



Grace Bible Church of Houston Texas
Children's Education
Lesson Objective Outline

Main Category	Lesson Objective
01 - Creation	01 - God 02 - Man 03 - Man's Responsibility Before God 04 - Marriage
02 - Fall	01 - Sin 02 - God's Curse 03 - Post Fall Civilization
03 - Flood	01 - The Flood 02 - Noahic Covenant
04 - Tower of Babel	01 - The Tower of Babel
05 - Call of Abraham	01 - Announcement of the Abrahamic Covenant 02 - Ratification of the Abrahamic Covenant 03 - Memorial Sign of the Abrahamic Covenant 04 - The Reciprocals of Abraham
06 - Patriarchs	01 - Isaac Blessed with Abrahamic Covenant 02 - Jacob's Ladder at Bethel 03 - Jacob and Laban 04 - Jacob Becomes Israel 05 - God Protected Joseph in Slavery 06 - God Prospers Joseph in Jail 07 - God Preserved Israel Through Joseph
07 - Exodus	01 - The Jews in Egypt 02 - The Birth and Training of Moses 03 - God Meets Moses at Sinai 04 - Moses Represents God to the People 05 - The Ten Plagues on Egypt 06 - Passover 07 - God's Provision and Protection of Israel
08 - Sinai	01 - Moses Gets the Law at Sinai 02 - God Dwells With His People
09 - Conquest	01 - God Commissions Joshua 02 - Spying Out the Land 03 - Crossing the Jordan 04 - Victory at Jericho



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Main Category	Lesson Objective
10 - Settlement	01 - Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy 02 - Deborah and Barak 03 - Gideon 04 - Samson and Delilah 05 - Devotion of Ruth 06 - Deliverance of Ruth 07 - Saul
11 - David	01 - David as a Young Man 02 - Resented by Saul 03 - Continuing Conqueror 04 - Merciful to Mephibosheth 05 - Davidic Covenant
12 - Solomon	01 - Solomon Secures the Throne 02 - Solomon Chooses Wisdom 03 - Solomon's Reign 04 - Building the Temple 05 - Solomon's Folly
13 - Decline of Kingdom	01 - Rehoboam 02 - Jeroboam 03 - Ahab 04 - Hezekiah
14 - Exile	01 - Jonah 02 - Assyrian Captivity 03 - Daniel 04 - Habakkuk 05 - Ezekiel
15 - Restoration	01 - Prophecy 02 - Rebuilding the Temple 03 - Rebuilding the Walls 04 - The Day of The Lord
16 - Birth of the King	01 - The Promise of the King 02 - The Arrival of the King



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Main Category	Lesson Objective
17 - His Life	01 - Deity of Christ 02 - Humanity of Christ 03 - Hypostatic Union 04 - Kenosis 05 - Virgin Birth 06 - Reveal the Father and Offer the Kingdom 07 - Walked by Spirit and Word
18 - His Death	01 - Crucifixion of Jesus Christ 02 - Death of Christ
19 - His Resurrection	01 - Resurrection of Jesus Christ
20 - His Ascension & Session	01 - Ascension and Session
21 - The Church	01 - What is the Church 02 - Formation of the Church 03 - Uniqueness of the Church 04 - Structure of the Church 05 - Elder Qualifications for the Church 06 - Deacon Qualifications for the Church 07 - Spiritual Gifts of the Body of Christ 08 - Purpose of Spiritual Gifts 09 - Importance of Spiritual Gifts for Unity 10 - Ordinances in the Church 11 - Outreach of the Church
22 - Pre Tribulation Rapture	01 - Immanency of the Rapture 02 - Not Destined for Wrath
23 - Tribulation	01 - Introduction to the Tribulation 02 - The Events of the Tribulation
24 - The Millennium	01 - The Millennium Prophesied 02 - The Millennial Reign
25 - Eternity	01 - New Heavans and New Earth

Major Event: CREATION

Lesson 1: God

Scriptures: Genesis Chapters 1 and 2

Central Text: Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Ex nihilo (out of nothing) creation, God seen as working through 6 days of creation, God placing value on His work.

Suggested Attributes of God for Teacher to Cover:

Eternality, Omnipotence

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Col. 2:9

Notes: Observe the text carefully with the children. Lead them to see and say some salient truths that are revealed about God in this passage. For example, notice that God creates by language (not evolution!). God is also seen working and evaluating His work. This brings a biblical view of work, not just part of the curse. Note also the literal day markers in the text (evening and morning). For older children the fact that God created light before the sun is instructive because the Hebrews would later be involved in sun worship idolatry.

Major Event: CREATION

Lesson 2: Man

Scriptures: Genesis Chapters 1 and 2

Central Text: Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Purpose of creation, Order of creation, Significance of order, Material used for creation.

Suggested Attributes of Man for Teacher to Cover:

Creative and Cognitive ability (naming), Responsibility, Free will

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

John 1:1-3; John 1:14

Notes: Man and woman were created to rule as vassals or regents over God's creation, under His authority. Note also when man was created (6th day). A significance of this is that we are the culmination or climax of God's creative work. Note order of creation - man then woman. Note purpose for creation (to fill the earth and subdue it Gen. 1:28). Explore the image of God. What does that mean (personality, intellect, will...)? Note Adam's work in "naming" as it relates to that image. Note also that God created Adam in the form He knew His Son would take on at the Incarnation. – Note "Image of God" does not mean potential to become God. Emphasize Creator/creature distinction (Ex. 3:14). Note- Adamic Covenant: God blesses Man and Woman then gives them charge to multiply, fill, and subdue the earth (1:28). Same formula is repeated in Noahic covenant (9:1).

Major Event: CREATION

Lesson 3: Man's Responsibility Before God

Scriptures: Genesis 1 and 2

Central Text: Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Suggested Subjects:

God's authority over His creation. Man's responsibility revealed through God's specific (verbal) revelation/instruction.

Suggested Attributes:

- 1) Of God: Sovereignty, Love (in creating humans with both purpose and potential to fulfill purpose), Omnipotence.
- 2) Of Man: Cognitive ability, physical ability, responsibility/Free Will (see Gen. 1:26,27 as relates to image of God.) Ability to understand God's revelation.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Deut. 6:4 and Following; Mark 12:29-31; Micah 6:8; Romans 12:1-2

Notes: God's purpose for Adam is stated in verse 15. He was responsible before God for four things:

1. To cultivate the garden, that is to bring forth its potential production/fruit.
2. To keep the garden. The Hebrew word (Shamar) means to guard. Adam was responsible to protect the garden. This may foreshadow what Adam's failure would be in the next chapter.
3. Eat its fruit (except from 1 tree, 2:17).
4. Name the animals: God gave Adam the task and ability of naming, or placing an accurate value on the animals. Compare this to 1:31 where God values His work as "very good" and consider again the image of God in man from 1:26-27.

Major Event: CREATION

Lesson 4: Marriage

Scriptures: Genesis 1 and 2

Central Text: Genesis 2:18, 2:24

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Suggested Subjects: God's purpose for marriage. The order of creation.

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Unity and Diversity (see Gen. 1:26 "let Us")
2. His need for a suitable helper to accomplish Divinely designed purpose (2:18)

Suggested Home Study:

1 Cor. 11:9-12; Mark 10:1-12; Rom. 11:33-36

Notes: God establishes marriage before the fall. God united one man and one woman to compliment each other and have unity of purpose in accomplishing that for which He designed them. In 2:25 the man and woman are naked without shame. They have not yet experienced the pain of a guilty conscience (cf. Rom. 2:15,16). The fact that the woman (later Eve) was taken from the man makes the entire human race "from Adam". This is theologically significant because, as Paul states, through one man's fall all die, so by one man's obedience all men can be saved (Romans 5:12-19)

Major Event: FALL

Lesson 1 : Sin

Scriptures: Genesis 3

Central Text: Genesis 3:6

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Suggested Subjects:

Truth v. Lies (focus on words of each participant in narrative), consequences of rebellion; shame, death

Suggested Attributes:

- 1 Of God: Veracity, Immutability
- 2 Of Man: Free Will

Suggested Home Study:

Rom. 3:23, 6:23, 5:12 and following; Isa. 64:6; As relates to shame; Rom. 2:15-16; Proverbs 28:1; As it relates to Satan's attack on God's Word; Matthew 4

Notes: Review God's command in 2:17 before the woman was created. Review no shame before fall (2:25 cf. 3:7). Review Adam's charge to guard (2:15). Review purpose of woman's creation- to be a suitable helper. Here she is seen as initiator in the marriage- a failure on both of their parts to adhere to Divinely designated roles. Note her husband is "with her" so he fails in both guarding and leading his wife. Notice Satan attacks Word of God (cf. Matt. 4, Luke 4) Notice woman's confusion as to exact command of God. Perhaps another failure of the husband to properly communicate as command was given to him. Serpents lie held some truth- they did have eyes opened and became aware of good and evil. Satan's accusation was and is that God is holding back the good things of life from us. Note their physical eyes were already open in 3:6. In 3:7 their spiritual eyes "were opened". This passive verb means that the action happened to them, they had no control over it. Relate that to sense of guilt and fear of judgment and fleeing that we do when we sin. None of which we can control unless we confess our sins (1 John 1:9)

Major Event: FALL

Lesson 2: God's Curse

Scriptures: Genesis 3

Central Text: Gen. 3:9-24

Suggested Subjects:

Consequences of rebellion, God's grace warning prior to judgment (2:17), God's faithfulness despite man's faithlessness (2 Tim. 2:13), Shame for disobedience.

Suggested attributes:

- 1 Of God: Veracity, Immutability, Faithfulness
- 2 Of Man: cowardice, blame shifting

Suggested Home Study:

Operation of conscience- Prov. 28:1; God seeks us- Ps. 14:1-3; We don't seek God- Rom. 3:10-12; God's Word as True-2 Tim. 3:16,17; God's love- Rom. 5:8, 8:1, 8:38,39; Eph. 2:8,9; God's final grace in ending curse and death- Rev. 21:1-6

Notes: Review 1. Command (verbal) in 2:17 and compare to rebellion in 3:6. 2. Shame- compare 2:25 to 3:7. 3. Consequences of spiritual and eventual physical death- compare 2:17 with Romans 6:23. Notice that Genesis begins with God evaluating His creation as "very good" in 1:31 and ends with Joseph's death in Gen. 50:26. Notice God approaches Adam and woman while they are fleeing (3:9). God asks a series of questions designed to elicit truthful confession. Notice again that the entire passage focuses on language. God is the only one at the end to tell the whole truth. Man and woman evade responsibility before God. Man even blames God. God curses because of His Veracity. Notice God's love in promising a deliverer in the midst of curse- 3:15. Human rebellion led to curse of creation that was to be subdued under their authority 2:15 cf. 3:18 and immediate death of animals for coverings -3:21. God drove humans from garden in both judgment and mercy- 3:22.

Major Event: FALL

Lesson 3: Post Fall Civilization

Scriptures: Genesis 4 and 5

Central Text: 4:8, 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31

Suggested Subjects:

First murder (4:8), death, long lifespan in pre-deluvian civilization, acceptable v. unacceptable worship/sacrifice

Suggested Attributes:

- 1 Of God: Love (in warning Cain before he murdered Abel)
- 2 Of Man: Fallen sin nature, mortality

Suggested Home Study:

Acceptable worship- Hosea 6:4-11; Mic. 6:6-8; Rom. 12:1,2; Death- Rom. 3:23, 6:23; God's gracious warning before judgment- 2 Pet. 3; Calling on the name of the LORD- 1. Abraham: Gen. 12:8, 13:4, 21:33 2. David- Psalm 28. 3. Rom. 10:13-16 (note this is a passage dealing with Israel's future, but clearly says that in order to call they must already believe)

Notes: Emphasize the immediate break down of the family, and ensuing civilization due to the fall. Adam's fallen nature and curse of death are passed on to his descendants (cf. Rom. 5:12ff). Notice God's gracious warning to Cain before the culmination of his sin of murder. In Cain's sarcastic question "Am I my brother's keeper?" (4:9) "keeper" is the same word (shamar) in 2:15 meaning to guard. Why was Cain's sacrifice unacceptable to God? Compare Genesis 3:7 "...they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings, and Genesis 3:21 "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. with Genesis 4:3-4 "3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;" The fruit and leaves suggest man's autonomous work which is not sufficient to redeem man. The skins God provided correlate with Abel's sacrifice of God's creatures. This demonstrates two fundamental truths: 1. There must be blood atonement for reconciliation to God because of man's rebellion. 2. Man cannot merit reconciliation to God (see Heb. 10:4).

Notice also Lamech's boastful "song" regarding his own homicide seems to be saying he did not need God to take vengeance for him but that he would live autonomously by his own strength. Note the 8 times the phrase "he died" occurs in chapter 5 as a working out of God's promise in 2:17 and the curse. Note in 4:26 a contrast is highlighted with birth of Enosh as men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Major Event: FLOOD

Lesson 1: The Flood

Scriptures: Genesis Chapters 6-8

Central Text: Gen. 6:5; 6:8-9

Suggested Subjects:

Mankind's continued rebellion, God's sorrow (6:7), God's Righteousness and Justice, Literal worldwide flood, God's right to Judge

Suggested attributes:

- 1 Of God: Righteousness and Justice (Holiness), Love (in merciful deliverance) Sovereignty, Omnipotence
- 2 Of Man: Total Depravity (6:5)

Suggested Home Study:

2 Pet. 3:1-13 (universality of flood and coming final judgment); Rev. 20:11-15 (GWT judgment), 2 Pet. 2:5 (Noah a preacher of righteousness had 120 years (Gen. 6:3) to witness demonstrating God's grace to sinners and His desire for all to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9)).

Notes: Review chapters 4 and 5- rebellion, murder and death. Note wickedness of humanity in 6:5. Compare to God's original evaluation of His creation as "very good" (1:31). Emphasize God's Holiness- He will not tolerate rebellion forever. Note God's patience in 6:3 even giving 120 years for Noah to preach (2 Pet 2:5) and sinful man to repent (2 Pet 3:9). Note God's sorrow at man's sinfulness (6:7). "Sons of God" is a title nearly always used to refer to angelic beings. It seems that angels left their proper role and cohabitated with human women (see 2 Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6). Note constantly used literal number markers for years, days and measurements. Note water prevailed 15 cubits over highest mountain (7:19,20). Literal worldwide flood is the only possible interpretation that remains faithful to the text. Note God's love in preserving the animals. Note God's precise instructions and Noah's complete obedience in building the ark (6:22, 7:5). Note God provided only one way of deliverance. Note God sealed the ark behind Noah (7:16) marking assurance of salvation for those aboard and end of mercy for the rest. Note God remembered Noah and animals (8:1) and provided a safe resting place for the ark (8:4).

Major Event: FLOOD

Lesson #2: Noahic Covenant

Scriptures: Genesis 9

Central Text: Genesis 9:1, 9:9

Suggested Subjects:

Covenant making and keeping God (as unique among world religions), Noah and sons receive same charge to fill earth as Adam and Eve (1:28).

Suggested Attributes:

- 1 Of God: Veracity
- 2 Of Man: fallen, unfaithful (9:20-25)

Suggested Home Study:

Isa. 54:8-10 (God's compassion and covenant faithfulness to Judah), John 10:27-30, I Thess. 4:13-18 (God's faithfulness to His church)

Notes: Define the word covenant as a contract. Give some examples of contracts. Note that contracts are made to evaluate behavior of both parties. Notice that God is the faithful party to the contract as Noah and son Ham immediately fall into sin. This is a pattern that God repeats throughout the Scriptures (ex. Abraham giving away Sarai twice out of fear and Israelites making golden calf). God remains faithful to His covenants even when we are faithless (2 Tim. 2:16). Note also why this is recorded. Moses pens the Torah as the Jews are about to enter the promised land in order to declare the faithfulness of God. The Jews, not the Greeks are the first historians. History is His Story. History has meaning because the great "I AM" interacts in it and teaches His people through it. God adds animals to acceptable food for men and sets terror of man in animals (9:2,3). This may be an object lesson foreshadowing the need for Christ's atonement. People would now have to understand that in order for them to live something must die. Note that the image of God in man is repeated after the flood. This is theologically significant because it reveals that even in man's fallen condition he bears the image of God (effaced not erased). Also it becomes the basis for human government. God institutes capital punishment for murder because it is an attack on the image of God (9:6). Note God sets rainbow as His signature promise to man and animals that He won't flood earth again (9:13). For older children (at teacher's discretion) note immediate proximity of Noah and Ham's shameful sins as it contrasts with God's Loving covenant. See Deut. 22:30, Lev. 18:6-8 and Ruth 3:9 as to what "saw the nakedness of his father" might mean. Perhaps a homosexual act, but more likely a rape of his father's wife, note curse is on Canaan (Ham's offspring) not Ham. This curse cannot be used to justify racism because all of Ham's descendants were not cursed. Note blessings on Shem and Japheth for proper response (9:26,27).

Major Event: TOWER OF BABEL

Lesson 1: The Tower of Babel

Scriptures: Genesis - Chapters 10 and 11

Central Text: Genesis 11:4-9

Suggested Subjects:

Mankind's attempt at autonomous self rule (make a name for ourselves) God's overruling Providence.

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Omnipotence
2. Of Man: Pride, Arrogance, Disobedience

Suggested Home Study:

Col. 2:8, God also scattered early Church; Matthew 28:19 cf; Acts 11:19; Compare Genesis 11:4 and 2 Pet. 3:3

Notes: Note in genealogies (Toledots) of Noah's sons that each "were separated" (10:5) by: 1. language 2. family and 3. Nation. This passive verb indicates mankind's post deluvian rebellion (the same as before the flood) in refusal to "populate the earth abundantly" (9:7) and "fill the earth" (1:2, 9:1). So God, in His Sovereignty and Omnipotence caused the scattering of His church through persecution (Matt 28:19 cf Acts 11:19). Chapter 11 describes how and why the nations families and languages were scattered. Note the Bible does not speak of "races" of human beings, but families and nations. Racism has no foundation in the Bible. However, upon an evolutionary framework, racism is a quite logical outworking that has been used to justify mass murder (Nazi Germany). Note-"Let us make a name for ourselves" (11:4) is a clear rejection of Biblical revelation. After all, God had already named man (5:2), but man wanted to remake himself and provide security for himself. Note a tower was what they chose to build, probably to avoid the destruction of another deluge. However, this too revealed a rejection of God's promise not to flood the world again (9:11). For older children the roots of secular humanism are here. Compare the rejection of Divine revelation at Babel with Peter's prophecy of a global destruction by fire at the Day of the LORD (2 Pet. 3) and the mockers in our day.

Major Event: CALL OF ABRAHAM

Lesson #1: Announcement of the Abrahamic Covenant

Scriptures: Genesis 12

Central Text: Genesis 12:1-3

Suggested subjects:

God's intervention in human history by calling out Abram from the pagan land of his father. God's plan for blessing, not only for Abram and his descendants, but for the whole human race.

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Omniscience, Omni Benevolence (Love), Omnipotence, Sovereignty.
2. Of Man: Free will, Ability (in faith) to understand and obey God.

Suggested Home Study:

Romans 4; Romans 8:28 ff.; Galatians 3 (Esp. verses 8, 16, 26, 29).

Notes: The importance of the call of Abram can scarcely be overemphasized. Like Gen. 1:26, 27 and 3:15 this is a foundational event through which God works out human history. It is also indispensable for our understanding of the doctrine of election. God called Abram out of a pagan land. -Joshua 24:1-15 (esp. v. 2)- Abram and his fathers served other gods. Note the proximity of God's call in the text to the tower of Babel and explore the contrasts. Note God does not call Abram because of any merit on his part. Note God's command to "Go forth" came with a three fold promise: 1. land 2. seed 3. worldwide blessing. Eventually, the promise of seed and worldwide blessing would come to pass in the form of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ first promised in Genesis 3:15 (cf. Gal. 3:16). Israel still awaits the complete fulfillment of the land promise. "You shall be a blessing" (v. 2) is actually a command for Abram to bless others. Which he fails to do with two kings (12:13, 20:5), but succeeds by twice rescuing Lot (chapter 14 and 18) and his covenant with Abimelech (chapter 21). ****Emphasize the uniqueness of a covenant making God. No other world religion has a covenant making God. Why is that? Because a covenant is a contract. Contracts are made to evaluate the behavior of the involved parties. Only a Sovereign, Omnipotent God could make such a covenant with man because only He could live up to it!! And only He does.**

Major Event: CALL OF ABRAHAM

Lesson #2: Ratification of the Abrahamic Covenant

Scripture: Genesis 15

Central Text: Gen. 15: 4-6, 15:18

Suggested Subjects:

Justification by faith, God as a covenant making faithful God (as distinct from all other false gods and religions).

