

Through The Bible

The Exodus



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS58

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.



The Exodus

Lesson 1: Slaves In Egypt

(Exodus 1:1-2:25)

The book of Exodus begins with the Israelites living in the land of Egypt. Although it says that the descendants of Jacob totaled 70 people at first, the Israelites continued to grow. Jacob and all his sons had now died. But, the nation continued to get larger. Remember, God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would make a great nation from them. Now, the land of Egypt was filled with Israelites.

There was also a new king over Egypt at this time. This king did not know Joseph and he was not so kind to the Israelite people. Instead, he saw that the Israelites were getting bigger and stronger as a nation and was worried that they would go to war against Egypt and defeat them. So, he made life hard for the Israelites in Egypt by making them slaves.

He made the Israelites serve under taskmasters who would force them to do hard work. Yet, the harder the king made life for the Israelites, the more the nation grew. So, the Egyptians made the Israelites work even harder. They made them work with bricks, mortar, and in the fields.

Then, the king tried to stop their growth another way. He spoke to two of the women (named Shiphrah and Puah) who helped other women give birth and told them that whenever an Israelite woman gives birth to a son, he must be killed; but the baby girls could be saved. Yet, these two women feared God and did not obey this evil command the king gave.

God treated these two midwives well because they did not obey this wicked command. And, the Israelites continued to grow in number and strength. So, Pharaoh commanded all his people that every son who was born to the Israelites (or, Hebrews) must be killed by being thrown into the river. But, the daughters should be saved.

At this time, there was a man and his wife (Amram and Jochebed) from the house of Levi who had a son. The mother saw that he was a beautiful child and hid him for

three months. When she could not hide him anymore, she made an ark (or basket) of bulrushes, made it so that no water could get in it, put the child in the ark, and laid it in the water among the reeds by the bank of the river so that no one would find and kill the child. Then, she had the child's sister (Miriam) watch from a distance to make sure the child was safe.

One day, the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river and her maidens walked along the riverside. Then, Pharaoh's daughter saw the ark among the reeds and sent her maids to get it. When it was opened and she saw the child, she cried. She felt pity for the child and knew that it was one of the Hebrew's children.

When Miriam saw this, she asked Pharaoh's daughter if she would like her to get one of the Hebrew women so that she may take care of the child while he was so young. She agreed. So, Miriam went and got the child's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter paid Jochebed to take care of the child for a time. Then, when the child grew, his mother brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him "Moses," because she drew the child out of the water.

Now, when Moses grew older (40 years old, Acts 7:23), he saw how hard the Egyptians made life for the Israelites. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelites. And, when he thought no one was looking, he killed that Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day, he saw two Israelites fighting and tried to stop it. But, they knew about what Moses had done and asked if he was going to kill them like he killed the Egyptian.

When Moses saw that people knew what he had done, he feared the king and went to the land of Midian. He lived there for 40 years (Acts 7:30). During this time, he married Zipporah and had two sons (Gershom and Eliezer, Exodus 4:20; Exodus 18:3-4; Acts 7:29). After a time, the king of Egypt died and the Israelites cried out because of how hard the Egyptians had made their lives. And, God remembered the agreement He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Study Questions:

- 1) How was God keeping His promise to make Abraham's descendants a great nation?

- 2) Why did Pharaoh make life hard for the Israelites? How did he do this?

- 3) What did Pharaoh tell the two women to do? Did they obey him?

- 4) What did Pharaoh command the people to do to all the baby boys born to the Israelites?

- 5) How was Moses saved?

- 6) Who found Moses?

- 7) Why did Moses go to Midian?

- 8) How long did Moses stay in Midian?

Memory Verse:

“But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mightily; and the land was filled with them” (Exodus 1:7).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 2: God Calls Moses

(Exodus 3:1-4:31)

Moses was taking care of the flock for Jethro (his wife's father). When he led them to Horeb (the mountain of God), Moses saw a great sight! The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from a bush. Moses could see this bush burning with fire, but not being burned up. Moses went to see why this was happening.

When Moses turned to look at this bush, God called to him from the burning bush, saying, "Moses, Moses!" (Exodus 3:4). Moses said, "Here I am" (Exodus 3:4). Then, God told Moses not to come any closer and to take the sandals off his feet because he was standing in a very special place (on holy ground). God told Moses that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When he heard this, Moses hid his face and was afraid to look upon God.

God told Moses that He had seen how bad the Egyptians had treated the Israelites and had heard their cry. So, God said that He had come down to rescue the Israelites and bring them to the land of Canaan. He said that this land was a good and large land that was flowing with milk and honey.

Then, God told Moses that He would send him to Pharaoh so that Moses would bring the Israelites out of Egypt. But, Moses asked God who he was that he could do such a thing. God answered and said that He would be with Moses in this great work and promised that he would bring the people out of Egypt and worship on this mountain.

