support of individuals with similar interests and on equal terms.
10. **inform** (v.) 1) To shape or give life to. 2) To instruct; to make known before judging.
11. **good** (adj.) 1) Complete; perfect. 2) Morally virtuous.
12. **forsake** (v.) To desert or abandon altogether.
13. **reap** (v.) To receive as the fruit of one's labor or works, in a good or bad sense.
14. **reconcile** (v.) To restore friendship after a disagreement or alienation.
15. **humble** (v.) 1) To make meek and submissive to God's will. 2) To cast down pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency.
16. **forgiveness** (n.) The pardon of an offender by which he is considered and treated as not guilty.
17. **prove** (v.) To try or to test; to ascertain an unknown quality or truth.
18. **blessing** (n.) A prophetic word or prayer of welfare and happiness invoked to empower the next generation.
19. **endurance** (n.) Persistence or suffering in the face of all opposition; unwillingness to give up.
20. **prosperity** (n.) Successful progress in any enterprise; advance or gain in anything good or desirable.
21. **sovereignty** (n.) The exercise of extreme power or dominion over all.
22. **generation** (n.) 1) Children of the same parents. 2) People of the same period of time.
23. **prophecy** (n.) A declaration of something to come or advice spoken by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
24. **restitution** (n.) The act of returning or restoring to someone what is his.

Land of the Patriarchs



Bible Bookcase

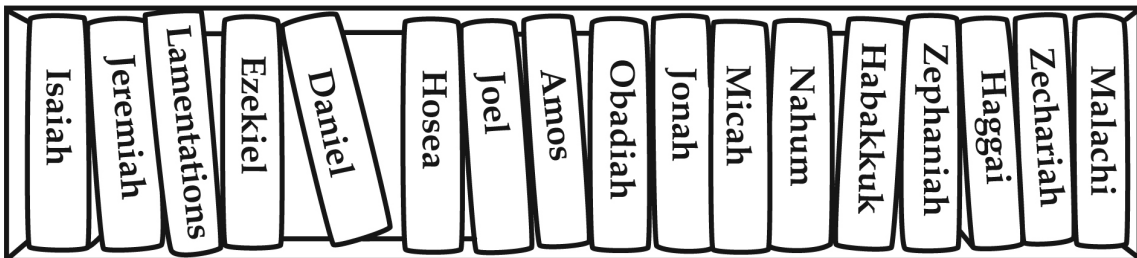
OLD TESTAMENT



LAW

HISTORY

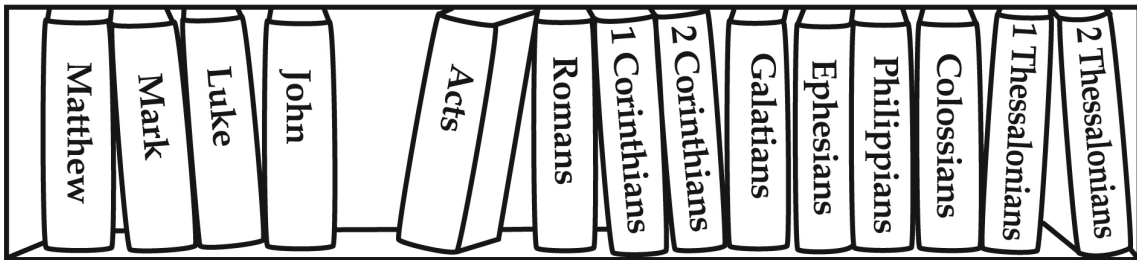
POETRY



MAJOR PROPHETS

MINOR PROPHETS

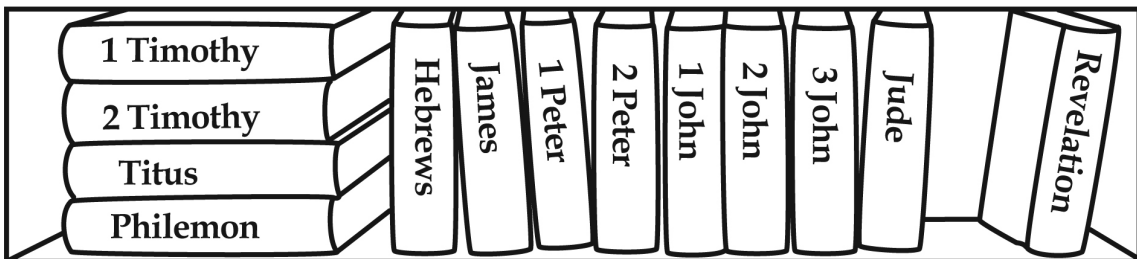
NEW TESTAMENT



GOSPELS

HISTORY

LETTERS to the CHURCHES

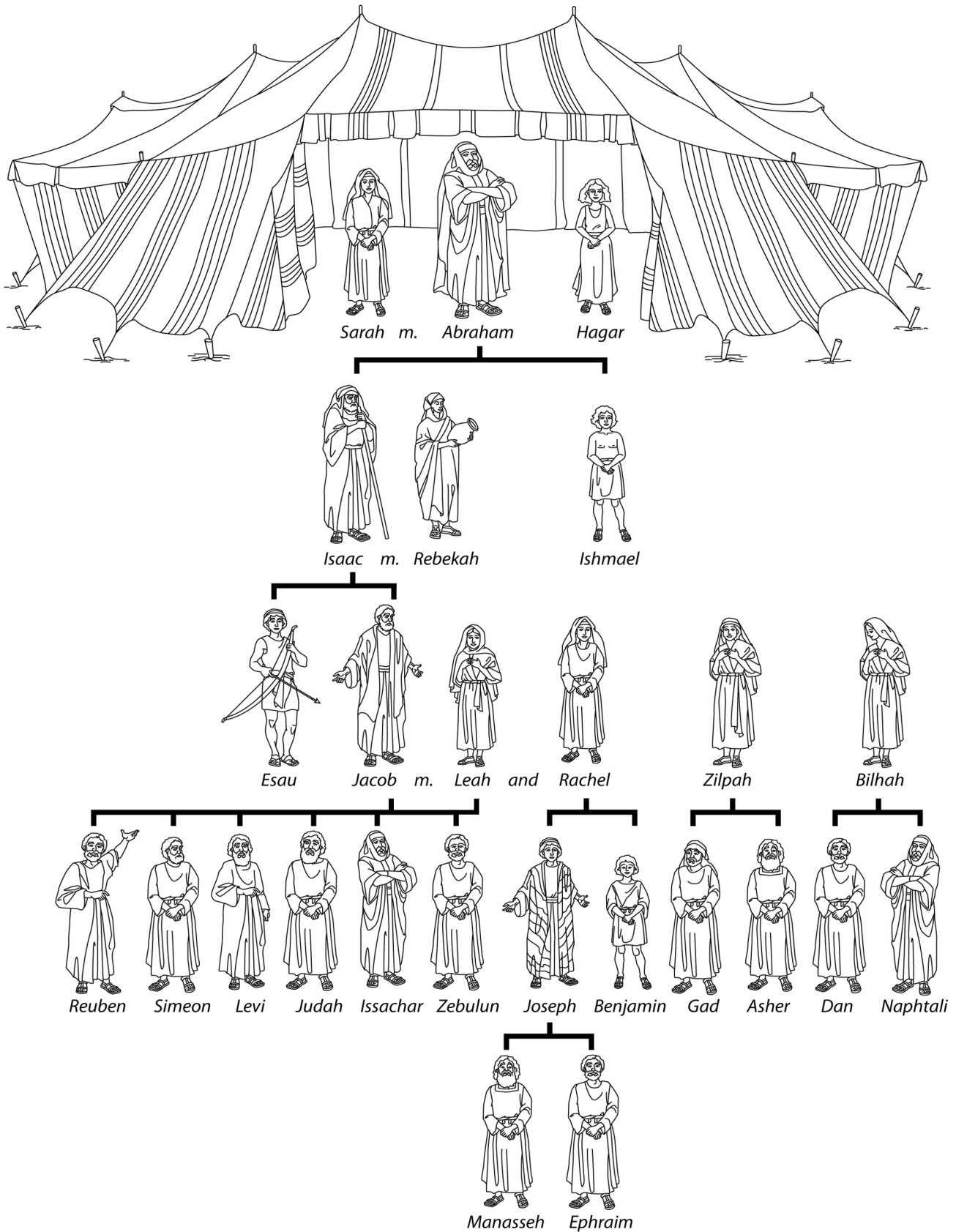


LETTERS to FRIENDS

GENERAL LETTERS

PROPHECY

Patriarchs' Family Lineage



Using the Binder

Overview

The notebook approach,¹ developed by Rosalie Slater co-founder of the Foundation for American Christian Education, employs the four natural or biblical steps of learning: *research, reason, relate* and *record*. This is an old method of reflective study, one used by many of the world's greatest thinkers and writers throughout history. It is as old as God instructing Moses to "write in a book what He was saying to him and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua." (Exodus 17:14) God has always placed great value on the written word and written records, of which there are hundreds of references in the Bible.

The notebook approach is both a biblical tool for teaching and learning, as well as a method for guiding reflection and reasoning with truth. It introduces the teacher and student to the study of the subject through the nature and character of God as the author of that subject, and it lays the foundation for thinking and reasoning with the life and truth of God's Word. It opens the subject through its vocabulary and biblical principles and enlightens the pathway of thinking and reasoning to guide the student toward mastery of the subject. The notebook approach cultivates strong writers, Christian scholarship and character, and a permanent record of learning for teachers, students and parents to evaluate and reference over and over again. The student produces his own "book of remembrance." (Malachi 3:16) Over time, this method liberates the student to become an independent learner who is able to take responsibility for his own education and give an account.

In the AMO® Program, both teacher and students need a ringed binder with four dividers marked:

1. Literature
2. History

3. Reading
4. The Arts

A title page is made and filed in the front of the binder, and a title page is made for each component.

Instructions for how to use the Lesson Plan Format follow. They will enable both teacher and student to derive the greatest benefit of the notebook method.

Objectives

1. Introduce the notebook approach and the four steps of natural learning for a permanent record of study in the AMO® Program.
2. Develop the lifelong habits of personal study, reflection, recording principles and reasoning in both teacher and children.
3. Build Christian imaginations and consecrated minds for fresh vision, renewed thinking, and biblical reasoning.

AMO's Lesson Plan Components

The top portion of the Lesson Plan contains the following:




1. **Time:** This component indicates the length of time for the lesson. It is based on AMO®'s weekly schedule. You can alter this to suit your program.
2. **Reading:** This component relates the reading assignment. In the history and literature components, the teacher reads aloud. In literature, the whole classic is read aloud to the children. Do not let them read it. The teacher should read with animation and know the vocabulary before reading the classic. In the Bible Reading lessons, the children read aloud.
3. **Review:** All good lessons begin by reviewing the principle and the main idea or theme of the last lesson. Ask the children if they can remember the principle from the last lesson. If no one can remember, ask them to turn in their binders

¹ Slater, R. (1965). *Teaching and learning America's Christian history: The principle approach*. San Francisco, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education.




to the record of the last lesson or point to the Key Vocabulary Word for that lesson located on the bulletin board to help them recall.



4. **Goal of the Lesson:** This is the primary target of the lesson and what the children should understand at its conclusion. The student vocabulary word, the principle and Scripture, as well as the reasoning questions are all directed toward the goal of the lesson.
5. **Principle:** Each lesson is governed and guided by a biblical principle, which lays truth as the foundation and provides structure for teaching the whole lesson. This is antithetical to most teaching methods, which either require children to memorize information and parrot back the “right” answer or “entertain” them.
6. **Scripture:** Each principle is undergirded with a biblical reference. The Word of God is alive. (Hebrews 4:12) It not only produces life in the teacher’s spirit and in the lesson plan, but it illumines and guides the children’s thinking, reasoning, and application of the principle to their own lives.

The remainder of the Lesson Plan is divided into two columns. The left column is for edifying the teacher and the right column is for engaging the students.

1.  **Teacher Vocabulary:** Difficult words and key words are defined biblically for the teacher’s enlightenment and for use with older students and adult literacy programs.
2.  **Preparation to Teach:** These are the instructions for preparation as well as the tools and supplies teachers must gather before entering the classroom to teach.
3.  **Teaching Plan:** This is the subject content of the lesson to build the teacher’s confidence. Generally, everything he or she needs for teaching the lesson is provided and should be reviewed before teaching the lesson. It contains all the elements that he or she will need to teach the lesson to the children. **NOTE: Background information and often a great deal of content for the TEACHER’S EDIFICATION are provided. The teacher is NOT to read all of this material to the children.** It is there to provide information and enrichment to the teacher, as he or she

works with the principle and the reasoning with the children.

4.  **Key Vocabulary Word:** Every lesson has a student vocabulary word that relates to the principle and the goal of the lesson. This word, which is printed on card stock and pinned to the “Treasury of Words” bulletin board each day, should be emphasized in each lesson. Use this word in your teaching and encourage the children to learn its meaning and use it in their conversation. Remove the vocabulary card from the board in the next class period and store in the Treasure Chest and pin up the new word from the lesson. Many teachers print out a copy of each word and have the children file in their binders. If you are using this in an academic setting, you can have the students put a divider in their binders marked “Vocab” and they can copy the word and the definition into their binders. They can be tested on the vocabulary definitions and are certainly encouraged to use these words in their writing and in their verbal communication.
5.  **Reason Questions:** Reason questions are provided to guide biblical reasoning and oral discussions and to help children relate the principle or theme of the lesson to their own lives. In an academic setting, this can be assigned as written class work or as homework.
6.  **Notebook Record:** Everything the children copy onto their graphic organizers is found in the lesson plan. The teacher writes these phrases on the chalkboard, and the children copy them onto their graphic organizers. In literature the graphic organizers are based on the settings, characterizations and themes in the classic. The phrases are the author’s words, which is why they have quotation marks around them. In other subjects, the notebook record contains the essence of the lesson so the children have a permanent record of what they are learning. For the academic setting, older children can find additional phrases to write on these graphic organizers. These phrases are helpful when assigning composition work. Have the children open their binders to the appropriate graphic organizer so they can use the phrases and vocabulary words to inspire and guide their descriptive or expository writing.

7.  **Oral Work:** This is a summary of the lesson that was taught to the children, that the teacher says and the students repeat out loud before the close of the lesson. It reinforces the principle that undergirds the lesson.
8.  **Memory Verse:** There is one Scripture verse for the children to memorize every two lessons. Post the Memory Verse Card on the bulletin board and drill the verse with the children throughout the day. Keep a record of their ability to memorize each verse and acknowledge and reward those who do a good job at the end of the lessons.

Other components that accompany the Lesson Plan:

1. **Graphic Organizers:** These are designed to organize and limit the amount of writing children must do in an after school, Sunday school or literacy program. Some children are illiterate and unable to write. These children will still have a record of learning with the coloring pages provided. All the children will build their language skills. If you are using this program in an academic setting, you can assign more note taking by writing the content being taught on the chalkboard and having your students copy into their binders.

Graphic organizers for the literature units are designed to record these literary elements:

Characterizations: Four or five of the main characters in the classic are chosen to study in depth. They soon learn that God looks at the internal man (1 Samuel 16:7) and that the internal is causal, it gives rise to the external. *As a man thinks within himself, so he is (Proverbs 23:7).* This helps children examine their own character.

- **Internal:** Record the internal qualities of the heart, mind, soul, attitudes, will, and spirit **using the words of the author.**

- **External:** Record the physical features of the literary character **using the words of the author.**

Setting: The main setting(s) of each classic has been chosen, and if actual geographic settings are in the classic, such as the Swiss Alps and Frankfurt, Germany settings found in *Heidi*, the children complete map work and study the culture of the settings.

Theme: This is the message the author conveys. Each classic is different. *Heidi* has many themes.

2. **Vocabulary Card:** The Key Vocabulary Word, which is defined Biblically, is printed on this card and pinned onto the “Treasury of Words” bulletin board where it remains until the next lesson. All cards are stored in the Treasure Chest of Words, so the children will soon learn that words provide a treasury of wisdom and understanding.
3. **Coloring Pages:** Beautiful coloring pages have been created by talented illustrators for the delight and enrichment of the children. Have the children use colored pencils to color them. Pencils produce beautiful pages for the children to cherish. Many children are visual learners, so they will glean many details of the story from the coloring pages. These become part of their permanent record and are filed in their binders.
4. **Memory Verse Cards:** This card holds the weekly Bible verse from the Bible Reading lesson to be memorized by the children. It is printed and pinned onto the “Treasury of Words” bulletin board.
5. **Parent Prayer and Blessing Cards:** These cards are part of the Bible Reading lesson plans. One set is printed weekly for each child to take home to his parents so they can pray and bless their children every day.

Suggested Assignments for the Academic Setting

1. Write introductory facts and inspiring information from the lesson plans on the chalkboard and have the students copy into their binders on a sheet of paper labeled "Introduction" for each component studied. (i.e.: historic and literary background of the book being studied; author of the book; literary background, genre, and elements of the classic being studied; timeline of key events, key individuals, and key documents in the Christian history units; etc.)
2. Have students create a divider labeled "Vocabulary" and insert in their AMO® binders for each component studied. On a sheet of notebook paper, have them copy the daily "Key Vocabulary Word" and its definition. After they have copied the word, have them write a sentence using the new vocabulary word.
Hold students responsible for the correct spelling of the word, its definition, and the ability to use the word accurately in a sentence on quizzes and on the final examination.
3. Have students create a divider labeled "Principles" and insert in their AMO® binders for each component studied. Have them write out the daily principle and then write a paraphrase as classroom work or as homework. Ask them to apply the principle to their own lives, as well. Be certain to read each one and make comments.
4. Have students create a divider labeled "Memory Verses" in the AMO® Bible reading component and insert in their AMO® binders. On a sheet of notebook paper, have them copy the weekly memory verse. Ask them to paraphrase it and apply its truth to their own lives.
5. Have students create a divider labeled "Reason and Relate" and insert in their AMO® binders for each component studied. Write the "Reason Questions" found on the lesson plan (and any you would like to add) on the chalkboard. Have students copy the questions onto a sheet of notebook paper and write out their answers

in complete sentences either during class or for homework. Correct, grade, and return them to the students to be filed in their binders. Discuss some of the inspired answers.

6. Create writing assignments from the literary phrases and information the students record on their graphic organizers, such as:

Write two paragraphs that describe the Swiss Alps. Use as many of Johanna Spyri's beautiful phrases as possible. You may use your notes from class.

Contrast life in the Swiss mountains with life in the German city, Frankfurt.

Describe the individuality of Switzerland.

Compare and contrast the internal and external characters of Heidi and Peter.

7. Prepare students for all final examinations by seeing that their binders are complete and in order and by reviewing the principles, historic events and individuals, and literary elements of the classic. Take class time to do this collectively.
8. After the final examination, collect and grade each student's binder, and average his binder grade with his other academic assignments. The binder grade reflects the student's character, not his academic achievement.
9. Sample Heidi Final Exam (3rd grade and above/ age 8+): Be certain to write in complete sentences.

Why is the Bible the highest model of language and literature?

Who was the author of Heidi? Write two sentences that describe her individuality.

Write the definition for each of these vocabulary words:

literature	friendship
conscience	providence
individuality	virtue
prudence	principle
repentant	reason (v.)

Label the map of Switzerland using the names found on the legend.

Write a descriptive paragraph about life in the Swiss Alps in the late 1800s. Tell why you would or would not have wanted to live there.

Compare and contrast the internal and external characters of Heidi and Peter.

What were Heidi's most distinctive character qualities? Why did everyone like her? How did Heidi overcome life as an orphan?

Why did the author describe Uncle Alm as the "Prodigal Son?" Tell what happened to him in the story.

Paraphrase this principle from chapter 10: "Being able to read brings great liberty to one's life."

Extra credit: Sketch your favorite scene from the classic Heidi in the space provided.

10. Sample Proverbs Final Exam (3rd grade and above/age 8+):

Using complete sentences, describe four attributes of God's Word, the Bible.

Write the definition for each of these vocabulary words:

gospel	integrity
proverb	honor
discern	character
wisdom	diligent
folly	leader

Who wrote the Book of Proverbs? Tell why this book is so important for a young person to meditate upon.

Contrast the wise child and the foolish child in the following areas of daily life:

- Listening
- The words of one's mouth
- Making friends

- Making decisions
- Work habits

List three qualities of a godly leader.

List three qualities of a godly woman.

Paraphrase the following principle, "The conduct of a young child builds the man or woman."

Extra credit: Write out two of your favorite memory verses from the Book of Proverbs.

As teachers work with our AMO® lesson plans, you will be inspired to create your own reflective writing assignments. **Remember, handling the noble vocabulary of the subject, reasoning with the principles, and daily writing assignments produce mastery of the subject.** The sooner children are taught the rudiments of composition (which should begin in kindergarten/first grade), they should be writing in every subject every day by the third grade.

Remember: You cannot ask children to write a descriptive paragraph if you haven't taught your students the rudiments of writing a descriptive paragraph. The same principle goes with comparing and contrasting two items or characters. The teacher has to teach the rudiments of all the various forms of composition and then have students practice, practice, practice. Writing is not a gift from God that some are blessed to have and others are not blessed. Writing is a skill best learned as a young child in order to form lifelong manners and habits of excellence in Christian scholarship. This produces Christian thinkers and leaders in every field of endeavor. By employing the notebook method, teachers will eventually become confident to develop and write their own curriculum. This method produces writers and Christian thinkers among teachers, as well.

For additional help, email info@amoprogram.com.



**BIBLE READING FOR
REASONING LESSON PLANS**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

~ PSALM 119:105 ~

Overview

of the Book of Genesis Unit 2

It is recommended that you begin your study of Genesis with our Genesis Unit 1 teacher guide before initiating this unit.

The Book of Genesis

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. *Genesis* is a Greek word meaning “origin or beginning.” The book is a unique work that lays the foundation for understanding the remainder of the Bible. It is part of the greater work that Moses wrote called the Torah or Pentateuch, which is comprised of the first five books of the Old Testament. The Torah is often referred to as “the Law.” *Torah* means “instruction” in Hebrew, and these books contain God’s instructions and commandments for His people. The Torah was originally written as a single, unbroken scroll. Sometime before the second century B.C. the scroll was divided into the five books that we have today: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Genesis begins with a declaration that God is the Author of creation and exists separately and apart from His creation. It also contains historical elements about the beginning of the universe—the beginning of time, the world, mankind, family, civilization, government, and languages. These were the concepts that are highlighted in our first AMO® Genesis teacher guide.

It is also a book about generations. Beginning with the divine ordering of creation, Genesis follows a family line for many generations, beginning with a focus on individuals—Adam and Eve and their children—to the Hebrew patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—who then point us toward the birth of the nation of Israel. One of the oft-used phrases in Genesis is the heading “These are the generations of ...” This family lineage forms the backbone of Genesis and provides the structure and cohesiveness for all its various elements. It teaches us that God established the family unit as the basic building block of nations. Human society and government are founded on the family and are based

upon the biblical order that God designed within the marriage relationship.

Background of the Book of Genesis

Date Written:

1450-10 B.C.: Moses compiled and edited historic records and oral stories

Author:

Moses, the first historian and lawgiver

Bible verses that substantiate his authorship:

Joshua 8:31-32; 1 Kings 2:3; 8:9; 2 Kings 14:6; 23:25; Ezra 3:2; 6:18; 7:6; Nehemiah 8:1; 13:1; Daniel 9:11, 13; Malachi 4:4; Matthew 19:18; Romans 10:5

Bible verses that substantiate God’s instructions to Moses to record His words:

Exodus 17:14; 24:4, 7; 34:27

When Moses wrote the Pentateuch, he must have had access to both oral and written records of early history, which he used under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to compile and edit events that preceded his life. Someone else wrote of his death, which is recorded in Deuteronomy 34.

