



The Preparation of the Kingdom

PRIMARY NOTES — 5 to 8 Years

STAGE ONE OF FIVE STAGES

CHRISTADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 20, MODBURY NORTH, 5092, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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FOREWORD

It is time in our syllabus to go back to beginnings, and at the same time we have taken the opportunity to vary the syllabus a little. Choosing what to insert and what to leave out is always difficult, but we have attempted to meet suggestions made as far as possible.

As usual, compromises have had to be made to meet the varying demands upon the Notes caused by differences in the ages and abilities of students and the needs of scholars and teachers, from their respective points of view.

Consequently you may find that adjustments have to be made to suit the particular circumstances in which the Notes are used. It is our hope, however, that they will be of particular use as a 'bridge' between the Sunday School and the Home, where the major part of education must take place. A glance at the 'Contents' will show that as far as Stage One of our syllabus is concerned, it is virtually a consideration of a series of families, something which contains a lesson in itself.

We are always pleased to hear from you with practical suggestions for improvement of the Notes.

A packet of expression work sheets have been prepared to accompany this set of notes and will be found valuable in assisting to teach and illustrate the lessons. We hope that the Notes will be of assistance to you in the vital and rewarding work in which you are engaged.

THE COMMITTEE

*"Except Yahweh build the house,
they labour in vain that build"*

Please note: Where a dot • appears beside a question it indicates that the question requires a longer answer. Questions in section 'B' of the Div. 5-6 annual examination paper and sections 'B' and 'C' of the Div. 7-8 paper will be selected from these.

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1. HOW GOD MADE THE WORLD

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

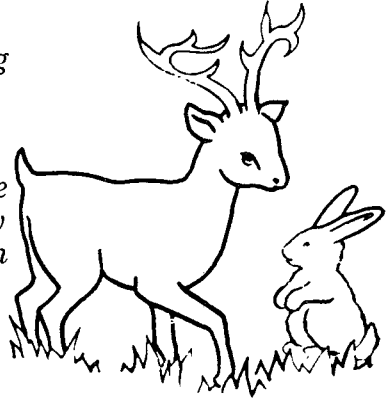
Aim

To show that God made everything in heaven and earth by His power.

Synopsis

Would you like to know how the world was made? Well this is how the world was made. We learn it in the Bible.

Genesis 1; 2:1-7



IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning, God made the earth and He also made heaven. There was a time when the whole earth was covered with water. If you close your eyes and put your hands over them really tightly, you will see what the earth looked like. It was completely dark. It was empty.

There was no light, no plants, no fish, no animals, no people. But did God leave it like this? No, He did not! He set His angels to work to make this place beautiful.

THE FIRST DAY - LIGHT

God said, "Let there be light" and straight away, light shone through the darkness. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light 'day' and He called the darkness 'night'. Then the first day ended.

THE SECOND DAY - SKY

Then God said, "Let there be a space between the sea and the clouds". The clouds floated high in the heavens or air above the sea, and the second day ended. There was air to breathe. But there was no dry land yet.

THE THIRD DAY - DRY LAND AND PLANTS

“Let the waters be gathered together and let dry land appear”, God said. And it was so. The dry land or earth appeared and the waves of the sea broke upon the shore.

“Let the earth bring forth grass and plants and trees with fruit”, said God. Grass and plants and trees grew on the land. Each one grew seeds from which other plants would grow. Each plant would be the same kind as the plant from which its seed had come.

God saw that it was good, and the third day ended.

THE FOURTH DAY - SUN, MOON AND STARS

“Let there be lights in the heavens”, said God, “to divide the day from the night”. He put the bright sun in its place to shine by day and the moon and stars in their places to softly shine by night upon the earth.

God saw that it was good, and the fourth day ended.

THE FIFTH DAY - BIRDS AND FISHES

God said, “Let the fish swim in the water and birds fly in the air”.

Fish swam in the sea and birds flew in the air. God saw that it was good, and the fifth day ended.

THE SIXTH DAY - THE ANIMALS AND MAN

God said, “Let the earth bring forth living things, beasts and cattle and creeping things”. Every kind of animal and insect was made from the dust of the ground. God saw that it was good.

When all these things were made, then God made the man and the woman. He called the man ‘Adam’, and spoke to him: “Rule over all these things that I have made”, He said. God looked on all the work He had made and it was very good.

THE SEVENTH DAY - GOD RESTED

On the seventh day, God stopped making things. He rested from His work. The earth was not just dark and black and empty any more. It was bright with light. There was blue sky

and blue sea and brown earth and green plants and fruit of every colour. All the beautiful earth showed how good God is, and all His angels sang for joy.

LESSON FOR US

God made the world and everything upon it. He made us too! He has also given us a promise of life in His Kingdom if we obey Him. That is why we must do what God tells us to do.

Remember these points:-

- * Only the Bible can tell us how the world was made.
- * In six days God made everything on the earth and everything in the sky as well.
- * On the sixth day God made man and woman.
- * On the seventh day God rested.

Divisions 7 and 8 - can you learn this?

On the *First Day* God made *Light*.

On the *Second Day* God made *Clouds and Sea and Air*.

On the *Third Day* God made *Dry Land and Plants and Trees*.

On the *Fourth Day* God made *Sun and Moon and Stars*.

On the *Fifth Day* God made *Birds and Fish*.

On the *Sixth Day* God made *Animals and Man*.

On the *Seventh Day* God rested.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. Where can we learn how the world was made?
- ✓ 2. Who made the world?
- ✓ 3. What happened when God said, "Let there be light"?
- ✓ 4. Name some of the things God made.
5. What did God do on the seventh day?

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 6. Tell what you know about how God made the world and everything upon it in six days.
7. Why must we do what God tells us to do?

1. Who made the world
2. What happened when God said "let there be light".
3. Name some of the things God made.

7

Quote

Gen. 1:31.

God saw everything that he had made, & it was very good.

2. HOW GOD MADE THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN

"Male and female created He them"

Aim

To show that God made man and woman and God cared for them in the Garden of Eden.

Synopsis

This is how God made the first man and also a helper for him. Then he placed them in a beautiful garden, the Garden of Delight or Eden. We should learn about it very carefully and remember always that God will find friends for us to help us too.



Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-9, 15-25; 3:20

HOW GOD MADE ADAM

God made the first man, Adam, on the sixth day. This is how He made him. The angels (who are God's messengers and who work for Him) made Adam in the same shape as themselves. They made his shape out of the dust of the ground and then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul or person.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

God placed Adam in a beautiful garden which He planted in Eden. Adam was to keep it for God and to be in charge over all the birds and animals and to care for the fruit and vegetables that God had made on earth to provide food. This was not hard as there were no weeds to spoil this garden of delight.

ADAM IS LONELY

Although the garden was beautiful, Adam was lonely. The angels set about to give him a helper.

They brought the animals before Adam one by one. Adam gave each one a name but there was none that could help him to care and look after the other things that God had made. The animals could not learn and think about God as Adam could.

HOW GOD MADE EVE

So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. Then, while he was asleep and knew nothing about it, God opened up his side and took a rib. From this rib, God created a woman. Then, when Adam was awake again, the angels brought the woman to Adam.

ADAM IS PLEASED

Adam knew that the woman could help him. They were to work in the garden to provide food. Of course, Adam and Eve would have to learn about God and obey Him, because God *made* the world.

Adam called his helper 'woman' (which means 'out of man'), "because she was taken out of man", he said. He was not lonely now, for he had the woman to talk to, and to talk to him, and to help him do what God wanted him to do. Later on, Adam called her 'Eve'.

LESSON FOR US

When God saw that Adam was lonely, He made a helper for him. Only God could know what kind of helper Adam needed. So He made the woman to help him. God will also care for us if we love His word and obey Him.

Remember these points:-

- * Adam was made in the shape of the angels.
- * God could see that Adam would be lonely. So He made the woman to help him.
- * God put Adam to sleep and took a rib out of Adam's side to make the woman.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. How did God make Adam?
- ✓ 2. Where did God put Adam after He had made him?
3. What did God tell Adam to do in the Garden?
4. What did God make with the rib which He took out of Adam's side?
- 5. Why was Adam not lonely any more after the woman was made?

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 6. Tell how God made a helper for Adam.
7. Why were none of the animals able to be Adam's helper?

1. God made Adam out of ^{dust} of the ^{ground}
2. Where did God put Adam after he had made him?
3. Adam was not lonely anymore after the ^{woman} was made.



Quote.

She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man Gen. 2: 23

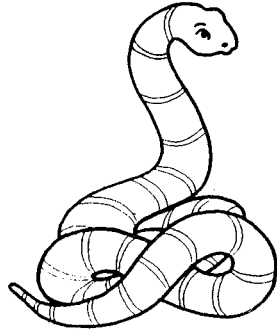
3. ADAM AND EVE DISOBEY GOD'S LAW *"Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return"*

Aim

To show that disobedience brings punishment and how God, in His mercy and love, made a great promise.

Synopsis

So far, everything which had happened in the world God made had been very good. But now Adam and Eve did something which was very bad. They disobeyed God. Evil things happened because of this.



Genesis 1:29; 2:9, 16-17; 3.

GOD GIVES A LAW TO ADAM AND EVE

There were many trees in the garden of Eden and they had delicious fruit. Adam and Eve were able to eat the fruit of all the trees but one. This was "the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil". Another tree in the garden was called "the Tree of Life".

God said to Adam and Eve, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." God was trying them to see if they loved Him enough to obey Him.

Adam and Eve heard this law of God and understood it. They had been told not to touch it or else they would die, and they didn't want to die, so they left it alone.

EVE LISTENS TO THE SERPENT

Among the animals in the garden there was a serpent which could speak. It was the cleverest of all the animals God

had made. The serpent spoke to Eve one day and told a lie.

“Did God say ye shall *not* eat of *every* tree of the garden?”, the serpent said to Eve.

“We can eat of every tree but the one in the midst of the garden”, said Eve. “God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

THE SERPENT TELLS A LIE

“You will not die!” said the serpent.

This was a lie, because God had said that they would die but Eve listened to the serpent instead of believing God.

Eve looked at the tree. It did look good for food; there was lovely fruit growing on it. It looked good to eat, and the serpent said that if she ate it, she would then know many things as the angels did. Eve forgot about her love for God. She forgot that He was all powerful, and would do what He said – “in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”. Instead, she believed the serpent’s words.

EVE AND ADAM SIN

Eve took some fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She ate it and gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. They had disobeyed God! It was a terrible thing to do, to listen to the serpent instead of obeying God. Everything became different now. They felt ashamed for having sinned. They sewed some fig leaves together to cover themselves.

ADAM AND EVE HIDE THEMSELVES

As evening came, the angels of God came walking in the garden. “Where are you Adam?” they called, for Adam and Eve had hidden themselves (but you cannot hide from God or His messengers).

GOD TELLS ADAM HE WILL DIE

They were all punished. The serpent was made to crawl in the dust. Eve was to have much sorrow and be ruled over by her husband.

God said to Adam: "Because thou hast done this the ground will grow thorns and thistles and you will have to work very hard to get food. You will grow old and die and turn back into dust again." (Divisions 7-8 try and learn Genesis 3:17-19).

God would not let Adam eat of the Tree of Life now. So He drove Adam and Eve out of the garden. Then God put "at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the Tree of Life".

GOD MAKES COATS OF SKINS

God had to punish Adam and Eve but He loved them still. Before God sent them from the garden, He killed a lamb and clothed Adam and Eve with the skin. Adam and Eve had sewn fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves. But God was not pleased with this. So He provided the clothes of skin. The lamb that was slain would make them think of Jesus, who was called "the Lamb of God".

LESSON FOR US

We must listen to what God says and obey Him. And we must remember that God has said that sin causes death. Some people say that we do not really die at all and return to the dust, even though God has said that we will. But this is only the same lie that the serpent told. It is the oldest lie in the world.

Remember these points:-

- * Adam and Eve could eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden but one.
- * They were not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- * Adam and Eve listened to the serpent instead of believing God.
- * When Adam and Eve broke God's Law, God drove them out of the garden.
- * God made them coats of skin to clothe them.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. Could Adam and Eve eat of all the trees in the garden?
2. What was the tree of which they could not eat?
3. What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
4. (a) What was the lie that the serpent told to Eve?
(b) What did Eve do after she listened to the serpent instead of believing God?
5. What did God make for Adam and Eve after they sinned?

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 6. What did God say would happen because Adam and Eve had disobeyed Him?
- 7. Why did God make coats of skin for Adam and Eve?



- 14 God said to Adam - Eve they could eat of all the trees, but one.
1. What was it called?
 2. Where was it?

Quote

"ye shall not eat or touch it lest ye die!"

4. CAIN KILLS HIS BROTHER ABEL

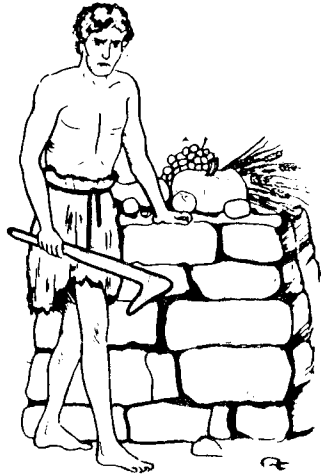
"Am I my brother's keeper?"

Aim

To show that God requires us to obey Him and do exactly as He asks – not what we ourselves want to do.

Synopsis

Cain and Abel were brothers. But Cain killed Abel. He did this because Abel's offering was accepted and his own was not.



Genesis 3:15-19; 4:1-15

CAIN AND ABEL ARE BORN

When Adam and Eve sinned, God put them out of the garden of Eden. They had to work hard to get their food. They would get tired and grow old and die. But God promised them that one day a son would be born who would save men from sin and death. (This was to be the Lord Jesus Christ.)

Soon afterwards they had a little boy. They called him Cain. But he was not the one who would save men from sin and death. Then they had another little boy. They called him Abel. Now they had two boys, Cain and Abel.