When Moses asked what He should tell the Israelites about the name of God, God said "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). So, Moses was to tell them that "I AM" sent him and that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who promised to rescue them from Egypt and bring them to Canaan.

God told Moses that the Israelites would listen to him. Then, he was to go to Pharaoh with the elders of Israel and tell Pharaoh that God had met with them and

that they needed to go three days' journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to God. But, God knew that the king would not let them go. So, He told Moses that He would strike Egypt with great wonders to make the king let them go. And, when he would let them go, they would take silver, gold, and clothing with them.

Still, Moses asked what he should do if no one believed him. So, God gave him some signs to perform as proof that God had appeared to him. God told Moses to throw his staff to the ground. Then, it became a snake and he ran from it. God told him to grab it by the tail – and it became a staff again! Next, God told Moses to put his hand in his coat. When he did, his hand became leprous and looked as white as snow. Then, when he did it again, it was back to normal. Finally, if they would not believe these two signs, God told him to take water from the river and pour it on dry ground. God said that this water would become blood on the ground.

Finally, Moses told God that he could not talk very well. But, God said that He was the one who made man's mouth and that He would be with Moses' mouth and help Moses with what he should say. Yet, Moses wanted God to send someone else.

This made God angry with Moses. But, God knew that Moses' brother, Aaron, could speak well. So, God said that He would send Aaron with Moses to speak before the people. The two of them would go to the people and to Pharaoh.

Then, Moses went back to Jethro and asked him to let him go to Egypt. Jethro agreed. So, when God said that all the people who had wanted to kill Moses were dead, Moses took his wife, his sons, and his staff and went back to Egypt. Then, God told Aaron to meet Moses on the mountain of God. Moses told him what God had said, and they went to the Israelites. Together, they told the Israelites the words of God, did the signs so that they people believed, and worshiped.

Memory Verse:

“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:10).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 3: Moses Goes To Pharaoh

(Exodus 5:1-7:13)

After returning to Egypt, Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and told him the words of God, saying, “Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness” (Exodus 5:1). But, Pharaoh asked who the Lord is that he should listen to Him and let the Israelites go into the wilderness. So, he said that he did not know God and would not let the people go. Yet, Moses and Aaron said that God had met with them, again asking that they could go three days’ journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to God so that He would not punish them.

Still, the king refused to let the people go. Instead, he said that Moses and Aaron were keeping the Israelites from their work. Later that day, Pharaoh made the Israelites’ work even harder. He told the taskmasters and the officers not to give the people straw in order to make bricks. Instead, they would have to gather the straw for themselves and still make the same number of bricks.

When this harder work was put on the people, they spread out over the land trying to gather the materials to make bricks. Still, the taskmasters forced the Israelites to hurry, saying that they still had to make as many bricks as they did before. Whenever they failed to make as many as they were commanded, the officers over the Israelites were beaten and asked why they had failed.

These officers came to Pharaoh and asked why he was treating them in this way, saying that it was not their fault that they were not making as many bricks. But, Pharaoh said that they were being lazy because they wanted to go and sacrifice to the Lord. And, the officers saw that they were in trouble when Pharaoh continued to say that they must make the same number of bricks.

When these officers left Pharaoh, they met with Moses and Aaron. They blamed them for the harder work and punishment. They said that Moses and Aaron had made them stink before Pharaoh and his servants and given the Egyptians a sword to kill them.

When Moses heard this, he went to the Lord and asked why He had brought trouble on the Israelites and why He had sent him to Pharaoh. For, Moses saw that the people had been treated wickedly and they had not been delivered since Moses went to Pharaoh. Yet, God promised Moses that He would deliver the Israelites with a strong hand out of Egypt. He said that He would give them the land of Canaan just as He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He had heard the sufferings of the people and He had remembered what He promised. So, Moses was to go and tell the Israelites that God would rescue them from Egypt, He would make them as His people and He would be their God, and He would keep His promises.

God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go out of his land. Still, Moses did not know why Pharaoh would listen to him since he could not speak well. So, God told Moses to take Aaron. Moses was to tell Aaron the words God had said and Aaron would tell Pharaoh.

But, God said He would harden Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to them. By not listening to God's command, God would bring even greater signs and wonders upon the land of Egypt. In all of this, God would show that He would defeat Egypt and bring out His people. Then, all the people would know that God is the Lord!

So, Moses and Aaron did as they were commanded and went to Pharaoh. Moses was now 80 years old and Aaron was 83. Then, God told Moses and Aaron to show Pharaoh the sign of the staff to prove that God had sent them. Aaron cast his staff down before Pharaoh and it became a snake. When Pharaoh saw this, he called his own magicians to do the same thing. But, whenever their staffs became serpents, Aaron's rod ate their rods. Still, Pharaoh's heart grew hard and he did not listen to them – just as God had said.

Study Questions:

1) What did Moses ask Pharaoh to do for the Israelites? Did Pharaoh allow this to happen?