Moses stands out as the preeminent figure of the Old Testament. It is written of him that “no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face ... For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel” (Deuteronomy 34:10, 12). In the New Testament Moses is referred to as the representative of the law and as a type of Jesus Christ (John 1:17; 2 Corinthians 3:13-18; Hebrews 3:5, 6). Moses is the only character in the Old Testament to whom Christ likened Himself (John 5:46; compare with Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19; Acts 7:37; Hebrews 3:1-19). Moses is listed as one of the heroes in the book of Hebrews’ “Hall of Faith.” The writer of Hebrews described Moses as a man who spoke

with and saw the living God and who counted as treasure those things of eternal value rather than the luxury of a pagan king and his palace.

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that He who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.” (Hebrews 11:23-29)

Type of Literature

Genesis is a history book. It is historical, narrative prose of epic proportion that relates facts of real events and real people. The creation account, inspired by the Holy Spirit, records the origin of the universe. It was written in such a way as to be understood as “reliable history, presenting a sequential narrative of the creation events.”¹ Genesis spans a period of approximately 2,350 years, of which 2,000 years are recorded in the first 11 chapters.

Genesis also explains in narrative form the nature and character of God and the place of man in His story. All narrative books in the Bible speak the language of Genesis. Throughout the Scriptures language builds on itself. Therefore, one needs to study the creation story in order to enter into the whole of God’s grand story and understand it!

Content

Genesis is the seedbed of the entire Bible and, as such, of all Christian doctrine. It contains the foundational doctrine upon which all other Christian doctrine is built. Every biblical doctrine has its origin directly or indirectly in the book of Genesis, especially the first 11 chapters, which we studied in our first Genesis unit.

Genesis relates the creation of the universe; the creation of the planet Earth as a dwelling place for man; the creation of man, whom God made in His image; the fall of man, the global flood, the origin of the institutions of society; and God’s covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Genesis examines sin and its consequences, God’s response to sin, and His promise of redemption. The book unveils models of character and behavior from its opening chapters to the faithful obedience of the patriarchs in later chapters. Genesis is also a book about faith and obedience.

The book of Genesis has two major divisions:

1. Chapters 1:1-11:9: the primeval history of the world before Abraham
2. Chapters 11:10-50:26: the history of Israel’s patriarchs:
 - Genesis 11:10-24: The story of Abraham
 - Genesis 24-27: The story of Isaac
 - Genesis 28-36: The story of Jacob
 - Genesis 37-50: The story of Joseph

In this AMO® Bible Reading for Reasoning unit, we will read Genesis 11:10-50:26, which summarize the lives of the patriarchs in the Messianic lineage, as God births a nation through whom He will send His promised Messiah to Earth.

Overarching Themes of the Book of Genesis

1. Creation, sin, and re-creation
2. God’s covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.
3. God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for His Messiah.

Key Themes of Genesis 11-50

1. God separated unto Himself a people to become a consecrated nation through whom He would accomplish His redemptive plan for mankind (Genesis 12:1-3).
2. Without faith, which expresses itself in obedience, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
3. Abraham’s faith became the basis of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles (Hebrews 11; Ephesians 2:8, 9).
4. God’s abundant grace increased in response to man’s willful disobedience (Romans 5:20).

¹ Gamble, R. C. (2009). *The Whole Counsel of God, Vol. 1*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P & R Publishing, p. 147.

Characters

Israel's Patriarchs:

- Abraham and his wife, Sarah
- Isaac and his wife Rebekah
- Jacob and his wives, Leah and Rachel
- Joseph and his brothers

Setting

The setting for this unit in Genesis is the Fertile Crescent. This crescent-shaped area of land is home to the earliest of civilizations and some of the world's most fertile rivers—the Nile, the Tigris, and the Euphrates—as well as the following lands:

1. Mesopotamia, a Greek word that means “land between the rivers” (the Tigris and the Euphrates)
2. The Levant, located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea
3. Lower Egypt and the fertile Nile River delta region

Historians call this region the “cradle of civilization,” the place where many of the earliest civilizations, documented by dates, flourished along the rivers and developed complex systems of

writing, commerce, and agriculture. They included Sumer, Egypt, Phoenicia, Babylonia, Israel, and Assyria.

The story of the patriarch Abraham begins in 2165 B.C. in southern Mesopotamia¹ in the ancient city-state of Ur, a sophisticated Sumerian metropolis where he grew up and married. Many Christians are ignorant of the culture of Abraham, believing it to have been primitive and the people illiterate. This is the result of an educational system that teaches Darwinism. Most of the geographic sites mentioned in Genesis have remained hidden under the sands for thousands of years until recently, during which time excavations have unearthed them and revealed their culture. Modern archaeology has proven the accuracy of the Genesis descriptions of the patriarchal era. It is one of biblical history's greatest tools to verify the facts of the Bible stories.

Plaque found in Ur



Mesopotamian plaque



The royal tombs of Ur



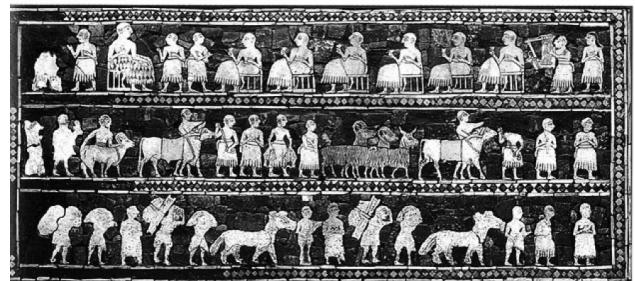
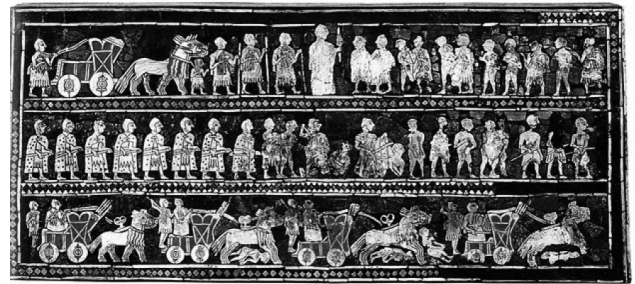
¹ Ryrie Study Bible, pp. 24-5.

A great deal is known about ancient Ur because it was excavated from 1922-34 by British archaeologist C. Leonard Woolley. Ur was a wealthy seaport located near the Persian Gulf at the mouth of the Euphrates River. Before the time of Abraham, Ur was a magnificent center of farming, shipping, and manufacturing. From here large caravans traveled in all directions to distant lands, and ships sailed out to sea with cargoes of copper and hard stone.¹ Like many of the large cities of its time, Ur was highly idolatrous and had a great ziggurat, which Abraham must have seen. A ziggurat is a massive temple tower built by the ancient pagans in the form of a terraced pyramid of successively receding stories.

Ur was a walled city with well-kept boulevards and houses tightly packed next to one another. Their design included two main living rooms with a central courtyard, indoor baths, a kitchen, a chapel, a burial vault, stairways, and workrooms. Modern digs have produced a wealth of jewelry, beautiful

art objects, and vessels of gold and silver. "More significantly, Ur has yielded a vast library of books, business documents, and other written materials. Not only did the 'intelligentsia' of Ur know how to read and write long before the time of Abraham, but also the ordinary citizen. When Abraham lived there, Ur had already begun to decline from her former glory."² Interestingly, Woolley's excavations of school children's classrooms unearthed clay tablets with grammar and arithmetic lessons.

Standard of Ur Mosaic, a small box covered with Sumerian figures and events depicting war and peace



Excavated headdress of a Sumerian queen around the time of Abraham



Model of an ancient ziggurat



Excavated Great Ziggurat of Ur



¹ Wilmington, H. L. (1981). *Wilmington's Guide to the Bible*. Carol Stream IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., p. 37.

² Morris H. M. (1976). *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, p. 307.

GENESIS 1

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Overview of the Book of Genesis Unit 2

Student Reading: Acts 7:2-8 (NIV)

Review: Creation, Adam and Eve, sin and the fall, the first family, Seth's lineage, Noah and the flood, the tower of Babel and the dispersion, lineage of Shem (AMO® Genesis Unit 1 Teacher Guide, pages 4-7); the life of Moses (pages 16, 17)

Principle: God is the Author of history and times all events in the interests of His eternal plan in Jesus Christ.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

alien (n.) A person from another and very different family, people, or place.

archaeology (n.) The study of past human life and culture by the recovery and analysis of the material remains.

consummate (v.) To finish by completing what was intended; to perfect.

geography (n.) [Root words are Greek *geo*, which means earth, and *graph*, which means to write or describe. God's handwriting on the Earth.] Geography is the science of the description of the Earth, particularly of the divisions of its surface, both natural and artificial; of the positions of the various countries, states, and cities; of the inhabitants—of their government, manners, culture, etc., and of the principal animals, plants, and minerals.

history (n.) 1) The record of God's relationship to man from creation onward; it tells us the reasons we are here and our purpose as individuals and as nations. Providence is the key to understanding history. 2) The arena wherein God's will expresses itself in action (J. S. Whale, British educator and theologian, 1896).

intelligentsia (n.) A social class of people engaged in complex mental labor aimed at disseminating culture.

Messiah (n.) [Heb.] Jesus Christ, the Anointed One; Savior and Redeemer of the world.

STUDENT



Key Word:

history (n.) 1) The record of God's relationship to man. 2) The arena wherein God's will expresses itself in action.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage orally together as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Why is the book of Genesis called "the book of beginnings"?
2. Define the word "history" and relate who its author is.
3. Who is the focal point of all history? Is this person found in the book of Genesis? Explain.
4. Who is the writer of Genesis? Of what greater work is Genesis a part?
5. Explain whose history the book of Genesis narrates.

patriarch (n.) The father and head of a family or tribe; one who governs by paternal right. Generally refers to the progenitors of Israel—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his sons.

pilgrimage (n.) 1) A long journey, particularly one of exalted purpose or moral significance. 2) In Scripture, the journey of human life (Genesis 47:9).

primeval (n.) Belonging to the first or earliest age; original; ancient.

setting (n.) The background of the story, including place, time, environment, climate, and the society.

sovereign (n.) Supreme ruler; one who possesses the highest authority without outward control.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. It is recommended that you teach the children Genesis Unit 1 before teaching this second Genesis unit. Review the Overview of the book of Genesis (pages 4-7) and the history of Moses, the author of Genesis (pages 14, 15) in the AMO® Genesis Unit 1 Teacher Guide.
2. Be certain that you have read the book of Genesis before teaching this unit. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the Overview of the Book of Genesis Unit 2 and the student reading.
3. Study the map of the Fertile Crescent during the era of the patriarchs. Complete a map study of the Land of the Patriarchs to show the children.
4. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.
5. Color a Bible Bookcase graphic organizer to show the children. Select a different color for each of the various groups of books.

Principle: God is the Author of history and times all events in the interests of His eternal plan in Jesus Christ.

Genesis, the book of beginnings, is a history book that contains both primeval (chapters 1-11) and patriarchal history (chapters 12-50). It narrates God's creation of the universe and mankind, God's judgment of sin, and God's initial steps toward establishing a nation of people who are consecrated to Him and through whom He will bless all the nations on Earth. Genesis spans a period of 2,350 years, of which 350 years take place in chapters 12-50.

Genesis 12:1-3: "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country ... to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation ... and so you shall be a blessing ... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'"

6. Describe the Fertile Crescent and its ancient location. Why is this region called the Fertile Crescent?
7. Where was father Abraham born and raised? Describe the city in detail.
8. Relate how Abraham's birth city was like or unlike the place where you were born.



Notebook Record:

1. Write your name and color the illustration on your Genesis Unit 2 title page with your colored pencils while the Genesis 2 Overview is being read.
2. On the Bible Bookcase graphic organizer, color each division of books a different color with your colored pencils.
3. A map study is a work of art. Carefully label and color your Land of the Patriarchs map using the following Map Standard:
 - Label physical and political areas in block print with a black pen.
 - Outline all bodies of water ¼ inch along their shorelines with a blue colored pencil.
 - Outline the border of the Fertile Crescent ¼ inch with a green colored pencil.
 - Outline the borders of the other regions ¼ inch with a red colored pencil.
 - Map Abraham's journey with a dotted line using a red colored pencil.
4. Carefully label the following in block print:
 - Fertile Crescent
 - Mesopotamia
 - Ur

A. History is defined as the record of God's relationship to man from creation onward through time. It tells us the reasons we are here and our purpose as individuals and as nations. God is the Author of His Story; therefore, history can be defined as the autobiography of God. God's Story is a love story, because it tells of His eternal gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ, for all who believe. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the focal point of all history. All antiquity looked forward to the cross, and all modernity looks back to the cross.

Ephesians 1:9, 10: "For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ" (Phillips Translation).

B. Through the eye of history, we learn that nothing happens by accident. God is sovereign over history. He governs in the affairs of men and nations and times all events for His eternal plan and purpose. Genesis, "the book of beginnings," relates the story of how God called and consecrated a people unto Himself, through whom He would send forth His Son Jesus in the fullness of time as the Savior and Redeemer of the world. This special plan of God began around 2100 B.C. with the call of one family to leave its home and friends in Ur and travel to an unknown, foreign land.

In order to fully understand the events of history, we need to study them in their geographic setting. For this unit, the children will map the pilgrimage of Abraham, Sarah, and their family on a map, as they are led by God from the pagan city of Ur along the ancient trade routes in the Middle East to the land of Canaan on the Mediterranean Sea. Complete a map study of the Land of the Patriarchs to show the children the finished study.

The setting for this Genesis unit is the Fertile Crescent, what historians call the "cradle of civilization." (See the Introduction.) The story of the patriarch Abraham begins in Mesopotamia in the ancient city-state of Ur, a sophisticated



metropolis where he grew up and married.

God called Abraham out of pagan Ur to Canaan, a land He gave as an inheritance for a Hebrew nation. There were only two routes to Canaan from Ur, one across the hot Arabian Desert and the other along the Euphrates River to Haran and south into

5. Begin to outline all the bodies of water with your blue colored pencil:

Mediterranean Sea
Persian Gulf
Arabian Sea
Gulf of Aden
Caspian Sea
Tigris River
Dead Sea
Euphrates River
Red Sea
Nile River

6. File your title page, Bible Bookcase, and Land of the Patriarchs map in your binder.



Memory Verse:

For God has allowed us to know the secret of His will and it is this: He purposed long ago in His sovereign will that all human history should be consummated in Christ. (Ephesians 1:9, 10, Phillips Translation)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

Canaan. Abraham had many animal herds that would not have survived the desert journey, so he and his family traveled along the Euphrates route. Our Genesis unit will travel with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph into the regions and kingdoms of the ancient Fertile Crescent, as God prepares to birth a nation of people consecrated for His gospel purposes.

6. Read the very brief overview of Abraham's life in Acts 7:2-7. These verses are part of a long sermon preached by Stephen, a disciple of Jesus Christ and the first Christian martyr. They summarize the life of father Abraham, the patriarch of the Messianic lineage.
7. Gather resources: Bible, Overview of the Book of Genesis Unit 2, Genesis title page graphic organizers, Bible Bookcase graphic organizers, wall map of ancient Bible Lands, Land of the Patriarchs blank maps, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders and the Genesis Unit 2 title page. Have the children write their name and color the illustration while you're reading the Genesis Overview.
3. Distribute the Bible Bookcase graphic. Introduce the children to the book of Genesis and show on the graphic how it is the first book in the Bible and also part of the Law or Torah, a larger set of books. Have the children color each division of books a different color. Summarize the life and contributions of Moses, the writer (pages 16, 17). Briefly review the study of Genesis 1-11 from the AMO® Genesis Unit 1 Teacher Guide Overview (pages 4-7).
4. Read the Overview of the Book of Genesis Unit 2 aloud to the children. Discuss how unique this book is, that it is called the "book of beginnings," and that it is part of a larger work called the Torah or the Law that was written by Moses around 1450 B.C.
5. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define the key word. Teach the children that Genesis is a history book, a story about real people who lived in a specific geographic setting here on Earth that was chosen by God.
6. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God is sovereign and times all events for His gospel purposes.

Remind the children of the triune nature of God and that Jesus Christ is the focal point of all human history. Even though the name of Jesus is not found in the book of Genesis, He is there at creation and throughout the book. Highlight that God's eternal plan and purpose for mankind would be consummated through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Introduce the children to the Patriarchal Era of history that began when the "God of glory appeared to our father Abraham" (Acts 7:2) in the pagan urban center called Ur. Share the sophistication of the city and culture of the city-state of Ur.

7. Assign the Bible reading to the children and have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Land of the Patriarchs map study to the children. Review the Map Standard, which is found under the Student Notebook Record. Display your completed map study. Have the children label the following on their maps:
 - Fertile Crescent
 - Mesopotamia
 - Ur

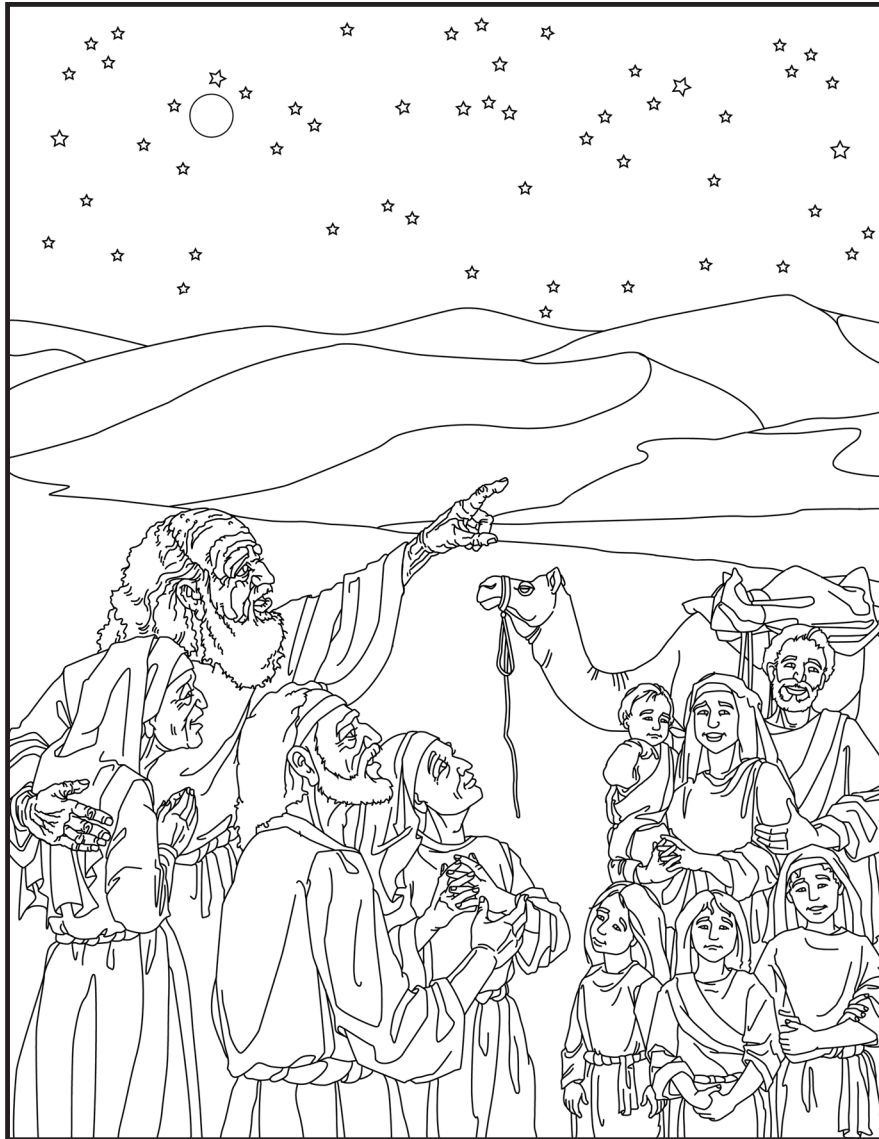
On the chalkboard, demonstrate how to outline the bodies of water. Have the children begin to outline the following bodies of water with their blue colored pencils so the land areas will stand out.

Mediterranean Sea
Tigris River
Gulf of Aden
Arabian Sea
Euphrates River
Persian Gulf
Red Sea
Nile River
Dead Sea
Caspian Sea

Have the children file their Bible Bookcase graphic, maps, and title pages in their binders.

10. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse. Pin the memory verse card on your bulletin board.
11. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
12. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

Genesis Unit 2

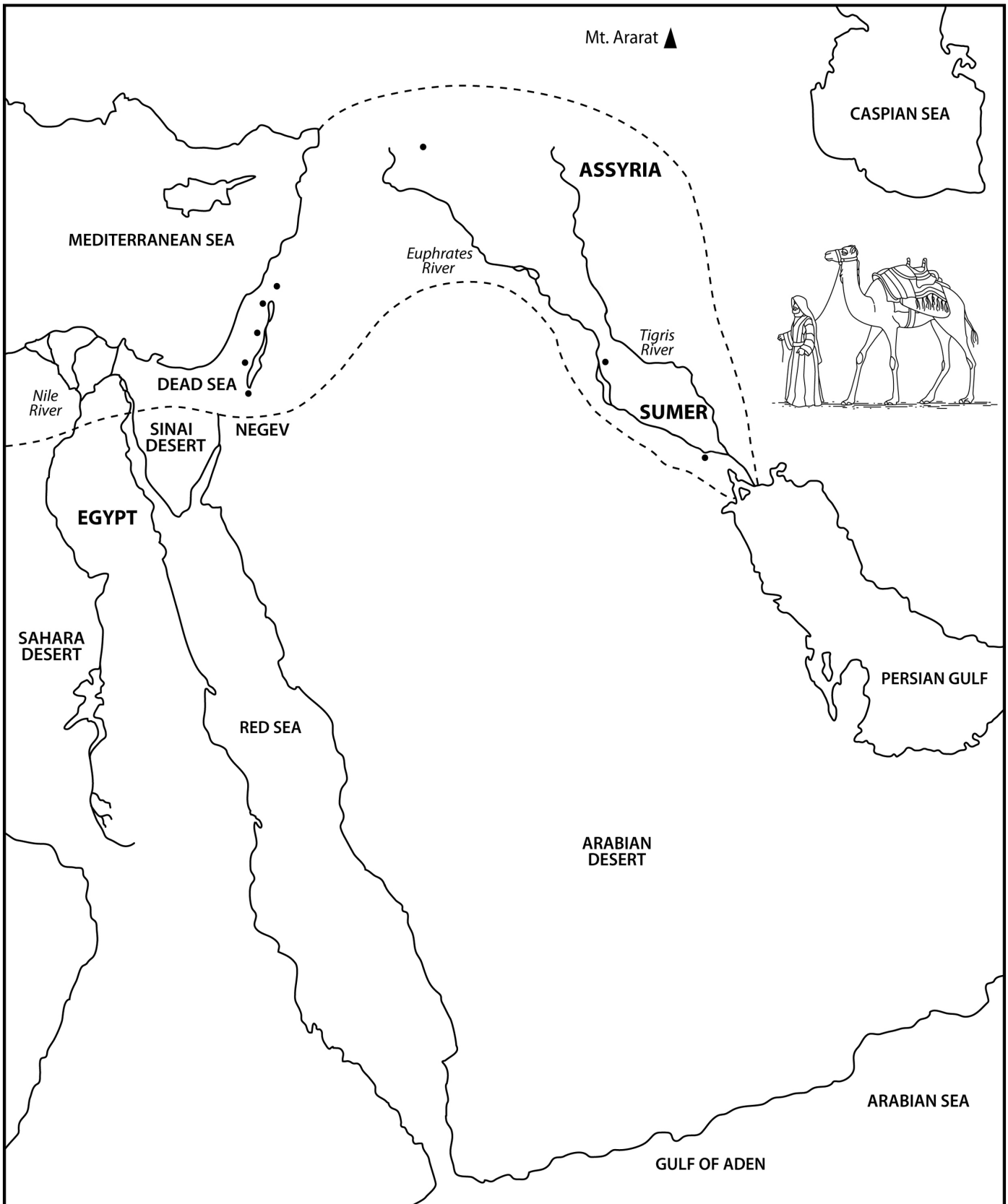


*"Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed
as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore ...*

*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,
because you have obeyed My voice."*

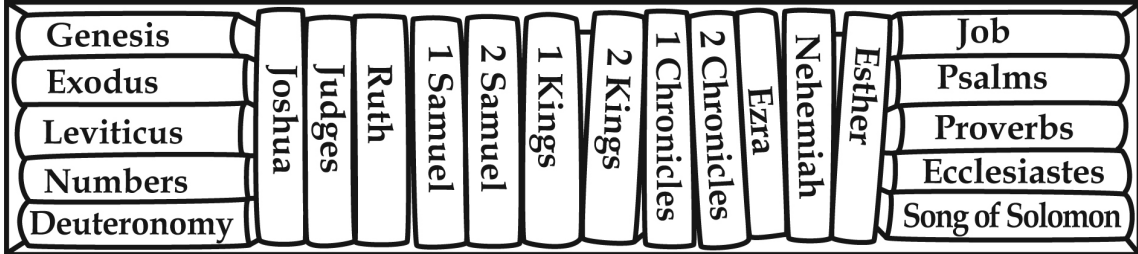
Genesis 22:17, 18

Land of the Patriarchs



Bible Bookcase

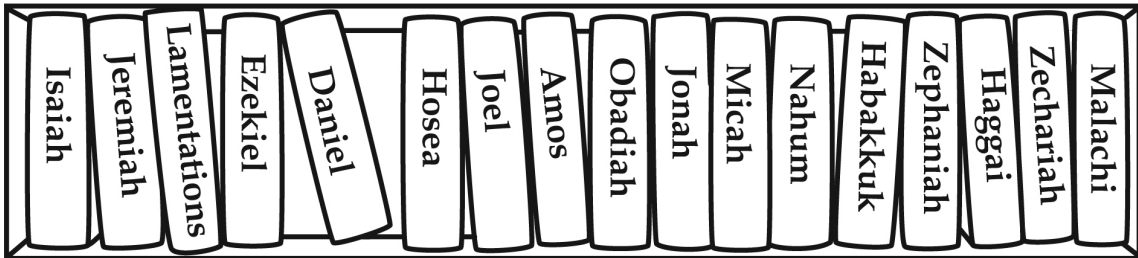
OLD TESTAMENT



LAW

HISTORY

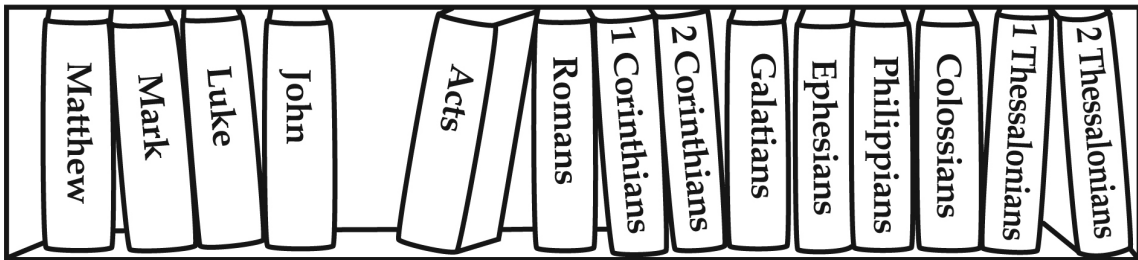
POETRY



MAJOR PROPHETS

MINOR PROPHETS

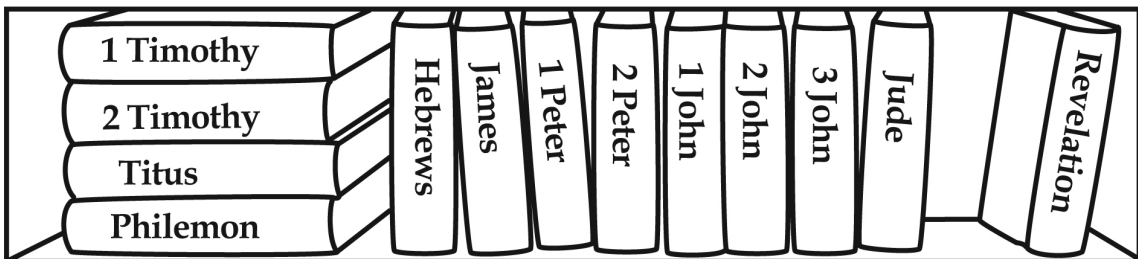
NEW TESTAMENT



GOSPELS

HISTORY

LETTERS to the CHURCHES



LETTERS to FRIENDS

GENERAL LETTERS

PROPHECY

GENESIS 2

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 11:24-32

Student Reading: Genesis 12:1-10

Review: God is the Author of history and times all events in the interests of His eternal plan in Jesus Christ.

Principle: A divine calling requires the individual to walk by faith and not by sight.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

consecrate (v.) To make or declare sacred; to set apart for the service or worship of God.

divine (adj.) 1) Pertaining to the true God. 2) Proceeding from God.

election (n.) In theology, divine choice; predetermination of God or His sovereign choosing of individuals or peoples to be the objects of His grace or to otherwise fulfill His purposes.

faith (n.) 1) In theology, the assent of the mind or understanding to the truth of what God has revealed. 2) "The assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ...Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

gift (v.) To endow with qualities or abilities.

pagan (n.) One who does not worship the true and living, triune God; one who worships false gods.

redemption (n.) In theology, the purchase of God's favor by the sufferings, and death of Christ; the ransom or deliverance of sinners from the bondage of sin and the penalties for God's violated law by the atonement of Christ.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

STUDENT



Key Word:

calling (n.) A divine summons or invitation; vocation.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage orally together, as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Why did God choose a man from the lineage of Shem to establish a new nation?
2. Describe Abram's father, Terah, and relate who departed with him from Ur and their relationship to Abram.
3. Describe the two western trading routes from Ur to Canaan and relate which one Terah chose to travel and why.
4. Describe Abram's divine calling. What was required of Abram to see its fulfillment?
5. Explain what both the protection and the blessing were that God promised Abram.

Principle: A divine calling requires the individual to walk by faith and not by sight.

Up to this point in history, God has dealt with mankind in a general way. Now God takes a different approach as He prepares to establish a new nation. God will choose an individual from among the descendants of Shem, and from this man's lineage He will consecrate a people unto Himself and birth a new nation. This will be a special nation through which He will send forth His Messiah to bless all nations on the Earth in His fullness of time. The remainder of the book of Genesis is about God's calling, consecration, and preparation of a family lineage for His plan of salvation and redemption.

God chose Abraham to be the patriarch or forefather of this consecrated family. Abraham was a descendant of Adam and Eve's son Seth in the lineage of the Promised Seed (Genesis 3:15). Find Seth on the First Family Tree graphic organizer (page 37) and trace his lineage to Noah and his son Shem, and then down through the generations of Shem to Terah, Abraham's father.

- A. Genesis 11:27-32 provides an introduction to the generations of Terah. After the dispersion of the people from the Tower of Babel, almost everyone continued in their rebellious ways and worshiped creation (the sun, moon, and earth) rather than the Creator, the living God. Terah was an idol worshiper (Joshua 24:2) who lived in the pagan city of Ur.

Joshua 24:2: "Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River [Euphrates], namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods."'"

- B. From the Promised Seed lineage, God elected or chose an individual named Abram to consecrate for His divine purposes and eternal plan. Abram was not chosen based on his good deeds (works of the flesh) or his morally good character but based upon God's sovereign grace and principle of divine election. God's will is sovereign over His creation, and His choices (election) serve His divine plan and gospel purpose.

Ephesians 1:11: "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."

Romans 9:8, 11: "It is not the children of the flesh [human effort or works] who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants ... for though the twins [of Isaac] were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him

6. Has God ever asked you to follow Him by faith? Explain your answer.



Notebook Record:

The Map Standard:

- Label physical and political areas in block print with a black pen.
 - Outline all bodies of water $\frac{1}{4}$ inch along their shorelines with a blue colored pencil.
 - Outline the border of the Fertile Crescent $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with a green colored pencil.
 - Outline the borders of the other regions $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with a purple colored pencil.
 - Map Abraham's journey with a dotted line using a red colored pencil.
1. Label the following on your Land of the Patriarchs map:
 - Haran
 - Bethel
 - Canaan
 2. Chart Abram's journey from Ur along the eastern side of the Euphrates River to Haran and then southwest to Bethel, south to the Negev, and then northwest across the Sinai Desert to the Nile delta region in Egypt.
 3. Color Abraham and his camel. Complete the outlining of the bodies of water and begin outlining the Fertile Crescent with your green colored pencil. If you finish, begin outlining the other land regions with purple colored pencil.
 4. File your First Family Tree and Land of the Patriarchs map in your binder.

who calls, it was said to [Rebekah], ‘The older will serve the younger.’”

2 Peter 1:3: “His divine power has given to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

- C. God knows us in eternity before we are born and has a plan and calling for each of us. He calls us individually by name.

Psalm 139:16: “Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”

Jeremiah 1:5: “‘Before I formed you [Jeremiah] in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.’”

Galatians 1:15: “... God, who had set me [Paul] apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace ...”

Isaiah 43:1: “But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!’”

- D. God gifts us for His divine calling in our lives, and our parents are to help us cultivate these gifts for His glory. We are accountable to God for how we steward our calling and talents, and He will not recall them.

2 Peter 1:10: “Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you.”

Romans 11:29: “... for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

Ephesians 4:1: “Therefore I [Paul], the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”

When an individual receives this revelation about divine calling and stewardship in his inner man through the Spirit of the Lord, it is very powerful and life changing. Pray that the Spirit will illumine the eyes of your students to their God-given individuality, talents, spiritual gifts, and providential calling.

Abram was a married man when God called him to leave his home and family and travel with his wife, father, and nephew to a strange land. His calling was not an easy one, but with the calling came both God’s promise of protection (Genesis 12:3a) and His blessing (Genesis 12:3b) that in Abram He would establish a great nation that would someday bless all other nations!

- A. There were only two trade routes to Canaan at this time: one across the hot and arid Arabian Desert, over which it was not possible to take large herds of animals, and the other along the fertile Euphrates River through the city of Haran and southwest to Canaan. The first leg of the



Memory Verse:

For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ. (Ephesians 1:9, 10, Phillips Translation)

journey was from Ur to Haran, where Abram's father settled his family and eventually died.

- B. It was in Haran that God renewed His call to Abram to go to the land of Canaan to establish a new nation, and Abram obeyed without any further delay. This was a long, 400-mile journey for Abram and his household. Scripture relates in the book of Hebrews that "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents ... He was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:8–10).

In order for Abram's calling to be fulfilled, he had to trust God's promise by faith with his spiritual eyes and not by what he saw with his physical eyes. After Terah died, Abram was moved by faith to seek God's promise and departed Haran. He and his wife had no children and had never been to the land of Canaan, but he put his faith in God's calling and promise. In contrast to the leadership of his father on their journey to Haran, at each place of rest along the way Abram worshiped God by building an altar and calling upon His name (Genesis 12:8). His actions demonstrated his belief and faith in the Living God and His Word.

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (KJV).

Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

3. Gather resources: Bible, wall map of ancient Bible lands, First Family Tree graphic organizers, and student vocabulary card.



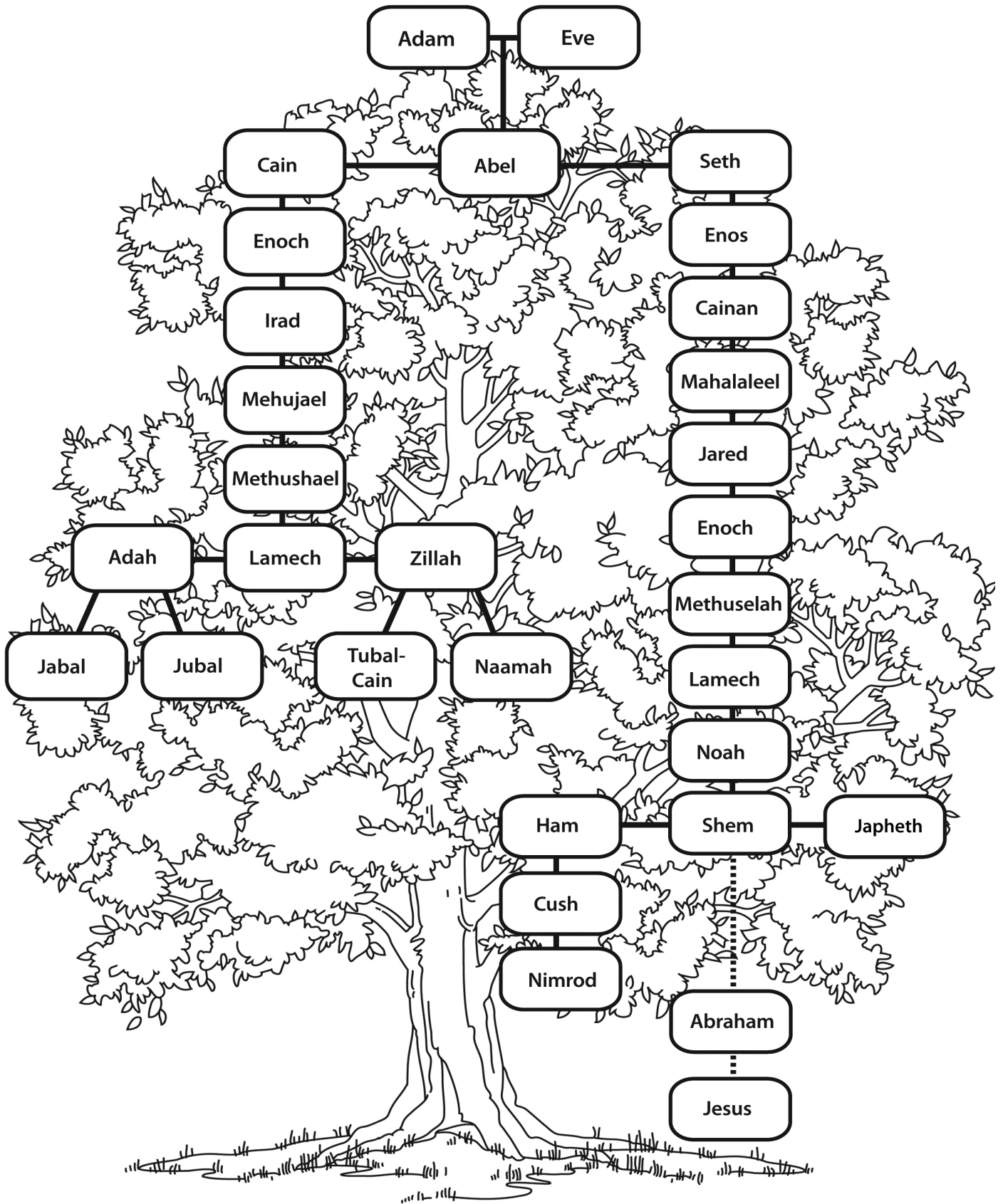
Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase, as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God is the Author of history and times all events in the interests of His eternal plan in Jesus

Christ. Highlight God's timing and providence in Abraham's call.

4. Distribute the First Family Tree graphic organizers to the children. Have them follow as you summarize the generations of Seth through Shem to the life of Terah (Genesis 11:10-23). Read the teacher reading.
5. Read the teacher reading.
6. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "calling."
7. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that a divine calling requires the spiritual eyes of faith to engage God's promises and power. Stress the difference between making decisions based on spiritual sight or revelation and on physical sight.
8. Assign the Bible reading to the children. Have them read orally.
9. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
10. Write the names of the cities and Canaan on the chalkboard and have the children copy them onto their Land of the Patriarchs map. With red colored chalk, chart the path of Abram's journey from Ur to Egypt on your wall map. Have the children chart this journey on their maps. When finished, have them continue outlining the bodies of water and landmasses on their maps. Have them file their maps in their binders.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

First Family Tree



GENESIS 3

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 13:1-18

Teacher Reading: Genesis 14:12-24

Review: A divine calling requires the individual to walk by faith and not by sight.

Principle: Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

faith (n.) 1) In theology, the assent of the mind to the truth of what God has revealed. 2) The virtue of secure belief in God and a trusting acceptance of His will. 3) Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence.

greed (n.) Insatiable desire for more material wealth than one needs.

justify (v.) 1) To prove or show to be just. 2) In theology, to pardon and clear from guilt and punishment and to accept as righteous on account of the merits of the Savior.

righteousness (n.) 1) Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. 2) being in right standing with God.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Like Noah (whom we studied in our first Genesis unit), Abram is one of the great Old Testament “heroes of faith” who is mentioned in the New Testament letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11:8-19). He was a man of noble character who trusted that what God had promised He would

STUDENT



Key Word:

faith (n.) The substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not see (Hebrews 11:1).



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Define “faith” in your own words.
2. What does the Scripture mean by “without faith it is impossible to please God”?
3. Explain what one must do in order to please God.
4. Relate what Abram did to please God.
5. How did God reward Abram for his obedience?
6. Describe how you have been challenged to walk with Christ by faith. Explain your response to this challenge.

perform. God credited Abraham's belief in the Lord and obedience to His word to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6).

Hebrews 11:6, 8: "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him ...By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going."

2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Habakkuk 2:4: "The righteous will live by his faith."

- A. Abram had spiritual ears to hear the voice of God. He sought God's counsel and listened for God's guidance. He is one of the great faith heroes because he lived at a time before God had given the Law to Moses and certainly before the day of Pentecost, when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within the believer. Today we have these two divine gifts to help us in our walk with the Lord—the Spirit of God within and His written Word, the Bible, to read and meditate upon.
- B. Abram heard God's call to leave all that was familiar and journey to an unknown land to live among unknown people. Long before he and Sarai had any children, God told him that he would be the father of a mighty nation. God also told Abram that in him all the nations of the world would be blessed. There was no physical evidence to give substance to what God said to Abram. However, Abram put his trust in God's promise and acted upon it. This is faith in action and is pleasing in the sight of God.

While Abram and Lot sojourned in Egypt, they accumulated great wealth in livestock, gold, and silver (Genesis 13:2). After the famine they returned to Bethel and found that there was not enough land to support all of their livestock. This caused strife between their herdsmen, which Abram did not want. He proved to be most gracious and generous by offering Lot his choice of land upon which to dwell. Abram was Lot's elder, but he insisted that Lot choose first. Lot chose the beautiful, well-watered (irrigated) Jordan River Valley, which left the rocky hill country for Abram. Lot settled in the valley city of Sodom and Abram in the land of Canaan at Hebron (22 miles south of present day Jerusalem). It was near the oaks of Mamre that he built another altar.

- A. This is another powerful principle worthy of reflection. God provided great material wealth to both Abram and Lot. God's provision inspired Abram to be generous and open-hearted with Lot and his family, a liberality God poured back into Abram's life. Lot had the same opportunity but revealed his heart condition through greed rather than generosity and honor toward his elder. We will later learn that Lot lost all that he had in Sodom.

7. Compare the heart attitudes of Abram and his nephew Lot from your reading.
8. Who was Melchizedek? Why do we call him a "type" of Jesus Christ?
9. What did Melchizedek provide Abram?



Notebook Record:

1. Label the following cities on your Land of the Patriarchs map:
 - Hebron
 - Salem
 - Sodom
2. Complete your map study by outlining the bodies of water and land regions with your colored pencils.



Memory Verse:

Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6a)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

Luke 6:38: *“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you.”*

- B. God reaffirmed His promise to Abram in Hebron, telling him that He was giving all the land that Abram could see to his descendants forever (Genesis 13:15). Abram was the first person to be referred to as a Hebrew (Genesis 14:13). The soon-to-be nation of Israel was birthed in faith by Abram and would be sustained by faith through his descendants. Abram exemplifies the life of faith by which believers appropriate all the benefits of divine grace. He was justified by faith, and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6) in the same way that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ and are saved.

Romans 10:10: “For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Galatians 2:16: “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified .”

Galatians 3:24: “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”

In our second reading Abram meets Melchizedek, the king-priest of Salem, which means “peace.” This is the first mention of either priest or peace in the Bible. Melchizedek’s name means “righteousness,” and he is a type or foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the high priest of heaven, and the Prince of peace.

Psalms 110:1-6: “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’ The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’... The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’ The LORD is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. He will judge among the nations.”

- A. Melchizedek was king of a group of people in Salem (later renamed “Jerusalem”), who knew and worshiped the true Creator-God. His priesthood was of an eternal order, unlike the later Levitical priesthood. Melchizedek celebrated Abram’s victory over his enemies by offering him bread and wine and blessing him. Up to this point in Abram’s life God had promised to bless him. Now, through Melchizedek the king-priest, Abram received God’s blessing (Genesis 14:19).

Hebrews 7:1-3: “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also

Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

Many Bible scholars believe that Melchizedek was none other than Jesus Christ Himself—the second person of the godhead and the eternal Mediator between man and God—in one of His glorious, pre-incarnate appearances. Prior to His incarnation Jesus appeared to man in what is called a theophany many times. During His earthly ministry, Jesus said to the Jews, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am’” (John 8:56-58).

- B. Abram acknowledged Melchizedek as his spiritual superior. He responded by giving him a tenth of his spoils from the battle as an expression of gratitude to God for his victory and his safe refuge in Salem. This is the first mention of tithing in the Bible.

Abram passed the tests of faith, courage, love, and generosity as God prepared him for his greatest revelation experience with Him.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that a divine calling requires the individual to walk by faith and not by sight.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “faith.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that without faith it is impossible to please God.
6. Assign the Bible reading to the children. Have them read orally.

7. Read the teacher reading to the children after first summarizing the events of Genesis 14:1-9.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the names of the cities on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their Land of the Patriarchs maps. Have the children complete outlining the landmasses and file their maps in their binders.
10. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
11. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
12. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 4

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 15:1-10

Teacher Reading: Genesis 15:11-21

Review: Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Principle: When we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

covenant (n.) A mutual consent or promise between two or more persons to walk together according to specified terms that are generally written and binding by their signatures.

incarnation (n.) The act of assuming flesh or of taking a human body and the nature of man, as the incarnation of the Son of God.

providence (n.) 1) The act of providing or preparing for future use or application. 2) In theology, the care and superintendence that God exercises over His creatures.

righteousness (n.) The state of being in right standing with God.

theophany (n.) A self-manifestation of God to man by actual appearance, usually as an incarnation.

vassal (n.) 1) A person who held land belonging to a king or lord and received protection in return for his allegiance. 2) A slave.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: When we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.

STUDENT



Key Word:

trust (n.) Confidence; a resting of the mind on the character, friendship, or other sound principle of another.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Define “trust” in your own words.
2. What is the basis of trust? How does one cultivate trust in someone or something?
3. When God sees our heart and that we trust Him, what does He provide for us?
4. What two things did God promise Abram in this lesson’s readings?
5. Explain why it required faith on Abram’s part to believe that these promises would come true.
6. Paraphrase this verse: Abram “believed the Lord, and He

Our readings contain the account of God's fourth direct appearance to Abram. Prior to Jesus' incarnation, He often appeared to man in what is called a theophany.

