

**Genesis 2:7-3:24**

**Main Truth** Disobedience to God brings spiritual death.

**Background** God created a perfect world. God created man to rule over His creation. Man had a wonderful relationship with his God.

**Story**

1. **Adam** was the first man; he lived in **The Garden Of Eden**.
2. God told Adam to care for the garden and give names to all the animals.
3. Adam saw that all the animals had a mate, but he had no one.
4. So God made a woman (**Eve**) for Adam. She was to be his helper and companion.
5. Even though they were naked in the garden they were not ashamed.
6. God told Adam he could eat from any tree in the garden except the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**. God said if Adam ate the fruit from that tree he would die.
7. **Satan** entered the garden in the form of a serpent and tempted Eve to disobey God's command. The serpent caused Eve to think that God was keeping her from something good. Satan said she surely wouldn't die if they ate the fruit!
8. Eve had a choice to make. She could listen to Satan and eat the fruit or listen to God's commands and not eat the fruit.
9. Eve chose to disobey God's command. She ate the fruit and then handed it to Adam. He also chose to disobey God's command and ate the fruit. Adam sinned.
10. Immediately Adam and Eve knew that sin had changed their life. They died spiritually and knew they were separated from God and His goodness. Their shame caused them to cover themselves and try to hide from God.
11. God came to the garden seeking Adam and Eve. He questioned them about their sin. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.
13. God held Adam, Eve and the serpent responsible for the choices they made. To each of them He gave a curse.
14. God killed an innocent lamb and used its skin to clothe Adam and Eve. The lamb died for their sin. This showed Adam and Eve that sin results in death.
15. God promised them that one day He would send a **Saviour** to die for all sin. The Saviour would have victory over Satan. (The Saviour that God sent was the Lord Jesus Christ.)
16. In His **mercy** God sent Adam and Eve from the **Garden** so that they were not able to eat from the **Tree of Life** and live forever separated from God.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God gives us freedom to obey or disobey. But disobedience is sin.
2. God is **all knowing** and **all places**, we cannot hide from Him.
3. God's love provided for us a Saviour from sin, His own Son Jesus Christ.

**What should I do?**

1. Listen to God's commands and obey them.
2. Understand that I am a sinner just like Adam. I need a Saviour.
3. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour from sin.

**Prayer** "Dear God, I am a sinner just like Adam and Eve. I know because of my sin I need Jesus as my Saviour. Thank you for sending Him to die in my place. I believe in Him as my Lord and Saviour." In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."

**Activity**

1. Act out temptation by putting a piece of fruit or biscuit on the table. Ask a number of the children to walk by the table but not to touch the piece of fruit or biscuit. Have another child stand behind the table trying to tempt the children to touch the fruit.

**Genesis 4:1-16**

**Main Truth** God is pleased when we obey His Word.

**Background** Adam and Eve were sent away from The Garden of Eden and lived in a world that was cursed by their sin. At this time the sacrificial offering of animals was a means of worshipping God because it pictured the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as a sacrifice for all sin. (see Gen 3:21, John 1:29)

**Story**

1. **Adam** knew his wife **Eve**. She gave birth to two sons named Cain and Abel.
2. Cain grew up to be a farmer. Abel grew up to be a shepherd.
3. Cain and Abel worshipped God by bringing offerings to Him.
4. Cain brought an offering of fruit from his fields.
5. Abel brought a firstborn lamb from his flock.
6. God was pleased with Abel and his lamb offering because it pictured Jesus Christ as the lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Abel's offering was in obedience to God.
7. God rejected Cain's offering because there was no shedding of blood.
7. Cain got angry that God did not accept his offering. God told him not to be angry, but to bring the right offering.
8. Cain did not listen to God. Because of his anger he killed his brother Abel.
9. God put a curse on Cain because of his sin. He cursed the ground so that it would not grow good fruits and vegetables. He sent Cain out to be a wanderer upon the earth for the rest of his life.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is pleased with obedience.
2. God disciplines sin.

**What should I do?**

1. Be obedient to God's commands.
2. Understand that the best offering or sacrifice we can give to God is our obedience.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, please help me to learn your Word and obey it so that You will be pleased with my life. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Psalm 119:17b

"I will obey your Word."

**Activity**

Play a listen and obey game.

The teacher can tell the kids different things to do. Such as, raise your left arm, stand on your right leg only, clap your hands 6 times, jump up and down, and so forth. When the children hear the teacher's command they say "I will obey your Word." Then, they do what the teacher said to do. Repeat this many times with many different actions. The children must listen, say their verse and then obey.

This game will be an example to the children of how we should listen to God's Word and obey it.

### Genesis 6:1-9:17

**Main Truth** God always keeps His promises.

**Background** The sinful nature of man led mankind to choose evil rather than follow the commands of God. God decided the only way to save His creation from the destruction of sin was to destroy everything He had created. God had a plan to save Noah and his family.

### Story

1. **Noah** was a righteous man who walked with God in a wicked world.
2. Noah had three sons, **Shem, Ham and Japheth**.
3. Because of **sin** the world was corrupt and filled with violence. God told Noah He would send a flood to destroy the world.
4. God told Noah to build an **ark** to protect him, his family and the animals from the flood.
5. God established a **covenant** (promise) with Noah to keep him safe from the flood.
6. Noah chose to obey God's command. He did all God told him to do. He worked to build the ark for 120 years. During this time the wicked people all laughed at Noah and made fun of him for building such a big ark. None of them chose to turn from their evil and believe in God.
7. When the ark was finished God brought the animals to Noah. Noah and his family and all the animals entered the ark and God shut the door.
8. Water erupted from beneath the earth. For 40 days the rain fell from the sky until all the high mountains were covered.
9. All flesh, man and beast left on the earth died in the flood. Only Noah and all on the ark remained alive. God protected them, just as He had promised.
10. The water covered the earth for 150 days. Noah sent out a raven and a dove to see if the water had gone down. When the flood waters went down the ark came to rest on **Mount Ararat**.
11. Noah built an altar and worshipped God.
12. God sealed His promise to Noah with a rainbow. The rainbow was a sign from God that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth.

### What does this lesson teach us about God?

1. God judges sin.
2. God provides deliverance from judgement for His faithful children.
3. God is Truth. He cannot lie.
4. God is faithful. He keeps His promises to His children.

### What should I do?

1. Follow Noah's example and obey God, even if others laugh at me.
2. Each time I see a rainbow, remember God's promise and His faithfulness.
3. Believe God's promises to me in the Bible.

### Prayer

"Dear God, Thank you that you are a God of truth and never lie. Please help me to obey You just like Noah, even when others laugh at me. Please help me to learn and believe your promises. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

### Memory Verse Psalm 145:13b

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises..."

### Activity

- Give each child a piece of paper with an animals name written on it. [eg. pig, cow, monkey, elephant, cat, dog, parrot] There should be two of each animal. To find their right partners and enter the ark the children need to make the sound of the animal on their paper. The children must continue making the animal sound until they have found their partner and are ready to enter the ark.
- Have the children make a model of the ark.

## **Lesson 4 Job Suffers in Faith**

### **Job 1, 2**

**Main Truth** Suffering is a part of God's plan for our life. Therefore, we should suffer in faith.

**Background** Job was a man who was blameless before God. God allows Job to be tested to prove his faithfulness.

### **Story**

1. **Job** lived in the land of **Uz**. He was an important man who feared God and kept away from evil.
2. Job had 7 sons, 3 daughters and many possessions.
3. God brought Job to **Satan's** attention. Satan said that Job was only faithful because God had blessed him so much in his life. Satan told God that if He removed the blessing then Job would curse God.
4. God allowed Satan to touch all Job's possessions but not to touch Job.
5. Job's sons and daughters, his servants and his animals were all killed.
6. Job grieved but kept trusting God. He suffered in faith.
7. Satan came again before God. God once again mentioned the faithfulness of Job. Satan told God that if He touched Job in his flesh then Job would curse God.
8. God allowed Satan to touch Job in his flesh but said his life must be spared.
9. Satan afflicted Job with sores from the top of his head to the soles of his feet.
10. Job's wife told him to curse God and die. Job said, "Should we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
11. In all these troubles Job did not curse God, he suffered in faith.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is in control of all circumstances in our life, the good things and the bad things.
2. God will provide strength for us to go through any suffering He allows in our life.
3. God is pleased when we suffer in faith.

### **What should I do?**

1. Trust God when things go wrong in my life.
2. When there is suffering in my life, ask God to give me His strength to suffer in faith.

**Prayer** "Dear God, please help me, just like Job to accept the good things and the bad things as part of Your plan for my life. Help me to suffer in faith and never curse you. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Job 1:21b

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, the Name of the Lord be praised."

### **Activity**

Teacher- talk with the children about the different ways they suffer. (being sick, being hungry, friends laughing at them, the death of a loved one, and so forth) Talk about the difference between cursing God and suffering in faith.

## **Lesson 5 Abraham lets Lot Choose.**

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**Genesis 11:27-12:9, Genesis 13**

**Main Truth** God wants us to consider the needs of other people as more important than our own.

**Background** Abraham was called out of his homeland by God. God told him to go to the land of Canaan where He would make a great nation out of Abraham and his descendants. Abraham took his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot with him. God blessed them with many animals.

### **Story**

1. **Abraham** was living in the land of Canaan as God had told him to do. He was very rich in animals, silver and gold. He camped between **Ai** and **Bethel** with his wife **Sarah** and nephew **Lot**.
2. The land was not able to support them all because they had so many animals to feed and water. This caused problems between the men who cared for Abraham's animals and the men who cared for Lot's animals.
3. Abraham suggested that he and Lot separate and live in different places.
4. Abraham was kind and gave Lot the first choice of the land.
4. Lot saw the well watered plains of the **Jordan River**. He thought it was the best place to raise his animals so he chose that land. But nearby were the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
5. After Lot moved away God spoke to Abraham. He told Abraham to look to the north, south, east and west. God said, "All the land you see, I will give to you and to your children forever."
6. Abraham was willing to let Lot choose first. God blessed Abraham for his kindness.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is faithful to keep His promises.
2. When we are kind to others God is pleased.
3. When we share with others God provides for us.

### **What should I do?**

1. Choose to put the needs of other people before my own needs.
2. Share what I have with others.
2. Think about how I can make a choice that will bring peace rather than trouble with my family and friends.

### **Prayer**

"Dear God, please help me to think about the needs of other people and to want the best for them, even if it means giving up what I want. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Romans 12:10b

"Honour one another above yourselves."

### **Activity**

Bring some items into class that the children can share with one another. [eg biscuits, fruit] Divide the class into two groups. Have one group come and take one item each and give it to a member of the other group. Ask the children who have received the gift if they would like to keep it for themselves or share it with the one who has given the gift. The idea being that they prefer to share and so nobody will go away empty handed.

**Genesis 21:1-8, Genesis 22:1-14**

**Main Truth** We should love God more than any other thing in the world.

**Background** God had promised Abraham to make him a great nation and that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. But still in his old age no child had been born to him. Abraham had to wait many years before God gave him a son.

**Story**

1. The Lord kept His promise to **Abraham** and at the correct time **Sarah** conceived and gave birth to a son.
2. Abraham named his son **Isaac** which means "laughter".
3. On the eighth day Abraham **circumcised** Isaac according to God's command.
4. Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. The birth of Isaac brought great joy to Abraham and Sarah and they loved their son very much.
5. When Isaac was almost grown God tested Abraham's faith. He told Abraham to sacrifice his only son on the altar at **Mt. Moriah**. This was a hard test for Abraham but he loved God even more than his very own son.
6. Abraham obeyed God's command. He immediately took Isaac, two servants and wood for the sacrifice and travelled to Mt. Moriah.
7. When they arrived at Mt. Moriah Abraham told the servants to stay behind while he and Isaac went up to the altar to worship God. Abraham considered this test of his faith as an opportunity to worship God.
8. Isaac questioned why there was wood and fire but no lamb for the sacrifice.
9. Abraham prepared the altar and placed his son upon the wood.
10. Just as Abraham was about to slay his son the Angel of the Lord called to him. "Do not lay your hand on the lad for now I know you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son." Abraham passed this test of his faith because he was willing to give up what he loved most in order to obey God.
11. Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thorn bush. The Lord had provided a ram for the sacrifice.
12. Abraham offered the sacrifice of the ram in the place of his son.
13. Abraham called the place "The Lord will provide." **Jehovah Jireh**

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is faithful to keep His promises.
2. God sometimes tests our faith with hard things.
3. God wants us to love him more than any other thing in the world.

**What should I do?**

1. Trust God to keep His promises in His time.
2. Obey God even when it is hard to do so.
3. Love God more than any other thing in the world.
4. Be willing to give up anything God asks me to give up.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, please help me to give you myself and everything I love and hold precious knowing that you have a wonderful plan for my life. Help me to love you more than anything else in the world. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Deuteronomy 6:5

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

**Activity**

Blindfold a child. Teacher leads the child through an obstacle course so that the children can see the need for total trust in the one leading them.

**Lesson 7 Joseph says no to sin.****Genesis 37:1-35, Genesis 39-41****Main Truth** God wants us to say "NO" to sin.**Background** **Jacob** (also called Israel) had 12 sons; Joseph was his special son because he was the firstborn of Jacob's favourite wife, **Rachel**.**Story –**

1. Jacob loved his son Joseph more than all his children because he was the son of his old age and the firstborn son of his favourite wife Rachel. Jacob made Joseph a special coat of many colours. All of this caused Joseph's brothers to hate him.
2. Joseph had two dreams in which he saw his brothers bowing down before him. This caused his brothers to hate him even more. The dreams were given by God to show that Joseph would in time be the leader of the whole family.
3. Joseph's brothers were out in the field keeping the sheep. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them. When the brothers saw Joseph coming they planned to kill him.
4. Reuben asked his brothers not to kill Joseph. Instead they threw him into an empty pit.
5. Joseph's brothers saw Ishmaelite traders coming and decided to sell him for twenty shekels of silver. So Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave.
6. The brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's coat into the blood. They took it to their father. Jacob recognised the coat and believed a wild beast had eaten Joseph. Jacob mourned and refused to be comforted.
7. In Egypt Joseph was sold to a man named **Potiphar**. He trusted God to help him be the best servant he could be. The Lord was with Joseph and caused everything he did to prosper.
8. Potiphar promoted Joseph so that he was in authority over all of Potiphar's household.
9. Potiphar's wife was attracted to Joseph because of his physical appearance.
10. Potiphar's wife waited until she and Joseph were alone in the house together and then she tempted Joseph to sin. Joseph did not want to sin against Potiphar or against God. He said "NO!" to sin. He ran out of the house and left his garment behind.
11. Potiphar's wife lied to him about Joseph and Joseph was wrongly put into jail.
12. Even in jail Joseph continued to love and serve God. God helped Joseph and blessed him.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God wants us to live a pure life and say "no!" to sin.
2. God blesses us when we turn away from sin.
3. God is with us wherever we go.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand that Jesus is with me and gives me the power to say "No!" to sin.
2. Be willing to run away from sin and people that want me to sin.
3. Ask God to help me stay away from sin in my life.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, I want to live a pure life and not a sinful life. Please help me to say "No!" to temptation and sin in my life. Please help me to love you and serve you just like Joseph did. Thank you for always being with me to help me in times of temptation. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Proverbs 1:10

"...If sinners entice you, do not give in to them."