CAIN AND ABEL GROW UP AND WORK

When Cain grew up he became a farmer. He ploughed the fields and grew things from the soil. His brother Abel was a shepherd. He looked after sheep.

CAIN AND ABEL BRING OFFERINGS

One day Cain and Abel brought offerings to God's Altar. Abel listened carefully to what God wanted. So he brought

the very best animals of his flock for a sin-offering. But Cain did not bother about what God wanted at all. He did not bring a living animal for a sin-offering. He brought some grain and fruit and vegetables along. These were the best he had grown and he thought God would be pleased with them. But God wanted a sin-offering and only an animal would do for that. We must give God *what He wants*, and not just please ourselves.

ABEL'S OFFERING IS ACCEPTED

The altar was the place where sacrifices were offered. God sent fire from heaven to burn the offerings to show He accepted them. The fire burnt Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Cain's offering was not accepted. Cain was angry and he began to hate his brother. God told Cain what he should do to be pleasing to Him – but he did not take any notice.

CAIN KILLS ABEL

Cain still hated Abel and his hatred led him to do a terrible thing. One day, when they were out in the field. Cain killed his brother Abel.

God said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

Cain said rudely, "I do not know – am I my brother's keeper?"

What a terrible thing to say, when he had killed his brother Abel!

GOD PUNISHES CAIN

God knows everything and He knew what Cain had done.

So Cain, the man who killed his brother, was driven away from his home. He was too proud to worship God in the right way and he would not repent. He wandered about the world unhappy and frightened. God put a special mark on him to protect him from his enemies as he wandered about the earth. His brother Abel was dead, but God will raise him from the dead to live for ever in His Kingdom, because he was obedient.

LESSON FOR US

Cain thought he could worship God just as he pleased, but God punished him. We must carefully learn what God has taught us in the Bible and do what God wants us to do. We must not think that we can just do as we please to worship Him. We must try to be like Abel and God will gladly have us in His Kingdom too.

Remember these points:-

- * Cain and Abel were brothers.
- * Abel offered the best of the flock and God accepted his offering.
- * Cain offered the best of what he had grown in the earth. It was not what God wanted.
- * Cain was angry with Abel and killed him.
- * God punished Cain for killing Abel.
- * Abel will be raised to be in God's Kingdom because he obeyed God.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. *What were the names of the first two sons of Adam and Eve?*
2. *Cain grew things out of the ground. What did Abel do?*
3. *God wanted an offering from Cain and Abel.*
 - (a) *What did Cain and Abel each offer?*
 - (b) *Which offering was God pleased with?*
 - (c) *What did Cain do to Abel when Cain's offerings were not accepted?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

4. *Why did God not accept Cain's offering?*
- 5. *Tell why Cain killed his brother Abel.*

Fill in missing words.

1. Cain - Abel were
2. God said to Cain 'Where is
3. Who said, "I don't ¹⁷ know - am I my brother's keeper?"
4. Abel will be in God's Kingdom because he God.

Abel was a keeper of sheep but Cain was a tiller of the ground
Gen 4:2

5. NOAH AND HIS FAMILY ARE SAVED FROM THE FLOOD

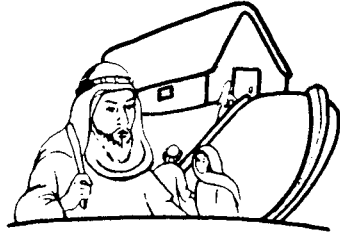
"By faith Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his house"

Aim

To show how one man by his faith saved himself and his family when God destroyed the world by a flood.

Synopsis

This story tells how the rainbow came to be seen in the sky. God decided to destroy the earth with a flood because the people had become so wicked, but He saved Noah and his family from the flood. He then set the rainbow in the sky because He promised never again to destroy the earth by a flood.



Genesis 6, 7 and 8

GOD DECIDED TO DESTROY THE LIVING THINGS

Adam's children had children of their own and these children had more children too. Nearly 2,000 years went by, a long time. Now there were many, many people on the earth. Some of them loved and worshipped God. Many of them did not. Some of those who worshipped God married women who did not. The children of these people were even more wicked. Nearly everyone in the earth became wicked. God decided to destroy every living thing on the earth. Only Noah and his family and some animals would be left alive.

NOAH BUILDS AN ARK

P.24 God told Noah to build a big boat, called an Ark. Noah built the Ark just as God had told him. It was made of gopher

wood. It had three stories, a window and a door. It was covered inside and out with pitch so that the water would not get in. It was a floating house. All the time Noah was building the Ark he would tell the people to change their ways. They must stop being wicked, because God was going to send a flood to destroy them all. But they only laughed at him and told him he was silly.

NOAH GOES INTO THE ARK

When the Ark was finished, God told Noah what he must do next. Noah put seven pairs of every clean animal in the Ark and one pair of every unclean animal. Then he and his wife and his three sons and their wives went into the Ark as well, eight people in all. Small
book
"

God closed the door of the Ark. No one else could come in now.

THE FLOOD

For seven days Noah and his family and the animals waited in the Ark. Then, on the seventh day, it started to rain. Not only that, but huge waves from the sea swept over the land. The wicked people were terrified. How they wished they had listened to Noah. Down came the rain, but the Ark floated safely on top of the water. Soon the hills were under the water, and then the mountains! Every living thing on the earth died – but Noah and his family and the animals in the Ark were safe. Small
book
P. 27

THE FLOOD DRIES UP

For forty days and nights it rained and then it stopped. Then for one hundred and fifty days the Ark floated on the water. Finally it came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Noah sent out a raven to see if any of the earth was dry, but the raven just flew back and forth across the waters. Then he sent out a dove, but it came back because there was nowhere to rest. The second time the dove returned with an olive leaf in its beak. Then a week later, the dove did not come back. 28
29

GOD SPEAKS TO NOAH

“Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons’ wives with thee”, said God to Noah. Noah and his family and the animals came out of the Ark. God had destroyed every other living thing, but He had saved them. Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God to thank Him for saving them.

THE RAINBOW

God made the rainbow to shine in the sky when the clouds of rain came over the earth. It was a token of a promise. “I will look upon the rainbow to remind Me that the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh,” said God.

LESSON FOR US

We should always remember that God wants us to learn of Him, and listen carefully to His Words. If we believe and obey Him, He will save us from death. Whenever we see a rainbow, let us remember that God will never destroy the earth with a flood again. Even though wicked people die forever He would rather that all men should learn of Him and be saved.

Remember these points:-

- * The world became so wicked that God decided to destroy nearly everyone.
- * Noah and his family were faithful. So God saved their lives.
- * God told Noah to build the Ark and Noah and his family were saved in the Ark.
- * God set the rainbow in the sky to remind us that He will never destroy the earth with a flood again.

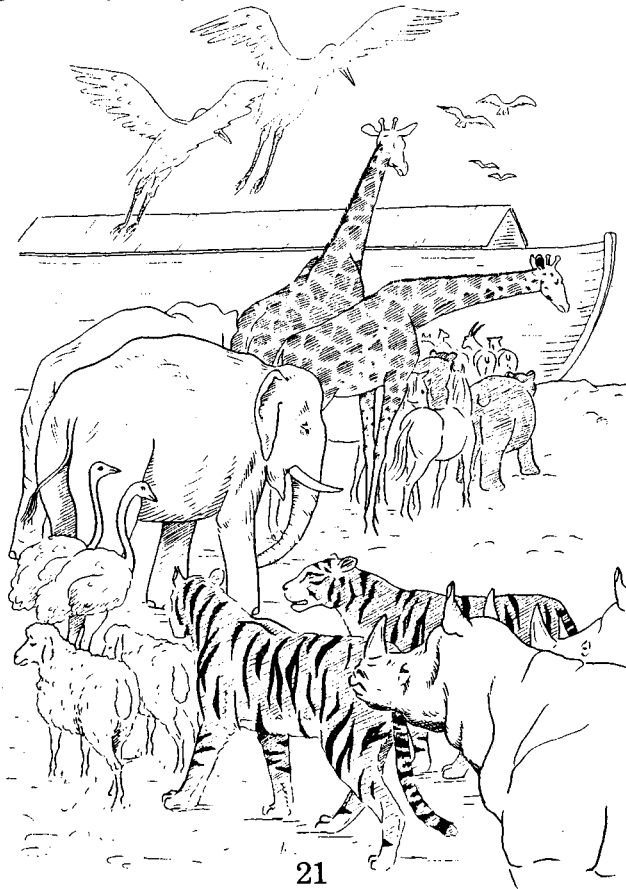
Questions Div. 5-8

1. *Why did God decide to destroy all living things on the earth?*

- 2. *God told Noah to build a big boat called an Ark.*
 - (a) *Tell what Noah did when it was finished.*
 - (b) *What did God do then?*
 - (c) *Tell what happened outside the Ark after that.*
- 3. *What does the rainbow remind us of?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 4. *What happened to the birds that Noah sent out, to see if the earth was dry?*
- 5. *Tell the story of how God saved Noah and his family from being destroyed by the flood.*



6. GOD TELLS ABRAM TO LEAVE UR

“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred”

Aim

To show that God promised to give a land to Abram and to make a great nation of his seed (people) because of his faith and obedience.

Synopsis

God called Abram out of Babylon. He made great promises to him. Abram believed these promises. He obeyed God and came to the land of Canaan.



*Genesis 11:27-32; 12:1-7; Acts 7:2-4,
Galatians 3:16*

GOD SPEAKS TO ABRAM

Many years after the flood, there lived in the city of Ur, in the land of the Chaldees, a man called Abram. The city was big and important and had many large buildings and houses. But the people who lived there did not know God. Instead they worshipped idols. One day, God spoke to Abram. God told him to leave the wicked city of Ur and go to a land that God would show him.

ABRAM LEAVES UR

Abram believed that the true God had spoken to him. He obeyed the voice of God. He left behind his house and his people and his friends and began his journey. Sarai his wife, Lot his nephew, and Terah his father, came with him. They travelled many miles until they came to a city called Haran. Here they all settled down to live, and here Terah, Abram's father, died.

But God did not want Abram to stay at Haran. He wanted him to go on to the land of Canaan (this is the land we now call "Israel"). So once again, God spoke to Abram, saying, "Leave your country and your people and your father's house and come on your way to the land that I will show you". If others of his family did not want to go, he must go without them.

God made some wonderful promises to Abram. God said:

- "I will make of you a great nation *country*."
- I will bless you and make your name great
- I will bless those that bless you and curse him who curses you
- In you, all families of the earth will be blessed."

All of these things would happen to Abram if he obeyed God.

These promises speak of the time when Jesus Christ will return to earth to set up God's Kingdom. Abram will be great in the Kingdom of God and all the people of the earth will be blessed at that time just as God promised.

ABRAM LEAVES HARAN FOR THE LAND OF PROMISE

Abram believed the words which God had told him. He left behind his own country, his people and his family and set out for the land of Canaan. He took with him Sarai and Lot and all his goods and cattle and the servants they had gathered in Haran.

ABRAM COMES TO THE LAND OF CANAAN

God cared for them on the long, slow journey. At last they arrived in the land of Canaan and stopped at Shechem. Here God appeared to Abram again and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land". Abram's true 'seed' is Jesus Christ and his followers. *people*

How good God had been to Abram. He had called him out of the wicked city of Ur and had made wonderful promises to him. Now He had brought them all safely to the Land of

Promise. Abram's heart overflowed with love and thanks and he built an altar to God and prayed to Him.

LESSON FOR US

Abram believed what God had told him. Then he did what God had said. Because of this, God cared for Abram all his life. He will make Abram great in His Kingdom, too, when Christ returns. In the Bible, Abram is known as the "Father of the Faithful", and the "Friend of God".

Like Abram, we also must believe what God has promised in His book, the Bible. We must obey God and do whatever He commands. If we do, God will care for us too, and we will go into the Kingdom of God with Abram.

Remember these points:-

- * Abram lived in the city of Ur.
- * God told Abram to leave Ur and go to a land He would show him.
- * God promised to make of Abram a great nation.
- * God promised Abram the land of Canaan.
- * Abram believed and obeyed God.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. *Abram lived in the city of Ur. Did the people of Ur know and obey God?*
2. *Why did Abram leave the city of Ur?*
3. *Who went with Abram when he left Ur?*
- 4. *What was the great promise God made to Abram when He spoke to him at Haran?*
5. *Did Abram believe God?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 6. *God led Abram in safety to the land of Canaan. What did Abram do there to show his love and thanks to God?*
7. (a) *Does God always keep His promises?*
(b) *When will the promises to Abram be fulfilled?*

7. ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATE AND GOD DESTROYS SODOM AND GOMORRAH

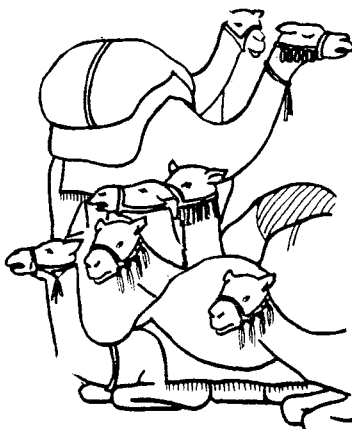
*"The LORD rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah
brimstone and fire"*

Aim

To show how Lot foolishly chose what looked like the best of the land to live in but God promised Abram the whole of the land for ever.

Synopsis

Abram and Lot separated in the land of promise. Lot chose a land which was later destroyed but Abram was promised the whole world because of his faith.



Genesis 13; 17:4, 5; 19:1-29

TRUBLE BETWEEN ABRAM'S SERVANTS AND LOT'S SERVANTS

Abram had a nephew named Lot. Lot came with Abram all the way from Ur to the Land of Promise. He had many flocks of sheep and so did Abram.

There was not enough pasture where they had settled to feed all their sheep and cattle. The men who looked after the flocks and herds began to argue amongst themselves. This worried Abram.