2) What did Pharaoh do to make the Israelites work harder?

3) Could the Israelites do all of their work? What did the taskmasters do the Israelite officials?

4) Why did the Israelite officials blame Moses and Aaron?

5) What did God promise Moses?

6) Who would talk to Pharaoh? How would he know what to say?

7) Would Pharaoh listen?

8) What sign did Moses and Aaron do? Why did they do this?

Memory Verse:

“And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them” (Exodus 7:5).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 4: The Ten Plagues, Part 1

(Exodus 7:14-9:35)

God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen and let God's people go. So, God would use Moses to bring ten plagues on Egypt. These ten plagues would show that God is in control and that people should listen to Him.

For the first plague, God told Moses to go to Pharaoh in the morning and meet him by the side of the river. Then, so that Pharaoh would know that God is Lord, Moses and Aaron were to strike the river with the staff. When he did this, all the water from the rivers, ponds, and pools in Egypt was turned into blood. The fish died and the river stunk. Even the water that people had in buckets turned to blood. But, Pharaoh still would not listen to God.

For the second plague, God told Moses to go to Pharaoh. If he would not let God's people go, there would be frogs that covered the land of Egypt. Moses told Aaron to reach his hand and staff over the streams, rivers, and ponds and cause frogs to come on the land. There were so many frogs that they were in people's houses, in their ovens, in their bowls, and on all the people. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and pleaded for them to take away the frogs, saying that he would let the people go. So, the Lord caused the frogs in the land to die and they were gathered in heaps and the land stunk. But, Pharaoh did not let the people go.

For the third plague, Aaron was to stretch his staff out and hit the dust of the land. When he did this, the dust became lice (or, some kind of a biting insect) and filled the land of Egypt. They were on all the people and animals in the land. Even Pharaoh's magicians could not make this happen and knew that this was from the finger of God. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hard and did not listen to God and let the people go.

For the fourth plague, Moses warned Pharaoh that if he did not let God's people go, God would send swarms of flies on Egypt. Flies would cover the land, be in people's houses, and even on the ground. But, no swarms of flies would be in

Goshen (where God's people lived). This would make everyone see that they were God's special people. But, even though Pharaoh said the people could go sacrifice to God (as long as they did not go very far away), Pharaoh would not let the people go whenever the flies were taken away.

For the fifth plague, God promised Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, then there would be a terrible disease that would come on the livestock in Egypt – their cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks. But, God would save the Israelites' livestock. So, all the Egyptians' livestock died and not one animal of the Israelites was dead. Still, Pharaoh's heart was hard and would not let the people go.

For the sixth plague, God told Moses and Aaron to take ashes from a furnace and throw it in the air in front of Pharaoh. When they did this, it became fine dust in all the land of Egypt and caused boils to break out on the people and animals in Egypt. Not even the magicians could stand before Moses because of the boils. But, Pharaoh's heart was hard and still would not listen.

For the seventh plague, God told Moses to stretch his hand toward heaven and bring hail on the land of Egypt. But, the people were warned about this. The people who feared the word of God took their livestock and stayed inside. The people who did not take God's word serious stayed outside. When Moses stretched his hand into the sky, God sent thunder, lightning, and hail throughout the land of Egypt. But, He did not send any on His people in Goshen. The hail was so bad that there had never been anything like it before. All the people and animals who stayed outside were killed. It broke the trees in the fields. It hit the plants so that much of them were destroyed. When this happened, Pharaoh said that he had sinned and wanted the hail to stop. But, after it stopped, his heart was hardened and he sinned even more and would not listen to God.

Memory Verse:

“Thus says the Lord: ‘By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood’” (Exodus 7:17).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 5: The Ten Plagues, Part 2

(Exodus 10:1-13:16)

After seven great plagues on the land of Egypt, Pharaoh's heart was still hard and he refused to let the people of Israel go. So, for the eighth plague, Moses and Aaron warned Pharaoh that God would bring locusts on Egypt. Whatever plants had been left after the hail would be eaten up by the locusts. They would fill all the houses in Egypt and would be worse than anyone had ever seen. Still, Pharaoh would not let all the Israelites go and worship God. So, Moses stretched his hand over the land of Egypt and caused locusts to come upon it. They covered the land so much that it was dark and ate up all the plants. Then, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said that he had sinned. He wanted God to forgive his sin and take away the locusts. The Lord then caused a very strong west wind that blew all the locusts into the Red Sea.

For the ninth plague, God told Moses to stretch his hand toward Heaven so that there would be darkness over the land of Egypt. This was such darkness that it could even be felt. No one could see anyone else. For three days, people did not even move from where they were. Yet, the Israelites had light where they were. So, Pharaoh called for Moses and told them to go serve the Lord, except that they were not allowed to take their animals. But, Moses said that they needed to take them to make sacrifices and offerings. Again, Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let them go. So, Pharaoh made Moses leave him and said that Moses would never see Pharaoh's face again.