**Activity**

Tear a sheet of paper into 12 pieces. On six pieces write the word SIN. On six pieces write the word BIBLE. Hide the 12 pieces of paper. Pick a few children to play the game. Have the children hunt for the pieces of paper. If they find a piece of paper that says SIN they should shout NO! If they find a piece of paper that says BIBLE they should say YES. Play until all 12 pieces of paper are found. Then start again with a new group of children. This game will give the children an opportunity to say NO to SIN and YES to God's Word.

After the game talk about ways they should say NO to sin in real life.

**Genesis 42-45**

**Main Truth** We should forgive those who have wronged us.

**Background** Review the story of Joseph and his brothers from the last lesson. While Joseph was in prison the king (Pharaoh) of Egypt had a dream. Joseph was able to interpret the dream. The dream was sent by God to warn all of Egypt that in 7 years there would be a great famine. Pharaoh could see that Joseph had God's help so he made Joseph second in command of all of Egypt. Joseph stored up lots of food to help Egypt prepare for the coming famine.

**Story**

1. There was famine in the entire world and many people were hungry.
2. Jacob heard that there was grain for sale in Egypt so he sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain. He did not send his youngest son Benjamin.
3. Joseph was governor in Egypt. His brothers came to him to buy food.
4. Joseph recognised his brothers but they did not recognize him. He acted like a stranger to them.
5. Joseph accused his brothers of being spies. They denied it and told him all about their family, their father and the youngest brother who remained at home.
6. Joseph tested them and told them to bring their youngest brother back to Egypt to show him they were telling the truth. He kept them in prison for three days and then told them to go back home for the youngest brother.
7. Before they left on their journey Joseph put their money and grain into their sacks. They found the money when they stopped along the way, and they were afraid.
8. When they arrived home they told Jacob what happened in Egypt. They told him the plan Joseph had for them to return to Egypt with Benjamin, the youngest son.
9. The time came for them to return to Egypt for more grain. They took Benjamin with them.
10. When they arrived in Egypt Joseph took them to his house and prepared a feast for them. The brothers explained about the silver in their sacks and they were told it was a blessing from God. Joseph gave Benjamin a double portion of food.
11. Joseph set another trap for his brothers by placing his own cup in Benjamin's sack as they were about to return to Jacob.
12. Joseph's stewards followed the brothers, accused them of stealing and brought them back to Egypt. They stood before Joseph and he sent all of the other people out of the room.
13. Joseph made himself known to his brothers. He said, "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt."
14. Joseph had every reason to be angry with his brothers for the wrong they had done to him. But he knew that God had brought him to Egypt for a reason, to provide food during the famine. Joseph showed love and forgiveness to his brothers instead of anger and hatred.
15. Joseph sent wagons to bring Jacob and the rest of his family back to Egypt. Joseph was happy to see his father once again. And Jacob was happy to see his son!

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God can take the bad things that happen in our life and work them together for good.
2. God is a forgiving God and wants us to forgive others.

**What should I do?**

1. When bad things happen in my life I should trust that God can work them out for good.
2. I should follow Joseph's example and forgive those who have wronged me.

**Prayer** "Dear God, thank you that you forgive my sins. Please help me to forgive those who have wronged me. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen"

**Memory Verse** Colossians 3:13b  
"Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

**Activity**

- Jesus told the disciples they should forgive 70 times 7- that is 490 times in one day! Take some pieces of paper and cut them into 490 pieces. Dump them out on the table or floor for the children to see just how big a number 490 is! Have one of the children pick up all of the pieces. With God's help we can forgive that many times in one day!
- Act out a small skit where one person sins against another, then apologies, and there is forgiveness.



**Exodus 1: 6 – 2:10**

**Main Truth** We should fear God, not man.

**Background** After Jacob brought his family down to Egypt the children of Israel increased in number and in strength. In time Joseph and all his brothers died and a new king (**Pharaoh**) reigned over Egypt. God had promised the children of Israel that he would provide someone to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

**Story**

1. There arose a new king (Pharaoh) over Egypt who did not know Joseph or his family. Pharaoh was afraid that the Israelites were greater than the Egyptians in number and strength. He feared they would join the enemies of Egypt and fight against them.
2. So Pharaoh made all the Israelites his slaves. He treated them harshly and made them work to build big cities. But the more Pharaoh afflicted the Israelites, the more they multiplied. So the fear of the king grew.
3. Pharaoh ordered the Egyptian midwives to kill any sons born to the Israelite women.
4. The midwives feared God more than Pharaoh. They knew it would be disobeying God to kill the male babies. So they let the male babies live. God honoured the midwives. The Israelites continued to multiply and grow strong.
5. Next, Pharaoh commanded that all the male children be thrown into the river.
6. During this time a man and woman of the House of **Levi** (priests) conceived and bore a son. Like the midwives they feared God and wanted to obey Him so they hid the baby for three months. They knew God had promised a man to deliver Israel out of their slavery. They thought their son would grow up to be the deliverer.
7. As the baby grew and could no longer be hidden they made an **ark** (little boat) of bulrushes. They covered it with pitch to keep the water out. They put the baby in the ark and laid it in the reeds on the river bank.
8. Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe. She found the ark and the baby inside. She felt sorry for the baby even though she knew it was one of the Israelites children.
9. The baby's sister, **Miriam**, had been watching out for the baby in the ark. Miriam approached the Pharaoh's daughter and suggested that she call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. The Pharaoh's daughter agreed. Miriam called the baby's own mother.
10. The child was given back to his own mother. Pharaoh's daughter even paid her wage to care for the baby. God honoured the faith of his parents.
11. The child grew, was weaned and became the son of Pharaoh's daughter. She named him Moses, because she drew him out of the water.
12. Moses grew up to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God's laws are always right.
2. God wants us to obey His laws.
3. God wants us to fear Him; respect His Word and His power.
4. God honours those who fear Him and obey Him.

**What should I do?**

1. Learn God's laws given in the Bible.
2. When man's laws are different than God's laws then I must obey God.
3. Do not be afraid of men, but have a loving fear of God.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, please help me to learn your laws in the Bible so that I know the right thing to do. Give me courage to always fear You and obey You. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

**Memory verse Proverbs 19:23**

"The fear of the Lord leads to life."

**Activity**

Act out the Bible story.

**Exodus 3:7, 13:17-15:21**

**Main Truth** God is able to deliver us in times of trouble.

**Background** The children of Israel lived as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. God heard their cry for help (Exodus 3:7) and he called Moses to deliver them out of Egypt. God sent Moses to Pharaoh to ask him to release the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh repeatedly refused. God sent many **plagues** to torment the Egyptian people. The last plague was the death of all the first born children throughout the land. Only the families that obeyed God's commands were protected from this plague. When Pharaoh's firstborn son died in the plague, he finally agreed to let God's people leave Egypt.

**Story**

1. **Pharaoh** released God's people from slavery. .
2. God led Moses and the children of Israel out of Egypt. He went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
3. God had a special plan for Moses and the children of Israel. He wanted to use them to show Pharaoh that He was the Lord.
4. Soon Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the children of Israel go. He had lost his slaves and wanted them back.
5. Pharaoh gathered his army together and chased after the Israelite people. When the Israelite people saw the Army of Pharaoh coming after them they were very afraid. Pharaoh's army was behind them, and the Red Sea was in front of them. They had no where to go to escape Pharaoh's powerful army!
6. Moses told the people there was nothing to fear for the Lord would fight for them. They just needed to be still and trust God.
7. God told Moses to raise his staff. When Moses raised his staff the waters of the Red Sea parted. Moses and the children of Israel walked across the sea on dry land!
8. The army of Pharaoh chased the children of Israel into the sea. The Lord was fighting for the Israelite people. When the whole army of Pharaoh was in the midst of the sea God closed the waters of the sea and all of the army was drowned.
9. The Israelite people saw the great power of God that protected them. They put their trust in Him and in Moses as their leader.
10. Moses and the Israelite people sang a song of praise to their God that told of all the wonderful things He had done for them.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God hears our cries for help.
2. God is all knowing. He knows all of the troubles that we have in our life.
3. God is all places. He is with us in our troubles.
4. God is all powerful. He is able to deliver us from troubles.

**What should I do?**

1. When I have troubles in my life I should cry out to God for help.
2. Understand that even when God hears my prayers, He sometimes waits to help me.
3. I should trust God while I wait for His help with my troubles.
4. Remember to thank God and praise Him for His help.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, thank you that you hear my prayers and know my troubles. Thank you that you are all powerful and able to deliver me in times of trouble. Help me to trust you always. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble."

**Activity**

- If you have a chalkboard draw the waves of the Red Sea, then with an eraser make a path through the waves. Draw Moses leading the people through the waves.
- Talk with the children about times in their life when they could trust in God to deliver them; a test they have to take at school, a bad storm, sickness, and so forth.

**Exodus 15:22 - 17:7**

**Main Truth** We should be thankful for what God gives us.

**Background** God delivered the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to freedom in the wilderness. He showed His power to help them in many ways.

**Story**

1. After Moses led the children of Israel safely out of Egypt they went into the desert.
2. They walked around the desert for 3 days and found no water. Finally they found water but it tasted so bad they couldn't drink it. They complained to Moses about the bad water.
3. Moses prayed for God's help. God told Moses to put a certain tree in the water to make it taste better. Moses obeyed and the people had good water to drink.
4. God told the people to obey Him and He wouldn't give them the diseases He gave Egypt. .
5. After 6 weeks the people complained again because they were hungry. They even wished they could go back to Egypt and be slaves!
6. God heard the people complaining against Moses. He told Moses he would provide food for the people so they could see again that He was truly the Lord God. God said He would rain down bread (**manna**) from Heaven every morning and send birds to eat every evening.
7. God gave the people specific instructions on how to gather the bread. He tested their obedience to Him by giving these instructions. Each morning they were to gather only what they would need to eat for that day.
8. Some people did not obey God's instructions for gathering the manna. They were greedy and gathered more than they needed.
9. After some time had passed the people again complained of no water to drink. After all the wonderful ways God had provided for them they still failed to trust Him.
10. Moses prayed again for God's help. God told Moses to hit a special rock and water would flow out for the people to drink. Moses obeyed God and once again the people had good water to drink. God remained faithful to provide for His children.

**What does this lesson teach us about God.**

1. Because God loves us He provides our needs.
2. God wants us to be happy and thankful for what He gives us.
3. God sometimes tests our obedience to Him.
4. God is a very patient God.

**What should I do?**

1. Even though I may not have everything I want I shouldn't complain to anyone about my life.
2. Instead of complaining I should be thankful for what God gives me. It shows me His love and care for my life.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, Thank you for all the ways you provide for me. Thank you for my family and friends, for my home, for my clothes and for the food I eat. Please help me to always be thankful and never complain about things in my life. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Eph 5:20

"Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Make a list of all the things the children can think of to be thankful for. Have a thanksgiving prayer time together letting all the children thank God for a different thing.

**Joshua 2:1-24, Joshua 5:13-6:27****Main Truth** God loves each of us regardless of our sin. He is able to save all who believe in Him.**Background** For many years the children of Israel wandered in the desert. Finally, the time came for **Joshua** to lead the children of Israel into the Land of **Canaan**. Canaan was a prosperous land that God had promised to his people. The **Canaanites** had heard about the mighty works of the God of Israel. But they did not believe in the One true and living God, instead they worshipped idols. One of the great walled cities in Canaan was the city of **Jericho**. Israel must conquer Jericho in order to take The Promised Land.**Story**

1. Joshua sent 2 spies to check the strength of the city of Jericho. The two spies went into the city of Jericho and lodged with a woman named **Rahab**. Rahab was a sinful woman that worked as a harlot.
2. The king of Jericho heard that the spies were in Rahab's house. He sent messengers to Rahab asking where the spies were. Rahab hid the spies on her rooftop and would not tell the messengers where they were. She knew the spies were God's servants and she did not want them to be harmed.
3. When the king's messengers left, Rahab went up to the rooftop and talked to the spies. She told them she had heard their God was very powerful and mighty. She believed that the God of Israel was the One and only God of Heaven and earth. Rahab turned away from the God of the Canaanites and believed in the God of the Bible.
4. Rahab asked the spies to protect her and her family when it came time to conquer Jericho. The spies told Rahab to hang a scarlet (red) rope from her window. When Israel came to conquer Jericho they would see the cord and not destroy Rahab's house.
5. Then Rahab lowered the spies down out of the window of her house with a rope. They snuck out of Jericho and returned safely to Joshua. They told him all that had happened.
6. God told Joshua how to conquer the city of Jericho. Joshua followed every instruction God gave Him. The city of Jericho locked its gates because they feared the Israelites.
7. For six days Israel marched around the city of Jericho while the priests blew horns. On the 7th day they marched around the city 7 times while the priests blew their horns. On the 7<sup>th</sup> time around the city Joshua told the men to shout.
8. When the men shouted God caused the great walls of the city to fall to the ground! The only thing that was left standing in Jericho was Rahab's house.
9. The 2 spies took Rahab and her family out of the city and then the city was completely destroyed. God saved Rahab because she believed in Him.

**What does the lesson tell teach us about God?**

1. God loves every one regardless of their sin.
2. God performs mighty works to show people He is the One true and living God.
3. God is willing and able to save any one who believes in Him.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand that I am a sinner like Rahab.
2. Look around me and see the mighty works God has done in creation, and in my life.
3. Believe in the One true and living God who loves me and forgives my sins.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, thank you that you love me even though I am a sinner. Thank you for showing me your great and mighty works. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sin. I believe in Him as my God and Saviour.

**Memory verse** Acts 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

**Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Talk about all the ways we can see the mighty works of God in our life. (creation, babies being born, someone that was healed of a sickness.) Perhaps the teacher or a student may have specific stories to tell.

**Judges 16:1-31**

**Main truth** God wants us to have a pure heart in order to fulfil His purpose for us.

**Background** **Samson** was a judge in Israel. Samson took a **Nazarite** vow to never drink alcohol, cut his hair or touch a dead body. This vow was to show that he was set apart for God's purpose. God's purpose for Samson was to deliver Israel from their enemies the Philistines. God gave Samson great strength to fulfil His purpose.

**Story**

1. **Samson** loved a **Philistine** woman named **Delilah**.
2. Delilah did not believe in the One true and living God of Israel.
3. The Philistine leaders wanted to rob Samson of his strength in order to capture him. So they went to Delilah and offered her money to find out the secret of Samson's strength.
4. Three times Delilah asked Samson to tell her the secret of his great strength. Each time Samson lied to Delilah and told her ways to capture him that weren't true.
5. Each time Delilah tried to have Samson captured he escaped through his God given power.
6. Delilah asked Samson again for the truth about his strength. Finally he told her the truth. Samson said the secret to his strength was his long hair.
7. Delilah lulled Samson to sleep on her lap. Then she called in the Philistines and told them to cut off Samson's long hair. When Samson awoke his hair was gone, and so was his God given strength! God took His strength away from Samson because he had disobeyed God and broken his Nazarite vow.
8. The Philistines captured Samson. They made him a slave and gouged his eyes out. While Samson worked as a slave his hair began to grow again.
9. The Philistines gathered together in their temple to offer a sacrifice to their false god. They praised their false god for helping them to capture Samson. Then they called for Samson to come to the temple and perform.
10. Samson was placed beneath the pillars that held up the roof of the temple. He asked the boy that led him to let him touch the pillars of the temple and lean against them.
11. Then Samson prayed for God to strengthen him one more time.
12. Samson took hold of the pillars that held up the temple and cried out to God. He said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson pushed with all his might and the roof of the temple collapsed.
13. Samson died along with 3000 Philistines. Samson killed more Philistines at his death than he had his whole life.