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Veracity, Immutability
2. Of Man: Ability to correspond with God because of image (1:26,27).

Suggested Home Study:

Compare Genesis 15:7 to Exodus 20:2 (Same formula to remind Israel of Yahweh's covenant faithfulness). Rom. 4:3, Gal. 3:6

Notes: Abram "believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. While most evangelical scholars don't believe this is Abram's point of conversion, it is the first time the formula "believed in the LORD" is used (cf. Acts 16:31) and Paul used this event to demonstrate that righteousness comes by faith in Romans 4. In 15:18 the LORD makes (or literally "cuts") an oath of malediction while Abram sleeps. Two very important ramifications of this oath are: 1. The covenant is unilateral. Therefore it is sure to come to pass because it is based on the LORD's character. 2. Someone making an oath of malediction, where animals are severed in two and then passed through, was saying "may this happen to me if I fail to keep this covenant"- cf. Jer. 34:18.

God's Demonstration (Gn 15:8-12, 17)

Abram believed God's promises, but his faith was in dire need of encouragement. The God who takes note of even mustard seed faith graciously condescended to bind himself by means of an oath—to even place himself under a potential curse—to fulfill his promises. Abram knew full well the legal implications of the action he was required to perform.

Abram was told to bring three animals—a heifer, a goat, and a ram—as well as two birds—a dove and a pigeon. The animals were to be cut in two, and a path formed between the carcasses. **To walk that path was to pronounce a self-malediction as if to say, May this terrible fate befall me if I fail to keep the promise I have given (cf. Jer 34:18f.).** All day long Abram waited for what he knew would be the most dramatic manifestation of God's presence that he had yet experienced. He drove away the birds of prey whose presence would detract from the sacredness of that spot.

As the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep (*tardemah*). Terror fell upon him, and deep darkness, symbolizing the ominous character of the revelation about to be presented. After the sun had set the blessed theophany took place. A smoking fire pot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the animal carcasses. A fire pot was a portable clay oven a couple of feet high. It resembled an inverted bowl with a hole in the upper side for draft. The explanation of this theophany is clearly stated in verse 18: "On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram."

God's Declaration (Gn 15:13-16, 18-21).

The divine declaration which accompanied the theophany explained to Abram when the land promise would be fulfilled. The land of Canaan would belong to his descendants after five conditions had been met: (1) his descendants would spend four hundred years in a strange land where they would become slaves; (2) the land which enslaved them would be judged; (3) his descendants would come out of that land with great substance; (4) Abram would die in peace at an old age; and (5) the sin of the Amorites would have reached its full measure. Thus in the fourth generation (counting a generation as a hundred years) Abram's descendants would return to Canaan.

Genesis 15 concludes with specific boundaries for the Promised Land. Abram's descendants would occupy the land which stretched between the river of Egypt (not the Nile, but the Wadi Alrish) to the river Euphrates. At that time that region was occupied by ten different peoples. Someday, according to the oath of God, that land would belong to Abram's descendants.

Major Event: CALL OF ABRAHAM

Lesson #3: Memorial Sign of the Abrahamic Covenant

Scripture: Genesis 17

Central Text: Gen. 17:10,11

Suggested Subjects:

God's covenant faithfulness, and His requirements of His servants. Promise of seed (Isaac).

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Omnipotence (El Shaddai), Veracity, Love

Suggested Home Study:

Romans 2:25-29 cf. Romans 3:10, 23 cf. Romans 5:8

Notes: God reveals Himself as “El Shaddai” or God Almighty in this passage, as an assurance to Abraham that He is able to accomplish what He has promised. God changes Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude). Note that God is setting up an impossible situation, from a human perspective. Yet he keeps on promising Abram many descendants, almost upping the ante every time, as it looks less and less likely to occur (again from an earthly perspective). Only God Almighty could fulfill such a promise. The sign of circumcision was a physical symbol of a heart commitment to Yahweh (Deut. 10:16), and a “set apartness” from the Gentiles.— Teacher, this is a major motif in both Old and New Testaments, so use your best judgment. Verses 1-10 and 15-22 may be most appropriate. **Do not elaborate on the physical ritual. Defer questions on circumcision to parents.**

The Commandment Given (Gn 17:9–14).

Abraham and his descendants must “keep the covenant” (17:9). The outward sign of the covenant was the circumcision of every male child. Abraham, even though he was ninety-nine, must set the example and circumcise himself. The rite of circumcision *particularized* Abraham's experience with God. The importance of circumcision is indicated by the amount of space devoted to it in this chapter. Nine verses set forth the commandment, and five verses describe the obedience to it.

Circumcision was to be performed on the eighth day. The law applied to both native Israelites and slaves who might come among the people of the Lord. A male who refused to submit to circumcision was to be “cut off from his people.”

Chapter Summary: 1. Part of God's blessing would depend on Abraham's maintaining the covenant of circumcision, though the Abrahamic Covenant as a whole did not depend on this (vv. 1-2). 2. Many nations would come from Abraham (vv. 4-6). 3. The Abrahamic Covenant would be eternal (vv. 7-8). 4. God would be the God of Abraham's descendants in a special relationship (vv. 7-8). 5. Sarah herself would bear the promised heir (v. 16). 6. This is also the first time God identified the Promised Land as Canaan by name (v. 8). "Abraham's experiences should teach us that natural law [barrenness] is no barrier to the purposes and plans for [sic] God."

Summary from Tom Constable's Study Notes (www.soniclight.org)

Major Event: CALL OF ABRAHAM

Lesson #4: The “Reciprocals” of Abraham

Scriptures: Gen 12, 13 and 21

Central Text: Gen. 12:6-8; Gen. 13:1-4; Gen. 21:33-34

Suggested Subjects:

Abraham’s faith, and progressive sanctification in response to God’s revealed covenant

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: God as Personal
2. Of Man: Man as able to have relationship with God through faithful obedience

Suggested Home Study:

Psalm 116 (David’s thanksgiving psalm for deliverance from death); Romans 10:13,14 (how will they call on Him whom they have not believed?); Jer. 31:31ff; God’s future promise of perfect fellowship with His people Israel

Notes: Neither Abraham nor his descendants (save Christ) have yet been fully obedient to the requirements God laid out in the Abrahamic and later covenants. However, in Abraham’s life we see these three wonderful examples of “calling on the name of the LORD” as reciprocal of God’s calling Abram (later Abraham) by name out of the pagan milieu of his day. Calling on the name of the LORD is an important refrain throughout Scripture for the faithful who: 1. Remember the LORD’s *chesed* (loyal covenant love) 2. Express worship and praise 3. Publicly declare God’s faithfulness and Omnipotence (ability to accomplish what He promises) 4. Seek deliverance from some temporal sickness or danger (see Ps. 116). * See powerpoint on “reciprocals of Abraham” should you desire to use it. Note also God’s covenant faithfulness to Abraham in his lifetime (not only through the ultimate fulfillment of His covenant in Christ’s millennial kingdom): By Gen. 21 Abraham is sojourning in the land, he has the promised seed and he is being a blessing to his neighbors (covenant with Abimelech).

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 1: Isaac Blessed with Abrahamic Covenant

Scriptures: Genesis 25 and 26

Central Text: Genesis 26:2-5

2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God blessed Isaac during his lifetime with two parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: personal blessing (Gen. 25:11; Gen. 26:12-14) and descendants, Esau and Jacob (Gen. 25:21).
2. God explained to Isaac twice (Gen. 26:3-5 & Gen. 26:24) that He was establishing the Abrahamic Covenant through Isaac.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His Word
2. Of Man: Obedience to God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis Chapter 26

Notes: Review God's covenant with Abraham and the above Isaac verses.

Review/Read God's revelation of the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; Genesis 15:17-18). Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, Uncountable Descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ).

Tell how God began blessing Isaac immediately after Abraham's death, including wealth and children.

Finish with God's establishing the Abrahamic Covenant through Isaac.

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 2: Jacob's Ladder at Bethel

Scriptures: Genesis Chapter 28

Central text(s): Genesis 28:12-15

12 And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

1. Review Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8) and to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5).
2. Jacob's miraculous dream from God at Bethel (central text above), extending Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His promises
2. Of Man: Man can do nothing but receive Grace from God.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis Chapter 28

Notes: Review the Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8) and to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5).

Study God's giving the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob at Jacob's Ladder in Bethel.

Review God's revelation of the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7; Gen. 15:17-18).

Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, uncountable descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ).

Read how God gave Jacob the Abrahamic Covenant in a miraculous dream.

***NT application: John 1:45-51- note especially 1:51 (ascending and descending) and compare to Gen. 28:12. Jesus is the mediator who came down from heaven to mediate between God and man.**

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 3: God Blesses Jacob and Laban

Scriptures: Genesis 29:1 - 31:13

Central Text: Genesis 31:4-7, 11-12

4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field, 5 and said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not *friendly* toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me. 6 "And you know that I have served your father with all my strength. 7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me.

11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' 12 "And he said, 'Lift up, now, your eyes and see *that* all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.'

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God blessed Jacob with marriage (Descendants portion of Abrahamic Covenant). (Gen. 29:1 – 30:24)
2. God blessed Jacob with flocks of lambs and goats (Personal blessing portion of Abrahamic Covenant). [Gen. 30:25 – 31:13]

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Veracity
2. Of Man: Deceit (Laban), Obedience to God (Jacob)

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

Gen. 29:1-22; Gen. 30:25 through Gen. 31:13

Notes: Review the Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15).

Study God's giving the Descendants and Personal blessing portions of the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob.

Review that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, Uncountable descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ).

Tell how God blessed Jacob with the descendant's portion and the personal blessing portion of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 4: Jacob becomes Israel

Scriptures: Genesis 32:1 - 36:1

Central Text: Genesis 32:9-12

9 And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who didst say to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which Thou hast shown to Thy servant; for with my staff *only* I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. 11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me, the mothers with the children. 12 "For Thou didst say, 'I will surely prosper you, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. Jacob prays to God, asking Him to fulfill what He promised (Gen. 32:1-12).
2. God fulfills the personal blessing and descendants portions of Abrahamic Covenant with Jacob (Gen. 32:13-33:16).
3. Jacob wrestles with God (Gen. 32:24-32, especially 32:30). Commentary From: *Constable's Study Notes* (<http://soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/genesis.pdf>):
"With his wrestling with God Jacob began a new stage in his life (v. 28); he was a new man because he now began to relate to God in a way new for him. As a sign of this, God gave him a new name that indicated his new relationship to God. "Israel" means "God's warrior." Jacob's new name introduced a new phase of his life. Thereafter he behaved either carnally or spiritually. Note which of his names Moses used from here on. When Jacob behaved like the "old Jacob," Moses referred to him as "Jacob," but when he behaved like Israel (God's warrior), Moses referred to him as "Israel".
4. Jacob's twelve sons would become the tribes of Israel in fulfillment of the descendants portion of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 35:22b-26).
5. Esau's family would live in Edom and was not in God's chosen line (Gen. 36:1).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word
2. Of Man: Prayer to God for what He has promised

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis 32:1-33:16, Genesis 35:22b-36:1

Notes: Review the Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15).
Study Jacob's prayer and God's fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob.
Review that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 5: God Protected Joseph in Slavery

Scriptures: Genesis Chapters 37 and 39:1-6

Central Text: Genesis 39:1-4

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. 2 And the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. Joseph had dreams of sheaves of wheat and sun/moon/stars showing that he would be over his parents and brothers (Gen. 37:1-10).
2. His brothers became jealous of Joseph, so they sold him into slavery bound for Egypt (Gen. 37:11-36).
3. God took care of Joseph in Egypt for the preservation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God prospered Joseph so that he was well respected by his master, Potiphar (Gen. 39:1-6).

Suggested Attributes For Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word
2. Of man: Treachery/evil tendencies of brothers; humility of Joseph to God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis 37 and Genesis 39:1-6

Notes: Review Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15). Study Joseph's first dreams, his brothers' selling him into slavery, and God's provision for Joseph in Egypt (Scriptures of this lesson).

Review/read that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, uncountable descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ). Next, tell/read how God gave Joseph prophetic dreams and how his brothers became jealous and sold him into slavery. Finally, tell how God prospered Joseph for the preservation of the future tribes of Israel as part of the descendant's portion of the Abraham Covenant.

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 6: God Prospered Joseph in Jail

Scriptures: Genesis 39 and 40

Central Text: Genesis 39:20-23

20 So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. 22 The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. Joseph was thrown in jail for something he didn't do, but God prospered Joseph for the preservation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 39:20-23).
2. In jail, God gave Joseph the interpretations of the dreams of the royal cupbearer and baker. Joseph acknowledged that God had provided the interpretations (Genesis 40).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word
2. Of man: The lies of Potipher's wife; Joseph's humility to God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-8, 40:20-23

Notes: Review Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15). Study the Scriptures of this lesson with a focus on what is necessary to tell the kids so that they understand the main points.

Review/read that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, uncountable descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ). Next, tell/read how Joseph was wrongly thrown in jail, but that God prospered him for the preservation of the future tribes of Israel in fulfillment of the descendants portion of the Abrahamic Covenant. Finally, tell how God gave Joseph the interpretations of the dreams of the royal cupbearer and baker, and that Joseph acknowledged God as the Source of the interpretations.

Major Event: PATRIARCHS

Lesson 7: God Preserved Israel Through Joseph

Scriptures: Genesis Chapters 41 – 46, 50:18-21

Central Text: Genesis 45:4-8

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8 "Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God gave Joseph the interpretations of Pharaoh's dreams and Joseph told Pharaoh that God was the Source of the interpretations (Gen. 41:1-36).
2. Through Pharaoh, God appointed Joseph over the land of Egypt so that He might preserve the future tribes of Israel in fulfillment of the descendants portion of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 41:37-46:34).
3. **Gen. 50:18-21**- note Joseph's mercy to brothers after Jacob's death. He reflects character of God. (you intended for evil...God intended for good passage)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word
2. Of man: Joseph's humility and obedience to God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Genesis Chapters 41-46

Notes: Review Abrahamic Covenant that God gave to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-8), to Isaac (Gen. 26:3-5), and to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15). Study the Scriptures of this lesson with a focus on God's provision for future Israel and Joseph's humility to God.

Review/read that God revealed the Abrahamic covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see preparation). Note the different parts of the Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Land, Personal Blessing, uncountable descendants, and Blessing to all people in Abraham's seed (Jesus Christ). Next, tell/read how God gave Joseph the interpretations of Pharaoh's dreams. Finally, tell how God preserved the future tribes of Israel through Joseph's position in Egypt. (The Israelites would remain in Egypt for more than 400 years from that time.)

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 1: The Jews in Egypt

Scripture: Exodus Chapter 1

Central Text: Exodus 1:7

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Historical background: The time period covers the Jews sojourn in Egypt, from 1876 BC when Jacob is moved to Egypt until the deliverance out of Egypt in 1446 BC. (Principle: God works with His people through literal historical events)
- The birth of the Jewish nation and the formation of a people to be a nation (in Exodus there is a focus on the God “who brought you out of Egypt” as opposed to the God who created you back in Genesis.
- The God who created all things is creating a nation through whom He would bring blessing to the world (Gen. 12:1-3).
- God’s Sovereign Lordship over history and nations.
- The sojourn in Egypt taught humility through adversity.
- The slavery in Egypt taught their distinctiveness as a people and the importance to remain distinct as God’s covenant people.
- It would teach them to trust God, wait on Him, and not depend on the nations.
- Like the Hebrew midwives who feared God over Pharaoh (1:15-22), we need to fear God over man.
- The Jews in Egypt was no accident (God always has a purpose. Genesis 50:20).
- God’s plan is not always in agreement with the way we would do things. We need to trust His ways (Deut. 29:29; Ps 77:13). Why would God choose to enslave His people in Egypt? Why not another way? Why allow affliction and suffering with His people? Suffering and trials can spiritually grow God’s people. God in His wisdom protected and multiplied His people in Egypt and preserved them as a distinct people until He was ready to bring them out of Egypt.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Truth (Faithfulness): God is multiplying the Jews into a nation (Exodus 1:7) as He promised (Gen. 15:5; 22:17; 26:4). God never breaks a promise.

Omniscience and Omnipresence: God knows all things - He predicted the Jewish enslavement back to Abraham back in Gen. 15:12-16 (God knows our difficulties before we even encounter them and always has a solution).

God is present with His people; He is present and knows of the faithfulness of the Hebrew midwives (God recognizes their obedience and their value for the plan of God). He knows the best possible way to accomplish His plan to bring Him maximum glory.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Suffering and trials: Rom. 5:3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:1-4

Fear God over man: Ecclesiastes 12:13; Job 1:1, 8; 1 Peter 2:17

Notes: God is a God of purpose and has a plan that no man can destroy. This book will show how God can work mighty things despite difficult circumstances. Just as God worked His plan through Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt (Gen 50 - his brothers meant it for evil, God meant it for good), God used the slavery of His people to give birth to His covenant nation.

* A critical point to remember when teaching kids is Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

According to this passage (also Deut. 11:18-19), God demanded that the parent teach the word of God to their children. They were to teach their children the Torah, which includes Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 2: The Birth and Training of Moses

Scripture: Exodus Chapter 2

Central Text: Exodus 2:24

24 “So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Moses received three types of training:

Home Training

- Moses is raised in Pharaoh’s palace.
- Moses is retrieved out of the Nile by Pharaoh’s daughter at infancy.
- Moses is raised in the palace of Egypt.
- Major irony: Pharaoh tries to oppose God’s plan by killing the Hebrew boys, and ends up raising Moses for Yahweh at his own expense (feeds him, educates him, and pays his mother to keep him).
- Moses chooses to align with God’s plan for the nation Israel (Heb 11:23-27)

Egyptian Training

- God trained Moses through the Egyptian system in mathematics, architecture, and military strategy (Moses still had to learn how to rely on God).
- Acts 7:22 “Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.”

Wilderness Training

- Moses would learn from God in the same location that God would later use for the nation (40 years in the wilderness).
- God can train and use His servants wherever He chooses. He raised Joseph in the desert to use him in a palace and raised Moses in a palace to use Him in a desert.
- Moses’ spent 40 years in the palace and 40 years in the wilderness before his 40 years of service. Spiritual maturity requires some element of time. God allowed Moses to mature spiritually before using him mightily to lead Israel 40 years in the wilderness.
- God uses His people in all kinds of ways and circumstances to bring glory to Himself, and there is no universal set pattern for who God can use:
 - Abraham was called out of a pagan background in Ur and eventually received the title “friend of God”.
 - Rahab the harlot was used to protect the Jewish spies in Jericho, a woman who was included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.
 - God took David the shepherd and raised him to king over Israel and the “shepherd” of God’s flock.
 - God took Peter, a fisherman by trade, a believer who would even deny Jesus three times, and made him into “a fisher of men” and one who would be willing to lay down his life for the Lord.
 - The apostle Paul was one of the worst persecutors of the church of Jesus Christ that ever lived, and God used him and turned him into one of the greatest servants that ever lived.
- The prophet Moses becomes a pattern or type that foreshadows Jesus Christ, the greater Prophet than Moses (Deut. 18:15-19). The truth given through God’s authorized servants must be obeyed.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Omniscience: God knows what’s best in the training of His servants.

Veracity (Absolute Truth and Faithfulness): God remembered His covenant with His people - 2:24.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Acts 7 gives a good review of this time period.

Hebrews 13:5 - God never forsakes His people.