ABRAM SPEAKS TO LOT

"Let there be no strife between me and thee, for we be brethren", Abram said to Lot. He told Lot to look over the land and choose where he would go. "If thou go to the right hand then I will go to the left", said Abram.

LOT CHOOSES THE PLAIN OF JORDAN

Lot looked down upon the plain of Jordan. It was green and well-watered. It looked the best part of the land to choose for feeding his flocks. So Lot went down into the plain of Jordan.

But in the plain of Jordan was the city of Sodom and the people of Sodom were very wicked. First of all Lot camped near Sodom; then he went to live in Sodom; then he became a ruler in Sodom.

GOD PROMISES ABRAM THE LAND

How unselfish Abram had been to let Lot choose the richest country. After Lot left him, God said to Abram:

“Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, southward, and eastward and westward. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.”

*River Nile
to
Euphrates* We should learn and remember this promise to Abram. Some people think that they will go to heaven when they die. This is not true! Abram was promised the earth. Because Abram believed God, God will raise him from the dead to live forever on the earth. If we believe what God says and do what He tells us to do, God will let us share Abram's reward.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'a father of many nations'. That is what he will be when Christ returns.

TWO ANGELS COME TO SODOM

Meanwhile, the people of Sodom became more and more wicked. God sent two angels to bring Lot and his family out of Sodom, because He was going to destroy it.

*she didn't
want
to leave* “Escape for thy life, look not behind thee”, the angels said to Lot. But Lot's wife looked back behind her, to see what was happening to Sodom. She became a pillar of salt. Lot escaped safely to the city of Zoar.

GOD DESTROYS SODOM AND GOMORRAH

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and all the cities of the plain. Fire and brimstone poured down on them like rain. All the people in them died and everything that grew in the valley was burned up. When Abram looked down upon the plain of Jordan where it had once been green, there was nothing but smoke and ashes. Nothing will grow where Sodom and Gomorrah were, even today!

LESSON FOR US

We must be like Abram and not take the best for ourselves. Lot chose what looked like the best, but soon he lost almost everything. Abram chose to trust in God. One day God will give him the world. We can share it with him; if we trust God and obey Him too.

Remember these points:-

- * Abram and Lot had so many sheep and cattle that there was not enough pasture for them both together.
- * Abram did not want any arguments so he let Lot choose which way he would go.
- * Lot chose the well-watered plain of Jordan to live in.
- * God promised Abram all the land of Israel.
- * Lot had to escape from Sodom, because God destroyed it.
- * Lot's wife looked back to Sodom and became a pillar of salt.

Division 8: -

- * Jesus warned his disciples "Remember Lot's wife". Look up Luke 17:32

Questions Div. 5-8

1. *What was the name of Abram's nephew?*
- 2. *Abram and Lot lived together in the land of promise.*
 - (a) *Why did Lot decide to go and live somewhere else?*
 - (b) *What was the place like where he went?*

3. *What was the name of the city where Lot dwelt before it was destroyed?*
4. *What happened to Lot's wife when she looked back?*
5. *What did God promise Abram after Lot departed from him?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

6. (a) *God changed Abram's name. What was his new name?*
(b) *What does it mean?*
7. *Can you say the rest of these words that God spoke to Abram? "Lift up now thine eyes ..."*



8. ABRAHAM IS TOLD TO SACRIFICE ISAAC HIS SON

"Lay not thine hand upon the lad"

Aim

To show that Abraham remained faithful and obeyed God even under very great trial.

Synopsis

God gave to Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac. Later, God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Just as he was about to do this, God stopped him and then gave him some more great promises.



*Genesis 17:5, 6, 17; 18:1-11; 21:1-5;
22:1-19; Acts 3:25, 26; Heb. 11:17-19*

GOD PROMISES A SON TO ABRAHAM

Both Abraham and Sarah were very old now and they still had no children. Yet God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a large family. God had even changed his name from 'Abram' to 'Abraham', because that means 'the father of many nations'.

One day, Abraham saw three strangers coming towards him. They were three angels who brought him a message from God. "Sarah, your wife, shall have a son", they said. Abraham and Sarah could hardly believe the wonderful news. They were very old now. Abraham was 99 and Sarah was 90 – far too old to have a baby, unless a miracle happened. But they both trusted in God. At last the baby boy was born just as the angels had said. They called his name Isaac. 'Isaac' means 'laughter'. He was going to bring much joy and laughter to their home.

Book

*

picture

GOD TESTS ABRAHAM

One day when Isaac was a young man, God said to Abraham, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and offer him as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you". What a big thing God asked Abraham to do – to kill his own son as a sacrifice!

But it was God who had spoken. Abraham knew that he must obey. He could see that this was a great test of faith, for he knew Isaac was the seed through whom the promise must come.

ABRAHAM OBEYS GOD

Early in the morning, they set out on their journey. On and on they travelled until, after three days, Abraham saw the place God had spoken about. They left their animals with the servants, telling them they would go up to the mountain and worship and come again. Together, the old man and his son climbed the mountain. Isaac carried the wood on his back to lay on the altar. Isaac did not know what God had told his father and he said to Abraham, "We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering". What a faithful man Abraham was.

ABRAHAM PREPARES TO OFFER ISAAC

The altar was built. The wood was laid upon it. By now Isaac would have known he was to be the offering but he too was willing to obey God. Isaac was tied up and placed on the altar. Abraham lifted the knife to kill his son. Just then the angel of God called out, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here am I", he answered.

"Do not hurt Isaac", said the angel. "Now I know that you fear God because you have not kept back your son, your only son, from Me."

Thankfully Abraham lowered the knife and freed his son. Nearby was a ram caught by his horns in a thicket. Abraham took the ram and offered it on the altar instead of his son.

GOD BLESSES ABRAHAM

Abraham had shown great faith and love for God. He was willing to obey God even if it meant offering his own dear son.

The angel spoke to him again. "Because you have obeyed My voice, I will bless you so that your family will become as many as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand upon the sea shore." God also promised Abraham that one of his family, the Lord Jesus Christ, would conquer the whole world. Through Jesus, all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

All these promises will come to pass soon when Jesus Christ returns to the earth to set up God's Kingdom.

LESSON FOR US

Abraham trusted in God and obeyed Him, even when he was told to do something very difficult – to offer his own dear son as a sacrifice. We must believe what God has told us and do what He asks us. Then when Jesus Christ comes to rule over all the earth, we will be in the Kingdom with Abraham and his family.

Remember these points:-

- * Abraham and Sarah were given a son, Isaac, in their old age.
- * God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
- * When God saw that Abraham would obey Him, He stopped Abraham from offering Isaac.
- * God provided a ram for Abraham, and he offered that instead.

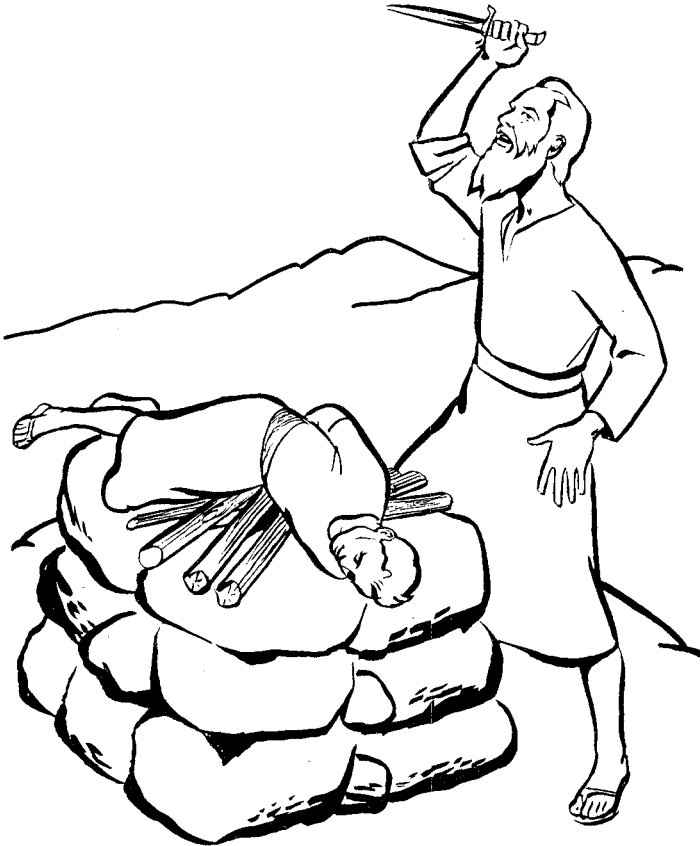
Questions Div. 5-8

1. *What message did the three angels bring to Abraham?*
2. *What was the name of the son God gave to Abraham and Sarah?*
3. (a) *When Isaac was grown up, what did God ask Abraham to do?*
(b) *Did Abraham hurt Isaac?*

- (c) What did Abraham offer instead of Isaac?
4. Who is going to rule over all the earth?

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 5. Tell the story of how God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer Isaac.
- 6. What did God promise Abraham when he showed he was willing to offer up his son Isaac?



Gen. 22: 8

Rev 5-8
Note:
Abraham obeyed
God Gen. 22:18.

9. HOW A WIFE WAS FOUND FOR ISAAC

"Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also"

Aim

To show the care of God in guiding Eliezer to Rebekah and Eliezer's trust in God.

Synopsis

Abraham wanted a wife for Isaac from his own people. Eliezer, his trusted servant, was led by God to Rebekah's home. She returned with Eliezer and became Isaac's beloved wife.



Genesis 24

ABRAHAM SENDS HIS SERVANT TO HARAN

Abraham was now very old. He wanted to find a good wife for Isaac, one who would help Isaac to serve God. The women who lived in the land of Canaan did not believe in God. Isaac must not marry one of them! The only place where a wife who believed in God would be found was back in the city of Haran, among Abraham's own people.

Abraham called for his most trusted servant, Eliezer, and said to him, "You shall go to my country and to my people and take a wife for Isaac my son. God will send His angel before you to help you."

Eliezer took ten camels laden with precious gifts and set out on the long journey to Haran.

ELIEZER ASKS GOD FOR HELP

At last, Eliezer came to the well outside the city of Haran. It was evening time and many young women were coming out

of the city to draw water from the well. How would he ever be able to tell which one would make a good wife for Isaac? He prayed to God to guide him in the choice he had to make. He asked God to show him by a sign which was the right woman. If he asked one of the young women to let down her pitcher so that he could drink, and she did so and also offered to draw water for the camels, then she would be the wife God had chosen for Isaac.

REBEKAH COMES TO THE WELL

He was still praying to God when a beautiful young lady came to the well and drew some water. Abraham's servant ran to meet her saying, "Let me drink a little of thy pitcher please".

"Drink my lord", she said and straight away she gave him a drink. Then, very kindly, she said, "I will give your camels a drink also." Abraham's servant was so pleased to hear this, for God had shown him the chosen wife for Isaac. Her name was Rebekah and her people were of the family of Abraham. He thanked God for the answer to this prayer.

REBEKAH GOES BACK WITH ELIEZER

Rebekah took Eliezer to her home. He told her father and her brother how Abraham had sent him to find a wife for his son Isaac and how God had led him to Rebekah. Would they allow Rebekah to become the wife of Isaac?

They said, "This matter comes from God. You may take Rebekah and go and let her be the wife of Isaac, as God has said."

When Eliezer heard this, he thanked God once again and gave precious gifts to Rebekah and her family. The next day Eliezer was anxious to return home. They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go". So Rebekah said goodbye to her family and she and her maidservants rode on camels and followed Eliezer all the way back to his master's land.

ISAAC TAKES REBEKAH AS HIS WIFE

It was evening in the land of Canaan. Isaac had gone out into the fields to pray to God and think on His Word. As he looked up he saw camels coming! It was his father's servant.

When Rebekah saw him she asked Eliezer, "Who is the man walking in the field to meet us?" Eliezer said, "It is my master". So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. This was the man she had come all this long way to marry. Then Eliezer told Isaac the whole story and how God had helped him.

Isaac loved Rebekah and she became his wife. God had truly blessed Isaac in giving him a lovely wife to help him.

LESSON FOR US

Eliezer asked God for help in finding a wife for Isaac. God guided him because he trusted in Him. Eliezer did not forget to thank God when He answered his prayer.

If we learn to have faith and trust in God, He will hear our prayers and guide our lives. And we must always remember to thank God when He answers our prayers.

Remember these points:-

- * Isaac could not marry any of the young women of the land of Canaan because they did not believe in God.
- * Abraham sent his servant, Eliezer, to Haran to his own family to find a wife for Isaac.
- * God led Eliezer to find Rebekah.
- * Rebekah became Isaac's wife.

Questions Div. 5-8

- ✓ 1. *Why did Isaac not marry one of the women of the land of Canaan?*
- 2. *Eliezer was Abraham's most trusted servant.*
 - (a) *What did Abraham ask him to do?*
 - (b) *Who helped Eliezer?*
 - (c) *How would Eliezer know which girl would be the wife for Isaac?*

- (d) *Who was the lovely lady Eliezer brought back to the land of Canaan?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 3. *Tell the story of how Abraham's servant found the right wife for Isaac.*
- 4. *How did Abraham's servant know whom God had chosen to be Isaac's wife?*



10. ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO JACOB

"Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing"

Aim

To show how Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac in order to gain the blessing.

Synopsis

Esau did not care about the things of God, but Jacob believed in God's promises. One day, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. Later, Jacob deceived his father and gained the blessing also.

*Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1-38, 41;
Hebrews 12:16, 17*



TWINS WHO WERE DIFFERENT

Twin sons were born to Isaac and Rebekah. Esau, the older boy, had red hair all over him. He loved to be out in the open fields hunting animals. Jacob, his brother, found pleasure in looking after his father's flocks and herds as a shepherd. He was a quiet and thoughtful man.

Isaac favoured Esau, but Rebekah favoured Jacob.

ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT

Picture

One day, as Jacob was cooking some food, Esau came stumbling in from the field, tired and very hungry. He had caught nothing. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me of your food; for I am faint".