**What does this teach us about God?**

1. God has a purpose for each one of us.
2. God strengthens us to fulfil His purpose.
3. God desires us to live a pure life by following His commands and keeping from sin.

**What should I do?**

1. I should ask God to help me understand the purpose He has for my life.
2. I should obey God's commands and keep myself away from sin.
3. I should not keep company with people that want to lead me into sin.

**Prayer**

"Dear God, Thank you for the story of Samson and the way you strengthened Him for your purpose. Thank you that you also have a purpose for my life. Help me to understand what that purpose is. Help me to live a pure life by obeying your commands. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen".

**Memory Verse-** Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

**Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Think of the strongest man you know, is he stronger than God?
- What can you do to stay pure and faithful to God? Make a list.

**Ruth 1- 4**

**Main Truth** Good choices lead to God's blessings in our life.

**Background** **Elimelech** and his family lived in Israel during the time of the Judges. This was a time in Israel's history when the nation turned away from God and so He judged them. During this time there was a famine in Israel. Elimelech took his family to **Moab** to escape the famine. The Moabites were enemies of Israel that did not believe in the One true and living God.

**Story**

1. Elimelech took his wife **Naomi**, and his two sons to **Moab** to find food to eat. While the family was living in Moab Elimelech died. Naomi's sons, **Mahlon** and **Chilion** grew up to marry Moabite women, **Orpah** and **Ruth**.
2. Naomi's sons both died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth all widows. Naomi heard the famine in Israel was over and decided to return home. Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to stay in Moab and return to their own families.
3. Orpah and Ruth both held on to Naomi and wept. They did not want to part from their mother-in-law. Naomi urged them to return to their own family. Finally, Orpah chose to return but Ruth kept clinging to Naomi.
4. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, and return with her to the land of Israel. Ruth wanted to live where Naomi lived and worship the One true and living God of Israel.
5. When they arrived in Israel the people were excited to see Naomi again. Her old friends came greet her and welcome her home. Naomi means "pleasant, lovely". Naomi told her friends not to call her Naomi anymore because of the suffering she had been through. She told her friends to call her "**Mara**" which means "bitter".
6. Naomi and Ruth had both been through hard times in the death of their husbands. Naomi chose to be bitter towards God because of what had happened. Ruth chose not to be bitter towards God but to love Him and serve Him. She served God by caring for Naomi.
7. Ruth asked Naomi if she could go to the fields to collect grain for them to eat. God led Ruth to the field of a man named Boaz. There she worked to gather grain.
8. Boaz heard about Ruth's faith in the One true and living God. He heard about how Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and help her instead of looking for another husband in Moab. Boaz admired Ruth's faith and service. Boaz was kind to Ruth. He protected her and gave her extra grain from his field.
9. In time, Boaz and Ruth were married. They gave birth to a son and named him "**Obed**". Obed grew to have a son named "**Jesse**" and Jesse was the father of King David. Many years later from the line of Boaz and Ruth the Lord Jesus Christ was born.
10. Ruth had difficulties in her life but she chose to love and serve God. God blessed her for her good choices.

**What does this teach us about God?**

1. God sometimes allows suffering in our life.
2. God wants us to love and serve Him in the middle of our suffering.
3. God does not force us to do things. He allows us to make choices.
4. God blesses us when we choose to love and serve Him.

**What should I do?**

1. When difficult things happen in my life I should not allow myself to become bitter like Naomi did.
2. I should follow the example of Ruth and love God even in the middle of suffering.
3. I should show my love for God by serving others.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story about Ruth. Thank you that you give us the ability to make choices in life. Please help me to make good choices every day. Help me to love you and serve you even when bad things happen in my life. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Joshua 24:15

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

**Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Talk with the children about choices they make everyday so they realize that their life is full of choices. Talk with them about how they can make good choices that lead to God's blessings in their life, such as choosing to obey their parents, do well in school, spend time in prayer, go to church, help others and so on.

**1Samuel 1- 2:21**

**Main Truth** God answers prayer.

**Background** During the time of this story God wanted a Godly prophet to spiritually lead Israel. A woman named Hannah was barren and wanted a son. This story tells how the desire of God and the desire of Hannah were both fulfilled in the life of Samuel.

**Story**

1. **Hannah** had been married for many years but God had not allowed her to have children.
2. Hannah was sad because other women made fun of her for not having children. At times she would be so sad that she would weep and not eat any food.
3. Hannah's husband **Elkanah** was a kind man and treated Hannah special. Hannah was so sad about not having a child that she failed to thank God for the good things in her life.
4. After much sadness Hannah decided to cry out to God for help. She went to the tabernacle to pray. With much sorrow and pain in her soul she prayed to God and asked Him to please give her a son. Hannah told God in prayer that if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him to God's service.
5. When **Eli** the priest saw Hannah praying with such sadness he thought she was drunk. Hannah told Eli she wasn't drunk, she was pouring out her soul before the Lord.
6. Eli treated Hannah kindly and said, "Go in peace and may God answer your prayer".
7. Hannah went home to Elkanah with joy in her heart. She knew God heard her prayer.
8. In time Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel- meaning "asked of God." Hannah loved and cared for her precious son Samuel.
9. When it was time to wean Samuel Hannah kept her promise to God. She took little Samuel to the tabernacle. There she met Eli and said, "This is the son I prayed for." Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord and gave him to Eli to serve in the tabernacle. Hannah sang a song of praise to God for His greatness.
10. Every year she returned to visit Samuel and to bring him a new robe to wear. Hannah had given God what was most precious to her, her firstborn son. But God blessed Hannah with three more sons and two daughters.
11. Samuel grew to be a faithful prophet in Israel until the day he died.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God hears our prayers. Sometimes He answers yes, sometimes no, and sometimes he makes us wait.
2. God always does what is best for us.
3. God blesses us when we give what is precious to Him.

**What should I do?**

1. There are things in my life that are bad. But I shouldn't forget to be thankful for the good things in my life.
2. When I am sad or in need of help I should pray to God.
2. I should be patient because God doesn't always answer prayers immediately.
3. I should find a way to serve in my church just as Samuel served in the tabernacle.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for hearing Hannah's prayer and giving her a little son. Thank you for hearing my prayers. Help me to always be thankful for the good things in my life. Help me to pray to you about the bad things in my life. Help me to be your servant like young Samuel was. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Psalm 5:2

Listen to my cry for help, my king and my God, for to you I pray.

**Activity**

- Have students make a list of prayers that they will pray about.
- **Prayer Hand-** the five fingers on our hand can help us learn 5 things about how to pray. Have the children hold up their hand.
  1. First finger- pray to God the Father
  2. Second finger- give thanks and praise to God.
  3. Third finger- pray for others.
  4. Fourth finger- pray for yourself.
  5. Thumb- In Jesus Name, Amen!

## **Lesson 16 David, Shepherd boy anointed king.**

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### **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**Main Truth** God uses people whose hearts are right with him.

**Background** Saul was king in Israel. Saul disobeyed God so God sent Samuel to anoint a new king over Israel.

### **Story**

1. God told the prophet Samuel to travel to the city of Bethlehem to anoint a son of **Jesse** to be the next king of Israel. In Bethlehem Samuel prepared a sacrifice and invited Jesse and his family to come.
2. When Jesse's family arrived at the sacrifice Samuel noticed Jesse's oldest son **Eliab**. He was very tall and handsome. Samuel thought he must be the son of Jesse that God wanted for the next king.
3. God told Samuel not to look at the outward appearance of the man. Eliab was not the one God wanted to be king. God said to Samuel, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. God wanted a man that loved and obeyed Him.
4. Samuel looked at 7 of Jesse's sons, but none were chosen by God. Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Jesse said his youngest son was out watching the sheep. Samuel asked that David be brought to him.
6. When David came in, God told Samuel that this was the boy who would be the next king of Israel. It was not David's outward appearance that God chose. David was chosen because his heart was right with God.
7. Samuel took the oil and anointed David as king in front of all his brothers.
8. The Spirit of The Lord was on David from that day forward.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God does not care about our outer appearance. God cares about our heart or soul.
2. God knows everything about the inside of us- our thoughts, feelings, sins and desires.
3. God uses those whose hearts are right with Him.

### **What should I do?**

1. I should keep my heart right with God. This means that I should love Him and obey Him. I should think thoughts that are pleasing to Him.
2. When I sin my heart is not right with God. I should confess my sin to God. He will forgive my sin and cleanse my heart.
3. I should not judge other people because of how they look on the outside. What is important is what they are on the inside, and only God can see that.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of David. I want to have a heart that is right with you. Please help me to love you and obey you. Help me to think, say and do the things that please you. Help me to confess my sins when my heart is not right with you. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory verse** 1Samuel 16:7b

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

### **Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Have one child dirty and act nice to others. Have one child dressed nicely and act mean to others. Which one has the heart for God? Which one do you want to play with?
- See lesson 38 for ideas on teaching confession.



**1Samuel 17: 1-58**

**Main Truth** God gives us courage to fight life's battles.

**Background** During the time of this story Saul is still king of Israel. He is camped on a mountainside with the soldiers of Israel. Across the valley is The **Philistine** army. They are the enemies of Israel. The Philistines are great in size and strength and the soldiers of Israel are afraid of them.

**Story**

1. The Philistines had sent out their biggest and strongest man to challenge the soldiers of Israel. His name was Goliath. Goliath was a giant of a man that stood over 9 feet tall! He stood in the valley and shouted to the soldiers of Israel to send someone out to fight him. He said if he won the fight then all of Israel would be slaves of the Philistines. But if Israel won the fight then all the Philistines would be slaves of Israel.
2. For forty days Goliath came out morning and evening and shouted a challenge to Israel. Every day when King Saul and the soldiers of Israel heard Goliath's words they trembled with fear. Even though King Saul had offered a great reward to anyone who would fight Goliath no one had the courage to do it.
3. David was home tending his father's sheep while his 3 oldest brothers were with King Saul in the army of Israel. David's father sent him to take food to his brothers and check on their safety. When David arrived to the battlefield he saw the soldiers of Israel were very afraid.
4. David heard the shouts of Goliath. He knew Goliath was arrogant and did not love the One true and living God of Israel. David knew that God would not allow Goliath to win this battle against Israel. Because David trusted in God's strength He had courage to fight this battle when no one else did. This made David's brothers angry.
5. King Saul heard of David's courage and called for him. David told King Saul that he would fight Goliath. King Saul told David he was just a youth, he could not fight against a giant! David told Saul that God had given him strength to kill a lion and a bear to protect his father's sheep. God would also give him strength to kill this giant.
6. Saul gave David his armour to go and fight Goliath. But when David put the armour on it was too big and heavy for him. So David took his shepherd's staff, a sling and five smooth stones and went to face the giant Goliath.
7. David and Goliath drew near to each other in the valley. Goliath shouted many arrogant things to David to try and scare him. But God was with David to give him courage and strength. David shouted back to Goliath and said, "...The battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."!
8. Then David put a stone in his sling and ran toward Goliath. He threw the stone at Goliath with the strength of God. The stone sank deep into the center of Goliath's forehead. The giant fell down dead!
9. When the other soldiers of Israel saw David's courage they too began to fight. The soldiers of Israel chased after the Philistines and won the battle!

**What does this teach us about God?**

1. God is all powerful. He can do anything.
1. God wants us to be courageous, not fearful.
2. God gives us strength to fight life's battles.

**What should I do?**

1. I should have courage in life because God is with me and He can do anything.
2. I should not trust in my own strength to fight life's battles. I am weak!
3. I should trust in God's strength. He is strong!
4. I should encourage others to trust in God and in His strength.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the story of David. Thank you for giving David courage and strength. There are battles that I have to face in life too. I want to trust you to give me the courage and the strength to fight those battles in faith. Please help me. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

**Memory Verse** 1Samuel 17:47b

"For the battle is the Lord's"

**Activity**

- Act out the story. Choose a big child to be David and a small child to be Goliath. Let the big child read from the Bible what Goliath said and the small child read from the Bible how David answered.
- Talk with the children about the battles in their life and how they can trust God.

## **Lesson 18 Saul seeks to kill David**

**1 Samuel 18:1-20:42**

**Main Truth** Jealousy is a sin that can destroy your life.

**Background** After David killed Goliath Saul brought him to his palace to live. David played the harp for Saul. David became very good friends with Saul's son **Jonathon**.

### **Story**

1. Saul sent David into battle and David killed many Philistines. When David and the soldiers came home from battle the women sang a song: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." This made King Saul very angry and jealous of David.
2. Saul was so jealous of David that he tried 2 times to kill David with his spear. Both times David escaped.
3. Saul was afraid of David because he knew the Lord was with him. But the Lord had departed from helping Saul.
4. Saul failed to kill David himself so he thought if he sent David to war, David would die in battle.
5. Saul's daughter **Michal** loved David. Saul said David could marry Michal if he killed 100 Philistines. David went to battle and he killed 200 Philistines! Saul gave Michal to David as his wife.
6. Saul could see that God was protecting David. But Saul still wanted David dead. So he told Jonathon and his servants to kill David. Jonathon loved David and did not want him dead. So Jonathon told David to hide.
7. Jonathon talked to his father Saul and told him to forsake his jealousy of David and let him live. For awhile Saul turned from his jealousy and David returned to the palace to live. But in time Saul's jealousy returned.
8. Saul sent spies to find David in his house and kill him. David's wife Michal heard about the plot to kill David. She lowered her husband out of the window of the palace so he could escape Saul.
9. Saul never confessed his sin of jealousy. He never turned away from it. Instead he spent years chasing after David trying to kill him. God always protected David.
10. King Saul died a bitter and jealous old man.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is Holy- His Word says that jealousy is a sin.
2. God is all knowing- He knows our jealous thoughts.
3. God is all powerful- He protects His servants.

### **What should I do?**

1. I should not be jealous of others when they receive attention or praise.
2. I should be happy for others when they do well and receive praise. .
3. When I think jealous thoughts I should confess them to God as sin. He will forgive and cleanse me.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of David and Saul. I pray that you will help me not be jealous when other people do well and are praised. I pray that you will help me not to become arrogant when I do well and am praised. All that I have and all that I can do is from you. Thank you, God. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

### **Memory Verse** Proverbs 14:30

"A heart of peace gives life to the body, but envy (jealousy) rots the bones."

### **Activity**

Think of different ways and times children might be tempted to jealousy, such as a friend wins a race, or gets something new, a parent praises a brother or sister, and so forth.

Let the children act out these scenes and then talk with them about how they should rejoice with others that God blesses instead of being jealous.

## **Lesson 19 David shows kindness to Mephibosheth** **2Samuel 4:4 & 9:1-13**

**Main Truth** God blesses us when we show kindness to those in need.

**Background** King Saul and his son Jonathan died in battle. Jonathon had a son named **Mephibosheth**. After the death of Saul, David became the new king of Israel.

### **Story**

1. When Mephibosheth was 5 years old his father Jonathon and grandfather Saul were both killed in battle. When Mephibosheth's nurse received word that Saul and Jonathan had been killed she was afraid for him. She thought the enemies of Israel might come to kill Mephibosheth too.
2. In her haste to run with the boy, he fell and was left crippled for the rest of his life. In one day this little boy lost his father, his grandfather, his home and his good health.
3. After David became the new king, he remembered his good friend Jonathan.
4. David asked Saul's servant Ziba if there was anyone left of Jonathan's family that he might show kindness to. Because of David's love for Jonathon, he also wanted to show loving kindness to Jonathon's family.
5. Ziba said Jonathon's son Mephibosheth was still living. David had Mephibosheth come to his palace.
6. Mephibosheth came before the king with fear. He thought maybe David wanted to kill him. Instead David wanted to show him kindness. Mephibosheth bowed down to King David in humble respect. He told David he was not worthy of the king's attention.
7. David restored to Mephibosheth everything he had lost when his father and grandfather died. He gave Him much land, a home and many servants. Every day King David invited Mephibosheth to come to the palace and eat at the king's table. David was a good friend to Mephibosheth.
8. David was very thankful for the loving kindness that God showed to him. He showed his thankfulness by sharing his blessings with others.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is a kind and loving God who cares for his children.
2. God is pleased when we are thankful for his loving kindness.
3. God wants us to share our blessings with others in need.