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 3: God Meets Moses at Sinai

Scriptures: Exodus Chapter 3

Central Text: Exodus 3:14-15

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God is the great "I AM" (Ex. 3:14) - God is the self-existing God with no beginning or end.

God said, "I will be with you" - God is personal.

God knew of the affliction of His people - God is concerned and cares about us.

This chapter reveals the pattern of God's deliverance of His people (it is the pattern for the gospel revealed in the NT).

God comes down from heaven to deliver Israel into the Promised Land. Likewise, Jesus Christ will come down from heaven to save His people by going to the cross and bring them into the kingdom of God.

Suggested Attributes of God for Teacher to Cover:

Omniscience - God knows the affliction of His people.

Omnipotence - God is all-powerful to deliver His people.

Omnipresence - God is eternal yet able to meet Moses in a particular location (God is personal and available).

Truth (faithfulness) - God is faithful to His promises and never breaks His word (His covenant with Israel).

God's perfect holiness (His presence demands purity and worship).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Jesus as the great "I AM" came down from heaven to deliver: John 1:1, 14; 3:16-18; 6:38-40; 8:58; Rev. 19:11-16.

Jesus cares about us: 1 Pet. 5:6-7.

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 4: Moses Represents God to the People

Scriptures: Exodus Chapters 4, 5 and 6

Exodus 4: Miracles affirm God's messenger

Exodus 5: Moses before Pharaoh- people afflicted (bricks w/o straw)

Exodus 6: Moses brings God's message of redemption

Central Text: Exodus 6:6

6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.'"

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

Moses will go before the people to perform divinely empowered miracles to affirm his ministry and message (Exodus 4). Jesus would later perform miracles to affirm His person and message.

A key word - redemption.

"redeem"- גָּאַל (*gāal*) *redeem, buy back or purchase, deliver, avenge, revenge, ransom, do the part of a kinsman.*

The book of Exodus has a major contribution to the Bible in that it teaches about redemption. God will purchase or redeem His people from Egyptian slavery.

Exodus 6 uses the word redemption:

Exodus 6:6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

In the victory song of Moses:

Exodus 15:13 "In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have **redeemed**; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.

God did a very unique and powerful thing by taking Israel out from within the nation Egypt to demonstrate that He is the only true God (cf. Deuteronomy 4:32-35)

Suggested Attributes of God for the Teacher to Cover:

God's omnipotence is expressed through miracles and redemption (God easily removed His people from a powerful nation Egypt). God continues to show Himself supreme over Satan the ruler of the fallen world and godless nations (Jn. 12:31; 16:33; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 20:10).

Miracles are possible in a world ruled by an omnipotent God.

Redemption from sin is only possible through an all-powerful God.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Miracles: Matthew 4:23-24

Redemption: Romans 3:21-24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:17-19

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 5: The Ten Plagues on Egypt

Scriptures: Exodus Chapters 7-11

Central Text: Exodus 12:12

12 “For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments - I am the Lord.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Note that the 10 plagues not only demonstrate God’s power, but more specifically, they demonstrate God’s power over all the false Egyptian gods (cf. Exodus 12:12).

There is only one God (cf. Gen. 1:1; Exod. 20:23; Deut. 32:39; Isaiah 42:8; 45:21)

All of the plagues were designed to bring judgment on all of the gods of Egypt:

- 1) Nile turned to blood (Exod 7:14-25)- Hapi (also called Apis), was the bull god and the god of the Nile River; Isis, the god of the Nile; Khnum, the guardian of the Nile. The Egyptians believed that the Nile was a divine source of life. Therefore, God would humiliate the Egyptians and their false gods by turning the Nile into blood, Israel’s symbol of life (Lev 17:11).
- 2) Frogs (Exod 8:1-15)- Heqet, was a goddess with the head of a frog, was the goddess of birth.
- 3) Gnats (Exod. 8:16-19)- Set, the god of the desert.
- 4) Flies (Exod 8:20-32)- Re, a sun god; or Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly.
- 5) Death of livestock (Exod 9:1-7)- Hathor, goddess with a cow head; Apis, the bull god, a symbol of fertility.
- 6) Boils (Exod 9:8-12)- Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god; Isis, the goddess of healing.
- 7) Hail (Exod 9:13-35)- Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the god of crops and fertility; Set, the god of storms.
- 8) Locusts (Exod 10:1-20)- Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the god of crops and fertility.
- 9) Darkness (Exod 10:21-29)- Re, the sun god; Horus, a sun god; Nut, a sky goddess; Hathor, a sky goddess.
- 10) Death of the firstborn (Exod 11:1-12:30)- Min, the god of reproduction; Heqet, the goddess who attended women at childbirth; Isis, the goddess who protected children; Pharaoh’s firstborn was also considered a god.

It is also interesting to note that the plagues on Egypt are similar to the judgments God inflicts during the 7 year Tribulation (water into blood, locusts, hail, etc. cf. Rev. 6-19).

God judges satanically controlled Egypt with plagues in order to deliver Israel into the Promised Land; God judges the satanically controlled nations with plagues in the Tribulation in order to deliver Israel into the kingdom/Promised Land.

Suggested Attributes of God for Teacher to Cover:

Omnipotence

Justice - God demonstrates grace before judgment through a series of plagues giving people time to turn to the Lord.

Holiness - God is the only true God.

Sovereignty - God rules creation and the nations.

Veracity - (faithfulness and truth)- God is keeping His word to curse anyone who curses Israel (Gen. 12:3).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Isaiah 42:1-8; Daniel 4:34-37; Romans 9:14-17

Notes: The plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:8-11:10)

Opponents: Yahweh and Pharaoh (and Egypt’s false gods)

Purpose: Who is the true sovereign God?

Problem: God promised to bless those who blessed the nation and curse those who cursed them (Gen 12:1-3). God will curse Egypt in keeping with His word, but will also extend mercy to the Gentile Egyptians whom God loves and created in His image (Abrahamic Covenant also extended blessing to the nations; cf. Genesis 12:3).

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 6: Passover

Scriptures: Exodus Chapters 12-13

Central Text: Exodus 12:13

13 ‘The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Exodus 12 records the celebration of the first Passover for the Jews (12:1-28), a meal that will be a reminder of God’s deliverance from Egypt.

This passage has two parts:

- 1) The Lord’s instructions to Moses concerning the feast (vv. 1-20)
- 2) The observance of the feast (vv. 21-28).

Then in vv 29-32 God will kill the firstborn in Egypt

Then in vv. 33-41 the Jews leave Egypt

Then in vv. 42-51 the ordinance of the Passover is given

God would allow His judgment to “pass over” the homes that by faith had put the blood of the lamb over the door.

God delivers the Jews and redeems them from slavery in Egypt through His appointed representative Moses (Exod 12-13). Likewise, God delivers mankind and redeems him from the slave market of sin through His appointed representative Jesus Christ.

Suggested Attributes of God for Teacher to Cover:

Omnipresence - Ex. 13:21-22

Omnipotence

Love and Veracity (truth and faithfulness) - Even non-Israelites left Egypt with the Jews (Ex. 12:38; Num. 11:4; God loves all and promised to bless Gentiles as well - Gen. 12:1-3).

God’s covenant faithfulness (Exodus 13:5- land promise reiterated)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Gen. 22:1-14; Isa. 53:6-8; Hosea 11:1; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 22:1-5

Notes:

The Christ of the Passover

The Passover lamb will be substituted for the deliverance of Israel (a lamb without blemish for the sinful nation). In the future, the fullness of this will come in the real substitutionary sacrifice of the Seed of the Woman, the Ultimate Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, on whom God the Father will pour out the judgment of man’s sin.

Propitiation (God’s satisfaction)- Note in Exodus 12:13 that it is when God saw the lamb’s blood over the door that He would pass over them and not judge them. God’s prescribed means of deliverance was the only way that satisfied Him. Likewise, God the Father would only be propitiated (satisfied) through the work of His Son (1 Jn. 2:1-2).

Major Event: EXODUS

Lesson 7: God's Provision and Protection of Israel

Scriptures: Exodus Chapters 14 - 16

Exodus 14- Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 15- Song of victory

Exodus 16- God's gracious provision of manna

Central Texts: Exodus 14:13, 31; Exodus 15:11; Exodus 16:12

Exodus 14:13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever..."

Exodus 14:31 When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Ex 15:11 "Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"

Ex 16:12 "I have heard the grumblings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "

Suggested Subjects for the Teacher to Cover:

God's Sovereign Lordship over history, nations, and nature.

God continues to fulfill His promise to bring the Jews into the Promised Land.

Reliance, trust, and waiting on God (certain difficulties can only be handled by God alone; God often leads into situations where we must trust and wait on His power alone to deliver us).

Chapter 15 records a lengthy song that the Jews sing in praise of God's deliverance (singing and musical instruments are a legitimate part of worship). True praise in worship belongs to God alone.

God is capable of providing for our needs under any circumstance (food and water in the wilderness).

Suggested Attributes of God for Teacher to Cover:

Omnipotence - (God's power over His creation)

Holiness- God is unique; there is no other God (Ex. 15:11).

Omniscience - God knew their physical needs and provided manna.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

Deut. 1:30-31; Prov. 3:5; Isaiah 42:8; John 3:16-18; Rev. 5:1-14; 19:11-21

Notes: Notice that salvation is not only spiritual, but includes a physical aspect as well (God physically delivered the Jews from danger; likewise Christ will physically deliver at His 2nd Advent).

The Jews had already by faith put blood over their doors (Ex. 12; Hebrews 11:28-29), so believing in the Lord and Moses in Exodus 14:31 emphasizes the importance of a continued trust in God in the spiritual life of the believer (cf. Gal. 2:20).

Major Event: SINAI

Lesson 1: Moses Gets the Law at Sinai

Scripture: Exodus 19:1 - 31:18

Central Texts: Exodus 19:5-6

‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

Suggested Subjects for the Teacher to Cover:

In order to have a nation you must have three things:

1. A people
 2. You need a body of law to bind the people together (at Sinai the nation Israel will get the Mosaic Law)
 3. A land
- In Exodus God will have accomplished the first two, and will later accomplish #3 in the book of Joshua when the Jews enter the Promised Land.
 - God called out Israel as His covenant people to live in obedience to His word as a distinct nation to bear His light to the nations (God is a God of purpose; Israel had a purpose and God would define that purpose).
 - God directly gave the Law to Moses (31:18).
 - All the extensive details concerning the Tabernacle that the Jews were to follow emphasize the preciseness a perfectly holy God demanded in worship (this is the very location God would meet His people, so they were to approach Him in the precise way He revealed and not on their own terms; again, God is a God of order, not disorder; cf. 1 Cor. 14:33).
 - The Law would also protect the people by giving them guidelines in an evil world of nations ruled by Satan.

Suggested Attributes of God for the Teacher to Cover:

Omniscience - The all-knowing God is the only one capable of giving perfect instruction on how to govern His people (cf. Prov. 3:5).

Suggested reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Romans 3:20; 7:12; Galatians 2:16; 3:13

Notes: The Law comes from the mind of a perfectly righteous, holy, and good God, therefore, the Law is righteous, holy, and good (Rom. 7:12).

The Law was given to an already redeemed people as a means of representing God and maintaining fellowship with the God of Israel as they lived in the Promised Land.

The Law revealed sin (Rom. 3:20).

The Law given at Sinai demonstrates God’s holiness, taught them how to love God and one another, and also demonstrated how all fall short of the holiness of God and need access to the only true God that provides forgiveness (this is seen in the Tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the Levitical Priesthood).

A person was not justified by keeping the Law (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16). In other words, a spiritually dead person could not sufficiently keep the Law in order to remove the penalty of sin and be justified before a perfect God.

The ten commandments are found in this section (20:3-17). They were never a means of salvation, but revealed the righteous will of God for the people of Israel. This is the underlying ethical code for the entire Mosaic Law. The 10 commandments are the basis for freedom and privacy and provide the ethical outline for the judicial and legislative system in Israel.

Major Event: SINAI

Lesson 2: God Dwells With His People

Central Scripture: Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting. The glory of the Lord filled the holy tent.

³⁵Moses couldn't enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled on it. The glory of the Lord filled the holy tent. ³⁶The people of Israel continued their travels. When the cloud lifted from above the holy tent, they started out. ³⁷But if the cloud didn't lift, they did not start out. They stayed until the day it lifted. ³⁸So the cloud of the Lord was above the holy tent during the day. Fire was in the cloud at night. The whole community of Israel could see the cloud during all of their travels. ¹

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God dwelling with His people.

Suggested Attributes for the Teacher to Cover:

Omnipresence- Eternal God is dwelling in the presence of His people. God is a personal God who fellowships with His people.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

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

Matthew 28:19-20

Hebrews 13:5

Jude 24-25; Revelation 21:1-5, 23

Notes: Note the significance of the Omnipresent God condescending to dwell with men. The transcendent God is also immanent. Teach John 1:14 as it relates to God dwelling. Note indwelling ministry of God the Holy Spirit in current church age (Acts 1:5, 1 Cor. 12:13). Note God's ultimate dwelling with His people (Rev. 21:4).

¹ *New International Reader's Version*. 1998 (1st ed.) (Ex 40:34–38). Zondervan.

Major Event: CONQUEST

Lesson #1: God Commissions Joshua

Scriptures: Joshua Chapter 1

Central Text: Joshua 1:1-10; 1:16

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God intervening again in human history (v. 1 “... the LORD spoke...”). God fulfilling promise of land made to the Patriarchs (Abraham- Gen. 15:18-21; Isaac and Jacob- Genesis 35:12). God’s servant, as Moses before him, humbly obeying God’s Word.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Veracity, Sovereignty, Omnipotence
2. Of Man: Responsibility before God to obey His revelation. Of Joshua in particular- faith, courage, obedient devotion to the law of God. (Joshua 1:6 -9; 1:13, 19)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Romans Chapters 9-11 (Especially 9:6, 1; 10:1,16 [cf. Isa. 53:1], 11:1, 18, 23, 26)
Genesis 15:18-21; Genesis 28:12,13; Genesis 35:12

Notes: The name Joshua means “Yahweh is Salvation” (cf. Numbers 13:16). Of the three divisions of Hebrew Bible- The Law, the Prophets and The Writings- Joshua was placed in The Prophets. This reveals the ancient Jews viewed this book, not merely as a historical record, but as the record of Yahweh fulfilling covenant promise. Remind students that under Moses, Joshua (along with Caleb) opposed the fearful majority report when sent to spy out the land in Numbers 14:6-9.

Four Major Theological Themes in Joshua:

1. Land
2. Rest
3. Keeping Covenant
4. Purity of Worship (as opposed to pagan idolatry of Canaanites)

Major Event: CONQUEST

Lesson 2: Spying Out the Land

Scriptures: Joshua Chapter 2

Central Text: Joshua 2:11, 24

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God's covenant faithfulness in furthering His land promise (compare 2:11 with Deuteronomy 2:25). Joshua's wisdom in sending spies out "secretly" (2:1) in order to avoid a repeat of Numbers 13 and 14. God's love for even the Canaanite who placed faith in Yahweh (compare 2:11 and 14 with 6:22, 23 and Hebrews 11:31).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Veracity, Love (Omni benevolence) toward Rahab.
2. Of man: Joshua's Godly wisdom to learn from failure at Kadesh Barnea. Rahab's choice to trust Yahweh by shielding His spies (even though it would mean her certain death if caught).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Joshua 6:22,23; Hebrews 11:31; Luke 4:24-30

Notes: This passage reminds the reader of God's covenant faithfulness despite His people's previous failure to trust Yahweh in at least 2 major ways: 1. The nation's failure to trust Yahweh (at Kadesh Barnea) after the fearful report of the spies (Numbers 13, 14). 2. The fact that Joshua sends his spies from Shittim, the place where the nation played 'the harlot with the daughters of Moab' and engaged in pagan idolatry (Numbers 25:1) and the spies were actually protected by a real pagan harlot (Rahab) who recognized Yahweh as the One true Creator/God. This same theme is found in Jesus' earthly ministry (see Luke 4: 24-30 and Luke 17:11-19).

Major Event: CONQUEST

Lesson 3: Crossing the Jordan

Scriptures: Joshua Chapters 3 and 4

Central Text: Joshua 3:7, 3:10, 3:17, 4:14, 4:20-24

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

God's faithfulness is bringing the second generation into the land despite the failures of the first. God's ability to work miracles (Bringing 2 million people across the Jordan in one day; see Exodus 14:21)

Memorializing God's works for future generations.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Omnipotence, Joshua 4:24, Sovereignty
2. Man: Reliance on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Exodus 14:1-15-21; Of memorials to God's work: Luke 22:15-19 cf.; I Cor. 11-23-26

Notes: *As with Abraham's alters before (Gen. 12:8, 13:4) and the Passover (Exodus 12:26) God's people were to remember His works of deliverance and faithfulness and pass that knowledge on to future generations (Joshua 4:21,22)*

Said another way, the Sovereign, Almighty God of Israel, Creator of heaven and earth is also Personal, Loving and intercedes on behalf of His people.

In the dispensation of the Church, God's people were to REMEMBER His work of deliverance as they presently proclaim His Son's death in the past until He comes in the future (I Cor. 11:26) Thus, It is Christ who gives meaning to all 3 phases of human history; past, present, future- to the Christian who remembers His finished work at Calvary.

Major Event: CONQUEST

Lesson 4: Victory at Jericho

Scriptures: Joshua Chapters 5 and 6

Central text: Joshua 5:2, 5:9, 5:15, 6:2, 6:17-19, 6:21, 6:25

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Circumcision as a sign of covenant, the identity of the “captain of the host of the LORD” (6:14), Holy War (and God’s right to judge)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice (Gen. 15:16), Holiness, Veracity
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested reading for parents and child at home: Revelation 19:11-21 (Christ will command a great “host” at His second coming)

Notes: The captain of the LORD’s host (5:15) was worshipped by Joshua (5:14). His injunction to Joshua to remove his sandals is the same one that Yahweh gave Moses (EC 3:5). This “captain” is the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God appearing to remind Joshua that this was His war. He was reminding Joshua because God had already promised this day would come and given instructions for the people to obey once it did (Deut 7:1-11) Although the concept of “Holy War” or what is popularly called genocide is hard for us to reconcile with a loving God it is important to remember that God alone has the right to carry out Justice on people He made in His image (Gen 15:16 He is long suffering...over 400 years from His promise to Jericho.) That is to say that neither the United States nor any other contemporary nation is today acting under covenant relationship with God to fulfill this land promise of Gen 15:18-21. God certainly has the right to judge and unlike in the Noahic flood (Gen6,7,8) God chooses this time to incorporate human agency in accomplishing His will. Yet, even amidst this great and terrible judgment one can see God’s heart for salvation in the sparing of a pagan prostitute and her family, because she feared Yahweh and trusted Him for deliverance. (Joshua 6:25, cf. Heb 11:31)

*Note that Israel was successful at Jericho because Joshua and the people obeyed the LORD’s command (6:2-5 cf. 6:20)

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 1: Incomplete Conquest and Apostasy

Scriptures: Judges 1:1 to 3:6

Central text: Judges 2:11-16

11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, 12 and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. 14 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. 16 Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- In violation of God's command, Israel failed to destroy all the idolatrous inhabitants of the land, but made covenants with them (Judges 1:27-36).
- God decreed that He therefore would not drive out these people but would leave them to be "thorns" in the side of Israel (Judges 2:1-5).
- These nations would prove Israel, whether they would remain faithful to God or not (Judges 2:20 - 3:4).
- Joshua's generation, which knew the Lord, died (2:6-10). Later generations intermarried with the idolatrous Gentiles in the land and served their gods (Judges 3:5-6).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice (Gen. 15:16), Holiness, Veracity
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 God's promise of Life if you walk by his commandments and a curse if you refuse.

Notes: For a period of around 350 years Israel went through a repeated cycle: (1) SIN - they sinned against God; (2) SERVITUDE - God allowed oppressors to overcome them; (3) SORROW - they repented of their rebellion; (4) SALVATION - God sent a judge to deliver them (Judges 2:11-19). The book of Judges records twelve (thirteen if Abimelech is counted) such judges. Eli and Samuel, recorded in 1 Samuel, complete the list of judges (14 or 15).