Jacob replied, "Sell me this day thy birthright". (The birthright gave special privileges to the oldest son of the family. With it Esau would receive the blessing which God had promised to Abraham and Isaac.)

But Esau did not care about his birthright. At this moment, food was more important to him. He did not really believe what God had promised. He said to Jacob, "I am at the point to die, and what good will this birthright do to me?" So Esau sold his birthright to Jacob just for a plate of food.

REBEKAH HEARS ISAAC PROMISE THE BLESSING TO ESAU

Isaac was old and nearly blind. One day he called Esau and said, "Take your weapons and go and hunt for deer in the field. Then make me some tasty venison so that I can eat it and bless you before I die."

Picture Rebekah was listening and heard what Isaac said. She loved Jacob and wanted the blessing to go to him instead of Esau, whom she thought was not worthy of it. God had told her that the blessing would be Jacob's. She thought of a clever plan. Quickly she called Jacob. She told him to kill two goats from the flock. With these Rebekah made a tasty dish. She dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and put the skins of the goats on Jacob's hands and neck, so that he felt hairy like Esau. Then Jacob took the food to Isaac, pretending that he was Esau, so that he would receive the blessing.

Isaac heard someone enter his tent and say, "My father." He was blind and unwell. Isaac replied, "Here am I. Who are you, my son?"

JACOB RECEIVES THE BLESSING

Picture It was Jacob, but he lied to his father Isaac and said, "I am Esau. Sit up and eat my venison and give me your blessing." Isaac was puzzled. The voice was like the voice of Jacob but the hands felt hairy like the hands of Esau. Isaac thought that it must be Esau. He ate the food and blessed Jacob saying: -

"May God give you of the dew of heaven
and the fatness of the earth,
and plenty of corn and wine.

Let the people serve you,
and nations bow down to you

Be lord over your brethren,
and let your mother's sons bow down to you.

May everyone who curses you be cursed,
and blessed be he that blesses you!"

ESAU RETURNS TO ISAAC

Just as Jacob left his father, Esau returned from hunting. He too, made a tasty dish and brought it to his father. He said, "Let my father arise to eat his son's venison and to bless me." Isaac trembled when he heard these words. He had given the blessing to Jacob. There was no blessing left for Esau.

Esau was upset and very angry. He hated his brother Jacob for what he had done and planned to kill him. He even cried to his father but he could not change the words that his father had spoken. Jacob had to flee from home to escape the anger of Esau. He never saw his mother again.

LESSON FOR US

God's blessing went to Jacob because he loved God and believed His promises. But it was wrong for Rebekah and Jacob to deceive Isaac and lie to him. They should have trusted in God and not tried to do things in their own way.

Like Jacob, we must learn God's promises and love them more than anything else in life. But we must trust in God and never try to get what we want by telling lies or cheating.

Remember these points:-

- * Jacob believed God's promises.
- * Esau did not care about God.
- * Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some food.
- * Jacob deceived his father Isaac into giving him the blessing.

Questions Div. 5-8

1. *What were the names of the twin sons that God gave to Isaac and Rebekah?*
2. *What kind of man was Esau?*
3. *What kind of man was Jacob?*
4. *Why did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob?*
- 5. (a) *How did Rebekah dress Jacob so that his father thought he was Esau?*
(b) *What happened when Esau came back from his hunting and prepared the venison for his father?*
(c) *Was it right for Jacob to lie to his father to get the blessing?*

Additional Questions Div. 7-8

- 6. *Tell the story of how Esau sold his birthright to Jacob.*
- 7. *Tell how Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac and Isaac gave Jacob the blessing.*



11. JACOB'S DREAM ABOUT THE LADDER AND THE ANGELS

"He dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth"

Aim

To show how God guided and blessed Jacob and showed to him the important part he was to play in God's plan and purpose.

Synopsis

Jacob fled from home because Esau wanted to kill him. In a dream, God promised Jacob that His angels would care for him. The wonderful promises which God had made to Abraham and Isaac, He now made to Jacob also.



Genesis 27:41-46; 28:1-5, 10-22

JACOB ESCAPES FROM ESAU

Jacob, the younger son, had gained the blessing from his father Isaac. Esau, his older brother, hated him for this. In his heart, he planned to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac died. but Jacob fled from Esau. He set out for the city of Haran to find his uncle Laban and to marry one of his daughters. His parents did not want him to marry one of the Canaanitish women, as Esau had done.

JACOB SLEEPS

Jacob was alone. All day long he had travelled and now the sun was setting. He would have to stay in the open country for the night. Lonely and weary, he took a stone for a pillow and lay down to sleep. *See picture.*

JACOB'S DREAM

As Jacob slept, he dreamed. He saw a ladder reaching from earth into heaven! The angels of God, God's messengers, were going up and down on it! The voice of God came from above the ladder and He said: "I am the God of Abraham, thy father and the God of Isaac. The land on which thou liest I will give to thee and to thy seed. Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north and to the south. In thee and thy seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. Behold, I am with thee and I will keep thee in all places where thou goest and I will bring thee back again to this land. For I will not leave thee until I have done everything I have promised. *See picture.*

THE MEANING OF THE DREAM

What a wonderful dream this was. Here are the things that God promised Jacob.

- He promised the land of Canaan to Jacob and his children.
- He promised that Jacob's children would become a great nation.
- He promised that from Jacob would come the Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring blessings to all people on the earth
- He promised to care for Jacob and bring him safely home to the promised land again.

When Jesus Christ comes back to earth to set up God's Kingdom all these promises will come to pass. Now Jacob could go on his way rejoicing that God's angels were looking after him. How he looked forward to the time when these great promises would be fulfilled!

JACOB AWAKES FROM HIS DREAM

Jacob rose up early in the morning. With a thankful heart he took the stone which he had used as a pillow and, setting it up as a pillar, he poured oil upon it. He called the name of this place 'Bethel' which means 'House of God'. He also promised to give back to God a tenth of all God gave him. One

day he would return again to this place and worship God.

LESSON FOR US

God made great promises to Abraham and Isaac and then to Jacob. Jacob believed in these promises. Because of this, God promised that His angels would look after him all his life.

If we believe God's promises and obey Him, God's angels will look after us too.

Remember these points:-

- * Jacob dreamed about a ladder reaching from earth into heaven with God's angels going up and down on it.
- * God made great promises to Jacob. These promises will come to pass when Jesus returns to set up God's Kingdom.
- * God promised to care for Jacob and bring him safely home.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- 1. *Jacob was leaving home to get away from his brother Esau.*
 - (a) *What did Jacob see in his dream as he slept out in the open with a stone for a pillow?*
 - (b) *Who spoke to him in the dream?*
 - (c) *What did God promise to do for Jacob wherever he went?*
- 2. *God made great promises to Jacob. When will these promises come to pass?*
- 3. *What did Jacob do with the stone that he had used for his pillow?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 4. *Tell what you know about the promises which God made to Jacob as he slept at Bethel?*
- 5. *What did Jacob do when he awoke from his special dream and what did he promise to do?*

12. JOSEPH IS SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS INTO EGYPT

"Behold the dreamer cometh"

Aim

To show the good character of Joseph in contrast to that of his brothers.

Synopsis

Jacob loved Joseph most of all his sons. His sons became jealous of Joseph and sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him.

Genesis 37, 39:1-2



JACOB LOVES JOSEPH

- Picture
- ① Jacob married Leah and Rachel, and lived in the land of Canaan. God blessed him and gave him many sheep and cattle and a large family of twelve sons. Rachel and two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Jacob loved Joseph above all his sons and made him a special coat, a coat of many colours. ~~see book~~.
 - ②

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS HATE HIM

- ③ When Joseph's brothers saw how much their father loved Joseph, they were jealous. They hated Joseph and could not speak to him in a friendly way.

God also loved Joseph and gave him special dreams.

Joseph dreamed that one day his father and mother and brothers would bow down before him. The brothers hated Joseph even more when he told them this.

JOSEPH IS SENT TO HIS BROTHERS

One day, Jacob's older sons were feeding their father's flocks. Jacob told Joseph to find them and make sure that

they were all well. So Joseph set out to tell them of their father's care.

HIS BROTHERS PUT HIM IN A PIT

④ Joseph's brothers saw him coming in the distance. How they hated him! "Here comes the dreamer", they said and then together, they planned to be rid of him forever.

⑤ So, when Joseph came to his brothers, they did not want to hear his message. Reuben persuaded them not to kill him but to put him in a pit – he meant to come back and take him to his father. But they seized him and stripped him of his special coat. Then they flung him into a pit and went and sat down to eat.

THE BROTHERS SELL JOSEPH

⑦ Reuben went away and as the brothers were eating, they looked up and saw a company of merchants (Ishmeelites) who were going down to Egypt. They decided to sell Joseph instead of killing him. They sold him to the merchants for twenty pieces of silver. The merchants took him away into the land of Egypt.

THE BROTHERS LIE TO JACOB

⑧ Then the brothers took Joseph's coat. They killed a goat and dipped it in the blood. Then they came back to Jacob and lied to him. They said, "We found this coat. See if it is your son's or not."

JACOB WEEPS FOR JOSEPH

Jacob knew that it was Joseph's coat. There it lay covered with blood, all torn. Jacob could think of only one thing. A wild beast must have killed Joseph! Joseph had been torn in pieces! His young son, whom he loved most, was dead, he thought! Jacob wept bitterly. Nobody could comfort him, for he said, "I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning."

GOD BRINGS JOSEPH SAFELY INTO EGYPT

So the brothers did evil to Joseph and to Jacob their father. But God was with Joseph, for God had a plan to do something very good for Jacob and his family. So He brought Joseph safely to the land of Egypt. The Ishmeelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard.

LESSON FOR US

God looks upon our heart. Let us be like Joseph and not like his older brothers. Joseph obeyed his father and showed only goodness to his brothers. But the brothers were jealous of Joseph. This made them become cruel and wicked. We must never be jealous of the good things which God gives to others. But we must obey our Heavenly Father and show kindness to those around us.

Remember these points:-

- * Of all his sons, Jacob loved Joseph the best.
- * Jacob made him a coat of many colours.
- * Joseph's brothers were jealous.
- * They threw Joseph into a pit and then sold him as a slave.
- * God brought Joseph safely into Egypt.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Which son did Jacob love the most?*
2. *What did Jacob give Joseph to wear?*
3. *Why did Joseph set out to find his brothers?*
4. *What did the brothers do to Joseph when he found them?*
- 5. *Tell what happened to Joseph when his brothers threw him into a pit.*
6. *What did the brothers say to Jacob when they got home?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

7. *Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?*
- 8. *Tell the story of how Joseph's brothers badly treated him and sold him as a slave.*

13. HOW JOSEPH BECAME GOVERNOR OF ALL EGYPT

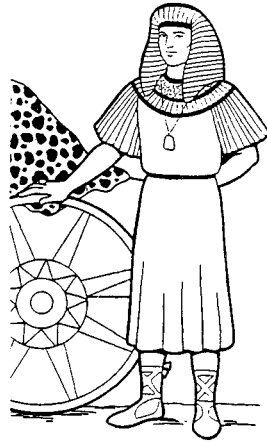
"See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt"

Aim

To show how Joseph was faithful, even in a strange land, so that God was with him and helped him.

Synopsis

Potiphar put Joseph in prison, but when he told Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams, Pharaoh made Joseph Governor over the whole land of Egypt.



Gen. 39:1-6, 17-23; 40; 41:1-49

JOSEPH BECOMES CHIEF SERVANT IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE

See book p. 68 - 69

Joseph worked very hard in Potiphar's house and Potiphar was kind to him. He trusted Joseph to look after everything he owned. God blessed Potiphar's house because Joseph was there and everything he did went very well.

JOSEPH IS PUT IN PRISON

Potiphar's wife was wicked and tried to make Joseph deceive his master and do wrong, but Joseph would not. So in her anger and spite she told lies to Potiphar about Joseph. Potiphar believed his wife. He was angry with Joseph and put him in prison. ①

But God was still with Joseph. The keeper of the prison could see that Joseph was trustworthy and put him in charge of all the prisoners! Once again everything seemed to go well for Joseph and he knew God was helping him, even in prison.

JOSEPH TELLS THE MEANING OF TWO DREAMS

While Joseph was in prison, two of Pharaoh's servants were put in prison with him. One was Pharaoh's baker and the other was Pharaoh's butler, who used to take wine to the king to drink. Joseph looked after them. One day he noticed that they were looking sad. He asked them what was the matter. They told him that they had each had a very strange dream. They did not know what their dreams meant. Joseph told the men that only God could give the answer to dreams. If they told him their dreams, God would help him give them the meaning.

② God helped Joseph and he was able to tell the two men what their dreams meant. Their dreams told them what was going to happen to them.

Joseph told the butler that in three days he would go back to the palace and serve Pharaoh again.

"Please make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this prison house", Joseph said to the butler.

Then Joseph told the baker what his dream meant. In three days he would be hung on a tree.

This happened just as Joseph had said. In three days the baker was dead and the butler was serving wine to Pharaoh in his palace again. But the butler forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph, who was left in prison.

PHARAOH HAD DREAMS

③ Joseph was in prison for another two full years! Then Pharaoh had two dreams. In one dream seven fat cows came out of the river and ate grass in the field. Then seven thin cows came out of the river and they ate up the fat cows, but they did not get any fatter. Then he dreamed again and saw seven full ears of corn growing on one stalk; then seven thin ears of corn grew up and ate the seven fat ears of corn. But they did not get any fatter either. These dreams worried Pharaoh. He asked the wise men of Egypt to tell him the meaning of these dreams, but none of them could.

Then the Butler remembered Joseph.