### **What should I do?**

1. I should follow David's example and show kindness to others.
2. I should try to find someone else in need and be a friend to them.
3. I should share what I have with others.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the story of David and Mephibosheth. Thank you for the loving kindness that you show to me. Thank you for the blessings you give to me. Please help me to be kind and loving to others. Help me to be a friend to those in need. Help me to share my blessings with others. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory Verse** Proverbs 14:21b

"Blessed is he who is kind to the needy."

### **Activity**

Act out the story.

Talk with the children about ways they could follow the example of David.

**1 Kings 16:29- 17:16 James 5:17**

**Main Truth** God provides for His children.

**Background** After David died the nation of Israel had many kings. Some followed the One true and living God and ruled the nation well. Some turned away from God and led the people in **idolatry**. They did many evil things in the sight of The Lord. During the time of this story **Ahab** was king in Israel and **Elijah** was one of God's prophets.

### **Story**

1. Ahab was the king of Israel. Ahab did more evil things than all the other kings before him. Ahab married Jezebel who was from another country.
2. One of the commands that God gave to Israel was "You shall have no other Gods before Me." But Ahab built an alter and worshipped a false god named Baal. He led the nation of Israel into idolatry. So God was very angry with Ahab.
3. Elijah was saddened by Israel's idolatry. He prayed that God would not sent rain on the earth. He thought suffering would bring people back to God. God heard Elijah's prayer and withheld rain for three and a half years. Drought and famine came to Israel as discipline from God.
4. God told Elijah to go to the brook **Cherith** and He would provide for him there. Elijah obeyed.
5. Every morning and every evening God sent ravens to bring Elijah meat and bread to eat. Elijah had all the water he needed to drink from the brook. After a while, the brook dried up because there was no rain.
6. Then God sent Elijah to Zarephath to live. God had commanded a widow there to provide for Elijah. Again, Elijah obeyed. When Elijah arrived in Zarephath he saw the widow gathering sticks. Elijah asked her for bread and water.
7. The widow told Elijah she had no bread, only a little flour and a little oil left in her house. She said she was gathering sticks to make a fire so she could cook her last food for her and her son. The widow thought after they ate the last of their food they would die.
8. Elijah told the widow to "fear not". He told her to make him a bread cake, then make some for her and her son. Elijah told the woman that God said He would provide; the oil and the flour would not run out until He sent rain on the earth again! Elijah, the widow and her son ate for many days and never ran out of oil and flour.
9. Elijah remained faithful and obedient to God when most of the others in his country had turned to idols. God provided all of Elijah's needs in the middle of famine and drought.

### **What does this teach us about God?**

1. God is Holy. He hates sin and disciplines His children to bring them to repentance.
2. God loves you and knows your needs.
3. God is all powerful. He can work miracles to provide for the needs of his children.

### **What should I do?**

1. I should remain faithful and obedient to the One true and living God.
2. I should pray for those who have turned away from God.
3. I should trust God to supply all of my needs.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the way you provided for Elijah in a time of famine. Thank you for promising to provide my needs. Please help me to go where you tell me to go, and do what you tell me to do. Help me to trust you when there are needs in my life. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

**Memory Verse** Philippians 4:19

And My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

### **Activity**

Look around at all the things God has provided! Have children list the things that God has provided for them and their families. Some may have a story to share of how God made special provision for them or their family.

**1Kings 18:1,2, 17-46**

**Main Truth** There is only One true and living God. We should worship and serve Him.

**Background** The evil King Ahab led the people of Israel in idol worship to the false god **Baal**. Elijah prayed to the One true and living God that it would not rain upon the land so that the people would turn back to God. God answered Elijah's prayers and withheld rain for three and a half years. There was severe drought and famine throughout the land.

**Story**

1. God told Elijah to go and visit King Ahab. King Ahab blamed Elijah for the drought and even wanted to kill him. Elijah reminded Ahab the drought was sent by God because of the **idolatry** of the people.
2. Elijah told Ahab to gather all of Israel on **Mount Carmel**. Elijah said to bring along 450 prophets of Baal.
3. As the people gathered on Mt. Carmel Elijah told them to decide between God and Baal. He said, "If the Lord is God, then follow Him. But if Baal is god, then follow him." Then Elijah set up a contest between the One true God and the false god Baal. He wanted to show the people the power and presence of the One true and living God.
4. Elijah explained how the contest would go. He told the 450 prophets of Baal to cut up an ox and place it on the wood of an altar. Elijah also cut up an ox and placed it on the wood of a different altar. Elijah said, "You call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God."
5. Elijah let the prophets of Baal go first. They prepared their ox and cried out from morning till noon for Baal to send fire to burn the ox. Baal did not answer. Elijah said maybe Baal could not hear them because he was asleep or on a journey! But Baal did not answer because Baal did not exist!
6. The prophets of Baal kept crying out to Baal until evening. They danced around the altar and even cut themselves with knives to try and get Baal's attention. Still there was no answer from Baal, and no fire for the altar.
7. Elijah told all the people to come near to him. He prepared his ox on the wood of the altar. Three times he had the people pour water over the altar so that it was completely wet and there was water standing around it.
8. Elijah was ready to show the people the power and presence of the One true and living God. He prayed to God asking Him to show the people that He was the Lord and that Elijah was His servant.
9. God heard Elijah's prayer (He is never asleep or on a journey!). God sent fire! The fire of The Lord burned the wood, the ox, the water and the altar! All of the people were amazed and said, "The Lord He is God!"
10. The prophets of Baal were killed for their sin of leading the people in idolatry. Elijah prayed for rain. God in His kindness sent heavy rains and the drought came to an end.

**What does this teach us about God?**

1. There is only One true and living God.
2. God hates idolatry and judges those who practice it.
3. God is all powerful. He is in control of the weather and all things.
4. God hears our prayers.

**What should I do?**

1. I should put God first in my life and worship Him alone.
2. I should help others to see the power and presence of the One true and living God.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for showing your power and presence to Elijah and the people of Israel. Please help me to always put you first in my life and to worship only you. Help me to show others that you are a powerful God who is always with us. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Exodus 20:3

"You shall have no other gods before Me."

**Activity**

- Bring a stick and a stone to class. This is what idols are made out of. Talk with the children about how people in idolatry take sticks and stones from the field, carve them into idols, call them gods and then worship them. Ask the children- Can an idol be a living god? No! Can an idol have a heart that loves you? NO! Can an idol have eyes that see your needs? NO! Can an idol have ears that hear your prayers? NO! Can an idol have hands that reach down to help you? NO!  
The God of the Bible is the One true and living God with a heart that loves us, eyes that see our needs, ears that hear our prayers and Hands that reach down to help. We should worship Him alone!

**Lesson 22** The Shunnamite Woman provides for Elisha.  
**2 Kings 4:8-17**

**Main Truth** We should share our blessings with God's servants.

**Background** Elisha was a prophet of God who travelled through the land of Israel to minister to God's people.

**Story**

1. **Elisha** travelled through the land of **Shunem**. A **Shunnamite** woman saw that Elisha was serving God as a prophet in Israel.
2. She showed kindness to Elisha by providing him meals. She built him a little room where he could rest from his travels. The room had a table, a chair, a bed and a lamp.
3. Her kindness encouraged Elisha.
4. Elisha wanted to show kindness back to the woman.
5. Elisha had his servant **Gehazi** ask her what she needed. She said her husband was old and she had no son.
6. Elisha promised the woman that in one year God would provide her with a son.
7. One year later the woman gave birth to a healthy little son.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God wants us to share our home and meals with others in need.
2. God wants us to use our blessings to support his servants.
3. God blesses us when we share with others.

**What should I do?**

1. Follow the example of the Shunnamite woman. Share what you have with others in need.
2. Here are some things you can do to encourage and support God's servants.
  - Share what you have with them.
  - Say kind words that will encourage them.
  - Thank them for their service.
  - Pray for them.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of what the Shunnamite woman did for Elisha. Please help me to encourage your servants, help me to remember to pray for them, and help me to share what I have with them. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

**Memory Verse** Proverbs 22:9a

"A generous man will himself be blessed for he shares his food with the poor."

**Activity**

- Encourage the children to go to their pastor or church leader TODAY and say something encouraging to them.
- Have a prayer time with the children and focus on praying for church leaders, missionaries and other servants of God.

**Jonah 1:1- 3:10**

**Main Truth** God wants us to share the good news of God's love with others.

**Background** The **Ninevites** were evil and sinful people. But God loved them and wanted them to believe in Him. So God told Jonah to go as a missionary and evangelist to Nineveh.

**Story**

1. God spoke to **Jonah** and told him to go to the city of **Ninevah**. God told Jonah to tell the people there that God was going to judge them for their great sins.
2. God wanted The **Ninevites** to repent and believe in Him.
3. Jonah didn't love the Ninevites like God did. So he disobeyed God and got on a boat going to **Tarshish**.
4. God caused a great storm so that the boat Jonah was on was close to sinking. All the men on the boat were afraid.
5. Jonah told the men the storm was his fault because he was disobeying God.
6. They threw Jonah out of the ship into the sea and the storm stopped!
7. God sent a big fish to swallow Jonah!
8. Jonah was inside the fish's belly 3 days and 3 nights. Then he confessed to God that he had sinned and the fish vomited Jonah up onto dry land.
9. God told Jonah a second time to go to Ninevah and share the good news of His love with the people there.
10. This time Jonah obeyed God, went to Ninevah and preached to the people.
11. Many of the Ninevites listened to Jonah and believed in God.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God loves every person in the whole world, regardless of where they live, what they look like, or how they act.
2. God wants every person to believe in Him.
3. God wants us to share the good news of God's love with others.
4. When we disobey God He may discipline us to make us repent and obey.
5. God is all places. We cannot hide from God.

**What should I do?**

1. Have a Godly love for other people.
2. Think of someone I know who doesn't believe in The Lord Jesus Christ. Go to them and share the good news.
3. Pray for others who don't know God.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that you love everyone in the world. Thank you that you love me. Thank you that you sent your only Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. Please help me to share the good news of His love with unbelievers around me. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Mark 16:15

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

**Activity**

Remind children what the gospel is with 4 colors.

- Gold- Heaven. A perfect and eternal home with God. John 14:1-3
- Black- Sin, we all have sinned. Our sin separates us from God and Heaven. Romans 3:23
- Red- Cross of Christ. God loved us so much He made a way for our sins to be forgiven. Romans 5:8
- White- Forgiveness. When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are washed white and clean. When we believe we receive the gift of eternal life. Heaven is our home when we die. John 1:12

Have the children pair up and practice giving the gospel to each other.

Encourage them to be a little missionary in their home, school and village. Help them think of one person they know who needs the gospel. Encourage them to go and tell.

Have a prayer time with the children focusing on praying for the lost people they know.

## **Lesson 24 Daniel and his 3 friends are tested.**

### **Daniel 1**

**Main Truth** God's Word gives us the godly way to live. We should follow that way no matter where we are or who we are with.

**Background** Daniel and his 3 friends lived in Israel about 600 years before Christ was born. The Israelites had forgotten God and turned to idol worship. So God judged Israel. He allowed a foreign king to invade and overthrow the nation.

### **Story**

1. **Nebechednezzar**, King of **Babylon** invaded Israel and took strong young men and women back to Babylon to serve as slaves.
2. The king ordered that the best of these young men be brought in to serve him in his court. He ordered them to be taught his language, follow his false religion, eat his food, and drink his wine.
3. Three of the young men were Daniel and his 3 friends **Ananiah, Mishael, Azariah**.
4. The king had the young men's names changed. Their own names reminded them of the true God of Israel. The king wanted them to forget the one true and living God of Israel and start thinking about his false gods.
5. He changed Daniel's name to **Beltshazzar**, Ananiah's name to **Shadrach**, Mishael's name to **Meshach**, and Azariah's name to **Abednego**.
6. Daniel and his friends knew it would be wrong for them to eat the king's food (it had probably been sacrificed to idols and didn't follow the health laws God gave to Israel).
7. So they asked the commander if they could have only vegetables and water. But the commander was afraid that they would become thin and weak.
8. So Daniel asked if they could try a diet of vegetables and water for 10 days, then the commander could see how healthy they looked.
9. God honoured Daniel and his 3 friends. At the end of 10 days they looked stronger, fatter and healthier than all the other young men that were eating the king's food!
10. So, the commander let them continue to eat the vegetables and water.
11. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego became the wisest and best servants in Babylon and the king was very pleased with them.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God judges a nation that forgets about Him.
2. When God judges a nation He often protects those who still serve Him.
3. God wants us to follow His ways and not the ways of the world.

### **What should I do?**

1. Learn God's Word so I know what is right and wrong.
2. Follow the example of Daniel and his 3 friends. I must do what is right even when others encourage me to sin.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that Daniel and his 3 friends did what was right and followed your commands. When I am at home, at school, or out playing with my friends, please help me to remember what you tell me in the Bible and obey it. Help me to obey you even when others encourage me to sin. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory Verse** Psalm 119:9

"How can a young man keep His way pure? By living according to your word."

### **Activity**

Blindfold a child. Spin him around a few times. Have the other children in the class pretend they are "the world" and call to the child to come to them and encourage him to sin. Have the teacher pretend to be "God" and call the child to come to Him. The blindfolded child must listen, pick out the teacher's voice and follow the voice to the teacher. Play again giving other students a turn to be blindfolded.



**Daniel 3:1-30**

**Main Truth** When man's laws are against God's laws we must obey God.

**Background** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were Jewish men living as captives in Babylon under the rulership of King Nebuchadnezzar. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego believed in the One true and living God. Because they were very good servants they were promoted to positions of leadership in the land of Babylon.

**Story**

1. King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge golden statue of himself that was 27 meters tall. He ordered all the leaders in Babylon to come and bow down before this statue. Among the leaders were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
2. The king ordered one of his men to call out to all the people with instructions on what to do. He told the people when they heard the horn blow and the music play they must all bow down and worship the statue. The penalty for not bowing down was death in a fiery furnace.
3. Then the king ordered for the horn to be blown and the music to play. When all the leaders heard the sounds of the horn and the music they all bowed to the golden statue. All of them except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego believed in the One true and living God. They knew they would be disobeying God if they obeyed the king's orders. They chose to stand for God and obey Him alone.
5. The king saw that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego disobeyed him. He gave them one more chance to bow down and worship the statue but they would not. The three men told the king, "We will not bow down and worship your idols or your statue. Our God is able to deliver us." God gave the three men courage to obey Him even in the face of death.
6. The king became very angry and ordered for the men to be tied up and thrown into the fiery furnace. The king had the furnace heated up 7 times hotter than normal. The furnace was so hot that when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fire the king's servants were killed by the heat.
7. The king looked into the furnace and he saw four men! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were alive in the midst of the fire but they were not alone! God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to walk with them in the middle of the fire!
8. The king called the three men to come out of the furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood before the king. Their clothes were not burned, their hair was not burned and they were not harmed by the fire. They didn't even have the smell of fire on them!
9. The king was amazed! He declared that everyone should honour and worship the One true and living God that was able to deliver Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is the only true and living God. He does not want us to worship anyone else.
2. God's law are perfect and right in every situation.
3. God is able to give courage to those who trust in Him.
4. God is able to protect those who trust in Him.
5. God is all powerful.
6. God is all places.