Now, there was one last plague God was going to bring on Egypt. God told Moses that after this plague, Pharaoh would let the Israelites go out of Egypt. Moses told the people that the Lord said He would go out about midnight in the land of Egypt and cause all the firstborn in Egypt to die. This would include the firstborn of Pharaoh, the firstborn of the servants, and even the firstborn of the animals. There would be a great cry and sadness throughout the land of Egypt that had never

happened before or will ever happen again. But, the Israelites would be saved and nothing bad would happen to them.

Then, God told Moses about the Passover. On the tenth day of the first month, the Israelites were to select a lamb or a goat that was free of defects and less than a year old. On the fourteenth day, they were to kill it and take the blood from this animal and put the blood on the casing along the sides of the door and over the top of the door. Then, they were to eat the meat of the animal that night. This would be a feast that the Israelites were required to keep every year. It was also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread because the Israelites were not allowed to have any leaven in the house during this time. And, they were to listen to all the instructions God gave them concerning this feast.

God told the Israelites that He was going to pass through Egypt that night and kill all the firstborn of both man and animals. But, He would pass over the houses of the Israelites when He saw the blood along the door frame and no one would be hurt. So, the Israelites were to keep the Passover that day and for every year so that they would remember this time when God passed over them and saved them from destruction.

Then, at midnight, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt – from the firstborn of Pharaoh, to the firstborn of those in prison, and the firstborn of the animals. When the people got up during the night, there was a great cry in Egypt. There was not one house where there was not one dead.

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to get out of Egypt, with all the people and their animals. So, the Israelites hurried and left Egypt – just as God had promised. And, they asked for silver, gold, and clothing from the Egyptians and were able to take many things with them. Then, God told the Israelites to make all their firstborn sons special to Him.

Study Questions:

- 1) Why did God send the plagues on the Egyptians?

- 2) What was the eighth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 3) What was the ninth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 4) What was the tenth plague? Did Pharaoh obey God?

- 5) What did God tell the Israelites to do so that all their firstborn would not be killed?

- 6) How often were the Israelites to keep the Feast of the Passover?

- 7) What was another name for this feast?

- 8) Did Pharaoh let God's people go?

Memory Verse:

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord” (Exodus 12:12).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 6: The Israelites Leave Egypt

(Exodus 13:17-15:21)

When Pharaoh let the people of Israel go after the death of all the firstborn in Egypt, God kept His promise and led them out of Egypt. Since He did not want the people to change their minds if they fought in war against the Philistines and turn back to Egypt, God led them toward the Red Sea. The Israelites also remembered the promise that had been made to Joseph and brought his bones out of Egypt – just as God had promised.

God led the Israelites from Egypt to Rameses, then to Succoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, besides children (Exodus 12:37). From Succoth, God led the Israelites to Etham. God constantly went before them as they journeyed. During the daytime, God led them by a cloud shaped like a column or pillar. During the nighttime, God led them in a pillar of fire.

Then, God told Moses to have the Israelites turn back and camp in front of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. This would cause Pharaoh to think the Israelites were lost in the wilderness. Then, God would harden Pharaoh's heart so that he would chase after them. Through this, God would receive glory over Pharaoh and his army and all the Egyptians would know that God is Lord. The Israelites listened and did what God had said.

When Pharaoh heard that the Israelites had left, Pharaoh and his servants changed their minds about letting them leave. So, Pharaoh got his chariot and his army ready. He took 600 of the best chariots and all the rest of the chariots in Egypt, with officers in each one, and he chased the Israelites.

As Pharaoh caught up with the Israelites, the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming after them and were terrified. They cried out to God for help and asked why Moses had brought them into the wilderness to die. They pleaded to return to Egypt rather than die in the wilderness. However, Moses told them not to be afraid. He told

them to stand still and see how the Lord was going to save them, for the Lord was going to fight for them in a way that they would never see again.

The Lord told Moses to tell the Israelites to move forward. He was to lift up his staff and stretch it out over the sea and divide it. God said that the Israelites would cross the Red Sea on dry ground and the Egyptians would follow them.

The Angel of God who had led the Israelites moved to the back and the pillar of cloud stood behind them. So, it came between the Egyptians and the Israelites. God caused darkness to come upon the Egyptians and light on the Israelites so that neither group could go to the other all night.

Then, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and God caused a great east wind to divide the waters so that the Israelites could pass through on dry ground all night. The Israelites passed through the sea with a wall of water on the right side and another on the left side.

The Egyptians chased after the Israelites and went into the sea on the dry land also. But, in the morning, God looked down at the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and made it hard for them to chase after the Israelites, even making the chariots hard to drive. When this happened, the Egyptians said that they needed to get away from Israel because God was fighting for them!

Then, God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea so that the waters would fall on the Egyptians. When Moses did this, the sea returned to how it was before. So, the Lord defeated the Egyptians who were chasing Israel so that not one of them lived.