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 2: Deborah and Barak

Scriptures: Judges Chapters 4 and 5

Central text: Judges 4:4-7

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, "Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, 'Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun. 7 I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and **I will give him into your hand.**'"

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The fourth time the children of Israel "did evil in the sight of the Lord," God allowed them to suffer again. Jabin's oppressive control caused them to cry out to God for deliverance, and in spite of their great and repeated failures, the Lord graciously brought Deborah and Barak to deliver and lead them once again. (Judges 4:4-10).
- Deborah called for Barak to come to tell him what God had revealed and His promise to deliver, but Barak was unwilling to do anything without Deborah. God said that He would bring Sisera, the army commander of the Canaanite king, to the people in order that he could be judged. (Judges 4:11-24)
- Even though Sisera had great forces and mighty chariots, God made the battle go badly for him, so he ran away and stopped at the home of Jael where he was offered refuge, comfort, and refreshment. Sisera quickly fell asleep and Jael pounded a tent nail through his temple and killed him.
- Deborah and Barak led them in a great song of praise to the Lord, Judges Chapter 5. The Praising of God – Judges 5:2-3; Jehovah - The Commander in Chief – Judges 5:4-5; The Response of the Tribes – Judges 5:12-18; The Conclusion – Judges 5:31a

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice, Holiness, Veracity
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 God's promise of Life if you walk by his commandments and a curse if you refuse. Psalm 9:10.

Notes: Even though the people now lived in the land, they still had not completely taken control of the territory (Judges 1). Once again, they did evil in the sight of the Lord by serving Baal, and suffered as a result by having to serve their ungodly oppressors (Judges 3:5-8,12-14). God graciously then chose judges to deliver and lead them; Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar were the first judges.

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 3: Gideon

Scriptures: Judges Chapters 6-8

Central text: Judges 6:12-14

12 The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior." 13 Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14 The LORD looked at him and said, "Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?"

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Israel again failed and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and he gave them over to the hands of the Midianites and Amalekites. The people were forced to live in caves to hide from their enemies. (Judges 6:1- 9)
- When Israel cried to the LORD on account of Midian oppression, the LORD sent another prophet to judge them for their evil deeds for they did not obey the Lord. (Judges 7-10)
- Gideon is visited and called to deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites by the Angel of the Lord. (Judges 11-24)
- Gideon destroys the altar of Baal and its grove (Judges 6:25-32)
- Gideon desires proof of God's word by the miracle of the fleece. (Judges 6:34-40)
- God's requires Gideon's army to be reduced from 32,000 to 300 men so that the victory would be of God and not of Israel. (Judges 7:1-8)
- Gideon gains a great victory by the hand of the Lord (Judges 7:9 to 8:21)
- The execution of Zebah and Zalmuna, kings of Midian and Amalek (Judges 8:18-23)
- Gideon makes an ephod of gold and Israel made it an idol (Judges 8:24-32)
- Israel again turns from the Lord and does evil. (Judges 8:33-35)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Justice, Holiness, Veracity, Grace
2. Of Man: Total Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Psalms 78:1-11; Hebrews 11:32

Notes: Nations who have worshipped God in the past may be disciplined for disobeying God using heathen nations (Isaiah 10:5).

God can use the poorest of human material for His plan (Luke 14:21-23).

With obedience to God's plan, miraculous results can be obtained (Joshua 6:1-20).

If you are working in conformity with God's plan, you have overwhelming superiority, even if from a human viewpoint you appear outnumbered (1 Samuel 17:45).

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 4: Samson and Delilah

Scriptures: Judges Chapters 13-16

Central Text: Judges 16:5

5 For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Israel again does evil in the site of the Lord and returns to bondage to the Philistines for 40 years. (Judges 13:1)
- The Lord promises and gives a deliverer to Israel through Manoah and his wife named Samson. Notice similarity to Abraham and Sara. Promise of the Messiah. (Judges 13:2-14)
- An angel appears to announce the birth of a son two would be set apart to God to defeat the Philistines. Samson was to be set apart and sanctified as Israel was to be. (Judges 13:2-5)
- A son is born to Manoah and his wife whom they call "Sun" and grows up with God's blessing (Judges 13:24)
- Many Philistines die by Samson's hand, not through God, but rather through acts of anger and jealousy by Samson. (Judges 14:1-15:8)
- Samson leaves his people, and falls in love with a Philistine woman (Note the permissive will of God and the covenant violation similarity with Israel). (Judges 14:1-4)
- Samson secretly breaks part of his Nazirite vow to be sanctified. Note similarity with the history of Israel (Judges 14:5-9)
- In a jealous rage Samson destroys the crops of the Philistines, but loses the life of his wife. (Judges 15:1-8).
- Loving Delilah more than his vow to God, Samson allowed her to interfere with his vows to God and he was deceived into servitude and loses his eyes. (Judges 16:4-21)
- Samson calls on the Lord and God graciously allows Samson to gain revenge over the Philistines as was the will of God for his life. (Judges 16:22-30)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Holiness, Grace
2. Of Man: Pride, Arrogance, Lack of Faithfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Deuteronomy 32

Notes: In spite of Israel's sin and covenant violation, the Lord is faithful to keep his promise to Israel, in spite of continued cycles of sin and restoration, and delivers his people from the hands of the Philistines
Though Samson suffered the consequences of his sin by breaking his vow, many Philistines died with Samson for the Lord as was the will of God. (Judges 16:5)

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 5: Devotion of Ruth

Scriptures: Ruth Chapters 1 and 2

Central Text: Ruth 1:15-16

15 Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. *Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The story begins in the times of the Judges. Elimelech took his wife Naomi along with his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion to Moab to escape the famine. Mahlon and Chilion both married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. All the men of the family died and the women of the family were left alone. Notice that leaving the land and foreign marriages were forbidden for God's covenant people. (Ruth 1:2-5)
- Naomi returns to Judah after hearing the famine is over. She asks Orpah and Ruth to return to their families, but they initially refuse. Notice that Naomi finally recognizes the hand of the Lord is against her and she needs to return the promised land. Is Ruth bitter towards the Lord or is she returning to the Lord in recognizing her situation? (Ruth 1:6-13)
- Ruth's devotion to God and to Naomi are revealed when she refuses to leave Naomi's side and return to her family. Naomi and Ruth return to Judah and stay in Bethlehem. Ruth was now a Jew and worshipped the One and only God, she had no place back with her unbelieving Moabite family. (Ruth 1:14-18)
- Naomi confesses her sin and says her name should be "Mara" for bitterness because she left out full and returned back to Israel empty. (Ruth 1:19-22)
- Boaz is introduced. Ruth knowing that through Levitical law they have the right to glean the fields, asks Naomi for permission to glean after the barley harvest. Ruth gleans the fields and enters the fields of Boaz, a sign of God's providence over our lives. (Ruth 2:1-3)
- Boaz meets Ruth. Boaz has already heard of her devotion to Naomi and is already impressed with her. Again another sign of the providence of God in our lives. (Ruth 2:4-7)
- Boaz blesses and provides for Ruth. Notice the similarity of how the Lord blesses and provides for us. (Ruth 2:8-23).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Holiness, Grace
2. Of Man: Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness, Pride

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Judges 1, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Deuteronomy 32

Notes: The Law found in Leviticus 23:22 is shown in the book of Ruth (Ruth 2:1-3).
22 'When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleanings of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.
Ruth, although being a Gentile, knew she had a right to glean the field after the harvest.
Boaz was a righteous man and was following the Law by not gleaning the field.

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 6: Deliverance of Ruth

Scriptures: Ruth Chapters 1 and 2

Central Text: Ruth 3:12-13

12 Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Naomi advises Ruth on how best to remind Boaz of his duty (Ruth 3:1-9) Older women need to be instructors. (Titus 2:3-5)
- Ruth follows Naomi's instructions. (Ruth 3:6-8) (Levirate Marriage - Deuteronomy 25:5) Boaz was to take Ruth as next of Kin for his wife. See Notes below on the principle of Levirate Marriage.
- Boaz discovers Ruth at his feet. (Ruth 3:9) Note Ruth's desire to serve.
- Boaz desires to become Ruth's husband. (Ruth 3:10-18) Boaz will fulfill the law based on the Levirate marriage principle.
- There was a problem. (Ruth 3:12)
- Gift to Ruth and Naomi. (Ruth 3:15)
- Ruth returns to Naomi with good news and a gift. (Ruth 3:16-17)
- Naomi correctly surmises that Boaz will act quickly. (Ruth 3:18)
- Boaz marries Ruth. (Ruth 4:1-22)
- Boaz secures from a nearer relative the right of redemption. (Ruth 4:1-12) Note that Boaz as the kinsman redeemer presents a picture of what our future Savior will perform for us.
- Boaz and Ruth marry. (Ruth 4:13)
- Obed is born to Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:14-17)
- Genealogy showing David was descended from Ruth, a Gentile, and Boaz (Ruth 4:18-22) (Matthew 1:5). Note that God blesses those who obey his commandments (Deuteronomy 32:15-20)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Holiness, Grace, Faithfulness
2. Of Man: Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness, Pride

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Judges 1, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Deuteronomy 32

Notes: Levirate Marriage Principle from Deuteronomy

5 *"When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.*

Ruth and Naomi were aware of God's law and were aware of the Levirate marriage principle from Deuteronomy.

Boaz fulfilled the Levirate marriage commandment although he was not directly responsible to do so. His faithfulness to God's Law is displayed.

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 7: Saul

Scriptures: I Samuel 8, 9, 10

Central Text: I Samuel 8:6-9

6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. 8 Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day-in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods-so they are doing to you also. 9 Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Samuel made mistakes with his family when he was old (1 Sam. 8:1-5). Desiring to solve all their problems, the Israelites wanted a King to rule over them, even though that was not what God wanted for His people.
- God reminded Samuel that the people had not only rejected Samuel, but they had also rejected HIM. Note - It is foolish to leave God out.
- The people were warned of the cost of having a king, but still they demanded that they have one like all the other nations. Note - Sometimes we are so sure we know what is best, but only God really knows what is for our good.
- Saul was selected as the best choice because he was taller than the others and handsome. However, even at the time of his selection, Saul demonstrated that he was not the best choice because his servant was better prepared to meet the prophet Samuel than he was.
- Saul was hiding when the time came to be presented to the nation as their chosen king. His behavior was perhaps an early indication of a problem that would develop. As 1 Sam. 10:26, 27 shows, both God and the Devil took notice of Saul's behavior;
- Even though Saul was not in God's eternally righteous plan he was still used by God through his grace.
- Saul, the people's best choice for king, was not going to be good enough when the time came to face a great enemy; his troubles were going to be bigger than he was. He was not God's choice.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Holiness, Grace, Faithfulness
2. Of Man: Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness, Pride

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Psalms 118:8, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Deuteronomy 32

Notes: Saul, the people's best choice for king, was not going to be good enough when the time came to face a great enemy; his troubles were going to be bigger than he was. He was not God's choice.

Major Event: David

Lesson 1: David as a Young Man

- God's Chosen King
- Anointed by Samuel
- Defeat of Goliath

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Samuel 17

Central Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 1 Samuel 17

Suggested Subjects For Teacher to Cover:

- This time God's choice was not a king for the people according to their desires (as with Saul), but a king for Himself (1 Samuel 16:1) who would put Yahweh first (1 Samuel 13:14)
- Samuel judged Jesse's sons by their external qualities, just as the Israelites judged Saul acceptable because of those characteristics (1 Samuel 16:6). Verse 7 clarifies how God evaluates people, namely, on the basis of their hearts (affections), not their appearances or abilities.
- God was elevating David from the ranks of a shepherd of sheep (1 Samuel 16:11) to become the shepherd of His people, and David's musical ability (1 Samuel 16:18) enabled him to lead the Israelites in the worship of Yahweh later.
- 1 Samuel 17:26-30 David seems to have considered himself capable of defeating Goliath from the first time he heard of Goliath's insults to Yahweh. The fact that he referred to Yahweh as the "living God" (v. 26) shows David's belief that Yahweh was still the same Person who could defeat present enemies as He had done in the past faith, obeying Divine revelation.
- David must've known of God's promises to Moses and Joshua, that if the Israelites would attack their enemies, God would defeat them (Deut. 31:1-8; Josh. 1:1-9). Faith in God always rests on a word from God in Scripture.
- Most of the Israelites took Goliath's challenge as defying Israel (v. 25), but David interpreted it as defying the living God, the only true God (v. 26). Here David's heart for God begins to manifest itself (1 Samuel 16:7).

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Immutability, Omnipotence, Sovereignty

Of Man: Obedience, Courage, Trust in God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Samuel 17, David and Goliath

Major Event: David

Lesson 2: Resented by Saul

- Befriended by Saul's Son, Jonathan
- Provided for by God as he Obeys

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 1 Samuel 19-20, Psalm 142, 57

Central Text: 1 Samuel 18:1-16

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Saul, now living in disobedience (1 Samuel 15:11), resents David and makes him an enemy, while his son, Jonathan, in contrast, humbly befriends David
- Jonathan was a man of faith and courage (1 Samuel 14:1-15)
- Jonathan and David had a friendship based on a common purpose of trusting and obeying the Living God
- Humility: Jonathan's selfless action (1 Samuel 18:1-4) reflects his submission to Samuel's oracle that Saul would not have a continuing dynasty (1 Samuel 13:13-14). Rather than trying to perpetuate his father Saul's dynasty, as Abner later tried to do (2 Sam. 2:8-9), Godly Jonathan turned over the symbols of the crown prince to David.
- 1 Samuel 18-19-20, Saul directly tried to kill David. 18:10-16
Then Saul indirectly tried using the Philistines. 18:17-20
Next Saul indirectly tried using Jonathan and Saul's men. 19:1-7
Then Saul directly tried to kill David again. 19:8-10
Through all this, David obeys and is spared, living in humble obedience as God's future chosen, anointed King.
- From this point on David was no longer able to stay in Saul's presence, but he had to flee and escape, seeking refuge from the king wherever he could find it. David's days as a fugitive (living beyond the king's reach), which began here, would continue until Saul died.
- David's Prayers of Trust in Yahweh: Psalm 142 and 57, Psalms of David when he fled from Saul into the cave

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Sovereignty, Omniscience, Omnipresence

Of Man: Humility, Loyalty, Trust in God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Samuel 18:1-16, Psalm 57

Major Event: David

Lesson 3: Continuing Conqueror

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 8

Central Text: Warrior David: 2 Samuel 8:13-14 “And David made himself a name when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Syrians in the Valley of Salt. He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David’s servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.”

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover on David’s Conquests:

- David’s Conquests of 2 Samuel 8 include defeating the Philistines as well as the Moabites. This details for us God’s conquering warrior king, David
- The phrase “and the LORD preserved David wherever he went” occurs twice in this chapter. Obedience = God’s preservation and prospering of David and Israel through defeat of enemies
- Verse 11 - David dedicates to the LORD the gold, silver, and bronze from the nations he conquered, showing his submission/obedience to the LORD. (David’s choice: he chose to dedicate it to the Lord, but he could’ve chosen to keep it for himself)

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Justice, Loyal Covenant Love

Of Man: Faithful Obedience

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Samuel 8

Notes on David’s Conquests:

- 2 Samuel 8, Philistines settled on the coastal plain of Israel and developed a relatively advanced culture and powerful army. They were a major threat to Israel during the reigns of Saul and David
- Moabites of 8:2 were descendants of Lot. The survivors of this encounter became vassals, or servants of David.
- 8:4 Warrior David “hamstrung” (disabled) the enemy horses by cutting the back sinews of the hind legs to prevent them from being used for military activity.
- As a result of David’s conquests, the sovereignty of Israel extended from the Gulf of Aqaba and the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River- the very region God had promised Abraham in Gen 15:18. “David reigned over all Israel and administered judgment and justice to all his people...” 2 Samuel 8:15

Major Event: David

Lesson 4: Merciful to Mephibosheth

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 9

Central Text: Merciful David: 2 Samuel 9:7 “So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover on David and Mephibosheth:

- Honesty: Long after David’s covenant with Jonathan he chooses to remember that oath and honor it.
- Kindness: David seeks a relative of Saul (who hated him) to show kindness to. He’s seeking to show “THE KINDESS OF GOD” according to v 3 which reveals to us his heart of love for the LORD.

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Love

Of Man: Kindness, Loyalty, Honesty (reflecting Yahweh’s character as His vassal)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Samuel 9

Notes on David’s Mercy to Mephibosheth

- 2 Sam 9:1, David and Jonathan’s covenant of friendship and protection was to extend to their offspring (1 Sam 18:3-4, 20:14-15, 42). David shows loyalty, honesty, and trustworthiness by honoring this covenant.
- V7, That lame Mephibosheth was to eat bread at the king’s table and was not a temporary honor, but it meant that these privileges and provisions would continue throughout Mephibosheth’s life.
- V9-10 In his dealings with Mephibosheth, David exemplified God’s grace. Mephibosheth was wonderfully blessed, not because of something he earned, but because of David’s faithfulness to a covenant promise with Jonathan. Likewise, believers are blessed not because of any good work (Eph.2:8-9) but because of Christ’s work on the cross on our behalf.
- Mephibosheth was regarded as an adopted son, “like one of the king’s sons”—with attendant privileges and blessings, so believers have been adopted as sons and daughters into the family of God (John 1:12).

Major Event: David

Lesson 5: Davidic Covenant

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:8-29

Central Text: 2 Samuel 7:16

16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Versus 8-9 - God had blessed David in the past by choosing him as Israel's shepherd-king, by being with him in blessing, and by cutting off all of David's enemies.

Versus 9b-16 - There are four promises here: a great name or famous reputation for David (v. 9b), a homeland for Israel (v.10), undisturbed rest from all Israel's enemies (vv. 10-11a), and an everlasting royal dynasty and kingdom for David and his heirs (vv. 11b-16).

- Up to this time, there had been no dynasty in Israel. Now God promised David an eternal seed and an eternal throne. One of David's own sons would succeed him to the throne, and his throne, like David's, would be established forever.

The descendant of David through whom God will fulfill His promises completely is Jesus Christ. In view of what God said of Him in Luke 1:32-33, there are five major implications of the Davidic Covenant for the future.

- God must preserve Israel as a nation.
- He must bring her back into her land.
- Jesus Christ must rule over her in the land.
- His kingdom must be earthly, and it must be everlasting.

Suggested attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Veracity
2. Of Man: Trust in God to fulfill His promises

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Samuel 7

Notes: David's Prayer of Thanksgiving: 2 Samuel 7:18-29

"The heartfelt response of King David to the oracle of the prophet Nathan is one of the most moving prayers in Scripture. Structurally the prayer moves from thanksgiving for the present favor (vv. 18-21), to praise for what God had done in the past (vv. 22-24), to petition for future fulfillment of God's promises (vv. 25-29). David included humility (v. 18), gratitude (v. 19), praise (v.22), remembrance (vv. 23-24), and acknowledgment (vv. 25-29) in this prayer.

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 1: Solomon Secures the Throne

Scriptures: 1 Kings 1:1 – 2:46

Central Text: 1 Kings 2:3

3 Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Chapter 1

Versus 1-4 – We see that King David is very old and near the end of his life, but the Lord provides for David providing the help of a young hand maiden to attend to him in his old age.

Versus 5-10 – We see that Adonijah is boasting proudly that he will be the next King and hold a feast, but he is not the chosen one of God or King David. Notice how he does not invite Nathan the true prophet of God.

Versus 11-27 – Notice how Nathan the true prophet of God intercedes for Bathsheba and advises Bathsheba how to approach King David about what Adonijah was trying to do. He asked her to remind King David of his previous oath before God. “My master, you swore an oath to your servant by the Lord your God, Solomon your son will be king after me and he will sit on my throne.” Notice the wisdom of Bathsheba in seeking the wise council of Nathan and David.

Versus 28-40 – King David remembers his oath made before God. “I will keep today the oath I swore to you by the Lord God of Israel: ‘Surely Solomon your son will be king after me; he will sit in my place on my throne.’” King David names Solomon as his successor. King David, a man of God, remembered his oath before the Lord and followed through with his promise. Was this in God’s will?