**What should I do?**

1. I should only worship the One true and living God of The Bible.
2. I should obey man's laws unless they are different than God's laws.
3. When man's laws are different than God's laws I should obey God.
4. I should trust in God to give me courage to do the right thing even when there is danger involved.
5. I should trust in God's deliverance when there is danger involved.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Thank you that you gave them courage to stand for you. Thank you for protecting them in the fiery furnace. Please give me courage to stand up for what is right and to obey you even if there is danger involved. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

**Memory Verse** Acts 5:29

"We must obey God rather than men."

**Activity**

Act out the story.

**Main Truth**    We should humble ourselves under the Almighty God.

**Background**    While Daniel and his friends were living in Babylon King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. At this time in history dreams were sometimes given to people as a message from God.

**Story**

1. Because King Nebuchadnezzar ruled over all of Babylon he became very proud and arrogant.
2. One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he wondered if the dream meant something. He sent for a group of men who could interpret dreams but none of them could tell the king what the dream meant. Then the king called Daniel because in him dwelt the Spirit of the Holy God.
3. The king told Daniel about the dream and Daniel was troubled by it. The king told Daniel to tell him exactly what the dream meant.
4. Daniel interpreted the dream to the king. The dream meant that the king would be driven away from men to live like a beast in a field. This would happen until the king humbled himself to realize that the One True God is the ruler throughout the entire world.
5. Twelve months later the king was looking over his kingdom and talking about what a great and mighty king he was. As he was speaking God told him that the time had come for the dream to be fulfilled.
6. Immediately King Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his kingdom and made to eat grass like cattle. His hair grew like eagle's feathers and his nails grew like bird's claws.
7. This humbled the king. He looked up to heaven and blessed the One True God. He gave praise and honour to Him. Nebuchadnezzar realized that the One True God had allowed him to be king of Babylon and that he should never forget what the One True God had given him.
8. Nebuchadnezzar returned to the kingdom and became the King of Babylon again. The Lord fully restored him to his position over those in Babylon. He lived humbly under God.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is the One that created the world; He is the ruler over the entire universe.
2. The skills, talents and wisdom we have come from God.
3. God humbles us when we become arrogant or proud.
4. He blesses us when we are humble.

**What should I do?**

1. Always remember that my skills, talent and wisdom are gifts from God.
2. Pride and arrogance are sin. When I am proud or arrogant I should confess it as sin and ask God to humble me.

**Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Nebechednezzar. Help me to learn a lesson from his sin. Help me to be humble in your sight. Thank you Lord for my skills and talents. Thank you for the things I know. Please help me to remember that they are a gift from you. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse**    James 4:6b

"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

**Activity**

Teachers act out some examples of arrogant or humble attitudes. Have the children give a thumbs down if the attitude is arrogant and a thumbs up if the attitude is humble.

**Daniel 6:1-28**

**Main Truth** God wants us to make prayer an important part of our life.

**Background** Daniel was taken as a prisoner from **Jerusalem** to **Babylon**. Daniel held on to his faith in God and prayed to Him every day. Daniel's commitment to God became a witness to the King of Babylon and then to the entire country of Babylon.

**Story**

1. While Daniel worked as a servant to the King of Babylon he continued to worship the One true and living God. Three times a day Daniel knelt in front of his open window and prayed to God.
2. **Darius**, the king of Babylon, was very pleased with Daniel's work. He decided to put Daniel in charge over everyone in the government. This made some of the officials jealous of Daniel.
3. The jealous men spied on Daniel day and night. They tried to catch Daniel doing something wrong to get him into trouble with the king. The jealous men never saw Daniel do anything wrong. But they did see Daniel kneel down three times every day and pray to God.
4. So the men tricked King Darius into making a new law. The new law said that no one could pray to anyone but the king for 30 days. If any man was found praying to anyone other than the king he would be thrown into a den of hungry lions!
5. Daniel soon heard about the new law. But Daniel didn't stop praying to the one true and living God. Even if it meant death he would not stop praying to his God. He kept on praying in front of the window three times a day, just as he had always done. The minute the jealous men saw Daniel praying, they ran to tell the King that Daniel had broken the law.
6. King Darius was angry. He liked Daniel and didn't want him to be eaten by the lions. In Babylon, once a king made a law, he could never change it. So King Darius took Daniel to the lions den.
7. King Darius praised Daniel for being so faithful to his God. The king hoped that God would deliver Daniel from the lions. Then, Daniel was put into the den filled with hungry lions. A stone was put over the opening to the den and King Darius sealed it shut.
8. That night King Darius fasted and stayed awake worrying about Daniel. While the king was awake worrying Daniel was asleep with the lions!
9. Early the next morning, the king ran to the lion's den. He called to Daniel, "Did your God save you?" Daniel called back, "Yes, God saved me from the lions, He sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. God knew I had done nothing wrong."
10. The king ordered his soldiers to pull Daniel out of the den. The king sent a message to everyone in his country that Daniel's God was the REAL God. The king punished the jealous men for what they did. They were all thrown into the lion's den and eaten up by hungry lions!

**What does the lesson teach us about God?**

1. God wants us to pray to Him throughout every day
2. Man's laws do not change what God wants us to do.
3. God protects His children

**What should I do?**

1. Follow Daniel's example and pray to God every single day.
2. Consider having a regular time and place to pray like Daniel did.
3. Remember to pray all day long, no matter where I am or what I am doing.

**Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for protecting Daniel from the hungry lions. Thank you that Daniel teaches us how important it is to pray to you throughout the day. Thank you for listening to our prayers and helping us through each day. Please help us to pray all the time and be thankful for all things just like your Word tells us to. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** 1Thessalonians 5:17, 18

Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Activity**

**Esther 1:1 – 10:3**

**Main Truth** God has a wonderful plan for your life.

**Background** Many years after the Israelites were taken captive into Babylon some of them returned to Israel, but some still lived in **Persia**. In Persia lived an Israelite by the name of **Mordecai**. His cousin, **Esther**, was an orphan. Mordecai raised Esther like his own daughter. Mordecai and Esther believed in the One true and living God, not the idols of Persia.

**Story**

1. When Esther was grown, the king of Persia wanted a new queen. He sent officers through the land to find beautiful young women who were taken to the palace. Esther was one of the young women brought to the palace. When Esther was brought before the king, he liked her best. Esther was crowned the new queen. God had a very important plan for Esther's life.
2. A man named **Haman** was the chief official of Persia, next to the king in power. Everyone bowed before him, except Mordecai. Mordecai bowed only before God. This made Haman angry. He hated Mordecai and all the Jews (Israelites). Haman told the king how much trouble the Jews were. He asked the king to make a law to kill all Jews living in Persia!
3. The king didn't know Esther was a Jew. The king let Haman write the law and seal it with the king's ring. Haman's law ordered all Jews to be killed on a certain day. With the king's seal on it, the law could never be changed.
4. Mordecai was very sad. When Esther heard that he was upset she sent servants to find out why. Mordecai told Esther about the law. Esther would not escape being killed just because she was queen. Mordecai told her she had to talk to the king about this terrible law.
5. But there was a problem: If a person went into the throne room without being invited and the king didn't hold out his sceptre to that person, it meant death. This made Esther afraid to go to the king at first. But Mordecai was sure she had become queen for this very reason. Only someone the king liked more than Haman could plead for the Jews to be kept from death.
6. Esther was willing to trust God even if it meant she had to die. Esther fasted and prayed for three days. Then she was ready to go and talk to the king in order to save her people.
7. The king held out his sceptre to Esther. She touched it and invited the king and Haman to two feasts. At the second feast, Esther told the king that an enemy wanted to kill her and her people. The king wondered who the enemy was. Esther pointed to Haman and said that he was the enemy.
8. The king killed Haman for his crime against the Jews and put Mordecai as the chief official in his place. The king made a new law saying that the Jews should defend themselves against the attack. The Jew's enemies were quickly defeated. The Jews living in Persia were saved because Esther obeyed God's perfect plan for her life!

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God has a perfect plan for my life.
2. God wants me to be a blessing to other people.

**What should I do?**

1. Spend time learning God's Word and praying so that I know what God's plan is for my life.
2. Look around and find ways to be a blessing to other people.
3. Have courage like Esther to obey God's plan even when it involves danger or hardship.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this story about Esther. Thank you that you have a wonderful plan and purpose for my life. Please help me to see how I can be a blessing to others around me. Please give me the courage I need to obey you at all times. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Philippians 2:13

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Activity**

Gather up some different kinds of leaves. Ask the children to study the leaves. Are there any two leaves that are exactly the same? No. There are not two people that God made exactly the same either. God made each of us to look different, act different and fulfil a different purpose. Like Esther, we should find and fulfil the purpose God has for us.

**Main Truth**    God sent His own Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**Background**    Hundreds of years had passed since any prophet in Israel told God's words to the people. The people still read the scrolls written by the prophets many years earlier. These scrolls told of God's promise to send a great King and **Saviour**.

### **Story**

1. **Mary** and **Joseph** were engaged to be married.
2. Mary was visited by an angel. The angel told her she was going to be the mother of God's very special Son. This Son would be the King and Saviour that God had promised. An angel also came to Joseph. The angel also told Joseph about the special child who was to be born.
3. Soon Mary was pregnant with God's Son.
4. Joseph was a descendant of King David from the town of Bethlehem. He and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. At this time Mary was about to give birth.
5. When they arrived in Bethlehem the city was very crowded. All of the inns were full so the only place Mary and Joseph could find to stay was in a stable for animals. That night God's special Son was born. Joseph and Mary named Him Jesus, just as the angels had told them. Baby Jesus slept on hay in an animal feed box, called a manger.
6. That very same night, some shepherds were nearby with their sheep in the fields. Suddenly an angel came to them and the glory of God came shining all around. The shepherds were afraid but the angel told them not to be afraid. There was good news: The Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born! A crowd of angels sang in the sky praising God!
7. After the angles went back to heaven, the shepherds hurried off to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus. At last the shepherds returned to their sheep in the fields, praising God for everything they had seen and heard that night.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son into this world.
2. God always keeps His promises

### **What should I do?**

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour.
2. Tell others about the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and why He came into this world.
3. Claim the promises of God.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Lord, thank you for loving me so much that you would send Your very own Son into this world to save me from my sins. Please help me to remember the sacrifice it took for the Lord Jesus Christ to come into this sinful world. Help me to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory Verse**    1Timothy 1:15b

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

### **Activity**

Do something that would remind the children of Christmas, like decorate the room, sing Christmas songs, etc. Christmas is when we celebrate the gift of God's Son. When we believe in Jesus we have God's Son living inside of us every day, so every day is Christmas!

**Luke 2: 21 – 51****Main Truth** God wants us to grow in spiritual strength and wisdom in order to serve Him.**Background** Mary and Joseph were devout Jewish people who lived by the laws of God given in the Old Testament.**Story**

1. When Jesus was eight days old he was **circumcised**. When Jesus was 40 days old Mary and Joseph brought Him to **Jerusalem** to **dedicate** Him to the Lord. These were requirements of the Jewish law.
2. Mary and Joseph were poor and could not afford an animal to sacrifice for their son's dedication. They sacrificed two pigeons instead.
3. In Jerusalem was a priest named **Simeon**. He was a just and devout man who loved and served God. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord Jesus Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem Simeon saw the Lord Jesus Christ. Simeon blessed Jesus. He told Mary that the Child was destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel.
4. Mary and Joseph then went home to their own town called **Nazareth**. Jesus grew and became strong in spirit and was filled with wisdom. The grace of God was upon Him.
5. Every year the family returned to Jerusalem for the **Feast of the Passover**. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to Jerusalem. When they had finished the days of feasting, they began the journey home. But Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.
6. After one day of travel Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not with them. They thought He was travelling with some of His other relatives but he was not! So they returned to Jerusalem to find Jesus. After three days of searching, they found Jesus in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers. Jesus was both listening and asking questions. All who heard Jesus were amazed at His understanding of God's Word.
7. Mary and Joseph were also amazed. Mary asked Jesus why He had stayed behind and made them worry about His safety. Jesus replied and said He had to be about His Father's business. Jesus meant He must learn God's Word and serve His Heavenly Father.
8. Jesus then returned to Nazareth with his parents. He continued to grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God had a special purpose for Jesus' life.
2. God has a special purpose for my life.
3. God wants us to go about His business. This means we must learn God's Word and serve our Heavenly Father.

**What should I do?**

1. I should learn God's Word because it will help me grow in my faith.
2. I should go about the Heavenly Father's business by serving Him and those around me.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son the Lord Jesus Christ into the world. Thank you that Jesus learned your Word and served You with His life. Please help me to learn your Word and grow in wisdom like Jesus did. Help me to go about your business by serving you. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Luke 2:52

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men."

**Activity**

- Teacher- eat a piece of fruit. Ask the children, "What does eating food do for us?" Food helps our body grow strong and healthy. God's Word helps our soul grow strong and healthy.
- Do some exercises with the children. What does exercise do for our body? It helps it grow strong. In the same way God's Word helps our faith grow strong. Just like we eat and exercise to take care of our body we must eat and exercise for our soul by learning God's Word.
- If you have 2 cans of Coke they can be used for a visual aid. Drink one can before class. Ask a small child to come forward and try to crush the empty can, it will be easy for him. Then ask the strongest child in the class to come forward and crush the full can of Coke, he will not be able to crush it because it is full. Then explain to the children we are like these cans; if our soul is empty of God's Word then the pressures of life will crush us. If we are full of God's Word we will have God's strength inside us and we will stand the pressures of life.

## **Lesson 31 John the Baptist Shows the Way**

Jesus baptism.JPG

**Luke 1: 5-80, 2:1-7, Matthew 3:1-17, John 1:19-34**

**Main Truth** We should show others the way to believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

**Background** For many years the people of Israel had waited for the Promised Saviour. John the Baptist was born to show the people that Jesus Christ was the Saviour God sent into the world.

### **Story**

1. The angel **Gabriel** appeared to **Zacharias**. The angel told Zacharias that his wife **Elizabeth** would have a son.
2. Zacharias did not believe the angel because he and his wife were both old and had never had children. God told Zacharias because of his unbelief he would not be able to speak until the baby was born.
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary telling her that she was pregnant with God's Son, Jesus.
4. When Mary visited Elizabeth, Elizabeth greeted her saying that her own baby leapt inside her womb for joy.
5. After Mary returned home, Elizabeth gave birth to a son and they named him John. Three months after John's birth, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
6. John grew up and lived a simple life in the desert. He ate locusts and wild honey and wore clothes made from camel's hair.
7. God gave John a message to preach to the people of Israel. He told them to **repent** of their sins and be **baptized**. He told them to get ready because God's Son Jesus Christ was on the way.
8. Many religious people hated John and would not believe his message. But many others repented and were baptized. They were eager to receive the Saviour that God would send.
9. One day as John preached in the desert by the **Jordan River** the Lord Jesus Christ came towards him. He told all the people to look at Jesus. John said to them, "Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
10. Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John argued with Jesus that he was not worthy to baptize the Son of God. Jesus said to go ahead and do it and then John agreed.
11. When Jesus came up out of the water from his baptism Heaven opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and landed on Jesus. God the Father spoke from Heaven and said, "This is My Son, whom I love, with Him I am well pleased."
12. John was born for the purpose of showing people the way to Jesus Christ. His life fulfilled that purpose.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God makes each of us for a special purpose.
2. God wants each of us to show others the way to believe in Jesus Christ.