Genesis 15:1: "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward'" (KJV).

A. Significant to this verse is the first mention of "the word of the LORD" in Scripture. When God created man, He gave him the gift of language in order that He could communicate His will to man and man could respond in praise to God. This is one of man's attributes that sets him apart from the animal kingdom.

The concept of "the word of the Lord" includes both the written Word and the living Word, the Second person of the godhead. Scripture teaches us that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God, who was present at creation.

John 1:1, 14: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

B. Genesis 15 also contains the first mention of the great "I AM's" of Scripture. "I AM" is one of God's names. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He said, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). When Jesus walked the Earth, many of His great claims began with the words "I AM": "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12); "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35); "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11); "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25); and in John 8:56-58:

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.' So the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'"

In Scripture a person's name often signifies his character, special ability, or mission, especially when the name is given by God. Knowing that the names of God reveal His character helps us to trust Him with our daily affairs and eternal destinies. "I am" means that God exists independently of any other being or power. He is the everlasting God, the Creator of all that exists, and He does not change.

God's appearance to Abram, saying "I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great" (Genesis 15:1) constitutes the first mention in the Bible of both the words "shield" and "reward." Abram had just been victorious in two conflicts: the first with the pagan kings of the north-east and the second with his refusal of the offer to gain wealth from Sodom's treasury and become a vassal of the

reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).

7. What did God foretell Abram would happen to his descendants?
8. Describe your faith in God. How has God tested your faith?



Notebook Record:

1. Copy these phrases on your Profile of Abraham graphic organizer:
 - Believed in the living God and became His "friend"
 - Was courageous
 - Trusted and obeyed God's word
 - Was a worshiper
2. Complete coloring your Bible Bookcase with your colored pencils.



Singing:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

This popular hymn tune was written by William J. Kirkpatrick, with lyrics written in 1882 by Louisa Stead. You can find the music online: <http://www.hymnal.net/hymn.php/h/568>

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!



Memory Verse:

Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6a)

king of Sodom. God appeared to Abram to put to rest any fear he might have had. He let him know that the source of his victory was not in himself but in God and His sovereign providence. God assured Abram that he had lost nothing when he refused the king's reward. In other words, God was building up Abram's trust in what He had promised him. He was telling him that he could trust God to be there for him and to bring His words to pass by His supernatural power. God's reward is not just material wealth, but His riches are also spiritual and eternal!

Psalm 119:114: "You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word."

2 Samuel 22:31b: "The word of the LORD is tested; he is a shield to all who take refuge in Him."

2 Samuel 22:36: "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your help makes me great."

Philippians 4:19: "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

God called Abram to walk with Him by faith, so it was very important for Abram to learn to trust God and put his confidence in God's word and character, not in man's word and character. It is when we put our trust in the Lord that He becomes our protector and our help. Learning to trust God when still a child will bless a person all the days of his life.

- C. Abram's faith grew in response to God's word. He was able to share with God the doubt that he harbored about ever having an heir. God quickly answered Abram that he would, indeed, have a child of his own and directed Abram to count the stars of the heavens, with which God compared the number of Abram's descendants. Abram believed the Lord, and God counted or credited it to him as righteousness (verse 6). Because of Abram's belief in God's word, he is known as the father of faith and the friend of God forever.

James 2:23: "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,' and he was called the friend of God."

2 Chronicles 20:7: "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend?"

Isaiah 41:8: "... Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend."

The remainder of this chapter relates that Abram asked for a sign, which God gave him through a smoking oven and a flaming torch that passed through the animal sacrifices. God made a covenant with Abram and promised him land for his descendants. He foretold of his descendants' 400-year enslavement in Egypt and their eventual deliverance. We

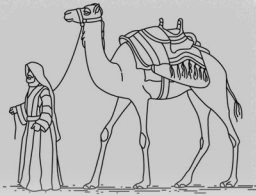
will learn more about the covenant God made with Abraham in a future lesson.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, bookmarks, and Profile of Abraham graphic organizers.



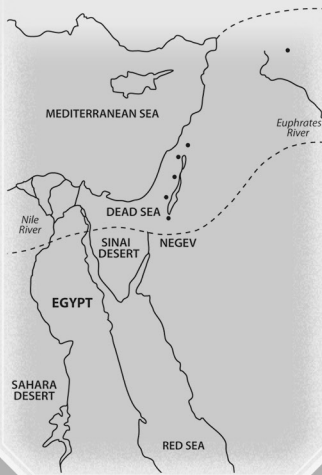
Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that without faith it is impossible to please God.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "covenant."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that when we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.
6. Distribute bookmarks to the children. Assign their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Abraham graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have them copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Abraham honored and worshiped God by building an altar. Let us honor and worship the Lord in our study as well. Teach the children the hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.



ABRAM
BELIEVED
IN THE LORD,
AND HE
COUNTED IT
TO HIM AS
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Genesis 15:6



ABRAM
BELIEVED
IN THE LORD,



AND HE
COUNTED IT
TO HIM AS
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Genesis 15:6

GENESIS 5

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 16:1-8

Student Reading: Genesis 16:9-16

Review: When we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.

Principle: God's promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His Word and His timing.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

disdain (v.) To scorn; to think unworthy of respect or notice.

futile (n.) Useless; of no effect.

monogamous (adj.) Having one wife only.

surrogate (n.) A substitute; one who takes the place of another.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God's promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His Word and His timing.

Walking by faith has many challenges and tests. In the lives of Abram and Sarai, God's promise that Abram would father an heir seemed like it would never come to pass. They had already lived in Canaan for 10 years. Abram was now 85 years old, and Sarai, at 75, was long past childbearing age. From their perspective God's promise seemed impossible, so Sarai devised a plan to help God fulfill His promise and offered her personal handmaid to Abram as a surrogate. Although this was a common practice in Mesopotamia, it was not God's will, which included only monogamous

STUDENT



Key Word:

promise (n.) The assurance that God has given in His word of bestowing blessings that cannot fail His people.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Relate the promise that God gave Abram.
2. Did God say how long it would be before this promise was fulfilled? What were Abram and Sarai's expectations?
3. Why did Sarai attempt to help God's promise come to pass? Did she seek God's guidance in this matter?
4. When Hagar found herself with child, how did her attitude toward Sarai change? What did this change produce?

marriage. This set into motion a serious conflict among Abram's offspring that is still ongoing today!

- A. God times and coordinates all events that pertain to His eternal, gospel plan. He has in place a divine timing throughout history and is patient to assure that all the conditions are met in Christ to bring His purposes to bear. What appears to be a delay from a human point of view is a demonstration of His sovereignty in the affairs of individuals and nations and His supernatural power to perform the humanly impossible.

2 Peter 3:8, 9: "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you."

Daniel 2:21, 22: "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings ... It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things."

Galatians 4:4: "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman."

- B. During these divine delays, God tests the faith and obedience of His people.

Jeremiah 20:12: "Yet, O Lord of hosts, You who test the righteous, who see the mind and the heart ..."

The Lord also tests the righteous to develop their patience and to bring them to the end of their own means and devices.

Habakkuk 2:3: "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."

Hebrews 10:35, 36: "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

This last reason appears to be why God delayed fulfilling His promise to Abram and Sarai. He waited until it was humanly impossible for them to have a child before He miraculously fulfilled His Word. The Apostle Paul teaches us that through this extreme delay Abram's faith grew stronger:

Romans 4:19-21: "Without becoming weak in faith he [Abraham] contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform."

Mark 10:27: "Jesus said, 'With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.'"

5. Explain how the meaning of Hagar's name describes the way she solved her problem with Sarai.
6. What happens when we try to escape our problems and leave them unresolved?
7. Whom did Hagar meet in the wilderness, and what did he relate to her?
8. Describe the consequences of Sarai and Abram's efforts to help God fulfill His promise.
9. Have you ever taken things into your own hands to try to make something good come to pass? Explain your answer and the result of your efforts.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases on your Profile of Hagar graphic organizer:

- Sarai's Egyptian handmaid
- Her name means "to run away."
- Found God's favor and received a divine birth announcement
- Her son, Ishmael, was named by God and became the father of the Arab nation.



Singing:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

When Abram listened to the voice of his wife, it proved to be a serious mistake. Soon Hagar found herself with child and began to disdain her mistress. Sarai's harsh response prompted Hagar, whose name means "to run away," to flee into the wilderness. Hagar tried to escape her conflict with Sarai by running from it. Many individuals run from their conflicts, which only compounds their problems.

- A. Sitting next to a well, Hagar met the angel of the Lord, another theophany of Jesus the Messiah (Genesis 16:7). Hagar's statement in Genesis 16:13 substantiates this: "You are a God who sees." The Lord called her by name and commanded her to return and submit to Sarai's authority, which she did. The Living Word's face-to-face encounter with Hagar at the well, which was later named Beer Lahai Roi ("a well of the Living One who sees me"), reminds us of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well during His earthly ministry. It was there that He promised her (and us) the gift of living water:

John 4:13, 14: "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'"

- B. Although Hagar and Abram's union was not God's will, the Lord showed great compassion for Hagar and graciously intervened in her difficult situation. He delivered her from her distress and affliction. God promised her a son, whom He named Ishmael, and foretold of his character and countless descendants. Ishmael means "God hears." This name would always remind Hagar that the living God of Abram and Sarai—not her pagan Egyptian gods—had delivered her and abundantly provided for her and her son.

Ishmael would eventually become the patriarch of the Arab nations. God's description of his character foretold the hostility and conflict between Arabs and Jews. This animosity originated with the strife and jealousy between Sarai and Hagar and is evidenced most vividly in today's Arab-Israeli hostilities in the Middle East.

The principle to be learned from Abram and Sarai's experience with Hagar is that trying to fulfill God's promise in our own strength and wisdom is futile. Human effort without God's approval and guidance often produces long-lasting and painful consequences.

3. Gather resources: Bible, Profile of Hagar graphic organizers, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Memory Verse:

Abram believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that when we put our trust in the Lord, He is our help and our shield.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "promise."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God's promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His Word and His timing.
6. Read the teacher reading to the children.
7. Assign the Bible reading to the children. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Hagar graphic organizers. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their Profile of Hagar graphic organizers.
10. Sing the hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 6

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 17:1-10

Teacher Reading: Genesis 17:15-22

Review: God's promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His Word and His timing.

Principle: God's covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

attribute (n.) A permanent quality of a person's internal nature.

binding (adj.) Constraining, as the "binding" force of a moral duty or command.

character (n.) The peculiar qualities or attributes impressed by habit that determine a person's moral and ethical actions and reactions. Character is voluntary, derived by moral choices. Character is why a person does what he does. The measure of character is God's moral law. The character of God is the reason God ACTS.

covenant (n.) An unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship.

election (n.) The power of choosing; in theology, divine choice; the predetermination of God.

nature (n.) The essence or essential substance that constitutes a thing or a person. Those particular qualities that distinguish one species from another. Nature is involuntary. The nature of God is what God IS.

perfect (adj.) 1) Complete in moral excellencies. 2) Complete; not defective.

seal (n.) A special mark or stamp affixed to a document that attests to its authenticity.

sign (n.) 1) Some visible transaction, event, or appearance intended as proof or evidence of something else. 2) A visible

STUDENT



Key Word:

covenant (n.) A solemn promise between two parties that is binding forever.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Explain in your own words what a covenant is. Give an example of a covenant.
2. Describe the covenant that God made with Abram in this lesson's reading. What did God promise Abram?
3. What did Abram have to do to see God's covenant come to pass?
4. What was the outward sign of God's covenant?
5. What did God promise Sarai? How did Abram respond and why?

mark or representation; as an outward sign of an inward and spiritual grace. 3) A mark of distinction.

vow (n.) A solemn pledge or promise to do something or to behave in a certain manner.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God's covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.

In the first 11 chapters of Genesis, many attributes of God's eternal nature and character are described. The concept of covenant is also introduced when God established a covenant with Noah, promising never again to destroy the Earth with a flood (Genesis 9:11). In Genesis 12 God promised Abram that He would birth a great nation through his seed, that He would bless him and his family, and that through him all the families of the Earth would be blessed (verses 1-3). God unveiled the terms and conditions of this covenant with Abraham over the span of many years.

A. The Hebrew word for "covenant" in the Old Testament is *berith*, which means a compact and suggests a cutting of the covenant. Covenant is a mutual consent of two or more persons who vow to perform or to forbear some act or thing by a deed, which is generally written, sealed, and executed. Marriage is an example of a covenant.

A simple, theological definition of covenant is an agreement between God and His people in which God makes certain promises and generally requires certain behavior from them in return.

Another word for covenant is "testament," as in the two divisions of the Bible—the Old and New Testaments. Most Old Testament covenants were sealed with the blood of sacrificed animals. The New Covenant was sealed by the shed blood of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (Hebrews 8:6; 9:11-18). Every covenant that God has made with man demonstrates His grace and lovingkindness (Jeremiah 31:22; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

A covenant includes:

- 1) A stipulation of the parties involved
- 2) A legally binding set of provisions that stipulate the conditions of their relationship
- 3) The promise of blessings for obedience

6. Who was to become the child of God's promise? What did God promise Abram about the other child's future position?
7. Upon what are God's covenants based?
8. Have you ever made a vow or a covenant with someone? Explain your answer.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases on your Profile of Abraham graphic organizer:

- His faith was counted to him as righteousness.
- Defended his family at all cost
- Is the patriarch of the Jewish nation
- Is the father of all who believe



Singing:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!



Memory Verse:

Abram believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

4) The condition for obtaining the blessings

B. God is the covenant initiator and keeper. God's covenants and gospel plan can be understood and fully trusted when we comprehend that they are based on His unchangeable and holy nature and attributes. God existed before He created time and the universe and established His covenants with man.

C. God's gospel plan for man exists from eternity past and reflects His perfect nature and attributes:

Psalm 33:11: "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation."

Ephesians 1:9, 10: "For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ" (Phillips Translation).

Ephesians 3:11: "This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which [God] carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Peter 1:18-20: "You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you."

D. God's promises are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign election. This selection and election by God of one individual over another appear throughout Israel's history.

Romans 11:5: "... there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 4: "We give thanks to God always for all of you ... knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you."

From the time when God chose Abram with whom to establish His covenant, God's people would learn the grand lesson of all Scripture that everything comes to us from God by His providence and grace alone. Nothing is by man's doing but only by God's working!

- 1) God chose Abram at the age of 75, when he was living in Ur and commissioned him to "Go forth from your country ... to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great ... and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3).
- 2) Several years later, after Abram and Lot had separated, God reaffirmed His covenant promise to give Abram and his descendants the land of Canaan forever: "The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, 'Now lift up your eyes and look from

God's Nature and Attributes



1) God's nature:

- **God is spirit.** He is purely, wholly, and only spirit. Man possesses a spirit, but his nature is described as a living soul. God manifested Himself in human form in the Old Testament, before Jesus clothed Himself in human flesh and walked among men on Earth.

John 4:24: "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Genesis 2:7: "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

1 Corinthians 15:45: "So also it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul.' The last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit."

Philippians 2:6-8: "Although [Jesus] existed in the form of God, [He] did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

- **God is One.** God and His essence are undivided and indivisible. The Trinity consists of three eternal distinctions in the same being and pure essence.

Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"

John 17:11b: "Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are."

2) God's attributes:

- **Eternal:** God has no beginning and no end. He is not limited by time.

Deuteronomy 33:27: "The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Isaiah 9:6: "... and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

- **Self-existent:** God's being is underived. His existence is independent of everything else.

Exodus 3:14: "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you."'"

- **Immutable:** God is unchangeable in nature and purpose.

Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent."

1 Samuel 15:29: "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

Hebrews 6:17, 18: "In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us."

the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever” (Genesis 13:14, 15).

- 3) Ten years later Abram and Sarai still had no children. Again, God spoke to Abram and swore fidelity to His covenant promise as He passed between the halves of slain animals as a smoking oven and a flaming torch: “Look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them. So shall your descendants be ... To your descendants I have given this land” (Genesis 15:5, 18).
- 4) Sarai and Abram tried to fulfill God’s promise through Sarai’s handmaid, Hagar. Ishmael was born but was not the child of God’s promise!
- 5) Thirteen years later, when Abram was 99 years old, God established His covenant with him and sealed it with the visible sign of circumcision. Every Hebrew male was to be circumcised as a sign of being in covenant with God. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “father of a great number.” When Abraham obeyed God’s command, God blessed him and Sarah with Isaac, the promised child of the covenant: “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac, and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him” (Genesis 17:19).

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, and Profile of Abraham graphic organizers.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God’s hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God’s call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God’s promises are not fulfilled by human effort apart from God, but by trusting His Word and His timing.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “covenant.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God’s covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.

God's Nature and Attributes (continued)

- **Holy:** God's holiness is perfect moral and spiritual excellence. God is perfectly pure, sinless, and righteous in Himself.
Psalm 22:3: "Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel."
Revelation 4:8: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."
- **Omnipresent:** God is present at any given moment throughout His creation.
Psalm 139:7-10: "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me."
- **Omniscient:** From all eternity God has possessed all knowledge and wisdom.
1 John 3:20: "... in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."
Ephesians 1:11: "We have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."
- **Omnipotent:** God possesses all power.
Genesis 17:1: "The LORD appeared to [Abram] and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.'"
Matthew 19:26: "Jesus said to them, 'With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"
Psalm 103:19: "The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all."
- **Veracity:** God is truthful and faithful in His revelation to His creatures.
Romans 1:25: "For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever."
2 Corinthians 1:20: "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God."
1 Peter 4:19: "Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."
- **Love:** God's redeeming love is sovereign and particular.
John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."
Romans 9:13: "Just as it is written, 'JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.'"
1 John 4:8: "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."
- **Just:** God's justice is perfect.
Deuteronomy 32:4: "The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just."
Psalm 9:4: "For You have maintained my just cause; You have sat on the throne judging righteously."
Psalm 89:14: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You."

6. Assign the Bible reading to the children. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Abraham graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Sing the hymn "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 7

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 18:16-33

Teacher Reading: Genesis 19:1-3, 15-30

Review: God's covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.

Principle: The one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on others.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

antithetical (adj.) Exactly opposite in character or purpose.

carnal (adj.) 1) Pertaining to flesh, as opposed to spiritual.
2) Being in the natural state.

influence (n.) 1) In a general sense, denotes power whose operation is invisible and known only by its effects. 2) Moral power; power of truth operating on the mind, rational faculties, or will in persuading or dissuading, as the influence of motives, of arguments, or of prayer. (v.) To lead or direct.

intercessory (adj.) Pertaining to a prayer to God on behalf of another person.

just (adj.) 1) Honest; upright; having principles of rectitude; conforming exactly to the law. 2) Conformed to truth.

mercy (n.) 1) Benevolence of heart that treats an offender better than he deserves. 2) Pity; compassion manifested toward a person in distress. 3) Pardon.

principle (n.) A foundational truth or precept.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

STUDENT



Key Word:

compromise (v.) To make choices that weaken your faith or beliefs; to not agree with what you previously believed.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Why did the Lord and His angels visit Abraham? How did this demonstrate His love for Abraham?
2. Describe Abraham's intercessory prayer for Sodom. How did God answer Abraham's prayer?
3. Compare the faith of Abraham with that of Lot.
4. Explain how Abraham's and Lot's influence on their families and communities was affected by their faith or lack of it.

Principle: The one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on others.

Chapter 18:

The Lord Himself and two angels appeared to Abraham. As he ministered to them, God again promised him an heir and gave him a date. Sarah overheard the conversation and laughed to herself, whereupon the Lord asked, "Is anything too difficult for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14) God then stated that He had chosen Abraham so that "he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him" (Genesis 18:19). God revealed that the promises of the covenant would be passed from generation to generation through the father's righteous influence and training of his children, beginning with Abraham. (Abraham's character was antithetical to that of his nephew Lot, as we will learn in chapter 19.)

God's attributes of mercy and justice are demonstrated in His dealings with Sodom. In this chapter is the Bible's most remarkable example of intercessory prayer, as Abraham petitioned God to spare Sodom from His judgment if perhaps 50, 40, 30, 20, or finally 10 righteous people could be found there. Amazingly, God said He would not destroy Sodom if 10 righteous individuals could be found. Sadly, not even all of Lot's family was enough, and God judged the people of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone (Genesis 19:24).

Chapter 19:

Lot was considered a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7, 8); however, he lived a carnal life and thought more highly of himself than of others. Over time he compromised God's truth with the unprincipled and wicked ways of the world. When faced with making decisions, he chose the easiest course of action, as noted when he separated himself and his family from Abraham and chose the less difficult lifestyle in the valley near Sodom. Over the years he moved his family into the wicked and demoralized city and was found "sitting in the gate" (verse 1), a place of political leadership and governance. His conscience and discernment had been dulled by the perverse culture around him, and internal warnings went unheeded. Sadly, neither Lot's wife nor those in his community had respect for him. Therefore, he was unable to exert any righteous influence in their lives and culture.

We're told in the Scriptures that even after the angels' warning Lot lingered in Sodom and had to be taken in hand by the angels to escape God's fiery judgment! (Genesis 19:16). It was the intercessory prayer of his uncle Abraham

5. For whom in your family are you interceding? Don't stop until you see your prayers answered.
6. What happened to Lot's wife? Explain why this horrible event occurred.
7. Paraphrase your memory verse for the week and tell what it personally means to you.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases on your Profile of Sarah graphic organizer:

- Walked by faith with her husband, Abraham
- Had trouble believing God's promises
- Became the mother of the nation of Israel
- Ancestor of Jesus



Singing:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!



Memory Verse:

Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. (Luke 17:33)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

that preserved his life and the lives of his two daughters; however, Lot lost the rest of his family, including his wife, who clung to the love of her material possessions and worldly friends. She turned to look back and received God's judgment for her decision. It is recorded in the Gospels that Jesus preached, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32) because He knew that many others would be just as attached to worldly things when making decisions about salvation. They would linger and look back with a longing heart upon possessions and carnal friendships. The demise of Lot's wife provides us a great warning that light has no fellowship with darkness, nor righteousness with lawlessness. As believers we are always to defer to God's wisdom and obey His precepts and commandments.

Luke 17:32, 33: "Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

James 4:4: "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

1 John 2:15: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

2 Corinthians 6:14-17: "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ... 'Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,' says the Lord."

Matthew 7:13, 14: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, Profile of Sarah graphic organizers, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God's covenants are based upon His perfect and unchangeable nature and attributes.

4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “compromise.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on others.
6. Summarize Genesis 18:1-10 for the children and assign their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children. **NOTE: Be careful to read only the chosen verses**, as the subject matter of some of this chapter is not appropriate for young children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Sarah graphic organizers. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Sing the hymn “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.”
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents’ blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 8

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 21:1-11

Teacher Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

Review: The one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on others.

Principle: Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as we trust and obey Him.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

mock (v.) To imitate in contempt or derision; to ridicule or laugh at; to treat with scorn.

need (n.) Want; a state that requires supply or relief.

progenitor (n.) The originator of a line of descent.

propitiation (n.) The atoning sacrifice offered to God to assuage His wrath against sinners. Christ is the propitiation for the sins of men (Romans 3; 1 John 2).

prototype (n.) The first or most typical example of something that serves as the standard for later stages.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as we trust and obey Him.

Chapter 21:

God proved His word to Abraham and Sarah. Their child of promise was born to them in their old age, just as the Lord had spoken to them.

STUDENT



Key Word:

Jehovah-jireh (n.) One of God's great names in the Bible that means "The Lord will provide."