When the Israelites saw this, they praised God! Moses and the Israelites sang a song to God about how He had saved them and defeated the Egyptians, remembering the promises God had made to them. Then, Miriam (sister to Moses and Aaron) also joined in the praises.

Memory Verse:

“Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses” (Exodus 14:31).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 7: Journey To Sinai

(Exodus 15:22-19:9)

After crossing the Red Sea, Moses brought Israel into the Wilderness of Shur. They traveled three days in the wilderness and could not find any water to drink. Then, they came to Marah. But, the water in this place was bitter and they could not drink it. So, the people complained against Moses, saying “What shall we drink?” (Exodus 15:24).

Then, after Moses cried out to the Lord, the Lord showed Moses a tree. When he threw the tree into the water, the people could drink the water. And, God made a rule and promise for Israel, telling them that if they would carefully obey what He told them, He would not put any of the diseases on them that were brought on the Egyptians, saying, “For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26). From Marah, Israel came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; and they camped by the water.

From Elim, Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin – exactly one month after they left Egypt. But, the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron because they were hungry. They said that they wished they had died in Egypt while they had plenty of food to eat rather than dying of hunger in the wilderness.

Yet, God heard their complaint and He was going to take care of His people by sending bread and meat to them so they would know He is their God. In the evening, God would send quails into the camp of Israel so that they could have meat. And, in the morning, God would provide bread. Whenever the dew lifted in the morning, there would be a small, round substance as fine a frost. It was like white coriander seed that tasted like wafers made with honey. When the people saw it, they asked each other, “What is it?” (Exodus 16:15), because they did not know what it was and called it “Manna” (which means, “What?”).

All the Israelites were to go out and gather the manna. Whatever was not gathered would melt whenever the sun got hot. One omer was to be gathered for each member of the family so that everyone would have enough to eat. If they did not eat what they gathered, it bred worms and stank the next morning. Only on the sixth day of the week was anyone allowed to gather any more, so that they would

not do any work on the seventh day (the Sabbath). On that day, they were to gather twice as much – and it did not produce worms or stink. The Israelites were also told to fill an omer with manna and keep it so that future generations could see how God fed them in the wilderness.

From there, the Israelites journeyed to Rephidim. But, there was no water for the people to drink in this place and the people complained again, saying that Moses had brought them and their animals out of Egypt to die of thirst. So, the Lord told Moses to take the elders of Israel and strike the rock with his staff. And, when he did, water gushed from the rock so that the people could have something to drink. Therefore, Moses called the place “Massah” and “Meribah” because they tested the Lord by questioning whether He was among them.

While the Israelites were at Rephidim, the Amalekites came and fought against them. Moses told Joshua to choose some men and fight against Amalek the next day, while Aaron, Hur, and Moses would go up on top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his staff, the Israelites would win. But, whenever he let down his hands, Amalek would win. So, Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a stone and helped him hold up his hands so that Joshua defeated Amalek.

Next, the Israelites went from Rephidim to Sinai. This was the place God had promised to bring the Israelites whenever He appeared to Moses from the burning bush. Now, this was the place God was going to make His covenant with Israel. God had rescued Israel out of Egypt and brought them to this place. He wanted them to be His holy nation and keep His commandments. The Israelites will remain at this place and be given commandments from God for nearly a full year.

Study Questions:

- 1) Why did the people complain in Marah?
- 2) What did God do to help them?
- 3) Why did the people complain in Wilderness of Sin?
- 4) What did God do to help them?
- 5) What rules did God give the Israelites for gathering manna?
- 6) Why did the people complain in Rephidim?
- 7) What did God do to help them?
- 8) Where did God bring the Israelites to enter a covenant with them?

Memory Verse:

“In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai” (19:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



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Lesson 8: God's Covenant With Israel

(Exodus 19-24, 32-34)

The Lord called to Moses from Mount Sinai, instructing him to tell the Israelites about the covenant (agreement) He wanted to make with them. Moses was to remind the Israelites how God had brought them out of Egypt. Now, if they would obey God and keep His covenant, they would be special to Him in all the earth. Whenever Moses told those words to the people, they said that they would do all that God says.

So, the people were to get ready to hear God's commandments. On the third day, God was going to come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. The people were not to go up the mountain or touch it – or they would be killed. So, they set up boundaries around the mountain. On the morning of the third day, there were thundering, lightnings, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud sound of a trumpet. The people in Israel were afraid. Moses brought the people to the mountain to meet with God and listen to what He would say. The mountain was completely in smoke because God descended on it in fire and the mountain shook violently. The trumpet sounded longer and louder.

God began by giving the people ten commandments they must follow. Then, God called Moses up on the mountain and spoke other commandments to him. Then, Moses told them to the people. These commandments taught the Israelites all that God wanted from them. Keeping these commandments would make the Israelites holy just as God is holy. So, they would not be doing anything that was evil and would be obeying God. The Bible books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy all teach us about the law God gave the Israelites to follow.