JOSEPH IS BROUGHT OUT OF PRISON

“There was a young man in prison, a Hebrew, who told the meaning of my dreams,” the Butler said. So Pharaoh had Joseph brought out of prison to tell him the meaning of his dreams. *See book page 72.*

Joseph washed and put on clean clothes and went in before Pharaoh. He asked Pharaoh to tell him his dreams and God would tell him the meaning of them. Pharaoh told Joseph that in his dreams seven fat cows came out of the river and ate the grass on the river bank. Then seven very thin cows came out of the river and ate up the fat cows, but they did not get any fatter. In his second dream seven fat ears of corn grew on one stalk; then seven thin ears of corn grew up and ate the seven fat ears of corn. But the seven thin ears of corn did not get any fatter either.

THE MEANING OF THE DREAMS

“The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what He is about to do”, Joseph said. “There are going to be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine” (when there will be no rain and nothing to eat). Joseph then said to Pharaoh: “You should appoint a wise man to store up food from the years of plenty for the years of famine.”

Pharaoh could see that God was with Joseph. “There is none so wise as thou”, Pharaoh said to Joseph. “According to thy word shall all my people be ruled.”

JOSEPH BECOMES GOVERNOR OF EGYPT

see book p.73

And that is how Joseph became Governor of all Egypt. Pharaoh gave him his own ring and a golden chain and fine clothes to wear, and he rode in the second best chariot. Joseph stored up grain in the seven years of plenty so that there was corn in Egypt for the seven years of famine.

LESSON FOR US

It was because God was with him that Joseph was looked after in Egypt. We must trust in God and obey Him, and God will watch over us as well. Troubles may come upon us, as they came upon Joseph, but God will watch over us.

Remember these points:-

- * God blessed Joseph and he was put in charge of Potiphar's house, but was falsely accused and put in prison.
- * Joseph told the Butler and the Baker the meaning of their dreams.
- * Joseph remained faithful in prison, even though the Butler forgot him.
- * God helped him to give Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams.
- * Pharaoh made Joseph Governor of all Egypt, and he stored up grain so that they had food in the years of famine.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *When Joseph worked for Potiphar, who told lies about him?*
2. *Potiphar put Joseph in prison. Two men in the prison had dreams.*
 - (a) *Who were they?*
 - (b) *What did they each dream about?*
3. *Did the Butler remember Joseph as soon as he was let out of prison?*
- 4. *Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, had two dreams.*
 - (a) *What were the two dreams?*
 - (b) *How did he find out the meaning of the two dreams?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

5. *Tell about the ways that God cared for Joseph while he was in Potiphar's house and then later when he was in prison.*

6. *What did Pharaoh give to Joseph when he was made Governor of Egypt and what work did Joseph have to do then?*
- 7. *Potiphar put Joseph in prison. Tell the story about Joseph being let out of prison and becoming Governor of Egypt.*



14. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO EGYPT

"Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt"

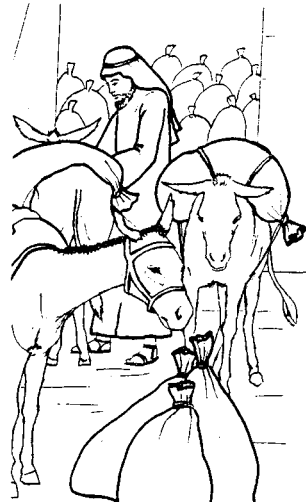
Aim

To show how Joseph's brothers were sorry for what they had done in selling him, and were now much kinder and more truthful men.

Synopsis

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy corn and bow to him just as he dreamed they would. Joseph could see that they were sorry for what they had done.

Genesis 42



JOSEPH IS NOW A RULER 7 yrs. of plenty. Book p. 74.

The seven years of plenty soon passed and then came the seven years of famine, when there was no rain and so no fruit or crops to feed the people or animals. But Joseph had been wise. As ruler in Egypt he had gathered the corn in the seven years of plenty and stored it up. People came from all over the land to buy corn and even from other countries, because the famine was in every country, even in Canaan, where Jacob was.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO BUY CORN

"Why are you just looking at each other?" Jacob said to his sons. "Go down into Egypt and buy some corn."

So ten of Joseph's brothers came down to Egypt to buy some corn. They left Benjamin home with Jacob their father. When they came before Joseph they bowed low to him (You will remember the dreams that Joseph had long ago, that told him

BOOK P. 75.

that one day his brothers would bow to him. They knew that he was an important man in the land of Egypt, but they did not recognise him as their brother Joseph).

JOSEPH RECOGNISES HIS BROTHERS

But Joseph knew who they were. So he decided to see if they had changed their ways and whether they were any different from the cruel brothers who had sold him to the merchants.

"You are just spies", he said. "You have come down to spy out whether Egypt is weak because of the famine."

"No, my lord", they said. "Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man. The youngest is with his father, and one is dead. But Joseph pretended that he thought they were spies and put them in prison.

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS

After three days Joseph called them and said that one of them must stay in Egypt while the others took the corn home to their father. "But bring your youngest brother unto me." He was longing to see his brother Benjamin.

The brothers were very worried and remembered how cruel they had been long ago to their other brother Joseph. "This trouble has come upon us because of how we treated Joseph", they said.

Reuben said: "If only you had listened to me when I said not to harm Joseph." Joseph heard what they said, and knew they were sorry for what they had done. But he spoke in the Egyptian language and they did not know it was Joseph.

book
p. 76.

THE BROTHERS GO BACK TO JACOB

Then Joseph took Simeon and put him in prison to stay while the others went home to get Benjamin. Joseph gave them plenty of corn but put all their money back in the top of their sacks. Book p. 77.

On the way home they stayed at an inn and when one of the brothers opened a bag to give some food to one of the asses he found the money in his sack. They were all very frightened when they heard of this and hurried home. They told their father, Jacob, all that had happened. When they untied their sacks they all found their money had been returned to them. Reuben told his father that they must take Benjamin back with them the next time, but Jacob did not want to lose him.

“Joseph is not here, and Simeon is not here, and will you take Benjamin away also?” he said.

So they stayed at home and ate the corn which they had brought. But they knew that when that was finished they would have to go back and get some more and they would have to take Benjamin with them.

LESSON FOR US

Joseph did not hate his brothers for what they had done, but he wanted to see if they had learned a lesson. He could see that they were troubled about what they had done to him and were sorry. We must remember that when we do wrong, God knows about it and we cannot hide our sins from Him. We must be sorry for our sins and be sure to change our ways.

Remember these points:-

- * When there was no corn in Canaan, Jacob sent his sons down into Egypt where there was corn.
- * In Egypt, the brothers did not recognise Joseph, but Joseph knew who they were.
- * They bowed down to Joseph, just as Joseph had dreamed they would.
- * The brothers were sorry for what they had done and did not want to bring Benjamin down to Egypt.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?*
2. *Who stayed at home when Jacob's sons went to Egypt to buy corn?*

- 3. (a) *When Jacob's sons came down into Egypt, who was ruler there?*
- (b) *Did they know him?*
- (c) *Why did Joseph say to them, "You are spies"?*
- (d) *Who stayed in prison while Joseph's brothers went home to Canaan?*
- 4. (a) *What did they discover at the inn when one of the brothers fed his ass?*
- (b) *What did they each find in their sacks when they got home?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. *How could Joseph tell that his brothers were sorry that they had been cruel and unkind when they had sold him?*
- 6. *What did Jacob say when the brothers returned home and told him what had happened?*



15. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO EGYPT AGAIN

"God sent me before you"

Aim

To show how God had sent Joseph into Egypt to save people in the time of famine. His brothers were changed men, and wanted to look after Benjamin.

Synopsis

Joseph's brothers came again to buy corn. He tells them who he is and that God had used him to save many lives from starvation. God makes another promise to Jacob.



Genesis 43 – 45:8

FOOD RUNS OUT AGAIN

The famine was still in the land and after a while Jacob and his sons had used up all their corn and had no food.

"Go again and get a little corn", said Jacob.

"We must take Benjamin", the brothers said. "The man said you will not even see me, unless you bring your brother."

Jacob did not want to let Benjamin go for he was frightened that he would lose him as he had lost Joseph and Simeon.

"I will be surety for him and look after him", said Judah. "If we do not bring him back, I will take the blame forever."

THE BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT AGAIN

¶.78 Sadly, Jacob let Benjamin go. "Take the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts and almonds", he said.

They came down to Egypt again, bringing double money with them.

Joseph was pleased when he saw his brothers again. He commanded that they be brought into his house and a feast be made for them. Simeon was brought from the prison to be with them. When Joseph came in they gave him the present they had brought and they bowed down before him, just as he had dreamed they would. Joseph was so happy to hear about his father and to see Benjamin that he hurried out of the room to cry, for he did not want his brothers to see him do it. p.79

He sat them at a table in order from the eldest to the youngest, so that they wondered how the governor knew their ages. They had a feast and special honour was given to Benjamin. p.80
-81

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS AGAIN

Joseph wanted to see if his brothers were kinder men now, and so he told his servants to fill their sacks with corn and put their money back on top. Into the top of Benjamin's sack, Joseph put his own silver cup. Then when they had left, he sent his servant after them, to bring back the one who had the cup.

The brothers said they were honest men; they would not steal. If the cup was found in one of the sacks, the man who had the cup would be put to death and the others would all go to Egypt as slaves. The servant began to look in the sacks and, of course, the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack. p.82

JUDAH SHOWS THAT HE LOVES HIS FATHER

The brothers were very frightened and hurried back to Joseph and fell down before him.

"The man in whose sack this cup was found shall stay here and be my servant", said Joseph.

But Judah came near to Joseph and pleaded with him. "I pray thee, let thy servant stay and be a slave instead of Benjamin," he cried, "because I do not want to see my father grieved." p.83

JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BROTHERS

When Joseph heard this and saw how much his brothers had changed, he sent all the Egyptians out of the room. Then he wept aloud, so that everyone in the house of Pharaoh heard it.

“I am Joseph”, he said, “Is my father yet alive?”

But his brothers, who once had sold him as a slave, could not answer him. They were so amazed and troubled that they just stood there looking at him! P. 84

Joseph told them to come near to him and not to be upset about what they had done. He explained to them how God had used him to save their lives in the famine. “So it was not you that sent me here, but God”, he said.

P. 86-7 Then he sent them back home to bring Jacob their father and their families, that he might look after them in Egypt until the famine was over. Jacob was so happy to know that Joseph was alive, that he could hardly believe their words. But when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry them and their families he knew it must be true. On the way

P. 88-89 Jacob thanked God for His great goodness, and God spoke to him in a dream saying: “I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again.” *Jacob & his sons went*

LESSON FOR US

to live in Eoshen.

How kind and generous Joseph was. He did not hate his brothers for what they had done to him. He knew that God had been watching over him all the time. So he did not try to punish them when he saw them again. He just did what he knew was best for them. We should not hate anyone either, no matter what they do to us. God will watch over us if we trust in Him.

Remember these points:-

- * The brothers promised to look after Benjamin and bring him back to Jacob again.
- * When they came before Joseph they bowed down to him again just as he had dreamed they would.
- * Judah did not want Jacob his father to be upset if they returned without Benjamin. So he offered to become a servant instead.
- * Joseph told his brothers who he was and asked them to bring their father down to Egypt.
- * God had sent Joseph into Egypt to save their lives.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Who did the brothers have to take back with them to Egypt?*
2. *What did Joseph make ready for his brothers when they came down to Egypt the second time?*
3. *What did Joseph tell his servant to put in one of the sacks?*
- 4. *When the brothers were on their way home again, Joseph sent his servant after them. Tell what happened.*
5. *Who offered to become Joseph's servant instead of Benjamin?*
6. *What did Joseph do when he could see how much the brothers had changed?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

7. *Did Joseph hate his brothers because they had sold him?*
8. *Why did Joseph say he had been sent to Egypt?*
- 9. *What about the old father Jacob!*
 - (a) *Tell how he felt when his sons came home and told them his son Joseph was still alive.*
 - (b) *What did God say to Jacob in a dream as he went down to Egypt?*

16. MOSES IS FOUND BY PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

"She called his name Moses"

Aim

To show how God watched over His people and provided them with a deliverer from Egypt.

Synopsis

The children of Israel became a great nation in Egypt. The Egyptians feared them and made them slaves. Then Pharaoh ordered all their baby boys to be killed. God raised up Moses to deliver his people. Baby Moses was placed in an ark and found by the daughter of Pharaoh.



Exodus 1:7-22; 2:1-10; Heb. 11:23

A NEW PHARAOH IN EGYPT

The children of Israel grew to become a great nation, just as God had promised. They filled the land of Egypt. But then a new king rose over Egypt. He did not know Joseph and the great work he had done. This new Pharaoh said to his people: "Look, the children of Israel are too many and too mighty for us! We must deal wisely with them. If they keep growing in numbers, they may join our enemies and fight against us and go away from our land."

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ARE MADE SLAVES

So Pharaoh and the Egyptians made the children of Israel become slaves. They had to work very hard for the Egyptians, making bricks and building cities and working in the fields. Their lives became very miserable. But the more the

Egyptians treated them cruelly, the more they grew in numbers. The Egyptians did not know what to do with them! They came to fear them.

THE FAITHFUL NURSES OF ISRAEL

Pharaoh called the nurses of the children of Israel to him. These nurses looked after the mothers when their babies were born. He said to the nurses: "When the mothers of the children of Israel have their babies, if they have a son, kill him. But if they have a daughter, let her live."

But the nurses feared God. They would not kill the baby boys as the king had said. God was pleased with the nurses and blessed them because of this. So the children of Israel kept growing in numbers.

Then the King spoke to all his people. He said to them: "Every son that is born to the children of Israel, throw him into the river! But every daughter, let her live."

GOD WATCHES OVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

So the children of Israel were very unhappy. The Egyptians had made them slaves and now they took their baby boys from them and killed them. But God in heaven knew about the misery of His people. He remembered the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He had a great plan to save them.

MOSES IS BORN

During this unhappy time, a baby boy was born to Amram and Jochebed. He was a beautiful baby and there was something special about him. Amram and Jochebed were faithful people. They were not afraid of the king's command and she was determined that her baby should not be killed. She and her husband trusted in God to help them. They hid their baby from the Egyptians for three months.