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe at least two ways in which God proved His word to be true to Abraham. What attribute of God's nature do these examples highlight?
2. Explain why God chose to fulfill his covenant with Abraham through Isaac rather than Ishmael.
3. Why did God test Abraham's trust and faith in Him?
4. How did God test Abraham?
5. How does the life of Isaac foreshadow that of Jesus Christ?

Genesis 21:1, 2: "Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age."

They named the baby Isaac, which means "laughter." Joy and amazement characterized the special circumstances of the birth of this child of promise. Abraham and Sarah became the prototype of those who are justified by faith. Theirs was a faith based on full confidence in the word of God: "*([A]s it is written, 'A father of many nations have I made you') in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. In hope against hope [Abraham] believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness"* (Romans 4:17-22).

Hebrews 11:11: "By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised."

Isaac was circumcised on the eighth day according to God's command, assuring that he was under the terms of God's covenant. Surely Abraham took seriously his role to instruct and disciple Isaac in the ways of the Lord (Genesis 18:19). As was the ancient custom, Sarah nursed her son for three years, after which a great festival was celebrated. It became apparent to Ishmael, who had been an only child for 16 years, that a great deal of attention was now being showered on Isaac. His childish response was to mock his young half-brother.

Conflict and resentment ensued. This caused Sarah to insist that Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away, which he did. The Apostle Paul used this conflict between Sarah and Hagar as an illustration or metaphor of the ongoing struggle between the flesh and the spirit, law and grace (Galatians 4:22-31). Jehovah-jireh (God Himself) saved Hagar and Ishmael from death and provided for their needs in the desert. Ishmael eventually married an Egyptian woman. God blessed him with 12 sons (Genesis 25:13-15), who became the patriarchs of the "great nation" that God had promised Hagar (Genesis 17:20). Ishmael is the progenitor of the Arab nation, just as Abraham is the progenitor of the Hebrew nation.

Chapter 22:

God's request of Abraham to sacrifice his long-promised son is difficult to understand if viewed and studied only in the natural realm. It requires spiritual insight and a belief in a

6. What name did Abraham give to the mountain where he offered Isaac to God, and what does this name mean?
7. Relate how God has provided for your needs or the needs of your family.



Notebook Record:

Copy the following on your Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer:

- Sarah m. Abraham Hagar
- Isaac m. Rebekah Ishmael



Singing:

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me!

My God shall supply all my needs
According to His riches in glory.
He will give His angels charge
over me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me!

Repeat and sing again.



Memory Verse:

Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. (Luke 17:33)

supernatural God. This must be shared with the children in your class, lest they become fearful and misunderstand the nature of God. Isaac most likely was a young man at this point in his life. This event indicates his willingness to obey his father and the Lord, as well as Abraham's willingness to obey God.

- A. The first verse explains that God's strange request was a test of Abraham's trust and faith in God and His promises. This is the first mention of the word "test" (Hebrew *nasah*) in the Bible. God regularly tries and refines the character of His people through various instruments, such as tribulation, affliction, wealth, danger, persecution, and suffering.

Proverbs 17:3: "The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests hearts."

The Apostle Paul clearly teaches that we, too, will experience some or many of these tests from the hand of God: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39).

Abraham's test was supreme and highly significant for many reasons. It also foreshadows God's future sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16). The sacrifice of Isaac is a "type" of the sacrifice of Jesus, whose shed blood on the cross provided eternal life for all who believe.

- B. In response to God's request, Abraham exercised faith that saw beyond the sacrifice. His obedience was based on his long relationship of walking with God and seeing God's promises come to pass time after time. He obeyed God's request, trusting that God would provide all that was needed to fulfill His eternal plan. The book of Hebrews tells us that Abraham understood that God was able even to resurrect Isaac from the dead if need be to fulfill His promise that through Isaac His covenant promise would come to pass.

Genesis 22:7-9: "Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' And he said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.'"

Hebrews 11:17-19: "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type."

- C. God directed Abraham and Isaac to travel from Beer-sheba northward to Moriah, a region in the hill country just outside Jerusalem. Abraham named the site Jehovah-jireh, or "The Lord Will Provide." This location would become the future site of Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 3:1), where all the animal sacrifices would be offered for the sins of the people until the great and final sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. The crucifixion of Jesus took place on a hill in the same region of Moriah, named Golgotha or "the place of the skull" (John 19:17). Looking back in history, we are able to clearly see the hand of God providing for His gospel purposes and to better comprehend our memory verse from lesson one: *"For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes in his sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ" (Ephesians 1:19, 20, Phillips Translation).*

The account of Abraham on Mount Moriah is more than a dramatic illustration of faith and obedience. This event summarizes the gospel: *God himself will provide a lamb for the offering.* It relates the Lord's eternal grace, continual provision, and all-encompassing wisdom. Jehovah-jireh is not "The Lord *did* provide" but "The Lord *will* provide." For us in the 21st century, Jehovah-jireh does not simply memorialize an important historic event but anticipates a future action that we can appropriate as we walk on pilgrimage with the living God.

- D. Throughout our study of Genesis, the principle of first mention has been highlighted. When an important concept occurs for the first time in the Bible, it sets the pattern for its primary usage throughout the remainder of Scripture. This passage of Scripture also contains the first mention of the word "love" (Hebrew *ahab*). It may seem strange that "love" is first mentioned in terms of an earthly father's love for his son and not a husband's love for his wife or a mother's love for her children or even a believer's love for God! But as the passage is meditated upon, it becomes obvious that God has painted us a beautiful portrait of divine or *agape* love: the love within the holy Trinity—the sacrificial love of God the Father for His only Son. This love existed in eternity before the creation of the world (John 17:24) and, therefore, is the root of all other types of love—all have their source in God's love, for God Himself is love.

Genesis 22:2: "He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.'"

Matthew 3:17: "And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son."

1 John 4:8-10: "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

E. Abraham passed God's test. He and his seed would become God's channel of blessing for mankind. God was now ready to fully implement His great plan of salvation and redemption through them. God swore by His own name that, "because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:16-18).

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, and Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizers.

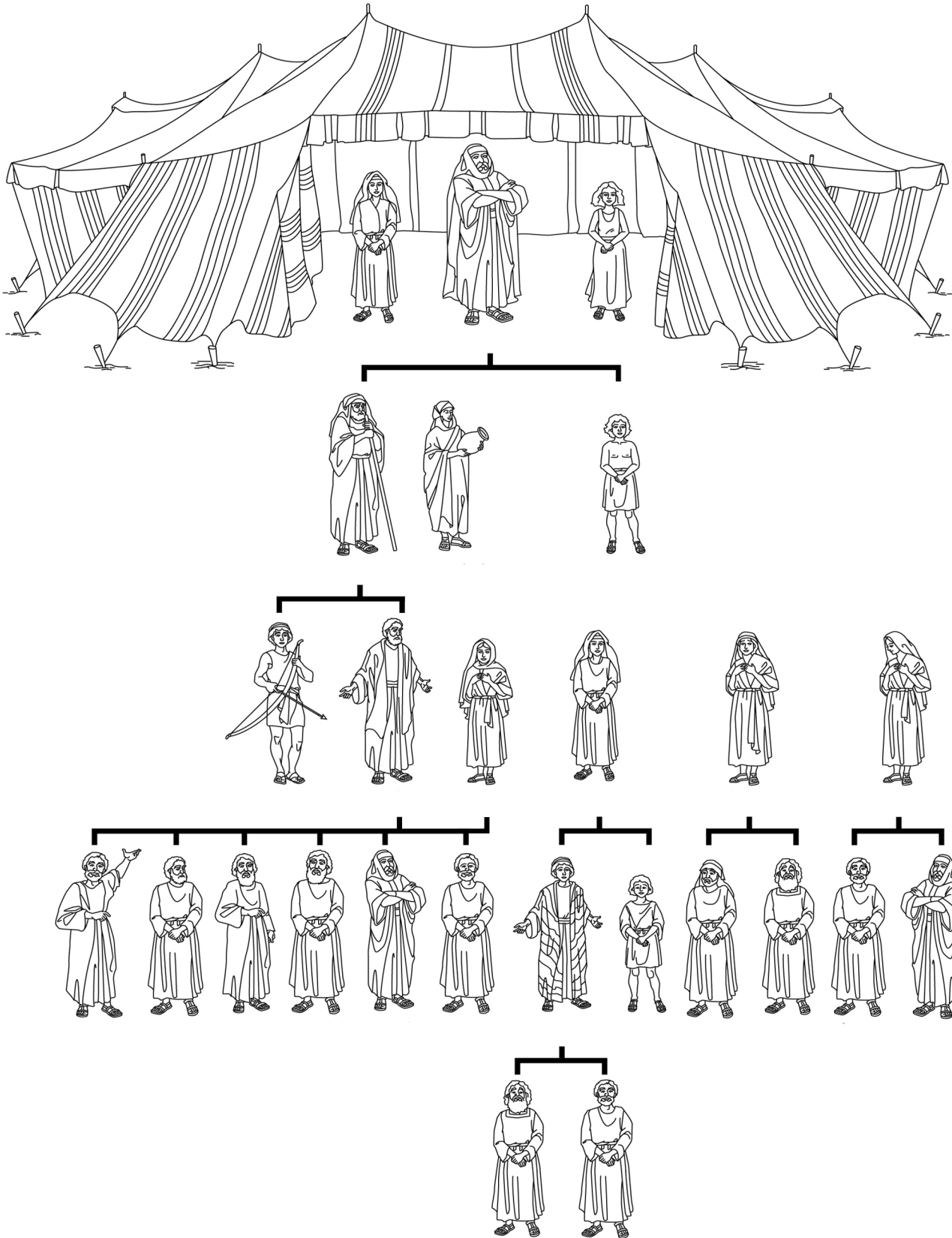


Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that the one who befriends the world and compromises principle opposes God and loses righteous influence on family and community.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "Jehovah-jireh."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as we trust and obey Him.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.

7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children. Discernment and care should be exercised in presenting this lesson.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizers to the children. Write the names on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Teach the children the words to the scriptural song "Jehovah-jireh."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

Patriarchs' Family Lineage



GENESIS 9

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 24:1-40

Student Reading: Genesis 24:54-67

Review: Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as when we trust and obey Him.

Principle: Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

allegiance (n.) Loyalty, or the obligation of loyalty, as to a nation, a sovereign, or a cause.

Belial (n.) An evil spirit; a wicked and unprincipled person.

type (n.) A sign or symbol; a figure of something to come.

yoke (v.) To be connected or joined together.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.

When Isaac was 37 years old, his mother died at the age of 127 in Hebron (Genesis 23:1). Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age is given at the time of death. She is considered one of the women of honor in Scripture and the “mother of all believing women” (1 Peter 3:5, 6). Abraham had to purchase land for her grave. Although a wealthy man, he was not a landowner in Canaan because he dwelled in tents and frequently moved his herds for grazing (Hebrews 11:9).

STUDENT



Key Word:

fellowship (n.) The companionship and mutual support of individuals with similar interests and on equal terms.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Explain why Abraham guarded and guided the selection of a wife for Isaac.
2. What were the two conditions that Abraham laid out for his servant to meet in the selection of a bride?
3. What test did the servant apply to determine who the woman would be?
4. Describe Rebekah’s nature and physical appearance.
5. Did Rebekah consent to marry Isaac, or was she forced to marry

A. Abraham knew that if Isaac were to be the patriarch of a great nation, as God had promised, the choice of his wife was extremely important. Abraham felt a keen responsibility in this matter, and wisdom indicated that she should be from his own people back in Ur. There are many principles in this the longest chapter in Genesis that pertain to the selection of a wife and the preparation for marriage. It was of the utmost importance that both Isaac and his wife be completely united in their faith in God's covenant, in order to pass on God's legacy and covenant blessings to the next generation. The woman must also be a virgin and one who loved her family, as well as be willing and adventurous enough to make her home in the Promised Land.

Abraham trusted God (Jehovah-jireh) to provide the right wife for Isaac. He placed his most faithful servant under an oath of allegiance to explicitly follow his instructions and then sent him on the long, 500-mile journey to Mesopotamia. He insisted on two things: 1) that the servant not choose a pagan from among the Canaanites, but a family member from Abraham's tribe; and 2) that he not take Isaac with him. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God's principle for His covenant people is the same with regard to entering into associations, partnerships, treaties, covenants, and alliances (including business and marriage): Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.

2 Corinthians 6:14, 15: "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"

1 Corinthians 5:9: "I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people."

1 Corinthians 15:33: "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

1 Corinthians 6:9: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived ..."

1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

Believers are to be in the world but not of the world! For how can one in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells have close intimacy with one who is still under the dominion of the prince of this world? Believers should prayerfully

him by Abraham's arrangement? Explain your answer.

6. In your own words, describe how Isaac is a "type" of Jesus Christ.
7. Paraphrase the principle in today's lesson. Explain how Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah applied it to the choice of Isaac's wife.
8. How can you apply this principle in your everyday life? Relate why this is a very important principle for living a blessed life.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases on your Profile of Isaac graphic organizer:

- Promised son of Abraham and Sarah
- Was offered as a sacrifice by his father
- The second patriarch of Israel
- He and his wife, Rebekah, had twins, Esau and Jacob.



Singing:

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me!

My God shall supply all my needs
According to His riches in glory.
He will give His angels charge
over me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me!

Repeat and sing again.

and cautiously enter into alliances and associations with other believers, as the Lord leads.

B. Rebekah's consent to marry Isaac and live apart from her family in Canaan showed her willingness to be guided by the Lord and follow His divine purpose in her life. The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah is a beautiful picture of an ideal marriage, the union of a man and a woman on the basis of identity in principle. By faith Isaac waited, and by faith Rebekah obeyed. They were opposite in nature: Rebekah's faith was bold and adventurous and Isaac's was retiring and meek. They complemented each other and were united both physically and spiritually for God's greater purposes and eternal plan of redemption.

C. Because Isaac is a "type of Christ," the story of the selection of his wife is not only a beautiful love story but also a chronicle of man's redemption! There are many parallels between the story of the search for Isaac's bride through his father's trusted servant and the sending of the Holy Spirit into the Gentile nations for the Church, the Bride of Christ (Acts 15:14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

Abraham lived for another 35 years after the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah. He married Keturah, with whom he had six more sons. At his death he was buried with Sarah in the cave at Mamre (Genesis 25).

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, Profile of Isaac graphic organizers, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that Jehovah-jireh will provide all our needs as we trust and obey Him.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "fellowship."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that a believer should not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever, as light has no fellowship with darkness.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.



Memory Verse:

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

8. Ask the reason questions, and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Isaac graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing the scriptural song “Jehovah-jireh.”
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents’ blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 10

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 25:1-11

Student Reading: Genesis 25:19-34

Review: Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.

Principle: Eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

birthright (n.) Any right or privilege to which a person is entitled by birth, such as an estate descendible by law to an heir. The term may also be used in the sense of primogeniture, or the legal right of the eldest son to inherit his father's property on his death.

eternal (adj.) Everlasting; without beginning or end; immortal.

lentil (n.) A leguminous plant native to southwest Asia that has flat pods containing edible seeds.

sovereignty (n.) The right to exercise supreme power and authority.

temporal (adj.) Pertaining to this life, this world, or the body only; measured or limited by time.

values (n.) The moral principles and beliefs or accepted standards of a person or social group.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions.

STUDENT



Key Word:

inform (v.) 1) To shape or give life to. 2) To instruct; to make known before judging.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe how the Lord fulfilled His covenant promise to Abraham in the life of Isaac.
2. What was unusual about the birth of the twin boys, Esau and Jacob? Describe how they were different from each other.
3. Define the word "birthright" and explain what Esau gave away to Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup.
4. Paraphrase today's principle. Who is the light of the world?
5. Name some temporal things or activities that have the potential of being a stumbling block in your life.

After Sarah's death and Isaac's marriage, Abraham married Keturah and had six more sons. He protected Isaac's covenant inheritance by sending these sons from the Promised Land to live in the east. The record of Abraham's death at the age of 175 is one of beauty. His life was "full," having been spent in the realm of the supernatural and spiritual power. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him next to Sarah in the plot he had purchased for her grave. Abraham is one of the most important men in the Bible and is exalted in the New Testament as the model and pattern of a life lived by faith, obedience, and perseverance.

A. Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, but by the age of 60 they still had no children. The son of promise did not receive his promise easily. Isaac prayed to the Lord, and God answered his prayer by blessing them with twin sons. The prayers of a husband for his wife have a special power.

The unborn babies struggled in Rebekah's womb, so she sought the Lord for wisdom. The Lord foretold that she was carrying two sons: "Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23). The struggle that began in her womb would continue throughout their lives and throughout the histories of their respective nations.

Just as God had said, Esau (whose name means "red") was the first-born son, and Jacob (whose name means "grasping") was born grasping the heel of his brother. They were total opposites in appearance and in nature. God's sovereignty went against the accepted pattern of the younger serving the older. The Apostle Paul in Romans 9:11 used God's choice of Jacob over Esau as an illustration of His sovereignty: "Though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls." God always chooses based on His divine wisdom, love, and goodness. We may not understand His reasons, but His choices are not arbitrary, random, or senseless.

B. Esau is one of the Bible's major portraits of a worldly person. He put his carnal needs before God's eternal gifts. As a grown man he was impulsive and focused solely on things of temporary value, rather than on his eternal inheritance. He never considered the loss that his descendants would experience in his giving away his inheritance. He foolishly sold his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew to alleviate his temporary hunger. He could not "see" or "touch" his inheritance and the spiritual blessing that accompanied it. Nor was he able to discern spiritual

6. How can you learn to bring balance to your life and avoid yielding to the need to instantly gratify your fleshly desires? Is this a discipline that is easily practiced? Explain your answer.
7. Describe your birthright and blessing in Jesus Christ. As a reference, read Ephesians 1:3-14. Compare them with the temporal things that you most value.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases on your Profile of Esau graphic organizer:

- First-born twin, his father's favorite
- Skillful archer
- A worldly man with weaknesses
- Sold his birthright for a bowl of stew
- Was rejected and could not change what he had done (Hebrews 12:17)
- Became a source of grief to his parents (Genesis 26:35)



Singing:

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me!

My God shall supply all my needs
According to His riches in glory.
He will give His angels charge
over me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me!

Repeat and sing again.

things, and he disregarded God's will in not choosing a wife from idolatrous Canaan. He reasoned with his senses and valued his physical life far above any unseen inheritance or the welfare of the patriarchal lineage.

His birthright involved both a material and a spiritual dynamic. Upon the death of the father, the first-born son was to receive a double portion of his father's wealth and power (Deuteronomy 21:17; 1 Chronicles 5:1, 2). He also became the head of the family and the spiritual leader, which required that all the other family members serve and obey him. Unlike his brother, Jacob, Esau gave no thought to the future consequences of his decision. He succumbed to his momentary hunger, and his "live-in-the-now" lifestyle cost him and all his descendants dearly. By giving Jacob his birthright, Esau was implicitly agreeing to serve his brother.

Later, when Esau realized all that he had lost by giving away his inheritance and his father's blessing (Genesis 27), he became embittered toward his brother, Jacob, and spoke of murdering him after the death of his father. Esau was an ungodly, worldly man. He married two pagan Hittite women, and the Bible says "they were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah" (Genesis 26:35).

Hebrews 12:15-17: "See to it ... that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears."

2 Corinthians 4:17, 18: "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 5:7: "We walk by faith, not by sight."

Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Read the Apostle Paul's teaching in Galatians 5:16-25 on the relationship between the flesh and the Spirit. It requires the inward dwelling of the Holy Spirit for a person to be able to walk in a godly manner. The believer must discipline himself to sacrifice, to wait, to endure hardship, and to overcome the desires of the flesh. Instant gratification is not a Christian character quality. When we allow the Holy Spirit to have His way, He helps us overcome fleshly desires and focus on what is eternal and priceless in the kingdom of God.



Memory Verse:

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Galatians 5:24, 25: "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, and Profile of Esau graphic organizers.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle of not being unequally yoked with unbelievers, as light has no fellowship with darkness.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "inform."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions. Draw a T-chart on the chalkboard and ask the children to name things that are temporal or eternal. Record them on the T-chart.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Esau graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing "Jehovah-jireh" and "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 11

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 27:1-17

Teacher Reading: Genesis 27:18-41

Review: Eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions.

Principle: God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

deception (n.) The act of tricking someone by telling them something that is not true.

election (n.) The exercise of deliberate choice; the act of selecting someone or something.

predestine (v.) To decree or determine by divine will beforehand.

supplanter (n.) One who takes the place of another by force or treachery.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon all of Genesis 27. Make certain that you understand the reading in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.

For centuries Bible scholars have studied and written about the cunning and complicated life of Jacob, the patriarch of the Jewish nation. The Abrahamic promise, so essential to the ultimate future of humanity, rested on him, yet the means by which he obtained it were deceptive and dishonest. In God's providence, however, Jacob became "Israel,"

STUDENT



Key Word:

good (adj.) 1) Complete; perfect.
2) Morally virtuous.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. What had God revealed to Rebekah about her twins before they were born?
2. Contrast the characteristics of Esau and Jacob.
3. Briefly relate the story of Isaac's feast.
4. Each one in this account had sinned. Identify the sin of each—Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau. How does knowing this help you understand God's choices?
5. Paraphrase the principle in this lesson and explain why understanding it brings peace to your soul.

and his 12 sons formed the foundation of the nation of Israel, God's "chosen people."

Jacob's name in Hebrew means "heel grabber," "trickster," or "supplanter." Even before he was born there were conflict and struggle in Rebekah's womb. God had revealed to her that she was carrying twins, that they represented two nations destined to contend with each other, and that the older would serve the younger (Genesis 25:26). The twins are a study in contrasts: Esau was an outdoorsman, rugged and carnal, and favored by his father. Jacob preferred being at home and was favored by his mother, possibly because of God's spoken promise. He was shrewd, conniving, dishonest, and a schemer. Esau chose two wives from among the pagan Canaanites, bringing grief to his parents. Jacob returned to the land of his mother to choose his wife, honoring the wisdom and practice of his father and grandfather.

- A. Isaac and Rebekah made the mistake of showing favoritism, each to one of their sons. Despite God's prophecy concerning Jacob, Isaac was determined to bless Esau and not Jacob. He announced a feast to mark this solemn event. When Rebekah heard his plan, she took things into her own hands and conceived a plan to prevent Isaac from making such an enormous mistake. When Jacob expressed dismay at deceiving his father, Rebekah took full responsibility for any curse that might follow Isaac's discovery of their plan. She was determined to see Jacob receive Isaac's spiritual blessing and to prevent Isaac from opposing God's will with regard to the patriarchal lineage.
- B. Jacob deceived his blind father into believing he was Esau, and under the inspiration of God Isaac ate the feast meal and pronounced his blessing. Just as Jacob was departing his father's tent, Esau arrived and discovered what Jacob had done. He had first lost his birthright to his cunning brother and now also his father's blessing. He cried with a great and bitter cry. Seeking an additional blessing from Isaac, he was stunned to learn that his father could not revoke the blessing.

Despite his own intentions, Isaac quickly realized that God had overruled him. God had spoken through him in spite of himself! This outcome clearly was the will of God, and Isaac could not change what had just occurred. Although Esau wept bitterly at the realization of losing both his birthright and his blessing, there was no way Isaac could be persuaded to change his mind.

- C. The question always arises how God could bless and use a person like Jacob. The answer is that God is sovereign over history. In this case His divine government overruled the deceit and duplicity of both Jacob and Isaac,

6. Share a time in your life or in a family member's life when God's sovereignty overruled your plan or choice.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Jacob graphic organizer:

- Second-born twin, his mother's favorite
- As a young man, a schemer and a supplanter
- Quiet and reflective



Singing:

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me!