When Moses told the people the words of the Lord, all the people said that they would do what God had said. All God's words were written in a book. And, Moses built an altar to the Lord at the bottom of the mountain with twelve pillars (one for each tribe of Israel) and the young men offered burnt offerings and peace

offerings to the Lord. Moses took half the blood and sprinkled it on the altar and the other half on the people. This was the blood of the covenant the Lord had made with them.

But, when God called Moses back onto the mountain for forty days and nights to give him more instructions, the people saw that Moses was taking a long time on the mountain. So, some of them told Aaron that he should make gods to go before them since they did not know what had happened to Moses. Then, Aaron told them to break off their golden earrings and he used them to make a golden calf. They said that this golden calf was their god who brought them out of Egypt. They built an altar to it, made a feast for it the next day, and made offerings to it.

God saw everything that was happening and told Moses to get down from the mountain because the people were not keeping the covenant. God was so angry with them that He wanted to destroy them all and make a nation from Moses. But, Moses pleaded with the Lord not to do this. So, God did not harm the people.

When Moses saw them, He had two stone tablets containing the law in his hand, with words written on both sides of them by the hand of God. There was so much noise from the people that Joshua told Moses it sounded like war. Then, Moses saw the calf and the people dancing, and threw the tablets so that they broke. Then, he burned the calf they had made in the fire, ground it to powder, put it in water, and made the people drink it. About 3,000 of the Israelites were killed that day and God plagued the people because of their sin.

After this, two new stone tablets were made and God wrote all the words on them that were on the first ones. He renewed His covenant with Israel. And, whenever Moses came down from Mount Sinai, his face was shining so much that the Israelites were afraid to talk with him. So, they gave him a veil and he told the Israelites all that God had commanded them.

Study Questions:

- 1) What was the covenant God wanted to make with the Israelites? Did the Israelites agree?

- 2) What mountain did God come upon?

- 3) What happened when God came upon is mountain?

- 4) What were the Israelites not allowed to do at this time?

- 5) What Bible books teach us about God's law for the Israelites?

- 6) How long was Moses in the mountain?

- 7) What did the Israelites make during this time?

- 8) What happened when Moses came down from the mountain?

Memory Verse:

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine” (Exodus 19:5).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 9: The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 5:1-33)

Of all the law God gave to the Israelites as part of His covenant with them, God directly spoke ten commandments to them. The rest were told to the Israelites through Moses. Israel had gathered at Mount Sinai and God descended upon it. The people saw smoke, the mountain shook violently, a trumpet sounded loudly, and God spoke to the people (Exodus 19:17-20). Although there were more laws than just these ten commandments, the rest of law was built on these ten.

God spoke the first commandment and said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:2-3).

God spoke the second commandment and said, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God....” (Exodus 20:4-6).

God spoke the third commandment and said, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

God spoke the fourth commandment and said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work....” (Exodus 20:9-11).

God spoke the fifth commandment and said, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).

God spoke the sixth commandment and said, “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).

God spoke the seventh commandment and said, “You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).

God spoke the eighth commandment and said, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

God spoke the ninth commandment and said, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).

God spoke the tenth commandment and said, “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's” (Exodus 20:17).

The first four commandments God gave to Israel were focused on their service and worship of God. They were not allowed to worship or serve any false gods (idols). God is the one who really is God and is the only one who deserves to be worshiped and served. Then, they were to make the seventh day of the week a special day. They were not to do work on this day. And, God would use this day for the people to worship Him.

The last six commandments gave the Israelites instructions about how they were to treat other people. Children needed to be respectful to their parents. People were not allowed to kill people or take things that did not belong to them without permission. They were to respect marriage between a husband and wife. They were not to lie about other people. And, they were not allowed to wish for the things other people have.

After the people heard God speak these commandments to them, they were afraid when they heard the thunders, saw the lightning flashes, heard the sound of the trumpet, and saw the mountain smoking. They told Moses to speak with them from now on or else they would die. After this, God would give His laws to Moses, who would then tell the people.

Study Questions:

1) Where were the Israelites when they received the ten commandments?

2) Who spoke the ten commandments to Israel?

3) What were the ten commandments?

4) Why were the Israelites not to worship and serve other gods?

5) What day of the week was special?

6) What were the Israelites not allowed to do on this special day?

7) What did the Israelites need to do for their parents?

8) Why were the Israelites afraid after they received the ten commandments? What did they want Moses to do?

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left” (Deuteronomy 5:32).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 10: The Tabernacle

(Exodus 25-27, 30-31, 35-40)

When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God gave him a special pattern about building a tabernacle. A “tabernacle” was a tent. God was going to use this tent to dwell among the Israelite people. It would be made so that it could be moved and would be the primary place the Israelites would worship God. Since this was going to be a dwelling place for God, everything about the tabernacle had to be made in the right way.