MOSES IS PLACED IN AN ARK

But now that he was growing older, they could not hide him any longer. So Jochebed made a basket, called an ark, from the reeds which grew by the river. Then she covered it with pitch, so that no water could come through it. Gently placing the baby inside the basket, she left it in the reeds by the edge of the river. Miriam, the baby's older sister, watched from a distance to see what would happen to her baby brother.

THE PRINCESS FINDS MOSES

As Miriam was watching, along came the daughter of Pharaoh to wash at the river. Her maidens were walking along the bank. The princess saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it, there was a beautiful baby boy – crying! She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the babies of the children of Israel."

Then Miriam came to the princess and her maidens. "Would the princess like me to find a nurse for the baby?", she asked. The princess said, "Yes." So Miriam ran home and brought back her mother to the princess. The princess said to Jochebed, "Take this child away and nurse it for me."

MOSES' MOTHER LOOKS AFTER MOSES FOR PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

How thankful Jochebed was! God had saved her baby son! He had given him back to her so that she might care for him! This was a very special baby. Through him, God would save His people out of Egypt.

So the mother took her child and nursed it. As the child grew, his mother would have taught him about God and the promises to Israel. He did not forget these when he was brought to the princess and he became her son. The princess called his name 'Moses', meaning 'drawn out', because (she said), "I drew him out of the water".

LESSON FOR US

Moses' mother and father trusted in God. Because of this, He helped them and saved their baby from death. God had a special work for Moses to do.

We also must learn to trust in God. He will always help those who have faith in Him, even though they will have times of great trouble.

(Divisions 7 and 8 – Read Hebrews 11:23 about Moses' parents.)

Remember these points:-

- * A new Pharaoh arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph.
- * The new Pharaoh commanded that all the baby boys of the children of Israel must be killed.
- * Moses' mother made an ark of reeds, and put him in it.
- * When Moses was in the ark by the edge of the river, Pharaoh's daughter found him.
- * Pharaoh's daughter asked Moses' own mother to nurse him for her.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Why did the Egyptians make the children of Israel slaves?*
2. *What did Pharaoh want the Hebrew nurses to do?*
3. *Why did God bless the Hebrew nurses?*
4. *What did Pharaoh command all his people about the baby boys?*
- 5. (a) *Tell how Jochebed hid baby Moses from Pharaoh.*
(b) *Who found him?*
(c) *Whom did Miriam bring back to be a nurse for baby Moses?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

6. *Tell how the Egyptians made the children of Israel very unhappy when they were in Egypt.*
- 7. *Tell what happened to baby Moses after his mother placed him in the basket by the river.*

17. MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH

"The place whereon thou standest is holy ground"

Aim

To show how God revealed His name to Moses at the Bush and sent him back to Egypt.

Synopsis

An angel of God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush and told him that he had been chosen to deliver Israel from their sufferings in Egypt. It was at this time that God told Moses that His Name was Yahweh. He gave him signs to show His great power to the children of Israel.



Exodus 2:15, 20, 21; 3; 4:1-8

MOSES, A SHEPHERD IN THE LAND OF MIDIAN

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace. His mother had taught him about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the promises God had made. Moses never forgot what his mother taught him. When he was a grown man he went among the Israelites and saw how hard they had to work. One day he saw an Egyptian attacking a Hebrew. (The Israelites were also called Hebrews.) Moses killed the Egyptian. Then Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses because of this. So, to save his life, Moses ran away to the land of Midian. In Midian he married a daughter of Jethro, the priest of Midian, and they had two little boys. For forty years Moses lived in the land of Midian looking after Jethro's sheep. While he was working as a shepherd, leading sheep, God was preparing him for the much more important work of leading His people Israel out of Egypt.

THE BURNING BUSH

One day Moses, the Shepherd, led his sheep to the lonely valleys close to Mount Sinai. Suddenly he saw something very strange! A bush was burning with fire, but it did not burn away! Moses went to have a closer look at it. As he came near to the bush, a voice called out to him, "Moses, Moses." It was the angel of God calling him from the flame of fire in the middle of the bush. p.102

Moses said, "Here am I."

"Do not come close", the angel said to him. "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." It was the same God who had given His wonderful promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When Moses heard this he hid his face. He was afraid to look upon God! But God wanted him to listen carefully. The people of Israel were not going to be destroyed by wicked Pharaoh. Just as the bush he saw was not burnt up, so God was going to save them and set them free.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO MOSES

God had seen how cruelly the children of Israel were being treated in Egypt. He had heard their prayers for help. He had not forgotten the promises which He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The time had now come for God to take the children of Israel out of Egypt and bring them to the land of Canaan, as He had promised. Moses was the man that He had chosen to do this important work.

Moses was told by God that he must go back to Egypt. He must gather together the elders of Israel and tell them of God's plan to save them. Then Moses and Aaron, his brother, must go before Pharaoh, and tell him to let the children of Israel leave Egypt. God knew that Pharaoh would say, "No, they cannot go!" So God would send great plagues on Egypt. When the children of Israel did finally leave Egypt, the Egyptians would be glad to see them go. They would give them their precious jewels and fine clothes to take with them.

GOD TELLS MOSES HIS NAME

Moses wanted to know what God's Name was so that he could tell it to the elders of Israel. God told Moses that His Name was Yahweh. Moses was to tell the children of Israel about God's Name so that they might remember Him all their lives. He was their God, the God of Israel. He is the only true God and even Pharaoh and the Egyptians would learn this.

GOD GIVES MOSES THREE SIGNS

Moses was worried that the children of Israel would not take any notice of his words. They might not believe him. So God said to Moses: "What is that in your hand?" It was his rod, that he used as a shepherd does. God told him to throw it on the ground. When he did, it turned into a serpent! Moses was terrified and ran away. But God told him to catch it by the tail and when he did, it became a rod again. This was not magic. It was God showing Moses His great power, so that the people would believe.

Then God told Moses: "Put now thy hand into thy bosom." So he did but when he took it out again, it was "leprous as snow" – it was full of the terrible disease of leprosy! Once again God said, "Put thine hand into thy bosom again." When he pulled it out of his shirt this time, it was healed and just like his other hand. Again, God told Moses to show Israel a third sign. He said: "If they will not believe these two signs, take some water from the river and pour it upon the dry land". The water would turn into blood. God was showing Moses His great power and he would show these signs to Israel to make them believe.

LESSON FOR US

God told Moses that His Name was Yahweh when He was about to save the children of Israel out of Egypt. His Name is meant to help us always remember Him and His purpose. He is the only true God and we must listen to His Words and believe.

Remember these points:-

- * Moses was a shepherd in Midian for forty years.
- * God spoke to Moses from the middle of a bush which was on fire but did not burn away.
- * God told Moses that He was going to save Israel out of Egypt by him.
- * Moses was told the Name of God – Yahweh.
- * God gave Moses three signs to make the children of Israel believe.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *What work did Moses do while he lived in Midian?*
- 2. (a) *What strange sight did Moses see one day while looking after his sheep near Mount Sinai?*
(b) *What did he hear when he went nearer?*
(c) *Who spoke to Moses out of the middle of the burning bush?*
3. *What did God tell Moses that He was going to do?*
4. *What happened to Moses' rod when he threw it on the ground as God had said?*
5. *What happened when Moses picked it up again?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

6. *God told Moses His Name. What is God's Name?*
- 7. *Tell all that you can remember of what happened when Moses saw a strange sight while he was looking after the sheep.*
- 8. *Moses was worried that the children of Israel would not believe him. What signs did God show him?*

18. THE TERRIBLE PLAGUES ON EGYPT

"This is the finger of God"

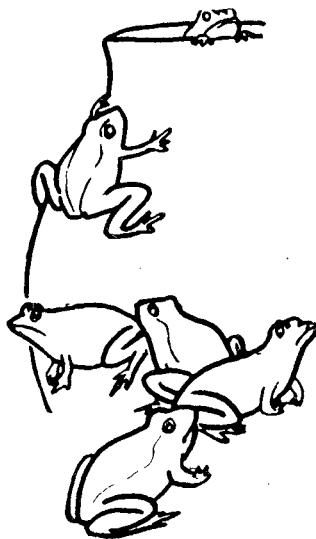
Aim

To show that God is more powerful than any rulers of the land and strengthens His servants to carry out His will.

Synopsis

Moses was sent by God to Pharaoh to tell him to let the children of Israel leave Egypt. Pharaoh would not let them go. So Yahweh sent dreadful plagues that ruined the land and made all the Egyptians frightened and sad.

Exodus 7; 8:1-19



MOSES AND AARON RETURN TO EGYPT

God sent Aaron out into the wilderness to meet Moses and together they went back to Egypt. Moses had been away for 40 years and many of the people would have forgotten him. When he showed them the signs that God had shown him, the people believed. They were excited to think that at last they would be able to leave Egypt. They would not be slaves any longer. They would be free. "They bowed their heads and worshipped.

MOSES AND AARON SPEAK TO PHARAOH

p. 109. Moses and Aaron then came to Pharaoh. "Thus saith Yahweh God of Israel, Let my people go that they may hold a feast unto Me in the wilderness", they said.

"Who is Yahweh, that I should obey His voice to let Israel

go? I know not Yahweh, neither will I let Israel go.” This is what Pharaoh said. It was not in his mind to let Israel go at all. Instead, he gave orders that they had to make just as many bricks as before – but now they had to find the straw themselves.

“They are not doing enough work”, Pharaoh said. “That is why they say let us go and sacrifice to our God.” So the children of Israel, instead of being made free, had to work even harder. They were very angry with Moses and Aaron.

GOD PUNISHES PHARAOH

But God had decided to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians. He would make them let the children of Israel go. So He sent ten great and dreadful plagues upon them, one after another. The children of Israel had to learn how great and powerful their God was too. So God sent the first three plagues on the whole land of Egypt. The children of Israel suffered these three plagues too.

THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT

1. Water turned into *Blood*

Aaron took Moses' rod (the one that had turned into a serpent before) and struck the water of the River Nile. The water turned into *Blood!* All the fish in the river died. The river smelt dreadful and the people could not drink it. They had to dig in the ground for water to drink. It was like this for seven days.

Pharaoh would not change his mind. He would not let the people go.

2. *Frogs*

p. 110.

Aaron stretched out his rod over the rivers and streams and frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. They were everywhere – *frogs* were in their homes, in their ovens and cooking pots, and even in their beds! There were frogs all over them too.

The Egyptians hated them. Pharaoh called Moses and said

“Ask Yahweh to take away the *frogs* and I will let the people go.”

So Moses prayed to God and the *frogs* all died. They had to sweep them out of their houses. There were heaps of dead *frogs* everywhere. They smelled terrible, but the plague was over, and Pharaoh changed his mind again. He would not let the people go.

3. *Lice*

This time Aaron took the rod and struck the dust of the ground and immediately it was crawling with *lice*. Everyone was bitten by the tiny *lice*, both man and beast. They had painful itching sores all over them.

But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

Imagine how terrible these plagues would be. The Egyptians hated them, but Pharaoh was very proud. He did not worship Yahweh, the God of Israel. He did not believe that He had such great and mighty power. The children of Israel were beginning to learn how great their God was. After these three plagues God separated the land of Goshen where the children of Israel lived. The rest of the plagues were on the Egyptians only.

LESSON FOR US

Pharaoh and the Egyptians were punished by God because they were proud and would not humble themselves to obey God's Word. He wanted to show Egypt and all the world, that He is all-powerful, and must be obeyed at all times. We must listen to God's Word, and obey it, or else one day God will punish us as well.

Remember these points:-

- * Moses and Aaron showed the signs to the children of Israel and they believed.
- * Yahweh told Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go, but he would not.

- * Yahweh sent ten terrible plagues which destroyed Egypt's possessions, frightened them, and saddened their hearts.
- * The first three plagues were over all the land of Egypt. The children of Israel suffered too.
- * Pharaoh did not like the plagues, but he would not let the people go.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Did the people of Israel believe Moses when he showed them the signs?*
2. *Did Pharaoh obey at first when Moses told him that God said he must let the children of Israel go?*
3. *How many plagues did the God of Israel send on Egypt?*
4. *How many plagues did the Israelites suffer as well as the Egyptians?*
- 5. *Tell what one of these dreadful plagues was like.*
6. *What did Pharaoh do when each of the plagues was taken away?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

7. *Why did God send ten terrible plagues on Pharaoh and the Egyptians?*
- 8. *Tell what the first three plagues were.*
- 9. *Why did the children of Israel have to suffer the first three plagues too?*

19. GOD SENDS MORE PLAGUES ON EGYPT

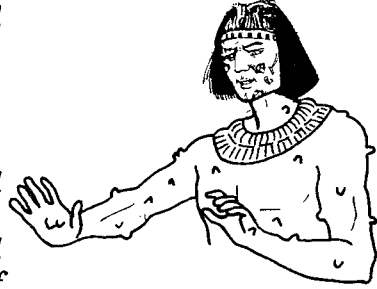
"Let My people go that they may serve Me"

Aim

To show how God separated the children of Israel and plagued Pharaoh and the Egyptians until they were humbled.

Synopsis

God separated the children of Israel when He sent the next six plagues. In the end the Egyptians were glad to send the children of Israel out of their land.



Exodus 8:20 – 10:29

GOD SEPARATES ISRAEL

The children of Israel had lived in the land of Goshen, in the north of Egypt, since the days when Jacob came down with all his family to see Joseph. God had shown them His mighty power in the first three plagues. Now He would send the next six plagues on the Egyptians only. It was a long time before Pharaoh believed how powerful Yahweh, the God of Israel, was.

THESE ARE THE NEXT SIX PLAGUES

4. Flies P. 112

God sent great swarms of *flies* all over Egypt. The ground was black with them and their houses were full of them. Pharaoh sent for Moses and told him to ask his God to send away the flies. He promised to let the people go. God sent the flies away, but Pharaoh changed his mind again and would not let the people go.