### **What should I do?**

1. Ask God to help you understand the purpose He has for your life.
2. Prepare for God's purpose through Bible study, prayer and obedience to God.
3. Tell others that Jesus Christ is God's Son. Tell them how to believe in Jesus and receive eternal life.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that John the Baptist showed other people the way to Jesus. Thank you that you have made me for a purpose and part of that purpose is showing others that Jesus is God's Son. Please help me to show others the way to believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** John 1:29

"Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

### **Activity**

- Act out the story.
- "Tell the way" game. Pick one child and blindfold him. Then pick another child to be "Jesus". Take the blindfolded child a ways away from "Jesus". Have a third child talk to the blindfolded child and describe the way for the blindfolded child to walk and find Jesus. (such as, turn around, take 10 steps, turn left or whatever.) Take turns with different children.

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Main Truth** God's Word helps us say no to temptation.

**Background** Jesus had just been **baptized** by **John the Baptist** and dedicated to God for His ministry.

**Story**

1. Jesus was led into the wilderness by His Heavenly Father to be tempted by **Satan**.
2. The test began after Jesus had fasted for forty days and was very hungry.
3. Satan challenged the Lord Jesus Christ to turn some stones into bread. Satan wanted Jesus to sin by using His own powers to provide His wants, rather than relying on God the Father to provide.
4. Jesus overcame Satan's temptation with a verse from the Bible and said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3)
5. Then Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple, and tempted Jesus to jump and have His angel's catch Him. Satan wanted Jesus to sin by testing God to prove His Presence through a miracle.
6. A second time Jesus overcame Satan's temptation with a verse from the Bible and said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." (Deuteronomy 6:16)
7. A third time Satan tempted Jesus. Satan offered the Lord Jesus Christ the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would bow down to worship him. Satan wanted Jesus to sin by worshipping him instead of the One true and living God.
8. The third time Jesus overcame temptation with a verse from the Bible and said, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."
9. Then Satan left Jesus and God sent angels to come and minister to His needs.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Perfect Son of God. He never sinned.
2. Because Jesus is God he has power over sin and Satan.
3. God's Word gives wisdom and strength to overcome temptation.

**What should I do?**

1. Watch out! Satan also wants me to sin.
2. Learn God's Word to give me wisdom and strength.
3. Use God's Word to say NO to Satan's temptations.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that Jesus is Your Perfect Son who never sinned. Thank you that Your Word gives us wisdom and strength to overcome temptation. Please help me to learn Your Word and use it to say NO to sin. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Matthew 4:4a

"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

**Activity**

- Appoint one child as "temptation". Have the other children run away and try to not be caught by "temptation".
- Play "Temptation Tug of War". Separate the children into two groups. The first group are the Christians and the second group are temptation. Have each group grab opposite sides of a rope. Each team is trying to pull the other team to the ground. If the "Christians" are beginning to loose they can call for "God" (one of the stronger children or the teacher) to come and help them win.
- Take two Coke cans. One should be empty and one should be full. Have a small child come forward and crush the empty can with his hands. Have a big child come forward and try to crush the full one with his hands. He will not be able to crush the can. The empty can is like the child without God's Word in his soul. He doesn't have God's strength to deliver Him from sin. The full can is like the child with a soul full of God's Word. He will have strength to say no to sin.



**Main Truth** Jesus wants us to follow Him.

**Background** Jesus taught and performed many miracles. Crowds of people gathered around Him to hear His teaching.

### **Story**

1. Crowds were pressed around the Lord Jesus Christ to hear Him teach by the lake.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ climbed into **Simon Peter's** boat and asked him to push the boat out into the water because it would make it easier to teach the people on the shore.
3. After teaching, Jesus told Simon Peter to row the boat to the deep water and let down his nets to catch fish. Simon Peter had fished all night without catching anything. But he did just what Jesus told him to do. He caught so many fish that the nets began to break.
4. Simon Peter called for the other fisherman **James** and **John** (not John the Baptist) to bring their boat to help haul in the fish. There were so many fish that they were sinking two boats!
5. Simon Peter, **James** and **John** realized they were sinners, fell at Jesus feet and worshipped Him.
6. The Lord Jesus Christ told the men not to fear, from now on they would "catch men." Jesus was calling them to a life of following Him in service and ministry. (Mark 1:16,17) Just as Jesus helped them catch fish and bring them into the boat, He would help them "catch men" and bring them into the kingdom of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. The men left everything and followed Jesus. Simon Peter, James and John became apostles and were used by God in mighty ways.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is all powerful. He has control over all of nature.
2. God is all knowing.
3. God calls us to follow Him.
4. God can do great things with our life when we follow Him.

### **What should I do?**

1. Like Simon, James and John I should admit my sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. I should commit my life to following Jesus
3. I should leave behind things that keep me from following Jesus.
3. I should bring other people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer** "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of the fisherman. I want to follow you in my life. Please help me to leave behind things that keep me from following you. Help me to lead others to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Mark 1:17

"Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

### **Activity**

"Fishers of Men" Game: If you have an outdoor area play a game of "fishers of men." Have 3 children be Simon Peter, James and John. The other children all run around while the fisherman try and catch them. When the fisherman catches one of the other children they bring them to a tree that can be the kingdom of God. Play the game until all children are sitting under the tree. If you want to keep playing the game pick new children to be Simon Peter, James and John.

**Main Truth** Only God is able to forgive sin.

**Background** Jesus displayed His power as God's Son through the working of many miracles.

**Story**

1. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law came to watch Jesus perform miracles.
2. Some men had a friend who was paralysed. They carried him on a mat to see Jesus in hopes that He could heal their crippled friend.
3. The men could not get through the crowd of people to enter the home where Jesus was. So they took the roof apart and lowered their friend down through the roof.
4. Jesus saw their faith and said "Friend, your sins are forgiven."
5. The Pharisees were offended by what Jesus said. They believed only God could forgive sin and they did not believe Jesus was God.
6. Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees. He wanted to show them that He had the power of God because He is God. So Jesus said to the paralysed man, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
7. Immediately the paralysed man was healed and walked out of the house. Jesus proved He was God by making the man able to walk.
8. All the people were amazed at what Jesus did and they glorified God.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is all knowing. He knows our thoughts. He knows our faith.
2. God is Holy and Righteous, therefore He alone can forgive sin.
3. God is all powerful. He can heal sickness.
4. God is love. He cares about our sickness and injury.
5. God wants to demonstrate His power to man.

**What should I do?**

1. I should bring my friends to Jesus by sharing the gospel, loving them, bringing them to church.
2. Sin is like a sickness in my soul. I should come to God in confession and prayer when I have sinned. He will forgive me and heal my soul.
3. Like the man whom Jesus healed, we should praise God for our forgiven sins.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the way you healed the paralysed man. Thank you that you forgive my sin when I confess to you. Please help me to bring my friends to Jesus. Help me to show them Jesus' love, share the gospel with them and ask them to come to church with me. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Psalm 103:3

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases."

**Activity**

**Mark 4:35-41**

**Main Truth** We should trust God when we are afraid.

**Background** Jesus spent the whole day by the **Sea of Galilee** teaching the people in parables.

**Story**

1. When evening came Jesus told his disciples to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They left the crowds behind and entered a boat to cross the water. There were other little boats that followed them.
2. A great windstorm came and the waves hit the boat. The boat began to fill with water.
3. Jesus was asleep during the storm. The disciples were scared and woke Jesus up. They said to Him, "Teacher, don't you care that we might drown?"
4. Jesus got up from his nap and yelled at the wind "Quiet, be still!"
5. The wind immediately stopped and the water was calm.
6. Jesus said to the disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
7. The disciples were amazed that the wind and the waves obeyed Jesus. They had been with Jesus for many days and seen Him perform mighty acts. But they still didn't realize He was the Mighty Son of God in a human body.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is all powerful. He can tell the storm to stop and it will obey Him.
2. God is king of everything, even nature.
3. God cares about our safety and watches over us all through the day.
4. God is able to protect us when we are in danger.
5. God is pleased when we trust Him.

**What Should I do?**

1. Remember the ways that God has protected me in the past.
2. If God protected me in the past, he can protect me in the future.
3. When I am afraid I should trust in God.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that you calmed a mighty storm in order to protect your disciples. Thank you that You watch over me and You care about my safety. Please help me to trust you when I am afraid. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** Psalm 56:3

"When I am afraid, I will trust in You."

**Activity**

- Have two children sit facing each other with their feet touching and holding hands. They have to go forward and backwards as fast as they can but trying to not let go of each other hands. As they rock faster and faster it will feel like they are in a boat in a storm.
- Using leaves, sticks, and whatever else you can find outside make a little boat.
- Teacher, talk about different things that would cause a child to be afraid such as being alone in the dark, a lightening storm, being lost and so on. Describe each thing with lots of details that would help the child picture himself in a scary situation. After you describe each thing ask the children, "What should you do?" The children answer "When I am afraid, I will trust in God."  
Example: Teacher says, "Children, picture this in your mind. You are alone in your house at night and it is very very dark. All of a sudden you hear the wind begin to blow and you seen lightening strike very close to your house. The thunder roars in your ears. What should you do?" Children answer, "When I am afraid, I will trust in God."  
Repeat this with other scary things so that the children learn their verse and the principle of trusting God.
- Play a trust game. Blindfold a person. Lead them around, up and over things, they have to totally trust the person leading them. In the same way they should trust God when they are afraid.

**Mark 6:30-44**

**Main Truth** God can use you to meet the needs of others.

**Background** Jesus performed many miracles. A large crowd followed him from place to place to hear Him teach.

**Story**

1. Jesus and his disciples drew away from the crowd of people following them.
2. The crowd was excited to hear Jesus teach. They were excited to see Him perform miracles. The crowd followed Jesus out to an isolated place. In the crowd were 5000 men and their families.
3. Late in the day the crowd became very hungry but they didn't want to leave Jesus to go home and find food. The disciple told Jesus to send the people away so they could get food.
4. Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd. But the disciples worried because they had no food to share with the people. But there was one little boy who had a lunch with him. In the boy's lunch was five little loaves of bread and two fishes. The little boy gave his lunch to the disciples and they gave it to Jesus.
5. Jesus told the people to sit down in groups. He gave thanks for the five loaves of bread and two fish. Then Jesus broke them apart and gave them to the disciples to pass out. The bread and the fish kept multiplying and multiplying until there was enough to feed all the people. (probably 15,000- 20,000 people!)
6. Out of one little boy's lunch Jesus fed thousands of people until they were no longer hungry.
7. The disciples even gathered up bread and fish that were leftover.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. It makes God happy when we hunger for His word.
2. God has compassion on those who seek after His word.
3. God is all knowing. He knows and cares about our needs.
4. God is all powerful and able to provide our needs.
5. God wants to use us to provide for the needs of others.

**What should I do?**

1. Like the people in the crowd I should hunger for knowing Jesus.
2. Like the little boy I should share what I have with others in need.
3. Like Jesus I should thank God for the food that is provided for me.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that Jesus multiplied the bread and the fish to feed the hungry people. Thank you Father, that you know my needs and care about them. Thank you that You also provide for my needs. Please help me to trust you when I am in need. Help me to be hungry for Your Word. Help me to share what I have with others. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

**Memory Verse** | Timothy 6:18

"be rich in good deeds, be generous and willing to share..."

**Activity**

- Have the children look around and see how God provides for His creation; the plants have water and soil, the birds have food and nests, the ants have holes in the ground and so forth. These plants and animals only live for a short time and then they die and are no more. But man is created with a soul that lives forever. Every person is created and formed by the Hand of God. God cares much more for a little boy or little girl than He does the plants and animals. God knows your needs and will provide for them.
- Play a thinking game. Say some words that describe people living in your village; such as poor, hungry, sick, old, sad and so forth. Ask the children to think of a person in their village when you say each word. Then ask the children to think about ways they can reach out and help the people that have come to their mind. They can give food, they can pray, they can give kind words and so forth.
- The little boy in the story gave his lunch to Jesus. What do you have to give to Jesus? Your heart in love, your mouth in prayer, your feet to go tell others, your eyes to see the needs of others and your hands to reach out and help, your voice to sing Him praises. God wants us to give Jesus our life!

**Main Truth** We should show love and **mercy** to others.

**Background** The Jews thought they were better than the **Samaritans** and avoided being around them.

### **Story**

1. A certain lawyer was trying to trick Jesus and asked Him "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
2. Jesus asked the lawyer, "What does the Law say?"
3. The Lawyer answered saying, "You should love the Lord your God with all heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and you should love your neighbour as yourself."
4. Jesus told the man that he was right, but the Lawyer wanted Jesus to tell him who his neighbour was.
5. Jesus told the Lawyer a story to answer the Lawyer's question. The story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
6. A man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when a group of robbers beat him, took his clothing, and left him almost dead on the side of the road.
7. A little while later a priest walked past the man and saw him. The priest walked to the other side of the road and continued on with out helping.
8. Later, a **Levite** saw the man and went to him. The Levite looked at the man, but then crossed to the other side of the road without helping.
9. Then a Samaritan walked by and saw the man. The Samaritan had compassion for the man and stopped to help him. He bandaged the man's wounds, put the injured man on his donkey and took him to an Inn.
10. The next day the Samaritan left money for the Inn Keeper to take care of the injured man. He told the Inn Keeper if it was not enough money he would pay the rest next time he came through.
11. After Jesus told the story He asked the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a good neighbour to the man?" The lawyer answered Jesus, "The one who had mercy on Him."
12. Jesus told the Lawyer, "go and do the same."

### **What does this Lesson teach us about God?**

1. God does not look at the outward appearance of a man. God looks at the heart.
2. God is a loving God. He loves people of all nations and races.
3. God helps us in all our suffering.

### **What should I do?**

1. I should look at people through God's eyes.
2. I should love all people, even the ones I don't like.
3. I should consider all people my neighbour.
4. I should be like the Good Samaritan and help others in need.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the story of the Good Samaritan. Please help me to follow the example of the Good Samaritan and help others in need. Help me to show love and mercy to all people in the same way you do. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory Verse** Leviticus 19:18

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself."

### **Activity**

- Act out the story.
- Have the teacher and an older student pretend to be neighbours. As they act out different scenes the children put their thumbs up if they are showing love to their neighbour, and their thumbs down if they are not.

**Luke 15: 11-32**

**Main Truth** When we **confess** our sins to God, He forgives us and welcomes us back into fellowship with Him.

**Background** Sinners gathered around Jesus to hear him teach. The Pharisees were complaining that Jesus loved and welcomed sinful people. In response to their complaints Jesus taught the Parable of the Lost (**Prodigal**) Son.