The tabernacle was about 45 feet long and 15 feet wide. It was divided into two main sections. The first section was called the “Holy Place.” This room was about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. The second section was called the “Most Holy Place” (or, “Holy of Holies”). This room was about 15 feet long and 15 feet wide. Between the two rooms was a veil that was made of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and finely spun linen with the design of cherubim in it. Only the priests were allowed to enter the tabernacle to do the work God told them to do. And, only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place.

The tabernacle itself was built with boards as walls that fit into sockets for support. The tabernacle then had four layers. The innermost layer that would be visible inside the tabernacle was of fine white fabric. Figures of cherubim were worked into them, in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn. On top of this was a covering made of goat hair. Then, a third layer made of ram skins dyed red would be on top of that. Finally, a layer of fine leather was the top layer of the tabernacle. And, a curtain made of white fabric, with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn worked into it, would serve as the door to the tabernacle.

A courtyard was around the tabernacle. It was about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. Linen curtains were used for the wall around the tabernacle. This wall would be about 7 ½ feet high. The entrance to the courtyard was also made of white fabric, with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn worked into it – and would face the east. Two pieces of furniture were to be put in this courtyard. First was the altar of burnt offering. This was about 7 ½ feet long, 7 ½ feet wide, and 4 ½ feet high. It was made of acacia wood, overlaid with bronze, with horns on its four corners, and rings so

that it could be carried by poles. This altar would be used for offering animal sacrifices. All of its tools were also made of bronze. The second piece in the courtyard was the bronze laver (basin). This was used for washing the priests' hands and feet.

There were three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place of the tabernacle. The table of shewbread was on the north side. It was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold, about 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high, with rings made for it. There were gold plates, cups, pitchers, and bowls made of pure gold and 12 loaves of bread were always to be kept on it. Then, the candlestick were on the south side, made of about 75 pounds of pure gold (including all its utensils) and would provide light inside the tabernacle. Special oil was to be used to keep this lamp burning. It had a base, a pedestal, and seven branches. Finally, right before the entrance to the Most Holy Place, was the altar of incense. This was about 18 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 36 high, with horns and rings, made of acacia wood covered with pure gold, and was used to burn special incense.

Then, there was only one piece of furniture inside the Most Holy Place. This was the ark of the testimony (or, ark of the covenant). It was a box about 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high, made of acacia wood covered with pure gold (both the inside and outside), with rings and poles for carrying. The lid was called the "mercy seat" and was made of solid gold, with two cherubim on it (with their wings spread out and their faces toward one other). The two tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments were placed inside the ark. God would meet with the Israelites from the mercy seat, between the cherubim.

Building the tabernacle was done carefully by highly skilled workers who obeyed God and built everything according to the pattern God had given them. Then, the tabernacle was set up for the first time – and a cloud covered the tent as the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Memory Verse:

“According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.” (Exodus 25:9).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 11: The Priesthood

(Exodus 28-29, 39-40; Leviticus 8-10, 21-22;
Numbers 3-4)

While the Israelites were at Mount Sinai, God chose the tribe of Levi for the work of the priesthood. Remember that when God brought the last plague on Egypt (the death of the firstborn), He said that every firstborn of the Israelites was to be made special to Him. But, instead of requiring all the firstborn, God made the tribe of Levi special.

The work of the priests was to take care of the tabernacle, the tabernacle's furniture, and to offer the sacrifices to God. So, it was very important that the Levites be holy, as God is holy. They were to keep themselves away from everything that was evil and obey God's rules about things that were unclean.

When God established the priesthood, He told Moses to make special clothes for them. Even more special clothes were made for the high priest. Aaron was the first high priest. These clothes were holy and would be for glory and for beauty, and are described in Exodus 28 and 39.

These are the clothes that were made only for the high priest: The ephod was made of finely spun linen, with gold, and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn. Two onyx stones were put on the shoulders with the names of the twelve sons of Israel engraved on them. The breastplate was made similar to the ephod, but was square (about nine inches each direction) with twelve stones (for Israel's twelve sons) on it. Urim and Thummin were also to be placed in the breastplate (these would be used to make decisions). The robe was made of blue yarn, with pomegranates made of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and gold bells around the bottom. The turban had a golden medallion on the front of it (attached to a cord of blue yarn). This medallion was engraved with the words: "HOLY TO THE LORD" (Exodus 28:37).

Then, these are the clothes made for all the priests: A tunic made from fine linen, an embroidered sash, and a hat. These clothes were for glory and beauty for Aaron and his sons. Then, they were also given linen undergarments that covered the waist to the thighs. All these clothes had to be worn by the priests whenever they came near the tabernacle. If they did not, they would die.

After the tabernacle was built and the clothes for the priests were made, Aaron and his sons were dedicated for service. They were washed, had offerings made for

them, were clothed with the holy garments, and were anointed. This all worked to establish the priesthood.