Versus 41-53 – Adonijah learns of the decision of King David and of the succession of Solomon to the throne. Adonijah and the guests at his boastful feast all run for their lives because they feared what the new King Solomon may do to them.

Chapter 2

Versus 1-3 – David gives his last command and advice to Solomon to obey the Lord and walk according to his commandments and he will be blessed. This is the same command as described in Deut 30:15-20

Versus 5-10 – King David gives his last commands and advice on how to deal with his adversaries.

Versus 11-46 – King Solomon executed Adonijah and his followers and “Thus the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon” vs 46b.

Suggested attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Veracity
2. Of Man: Trust in God to fulfill His promises

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deut 30:15-20

Notes: Even though King David was weak and at the end of his Life the Lord used King David because he had a heart of servitude to the Lord.
God’s plan can never be thwarted or changed regardless of the deceitful or wicked plans of man.

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 2: Solomon Chooses Wisdom

Scriptures: 1 Kings 3:1-28

Central Text: 1 Kings 3:10-13

10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. 13 "I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Verse 1 – We see that Solomon was a shrewd leader and married one of Pharaoh's daughters to establish a "marriage alliance" to prevent Egypt from attacking Jerusalem before the wall and temple were completed. Note this is actually a covenant violation as described in Exodus 34:12-16

Versus 2-3 – We see that the people were sacrificing in the "high places" as well as Solomon because there was no temple built. Notice that Solomon was described as one who loved the Lord and walked after the statutes of his father, but he still sacrificed and burned incense at the high places. In other old testament books the term "high places" usually meant places where false gods and idols of other nations were worshipped. Although Solomon loved the Lord, he still seemed to worship other foreign gods in covenant violation.

Verse 5 – The Lord appears to Solomon in a dream and asks him what he desires the most. Note that this was following a time when Solomon sacrificed and burned incense in Gibeon.

Versus 6-8 – Solomon thanks the Lord for establishing him as King, according to His promise to David, and asks the Lord to provide him wisdom to lead the Lord's people. 9 *"So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"* Note that God is a faithful and true God and always remembers his promises.

Versus 10-15 – We see that the Lord was pleased with Solomon's request for wisdom or discernment to lead his people and also gave him honor and riches, *"I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.* We also see that he promises Solomon a long life as seen in verse 14 *"If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."* Note that the promise of long life is part of the original covenant with Israel Deut 30:15-20.

Versus 16-28 – In these versus we see the story of the two women both claiming that the living baby was theirs and that the other mother had the dead baby. Solomon commands his servants to cut the live baby in two pieces and give each woman half of the baby. The real mother of the living baby pleaded with Solomon to give the baby to the other mother to save the babies life. Solomon knew that the real mother would spare the babies life out of love and the mother of the dead baby would not care. We see that the wisdom of Solomon was established and the people feared him because they saw the wisdom of God in him. *"When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice".*

Suggested attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Veracity, Faithfulness
2. Of Man: Trust in God to fulfill His promises

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deut 30:15-20, I Chronicles 9:12-31

Notes: The word "heart" as stated in the Old Testament was a reference to what we now know as the mind. Old Testament scholars believed that we thought from the heart, so it is appropriate when reading the Bible to translate heart for mind in most circumstances.

Although the Lord was pleased with Solomon and granted him great wisdom, honor and riches we still see some covenant violations within this story namely marrying Pharaoh's daughter and worshipping in the "high places" which usually referred to the worship of idols or foreign false gods, a practice the Jews commonly fell into.

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 3: Solomon's Reign

Scriptures: 1 Kings 4:1-34

Central Text: 1 Kings 4:29

29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore.30 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Versus 1-19 – We see that Solomon had a vast organization of men to rule over his kingdom. Note how King Solomon used a multitude of wise officials to aide in running God's people. Another sign of his wisdom, Proverbs 12:15 – *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel”*. Who wrote the Proverbs?

Versus 20-21 – We see evidence of Solomon's vast power. *“Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life”*. Note that this is a fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Israel. Deutoronomy 28:1-14 – God's promise of blessing to Israel if they obeyed his commandments.

Versus 20-28 – We see the amount of food and provisions required by King Solomon's kingdom and how richly God is blessing Israel with crops and riches. This was further evidence of God's covenant being fulfilled as he promised.

Versus 29-34 – We see that God gave Solomon great Wisdom which is described as greater than anything known in the world. *“29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore”*. King Solomon is often described a the wisest man that ever lived. Note this wisdom was provided by God, because Solomon had asked for wisdom instead of for power and wealth. See 1 Kings 3:10-13.

Suggested attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Veracity, Faithfulness
2. Of Man: Trust in God to fulfill His promises

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Deut 28, 30; Genesis 12:1-3

Notes: Notice how we see evidence of the temporal fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant is this chapter:

- (1) “I will make of you a great nation;”
- (2) “I will bless you;”
- (3) “I will make your name great;”
- (4) “you will be a blessing;”
- (5) “I will bless those who bless you;”
- (6) “the one cursing you, I will curse;” and
- (7) “all of the families of the earth will be blessed through you”

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 4: Building the Temple

Scriptures: 1 Kings 6:1-38

Central Text: 1 Kings 6:11-13

11 Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon saying, **12** " Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father. **13** I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Versus 1-6 – We see that in the 480th year after the Lord delivered Israel out of Egypt in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD as promised to King David. The size of the Lord's house was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and the height was 30 cubits high. A cubit is about 1-1/2' in length so this makes the temple about 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet tall. This is a similar ratio as the Ark dimensions?

Versus 7 – We see that the house was built without the use of any man-made tools of stone or iron. This was the Lord's House and was not to have anything "made of man" in use to build it. All materials for the house were part of God's creation and provided by God.

Versus 11 – Again, another reference to the Covenant that God made with Israel. "Walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments" and they would be blessed, if not they would be cursed. Deut 28:15.

Versus 12-36 – We see how elaborate and glorious the House was built. Remember the Lord did not allow King David to build the House, but he did allow King David to prepare and plan the House. (1 Chron 22). The building materials were selected by God and are of the finest quality which is a reflection of God's glory and majesty.

Versus 37-38 – We see that the house was completed in seven years which is the divine sign of completion in the Bible. The earth and all of creation was created in seven days.

Suggested attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Faithfulness, Glory, Majesty
2. Of Man: Trust in God to fulfill His promises

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Chron 22; 1 Kings 5:3; 2 Chron 1-7

Notes: After the completion of the Temple it was dedicated by King Solomon in 953 BC Solomon's speech to the people and his marvelous prayers were followed by an enormous offering of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. A great public feast followed: "So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days. On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their homes joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people". (1 Kings 8:65, 66)

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 5: Solomon's Folly

Scriptures: 1 Kings 11

Central Text: 1 Kings 11:11-13

11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Versus 1-2 – We see that Solomon loved foreign wives although this was a covenant violation for Israel and her people. *"You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods."*

Versus 3-4 – We see that Solomon had many wives and concubines and his heart was turned away from the Lord as the Lord had warned Solomon and the nation. "His wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father. We see that Solomon failed to worship God only and turned to other gods. (The First Commandment)

Versus 5-6 – We have some details of the other gods that Solomon actually worshipped in his later years. He even worshipped the god Molech, the false god of the Ammonites. This false religion was known for sacrificing children. Again we see references to Solomon building alters to worship the false gods of his wives. We also saw this same pattern in Israel's previous history. Worship, Blessing, Falling Away and then Curses.

Versus 7-13 – We see the Lord's anger is kindled against Solomon for not obeying the Lord. *"Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded"*. I am sure that Solomon did what he thought was right in his own eyes, but he was blinded and led astray because he did not follow the Lord's commandments as his father David had done.

Versus 14-33 – As God promised to Solomon, He rose up adversaries against Solomon, including his servant Jeroboam which took part of his kingdom exactly as the Lord had predicted. Can anyone mock the Lord or disregard his commandments? Are we under his authority even today in the church age?

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Faithfulness, Immutability, Grace
2. Of Man: Faithlessness, Lack of Thanksgiving, Lack of Truthfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Kings 5; Duet 28

Notes: This is terrifying, is it not? A man with the wisdom of Solomon, a man who had had the Lord appear to him twice and who had heard the Lord command him not to turn after other Gods, still turned away. Though a wise man, the Lord told him "you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you." How could this happen? This is a warning to all Christians to not be wise in their own hearts, but trust in the Lord in all things.

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 1: Rehoboam (931- 913 BC)

Scriptures: I Kings 11:4- 14:31; 2 Chronicles 10:1-12:16

Central Text: I Kings 11:11; I Kings 12:1-15, 16, 19; 2 Chronicles 11:1-4

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God's promise to tear the kingdom from Solomon because of idolatry (I Kings 11:11) fulfilled. Rehoboam did not pray for wisdom as his father had (2 Chron. 1:10) and forsook the wise counsel of the elders for the foolish advise of his young friends (1 Kings 12:8). Rehoboam did partially obey the LORD by not fighting against Israel and fortifying the defenses of Judah (2 Chron. 11:4,11, 23).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

- Of God:**
1. Veracity: God fulfilled his promise to Solomon to tear the kingdom from his son but leave Judah for David's sake.
 2. Omnipotence: God used the bad choices of men to accomplish His plan.
 3. Holiness: God's own character demanded judgment for idolatry.
- Of Man:** A sinful, rebellious heart revealed in Rehoboam's decision to heed the voices of his friends.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Psalms 133- God's desire for unity among His children; Titus 1:6-9- contrast Rehoboam's rash decisions with God's expectations.

Notes: God's loyal covenant love to His chosen people is revealed in Israel's history. Even though His holiness demanded judgment for the people's idolatry He kept covenant with David by allowing his descendant to retain Judah and the holy city Jerusalem. Also, God's permissive will is revealed in this history. Just as God had forewarned Israel against choosing a king but allowed it (I Sam. 8:7) He allowed the kingdom to split because of idolatry. Rehoboam showed poor leadership by ignoring a valid request of the people and the sage counsel of the elders at a critical time in Israel's history causing calamity.

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 2: Jeroboam (931- 910 BC)

Scriptures: I Kings 11:26-40 (esp. v. 38); 12: 25-33; 14:1-20; 2 Chron. 10:12, 19; 13:6-20

Central Text: I Kings 11:26, 11:38, 14:7, 1; 15:29; 2 Chronicles 13:6-20

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God's conditional promise to give Jeroboam an "enduring house" (11:38) for faithful obedience.
2. Jeroboam's failure to trust the LORD revealed in his construction of a false religious system and priesthood (I Kings 12:28ff).
3. Jeroboam's steadfast idolatry (I Kings 13:33) which led to civil war and his destruction (2 Chron. 13:17, 20).

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Veracity: God fulfilled His promise to Solomon to tear the kingdom from his son because of idolatry. Omnipotence: God uses who He wants and what events He wills or allows to accomplish His purposes, even men and their deeds.

Of Man: A sinful, rebellious nature and a lack of faith are revealed in Jeroboam's disastrous rule.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Psalm 133, I John 5:21

Notes: God did, in fact, sanction Jeroboam's rebellion against the house of David on account of Solomon's idolatry. He even made Jeroboam a real offer of an enduring house for obedience but true to the words of His prophet (I Kings 13:2) Jeroboam's house was struck down for idolatrous rebellion. Emphasize God's Holiness and His Judgment on His own people for idolatry. Remember to define idolatry for the children: Not simply following false gods but also placing anything or anyone above the worship of the true God.

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 3: Ahab (Israel 874 - 853)

Scriptures: I Kings 16:29- 22:40

Central Text:

I Kings 16:30, 31; 17:1; 18:1, 17, 21, 27, 36-40; 19:1, 21:2, 19; 22: 3, 12, 17, 20, 34, 37, 38

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God's overview of Ahab's reign in Israel (I Kings 16:29-33).
2. Ahab's marriage to a foreign wife with false gods (I Kings 16:31).
3. Ahab's dealings with God's prophet Elijah (I Kings 17:1-18:46; 19:1,2)
4. Prophet Micaiah predicts Ahab's defeat (I Kings 22: 14-28) Ahab's death at Ramoth-Gilead (I Kings 22: 34-37) Jezebel's death (2 Kings 9:10, 33)

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Justice, Veracity.

Of Man: A sinful, rebellious heart in Ahab

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Isaiah 42:8; Deut. 28:15ff

Notes: Remind students of the split kingdom at this time in the nation's history (using a map if available). Remind them that none of the kings of Israel (North) were good kings and Ahab is said to have done more evil than all his predecessors (I Kings 16:30). Highlight God's hatred for idolatry and His fulfilled prophecies to judge idolatry. The teacher may want to review God's promises of cursing in the Mosaic covenant (Deut. 28:15ff).

Major Event: Decline of the Kingdom

Lesson 4: Hezekiah (715- 686)

Scriptures: 2 Kings 18:1-21; 2 Chronicles 29: 5-11

Central Text:

2 Kings 18:3-7; 19:6, 7; 19:15-19; 19:20-28; 19:32-35; 20:1-6; 20:13-17

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. God's overall evaluation of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-7).
2. Attempted Assyrian intimidation of Judah (18:13-37)
3. Isaiah's instruction (2 Kings 19:6,7).
4. Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance (2 Kings 19:14-19).
5. Isaiah's response from the LORD (2 Kings 19:20-28).
6. The LORD'S deliverance (2 Kings 19:35-37).
7. Hezekiah's foolishness with Babylonians (2 Kings 20:12-19)

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Immutability, Veracity- He remembers His promises to bless obedience (Deut. 28:1-14)

Of man: Hezekiah's faithful petition to the LORD at time of great crisis

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Deuteronomy 28- The blessings and the Curses.

Notes: This time in the nation's history perhaps most clearly validates God's promises in Deuteronomy 28-30 to bless obedience and curse idolatry. While Israel (North) is conquered and facing another deportation (2 Kings 17:6) Judah (South) prospered under a faithful king (2 Kings 18:7). Hezekiah, unlike most of the other kings of Israel and Judah tore down the idolatrous "high places" and even destroyed Moses' bronze serpent because the people had come to worship it instead of the LORD. Notice Hezekiah heeds the word of God's prophet Isaiah (2 Chron. 32:20) and prays to the LORD for deliverance (2 Kings 19:15) evoking Yahweh as the only true God. Note- Hezekiah was not flawless as (in his sickness) he naively showed the Babylonians Judah's immense treasure. Yet the LORD was gracious to him (2 Kings 20:17-19) by not allowing Babylon to seize Judah until after his days. However, God did warn of the coming Babylonian captivity for the people's lapse back into idolatry (2 Kings 20:17,18).

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 1: Jonah

Scriptures: Jonah 1-4

Central Text: Jonah 1:17

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Jonah 1-2, Pattern: God gives a directive, Jonah disobeys, discipline ensues, Jonah repents, God relents (Deuteronomy 28-30)

Jonah 3:4-10: Jonah proclaimed to the Ninevites that there were only 40 days till Nineveh would be destroyed if they did not believe in God. This warning and their resultant belief display God’s mercy to extend grace to even these Gentile enemies of Israel. 2 Peter 3:9 “...God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Jonah 4: Jonah does not reflect God’s grace toward Ninevah. Instead, after delivering God’s message to Ninevah, he shows a lack of compassion and becomes steeped in self-pity, wishing for Ninevah to be judged (v5)

God’s power extends over all creation (the storm, the fish, the vine, the worm)

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereign, Omnipotent, Merciful
2. Of Man: The flesh desires justice be shown to our enemies, not mercy

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Jonah 1-3

Notes:

- Nineveh stood on the eastern bank of the Tigris River. It had walls 100 feet high and 50 feet thick, and the main one, punctuated by 15 gates, was over seven and one-half miles long. The residents were idolaters and worshipped Asur and Ishtar, as did almost all the Assyrians.
- Assyria was a threat to Israel's security (Hos. 11:5; Amos 5:27). This is one reason Jonah refused to go to Nineveh. He feared the people might repent and that God would refrain from punishing Israel's enemy (4:2). (*Constable*)
- Jesus used the story of Jonah as an analogy of His own impending death and resurrection (Matt. 12:39-41)

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 2: Assyria Captivity, 722 BC

Scriptures: 2 Kings 17:5-41

Central Text: 2 Kings 17:6-12

“...the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria.....for so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel.....”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The reason for Israel’s captivity is clearly stated to be its spiritual failure, in turning from the living God to worship false gods. The detailed account (v7-17) of Israel’s adulterous idolatry makes it clear that Israel had grown thoroughly corrupt from the leaders on down. Reasons for the captivity 17:7-23:

- (1) They feared other gods (v. 7; cf. Exod. 20:3; Judg. 6:10).
- (2) They adopted Canaanite customs (v. 8; cf. Lev. 18:3; Deut. 18:9).
- (3) They adopted customs condemned by the Mosaic Law (v. 8; cf. 16:3; 17:19).
- (4) They practiced secret sins (v. 9).
- (5) They built pagan high places (v. 9; cf. Deut. 12:2-7, 13-14).
- (6) They made many sacred pillars and Asherim (v. 10; cf. Exod. 34:12-14).
- (7) They burned incense to other gods (v. 11).
- (8) They did evil things that provoked Yahweh (v. 11).
- (9) They served idols (v. 12; cf. Exod. 20:4).
- (10) They refused to heed God's warnings (vv. 13-14).
- (11) They became obstinate (v. 14; cf. Exod. 32:9; 33:3).
- (12) They rejected God's statutes (v. 15).
- (13) They rejected God's covenant (v. 15; cf. Exod. 24:6-8; Deut. 29:25).
- (14) They pursued vanity (v. 15; cf. Deut. 32:21).
- (15) They became vain (v. 15).
- (16) They followed foreign nations (v. 15; cf. Deut. 12:30-31).
- (17) They forsook Yahweh's commandments (v. 16).

- Grace Before Judgment: Despite repeated warnings (v13, 14, 23), Israel had persisted in every form of idolatry (v10-12, 16, 17)
- As God had promised, the Israelites' disobedience had resulted in their scattering among other peoples (Deut. 28:64).

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Justice
2. Of Man: Disobedience

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Kings 17:5-17

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 3: Daniel

Scriptures: Daniel Chapters 1-3

Central Text: Daniel 3:27b-28 "...and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Ch 1, Obedience: In refusing to eat food and drink offered to false gods, Daniel and his 3 teenage friends demonstrate public OBEDIENCE to God, even with the threat of persecution looming.

Ch 2, The importance of prayer: Daniel, despite his education and expertise, still knew that prayer to the omniscient God was the first step in this crisis situation. God answered Daniel's prayer and "*the secret was revealed to Daniel. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven*" v.19

Ch 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego model confidence in God and submission to His will, despite the threat of being thrown into a fiery furnace.

Ch 3: God is Omnipotent and chose to demonstrate his power by rescuing these obedient men from a fiery furnace. God provides this encouragement during a time in Judah's history when all else must have seemed bleak.