**Story**

1. A wealthy man had two sons. The youngest son demanded that his father give him his inheritance.
2. The father agreed and gave his son a large amount of money that was his inheritance.
3. The young man took his money and went far away from his father. He spent his money on foolish and sinful things.
4. A famine came to the land where the prodigal son was living, and he had no money or food left.
5. The prodigal son got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating.
6. Then the prodigal son remembered that even the servants in his father's house ate well. He realized he had been very foolish to leave his father and waste away his inheritance. He decided to return to his father and ask to be one of the servants in his father's house.
7. When the son was still a far way off from his father's house, his father saw him coming. The father came running with open arms to greet his lost son. The son said, "Father, I have sinned." He confessed his wrong doing and asked his father if he could be a hired servant in his house.
8. The father forgave his son. He told the servants to bring out a robe, sandals, and ring to put on his son. He also told the servants to kill a fatted calf to celebrate his sons return. These gifts were given to show the son that he was forgiven and fully accepted back into the father's family.
9. When the older brother came home, he was jealous that his father would throw a party for the younger brother who had done wrong. The father told his eldest son that they needed to celebrate his lost sons return because he "was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is like the father in the parable of the Lost Son. He loves us and gives us many good things.
2. When we sin God waits with open arms for us to return to Him.
3. When we **confess** our sin to God, He forgives our sin and restores us to **fellowship** with Him.
4. God never throws us out of his family. When we believe in Jesus Christ as our Saviour we become God's child. No matter what sins we commit He never stops being our Heavenly Father and we never stop being His child.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand I am like the lost son in the parable. When I sin I leave fellowship with God the Father.
2. Like the lost son I should confess my sin to God and receive his forgiveness.

**Prayer** "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of the lost son. Thank you for being a perfect Heavenly Father and loving me as your special child. Thank you that you forgive my sins when I confess them to you. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** 1John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**Activity**

- Take a glass or bowl and cover it with dirt or mud. That is what our heart is like when we are sinning. God does not fill a dirt heart with His Holy Spirit. Then wash the glass with soap and water. That is what God does for our heart when we confess our sin. He washes it clean. When our heart is clean then he will fill it with His Holy Spirit. Ask the children? Do you want to have a heart that is like the dirty glass or the clean glass? Encourage them to confess their sin every day.
- If you have a black balloon blow it up slowly, in between breaths tell the children that sin makes our heart dark. When we think bad things, (blow, blow) it makes our heart dark with sin. When we say bad things, (blow, blow) it makes our heart dark with sin. When we do bad things (blow, blow) it makes our heart dark with sin. But when we confess (POP the balloon) our sin is forgiven and removed from us. If you have a white balloon blow it up and explain that after we confess our sin God washes our heart clean and he can fill us with His Holy Spirit (blow, blow).
- Have the children get into groups of three. Using a stick as your "pig food", throw the stick back and forth between two children who are "the pigs". The third child is "the Prodigal Son" and is in the middle trying to catch the "pig food". If the Prodigal Son catches it then they switch places with "the pig" who had thrown it.

**Luke 16:19-26**

**Main Truth** The only way to Heaven is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Background** The Lord Jesus Christ taught the people in **parables**. Parables are stories that teach a spiritual lesson. The Pharisees listened to Jesus teach in parables. The **Pharisees** were religious leaders who trusted in their good deeds to save them. One of the parables Jesus taught was the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

**Story**

8. There was a rich man who dressed in fine clothes. He had lots of good food to eat and lived in luxury. But the rich
  1. man did not believe in God or fear Him.
  3. There was a beggar named **Lazarus** who was very poor but he believed in God and feared Him. Lazarus had sores on his body that the dogs came and licked. Lazarus was hungry and he wished he could eat crumbs from the rich man's table.
  2. One day Lazarus died and the angels carried him away to **Paradise** to be with Abraham and others that believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  3. (Note from NIV Study Bible: *Before Jesus died on the cross those who believed in God went to a place called Paradise or Abraham's bosom. It was a blessed place where they waited for their salvation to be completed through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.*)
  4. The rich man also died and was taken to Hades, a place of torment.
  5. (Note from NIV Study Bible: *Before Jesus Christ died on the cross those who did not believe in God went to a place called Hades. It was a place of fire, darkness and torment. Hades is where unbelievers wait for the final judgement. There was a chasm between Paradise and Hades that could not be crossed.*)
  6. The rich man was in agony in the fire of Hades. He looked and saw **Abraham** in Paradise with Lazarus by his side. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and come to cool his tongue.
  7. Abraham reminded the rich man that he received his good things on earth and Lazarus received bad things. Now Lazarus was being comforted and the rich man was being tormented.
  8. Then the rich man asked Abraham to send someone back to earth to warn his brothers. He wanted his brothers to believe in God so they would not come to Hades and be in torment.
  9. Abraham said no one could go back from the dead to tell the brothers. He said the brothers should listen to the men that God had already sent.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is fair. He does not judge man based on their riches, but based on their faith in Him.
2. God has prepared Heaven for those who believe in Him. Heaven is a place of comfort, blessing, peace and joy.
3. God has prepared Hell for those who do not believe in Him. Hell is a place of darkness, fire and torment.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand that the ONLY way to Heaven is to believe in Jesus Christ.
2. Understand that I must decide to believe in God before I die. After I die, it is too late.
3. Believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins.
4. Look forward to Heaven. You may suffer here on earth, but in Heaven there is no more suffering and we will be face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer** "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Thank you for preparing a beautiful place called Heaven for all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Thank you that I can go to Heaven when I die. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

**Memory Verse** John 11:25

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even if He dies."

**Activity**

**Luke 19: 1-10**

**Main Truth** The Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and to save sinners.

**Background** Jesus performed many miracles and a crowd followed Him hoping to see Him do something amazing.

**Story**

1. **Zacchaeus** was a chief **tax-gatherer** and he was very rich. It was common for tax gatherers to take more money from the people than what they owed for taxes, and then keep some for themselves. Because of this sin the people looked down on tax gatherers.
2. Jesus was walking through the crowd of people.
3. Zacchaeus was very anxious to see Jesus but he was too short to see over the crowd of people. So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed up in a Sycamore tree.
4. When Jesus came to that place he looked straight up in the tree at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus came down quickly and joyfully received Jesus into his house.
5. The crowd complained that Jesus would go to Zacchaeus' house because Zacchaeus was such a sinner, he took their money. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was a sinner.
6. Because Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus told Jesus he would give half of his possessions to the poor. He promised to pay back anyone he stole from four times the amount that he stole.
7. When Jesus heard this he said, "Today salvation has come to this house...For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had believed in Him as His Saviour and repented of his sins.
8. Jesus is the Son of Man. He came to this world to seek out Zacchaeus and each one of us that we might be saved.

**What does the lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is Holy, he hates sin.
2. God is love, even when he hates sin he loves all sinners.
3. God seeks out sinners in order to save them.
4. God forgives all sins.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand that I am a sinner.
2. Understand that God loves me and is seeking me out to save me.
3. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour from sin.
4. Love others with the love of God.

**Prayer** "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus. Thank you that you love all sinners including me. I believe in The Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Please help me to turn away from my sin and love others with a Godly love. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

**Memory Verse** Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save what was lost."

**Activity**

- Have the smallest child in the class be Zacchaeus. Choose another child to be Jesus. Act out the story of Jesus walking by and telling Zacchaeus to come out of the tree.
- Using stones as "money" demonstrate that Zacchaeus gave back four stones for every one stone that he had stolen from the people.



**Matthew 14:22-33**

**Main Truth** Even when we are faithless God is faithful.

**Background** This story happened just after the disciples saw the Lord Jesus Christ take the five loaves and two fishes and multiply them to feed 5000 men and their families.

**Story**

1. Jesus sent his disciples away in a boat while he went up on a mountain to pray alone.
2. The boat was tossed around as a heavy storm blew.
3. Jesus finished praying and walked towards the boat on the sea.
4. The disciples were very afraid and said to each other, "it's a ghost!" Jesus told them not to be afraid because it was him.
5. Peter said, "if it is really you Lord call me to walk on the water out to you" So Jesus called Peter to himself.
6. Peter got out of the boat and walked on top of the water towards Jesus. Then he got scared because of the terrible storm and began to sink. He cried out to Jesus to save him.
7. Jesus caught him in the middle of the waves and said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt me?"
8. Jesus took Peter back to the boat and he calmed the storm down. When the disciples saw that Jesus was able to help Peter walk on water and calm the storm they said, "you truly are the Son of God".

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God wants us to walk by faith in every part of our life.
2. God is all powerful. He can control the water and the waves.
3. God remains faithful even when we doubt Him. .

**What should I do?:**

1. I should walk by faith, keeping my eyes on The Lord Jesus Christ.
2. I should not fear things in this life; fear is the opposite of faith.
3. Understand that when my faith fails, The Lord Jesus Christ is still faithful.

**Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that you have power over the water, the wind and the waves. Thank you that you gave Peter the faith to walk on water. Please help me to walk every day by faith, keeping my eyes on You. Help me to not be afraid of things around me knowing that you are in control of all things. Thank you that you remain faithful to me even when my faith fails. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen"

**Memory Verse** 2 Timothy 2:13a

"if we are faithless, He will remain faithful"

**Activity**

Act out the story.

**Background** The **Scribes** and **Pharisees** plotted to kill Jesus. This story took place shortly before the Lord Jesus Christ was arrested and taken to the cross to die.

**Main truth** We should give our life in worship to the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what it costs us.

### **Story**

1. During the time of the **Passover** feast Jesus was invited to the house of **Simon the leper** for dinner. He sat around the table with others.
2. A woman named **Mary** came in to the house with some very expensive perfumed oil. It was so expensive that it cost her whole years wages. She broke the small vile of perfume and poured it over Jesus' head. Mary knew Jesus would be dying soon and she wanted to give Him one last symbol of her love.
3. All the other people at the table began to grumble and say, "Why was this perfume wasted? It could have been sold and the money given to the poor." The people rebuked her harshly.
4. Jesus told them, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. The poor you will always have with you and you can help them anytime you want. But you will not always have Me. This woman will be remembered throughout the world for her love for me."

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God wants us to love and worship Him no matter what the cost.
2. God is worthy of our love and worship.
3. God values our love and worship even when others don't.

### **What should I do?**

1. Give my life in love and worship to God. It is the most valuable gift I can give Him.
2. Worship Him in prayer, singing and praise, bible study, giving, obedience and service to others.
3. Remember that Jesus is always with me so I can worship Him in every part of my life.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Mary's love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Help me to give my life to you every single day. Help me to love and worship you in everything I do. When others criticize my devotion to you help me to ignore it and keep loving you. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

### **Memory Verse** Romans 12:1b

"...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship."

### **Activity**

Act out the story

## **Lesson 43** The Last supper.

### **John 13:1-17**

**Main truth** We should follow the example of Jesus Christ and humbly serve one another.

**Background** During the time that Jesus lived people walked along dirt roads to visit a friend's home. When they arrived the owner of the home had his servant wash the feet of the guests. When people ate a meal they would recline around a table to share the food with one another. These are two customs the people followed in the time of Jesus. This story took place just before Christ was arrested and crucified.

### **Story**

1. Jesus and his 12 disciples gathered together in an upper room to have a meal together.
2. Jesus knew that the time of His death was near and He wanted to teach his disciples a very important lesson.
3. When they finished eating Jesus rose from the table. He laid aside his outer garment and wrapped a towel around his waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple's feet and wipe them dry on a towel.
4. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, the Creator and Lord of the Universe He is humble enough to serve others.
5. When it was Peter's turn to have his feet washed he objected. He didn't want the Lord Jesus Christ to stoop down to wash his feet. Peter said, "Lord, you will never wash my feet!" Jesus said "If I do not wash you then you have no part with me." Peter replied, "Then wash all of me!" But Jesus said, "When you are bathed you only need to wash your feet to be completely clean." Because Jesus knew that Judas would soon betray Him He said "but not all of you are clean."
6. Then, Peter let Jesus wash his feet.
7. Jesus spoke with His disciples to help them understand what He had done. Jesus said, "Do you know what I have done? I am your teacher and I have washed your feet like a servant. This is an example for you to serve others."
8. This was one of the last lessons Jesus taught His disciples. He wanted them to follow His example and be a humble servant of others.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is humble.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ was a servant to others.
3. God is pleased when we humbly serve others.

### **What should I do?**

1. Beware of pride and arrogance. They are sins that I should not fall into.
2. Follow Christ's example of humility.
3. Be ready every day to humbly serve my friends and family.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for Jesus' example of humble service. Please help me to turn away from pride and arrogance and humble myself before You. Please help me to always be ready to serve others around me. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

### **Memory verse:** Galatians 5:13b

"Serve one another in love."

### **Visualize the lesson**

Bring a big bowl and towel to class. Teachers can wash some of the children's feet before telling the story. Then say "Isn't it strange that your teacher would be washing your feet?" But an even greater Teacher washed His students feet." Then tell the Bible story.

After the story ask the children if they would like to follow the example of Jesus and wash one another's feet.

**Main Truth** We should surrender to God's will

**Background:** This story happened the night of the Last Supper where Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. At the Last Supper Jesus said that Judas would soon betray Him. Then Judas left the Lord and His disciples and went out into the night. Judas went to find the officials so they could arrest Jesus and put Him to death.

### **Story**

1. Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. He left 8 of his disciples at the gate and took Peter, James and John into the garden with Him.
2. Jesus told them He was very troubled because of what would soon happen in His life. He knew He would soon be arrested and crucified for the sins of the world. He asked them to stay alert and pray with Him.
3. Jesus went a distance away from the disciples and prayed to God the Father. He prayed "*My Father, if it is possible may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*" (He was telling the Father He would like to be delivered from the weight of dying for our sin, but if it must happen to bring us to salvation, then He was willing.)
4. Jesus went back to his disciples and found them asleep. He woke them and said, "*You couldn't even keep watch for one hour?*" Then he went back to pray.
5. Jesus said to God "*I know it is your will that I die, so let it pass quickly*" He went back to the disciples and found them sleeping again! This time He did not wake them but went back to prayer with God.
6. When Jesus finished praying He returned to Peter, James and John and woke them up. He said, "*My betrayer has come*". At that moment Judas and many soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.
7. Jesus' disciples tried to keep Him from being arrested. Peter even took a sword and cut off a soldier's ear. Jesus stopped him and said, "*Don't you think I could call God and he would send down angels to rescue me? This must happen for scripture to be fulfilled*" Jesus knew it was God's will that He be arrested. He didn't need His disciples to protect him.
8. The soldiers arrested Jesus and took Him to trial. The disciples fled into the night with fear and worry.

### **What does this story teach us about God?**

1. It was God's perfect will for His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to follow God's will. He surrendered His life to the will of God the Father.
3. God also has a perfect will for you and me.

### **What should I do?**

1. Remember that God loves me and has a perfect will or plan for my life.
2. Remember that God's will or plan for my life is much better than my own!
3. I must daily learn God's Word and follow it in obedience and prayer. God's Word will teach me God's will.
4. I should daily surrender my life to God's perfect will.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. I thank you, Father, that Jesus was willing to follow your plan for His life- even to the point of death on the cross. Please help me to follow your will for my life. Help me to learn Your Word so that I know what You want me to do. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen"

### **Memory Verse** Luke 22: 42b

"Yet not my will, but Yours be done"

### **Activity**

- Act out the story.
- The teachers can act situations where they could either choose God's will or their will. The children could call out which path they should choose.

**John 13:36-38, Matthew 26:69-75, John 21****Main Truth** When our faith fails God's faithfulness remains.**Background**

Peter loved the Lord and desired to be His faithful disciple. Shortly before Jesus was arrested He told the disciples that they could not follow Him where He was going. Peter said, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will even lay down my life for your sake." Jesus knew that Peter would not always be a faithful disciple. He knew soon Peter would deny that He even knew Jesus. He said to Peter, "The rooster shall not crow before you deny me three times."