5. *The Animals become sick and die* P. 113

God sent a terrible disease on the animals in Egypt – on the horses, the asses, the camels, the oxen and the sheep. Almost all their animals died. Pharaoh sent his servant to the land of Goshen. None of the animals had died there, not one. This made Pharaoh angry and he would not let the people go.

6. *Boils*

God told Moses and Aaron to sprinkle ashes from the brick furnaces up toward heaven. Pharaoh saw them do it. When the ashes fell on the people they became very sore boils: Even the animals that were left had boils.

Pharaoh only hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

7. *Hail and Fire* P. 114.

The very next day God sent a fierce hail storm over Egypt. They had never seen a storm like this before. The thunder and lightning terrified the people. Great hailstones killed anyone who was out in the storm. Some of the Egyptians were now beginning to believe that Yahweh, the God of Israel, was a mighty God, and they stayed inside when the storm came. But there was not any hail in the land of Goshen.

Pharaoh once again promised to let Israel go, but as soon as the storm stopped, he changed his mind and would not let the people go.

8. *Locusts* P. 116-117.

Then God sent a great east wind to blow all day and all night over the land of Egypt. In the morning the east wind brought the *locusts*. There were so many *locusts* that they were like a great dark cloud that covered the land. The hail had ruined the barley and many other plants. Now the *locusts* ate everything that was left. There was not one green leaf left on the trees or one blade of grass. They ate it all.

Pharaoh was afraid now. He called Moses and pleaded with

him to ask God to take the locusts away. So God sent a very strong west wind, which blew the locusts right away from Egypt.

When Pharaoh saw the locusts were gone, he only hardened his heart more and would not let the people go.

9. *Darkness*

Then God sent darkness over Egypt. The darkness was so thick and black that the people could feel it closing in all around them. It was like that for three days in Egypt. They did not see the sun or any light all that time. But all the children of Israel had light in their houses in Goshen.

PHARAOH TELLS MOSES TO GO

Then Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go, serve Yahweh". But he wanted them to leave their flocks and herds behind. Moses said, "Our cattle will go with us." Pharaoh was very angry. He told Moses to go away and not come to see him anymore or he would kill him. Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will not see your face any more".

Then God told Moses that He would send one more terrible plague on Egypt – and **after that** Pharaoh would surely let them go. In this last plague God was going to kill all the firstborn in every house in Egypt.

LESSON FOR US

God is soon going to send His judgments on the world, just as He sent them on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. We will not suffer those terrible things if we keep separate from the world, as Israel kept separate in Goshen.

Yahweh is the same true God today. We must believe that He can do such mighty wonders. That is what He wants us to do – to believe in Him.

Remember these points:-

- * God separated the children of Israel and sent the next six plagues on the Egyptians only.

- * The next six plagues were:
 4. Flies
 5. Animals became sick and died
 6. Boils
 7. Hail and Fire
 8. Locusts
 9. Darkness
- * Pharaoh did not want to see Moses ever again.
- * God would send one last terrible plague.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Where did the children of Israel live while they were in Egypt?*
2. *Pharaoh said he would let the children of Israel go. Did he keep his promise?*
3. *When God sent a terrible disease on all the animals in Egypt, what happened to the animals of the children of Israel?*
4. *One of the plagues was when God sent a strong east wind over Egypt. What did the wind bring into the land of Egypt?*
- 5. (a) *What was the plague of darkness like?*
 (b) *Was there darkness in Goshen?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell what happened when God sent a fierce hailstorm over Egypt.*
- 7. *Tell what Pharaoh said after the plague of darkness. What did Moses say to Pharaoh?*

20. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL EAT THE PASSOVER LAMB

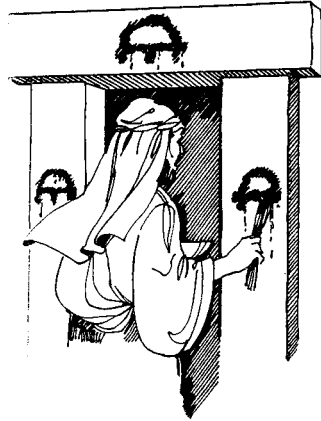
"It is Yahweh's passover"

Aim

To show how God will look after and protect His people if they do exactly as He commands.

Synopsis

The last dreadful plague was the death of every firstborn in the house of Egypt. It would have happened in the houses of the children of Israel too, if they had not listened carefully to Moses. He told them how God wanted them to kill and eat the Passover Lamb.



Exodus 11:4 – 12:30 I Cor. 5:7

GOD SHOWS MERCY TO ISRAEL

For the tenth plague Moses warned Israel and Egypt that God would send His angel at midnight to kill every firstborn in the land of Egypt. That means the oldest son in every family. He was going to show mercy to His own people who feared and obeyed Him, but not to the Egyptians who years before had tried to kill all the baby boys of Israel. God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to do just as He commanded them. Then the Angel of Death would not hurt them at all.

GOD COMMANDS ISRAEL TO CHOOSE A LAMB

Each family of the children of Israel was to choose a perfect young lamb. It had to have nothing wrong with it – no

scratches, no torn legs, nothing wrong with its eyes or ears. It must be perfect. They had to pen it up for four days and then kill it in the evening. Its blood was to be sprinkled with a bunch of hyssop on the lintels and doorposts of their houses. All the family was to stay in the house until morning. They must roast the lamb whole – not one of its bones was to be broken. Then they must eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. As they ate it, they were to be dressed ready to leave Egypt, with shoes on their feet and their staff in their hand. They were to eat it quickly so that they would be ready when Moses called them. This feast was to be called ‘Yahweh’s Passover’.

ISRAEL KEEP THE PASSOVER

Israel had seen God’s terrible plagues come upon Egypt. They feared God and His great power. They decided to obey all that God had told them. Then the Angel of Death would not come near them.

In each household, the lamb was chosen. Its blood was sprinkled on the lintels and doorposts of their homes. They all stayed inside their homes. They ate the Passover quickly. They were all dressed ready to leave Egypt as soon as Moses commanded.

THE ANGEL OF DEATH ‘PASSES OVER’

At midnight the Angel of Death came. He saw the sprinkled blood on the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the children of Israel. So he **passed over** their homes. Their eldest sons did not die.

But the homes of the Egyptians had no sprinkled blood on the doorposts and lintels. They had not kept the Passover. So the Angel of Death went into their homes and killed each eldest son.

God had showed great mercy to Israel and judgment on Egypt. He had saved those who obeyed His command. Now they could leave Egypt and all of its evil and sorrow.

LESSON FOR US

The Passover lamb pointed forward to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was like the Passover lamb. He was perfect – he never sinned. By his death, God will save His people from sin and death.

God wants us to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. Then God will save us from sin and from death if we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus and are careful to obey what God has told us in the Bible. We must do exactly what He says as Israel had to.

Remember these points:-

- * Israel was saved from the last terrible plague by keeping the Passover.
- * Egypt and Israel were warned that the Angel of Death was coming.
- * Every household had to obey God's command.
- * They had to eat the Passover quickly, dressed and ready to go.
- * Not one bone of the lamb was to be broken.
- * God showed mercy to Israel but judgment on Egypt.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *What terrible work was the Angel of Death going to do at midnight?*
- ✓ 2. *What was the name of the feast which the children of Israel had to keep before they left Egypt?*
- 3. (a) ✗ *What did Israel do with the blood of the Passover lamb?*
(b) ✓ *How were the children of Israel dressed when they ate the Passover lamb?*
(c) ✓ *Why were they dressed like that?*
- ✓ 4. *Into whose homes did the Angel of Death go to kill the firstborn?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. *Tell all that you know about the Passover Feast which Israel kept before they left Egypt.*
- 6. *Who did the Passover lamb point forward to?*



21. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CROSS THE RED SEA

*"Fear ye not, stand still, and see
the salvation of Yahweh"*

Aim

To show how God delivered His people and protected them, when it looked as if the Egyptians were going to catch them and take them back to Egypt.

Synopsis

Israel went out from Egypt and came to the shore of the Red Sea. The Egyptians chased them, but God opened the Sea and Israel went through safely on dry ground. The Egyptians who chased after them were drowned. Moses and Aaron and the children of Israel sang a song of thanks to God.



Exodus 12:31-36; 13:17 - 15:21

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL FLEE FROM EGYPT

Only when God had sent the tenth plague did Pharaoh say that Israel could leave Egypt. He not only said they *could* go, he *wanted* them to go!

That same night, Israel marched out of Egypt. Moses and Aaron, their leaders, went before them. God sent His Angel to show them the way to go. The Angel went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light. So they could travel by day and night. During all their journey from Egypt to Canaan the Angel of God went before them.

2 million Jews leave 80

430 yrs in Egypt.

show
pics.

THE EGYPTIANS CHASED THE ISRAELITES

The Angel of God led the children of Israel down to the shore of the Red Sea. Now Pharaoh and his men said, "Whatever have we done in letting Israel free from serving us?" They thought that they could hurry after the children of Israel and catch them. They were shut in by the mountains on one side and the sea on the other. So Pharaoh prepared his chariots, took his men, and chased after Israel.

p. 120 } The children of Israel looked up and say the Egyptians were chasing them. They were very frightened. There was no way to escape. They did not believe that God would save them. But Moses had faith in God. He said to the people: "Do not be afraid! Stand still and see how Yahweh will save you. These Egyptians will be destroyed for ever. Yahweh will fight for you and you shall hold your peace."

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CROSS THE RED SEA

The Angel of God, who was in front of the children of Israel, now moved and went behind them. He divided the children of Israel from the Egyptians. He caused thick darkness to come upon the Egyptians, but He gave light by night to the children of Israel. So the Egyptians did not come near Israel all that night.

p. 122 } God told Moses to stretch his rod out over the Red Sea. Then he caused a very strong wind to blow all that night. It pushed back the waters of the sea. There was a dry path right through the sea to the other side, and Israel marched through the middle of the sea on dry ground! The waters formed a wall on the right and on the left. So God brought them safely through the Red Sea to the other side.

THE EGYPTIANS ARE DROWNED

The Egyptians were determined to catch the children of Israel. Pharaoh and all his chariots went into the path in the middle of the sea. But the wheels sank into the sand and fell off their chariots. The Angel of God was helping the Israelites.

“Stretch out thine hand over the sea that the waters may come down upon the Egyptians”, God said to Moses. Moses stood on the opposite shore and stretched out his rod over the sea once more. The waters poured back over Pharaoh and his chariots. The whole army of the Egyptians was drowned!

So Yahweh saved Israel that day from the Egyptians and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. They feared Yahweh and believed in Him and in His servant Moses.

MOSES AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SING PRAISE TO GOD

Israel were safely on the other side of the Red Sea. Their enemies, the Egyptians, had all been drowned. Their hearts were full of thanks to God for the great mercy He had shown to them. So they all joined in a song of praise. They sang of Yahweh's power, of His mercy to Israel and His judgment upon Egypt. Surely God would bring them safely to the land of Canaan as He had promised!

LESSON FOR US

God taught Israel to trust in Him. He was able to save them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them safely to the land of Canaan as He had promised.

God is able to save us from all evil too, if we learn to trust in Him. He will bring us safely into His Kingdom when the Lord Jesus returns to earth, if we believe and obey Him now.

Remember these points:-

- * God sent His Angel to lead them out of Egypt to the promised land.
- * When the Egyptians chased after the children of Israel, God taught Israel not to be frightened, but to trust in Him.
- * When Israel passed through the Red Sea He showed mercy to Israel but destroyed the Egyptians.
- * When Israel saw the armies of Egypt drowned in the sea, they sang a song of thankfulness to God.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *How did God show Moses and Aaron and the children of Israel the way to go when they left Egypt?*
2. *What did Pharaoh and the Egyptians do after the children of Israel left Egypt?*
- 3. (a) *How did the children of Israel cross the Red Sea?*
(b) *What happened to the Egyptians when they followed Israel into the Red Sea?*
4. *How did the children of Israel thank God after He brought them safely through the Red Sea?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. *Tell the story of how God saved Israel from the Egyptians at the Red Sea.*



22. GOD GIVES FOOD TO HIS PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS

"This is the bread which Yahweh hath given you to eat"

Aim

To show how God can provide for all our needs just as He provided for His people as they wandered in the wilderness

Synopsis

The children of Israel were thirsty in the wilderness, and God gave them water. Then, when they were hungry, He gave them meat and manna. They were not to complain, but to learn to trust in God.

Exodus 15:22-27; 16



THE PEOPLE ARE THIRSTY

p. 125 The Angel of God went before the children of Israel in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. For three days the children of Israel marched behind the Angel into the wilderness. But they could find no water to drink! At last they came to a place called Marah. At last there was water. But when they tasted the water of Marah, it was bitter. They could not drink it. The people complained to Moses. They cried, "What shall we drink?"

YAHWEH GIVES THEM WATER

Moses knew that Yahweh would give them water. He prayed to Him for help. God showed him a tree. When he threw the tree into the water, the bitter water was healed and became sweet! Now the people could drink all that they

needed. Then God told His people that if they carefully listened to Him and obeyed His laws, He would heal them from all their diseases.

THE PEOPLE COME TO ELIM

P.126] After this, God brought the people to Elim. Here were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. The people camped beside the waters. God was indeed caring for them and would give them everything they needed.

THE PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY

They wanted - cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, garlic
The Angel of God led Israel on their way through the wilderness. The people became very hungry and soon forgot that God would care for them. Once more they murmured against Moses and Aaron. They wanted to return to Egypt! God heard them grumbling. He promised to send them flesh (meat) that very evening and bread in the morning. He would teach them again that He was able to give them everything they needed.

GOD GIVES THEM FOOD

In the evening God made quails come around the camp of Israel. These quails were fat little birds. The people could catch them and cook them for meat. So God gave Israel flesh as He had promised.