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Omnipotent, Omnipresent

Of Man: Obedience to God despite the threat of death

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Daniel 3

Notes:

- Daniel was probably only a teenager when he arrived in Babylon in 605 B.C. He continued in office as a public servant at least until 538 B.C. (1:21), and as a prophet at least until 536 B.C. (10:1). Thus the record of his ministry spans 70 years, the entire duration of the Babylonian Captivity.
- Daniel's name probably means "My judge is God." Hananiah means "Yahweh has shown grace," Mishael means "Who is what God is?" and Azariah means "Yahweh has helped." The new names assigned them all included or referred to various Babylonian gods

Ch. 2 Image Interpretation:

- Head of Gold: Babylon as 1st world empire (2:38, 7:17)
- Chest and Arms of Silver: Medo Persia would defeat Babylon and est. itself as 2nd world empire (2:39, 7:17, 8:20)
- Belly and Thighs of Bronze: Greece would defeat Medo Persia and est. itself as the 3rd world empire (2:39, 7:17, 8:21)
- Legs of Iron/Feet of Iron and Clay: Rome would defeat Greece and est. itself as the 4th world empire (2:40-43, 7:17)

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 4: Habakkuk

Scriptures: Habakkuk 1-3

Central Text: Habakkuk 3:17-18

“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover

- Habakkuk was concerned that the LORD was not responding to his evil generation (Southern Kingdom, Judea) and its corrupt ways (the courts were even corrupt- Hab 1:4)
- He voiced his concern to Yahweh in prayer (1:2-4) and asked questions of the Lord. This questioning of Yahweh was unique among the prophets.
- The Lord replied that He was working. He was raising up a nation (Babylon) that would punish His people for their covenant unfaithfulness (1:5-11).
- This raised another problem for Habakkuk, which he also took to the Lord in prayer. How could He use a more wicked nation than Judah to punish God's chosen people (1:12—2:1)? The Lord explained that He would eventually punish the Babylonians for their wickedness too (2:2-20).
- The final chapter is a hymn of praise where Habakkuk is extolling Yahweh for His wise ways. Habakkuk's conclusion was that Yahweh would avenge eventually, and that he would worship God in the meantime. "Until the day God avenges the Babylonians and restores Jerusalem, the just live by faith (Hab. 2:1-4), waiting with confidence for the fulfillment of I AM's unfailing promise that the wicked will be destroyed (2:5-19) and his legitimate claim to the whole world will be universally acknowledged (3:1-16)."
- Habakkuk's conclusion would give hope and encouragement to the faithful righteous remnant enduring a perverse and wicked generation that was about to enter captivity.

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Justice, Sovereignty

Of Man: Trust in God's perfect timing and wisdom

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Habakkuk 3

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 5: Ezekiel

Scriptures: 2 Kings 24, Ezekiel 16

Central Text: Ezekiel 16:60

“Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover

- 2 Kings 24 reveals Judah’s defeat and resulting Babylonian captivity which was a direct result of their disregard for Yahweh’s Deuteronomy 28 instruction to them. They are experiencing cursing because of their unfaithfulness to the Mosaic Covenant (Lev. 26, Deut 28:15-68)
- Ezekiel 16:15 states that Judah “trusted in their own beauty”. These words indict Judah for forgetting their fame and fortune were God’s gifts and not their own doing (v14). They relied on themselves and their gifts instead of on God, and came to believe their material health and wealth as a nation demonstrated God’s approval of their spiritual life, even though they were spiritually corrupt. *Nelson Study Bible, p. 1355*
- Judah’s worship of false gods broke covenant with Yahweh. Ezekiel 16:17-26 details their idolatry in the high places, and God’s resultant righteous anger (v26).
- God is a “nevertheless” God. He is immutable, perfect love, and justice all in one. Ez.16:60 tells us that despite Jerusalem’s disobedience to the Mosaic Covenant and the resulting punishment (v59), the covenant with Abraham-“My Covenant”- would still be honored: “I will remember”.

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Immutability, Justice, Perfect Love

Of Man: Unfaithful, Idolatrous

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Ezekiel 16:60-63

Notes:

- -Ezekiel went to Babylon as a captive during Nebuchadnezzar's second deportation of Jerusalemites in 597 B.C. along with King Jehoiachin, his household, his officials, and many of the leading men of Judah (2 Kings 24:12-17). Ten thousand captives went to Babylon then with much confiscated treasure from the temple and the royal palaces. Nebuchadnezzar also took most of the craftsmen and smiths to Babylon, and only the poorest of the people remained in the land.
- Jerusalem was under siege for about eighteen months (588-586 B.C.; 25:1-2). The resulting famine that the residents experienced (v. 3) was only one of many that the Israelites underwent for their rebellion against God. Jerusalem finally fell in 586 B.C.

Major Event: RESTORATION

Lesson 1: Prophecy

Scriptures: Jer. 25:11-12, 2 Chr. 36:20-23, Dan. 9:2-3, 16-19, 24-25

- Jeremiah 25:11-12 – Prophecy that Judah would be exiled for 70 years until the fall of Babylon
- 2 Chronicles 36:20-23 – Account of Judah being exiled to Babylon for 70 years until Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylon
- Daniel 9:2-3 – Daniel understood from Jeremiah that Judah would be in desolation for 70 years (from Jer. 25), so he prayed to God for restoration of the Jews to Judah
- Daniel 9:16-19 – Daniel's prayer that the Jews would be returned to a rebuilt Jerusalem with no more opposition sent from God because of their disobedient sins
- Daniel 9:24-25 – Gabriel told Daniel the prophecy: there would be a difficult restoration now in Jerusalem, but after a time, the Anointed One (Messiah - Jesus Christ) would come with complete restoration (verse 24) from the Jews' sins

Central Text: Daniel 9:24-25 (NIV)

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish

Transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting Righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

25 "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. The exiled Jews who were obedient to God wanted restoration to be like it was before: worshiping God in a rebuilt Jerusalem with blessing (Dan. 9:16-19).
2. The Word of God came through Gabriel that the Jews would be returned to a rebuilt Jerusalem, but times of trouble would continue. (The restoration that the exiled Jews wanted was not the complete restoration planned by God.)
3. Gabriel explained God's complete restoration from the Jews' disobedience to God: an end of sin, atonement for wickedness. This would happen almost 500 years after Jerusalem was rebuilt when Jesus Christ would come to die (as The sacrifice). The realization of “Everlasting righteousness”, and a true restoration of the “Most Holy Place” await the future millennial kingdom of Christ.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God God ALWAYS keeps His word – He will not only protect a Jewish remnant, but He will provide for the complete restoration from the penalty of sin by sending Jesus Christ to die for the sins of mankind
- 2: Of Man Prayer to God for what He has promised

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra, Nehemiah

Major Event: RESTORATION

Lesson 2: Rebuilding the Temple

Scriptures: Ezra, Dan. 6:25 (And background passages Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Nehemiah)

Central Text: Ezra 3:2, Ezra 5:2 (NIV)

“Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.” (Ezra 3:2)

“Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.” (Ezra 5:2)

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. The remnant Jews in Jerusalem continually disobeyed God. (Ezra 9:1, Neh. 5:7-8, Neh. 13:4-31)
2. Over and over again, the foreigners who lived near Jerusalem would try to stop the Jewish remnant from rebuilding. (Ezra 4:4-5)
3. God protected the remnant (even though they disobeyed Him again and again) by moving the hearts of two kings of Persia to support the remnant Jews in their rebuilding the temple. (Ezra 1:1, Daniel 6:25, Ezra 6:6-12)
4. Certain leaders and prophets of God were faithful in their obedience to God and in their leadership of the Jewish remnant (Ezra 3:2, 5:1-2)

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word – He protected and provided for the Jewish remnant, even though many of them continually disobeyed Him
2. Of man: the choice of desires of the flesh (many of the remnant) or obedience to God (leaders and prophets)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra, Nehemiah

Notes: It took the remnant about 1 year (538 – 537 B.C.) to rebuild the altar, and about 20 years (537 – 516 B.C.) to rebuild the temple, according to Ezra and Nehemiah (dates have been determined by way of the years the Persian kings reigned).

Major Event: RESTORATION

Lesson 3: Rebuilding the Walls

Scriptures: Nehemiah (and background passages Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra)

Central Text: Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NIV)

4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it." 6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. 7 I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? 8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. The remnant Jews in Jerusalem continually disobeyed God. (Neh. 5:7-8, 5:15, 5:17-19, 9:32-33, 9:37, 13:4-31)
2. Over and over again, the foreigners who lived near Jerusalem would try to stop the Jewish remnant from rebuilding. (Neh. 2:19, 4:7-8, 4:15-21, 6:5-9, 6:10-14)
3. God provided for the remnant (even though they disobeyed Him again and again) by moving the heart of King Artaxerxes of Persia to issue a decree for rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. (Neh. 2:4-8)

Suggested Attributes For Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word – He protected and provided for the Jewish remnant, even though many of them continually disobeyed Him
2. Of man: The choice of desires of the flesh (many of the remnant) or obedience to God (Nehemiah)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Jer. 25, Dan. 9, Ezra, Nehemiah

Notes: It took the remnant at least 80 years (516 – 437 B.C.) to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, according to Ezra and Nehemiah (dates have been determined by way of the years the Persian kings reigned). Also, the decree of Nehemiah 2:4-8 (letters from Artaxerxes) is the beginning of the seventy “sevens” described in Daniel 9:25.

Major Event: RESTORATION

Lesson 4: The Day of the LORD

Scriptures: Zechariah 14

Central Text: Zechariah 14:2a, 3, 5b, 7, 9a (NIV)

2a I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it...3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle...5b Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him...7 It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime -a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light. ..9a The LORD will be king over the whole earth.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

1. Haggai and Zechariah were two prophets who prophesied to the remnant Jews during the rebuilding of the altar and temple of God in Jerusalem. (Ezra 5:1)
2. The Word of the LORD through Haggai and Zechariah to the remnant Jews focused on two themes: (a) turn to God and stop your disobedience, (b) there will be a future restoration of Israel during a time called "The day of the LORD". (Daniel 12, Ezekiel 36-39, Haggai 2:20-22, Zechariah 14)
3. During the day of the LORD, all the nations of the earth will attack Jerusalem. Then the LORD will defeat them, and He will be king of the whole world.

This is the end of Daniel's "Seventieth Week" (the Tribulation) from Daniel 9:24 and 12:1, and the beginning of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

Of God: God ALWAYS keeps His word even though many of the remnant Jews continually disobeyed Him, God encouraged the remnant with prophecies of who would be victorious over all the nations and reign for eternity with His holy ones.

Of man: The choice of desires of the flesh or obedience to God

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Dan. 12, Ezek. 36-39, Hag. 2:20-22

Notes: Haggai and Zechariah were with the first group of Jews returning to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. With this remnant, Zerubbabel was the governor and Jeshua (Joshua) was the high priest (see RESTORATION -Lesson 2). These four men ministered to the remnant Jews while they rebuilt the altar and the temple in Jerusalem (roughly 538 -516 B.C.). Obedience to God during that time meant following the law of Moses and pouring their efforts into rebuilding the altar and temple of God. Many of the remnant were continually disobedient to God by breaking the law of Moses and by rebuilding their own houses before the house of God was finished (see RESTORATION -Lesson 3).

Major Event: Birth of the King

Lesson 1: The Promise of the King (A review of Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah)

Scriptures: Genesis 3:15, 12:1-3, 49:10; Deut. 18:15; 2 Sam. 7:12, 13; Jer. 23:5,6; Isa. 7:14, 9:6, 53; Micah 5:2

Central Text(s): Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Micah 5:2- -

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God’s progressive revelation of the promised Messiah through the Old Testament:

1. He would be human Gen. 3:15.
2. He would be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah Gen. 49:10.
3. He would be a prophet- Deut. 18:15.
4. He would be a King descended from David- Jer. 23:5,6, 2 Sam. 7:12, 13.
5. He would be God- Isa. 9:6
6. He would suffer and die for the sins of the people- Isa. 53:4,5.
7. He would be resurrected Isa. 53:10.
8. He would be born in Bethlehem- Micah 5:2

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

Of God: Veracity - God progressively revealed the promise of the Deliverer and at the birth of Christ he fulfilled His promises. Omnipotence- God’s power to accomplish what He promised. Love- God’s love toward sinners to provide a Savior despite our rebellion.

Of Man: Man was made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26, 27) and at the Virgin Birth God the Son took on humanity in order to redeem us.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6; Micah 5:2

Notes: Ask the question “*How were the Jews to know who the Messiah was?*” Track the students through the prophecies listed above to establish that God had indeed revealed through Hebrew Bible who the Messiah would be when he arrived as the King of Israel. Focus on prophecies concerning the birth of Messiah. (Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2)

Major Event: Birth of the King

Lesson 2: The Arrival of the King

Scriptures: Matt. 1:18- 2:12; Luke 2:1-32

Central text(s): Luke 2:10-12

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (NASB).

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Angel’s announcement of Christ’s birth to shepherds.

The King of Israel was born in meager conditions, announced to lowly shepherds by a regal Angel.

The statement of the purpose of this child- He was “good news” (2:10), “Savior” and “Lord” (2:11) a “Ruler” to “Shepherd” the people (Matt. 2:6).

The sign to the shepherds - “a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12).
[Adapted from Constable’s Notes on Luke]

Suggested attributes for teacher to cover:

Of God: Veracity, Omnipotence, Love

Of Man: The image of God. God sent His Son to Redeem and Reconcile humanity not because we deserved it by our merit but because of His image. He made humanity unique among creation, to have eternal fellowship with Him.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Matt. 1:18- 2:12; Luke 2:1-32

Notes: Emphasize the contrasts. Luke especially draws on these contrasts to demonstrate God’s love and concern for the outcast, the poor, the lowly. The King of Kings is born in a manger, announced to lowly shepherds by a glorious Angel, and the new born baby is wrapped as a corpse. Draw on the passages (covered in the previous lesson) Matthew emphasizes to prove that Christ’s birth was the fulfillment of God’s promises (Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2)

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 1: Deity of Christ

Scripture(s): Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 14; 8:58

Central Text:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Scriptures declare Jesus to be God (deity):

Isaiah 9:6 “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature (ὑπόστασις *hypóstasis*-being, essence, essential nature), and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

“Exact representation” has the idea of representation or the express image or exact image. Along with the Greek word HUPOSTASIS (being, essence, essential nature), it refers to Jesus being the express image or exact representation of God’s essential nature or essence (namely God the Father).

יהוה –Yahweh- the covenant name of the God of Israel, the name that belongs to God alone. Jesus claimed this divine name when Exodus 3:14-15 and John 8:58 are compared:

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’ ”

Exodus 3:15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD (Yahweh), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM**.”

Jesus claimed to be equal with God:

(1) By claiming to forgive sins (Mark 2:5ff); (2) By claiming power to raise and judge the dead (John 5:25, 29; cf. 1 Samuel 2:6; Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 2:7; Joel 3:12); (3) By claiming to be honored as God (John 5:18, 23)

Jesus claimed to be one with the Father: (John 10:30)

Jesus claimed to be Messiah-God:

(1) Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6); (2) God (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8); (3) Lord (Psalm 110:1 cf. Matt 22:43-44); (4) Messiah (John 4:26)

Jesus claimed to be God by accepting worship:

The Bible forbids worshipping anyone other than God, But Jesus accepted worship many times:

(1) A healed leper worshiped Him (Matthew 8:2); (2) A ruler knelt before Him after Jesus healed his son (Matthew 9:18); (3) The disciples after the storm (Matthew 14:33); (4) Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:25); (5) Mother of James and John (Matthew 20:20); (6) Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:6); (7) Healed blind man (John 9:38); (8) All the disciples (Matthew 28:17); (9) Thomas said, “My Lord and My God” (John 20:28); (10) Angels worship Him (Hebrews 1:6)

Jesus claimed to have equal authority with God:

(1) He put His words on the level with God (Matthew 5); (2) He claimed the authority of God (Matthew 28:18-19); (3) He gave a new commandment (John 13:34); (4) He claimed His word would never pass (Matthew 24:35); (5) He said He had authority to judge men (John 12:48)

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God: Review the orthodox view of the Trinity.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

Idolatry is the worship of anyone or anything other than the true God (Exodus 20:3-6). An inaccurate view of Christ leads to idolatry (1 John 5:20-21).

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 2: Humanity of Christ

Scripture(s): 1 Timothy 2; Genesis 3; Isaiah 7

Central Text: 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God revealed that the Redeemer of mankind would come to us in true humanity:

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.” (God promised that the Deliverer of mankind, the One who would defeat Satan, would be true humanity, the seed of the woman).

The OT predicted that the Deliverer would come into this world as true humanity:

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

Christ experienced things common to humanity:

1. He slept- Luke 8:23
2. He ate - Mark 14:14; Luke 7:36-37
3. He hungered - Matthew 4:2
4. He thirsted- John 19:28
5. He wept- John 11:35
6. He fatigued and tired- John 4:6
7. He died- John 19:33-34
8. People had a genuine physical perception of Him- 1 John 1:1
9. The human body of Jesus was made up of flesh and bone- Heb. 2:14; Luke 24:39
10. Though His conception was supernatural, He was born with a true human body that grew and developed- Luke 2:16, 52
11. Jesus is called “man” John 8:40; Romans 5:15, 17, 19; 1 Timothy 2:5

This Deliverer, Jesus Christ, Eternal God, would come into this world as true humanity, and would be judged for the sins of mankind in His humanity:

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

1 John 4:1-6 stresses the importance of accepting the incarnation, namely, that Christ has come in the flesh. An inaccurate view of Christ leads to idolatry (1 John 5:20-21).

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 3: Hypostatic Union

Scripture(s): Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Colossians 2:9

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Hypostatic Union

Definition: In the person of the incarnate Christ are two natures, inseparably united without mixture or loss of separate identity, without loss or transfer of properties or attributes, the union being personal and eternal. Christ is God (undiminished deity) and man (true humanity), two distinct natures in one person forever. These 2 natures are inseparable and will remain eternally united in the Person of Christ.

Scriptural Support:

Isaiah 9:6 “**For a child will be born to us**, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Micah 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

As to His human origin, He is to be born in Bethlehem, but regarding His divine origin, He is said to be “from long ago, from days of eternity.”

John 1:1,14: Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, became flesh (acquired true humanity), thus the hypostatic union.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

The Necessity of the Hypostatic Union:

Christ would need true humanity to receive the sins of mankind (1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:5). Apart from the union of humanity and deity, He could not have been mediator between God and mankind (2 Timothy 2:5-6).

The Duration of the Union

It is important to emphasize that the union of the 2 natures of Christ, the divine nature and the human nature united in one person, is eternal. Christ’s resurrected body was glorified and suited for heaven and will return to the Father in glorified humanity (John 17:5).

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 4: Kenosis

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Kenosis of Christ:

Philippians 2:5 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:6 - who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:7 - **but emptied Himself**, by taking the form of a bond-servant, and by being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 - Although being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The doctrine gets its name because of the Greek verb translated “emptied”- **κενόω (kenóō)** - to empty, to render void or of no effect, to make of no reputation.

As eternal God, Jesus emptied Himself by acquiring true humanity (Jesus Christ gained human attributes, but never lost any divine attributes; it was NOT a subtraction of deity, but an addition of humanity). Note that it was voluntary (He emptied **Himself**). Out of His great love for us, Jesus emptied Himself and humbled Himself by becoming true humanity and dying on the cross for our sins.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility - Christ as eternal God was willing to humble Himself by taking on humanity and even dying for the sins of sinful mankind.

Humility is obedience to God’s word. Jesus perfectly submitted to the will of the Father.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

1 Timothy 3:16 “By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”

Notes:

Christ, who eternally existed as one in person and nature (divine), became two in nature (divine and human) in ONE person at His incarnation. A human nature was inseparably united forever with the divine nature of Jesus Christ. Yet the 2 natures remain distinct, whole, unchanged, and without mixture or confusion, so that Jesus Christ is true humanity and undiminished deity in one person forever. So, at the virgin birth, Christ as eternal God **ADDED** humanity, and was now 2 natures (undiminished deity and true humanity) united in one person forever.

In the union of humanity and deity, each of these natures retained its own attributes. Deity did not permeate (or bleed over into) humanity, nor did humanity become absorbed into deity. The 2 natures retain their complete identity even though they have been joined together in a personal union. Embracing perfect humanity made Jesus Christ no less God, and retaining His undiminished deity made Him no less human.

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 5: Virgin Birth

Scriptures: Matthew Chapter 1, Luke Chapter 1

Central Text: Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin (παρθένος - *parthénos*) shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

Suggested Subjects For Teacher To Cover:

Virgin Birth

Predicted in Old Testament:

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

The Virgin Birth fulfilled in the New Testament:

- 1) The virgin birth announced by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-35)
- 2) Historical fulfillment (Matthew 1:18-25)

Impeccability

The Lord was announced as a holy child (Luke 1:35)

Christ was without sin (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 9:14; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 3:5)

Other testimony found in Scripture indicates Christ’s sinlessness (Matthew 27:4, 19; Luke 23:41)

Purposes for Impeccability:

1. To demonstrate the sinlessness of Christ (just as the Passover lamb was inspected for defect to make sure it was a qualified sacrifice in Exodus 12, so also Christ lived a perfect life before us to demonstrate that He was a qualified sacrifice; 1 Peter 1:19).
2. Christ had to be sinless to be the sacrifice for mankind’s sin and be qualified to be our Redeemer. If Jesus had sin, He would also need a Savior. In order to provide perfect righteousness to us, He would have to be perfect righteousness and without sin (2 Cor. 5:21).