My God shall supply all my needs
According to His riches in glory.
He will give His angels charge
over me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me, for me,
for me.

Jehovah-jireh careth for me!

Repeat and sing again.



Memory Verse:

God works all things after the counsel of His will. (Ephesians 1:11)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

so that the purpose of His counsel could move His plan forward.

His divine calling of individuals is not based on their personal characters or their works. He calls and uses people who are not perfect, people like you and me! His choices are rooted in *His* character, not ours, as **He weaves human intentions and actions—for good or evil—into His ongoing plan of redemption.**

All things, both in heaven and on Earth, are ordered by His never-failing providence. He is intimately concerned with every detail in the affairs of men and in the course of nature. He overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good after the counsel of His own will!

Isaiah 46:9-11: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure"; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."

Isaiah 55:8, 9: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

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

Proverbs 21:1: "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Ephesians 1:10, 11: "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."

The Bible states that God chose Jacob in his mother's womb. Jacob was the man of God's purpose in Israel's patriarchal lineage. Truly God spoke this to Rebekah, and truly He brought it to pass! The Bible tells us that God loved Jacob but hated and rejected Esau (Malachi 1:1-3).

It is interesting to note that throughout the Bible there is not one instance of criticism of Jacob, except from the mouth of Esau. Every time God spoke to or about Jacob, his words were of blessing and promise, not of rebuke or punishment! We must be guided by what God actually said, not by what we think. We should, however, teach the children that when God blessed Jacob He did not condone his deception and dishonesty.

Romans 9:10-13: "And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not

done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, 'The older will serve the younger.' Just as it is written: 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.'"

- D. Hearing Esau's threats against his brother, Rebekah advised Jacob to leave the house for a few days (Genesis 27:43, 44). Those intended few days became 20 years, and Rebekah never saw her beloved Jacob again.
3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, Profile of Jacob graphic organizers, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that eternal, not temporal, values should inform our decisions.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "good."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profile of Jacob graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing "Jehovah-jireh" and "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 12

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 28:10-22

Teacher Reading: Genesis 29:1-20

Review: God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.

Principle: God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

charge (n.) That which is committed or entrusted to another to be performed by that person.

spiritual (n.) A religious folk song of African-American origin.

theophany (n.) A visible appearance or manifestation of God to a human.

vow (n.) An earnest promise to perform a specified act or behave in a certain manner.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.

Esau's threats of murder caused Jacob to depart his home in Beersheba. His father's blessings and charge to select a wife from his uncle Laban's family (Genesis 28:3, 4) put him on the road to Haran, 500 miles away. Jacob traveled without armed servants, a caravan, or even a tent in which to rest. He was alone in a strange and dangerous country.

A. On his way, he first stopped near a city where Abraham had built an altar; here Jacob had his first of eight

STUDENT



Key Word:

forsake (v.) To desert or abandon altogether.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Why did Jacob leave the comfort of his home in Beersheba for Haran?
2. Describe the dream that Jacob had.
3. What significance did Jacob draw from this dream?
4. Describe all the things God promised Jacob in this encounter.
5. What vow did Jacob make to the Lord?
6. Paraphrase today's principle.
7. How can you apply this principle in your life?

encounters with the living God. In a most remarkable dream, Jacob saw a ladder connecting Earth to heaven, which seemed to convey to him that there is communication between heaven and Earth. There were multitudes of ministering angels on the ladder ready to carry out God's commands. He was most impressed with the very presence of Jehovah (a theophany) in this distant land, and the fact that God spoke to him! This revelation filled him with a sense of awe and wonder. He had a new awareness of the presence of God and His angels with him, and his fears were alleviated.

God spoke the promises of the Abrahamic covenant to Jacob. He promised to give him this land and to multiply his descendants as the dust of the earth. He promised He would remain with him and keep him wherever he went, which gave Jacob a new sense of assurance of receiving God's redemptive promises. In a spirit of appreciation, Jacob responded by consecrating the stone on which he had slept. He named the land Bethel ("house of God") and vowed to give back to God a tenth of all His provision to him.

Genesis 28:15: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5: "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."

B. Jacob had a new lease on life after his encounter with the Lord Himself. He continued on his journey northward to Mesopotamia, and God providentially led him to the precise well in Haran where he would meet his uncle Laban's daughter, Rachel. Rachel was a shepherdess who cared for her father's sheep. Jacob's kiss was the traditional family greeting. However, Jacob soon fell in love with the beautiful Rachel and asked to serve her father seven years to earn her hand in marriage, to which Laban agreed.

3. Gather resources: Bible and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*



Notebook Record:

1. Copy these phrases on your Profile of Jacob graphic organizer:
 - Received the Abrahamic birth-right and blessing
 - Willing to work long and hard to accomplish his goals
 - Encountered the living God
2. Copy the following on your Patriarchs' Family Tree graphic organizer under Isaac:
 - Esau
 - Jacob



Singing:

This is an African-American spiritual that depicts the biblical story of Jacob's encounter with the Lord. The spiritual draws a parallel in the ladder's steps between the many exiles of the Jews with the tribulations of the American slaves. The refrain of "Soldiers of the cross" is a reminder of both the devotion to God and the devotion to fight for freedom that appear in many Civil War spirituals. You can find the sheet music online at <http://www.musicnotes.com/sheetmusic/mtdFPE.asp?ppn=MN0109415&ref=google>

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.

2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God overrules in the affairs of men and nations and works all things together for good.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “forsake.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the Profile of Jacob phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Teach the African-American spiritual “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” to the children.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.



Memory Verse:

God works all things after the counsel of His will. (Ephesians 1:11)

GENESIS 13

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 29:21-35

Teacher Reading: Selected passages from Genesis 30.

Review: God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.

Principle: That which we sow, we shall also reap.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

consent (v.) To agree in mind and will with another.

dowry (n.) The reward paid for a wife.

sow (v.) 1) To propagate; disseminate. 2) To set something in motion.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: That which we sow, we shall also reap.

Jacob arrived in Paddan-aram without a dowry. He agreed to work for Laban for seven years in order to marry his daughter Rachel. It appears that Jacob, the schemer, met his match in his uncle Laban, who, after Jacob had served him for seven years, tricked him on his wedding night by switching his daughters.

Galatians 6:7-9: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."

STUDENT



Key Word:

reap (v.) To receive as the fruit of one's labor or works, in a good or bad sense.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Paraphrase today's principle.
2. Recall how Jacob tricked his brother and his father.
3. Relate how his uncle Laban tricked Jacob after he had served him for seven years. Explain how these deeds highlight today's principle.
4. How many sons did Jacob have over the period of 14 years? Who would these sons become?
5. What did Uncle Laban do to prevent Jacob from gaining sheep and goats for his herds?
6. How did Jacob increase the number of his livestock? Explain how

Ephesians 6:7, 8: "With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free."

A. Jacob consented to Laban's plan. He loved Rachel and was willing to persevere another seven years to secure Laban's blessings in his marriage to her. During these fourteen years Jacob fathered eleven sons and one daughter with his two wives and their handmaids. All four women were Shemites, descendants in the lineage of Shem, "the promised Seed."

Jacob's life was lived in contrast with that of his grandfather, Abraham, who walked by faith without fear. Jacob lived a life of domestic trouble, out of which arose actions not in keeping with a life of simple trust. Nevertheless, God's overruling hand of providence is chronicled throughout these chapters, as He fulfilled His covenant promise to Abraham and his descendants.

B. By this time Jacob had more than fulfilled his contract with Laban and wanted to return to his homeland and provide for his own family. However, Laban knew that Jacob's presence and hard work had brought him great wealth. He even acknowledged that the Lord had blessed him for Jacob's sake (Genesis 30:27). So he selfishly schemed to keep Jacob in his service as long as possible. He plotted to cheat Jacob in the business contract they had made with regard to their flocks of animals and attempted to frustrate the possibility of Jacob's gaining anything from their contract. However, Laban underestimated Jacob's knowledge of animal breeding, as well as the overruling hand of God in Jacob's life. Jacob used sound breeding principles, and God increased the number of his flocks. He reaped what he sowed.

Like his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac, Jacob lived under the special providence of God's care and covenant blessings and, despite Laban's selfish tactics, became exceedingly prosperous (Genesis 24:35; 26:13). Teach your children that they, too, are heirs of God's covenant promise if they believe and receive the Lord's gift of salvation and redemption.

Genesis 30:43: "So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys."

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we*

this increase highlights today's principle.

7. Identify ways you can apply today's principle to your own life, both materially and spiritually.



Notebook Record:

1. Copy these names on your Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer next to Jacob:
 - m. Leah and Rachel
Zilpah Bilhah
2. Copy these names of Jacob's sons on the graphic organizer under Leah, their mother:
 - Reuben Simeon Levi
Judah Issachar Zebulun



Singing:

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.



Memory Verse:

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid ... for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

*each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage.
Amen.*

2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God accompanies us in our calling and never leaves us or forsakes us.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "reap."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that what we sow we shall also reap.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read select passages from Genesis 30 aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the Patriarchs' Family Lineage names on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue teaching the verses of the spiritual "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" to the children.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 14

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 31:1-17

Teacher Reading: Genesis 31:22-29; 31:38-32:2

Review: That which we sow, we shall also reap.

Principle: As Christians, we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

covetous (adj.) Excessively eager to obtain and possess.

idolatry (n.) The worship of false gods, idols, or images.

indentured (adj.) Forced to work for another by a contract.

mammon (n.) 1) Riches, wealth; or the god of riches. 2) The personification of wealth as an evil influence.

sincere (adj.) Pure; unmixed; not assumed or stated for the sake of appearance.

truce (n.) The suspension of hostilities for the purpose of negotiation.

tumultuous (adj.) Greatly agitated; confused or disturbed.

witness (n.) That which furnishes evidence or proof of a fact or event; testimony.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: As Christians, we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.

Genesis 31 is the account of Jacob's departure from Paddan-Aram to his homeland in Beersheba. It contains

STUDENT



Key Word:

reconcile (v.) To restore friendship after a disagreement or alienation.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. What life lessons has studying the character of Laban taught you? Be specific.
2. How did God protect Jacob and his family after they departed?
3. How did Laban and Jacob resolve their differences?
4. Paraphrase the principle in today's lesson.
5. Explain why it's important to quickly reconcile with a person after an argument or a conflict.
6. Is there anyone in your life with whom you should reconcile? What steps should you take to make this happen?

the final act in the drama of his tumultuous relationship with his father-in-law, Laban. God had instructed Jacob, by way of another dream, that he should prepare his family and possessions to depart. Jacob's lack of faith is revealed in his plans to depart without Laban's knowledge. As Laban's indentured servant all these years, he had served Laban with all his business acumen and strength. However, he had never fully shared with his wives how unfairly and antagonistically their father had treated him. Now he explained that Laban had consistently cheated him and changed his wages ten times (Genesis 31:7). His conversation with them indicates that he had grown spiritually. He credited God's faithfulness to protect and bless him and to fulfill His promise that had been made at Bethel 20 years earlier.

A. Leaving home would not be difficult for Rachel and Leah. Laban had treated them as poorly as he had Jacob! According to the custom of their day, they were supposed to have received the benefits of the dowry for which Jacob had worked so long and hard. They realized that they would never inherit what was rightfully theirs and gave their approval for Jacob's plan to take the possessions he had gained and depart.

Unfortunately, Rachel stole her father's idols and deceived him when he searched for them in her tent. They were thought to protect the home and provide advice in times of need. This had legal significance, for when they were passed on to an heir the person who received them could rightfully claim the greatest part of the family inheritance. Perhaps she took them believing they were rightfully a portion of her inheritance. When we commit to God all that we do each day and diligently labor as unto the Lord, rather than to please men, we can be assured that the Lord will bless us and that we will receive an eternal inheritance. The Apostle Paul imparted New Covenant wisdom to us when he wrote in Colossians 3:22-24, "Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."

B. Before Jesus came to dwell on Earth, men lived by the rule "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" or "he who lives by the sword dies by the sword." If we live a life of dishonesty, gossip, and conflict with others, we can expect the same in return. If we wish to hold everyone accountable for the way they treat us—"an eye for an eye"—then we can expect others to apply the same rule. *Leviticus 24:19, 20: "If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: fracture for fracture,*



Notebook Record:

1. Copy this son's name on the Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer under his mother, Rachel:
 - Joseph
2. Copy these names of Jacob's sons on the graphic organizer under their mother, Zilpah:
 - Gad Asher
3. Copy these names of Jacob's sons on the graphic organizer under their mother, Bilhah:
 - Dan Naphtali



Singing:

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.



Memory Verse:

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid ... for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him."

However, Jesus taught us to respond in a different way when others maltreat us. As believers, we must choose to forgive others and treat them mercifully. We must "go the extra mile" and learn to reconcile our differences and restore peace to our relationships. Conflict and division are also hindrances to answered prayer.

Matthew 5:38-40: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also."

Luke 23:34: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Psalms 66:18: "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear."

- C. When Laban discovered that Jacob had secretly departed with his family and flocks, he pursued him all the way to Gilead. God spoke to Laban in a night dream, which served to protect Jacob. Laban is a biblical example of a worldly, covetous man who knew the living God both by revelation and by seeing the reality of God operating in Jacob's life. He even acknowledged and enjoyed the overflow of material blessings in Jacob's life as coming from God, but he sadly chose to continue in idolatry and serve mammon. His example constitutes a sober warning to us today to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and, accordingly, to receive all things from His hand (Matthew 6:33).

At the end of chapter 31, Jacob and Laban entered into a nonaggression pact to stop the cycle of deception and conflict. After more than 20 years of devious schemes and mistrust, they made a truce and erected a witness, which they called Mizpah, the Hebrew word for "watchtower." It seems that their suspicion and mistrust of each other required God's witness. Sadly, neither Jacob nor Laban sought forgiveness from the other; neither did Laban bless Jacob as they separated. Laban is rarely mentioned again in the Scriptures.

Since Jesus has reconciled all sinners to God, we believers have been called to the ministry of reconciliation. We are commanded to live in peace with one another, and if hostilities and division arise we are to quickly seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences in a spirit of mercy and love. In the flesh this is difficult to do. But in the spirit we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our weaknesses. As we restore friendship and peace in our relationships, we leave the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus Christ wherever we go. It is He who leads us in triumph and provides the victory over sin and death.

Acts 1:8: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

2 Corinthians 5:18: "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

Matthew 5:23, 24: "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

2 Corinthians 2:14: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."

3. Gather resources: Bible and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives, as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that we reap what we sow.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "reconcile."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that as Christians we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher readings aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the Patriarchs' Family Lineage names on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue teaching the verses of the spiritual "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" to the children.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 15

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 32:1-21

Student Reading: Genesis 32:22-32

Review: As Christians, we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.

Principle: Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

bless (v.) 1) To pronounce a wish of happiness; to make successful. 2) To consecrate by prayer; to invoke a blessing upon. 3) To pronounce a solemn prophetic benediction upon.

exalt (v.) 1) To elevate in estimation. 2) To raise with pride above others.

placate (v.) To appease or pacify.

prototype (n.) The original model or pattern after which anything is formed; archetype.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Genesis 32 is one of the great chapters in the Bible and inspires those who walk by faith in a powerful way! Jacob experienced the greatest victory of his life, which occurred supernaturally. This chapter gives us the account of God's third direct communication with Jacob. The great schemer encountered the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ in a wrestling

STUDENT



Key Word:

humble (v.) 1) To make meek and submissive to God's will. 2) To cast down pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe what happened to Jacob when he was alone with the Lord.
2. What was God doing in Jacob's life? Explain God's purpose for this.
3. How did Jacob's encounter with Jesus change his life?
4. What does Jacob's new name, Israel, mean?
5. Paraphrase today's principle.
6. Share a time in your life when you were humbled in front of

match, which revealed to him that in order to truly win he must lose.

A. Jacob's only reason for returning to his homeland was in direct obedience to God's command. There was really no reason to return from his point of view. As he departed, his manner was one of confidence in his own ability. This is evident as he carefully calculated what he would do when he eventually met Esau. He was ready to placate Esau with gifts, but only if Esau were hostile. Jacob stood at the crossroads between his past struggle with Laban and the impending struggle with Esau.

B. When all his arrangements had been made, Jacob voluntarily remained behind and went to Jabbok. God arranged the circumstances to meet with him while he was all alone, because He wanted Jacob to realize that his real struggle throughout his life was not with man but with God.

In the stillness of the night, God manifested Himself as a wrestler to demonstrate Jacob's weakness to him. God desired to bring Jacob to the end of himself and to teach him how to submit to God's leadership in his life. As Jacob wrestled with the Lord, he recognized that this time his scheming ways were not enough to secure the victory, and he cried out to God for help! Until we are "broken" by God, we can never be greatly used by Him. God can't use a self-reliant man, but "a broken and a contrite heart" He "will not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Mark 8:35: "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My and the gospel's will save it."

Luke 14:11: "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

1 Peter 5:5, 6: "... clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time."

1 Peter 5:10: "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

C. As day was dawning, the Lord asked Jacob to let Him go. Jacob said he would not let go of Him until He blessed him. Jacob is the prototype in the Bible of the "unblessed one," the one who lives restlessly and inadequately with an inner poverty. Stealing Esau's blessing had not given Jacob the sense of wellbeing for which he had hoped. It was not until the Lord blessed him at Peniel that Jacob received wholeness. Many of God's children go unblessed like Jacob, who cried out for all mankind, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Genesis 32:26). Afterward he said, "I have seen God face to face" (verse 30). Finally, Jacob was blessed and had an inner, stabilizing peace. The

your family or friends. What was your response to this experience? How did it make you feel?

7. Perhaps you know the feeling of inadequacy and inner poverty that Jacob experienced in his life. If your father has never blessed you, you should go to him and ask for his blessing.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Jacob graphic organizer:

- Self-sufficient and proud
- Wrestled with the Lord and was humbled
- God changed his name to Israel.



Singing:

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.



Memory Verse:

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:11)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

Hebrew verb for “bless” means that the Lord endowed Jacob with success; he would be successful in everything he did, including being reunited with his brother, Esau.

Hosea 12:3-5: “In the womb [Jacob] took his brother by the heel, and in his maturity he contended with God. Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel and there He spoke with us, even the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is His name.”

- D. The Lord changed Jacob’s name, saying, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed” (Genesis 32:28). Jacob was given a new name, Israel, or “he who strives with God.” He was given a new identity, just as we receive a new identity when we are born again. We become a “new creation” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). As believers, we are no longer sinners but saints; 1 Corinthians 1:2). We are no longer enemies of God, but friends of God (James 2:23). We are no longer orphans, but adopted sons and daughters of the living God (Ephesians 1:5). We are no longer rejected, but “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9). God promises to give all those who overcome “a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it” (Revelation 2:17).

As a result of this humbling encounter, Jacob’s conscience was awakened, and he became aware of his need to restore his relationship with Esau. It was now time to reconcile the broken relationship that was a result of his deception and lies. In order for Jacob to restore peace with Esau, he first had to humble himself and be reconciled to God.

Colossians 3:13: “Just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you [forgive].”

2 Corinthians 5:20: “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Romans 12:18: “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

Who won the match that night? God. Who lost? Jacob. But who *really* won? Jacob! This is the paradox of life in Christ’s kingdom. When we wrestle with God, we always lose; but when we lose, we win! In the kingdom of God the way up is down, and the way to save your life is to lose it in Jesus Christ. When we fight with God, defeat leads to victory. The road to heaven is the way of the cross.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that as Christians we are to seek forgiveness and reconcile our differences with others.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "humble."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the Profile of Jacob phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue teaching the verses of the spiritual "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" to the children.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 16

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 33:1-17

Teacher Reading: Genesis 35:1-21

Review: Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Principle: Forgiveness opens the door for brothers to fellowship in unity.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

amulet (n.) An object generally worn around the neck as a remedy against evil and mischief, such as diseases and witchcraft.

progeny (n.) Offspring; children; descendants.

toxic (adj.) 1) Poisonous. 2) Capable of causing injury or death.

unity (n.) 1) The state of being one. 2) In theology, oneness of sentiment, affection, or behavior.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Forgiveness opens the door for brothers to fellowship in unity.

No sooner had Jacob returned to his family from his night of prayer with the Lord than he saw Esau in the distance approaching with a large band of armed men. Not knowing what his intentions were, Jacob arranged his wives and children in such a way as to provide them the greatest protection should Esau attack. Jacob was fearful and dreaded this encounter, not knowing how his twin brother would receive him. Esau's threats of murder were still audible in his mind after more than 20 years. The day before Jacob had sent

STUDENT



Key Word:

forgiveness (n.) The pardon of an offender by which he is considered and treated as not guilty.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. How did God prepare Jacob to meet his brother, Esau?
2. Why did Jacob divide his family as he saw Esau coming? What was he expecting?
3. Describe the meeting between Jacob and Esau.
4. Paraphrase the principle from today's lesson.
5. What happens to a person when he refuses to forgive someone else?
6. How has God provided for our sin? How then should we view others' sin?

droves of animals to Esau, as a token of reconciliation; but when he saw the band of 400 armed men he was uncertain of Esau's course of action.

As Esau approached, Jacob bowed to the ground seven times, as was the custom of the day to show respect when greeting a king or ruler. And then the most surprising thing occurred: Esau could not contain himself any longer and ran forward to greet his brother with hugs and kisses. It was a joyful and tearful reunion and a time of reconciliation.

- A. Jacob saw in Esau's favor the grace of God! Had Jacob not wrestled with the Lord and been humbled by Him, He most certainly would not have been able to reconcile with Esau. Forgiveness must precede reconciliation. Jesus taught us that if we do not forgive others, our Father in heaven will not forgive our sins. If our sins are not forgiven, they prevent us from having fellowship with God and receiving His blessings.

Matthew 6:14, 15: "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19: "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

Psalms 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity."

- B. The Bible has much to say about forgiveness. Its principles need to be taught to children when they are young in order to prevent a future filled with guilt and sorrow. An unforgiving heart becomes a stony, uncaring heart. It eventually turns inward and produces hatred and bitterness. Bitterness is toxic, corrupting our lives and robbing us of peace and rest in our bodies, souls, and spirits. An unforgiving spirit keeps us in bondage to sin and ends in destruction.

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

To forgive is to be like Jesus. We are to forgive others, if for no other reason than that God has so willingly forgiven us in Jesus Christ. He has demonstrated grace to us, and therefore we must show grace to others.

Hebrews 12:14-16: "Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that

7. Describe a time when someone offended you. Were you able to forgive them? If not, what should you do today?



Notebook Record:

1. Copy Jacob's last son's name on your Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer under his mother, Rachel:
 - Benjamin
2. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Esau graphic organizer:
 - Earthy, a natural man
 - Father of the nation Edom
3. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Jacob graphic organizer:
 - God changed his name to Israel.
 - Father of the nation of Israel



Singing:

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev'ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.



Memory Verse:

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:11)

no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal."

- C. Often, it is pride that prevents us from seeking forgiveness from others against whom we have sinned. We are also expected to forgive others and ourselves in order to be released from the guilt associated with sin. We bear this guilt when we don't forgive. Our lack of forgiveness toward others shuts out God's forgiveness. God holds us accountable for our actions regardless of what others have done to hurt and afflict us. In addition, we are not to repay others for the offenses they have committed against us. When we attempt to get even, we fall to the level of the offender.