P.128]9 In the morning, the people woke up to find dew on the ground. When the sun rose, the dew disappeared and left small round things lying on the ground. The people called it 'Manna', which means, 'What is it?' - because they did not know what it was. Moses told them that this was the bread that God had given them to eat.

GATHERING THE MANNA

Every morning early, before the sun grew hot, the people had to gather the manna. God told them only to gather as much as they needed for one day. They must not leave any

over till the next morning, for God would send the manna each day. But some people did not obey God. They gathered more than they needed. Next morning their manna had worms in it and smelt terrible. Moses was very angry with them, because they did not do as God said.

On the sixth day of the week, the people had to gather enough manna for **two** days. This was because the seventh (or Sabbath) day was a day of rest. God did not send any manna on the seventh day. But some of the people did not believe Moses. They went out on the seventh day to gather the manna. They found none. God was angry with them for disobeying Him. He told them they must rest on the seventh day.

MANNA FOR THE ARK

Then God told Moses to take some of the manna and place it in a special golden pot. This special manna would be kept in the Ark of the Covenant right inside the Tabernacle. (The Tabernacle was a special tent dwelling place we will learn about later.) This special pot of manna would always remind them of how God had fed them in the wilderness. The manna that was in the golden pot never got worms in it or went 'bad' – it lasted for hundreds of years.

So, in this wonderful way, God cared for His people. Every morning, for forty years, as they marched through the wilderness, God sent them manna from heaven to eat. He gave them water too and all they needed.

LESSON FOR US

God always cares for His people. He will give them everything they need. He only makes them go without things sometimes so that they will learn to trust in Him. Let us never complain against God, as Israel did. If we pray to God to supply what He knows is best for us, He will look after us as we journey to His Kingdom.

Just as we need bread every day to live – so too we need

God's Word every day. The manna is like the Word of God. try to read and think about God's Word every day.

Remember these points:-

- * God caused Israel to thirst and hunger.
- * At Marah He made the bitter water sweet.
- * At Elim there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees.
- * Israel murmured against Moses, Aaron and God because they had little food or drink.
- * God always provided for their needs.
- * God gave the children of Israel manna every morning for forty years.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *What did God tell Moses to do to make the bitter waters of Marah sweet?*
2. *What did the people do when they became hungry in the wilderness?*
- 3. *(a) How did God give flesh to Israel in the wilderness?*
(b) How did God give bread to Israel in the wilderness?
(c) What did the children of Israel call the bread which God gave them from heaven?
(d) At what time of the day did Israel have to gather the manna?
4. *Aaron had to put some manna in a special place.*
(a) Where did he put it?
(b) Why did he put it there?

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. *What were the rules God made about gathering the manna?*
- 6. *What was God trying to teach Israel when He let them hunger and thirst in the wilderness?*

23. GOD GIVES THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TEN COMMANDMENTS

"I am Yahweh thy God"

Aim

God gave His people laws to guide them. If they obeyed they would enter into the Promised Land.

Synopsis

At Sinai God gave the children of Israel ten commandments. Five of the commandments told them how they should act towards God. The other five were like them. They told Israel how to act towards other people.

Exodus 19; 20:1-17



GOD GIVES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Story of the Bible
p. 314
Moses brought the children of Israel to Mount Sinai. Mount Sinai was a big rocky mountain. Moses climbed high in to the mountain to speak to the Angel of God.

p. 137
God told Moses to tell the children of Israel to prepare themselves because He was going to speak to them. They had three days to prepare themselves. They had to wash their clothes and themselves. They had to be thinking about God and His ways. Moses had to put a fence around the Mount, so that no one would touch the Mountain because it was holy. Then on the third day, when they had made themselves ready, there was thunder and lightning and a cloud over the Mount and the voice of a loud trumpet. The Mountain was covered with smoke and fire and it shook violently as the people stood there afraid. Moses brought the people to the Mount and

there God spoke to them and told them the ten commandments.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Here are the ten commandments which God spoke to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai: –

FIVE COMMANDMENTS ABOUT LOVING GOD

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy (because God rested on the seventh day when He made the world).
5. Honour thy Father and thy Mother (because they are to remind us of God, our Heavenly Father).

FIVE COMMANDMENTS ABOUT LOVING OTHER PEOPLE

6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery (this means each man should live with his own wife and not want any other).
8. Thou shalt not steal thy neighbour's goods.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness (tell lies about thy neighbour).
10. Thou shalt not covet the things thy neighbour owns.

LESSON FOR US

The ten commandments tell us how to serve God in the right way. We can read and learn these in the Bible, God's Word (Exodus 20).

There are five commandments which tell us how to care about *God*. There are five commandments which tell us how

to care about our *neighbours*.

God knows that if we care about Him first and other people second, then we will be happy!

Remember these points:-

- * God gave these ten commandments to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai.
- * FIVE commandments tell us about loving God.
- * FIVE commandments tell us about loving our neighbours.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Moses was sent to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and he brought them to a big rocky mountain. What was the name of the mountain?* Sinai
2. *God spoke some commandments to the children of Israel. How many of these commandments were there?* 10
3. *The first five commandments were to teach the children of Israel to love someone first of all. Who were they to love first of all?* God
4. *The second five commandments were to teach Israel to love someone else. Who were they to love as well?* loving other people
5. *Can you remember any of the ten commandments? Which one can you remember?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell as many of the ten commandments as you can remember.*
- 7. *Where can we read the ten commandments now?*

24. THE PEOPLE WORSHIP A GOLDEN CALF WHILE MOSES IS AWAY

"These be thy gods, O Israel"

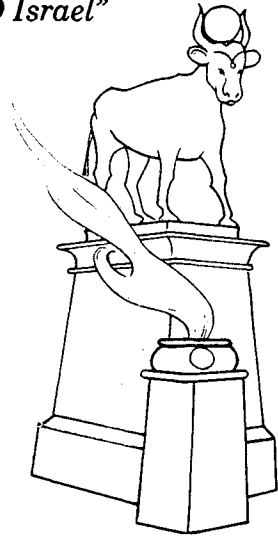
Aim

To show how quickly the people of Israel forgot Yahweh's Laws and turned back to the gods of Egypt.

Synopsis

Aaron made a golden calf while Moses was away. The people worshipped it, but Moses was so angry with them he crushed it up and made them drink it. Yahweh punished the people for their sin.

Exodus 32



MOSES CLIMBS MOUNT SINAI AGAIN

When all the people saw the thunderings and lightnings and the mountain smoking and heard the noise of the trumpet they moved away from the Mount and stood afar off.

"We are frightened", they said to Moses after Yahweh had spoken the ten commandments. "Do not let Yahweh speak to us again or we will die!"

So Yahweh told Moses to come up to the Mount and He would give him the tables of stone on which were the commandments written by the finger of God. Moses took Joshua, his young helper, with him and they climbed high into the mountain. Joshua stopped part way up the mountain and waited for Moses to return. Moses left his brother Aaron in charge of the camp of Israel down below. Yahweh's Angel gave Moses more laws for Israel, and two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments on them, and also a pattern for the Tabernacle (a special tent) where they could worship Yahweh.

Moses and Joshua were away in the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

THE PEOPLE GROW RESTLESS

When Moses was away so long the people thought that he was never going to come back at all.

“Up, make us gods to go before us”, they cried out to Aaron. “For as for this Moses, the man that brought us out of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him!”

AARON MAKES A GOLDEN CALF

“Give me your golden earrings”, said Aaron. He threw the gold into a cauldron. He melted the gold over a fire. He poured the molten gold into a mould. Then, when it cooled, he scraped it with a chisel until he had made a golden calf. “These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of Egypt”, said the people. Aaron said, “Tomorrow we shall have a feast to Yahweh.” But he had only made an idol really, to represent Yahweh. This was very wrong.

THE PEOPLE HOLD A FEAST

In the morning the people brought offerings of food and drink. They burnt some of them in sacrifice to the idol and then ate and drank the rest themselves. The idol reminded them of the idols back in Egypt. So very soon they started to behave in wicked ways just like the Egyptians did.

When they made the idol, they had broken the second commandment, and now, one by one, they started to break all the commandments.

God knew what was happening. “Go down”, He said to Moses in the mountain, “the people have corrupted themselves”. Moses hurried down to see the people. He had the two tables of stone in his hand on which God had written the ten commandments. When Joshua heard the noise of the people, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But Moses said it was the noise of singing he could hear.

MOSES COMES SUDDENLY TO THE CAMP

Everyone was singing and dancing like a wild party around the calf when suddenly Moses came back! He could see that the people had broken God's laws. Angrily he threw the two tables of stone to the ground. The tables of stone broke apart. He ground the golden calf to powder. He spread the powder on the water and made the people drink it.

"WHO IS ON YAHWEH'S SIDE? LET HIM COME TO ME", shouted Moses. The men of the tribe of Levi gathered to his side.

YAHWEH PUNISHES HIS PEOPLE

"Take your sword and go through the camp. Slay every one of you your brother, your companion and your neighbour", said Moses to the sons of Levi.

The sons of Levi killed three thousand men in Israel that day and Yahweh sent a plague through the camp, because the children of Israel had broken His commandments.

Moses again went up into the Mount and pleaded with Yahweh to pardon the people and Yahweh in His kindness and mercy forgave them. Moses had to cut out two more tables of stone and the commandments were written again.

LESSON FOR US

Just as Moses went away up into the mountain, so Jesus has gone up into heaven. The children of Israel thought that Moses was not going to come back again, but he did. Most people do not think Jesus will come back again either, but he will. When he comes he will destroy those who have known God's commandments, but have wilfully broken them.

Remember these points:-

- * Moses was in the mountain for forty days and forty nights.
- * Aaron made a golden calf while Moses was away.
- * The people started to break God's laws.
- * Moses came back and the people were punished.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. How long was Moses away in the mountain? *40 days / 40 nights*
2. Did the people think that Moses was coming back? *No*
3. Aaron took gold from the children of Israel and made something with it. What did he make? *Golden Calf*
- 4. (a) What were the people doing when Moses came back to the camp? *Singing + dancing*
(b) What did Moses do? *Threw the tables of stone to the ground*
(c) What did Moses make the children of Israel drink? *The powder of the golden calf*
5. Why did Moses tell the sons of Levi to go through the camp and kill people with their swords? *Because they had broken the commandments.*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. Tell the story of how Aaron made the golden calf, and what happened when Moses came back to the camp.
7. How did God punish the people for their sin?



25. THE MEN WHO TAUGHT ISRAEL

"I have given the Levites to do the service "

Aim

To show the important work of the priests and Levites in Israel. Our God is holy. He wants His people to remember this when they worship Him.

Exodus 25:1-9; 40:13-16

Lev. 10:1-11; Num. 8:19



PRIESTS FROM THE TRIBE OF LEVI

Jacob's family of twelve sons grew and grew. His sons became the heads of twelve tribes. Of these twelve tribes God chose the tribe of Levi to be His servants and to be teachers in Israel. One family in the tribe of Levi was the family of Aaron. They were the priests. Aaron was the High Priest.

THE TABERNACLE

God told Moses that He wanted the children of Israel to build a special tent, called the Tabernacle. It was set up in the middle of the camp of Israel. The people came to worship there. It had to be made exactly as God told Moses. The people brought gold and silver and brass and wood for the building. It all fitted together exactly. The walls and roof were made of beautifully woven material, which the women of Israel made. There were two rooms, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. God's glory would shine in the Most Holy Place. Inside the Most Holy Place was the golden Ark of the Covenant. Inside the Ark was the Golden Pot of Manna and the two Tables of Stone on which were written the Ten Commandments. Later Aaron's rod was put in there too. Only the High Priest could go into the Most Holy Place. The other priests, Aaron's sons, helped look after the Tabernacle. They wore beautiful clothes especially made for them.

NADAB AND ABIHU DISOBEY GOD

Being a priest was a very important work. They had to be very careful to obey all God's laws. One thing the priests had to do was to take burning coals from God's altar into the Tabernacle to light the sweet incense. Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons, were careless. They did not bother to do exactly as God said. They got burning coals from somewhere else. When they took it into the Tabernacle, God was angry. And there went out fire from Yahweh and burned them to death. God would not put up with such disobedience.

God is too great and too holy for anyone to serve Him so carelessly. We must be careful not to treat God's Word lightly, but obey Him in all things.

THE LEVITES HELP THE PRIESTS

The rest of the Levites helped the priests. They carried the Tabernacle when the children of Israel went on their journey through the wilderness. The pillar of cloud which had guided them when they left Egypt usually rested above the Tabernacle. But when God wanted them to move on in their journey, they knew, because the cloud lifted up and moved. Then the Levites helped to take the pieces of the Tabernacle apart. The priests covered all the furniture and the Levites carried it.

THE LEVITES ARE TEACHERS

The Levites were the teachers in Israel, too. They had to study God's law very carefully and then teach it to the children of Israel. This was very important. The people did not all have a copy of God's laws in a book as we do. They had to ask the Levites and the Levites had to tell them exactly what God said. When the people brought animals to sacrifice, there was a special way each sacrifice had to be made. The Levites had to teach the people all these different lessons.

LESSON FOR US

The priests gave all their lives to serving God. We must do the same. We must learn God's laws from the Bible. God has given us parents and teachers to help us. Our God is Holy. We cannot be careless and unthinking about the way we worship God.

Remember these points:-

- * God chose the Levites to be His servants and to be teachers.
- * The family of Aaron were the priests.
- * The Tabernacle was the tent where Israel came to worship God.
- * Nadab and Abihu disobeyed God and were burned to death.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. Which tribe did God choose to be His servants? *Levi*
2. Which family were the priests? *Aaron's*
3. What was the special tent called where the people came to worship God? *Tabernacle*
4. What happened to Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons? *Burned to death.*
5. Who carried all the parts of the Tabernacle when Israel moved their camp? *Levites*
6. Why did the Levites have to study God's laws very carefully? *They were teachers in Israel*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 7. Tell what Nadab and Abihu did and what happened to them.
- 8. How did the children of Israel know when God wanted them to move their camp?