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Omnipotence- God supernaturally brought about the conception of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18, 20).

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

Matthew 1:18-25; 1 Peter 1:17-19

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 6: Reveal the Father and Offer the Kingdom

Suggested Subjects For Teacher To Cover:

The Offer of the Kingdom to Israel:

Jesus announces that the kingdom promised in the OT is available (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 9:35).

Sermon on the Mount (Jesus validates His Kingship / Messiahship through His words and presents the requirements for Israel to receive the blessings of the kingdom).

Jesus also validated His message through miracles:

- 1) Jesus heals the man with leprosy- 8:2-3
- 2) Jesus heals the centurion's servant (Mt 8:5-13)
- 3) Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15)
- 4) Jesus heals many demon-possessed people (Mt. 8:16)
- 5) Jesus calms the storm (Mt. 8:18-27)
- 6) Jesus heals the demoniac (He cast out the demons into the swine- Matt 8:28-34)
- 7) Jesus heals the paralytic (Matt 9:1-8)
- 8) Jesus heals the woman with the bleeding disorder (Matt 9:20-22)
- 9) Jesus raises the official's daughter (Matt 9:18-31)
- 10) Jesus heals a mute demon-possessed man (9:32-34)

Jesus Revealed the Father:

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Jesus was a distinct Person from the Father, but equal in essence (John 10:30). Jesus also glorified the Father by accomplishing the work the Father had sent Him to do (John 17:4).

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Righteousness - Jesus presents true righteousness (Matt 5-7- Sermon on the Mount)

Love - Love is demonstrated through obedience to God's word (cf. John 14:21-23)

Sovereignty - Jesus is offering His kingdom and the fulfillment of His sovereign rule over Israel.

Omnipotence - God is all-powerful. Jesus demonstrated authority over every realm (disease, demons, death, creation).

Jesus revealed power demonstrates that He has the sovereign right to rule as Israel's predicted King.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18

Deuteronomy 28-30- These chapters promised cursing and blessing to Israel depending on their obedience or disobedience. Deuteronomy 30 promised restored blessing to Israel when they returned in obedience to God. Jesus came to offer this restoration.

Genesis 49:10- authority belongs to the King from the line of Judah.

Isaiah 35 (predicts Messiah's healings)

Psalms 104 (God has power over nature)

Notes:

The Sermon on the Mount is not the way of salvation, but the righteous requirements of the nation Israel to enjoy the blessing of the kingdom. Jesus' words reflect OT truths related to enjoying the blessings of the Promised Land under the rule of Jesus Christ the Messiah. It's important to note that although salvation is a free gift of God through faith alone in Christ alone (the removal of the penalty of sin through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross- John 3:16, 18; Eph 2:8-9), God demands obedience in the believer's walk to enjoy fellowship with Him.

Emphasizing eternal security is essential in this discussion (cf. John 10:28-30; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Romans 8:1, 38-39).

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 7: Walked by Spirit and Word

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- Jesus demonstrated the spiritual life as a model for us to follow by living in the power of the Holy Spirit and living by God's word.
- Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by Satan (Matthew 4:1) and relied on the word of God for all three tests (Matthew 4:2-10).
- Jesus also lived a perfectly humble life in obedience to the word and gave us the example of humility (John 13:1-17).
- Emphasize the importance of walking by the Spirit and applying God's word in the midst of spiritual warfare (John 17:17; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 6:10-17; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 2:6).

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility - Walking in submission to God through obedience to God's word (humble servanthood).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

John 17

Major Event: His Death

Lesson 2: Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

Scriptures: Matthew 27:27-54

Central Text: Matthew 27:46-50

46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" 47 And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." 48 Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. 49 But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Verse 27

Praetorium: Pilate's house
Cohort: 300 to 600 soldiers

Verses 28–31

Crucifixion was a slow, brutal and painful way to kill a person. It usually lasted 2 to 3 days. The hands were nailed to the crossbeam, the feet to the upright beam. A peg, on which the victim sat, supported the main weight of the body. Death was sometimes hurried by breaking the legs, but not in Jesus' case.

Verses 32–34

Wine mixed in gall was a painkiller, but Jesus did not want to deaden the pain. He was there to suffer and pay for the sins of the world.

Verse 35

The soldiers took Jesus' clothes for themselves. They treated Jesus as a common criminal. This was also prophesized by the prophet Isaiah.

Verses 36–37

"King of the Jews" was a way of mocking Jesus. Is he really the "The King of the Jews"?

Verses 38–45

They were mocking and insulting Jesus. "Sixth to the ninth hour" is from noon to 3:00 P.M.

Verse 46

This cry may mean how alone Jesus felt as He was bearing the sins of the world. This was the one and only time Jesus and his Father would not be in fellowship together as he paid for the World's sins.

Verses 47–50

Jesus was not really killed by anyone, and His body did not die from heart failure. He deliberately released His spirit. He allowed Himself to die.

Verse 51

The veil was the curtain separating the holy area from the rest of the temple. God tore the curtain in two, and this meant that with Jesus' death, there was now a new way open to God. This is called the "New Covenant."

Verses 52–54

Do you think they were believers in Jesus then?

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Love, Justice
2. Of Man; Total Depravity, Lack of Righteousness, Total Dependence on God's Grace.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: John 18:12 – 19:30

Notes: Jesus was not killed on the cross by Man, he freely gave up his spirit to the Father. Emphasize that the veil was ripped open, opening a path to the Holy of Holies in the temple. This represented that the sins were paid for and now we had access directly to God's throne as his children.

Major Event: His Death

Lesson 2: Death of Christ

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Justification, Redemption, Reconciliation, Propitiation, Forgiveness

Christ's death on the cross provided:

Justification - The one who believes in Christ receives the imputation of God's righteousness and is justified before God (Romans 3:22-28; 4:1-8; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16).

Redemption - Jesus paid the price for our redemption on the cross (1 Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 9:12, 15) and the one who believes in Christ is redeemed (purchased) from the slave market of sin (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7).

Reconciliation - The one who believes in Christ is reconciled to God (there is no longer enmity and hostility but peace with God- Romans 5:10-11).

Propitiation - God is satisfied with Christ's payment on the cross:

1 Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 1 Jn 2:2 and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Forgiveness of sins - The believer in Christ is forgiven of his sins (Luke 7:48; Acts 10:43; Eph. 1:7; Colossians 2:13-14).

Eternal Security - The believer in Jesus Christ is eternally secure from the moment he believes the gospel (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; John 10:28-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39).

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God:

Justice - The justice of God placed the judgment for our sins on Christ as our substitute.

Righteousness - God's righteousness is imputed to us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Grace - Our salvation is not earned but is a grace gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

Romans 5:1-11

Major Event: His Resurrection

Lesson 1: Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Scriptures: Matthew 28:1-10

Central Text: Matthew 28:5-6

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He **was** lying.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Matthew says that Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" went to the tomb early Sunday morning.

- Mark and Luke identify the other Mary as the mother of James.
- Mark also mentions a woman named Salome, and Luke mentions a woman named Joanna.
- Luke also says that there were "other women with them." So we know that several women went to the tomb in the garden.

What did the women see when they got there?

- The stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb.
- An angel sitting on top of the stone.
- The guards passed out on the ground from fear of the angel.

Why was the stone rolled away?

- To show that He wasn't there. Jesus had already risen before the angel met with the group of women.
- NOTE: The stone was like a solid stone wheel that rolled in a gutter. The gospel of Mark says that it was "extremely large."

What did the angel say to the women?

- "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.
- The simple statement, "He has risen," is the basis for the Christian faith. If Christ had not risen, then we would have no hope. But because Jesus arose, victorious over death, He will live forever. And everyone who believes in Him will live forever too.
- NOTE: Christianity is the only religion that worships a risen Savior!

What else did the angel tell the women?

- To go quickly and tell His disciples that He had risen from the dead.
- That they would see Jesus in Galilee.

As the women ran to report it to His disciples, Jesus Himself met them and greeted them. What was their response?

- And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

What did Jesus say to the women?

- "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."
- Again, the women were assured that there was no need to be afraid. Jesus refers to the women as "My brethren" (the first time in the Bible He called them this) and to say that they would see Him.

This was the most important day in human history, and it's the reason Christians celebrate Easter.

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Love, Justice

2. Of Man; Total Depravity, Lack of Righteousness, Total Dependence on God's Grace.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12

Notes: The resurrection had such importance that the disciples started worshiping on Sunday instead of Saturday (the Sabbath) as they had always done.

The gospel of John also tells about Peter and John running to the tomb after the women told them that Jesus was alive. John 20:1-18

Major Event: His Ascension and Session

Lesson 1: Ascension and Session

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Central Text:

Acts 1:9 - And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

Ascension of Christ

Eph 4:8 Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.”

Eph 4:9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph 4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

Session of Christ (Seated at God’s right hand)

Romans 8:34 “who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”

Colossians 3:1 “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

Hebrews 10:12 “but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,”

Hebrews 12:2 “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Jesus our High Priest being seated indicates His work is complete as opposed to the OT high priest whose work was never complete.

Jesus remains seated at God’s right hand until He returns at the 2nd Advent to establish His millennial kingdom (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:35; Hebrews 1:13; 10:13).

At the right hand of God, Jesus makes intercession for believers and acts as their Advocate:

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, **since He always lives to make intercession for them** (cf. Rom. 8:34)

1 Jn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous;

1 Jn 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 1: What is the Church?

Central Text: Ephesians 1:22-23

Suggested Subjects For Teacher to Cover:

Three uses in the Bible of the word “church” ἐκκλησία [*ekklesia*]:

- 1 Assembly/Gathering of People
Acts 19:39 - Used for a gathering of people in a lawful or legal assembly.
Acts 7:38 - Stephen uses the word to refer to Israel in the wilderness after Moses had led the people out of Egypt.
- 2 Assembly of Christians in a Local Church
Acts 8:1 - Used for the assembly of Christians in Jerusalem - “And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem...”
1 Corinthians 1:2 - to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, and called to be saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.
Also see Romans 16:1, 4, 5; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 4:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; Revelation 1:4
- 3 The Body of Christ, the Universal Church
Matthew 16:18 - “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
Ephesians 3:10 - so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 5:22-27 - Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Ephesians 1:22-23 - “And He (God the Father) put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head of all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Colossians 1:18 - “He is the head of the body, the church, and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

What is the Body of Christ? - The body of Christ is a spiritual body formed through the baptism of the Holy Spirit during this present dispensation / administration that consists of all people who have trusted Christ as their personal Savior, without regard to race, gender, local church affiliation, status or position in life, or geographical location. This body began its formation on the day of Pentecost and will cease its formation at the Rapture or resurrection of the church.

Definition of the Local Church - “An assembly of believers in Jesus Christ under NT offices functioning in their spiritual gifts, united to engage in the public worship of God, the practice of NT ordinances, the edification of the saints, and the evangelism of the lost (unsaved).”

The Church Belongs to God - 1 Timothy 3:15 - but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
Matthew 16:18 - “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Sovereignty - Christ is the Head of the body, the church (Ephesians 5:23)

Omnipotence - Nothing can overpower Christ’s church (Matthew 16:1)

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 2: Formation of the Church

Central Text: Matthew 16:18

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Church is Prophesied

During the dispensation of Israel, the church was predicted.

- Matthew 16:18 - “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
- The Greek word used for the name “Peter” is Πέτρος [Petros- rock]. Jesus then says “on this **rock** I will build My church.” The word “rock” translates the Greek noun πέτρα [*petra*- rock, large stone). Peter is praised for his accurate testimony of Christ (Matthew 16:16-17), with Jesus then indicating that He will build His church on Himself.

Other passages show Christ as the foundation of the Church.

- 1 Corinthians 3:11 - Christ is the foundation
- Ephesians 2:20 - Christ is the chief cornerstone
- 1 Peter 2:4-8 - Christ is the choice stone (cf. Acts 4:10-12)

The Church Begins

The church began on the day of Pentecost and is formed by the baptism of the Spirit, which first occurred on the day of Pentecost (compare Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4 with Acts 11:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; **Note:** The comparison of these verses supports the fact that what happened on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Church Formed

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **For by means of one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” “baptized” = Greek verb βαπτίζω, *baptizo*- This term emphasizes *identification*.

Other passages dealing with Spirit baptism (not water baptism):

- Romans 6:3 - “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?”
- Galatians 3:27 - “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
- Ephesians 4:4-5 - “One faith, one Lord, one baptism.”
- Colossians 2:12 - Buried with Him in baptism.

The Church Age Ends (Church Removed From the Earth)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

- Omnipotence - God’s power in forming the church through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Omniscience - Christ knows where all believers are at any time since He will gather the church at the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).
- Trinitarianism - The Holy Spirit plays a distinct role in the formation of the church. Stability and reliability of God (Christ is the Rock on whom the church is founded- Matt 16:18).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

- The church was predicted by Christ during the dispensation of Israel as a future event (Matt. 16:18).
- The church has a distinct beginning, the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- The baptism of the Spirit forms the church, the body of Christ, an entity consisting of Jew and Gentile believers in Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 2:13-22; 3:6).
- The church age has a distinct ending, namely, the imminent event of the Rapture of the Church (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 3: Uniqueness of the Church

Central Text: Colossians 1:24-27

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Church did not exist in the OT times nor was it revealed in the OT - Ephesians 3:1-7:

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles if indeed you have heard of the **stewardship** of God's grace which was given to me for you; (οἰκονομία *oikonomia-stewardship, administration, dispensation*) that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;** to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

The Church is a "mystery":

- The word "mystery" (μυστήριον, *musterion*) occurs in Ephesians 3:3-4 and means something hidden or unknown to past ages.
- Ephesians 5:32 This **mystery** is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
- Ephesians 3:1-6 reveals that the mystery is that Jews and Gentiles are fellow-heirs and fellow-members of one body, and joint-partakers of the promise. A Gentile has the same rights and privileges as a Jew does in Christ.

Unique Characteristics of the Dispensation of the Church:

- Baptism of the Spirit (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:12-13) - all believers, Jew and Gentile, are in union with Christ at the point of faith in Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Jesus prophesied - Jn. 7:39; 14:17; the Spirit in the believer - Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Sealing ministry of the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30)
- The indwelling of Christ (Colossians 1:27)
- Filling of the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 5:18
- Universal priesthood of the believer
 - Christ our High Priest - Hebrews 5:5; 9:11
 - Believer is a priest - Revelation 1:4-6
- The completed canon of Scripture (Hebrews 2:3-4; Jude 3; Revelation 22:18-19)
- No longer under the Mosaic Law (Romans 6:14; 10:4; Galatians 3:23-25)
- Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- We have at our disposal "every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:3).

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

- Omnipotence - God's power in forming the church through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

- The church was predicted by Christ during the dispensation of Israel as a future event (Matt. 16:18).
- Colossians 1:24-27

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 4: Structure of the Church

Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Elder (πρεσβύτερος, presbuteros) - Spiritually qualified men who were appointed to have spiritual care of the churches.

Overseer (ἐπίσκοπος, episkopos) - One who overlooks, a ruler, an overseer.

Titus indicates that the elder (presbuteros) and the overseer (episkopos) are the same person (Titus 1:5-9):

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** (presbuteros) in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For (γὰρ - gar) the **overseer** (episkopos) must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Peter instructed the elders (presbuteros) to exercise oversight over the believers in the church (1 Peter 5:1-2):

Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd** the flock of God among you, **exercising oversight** (episkopeo) not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

The elder also has the function of "shepherding" or "pasturing" (ποιμαίνω, poimaino - where we get the term "pastor").

Acts 20:17 - From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** (presbuteros) of the church...

Acts 20:28 - "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers** (episkopos), to **shepherd** (poimaino) the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Church elders are first mentioned as appointed by Paul and Barnabas to various churches (Acts 14:23).

When they had appointed **elders** (presbuteros) for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Elders are to guard the truth of the Bible:

Titus 1:5 - For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** (presbuteros) in every city as I directed you,...

Titus 1:9 - holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, **so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.**

A central function of the pastor is to be diligent in learning God's word and teaching God's word:

Ephesians 4:11-12 - And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as **pastors and teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 - I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

The elder is not to lord his authority over the flock (1 Peter 5:1-5):

5:2 - The elder was to shepherd (pastor) the flock, while "exercising oversight". The elder is not to beat the sheep.

5:3 - The elder is not to "lord" his authority over the flock. The elder is to be an example to the flock.

5:5 - The young men were to be subject to the elders with humility.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Sovereignty- Christ is the Head of the body, the church.

Omnipotence- Nothing can overpower Christ's church.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

1 Timothy 3:1-13. Titus Chapter 1

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 5: Elder Qualifications for the Church

Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Characteristics/qualifications of leadership in four categories (Comparing 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1):

Personal Character

- Temperate
- Prudent
- Not addicted to wine
- Not pugnacious (a violent temper)
- Gentle and patient
- Uncontentious (not quarrelsome)
- Free from the **love** of money (not simply free FROM money)
- Not a novice / new convert
- Not self-willed (the same attitude of Christ; not my will by God's will)
- Not quick-tempered
- Loving what is good
- Fair and honest
- Devoted to God in worship
- Self-control

Public Testimony

- Above reproach (not sinless perfection, but no questionable conduct that would bring legitimate dispute- to a certain degree, this controls the rest of the list)
- Hospitable (not just teach, but cares for people)
- Good reputation outside the church

Family

- Husband of one wife
- Manages his household well
- Children should live under control

Ministry

- Able to teach the word (and be teachable)
- Able to refute false teaching
- Holding fast to sound doctrine (teach the entire realm of doctrine with accuracy)

Elders are not to lord their authority over the flock, the flock is still to recognize their authority:

Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, with the result that they may do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Duty of the Elders in relation to the sick / weary (James 5:13-15):

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God:

Sovereignty - Christ is the Head of the body, the church.

Omnipotence - Nothing can overpower Christ's church.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 6: Deacon Qualifications for the Church

Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Deacon- Greek διάκονος [*diakonos*] servant, attendant, minister

Ryrie: “In Greek writings “deacon” described a waiter, a messenger, a steward, and a servant. These uses may reinforce the concept that official deacons in the church did whatever kinds of service the elders dedicated to them.”

In the broad sense, all believers are to be servants.

John 12:26 - “If anyone serves Me (diakoneo), he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me (diakoneo), the Father will honor him.”

The word is used for one’s spiritual gift:

Romans 12:6-7 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service (or ministry), in his servicing (our ministering); or he who teaches, in his teaching;”

Used in an unofficial sense (with a focus on Christian service):

Colossians 1:7 - just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

1 Timothy 4:6 - “In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.”

Deacon and elders are distinct offices as seen in 1 Timothy 3:1-13

1 Timothy 3:8 - Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain

The word “likewise” that indicates another category, namely, deacons.

Central text to support the office of deacons in the early church.

Acts 6:4 - Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Qualifications for deacons.

1 Timothy 3:8-10 - Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

1 Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-7

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 7: Spiritual Gifts of the Body of Christ

Central Texts: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Seven Spiritual Gifts are Revealed in Romans 12:4-8.