Romans 12:19: "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

Jacob and Esau were the seeds of two great peoples (Genesis 25) that eventually would become the powerful nations of Israel and Edom. After many decades of conflict and lack of forgiveness, Jacob and Esau both matured to the point that they were able to coexist. Although at this time in their lives they were civil toward one another, their progeny would compete with each other for many generations (Psalm 83:1-6). Esau's descendants (Genesis 36:1, 9) never forgave Jacob for stealing their blessing and birthright. They let their anger smolder within, frequently erupting in unreasonable acts of aggression against Israel.

In Genesis 35, Jacob and his family sojourned back to the place where God had first appeared to Jacob. With a repentant heart Jacob did what he should have done years earlier; he had his family and servants purify themselves. He asked them to abandon all their foreign gods and heathen practices by discarding and burying their images and amulets under the oak tree near Shechem. They then departed for Bethel.

- A. It was in Bethel that God had previously confirmed the Abrahamic covenant to Jacob (Genesis 28:10-19). Jacob now built an altar and renewed that covenant with God.
- B. God Himself appeared once again to Jacob and blessed him mightily. He reaffirmed Jacob's new name of Israel and foretold that a nation, a company of nations, and kings would come from his seed. He also promised that the land He had given to Abraham and Isaac He would now give to Israel and his descendants.
- C. Jacob named the place where God spoke to him Bethel, the "house of God."

As Jacob and his household traveled toward Bethlehem in the regions of Ephrath, Rachel died giving birth to the family's twelfth son, Benjamin.

3. Gather resources: Bible and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "forgiveness."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that forgiveness opens the door for reconciliation and for brothers to fellowship in unity.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally. Have the children locate Bethel on their maps.
9. Have the children label Benjamin under Rachel on their Patriarchs' Family Lineage graphic organizer.
10. Write the phrases for the Profiles of Esau and Jacob on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
11. Continue singing all your songs from this unit.
12. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
13. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 17

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 37:1-14

Teacher Reading: Genesis 37:15-36

Review: Forgiveness opens the door for brothers to fellowship in unity.

Principle: Adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

adversity (n.) A state of misfortune or affliction; distress; calamity.

character (n.) 1) The peculiar qualities impressed by nature or habit on a person that distinguish him from others. 2) "The essential 'stuff' a person is made of, the inner reality and quality in which thoughts, speech, decisions, behavior, and relations are rooted" (Os Guinness).

primogeniture (n.) The legal right of the eldest son to inherit his father's property after his death.

rely (v.) To trust or rest confidently upon something, as the mind when satisfied of the veracity or integrity of facts, evidence, or person.

tribulation (n.) Severe affliction or distresses of life; the term often denotes the troubles that proceed from persecution.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.

Genesis 37:2 concludes the long account of the generation of Jacob. Although Jacob had trusted for years in God's promise

STUDENT



Key Word:

prove (v.) To try or to test; to ascertain an unknown quality or truth.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe the external and internal characteristics of young Joseph.
2. How did Joseph serve his father?
3. Relate the various ways in which Jacob showed favor to his son Joseph.
4. Why did Joseph's brothers grow to envy and hate him?
5. What happened to Joseph when he found his brothers in Dothan?
6. Paraphrase today's principle.
7. Why does God test the hearts and minds of His children?
8. Describe a time when you were tested. How did you handle the situation? Be specific in your answer.

that he would inherit the Promised Land, just as had Abraham and Isaac, he and his family continued to live as “strangers” (Hebrews 11:13) in the land of Canaan. God had blessed them, however, with great material possessions, and they trusted that the land would be theirs in God’s timing.

Hebrews 11:9, 13: “By faith [Abraham] lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise ... All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

The remainder of Genesis records the generation of Jacob’s sons and in particular the life of Joseph. Joseph, who was born in Jacob’s old age, was his father’s favorite son, born of Jacob’s beloved Rachel. It was his father’s special love and favoritism that aroused his brothers’ jealousy and hatred toward him.

Young Joseph was a shepherd, which indicates that Jacob recognized leadership qualities in his young son to have placed him in charge of his flocks. Joseph’s moral standards and spiritual interests were clearly superior to those of his brothers, possibly because Jacob had spent more time with him and taught him such things. Still, Joseph was a talebearer and would often return home with bad reports about his brothers. Jacob gave Joseph a multi-colored garment, which was a symbol of authority and a favored position within the family. Joseph had several dreams, which he foolishly shared their meaning with his family. Scripture does not indicate whether he bragged about these dreams or told them in an innocent way. Either way, this caused his brothers to hate him more than ever.

- A. One day, Jacob’s 10 older sons took his flocks without telling him from Hebron to Shechem to graze, a distance of 50 miles. With growing concern about their welfare, Jacob sent Joseph to locate them and report back his findings. Joseph could not find them and inquired as to their whereabouts. Someone had overheard them say that they were going to Dothan. So Joseph continued north another 20 miles.
- B. The brothers saw “the dreamer,” in his colorful coat, coming from afar. Being a great distance from home and their father’s restraint, the brothers hatched an evil plot to kill Joseph and throw him into an empty cistern. Reuben defended Joseph and persuaded them not to slay their younger brother but to throw him, alive, into a pit.
- C. With a caravan of traders drawing closer, Judah suggested that they sell Joseph into slavery, which they did. Reuben, who had left the brothers earlier, returned to set Joseph free but found him gone. The brothers concocted a lie to tell their father. They dipped Joseph’s multi-colored



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:

- Favored son of his father, Jacob
- Raised as a shepherd
- Was a natural leader with self-assurance
- Had a youthful pride
- Sold into slavery by his brothers at the age of 17



Singing:

We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob’s ladder.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
2. Ev’ry rung goes higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
3. Sinner do you love my Jesus?
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? (x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher.
(x 3)
Soldiers of the cross.



Memory Verse:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:2, 3)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

coat in the blood of a slain lamb and told Jacob that Joseph had been slain by a wild beast. When Jacob heard the account of Joseph's death, he was grief-stricken and inconsolable.

The Scripture states that all through this evil event young Joseph had been pleading with his brothers in "distress" (Genesis 42:21). He was sold into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar, the captain of the pharaoh's bodyguard. Egypt was far away from Joseph's family, friends, and familiar surroundings. His own brothers had unfairly and cruelly treated him. Joseph went from being the privileged son to being a slave in chains. Psalm 105 records his adversity:

*"[God] sent a man before them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
They afflicted his feet with fetters,
He himself was laid in irons;
Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him" (17-19).*

Psalm 105 also teaches us that the Lord had not left Joseph but would use this tribulation to prove or test Joseph's character. Character determines behavior, and behavior demonstrates character. It is difficult for us to sense God's presence in such adversity. We cry out to Him but cannot hear His answer. It is these times of anguish and inner struggle that God uses to test our faith, our motives, and our response:

*Job 23:8-10: "Behold, I go forward but He is not there,
And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;
When he acts on the left, I cannot behold Him;
He turns on the right, I cannot see Him.
But He knows the way I take;
When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

2 Chronicles 32:31: "God left him alone only to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart."

Psalm 26:2: "Examine me, O LORD, and try me; test my mind."

Psalm 139:23, 24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."

It is in these dark valleys of life that we learn to trust God's promises and submit to His sovereignty in our lives. This is the first of many trials and tests that Joseph would experience in order to be prepared to serve as prime minister to Egypt's pagan pharaoh. God chose Joseph, just as he had chosen Abraham, and would continue to prepare him for his divine purpose in God's story and the advancement of the gospel. Young Joseph would soon learn that God's grace is sufficient to endure every challenge. The Apostle Paul said it best: "He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that

the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, Joseph Profile graphic organizers, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: Come, *Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that forgiveness opens the door for brothers to fellowship in unity.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "prove."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Profiles of Joseph graphic organizers to the children. Write the phrases on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing all your songs in this unit.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 18

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 39:1-9

Teacher Reading: Genesis 39:10-23

Review: Adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.

Principle: God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

impropriety (n.) An improper act.

promise (n.) A declaration, written or verbal, made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it, either in honor, conscience, or law, to do or forbear the specified act.

purity (n.) 1) Freedom from guilt or the defilement of sin. 2) Chastity; freedom from contamination by illicit sexual connection; uncorrupted.

steward (n.) One employed or appointed to manage the property of another.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.

The remainder of the book of Genesis centers on the life of Joseph and his contribution to the advancement of the gospel. Joseph is one of the outstanding, noble characters of the Old Testament, whose life experiences and talents were similar to those of the prophet Daniel of the postexilic period.

STUDENT



Key Word:

blessing (n.) A prophetic word or prayer of welfare and happiness invoked to empower the next generation.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Explain who Potiphar was and what he entrusted to Joseph at the young age of 17.
2. Why do you think Potiphar trusted Joseph and gave him such responsibility? How can you earn other people's trust?
3. Paraphrase the principle.
4. When Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to do wrong, how did Joseph maintain moral purity?
5. What can you do when you are tempted to do wrong? Be specific in your answer.

A. In this chapter of Genesis, Joseph is 17 years old and has been purchased as a slave by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh. Potiphar promoted him to be his personal servant and steward over his home and all that he owned. The biblical account states that Potiphar took notice of how “the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man” (Genesis 39:2). Potiphar trusted young Joseph like his own son and rewarded his exemplary character and work ethic with great administrative accountability.

Potiphar’s wife began to lust after Joseph and to tempt him. When he spurned her advances, she plotted for another opportunity to entice him. As he pulled away from her, his garment was left in her hand, an outcome that she used against him. She screamed for help and lied about the situation, which caused Potiphar to have Joseph put in jail. This was the second time that one of Joseph’s garments was used to perpetrate a lie about him. The jail was located in the house of Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s bodyguard.

Joseph had denied advances because he respected Potiphar and remained true to God’s moral code of purity. Even though the Mosaic laws were not yet written, God’s moral code had been imparted to man since the creation of Adam and Eve, when God instituted marriage. It was Joseph’s purity of character through the false accusations of Potiphar’s immoral wife that put him in prison.

Note to the teacher: The subject of lust and sexual impropriety is a delicate one for children. Based on the age of your students, use discernment in how you handle this topic. Put simply, marriage is the first institution that God created. Impurity in marriage is a violation of His moral code; the lesson can be taught in this manner without getting into details.

B. There is an opportunity in addressing this event in young Joseph’s life to teach children about ways to maintain purity in their lives. Open the discussion with how impurity can quickly slip into our lives in subtle ways through what we choose to watch on TV or the computer, the types of books and magazines we read, the movies we view, the types of friends we choose, and the types of activities in which we choose to engage during our free time each day.

*Psalm 24:3-5: “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?
And who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood
And has not sworn deceitfully.”*

C. When Joseph arrived in prison, once again he put his trust in God. Joseph received God’s favor, and the chief jailer placed him in charge of all the other prisoners. Throughout all of these adversities, Joseph’s character

6. Even though Joseph was falsely accused and cast into prison, how was he blessed by the Lord? Who else was blessed?



Notebook Record:

Pray about making a promise to the Lord to keep your mind and heart clean and pure before Him. Write out your promise on your Purity Promise graphic organizer. Sign and date it and file it in your binder.



Singing:

Some May Trust in Chariots

From *Psalm 20:7*

Chorus:

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
But we will trust in the name of our God. (x 4)

1) In the name of Jesus our salvation lies.

He will hear from heaven to answer every cry.

Sing the chorus. (x 2)

2) By the blood of Jesus, sins are washed away.

We sing for joy to God our strength
His banner we wave, we wave.

Sing the chorus. (x 4)

We will trust in the name of our God. (x2)

Music: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vErGlaf-T_M



Memory Verse:

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (James 1:2, 3)

was being tested, while at the same time God was revealing His love and presence with Joseph through the favor he was given by those in authority over him. God had allowed Joseph to be unjustly accused and punished, no doubt for the purpose of refining his character for the great work He had for him to do in the future.

God's hand of blessing on Joseph, as well as on Potiphar and the jailer, enabled Joseph to see that God was truly with him. He continued to trust the Lord and to work diligently at whatever tasks were required of him. God often blesses the employers, supervisors, and companies for whom we work. As we studied in lesson 8, the Lord is our Jehovah-jireh. He abundantly provides for all our needs and prospers us in every way, even when we are in a valley of adversity!

Genesis 39:2, 3: "And the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man."

Genesis 39:5: "It came about that from the time [Potiphar] made [Joseph] overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field."

Genesis 39:21: "The LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer."

Genesis 39:23: "The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper."

One of the great lessons the life of Joseph teaches us is that when we are mistreated for doing what is right in the sight of God, we gain favor with God. The Apostle Peter wrote about this in his first letter in the New Testament:

"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:18-21).

Joseph was imprisoned and suffered for doing what was right in the sight of God.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, and Purity Promise graphic organizers.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that adversity proves our character and teaches us to rely solely on God.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "blessing."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Purity Promise graphic organizers. Ask the children to pray about making a purity promise to the Lord. Have them read the Scripture verses on the graphic organizer and then write out their promise with the date and their signature.
10. Teach the children the song "Some May Trust in Chariots."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 19

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 41:1-16

Teacher Reading: Genesis 41:25-52

Review: God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.

Principle: The testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

discernment (n.) The ability to judge or distinguish one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice.

dynasty (n.) A succession of kings of the same line or family who govern a particular country.

polytheism (n.) The belief in or worship of many gods.

prophecy (n.) A foretelling; a declaration of something to come in the future.

prophetic (adj.) Containing prophecy; foretelling future events.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: The testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.

The Egypt into which Joseph entered was already an ancient civilization. It was a highly organized empire and like other ancient civilizations was polytheistic and immoral in faith and practice. Its kings were called pharaohs, a

STUDENT



Key Word:

endurance (n.) Persistence or suffering in the face of all opposition; unwillingness to give up.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Relate the two dreams of Pharaoh and explain what they meant.
2. How was Joseph delivered from life in prison? To whom did he give the credit?
3. Describe Joseph's new position in Egypt and how his life changed.
4. How did Joseph initiate God's plan to provide for a seven-year famine?
5. Paraphrase today's principle.
6. What lesson from Joseph's life is the most meaningful for you? How will you apply it to your life?

word meaning “great house.” The history of the number of pharaohs and their dynasties remains unsettled today, as archeologists continue to unearth significant discoveries of forgotten pharaohs¹ and unknown pyramids.²

The particular pharaoh during the life of Joseph most likely was Sesostrius, a Hyksos king who reigned from 1878-1843 B.C.³ The Hyksos kings were foreign invaders, most likely of Semitic stock, who came from Arabia and Syria and conquered Egypt. They are known as the “Shepherd Kings.” It is believed by scholars that the Egyptian rulers of Joseph’s day treated the Israelites well because of their Semitic origin and their shepherd lifestyle. These Hyksos kings were hated by the Egyptians, whose throne they had usurped. They were expelled from Egypt prior to Moses’ time, so that the pharaoh of the new dynasty, “to whom Joseph meant nothing” (Exodus 1:8), persecuted the Hebrew relatives of the Hyksos.

- A. Joseph was a dreamer from childhood, but his dreams were prophetic, as were those he interpreted for others. This marks the beginning of dreams having this significance in the Old Testament. In chapter 40 both the Pharaoh’s cupbearer and his baker were imprisoned in the same jail where Joseph was the overseer. One night they each had a dream with its own interpretation, which Joseph correctly interpreted for them. The baker was hanged for his crime, but the cupbearer was restored to the pharaoh’s service. Joseph asked the cupbearer to mention his name to Pharaoh, but the cupbearer forgot him. Once again, Joseph was greatly disappointed.
- B. We live in an age when everything happens fast, but spiritual growth does not take place quickly. It takes place over time through many experiences, trials, and successes, day after day, month after month, year after year. It is these tests and the way we respond to them that produce endurance in our character. Endurance produces hope and proves our character (Romans 5:4). Throughout the account of Joseph’s life, it is never recorded of him that he complained about his trying circumstances or murmured against God.

Romans 5:3, 4: “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about

¹ Patrick Kingsley, “Archaeologists Find Remains of Previously Unknown Pharaoh in Egypt.” *The Guardian*, January 22, 2014, accessed March 9, 2014. <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/jan/22/archaeologists-remains-unknown-pharaoh-egypt#>.

² Owen Jarus, “4,600-Year-Old Step Pyramid Uncovered in Egypt.” *Discovery News*, February 3, 2014, accessed March 9, 2014. <http://news.discovery.com/history/ancient-egypt/4600-year-old-step-pyramid-uncovered-in-egypt-140203.htm>.

³ See 1 Kings 6:1 and Exodus 12:40, which place Joseph’s entrance into Egypt at about 1875 B.C.



Notebook Record:

1. On your Patriarchs’ Family Tree graphic organizer, write the names of Joseph’s two sons. This will complete the lineage of Israel’s patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - Manasseh
 - Ephraim
2. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:
 - Industrious
 - Honest and trustworthy
 - Capable administrator and steward of others’ property
 - Morally pure; held fast to God’s moral code



Singing:

Some May Trust in Chariots

From *Psalms* 20:7

Chorus:

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
But we will trust in the name of our God. (x 4)

1) In the name of Jesus our salvation lies.
He will hear from heaven to answer every cry.

Sing the chorus. (x 2)

2) By the blood of Jesus, sins are washed away.
We sing for joy to God our strength His banner we wave,
we wave.

Sing the chorus. (x 4)

We will trust in the name of our God. (x2)

perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope."

James 1:2-4: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Hebrews 12:1,2: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter [completer, finisher] of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 10:36: "You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

Two years later, Pharaoh had two dreams and consulted his magicians for their interpretations. When they were unable to interpret them, his cupbearer shared the story of Joseph's interpretation of his and the baker's dreams while in jail. Pharaoh called for Joseph to interpret his dreams.

- A. Joseph related to Pharaoh that *he* was not able to interpret the dreams but that God would give Pharaoh a favorable answer. Joseph was always careful to give God the glory for his prophetic gift.
- B. Joseph gave Pharaoh the interpretation and counseled him that he should seek a man who was discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt. Pharaoh quickly realized that there was no man in his kingdom as discerning and wise as Joseph, so he gave Joseph his signet ring and set him over all the people and the land of Egypt as his prime minister. Joseph was then dressed in fine clothes and given a place to ride in Pharaoh's second chariot. Pharaoh tried to "Egyptianize" him by giving Joseph an Egyptian name and an Egyptian wife.
- C. Up until this time, Joseph had spent nearly half his life as a slave in Egypt. He was 30 years old when God delivered and exonerated him. He immediately put God's plan into action, and over the next seven years the land of Egypt produced a great abundance of grain, which Joseph stored in granaries in all the cities of Egypt.

Before the famine began, Joseph's wife bore him two sons, whom he named Manasseh ("one who causes to forget") for "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household," and Ephraim ("fruitful") because "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction" (Genesis 41:51, 52). Through all the trials and humiliation that Joseph endured he had grown spiritually, and his character had been refined as gold.



Memory Verse:

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:4)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God blesses those who are faithful to Him and often extends that blessing to those with whom they are associated.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "endurance."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that the testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.
6. Summarize Genesis 40 for the children. (See point 2. A., above.)
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
9. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
10. Have the children label Manassas and Ephraim under Joseph on their Patriarchs' Family Tree graphic organizer.
11. Write the phrases for the Profile of Joseph graphic organizer on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
12. Continue teaching the children the new song "Some May Trust in Chariots."
13. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
14. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
15. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 20

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Genesis 41:53-42:9

Teacher Reading: Genesis 42:10-28

Review: The testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.

Principle: Blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

collateral (n.) Property acceptable as security for a loan or another obligation.

famine (n.) 1) Scarcity of food; a general want of provisions over an extended period of time that causes starvation and even death. 2) Want; destitution, as a famine for the Word of God.

prime minister (n.) The title of the person who holds the position of head of state or chief executive in a nation.

sojourn (v.) To dwell for a time; to live in a place as a temporary resident or stranger.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.

Just as Joseph had said, the seven years of plenty came to an end in Egypt. During the seven years of great abundance, Joseph had wisely stored the grain in preparation for the anticipated seven years of famine. He had also set up a

STUDENT



Key Word:

prosperity (n.) Successful progress in any enterprise; advance or gain in anything good or desirable.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Explain how Joseph's brothers came to be in Egypt.
2. How did Joseph's two dreams that he had as a youth come to pass years later?
3. If Joseph recognized his brothers, why did they not recognize him?
4. How do you think Joseph felt seeing them for the first time since they had sold him into slavery? Who was he missing?
5. Describe Joseph's plan to be reunited with his brother Benjamin.
6. Paraphrase this lesson's principle.

national food administration program, which sold the grain to the Egyptians when their supplies diminished.

A. Not only did the famine strike Egypt, but all the nations around her (Genesis 41:57), for which none of them had made provision. News reached other lands that there was grain in Egypt, and caravans arrived from afar to purchase it. This, of course, was the ultimate purpose in God's providential plan—the migration of Jacob's family from Canaan to Egypt, where they would be preserved while becoming a nation (Genesis 46:3). God revealed this in a night vision to Jacob as he was departing Canaan for Egypt. This sojourn in Egypt had also been announced to Abram when God made a covenant with him: *"God said to Abram, 'Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions'"* (Genesis 15:13, 14).

Genesis 46:3: "He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.'"

B. Meanwhile, it had been 20 years since Joseph had arrived in Egypt without his ever having a word about his family. When the famine struck Canaan, Jacob sent his older 10 sons to Egypt to purchase grain. He would not send Benjamin, lest harm befall him. Just as Joseph's dream had predicted (Genesis 37:7, 8), when his brothers arrived they "bowed down to him with their faces to the ground" (Genesis 42:6; see also 43:26). Joseph recognized them immediately but disguised himself. As the ruler of the land, he was dressed as an Egyptian king and spoke to them through an interpreter. His brothers did not know who he was, or that he understood their language!

Joseph decided to test them. He acted harshly toward his brothers and accused them of being spies. As his brothers continued to volunteer more and more information about their family, they told of their youngest brother who remained at home. Joseph then set his plan into motion through a series of events that would bring his whole family to Egypt. His first request was for them to bring their youngest brother to Egypt.

C. It is worth noting that of the many sins related in the book of Genesis, the confession of Joseph's brothers is the only confession recorded.

Genesis 42:21-23: "They said to one another, 'Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.' Reuben answered them, saying, 'Did I not tell you, "Do not sin against the boy"; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his

7. How can you apply this principle to your life? Be specific in your answer.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:

- Great discernment and wisdom
- Interpreter of dreams
- Spent 13 years as a slave and prisoner in Egypt
- Served as Egypt's prime minister



Singing:

Some May Trust in Chariots

From *Psalms* 20:7

Chorus:

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
But we will trust in the name of our God. (x 4)

1) In the name of Jesus our salvation lies.

He will hear from heaven to answer every cry.

Sing the chorus. (x 2)

2) By the blood of Jesus, sins are washed away.

We sing for joy to God our strength His banner we wave, we wave.

Sing the chorus. (x 4)

We will trust in the name of our God. (x2)



Memory Verse:

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:4)

blood.’ They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them.”

When Joseph heard evidence of their repentant hearts, he was overcome with emotion. He had their sacks filled with grain and restored their money. He put Simeon in prison as collateral and sent the others back to Canaan for their brother Benjamin.

The principle for today’s lesson is a very important one for children to learn while they are young. It is often true that when we prosper we take our blessings for granted and even claim that they are the result of our own ideas and labor. We neglect God and cease giving Him thanks and praise for all His blessings in our lives. If a sudden crisis arises, we are quick to cry out to the Lord to restore our blessings. What we fail to realize is that both prosperity and want of provisions are from the Lord. The story of Joseph in Egypt should be a warning to us that prosperity comes from the Lord and can be easily removed by Him, as He wills. It should also teach us to save a portion of what He provides us and to give to the work of the Lord for an eternal reward.

Job 1:21: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Isaiah 45:6b, 7: “I am the LORD, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.”