**Story**

1. When Jesus was arrested in The Garden of Gethsemane the disciples became fearful. They were afraid they might be arrested for being one of Jesus' followers.
2. As Jesus went through His trials some of the disciples watched from a distance. One of them was Peter. Remember Peter had promised that he would follow Jesus anywhere.
3. As Jesus was on trial before Jewish religious leaders Peter waited around outside. A servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus." Peter denied it and said, "I do not know what you are saying!"
4. Then another girl saw Peter and said to those around her, "This man was also with Jesus." Again Peter denied it and said, "I do not know the man!"
5. Soon after others came up to him and said, "Surely you are one of them." Peter answered them and said, "I do not know the man!" For the third time Peter denied that he even knew the Lord Jesus Christ. As soon as the words came out of Peter's mouth he heard a rooster crow!
6. Then Peter remembered what the Lord had said to Him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter was stricken with grief at his lack of faithfulness to Jesus Christ whom he loved. He went out and cried bitterly.

Note: John 21 tells us the good news of Peter's restoration. After Jesus was resurrected He returned to visit the disciples. Peter was out fishing in his boat but couldn't catch any fish. The Lord stood on the shore and shouted to Peter. He told him the best place to throw his nets. When Peter threw his net into the water it was full of fish! Peter realized that the man on the shore was Jesus. He jumped into the sea and swam to shore. Jesus started a little fire on the shore and He fixed the disciples some breakfast. Jesus spoke with Peter and assured him that He still loved Peter. Jesus still had a great purpose for Peter's life. Even though Peter was faithless, Jesus remained faithful.

**What does this teach us about God?**

1. God is all knowing. He knows that our faith will fail and we will sin.
2. God is always faithful, even when we are not.
3. God forgives all our sins.
4. There is no sin that we can commit that would cause God to stop loving us.
5. When we believe in Jesus Christ we are God's child forever. There is nothing we can do to lose our salvation.

**What should I do?**

1. Understand that my faith will sometimes fail and I will fall into sin.
2. Don't make promises to God that I cannot keep.
3. When my faith does fail and I sin I should confess it to God.
4. Once I have confessed my sin I should receive His forgiveness and not be weighed down with guilt.
5. Understand that as long as I am alive God has a plan for my life.

**Prayer** "Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Peter's denial. Thank you that you are always waiting to forgive me, love me, and use me for your glory. Please help me to be faithful, please help me to turn back to you when I am not faithful. Thank you that there is nothing I can do to lose my salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

**Memory verse** 2Timothy 2:13

"If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself."

**Activity**

- Show a picture Christ on the cross. Have the children name a sin. Tell them Jesus paid for that sin. Have the children name more sins. There won't be any sin they can name that God does not forgive!
- Have the children take the "grace test." Tell them to take a big breath. Tell them if they are still breathing, God still has a plan for their life!

**Main Truth**

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died to pay the penalty for our sins. He did it because He loves us.

**Background**

The Lord Jesus Christ allowed Roman soldiers to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. He allowed it because He knew the time had come for Him to pay the penalty for our sins on the cross. After the soldiers arrested Jesus He was taken to trial like a criminal.

**Story**

1. The soldiers took Jesus to the Jewish chief Priests for questioning. First, they took Him to **Annas**. Annas asked Jesus about the things He had taught. Jesus explained that He had done nothing wrong. One of the officials slapped Him in the face. Annas bound Jesus and sent Him to the High Priest **Caiaphas**.
2. Jesus was questioned by the High Priest, Caiaphas. He had done nothing wrong but they judged Him guilty.
3. The Jews could not lawfully kill Jesus, so they beat Him and then took Him to the Roman Governor, **Pontius Pilate**.
4. Pilate questioned Jesus and decided that He was innocent. Pilate was afraid the Jews would get angry if he released Jesus so he asked them what they wanted him to do. They cried out "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"
5. Pilate had Jesus severely whipped. The soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put a purple robe on Him and mocked Him. Jesus never fought back. He never cried out under the pain and suffering. He knew all of this was necessary to bring Him to the cross where He would die for you and me.
6. They made The Lord Jesus Christ carry a cross to a hill called **Golgotha**. At Golgotha they laid Jesus on the cross and drove spikes through His hands and feet to nail Him there. They raised the cross and Jesus hung a sign above it saying "King of the Jews." The soldiers mocked Jesus and divided up His clothes among themselves.
7. Two thieves were being crucified along with Jesus. One of them saw that He was the Son of God and believed in The Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said to that thief, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."
8. Mary, Jesus' mother, stood watching with John and Mary Magdalene. Jesus told John the disciple that Mary would now be his mother, and he would be her son. He wanted to make sure that His mother Mary would be cared for after His death.
9. As Jesus hung on the cross darkness fell over all of the earth. During this time God was putting all the sins of the whole world on Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. When Jesus had paid the penalty for all the sins of the world He said, "It is finished"! Then He bowed His head and died.
10. Some men took Jesus down from the cross and wrapped Him in cloth. They put His body in a tomb and rolled a stone in front of it.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is Holy and Perfect. Our sin separates us from God.
2. Because God loves us so much He made a way for our sin to be forgiven.
3. God sent The Lord Jesus Christ to this world to die on the cross for our sins.
4. Jesus was willing to suffer and die for our sins because He loves us. He wants us to live in Heaven with Him.
5. When we believe in The Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour God forgives our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life.

**What should I do?**

1. Believe in The Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!
2. Always remember the suffering that Jesus Christ went through for me.
- 3.
4. Always remember His love and sacrifice.
5. Share His love with others.

**Prayer** Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You so much for sending Jesus Christ to die for my sins. I believe in The Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me the gift of eternal life. Help me to share this good news with others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

**Memory Verse** Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**John 20:1-18**

**Main Truth**

We should not fear death because God has the power over death.

**Background**

After Jesus died on the cross His body was wrapped in linen cloth and He was laid in a tomb. A very large rock was rolled in front of the tomb. Soldiers guarded the tomb to prevent the disciples from stealing the body.

**Story**

1. On the Sunday morning after Jesus Christ died on the cross **Mary Magdalene** went to the tomb where his dead body was laid. She brought spices and oils to pour over His body. Mary Magdalene saw that the rock was rolled back from the opening of the tomb.
2. She ran to the disciples and said "Someone has taken the Lord and I don't know where they have put Him."
3. The disciples went to the tomb with Mary. It was empty and the burial wraps were on the floor. They went back home but Mary stayed at the tomb and wept.
4. Mary looked back in the tomb. Two angels were there. They asked her why she was crying. They told Mary Jesus was no longer in the tomb because He had risen from the dead. This is called the **resurrection**.
5. Mary saw Jesus standing outside the tomb and thought He was the gardener. She asked Him if He had taken the body away. Jesus said "Mary". When Jesus spoke Mary recognized His voice. She knew Jesus was alive! She ran to hold Him. Jesus told Mary to go and tell the good news to the other disciples.
6. Jesus appeared that evening to His disciples as they were gathered in a home together. Their sorrow was turned to joy when they saw their Lord and Saviour alive!
7. For the next 40 days Jesus appeared to many of His disciples. He told them to go and tell others that He was the Saviour of the world!
8. Finally, He left the earth and went to be with God the Father in Heaven. This is called the **ascension**. Right now He is seated at the right Hand of God the Father. He watches over us. He prays for us. He is building us a home in Heaven. Some day He will come again and take us to Heaven to be with Him.

**What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God has power over death. He was able to raise Jesus from the dead to live in Heaven forever.
2. God promises eternal life to all who believe in The Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The resurrection of Jesus gives us assurance that we too will be raised from the dead.
4. God wants us to tell others the good news that Jesus is alive.

**What should I do?**

1. Rejoice in knowing that God has power over death.
2. Be confident that Jesus has given me eternal life because I believe in Him.
3. Do not fear death. It is only the door to Heaven.
4. Do not worry when others die. Even though I might miss them I know I will see them again in Heaven if they believed in The Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Tell others this good news!

**Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for raising Jesus from the dead! Thank you for giving me eternal life! Please help me to never fear death. Help me to tell others this good news. Amen.

**Memory Verse** John 11:25

"I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

**Activity**

Act out the story.

### **Main Truth**

The Holy Spirit lives inside every Believer helping them to do God's work.

### **Background**

This is the story of the early church. It takes place after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Jesus told the disciples to go and tell others the good news that He died for them and rose again.

### **Story**

1. After Jesus ascended into Heaven to be with God the Father, the disciples gathered together in Jerusalem with some of the women. They spent time in prayer and fellowship.
2. The Lord sent His **Holy Spirit** to them to give them the wisdom and power to do His work.
3. One day, an angel of the Lord spoke to one of the disciples named Philip. He told Philip to go down the road from Jerusalem to **Gaza**. Philip obeyed the angel.
4. As Philip walked along the road to Gaza he met a man from **Ethiopia**. This man was an important official in **Queen Candace's** palace. He was reading the book of **Isaiah**.
5. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go up to the chariot. He went to the chariot and asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian answered, "How can I, unless someone explains it?" The Ethiopian man invited Philip to sit with him.
6. The Ethiopian was reading the passage in Isaiah that spoke of the suffering and death of the **Messiah**. Philip told the man that Isaiah was talking about The Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the Messiah that suffered and died for our sins and rose again. The man believed in Jesus Christ!
7. Philip and the Ethiopian passed by some water and the Ethiopian asked Philip to baptise him. Philip **baptised** the Ethiopian and as they came up out of the water, the Spirit took Philip away to **Azotus**. The Ethiopian continued on his way rejoicing.  
*(Note- Baptism takes place after a person has believed in The Lord Jesus Christ. It is to identify the believer with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is an expression of the new life the Believer has. But baptism does not save a person. Only believing in Jesus Christ saves a person.)*
8. Philip travelled around preaching the gospel until he arrived at **Caesarea**.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God revealed The Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.
2. When a person truly desires to know God, God is faithful to send someone to give him the gospel.
3. God gave the early church the power of the Holy Spirit to do His work.
4. Today, the Holy Spirit **indwells** every Believer, empowering him to do God's work.
5. God has a plan for each of us. When we follow His plan He uses us to help others!

### **What should I do?**

1. Spend time in prayer and fellowship with other Believers.
2. Listen to God's direction and do what He says!
3. Share the gospel with others.

### **Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Philip. God, please help me to spend time in prayer and fellowship with other Believers. Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit. Help me to listen to your guidance in my life. Help me to be obedient. Help me to share the gospel with others. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.

### **Memory Verse** 1Peter 3:15b

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

### **Visualize the Lesson:**

1. Act out the story. Ask the children how the Ethiopian was saved – through baptism or faith.



**Main Truth** It is our duty to pray for others.

### **Background**

In the time of the early church Peter and many other disciples were joyfully sharing the gospel. Many people were turning away from false religions to believe in The Lord Jesus Christ. **Persecution** rose up against the Christians.

### **Story**

1. King Herod persecuted the church by arresting Believers. He had James put to death.
2. King Herod saw that the death of James pleased the Jews so he arrested Peter also. After the Feast of Passover Herod intended to kill Peter.
3. In prison Peter was chained and guarded by many soldiers. Peter thought that he would be killed soon but still he was able to lay down and sleep. Peter wasn't worrying, he wasn't afraid to die. Peter was resting in The Lord.
4. While Peter was in prison the other disciples gathered together in Mary's home to earnestly pray for Peter.
5. God heard the prayers of these faithful Believers. God sent an angel to deliver Peter out of prison.
6. The angel stood by Peter. A light shone into the prison. The angel shook Peter to wake him up and said, "Arise quickly!" The chains fell off Peter's hands.
7. The angel told Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter followed the angel out of the prison. The guards all slept and did not even see Peter leave. Peter thought he was dreaming. When they came to the gates of the city they opened by themselves. Peter followed the angel through the gates into the city and then the angel disappeared.
8. Then Peter realized what was happening. God had delivered him out of prison!
9. Peter quickly went to Mary's house to see the other disciples. He knocked on the door and a servant girl named Rhoda answered. When she heard Peter's voice she was so excited that she didn't even let him in. She went back inside to tell the others.
10. The other disciples didn't believe Rhoda. They said, "It must be his angel." They came to the door and opened it and there stood Peter!
11. He told them all the story of how God delivered him out of prison. Then he left to continue preaching the gospel.
12. The next day the soldiers were confused. They didn't know how Peter could have escaped. King Herod kept on looking for Peter to kill him. God protected Peter so that he could keep preaching the gospel.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. Sometimes God allows His children to be persecuted by the world.
2. When other believers are in trouble God wants us to be in constant prayer for them.
3. God hears and answers our prayers.
4. God is all powerful. He is able to deliver us out of any trouble.

### **What should I do?**

1. When I am in trouble I should follow Peter's example and rest in The Lord.
2. When others are in trouble I should constantly pray for them.

### **Prayer**

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Peter in prison. Thank you that others prayed for Peter and You heard their prayers. Thank you that you hear my prayers. When I am in trouble help me to rest in You just like Peter did. Help me to pray for others who are in trouble. In Jesus Name, Amen."

### **Memory Verse**

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:17

### **Visualize the Lesson:**

- Act out the story.
- Today there are many Christians in the world that are being beaten, put in prison, and even killed for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Have a prayer time with the children taking turns praying for persecuted believers around the world. Pray for others that you know of who are in trouble.

### **Main Truth**

We should be willing to endure hardship for the sake of the gospel.

### **Background**

In the time of the early church Christians continued to be **persecuted**. A young **Pharisee** named **Saul** was one of the leaders in the persecution against Christians.

### **Story**

1. Saul went to the High Priest to ask permission to travel to Damascus to put the Christians there in jail.
2. As he travelled along the road to **Damascus**, a bright light from Heaven flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice shouting "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Saul answered and said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."
3. Jesus told Saul to get up and go to Damascus and wait there for instructions. When Saul got up he was blind. He was travelling with some other men. They led Saul into Damascus and he waited there for three days without eating or drinking anything.
4. God spoke to a disciple named **Ananias**. The Lord told him to go to Saul, baptise him and teach him. Ananias was afraid to go because he knew that Saul had been persecuting Christians. The Lord told him not to be afraid because He had chosen Saul to preach the gospel to both **Gentiles** and Jews.
5. Ananias went to Saul. When he laid his hands on Saul scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again! Ananias baptised Saul and gave him food to eat.
6. Saul spent several days in Damascus with the other disciples. He went to the synagogues where the Jews worshipped and taught that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Everyone was amazed that the man who had caused so much trouble to Christians in Jerusalem was now a believer preaching the gospel.
7. Now that Saul was a Christian the Jews wanted to kill him. The other disciples had to hide Saul and lower him down from the wall of the city in a basket at night. He escaped from Damascus.
8. Saul's name was changed to Paul. Paul became a great missionary and apostle. He travelled by land and sea to many countries preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote many books of the New Testament.
9. Paul endured much suffering in his ministry of preaching the gospel. He was stoned, whipped, beaten, shipwrecked, put in prison and finally killed for his faith. Paul considered all of his sufferings as nothing compared to the joy of serving The Lord Jesus Christ.

### **What does this lesson teach us about God?**

1. God is a loving God who forgives all our sins. The little ones and the big ones.
2. God sometimes does strange and mighty things to get our attention.
3. God has a **mission** for each of us to accomplish.
4. God will provide someone to teach us and prepare us for that mission.
5. God's mission for us will come with hardship and suffering. But He strengthens us in our suffering.

### **What should I do?**

1. Remember that there is no sin so great that God won't forgive it.
2. Ask God to show me the mission he has for my life.
3. Share the gospel with others.
4. Be willing to endure hardship for the sake of the gospel.

### **Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the story of Paul. Thank you for his great faith and willingness to endure hardship for the sake of the gospel. Thank you that you have a mission for my life too. Help me to go where you send me and do what you want me to do. Help me to share the gospel with others. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

### **Memory Verse** 2Timothy 2:3

"Endure hardship with me as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

### **Activity**

Act out the story.