Romans 12:4-8 - For just as we have one body with many members, and the members do not all have the same function so in Christ we are many in one body and each member belongs to one another having different gifts according to the grace which he has given to us. If **prophecy**, (*let him use it*) according to the proportion (agreement) of faith, if **service**, in his serving, or the one **teaching**, in his teaching, if **encouragement** (exhortation, comforting), in his encouragement, he who **gives**, with liberality, he who **leads**, with diligence, he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12 Gifts:

1. Prophecy- προφητεία [*propheteia*]: New Testament prophets provided edification, exhortation, and comfort to the church (1 Cor. 14:3 “But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.”). They revealed direct revelation from God to the church while the biblical canon was still incomplete.
2. Service- Διακονία [*diakonia*]: Although all Christians should serve the body, God gifted certain believers with this particular gift. This gift ministers to the needs of others, including material needs.
3. Teaching- διδασκαλία [*didaskalia*]: This is not a gift that reveals *direct* revelation from God, but is a gift that functions in the explaining of truths already written in Scripture. We should all be teachers of truth, but not necessarily in the formal sense in the church (cf. Hebrews 5:11-12 with James 3:1). There were clearly those who exercised this gift in the local church (1 Tim. 5:17).
4. Encouragement- παράκλησις [*paraklesis*]: We should all be encouragers (Hebrews 10:25). However, God has gifted certain believers to specialize in this area of service. This gift should be based on encouraging others based on the truth of Scripture (e.g. 1 Thes. 4:18).
5. Giving- μεταδίδωμι [*metadidomi*]: All Christians should give (2 Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 6:6-7). However, there are those who have the spiritual gift of giving. Giving is important in the body of Christ, and the Bible puts emphasis on giving with the proper motivation.
6. Leadership- προϊστήμι [*proistemi*]: The reference is to any position involving superintendence. This word is used for leaders in the church who manage and rule (1 Thes. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12; 5:17).
7. Showing Mercy- ἐλεέω [*eleeo*]: All Christians should show mercy (James 2:12-13; Jude 23). God has given a special gift of mercy to some believers in the body of Christ. This gift often focuses on ministering to the sick and especially needy.

The Gifts are Reflective of God:

1. Prophecy: Deuteronomy 18:15 - “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.”
2. Service: John 13 - Jesus washes the disciples feet as an act of humble servanthood.
3. Teaching: Matthew 7:28 - When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
4. Encouragement: John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
5. Giving: Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
6. Leadership: John 8:12 - Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
7. Mercy: Luke 6:36 - “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Principle: When Christians are functioning in their spiritual giftedness, the character and purpose of God is being represented and reflected in the body of Christ.

Principles from Romans 12:4-8:

- Believers in the body of Christ are compared literal parts of the human body to illustrate the importance of spiritual gifts and the necessity and interdependency of each individual part to benefit the whole.
- All believers are members of the body of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-31), with the **primary** focus being that each member functions to serve the body, not the body to serve the members.
- Spiritual gifts are not designed for selfish use, but to serve the members of Christ’s body.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17).

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 8: Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Central Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Spiritual gifts are given by God to believers for the purpose of edification and unity within the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:12 mentions two things for which the leaders are to equip believers in the body of Christ:

1. “for the work of service” (Ergon ministry or service) - All believers are in full time Christian service; We are not saved by works, but we are called to walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-9).
2. “building of the body of Christ” - “building” (building up, a building, or edification). The verb oikodomeo (oikos- house; domeo - to build) means to build a house or to build anything. Ephesians 4:12 uses the word “building” for the spiritual strengthening, building, and edification of believers in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13 mentions three things that the believer is to attain:

1. “the unity of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God” - Believers are to be unified in God’s word and grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. “to a mature man” - Believers are to grow to spiritual maturity
3. “to the measure of stature of the fullness of Christ”

Point: As each believer grows in the spiritual life through God’s word and functions in accord with the spiritual gift(s) God has given him, the body of Christ as a whole enjoys unity as believer’s become more spiritually mature and more like Christ in all of His fullness (the character of Christ is formed in him- cf. Rom. 12:2; Gal. 4:19; 5:16-23).

Ephesians 4:14 - Emphasizes that as a believer matures in Christ he will not be carried away into false teaching and error.

Ephesians 4:15-16 - Focuses on importance of unity and love in the body of Christ.

Summary of Ephesians 4:11-16

Spiritual gifts were designed to edify the body through the word of God, with the desired goal of spiritual maturity, unity, and love among the brethren rather than remaining in spiritual infancy and adhering to false teaching.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

John 13:1-7; Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 5:16-23

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 9: Importance of Spiritual Gifts for Unity

Central Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The body of Christ has many individual distinct members with every member being unified in one body.
- In the body of Christ the believer does not lose his personal identity and individuality.
- Each believer has an individual gift(s) and role in the body so that the body will properly function.
- The diverse parts of the human body work together as **one**, with the various parts being dependent on each other as it functions (cf. vv. 21-26). Likewise the body of Christ has a diversity of parts functioning together in co-dependency.
- All the members of the body are important, despite their varied functions.
- Every member of the body of Christ is important and every member of the body has a spiritual gift that's important to the function of the body.
- A believer must personally realize that he or she has an important function in the body despite their gift and role in the body.
- If the body only consisted of one body part, it could not function. Likewise, if the body of Christ consisted of only one part, it could not function.
- The diversity of gifts and the variety of abilities of the members of the church is essential to its proper function.
- All the spiritually gifted people in the body are mandatory for the spiritual health of the body. It is not healthy for a believer to not be functioning in his or her spiritual gift.
- God the Holy Spirit determines the gift(s) of each member of the body (12:11), and God has carefully arranged the body according to His perfect will.
- No member of the body can look at another and say that they are not important.
- There should be no division in the body
- The members of the body are to have the same care for one another
- There is to be mutual ministry for one another in the body of Christ, which is the opposite of division in the body.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

Suggested Reading for Children at Home:

John 13:1-17- the importance of humble servanthood of one another in reflection of Christ's love for us.
Don't forsake the assembly of ourselves at church for the function of the body- Hebrews 10:23-25

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 10: Ordinances in the Church

Central Texts: Luke 22:1-20 (The Lord's Table); Matthew 28:16-20

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Lord's Table

- The Lord's Table was instituted at the Last Supper when Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples (Lk 22:1-20).
- The Lord's Table is an important part of worship in the church age and is to be regularly celebrated as a remembrance of what Christ has done for us on the cross as we wait for His return for us in the future (1 Cor. 11:23-26).
- The Lord's Table is to be received by the believer as he walks in fellowship with God (1 Cor. 11:27-31).
- The Lord's Table is also for believers only and is a post-salvation expression of worship of Christ who received our sins in His own body on the cross (represented by the bread) and His work on the cross that provided for our redemption (the new covenant in His blood represented by the cup).

Water Baptism

The Greek word for "baptize" is the word **βαπτίζω**, which means to dip, immerse, or baptize. The word **βάπτω** means to dip, sink, or immerse. When studied in its different contexts, the word "baptism" has the underlying nuance of "identification."

- Jesus approved of His disciples baptizing (John 4:1-2).
- Jesus commanded that believers be baptized (Matthew 28:16-20).
- The early church placed an importance on baptism (Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12-13, 36, 38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5).

Emphasize that participation in the Lord's Table or water baptism is **NOT** a means of salvation.

- Salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone and is not of works.
- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."
- Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."
- Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- Water baptism is a ritual to be performed, not FOR salvation, but AFTER salvation. Water baptism is a post-salvation ordinance for the person who has already put their faith in Christ, and is a ritual that publicly demonstrates a believer's spiritual identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection as a permanent member of Christ's body.
- As persons who have been spiritually baptized by means of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, which water baptism symbolizes, we now have a responsibility to walk in the newness of life (Rom 6:1-4).

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility- Even though God is above all, He still sent His Son to serve us (John 13:1-17). Therefore, we should serve one another even if we are not a deacon in the church.

Suggested Reading for Children at Home:

Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Romans 6:1-4

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 11: Outreach of the Church

Central Text: Matthew 28:16-20

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

Five Elements of the Great Commission:

1. The Commander, the LORD Jesus Christ.
2. The messenger (sent by the Commander) - The messenger must share the message of Christ and also reflect His character (Ephesians 5:1)
3. The audience: We need to take the gospel to the lost.
4. The message (We must learn the message and be willing to give it).
5. God's providence (God's care and protection and guidance - Christ is with us always).

The teacher should take careful note of the grammar of Matthew 28:19-20. The main idea is found in the main verb "make disciples"(aorist active imperative of μαθητεω— to make a disciple).

The next two words, "baptizing" and "teaching," are subservient to the action of the main verb (make disciples). These two participles tell us what is involved in making disciples:

1. Baptizing- This is a reference to water baptism, which was a public testimony of a believer's identification in the body of Christ. Evangelization and salvation would be summarized by the phrase "baptizing them" (i.e. a person would hear the gospel message, believe it, and then would be water baptized- Acts 16:31-33).
2. Teaching- This involves teaching the word of God. The pastor does this in the formal sense, but all believers are responsible for teaching the word of God in an informal sense (James 3:1 compared to Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 3:15).

Though not specifically stated in the context, preaching the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, is part of this process. One cannot become a disciple of Jesus Christ until he puts his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

The phrase "teaching them" is followed by the phrase "to observe all that I command you." Notice that it does not simply say to teach them, but to "teach them to OBSERVE or KEEP all that I command you." We are to teach others the word of Christ and also exhort and encourage others to obey the teachings of Christ.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Omnipresence- Jesus claims to be with them after He returns to heaven, even to the end of the age.

Suggested Reading for Children at Home:

Teach your children to be able to articulate the gospel clearly and also teach them the importance of sharing the gospel with others.

Major Event: Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Lesson 1: Immanency of the Rapture

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Romans 5:9, Titus 2:13

Central Text: 1 Thess. 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The Immanency of our Lord's return for the translation of His church age saints.
- The church is instructed to encourage one another on the basis of the imminent return of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13ff).
- The church is to look for the blessed hope of the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13). The church is not destined for wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Rom. 5:9).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

Of God Omniscience: God, knowing all things, has revealed His plan for the outworking of history in His Word

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18

Notes: The Doctrine of Immanency demands a pre-tribulation rapture. The Church is instructed to look for the coming of Christ to meet us in the air- not to look for the very definite signs of the Great Tribulation. The exhortation to look for Christ's appearing as comfort loses significance if the church must endure the Tribulation.

Major Event: Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Lesson 2: Not Destined for Wrath

Scriptures: I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Revelation 3:10; 2 Peter 2:6-9;
2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

Central Text: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The nature of the church as the Bride and Body of Christ (by way of review from previous lessons).
- The church is not destined for wrath (I Thessalonians 5:1-11).
- The purpose of the Great Tribulation judgments: To judge nations and cause Israel to “Shuvv” and say “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord”(Matthew 23:39).
- God’s deliverance of believers from past judgment. (2 Peter 2:6-9).
- The work of God the Holy Spirit in indwelling church age believers and restraining evil (see notes below).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. **Of God:** Grace and Mercy. Our God is Salvation.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Notes: The church is not found mentioned after Revelation 3. In Rev. 3:10 Christ promises the church at Philadelphia they will be kept from the hour of testing. This, however, does not support a partial rapture view as I Thessalonians 4:13-17 clearly teaches that all of the church is raptured at the same time. The terms elect and saints are not equivalent to church. Believers such as Ruth and Joshua were saints and elect but not part of the Bride of Christ- His church which, even at His earthly ministry He said was yet future (Matt. 16:18). The church was instituted after the resurrection of Christ and before His final eschatological plan for Israel and the nations was complete, therefore, a pretribulation rapture is further supported. Also, it is not unusual for God to rescue believers from impending judgment on the world: Noah, Lot, Rahab (2 Pet. 2:6-9). The work of God the Holy Spirit in the church is unique (compare John 14:16 16:7; Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13) He indwells each and every Church Age believer. He also restrains sin in the world. 2 Thess. 2:6-8 tells us that He must be taken away before the Antichrist is revealed. Therefore, it follows that those whom He indwells must also be taken away lest we think God will leave His Bride on the earth without His Holy Spirit to endure the Great Tribulation (Rev. 6:17).

Major Event: Tribulation

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Tribulation

Central Text: Daniel 7:23-28, Revelation 13:1-10, Revelation 7:1-14

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The tribulation begins with all believers having been taken to heaven at the rapture and ONLY unbelievers left on earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- The tribulation will be God's judgment on a world that has rejected His grace. The greatest period of grace (this present Church age) will be followed by the greatest time of judgment (the seven years of tribulation- Rev.6, 8:1, Ch. 9, 11:15, Ch. 16). When men reject God's grace then there is nothing left but God's judgment. If men reject God's love then they must face God's wrath and anger.
- Grace in the Midst of Judgment: Even though this time of tribulation will be a time when God will judge sinful men, it will also be a time when people will be saved. Even in the midst of judgment, God's grace can be seen. Even at the darkest hour of human history there will be a ray of light. God will reach down in love and save people by grace (144,000 Jews and their Gentile converts Rev. 7:1-14). Even an angel will be used to carry this good news to those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 14:6-7).
- Main Characters of the Tribulation:
 1. The Man of Sin (also called the Beast and the Antichrist) Rev. 13:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 2
 2. The False Prophet (also called "the second beast") Rev. 13:11-18
 3. The Dragon (or devil) Rev. 12
 4. The God of Judgment Rev. chapters 6,8,9,16
 5. The 144,000 Jewish Witnesses/Evangelists (Rev 7:1-17)
 6. The Nation Israel (also called the "woman") Rev. 12
 7. The Other Nations of the world Zechariah 12:9, 14:2
 8. The Coming King Rev. chapters 4-5 and 19:11-16

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

1. Of God: Justice, Love,
2. Of Man: Stubborn, Proud

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Notes: There is one character who will not be found on earth during the tribulation: The Lord's bride, the Church. God has promised in Revelation 3:10 to keep the church from this time of tribulation and trouble that will come upon the whole world. Revelation chapters 4-19 talk about the time of tribulation, but in none of these chapters is the Church mentioned as being on the earth during this time.

Major Event: Tribulation

Lesson 2: The Events of the Tribulation

Central Text: Matthew 24, Daniel 7, 9:24-27, 12:1-3

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The tribulation on earth begins with all unbelievers.
- The tribulation begins with the Beast/Antichrist signing a peace treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27)
- After the peace treaty is signed, the 10 nations come together and rule from Rome.
- The Beast: The Beast is the antichrist and he takes control of a 10 nation federation. At the same time 144,000 Jews (12,000 Jews from each tribe) get saved and go throughout the world proclaiming the gospel (Rev 7:4-10) to all the nations and tribes. Many, “which no one can number” are saved from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue (Rev. 7:9). Many of the 144,000 are martyred.
- For the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation there’s a false peace while the Jews are making Old Testament type sacrifices in the rebuilt temple.
- Daniel 9:24-27: verse 27 indicates that the tribulation lasts 7 years. The peace treaty is signed for 7 years, but in the middle of that time, at the 3 ½ year mark, the antichrist shuts down the sacrifices and grain offerings in the temple, and he’ll raise an image of himself (Daniel 12:11, Rev. 13:14-15) and demand that he be worshiped as God (this statue is called the “Abomination of Desolation”). Matthew 24:15-2, Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9
- At this 3 ½ year mark, when they see the Abomination of Desolation erected, the Jews flee to Petra (Matthew 24:15-22) where they will hide for the last 3 ½ years until they all call on the name of the Lord and He comes to deliver them at His 2nd Advent
- The last 3 ½ years of the tribulation see the most intense judgment from God on the earth. Earthquakes, famines, hailstones, etc (Matthew 24:7, Revelation chapters 6, 8, 9). Large numbers of the earth’s population are killed during these judgments.
- The tribulation ends with the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:29-31)

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

1. Of God: Omnipotence, Justice, Love
2. Of Man: Hard-heartedness, Martyrdom

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Rev 7:4-10

Major Event: Millennium

Lesson 1: The Millennium Prophesied

Central Text: Isaiah 2:2-4

2And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Millennial Kingdom was Prophesied in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 72:11 - Kings and nations must worship Christ
- Isaiah 9:7 - The Messiah's government must be established on David's throne.
- Isaiah 60:21 - Israel must turn to righteousness and inherit her land forever.
- Zechariah 9:10 - The nations must live in peace under Messiah's rule.
- Luke 1:32-33 - Christ must rule over Israel as her Messiah in an unbroken rule.
- Acts 1:6 - The kingdom will come to pass for a thousand years.
- Matthew 6:10 – To fulfill and answer the Lord's prayer.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

- 1 Of God: Veracity, Immutability, Faithfulness
- 2 Of Man: Total Dependence on God's Grace

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Matt. 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 20:4

Notes: The Millennium Reemphasize Man's Depravity and the Necessity of Christ's Death.

Satan will be bound during the Millennium (Rev. 20:2-3). However, he will be released for a "little while" at the end of the thousand years, at which time, he will again lead a rebellion against Christ (Revelation 20:7-9). The believers who enter the kingdom will bear children - but righteousness is not inherited. The sin nature of man will still be alive and well, and some will not submit to the rule of Christ. With Satan being out of the picture for a thousand years though, the sin nature of man will not be enticed as it is now. However, when Satan is released, he will stir up rebellion against God just as he did in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.

Major Event: Millennium

Lesson 2: The Millennial Reign

Central Text: Ezekiel 34:26-27

26 I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. 27 Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

Suggested subjects for teacher to cover:

- It will be a time of great peace (Micah 4:3; Isaiah 11:6-9).
- It will be a time of great prosperity (Ezekiel 34:26-27; Amos 9:13; Isaiah 35:1).
- It will be a time of Purity (Isaiah 11:9; Zechariah 8:23)
- It will be a time of prolonged life (Isaiah 65:20). If a person 100 years old is viewed as a child, then it appears life spans will revert to pre-flood lengths of seven, eight and nine hundred years long. The Millennium will restore longevity to all inhabitants of earth.
- It will be a time of personal joy (Isaiah 14:7; Philippians 2:10-11). The inhabitants of earth will spontaneously break forth into singing at any time and any where because of their joy.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

- 1 Of God: Veracity, Immutability, Faithfulness
- 2 Of Man: Total Dependence on God's Grace

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

Revelation 20, Isaiah 65:20

Notes: The Bible contains many promises about the rewards that are to be given to the Lord's people in return for their faithful service (Isaiah 40:10; Matt. 16:27; Colossians 3:24; Revelation 22:12). In Matthew 25:34, Jesus assures us that a kingdom has been prepared for those blessed of the Father as an inheritance. The Millennial Kingdom is a reward by which believers will reign and rule with Christ over this earth for a thousand years (Matt. 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 20:4). The twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones "judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:28). Responsibilities in the Millennial Kingdom will be based on faithfulness in this life (Matt. 25:14-30).

Major Event: Eternity

Lesson 1: New Heavens and New Earth

Scriptures: Revelation Chapters 21 and 22

Central Text: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:3

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

God's dwelling place among His people (no need of temple). The final destiny of the lost (21:8). The end of the curse, suffering and death (21:4). The epilogue promise of blessing, curse for the handling of this book, and the coming "soon" of Jesus to fulfill these prophecies (22:12-21) The book ends of God's creation:

Genesis	Revelation
Heavens and earth created (1:1)	New heavens and earth (21:1)
Sun created (1:16)	No need of the sun (21:23)
The night established (1:5)	No night there (21:25; 22:5)
The seas created (1:10)	No more seas (21:1)
The curse announced (3:14-17)	No more curse (22:3)
Death enters history (3:19)	No more death (21:4)
Man driven from the tree (3:24)	Man restored to paradise (22:14)
Sorrow and pain begin (3:17)	No more mourning, crying or pain (21:4)

Suggested Attributes For Teacher to Cover:

Of God: Veracity (2 Pet. 3:10-12; Isa. 65:17), Omnipotence

Of man: Immortality of Believers and Unbelievers (Rev. 21:6)

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Peter 3; Revelation 21, 22

Notes: The end of evil, suffering and death is uniquely dealt with in the Christian Worldview by an Omnibenevolent and Just God. No other Worldview sufficiently deals with the problem of evil. For the Atheist and Agnostic nature is "red in tooth and claw" and always has and always will exist. For the Eastern mystic the answer lies in the extinction of self. For Islam and contemporary Judaism God is reduced to less than Just as no Substitutionary work of Redemption is achieved for sinners. Only in the Biblical Worldview is evil bracketed: It began in Genesis with Creature rebellion, and is ended in Revelation with the Creator "making everything new". Note also, the distinction between salvation by faith (21:6 cf. John 4) differs from reward which is by works (22:12).