Genesis 39:2, 3: “The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.”

Genesis 39:23: “The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph’s charge because the LORD was with him.”

Ecclesiastes 7:14: “In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider—God has made the one as well as the other.”

Luke 16:11: “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?”

3. Gather resources: Bible and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God’s hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God’s call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.

3. Review the principle that the testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance impels spiritual growth.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “prosperity.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.
6. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
7. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the phrases for the Profile of Joseph graphic organizer on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing “Some May Trust in Chariots.”
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 21

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 43:15-23, 26-30; 44:1-7, 14-21

Student Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Review: Blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.

Principle: In God's sovereignty, He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

divination (n.) The act of foretelling future events by supernatural means.

heinous (adj.) Shockingly brutal or cruel.

righteous (adj.) Just; corresponding to God's law. When applied to persons, it denotes one who is holy in heart and observant of the divine commands in practice.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: In God's sovereignty, He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.

The journey of Joseph's brothers from Memphis, Egypt (now Cairo), back to Hebron in Canaan was a distance of 250 miles or more and took three weeks by donkey or camel. They discovered that all the gold they had used to pay for the grain had been returned to their sacks. This alarmed their father, Jacob, who then accused them for being responsible for the loss of two of his children, and perhaps of his entire family!

STUDENT



Key Word:

sovereignty (n.) The exercise of extreme power or dominion over all.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Describe the two tests that Joseph employed with his brothers.
2. What was Joseph's purpose for these tests?
3. Why was Joseph able to forgive his brothers for their cruel treatment of him?
4. Describe Joseph's reaction to seeing Benjamin and then hearing about his aged father.
5. What was Joseph's response to his brothers when they first discovered who he was and feared for their lives?

Meanwhile, God's Spirit was working in the hearts of Joseph's brothers to refine each one's character and prepare them to serve as the fathers and founders of the 12 tribes of Israel. It was necessary that they confront Joseph himself and ask his forgiveness. God desired to see their fellowship and unity restored; therefore, another trip to Egypt was necessary. It was not until their grain supply was exhausted and death by starvation became a reality that Jacob relented, consenting to send Benjamin to Egypt. He prepared gifts of foodstuffs for the Egyptian ruler and sent double money to pay for the grain.

- A. Although Joseph had the authority to imprison or execute his brothers, he was incapable of such revenge. He had already forgiven his brothers for their heinous deeds. Joseph recognized that God had been the author of the entire series of events in his life. He understood God's ultimate purpose for his preceding his family to Egypt. This enabled him to release any remaining hatred, anger, or bitterness.
- B. It was very emotional for Joseph to see his younger brother, Benjamin, after more than 20 years. After he regained control, Joseph served his brothers a banquet. He arranged for one final test as they prepared to depart by having his silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack. He sent his steward after them to accuse them of the theft. When Joseph's silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack, Joseph proposed that, as a punishment, Benjamin remain as his slave and the other brothers return home. Judah tried to reason with him. He related that if Benjamin were lost to his aged father, it would kill him, because his life was bound up in this youngest son.
- C. Joseph could no longer control himself and began to cry. He asked the Egyptians to leave, intending to reveal his true identity to his brothers. He cried so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household could hear him. Joseph's deep emotional pain was finally released as he wept uncontrollably before his brothers. He had endured over 20 years of adversity, loneliness, and suffering. He was also grateful for this reunion and filled with joy and hope that he would soon see his beloved father.
- D. When his brothers heard his shocking news, they were distressed, fearing what he might do to them. Joseph's response is amazing: "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:5-8).

6. Paraphrase today's principle and explain why this is such a difficult concept to grasp.



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:

- Enjoyed great favor and success
- Gave God glory for his achievements
- Was a very forgiving man
- God's instrument for the salvation of his family



Singing:

Some May Trust in Chariots

From *Psalm 20:7*

Chorus:

Some may trust in horses, some may trust in chariots,
But we will trust in the name of our God. (x 4)

1) In the name of Jesus our salvation lies.

He will hear from heaven to answer every cry.

Sing the chorus. (x 2)

2) By the blood of Jesus, sins are washed away.

We sing for joy to God our strength His banner we wave, we wave.

Sing the chorus. (x 4)

We will trust in the name of our God. (x2)



Memory Verse:

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach. (James 1:5)

- E. Joseph gave his brothers instructions to return to Canaan and to bring their father, their families, and all their herds back to Egypt, where they could be provided for during the famine.

The doctrine of God's sovereignty assures us that while men may do the wrong thing for the wrong reasons, God can cause that "evil" to accomplish His divine purposes. He is able to bring good out of evil. Sinners are instruments of His providence, just as saints are. He is able to glorify Himself by the wickedness that He hates and punishes, as well as by the holiness that He loves and rewards. Jesus' crucifixion and death are the greatest example of this principle.

Acts 2:22-24: "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over by the predestined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."

Daniel 2:20-22: "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him."

Proverbs 21:1: "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

God used the wicked deeds of Joseph's brothers to place him in Egypt as His instrument of salvation for his whole family and also for the future nurturing of the young Messianic nation, Israel. He entrusted Joseph with many talents and spiritual gifts, as well as with great favor and success. This enabled Joseph to succeed in a position of great authority and responsibility. Joseph gave clear testimony to God's providential overruling in his life.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that blessings of prosperity come from the Lord and can easily be removed, as He wills.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "sovereignty."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that in God's sovereignty He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.
6. Read the teacher readings aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the phrases for the Profile of Joseph graphic organizer on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
10. Continue singing "Some May Trust in Chariots."
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 22

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 46:26-47:12

Student Reading: Genesis 48:1, 8-22

Review: In God's sovereignty, He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.

Principle: God's covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

fertile (adj.) Rich; producing fruit in abundance, as fertile land, ground, soil, or fields.

generation (n.) 1) Children of the same parents. 2) People of the same period of time. 3) The average interval of time between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring.

redeem (v.) 1) To purchase back; to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage of sin. 2) To free by making atonement.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God's covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.

When the news that Joseph's brothers were moving to Egypt reached Pharaoh, he generously provided them wagons, clothing, provisions, and gifts for their father. He told them not to bring their goods, because he would provide all that they needed once they had moved their families to Egypt. He also promised them the best land in Egypt! It is for these reasons that scholars believe he was a Hyksos pharaoh, or

STUDENT



Key Word:

generation (n.) 1) Children of the same parents. 2) People of the same period of time.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. How did Pharaoh demonstrate his great appreciation for Joseph's exemplary service as his prime minister?
2. How did Jacob react to learning that his favored son was still alive?
3. When Jacob departed Canaan for Egypt, what reassurance did God give him that he had made the right decision to leave? How does this speak to your heart as a child of God?
4. Describe Jacob and Joseph's meeting after their 22-year separation.

Shepherd King, of Semitic origin. The land that was promised, Goshen (later called Rameses by Moses), consisted of 40 miles of fertile land on the eastern section of the Nile delta.

Jacob was stunned to learn that Joseph was alive and that he was prime minister of Egypt! He immediately announced that he would travel to Egypt and see him before he died. From this point on in the account, the name Israel is often used rather than Jacob.

- A. On his way to Egypt, Israel stopped in Beersheba to worship and offer sacrifices to God, who appeared to him in a night vision. God reassured him, saying, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again” (Genesis 46:3, 4).
- B. The account states that the number of individuals of the house of Jacob who came to Egypt was 70. Of that number, 67 had just arrived from Canaan; adding Joseph and his 2 sons, we reach the total of 70. These persons are considered the “founders” of the nation of Israel. The number did not include wives, most daughters, and many grandchildren. Yet the number 70 is tied to the nation of Israel in many ways throughout the Scriptures. By the time of the Exodus, Jacob’s family would number over two million!
- C. When Joseph’s family arrived in Goshen, he and his father finally met after more than 22 years. The joy for both of them was almost unbearable, as they held each other and wept “a long time” (Genesis 46:29). Jacob’s beloved son was still alive, and now he could die in peace. Joseph took his father and some of his brothers to meet Pharaoh, counseling them first to tell Pharaoh that they worked with livestock; the Egyptians despised shepherds, and they would be living among Egyptian families.

Seventeen years later Jacob became ill to the point of death. He had previously made Joseph swear that when he died Joseph would bury him in Canaan in the family burial plot. Joseph brought his two sons to see his father. Jacob shared his rich experiences with God and the promises God had made to him about his family, so that he could bless Joseph and his sons.

- A. Jacob adopted Joseph’s two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, as his own. Doing this ensured that Joseph’s descendants would receive a double inheritance. At this point Jacob transferred the right of the firstborn son, a double portion of wealth, from Reuben (who had committed incest and defiled his father’s bed years earlier¹), to Joseph, the firstborn son of his beloved wife, Rachel.

¹ Read 1 Chronicles 5:1 for greater understanding.

5. What changes did Jacob make with regard to his sons and their inheritance? Why did Joseph receive a double portion of Jacob’s inheritance?
6. Paraphrase today’s principle. Give some examples of this principle from your study of Genesis.



Notebook Record:

1. Locate and label Goshen on your Patriarchs Map.
2. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:
 - Was reunited with his father and brothers after 22 years of separation
 - Received a double portion of Jacob’s inheritance through his two sons



Singing:

- ’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
- Jehovah-jireh
- We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder
- Some May Trust in Chariots



Memory Verse:

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach. (James 1:5)

B. In Jacob's beautiful blessing we find the first reference in the Bible to God as our Shepherd (Genesis 48:15) and to the word "redeem" (Genesis 48:16). The Angel is none other than the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, with whom Jacob had wrestled for his blessing:

*"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
The angel who has redeemed me from all evil,
Bless the lads;
And may my name live on in them,
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth"*
(Genesis 48:15, 16).

C. At this point Joseph noted that Jacob's right hand was on Ephraim, his second-born son, and not Manasseh. Thinking his father had made a mistake, Joseph moved to correct him before he pronounced any blessing using their names. Jacob let him know that he had not made a mistake. This selection and election by God of one individual over another appears throughout Israel's history. In this unit alone, we find God's choice of:

Isaac, not Ishmael

Jacob, not Esau

Judah (position as family ruler) and Joseph (double portion of wealth), not Reuben

Ephraim, not Manasseh

God's promises are passed from generation to generation for spiritual reasons by His sovereign election, not by chronological birth order.

Romans 11:5: "... there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 4: "We give thanks to God always for all of you ... knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you."

3. Gather resources: Bible and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that In God's sovereignty He is able to bring good out of evil to accomplish His divine purposes.

4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define “generation.”
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that God’s covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Have the children locate and label Goshen on their Patriarchs Maps.
10. Write the phrases for the Profile of Joseph graphic organizer on the chalkboard and have the children copy onto their graphic organizers.
11. Sing all the songs you’ve taught the children in this unit.
12. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
13. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

GENESIS 23

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 49:1-27

Student Reading: Genesis 49:28-33

Review: God's covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.

Principle: Prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

benediction (n.) A solemn blessing or prayer of divine protection; an invocation uttered in favor of a person's happiness.

blessing (n.) A solemn prophetic benediction in which happiness is invoked or foretold to empower the next generation.

charge (n.) That which is entrusted to another, implying custody and duty to be performed.

destiny (n.) A predetermined course of events established by divine decree.

embalm (v.) To preserve a dead body from decay by treating it with preservatives.

exhort (v.) 1) To advise; to warn; to caution. 2) To use words or arguments to incite to good deeds.

forbear (n.) A person from whom one is descended.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: Prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.

STUDENT



Key Word:

prophecy (n.) A declaration of something to come or advice spoken by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. What makes the final words of a dying father so important? Why were Jacob's final words extremely important?
2. Paraphrase today's principle.
3. Explain why the Scripture states that each of Jacob's blessings was appropriate to the son.
4. What happened to Reuben's birthright as Jacob's firstborn son?
5. Relate which brothers received Reuben's inheritance and describe their blessings.

Genesis 49 contains the final words of Israel's patriarch Jacob. Spoken with his dying breath, they were a Holy Spirit inspired benediction to his 12 sons. They were prophetic and spoken in the form of Hebrew poetry, which indicates that Jacob must have carefully planned and rehearsed them.

A. Jacob's words were a patriarchal blessing, as well, to each of his 12 sons, the future tribes of Israel and the lineage of the Messiah. Scripture states that each one received "the blessing appropriate to him" (Genesis 49:28). These prophetic blessings were not detached from their lives but an extension of them into the future. Each son was blessed because his descendants would enter the Promised Land in God's fullness of time, and so the prophecies relate their destiny. Like Jacob himself, his sons would die in Egypt and, therefore, not live to see the fulfillment of these promises in their lifetime. God did not want them to become too comfortable and put their trust in Egypt as their source of provision. Israel's hope and the fulfillment of God's promises lay in Canaan, the Promised Land. The sons of Jacob needed to look ahead.

1 Corinthians 14:22: "...[P]rophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe."

2 Peter 1:20, 21: "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

B. On this important occasion Jacob himself called for his sons to gather together at his deathbed. It is important for the children of godly parents to diligently harken to what their parents say at such a time. A father's charge carries both authority and affection. In blessing his sons, Jacob first addressed his wife Leah's four sons. The sons of both handmaids follow. Finally come Joseph and Benjamin, the two sons of Rachel, his beloved wife for whom he had served his father-in-law, Laban, for an additional seven years. The order of Jacob's sons here is in contrast to their birth order, giving preference to that which is prophetic and spiritual in nature. It paints a picture of the history of Israel until the last days, while it outlines the history of mankind as a whole, which is centered around Israel and God's provision of His Messiah through her.

C. Both Judah and Joseph were given a prominent place in Jacob's blessings. Reuben's birthright, as the firstborn son, was forfeited, and his position as patriarch or family ruler was given to Judah, the fourth son of Leah. It was also prophesied that "the scepter will not depart from Judah" (Genesis 49:10). This prediction only began to be fulfilled 640 years later, at the time of King David. It took another thousand years before the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, who was born of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

6. Who would be the descendants of Jacob's sons, and where would they live?



Notebook Record:

Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Jacob graphic organizer:

- Was reunited with his beloved Joseph
- Sojourned in Egypt for 17 years during a severe famine
- Issued a prophetic blessing to each son before he died
- Was buried with his forbears in Canaan



Singing:

- 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
- Jehovah-jireh
- We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
- Some May Trust in Chariots



Memory Verse:

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)



Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.

Joseph's blessing was the most eloquent of all. The wealth linked with the firstborn's blessing comprised a double portion of the inheritance. This went to Joseph and was passed to his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, whom Jacob had previously blessed (Genesis 48:13-22). Thus Ephraim and Manasseh obtained a place of their own among the tribes of Israel (Deuteronomy 33:17). Simeon and Levi were passed over because of their violence against the inhabitants of Shechem.

Jacob's final words were a charge to his sons about his burial. His desire was to be buried in Canaan, where Abraham and Isaac were buried. His being "gathered to his people" (Genesis 49:33) reflects Jacob's belief that his forbears, though dead, still existed.

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, memory verse card, and parent cards.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that God's covenant blessings are passed from generation to generation by His sovereign choice.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "prophecy."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
9. Write the phrases for the Profile of Jacob graphic organizers.
10. Sing all the songs you've taught the children in this unit.
11. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
12. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
13. Send parents' blessing and prayer cards home with the children for the week.

GENESIS 24

Time: 45 minutes

Teacher Reading: Genesis 50:1-14

Student Reading: Genesis 50:15-26

Review: Prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.

Principle: A sincere confession of sin should include restitution.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

asleep (adj.) In a state of death.

bereavement (n.) Deprivation, particularly by the loss of a friend or family member by death.

magnanimous (adj.) 1) Generous in forgiving. 2) Courageously noble in mind and heart.

revenge (n.) The deliberate infliction of pain or injury on a person in return for an injury received from him.

sincere (adj.) Being without pretense or hypocrisy; genuine.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned readings. Make certain that you understand them in the context of this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: A sincere confession of sin should include restitution.

At the death of Jacob, Joseph and his brothers felt a keen sense of sorrow and bereavement. Death is our great enemy, which will one day be vanquished completely (Revelation 21:4). During this present age the death of a loved one causes sorrow. However, we Christians have great hope of seeing our loved ones in Christ again:

STUDENT



Key Word:

restitution (n.) The act of returning or restoring to someone what is his.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by the teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. Why didn't Joseph and his family remain in Canaan after burying their father, Jacob?
2. Explain why Joseph's brothers were now filled with fear. Describe Joseph's beautiful response to their fear.
3. Paraphrase today's principle.
4. Define "restitution." Explain why it is important to make restitution to others when you have sinned against them.
5. What did the brothers do to make restitution with Joseph for all the suffering they had brought him?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Joseph gained Pharaoh's approval to bury his father in Canaan, and he promised to return to Egypt. By now the famine was long past, but the sons of Jacob must have realized, because of God's word to Abraham, that their sojourn in Egypt would continue for a long time.

A. In Egypt it was customary to embalm the dead in order to mummify and preserve the body indefinitely. This process required 40 days. Although they were not Egyptians, Jacob and Joseph were viewed by the Egyptians as important leaders, so their bodies were embalmed and preserved in wooden mummy cases. It was customary in Egypt to observe a 70-day period of mourning.

B. Egyptians accompanied Joseph and his large family's funeral procession to Canaan. Members of Pharaoh's household and many elders of Egypt also mourned the death of Jacob with his family.

Joseph also made his brothers solemnly swear to carry his bones back to Canaan when they departed from Egypt. It would be more than four hundred years before their exodus occurred. This request placed Joseph in Hebrews 11, faith's hall of fame.

Hebrews 11:22: "By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones."

Exodus 13:19: "Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, 'God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you.'"

Joshua 24:32: "Now they buried the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem."

Now that Jacob was gone, Joseph's brothers expressed great fear that he might hold a grudge against them. They anticipated that he would seek revenge for all the wrong they had inflicted on him, even though he had already assured them that he would take care of them (Genesis 45:4-11). How little they knew their brother's magnanimous heart! Their sense of guilt was so great that they could not believe he had

6. Relate a time when your parents asked you to seek forgiveness and make restitution with another. Describe your feelings before and after.



Notebook Record:

1. File your Parallel of Joseph and Jesus handout in your binder.
2. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joseph graphic organizer:
 - Conquered adversity through forgiveness and trust in God
 - Diligently fulfilled his duties as a son, a brother, a father, and a national leader
 - "A man in whom is a divine spirit" (Genesis 41:38)



Singing:

- 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
- Jehovah-jireh
- We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
- Some May Trust in Chariots



Memory Verse:

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

actually forgiven them! They sent him a message crediting their father's admonition to seek Joseph's forgiveness, which deeply affected Joseph. They followed up by coming directly into his presence with an offer to become his slaves. As they had sold Joseph into slavery, so now they attempted to make restitution by volunteering to become slaves themselves.

- A. It is important to teach our children these steps of seeking forgiveness and making restitution when they have sinned against another. It is biblical to confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness. Then it is necessary to ask the one against whom we have sinned to forgive us, making sure to be specific in naming the sin. While it is important for us to say "I'm sorry" when we're the ones at fault, it is just as important when we've been wronged for us to accept the other person's apology, assuring them, "I do forgive you." Minimally, a handshake or a hug is needed to restore the relationship.

If something has been stolen, restitution should be made by either returning it, purchasing a duplicate, or paying to replace it. The biblical model also returns more than the amount that was taken or lost. These steps, when followed, help keep hearts clean before the Lord and fellowship with others healthy.

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Numbers 5:5-7: "The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel, "When a man or woman commits any of the sins of mankind, acting unfaithfully against the LORD, and that person is guilty, then he shall confess his sins which he has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong and add to it one-fifth of it, and give it to him whom he has wronged.'"

- B. Joseph's response is one of the great passages in the Bible: "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them" (Genesis 50:19-20).

Many Bible commentators note that Joseph is a type of Jesus Christ, but the Bible does not say this. Still, many parallels between the two can be made. See the Joseph and Jesus Parallel on page 139.

Joseph lived another 54 years after the death of Jacob and died in Egypt. His mummified body was not buried. It was carried out of Egypt more than 400 years later by Moses in the great exodus. The book of Genesis ends with Joseph's death. Genesis is the book of beginnings but not of completions. The end speaks to the need for a way out of Egypt.

God's Messianic purposes were fulfilled through Joseph's obedience, his love and forgiveness, and his great administrative capabilities. God's overruling in the affairs of nations placed Abraham's descendants in Egypt during the reign of the Hyksos pharaohs and the killer famine. We now understand why it was necessary that this family should mature and become strong in another land. God was preparing them to take possession of their inheritance and for the land to be properly settled by the 12 tribes. "Under these conditions, they were kept from paganism and intermingling with an idolatrous people. God preserved them to be the channel used in bringing forth a pure, monotheistic religion and a redemptive system centered on the coming Messiah."¹

3. Gather resources: Bible, student vocabulary card, and Parallel of Joseph and Jesus handouts.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit. Illumine our minds and be our teacher today. Help us see God's hand of providence in the lives of the Old Testament patriarchs and in our own lives as well. May we each be inspired by their faith and courageous obedience to God's call. We pray that You would reveal Your divine calling to each one of us. And may our faith grow and our trust in Jesus Christ and His Word increase as we walk with You on pilgrimage. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the principle that prophecy holds future promises but also exhorts us to purity in our present lives.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card on your bulletin board and define "restitution."
5. Connect the vocabulary word to the principle that a sincere confession of sin should include restitution.
6. Read the teacher reading aloud to the children.
7. Assign the children their Bible reading. Have them read orally.
8. Distribute the Joseph and Jesus Parallel handouts to the children. Read to the children and discuss.
9. Ask the reason questions and have the children respond orally.
10. Write the phrases for the Profile of Joseph graphic organizers.
11. Sing all the songs you've taught the children in this unit.
12. Before completing the lesson, have the children repeat their weekly memory verse.
13. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.

¹ *The New Analytical Bible and Dictionary of the Bible* (1931, 1973). Iowa Falls, Iowa: World Bible Publishers, p. 67.

Joseph and Jesus Parallel

Joseph, a type of Jesus Christ

Joseph	Fact or Characteristic	Jesus Christ
Genesis 37:3	Beloved of his father	Matthew 3:17
Genesis 39:31-35	Separated from his father	John 20:21
Genesis 41:38	Indwelt by the Holy Spirit	Luke 4:1
Genesis 37:2	Was a shepherd	John 10:11
Genesis 37:4, 5, 11	Brothers were jealous and did not believe him	John 7:3-5; 15:18, 19
Genesis 37:4	Envied and despised without cause	John 15:25b
Genesis 37:28	Betrayed and sold	Matthew 26:15
Genesis 37:28	Egypt was a refuge during a time of crisis	Matthew 2:13-15
Genesis 41:13	Foretold the future accurately	John 13:19
Genesis 39:14-19	Arrested	John 18:12
Genesis 39:11-20	Falsely accused	Matthew 26:59-61
Genesis 39:7-12	Resisted temptation and sin (only Jesus is sinless)	Matthew 4:1-11
Genesis 42:21	Endured great suffering	Acts 1:3
Genesis 42:8	His people did not recognize him	John 14:9
Genesis 39:21	God was with him	Matthew 17:5
Genesis 41:40	Great power and authority	Matthew 28:18
Genesis 42:24	Showed great love in persecution	John 15:13
Genesis 45:5-7	Provided salvation for his people	Acts 4:10-12
Genesis 45:15	Showed pardon	Luke 3:34
Genesis 45:1-15	Reunited with his brothers	John 19:19-29
Genesis 39:3	Prospered in everything he did	Isaiah 53:10
Genesis 50:20	The evil intended for him God used for good	Acts 3:12-18