Now, the priests were given specific rules concerning their service in the tabernacle and the sacrifices that they were to make. But, one day, two of Aaron's sons (Nadab and Abihu) did not obey God. They tried to offer incense to God using fire that was not approved by God. Because of this, God sent fire and killed them!

Now, Aaron only had two sons still alive. These were Eleazar and Ithamar. God reminded Aaron that he and his sons were to be holy to Him. There were even special rules God gave to the Levites who would serve Him as priests. And, they were also to teach the Israelites what God had commanded at Mount Sinai. For their service, God would bless and take care of them. They would eat food from the sacrifices they offered. And, they would live among the Israelites rather than having land of their own.

Finally, God separated the Levites into groups and divided the work between them. Levi had three sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. The Gershonites were responsible for the tabernacle, the tent, its covering, the screen at the entrance to the tabernacle and the courtyard, the hangings of the courtyard, the tent ropes, and everything relating to this work. The Kohathites were responsible for the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils, the screen in front of the Most Holy Place, and all the work relating to these. The Merarites were responsible for the tabernacle's supports, crossbars, pillars, bases, all the equipment, posts, tent pegs, ropes, and all the work relating to these.

Study Questions:

1) When did God choose the Levites to serve as priests?

2) What was the priests' job?

3) Why was it important for the priests to be holy?

4) What clothes were made for the high priest?

5) What clothes were made for all the priests?

6) Why were Nadab and Abihu killed?

7) How did God take care of the Levites?

8) Who were Levi's three sons?

Memory Verse:

“At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the Lord’s covenant, to stand before the Lord to serve him, and to pronounce blessings in his name, as it is today.” (Deuteronomy 10:8).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 12: The Sacrifices And Holy Days

(Leviticus 1-7, 16, 22-23, 25; Numbers 15, 18, 28-29)

Under the Law of Moses, God told Israel that He wanted them to offer sacrifices to Him on the altar. Whenever they would obey God's commands and make sacrifices to Him, He would be pleased. Until Jesus Christ would come to earth, this was also necessary in order for God to forgive their sins. But, whenever Jesus came and offered Himself as a sacrifice, all these other sacrifices would no longer be needed.

So, God told them exactly what to do when offering sacrifices. Since the Levites were in charge of everything about the tabernacle, they would be in charge of offering these sacrifices. God wanted sacrifices made to Him every day – as well as at special times.

He gave the Israelites instructions about different kinds of sacrifices. For example, they were to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, and trespass offerings. And, for every sacrifice that was to be offered, God told them everything they needed to know so that they could please Him. The Israelites could know what they needed to offer, and the Levites could know how to offer the sacrifices. Then, if God's rules for the sacrifices were not obeyed, the sacrifices would not please Him (remember Nadab and Abihu).

One of the things God wanted from the sacrifices was that only the best things could be used. They were not allowed to use sick, hurt, or blind animals for the sacrifices. Instead, God deserved the very best of what they had since He had done so much for them!

Then, God also told the Israelites to keep some special (holy) days and festivals. These were special times when God wanted the Israelites to offer sacrifices, assemble, or some other thing. Again, He told them exactly what they needed to do at these times.

God told the Israelites to remember the Sabbath day and to keep it holy, as part of the Ten Commandments. The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week and was to be kept every week. They were to do no work on this day because the seventh day is the day God rested after creation. If someone did not listen to God and worked, that person would be killed (see Numbers 15:32-36). They were also to assemble and the priests had to offer two extra lambs on this day.

Then, God told Israel to observe the new moon. This was the first day of each month. At this time, the priests were to offer an additional two young bulls, one ram, seven male lambs a year old, one male goat as a sin offering, and grain and drink offerings. The silver trumpets Moses made were also to be blown over the sacrifices (Numbers 10:10).

Every year, God told the Israelites to keep some festivals in God's honor (see Exodus 23:10-19). The Festival of Unleavened Bread (Passover) was to be observed for seven days in their month of Abib to remember when God passed over the Israelites and killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians. The Festival of Weeks (Festival of Harvest) lasted one day and required the Israelites to bring their first crops to the Lord.

Then, there were three special times the Israelites had to keep in the seventh month of the year. The Festival of Trumpets was on the first day of the seventh month. It was more special than all the other new moons and was a day for blowing trumpets and making other sacrifices. Next, the Day of Atonement was one of the most important days of the whole year. Special sacrifices were made on this day for the sins of the high priest and all the Israelites. This was the only time when the high priest would enter the most holy place and he would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. Finally, the Festival of Ingathering (Festival of Shelters) lasted eight days. The Israelites were to assemble, make sacrifices, and live in shelters during this festival to remember their time in the wilderness.

Study Questions:

- 1) Why was it important for the Israelites to listen to God about the sacrifices and holy days?

- 2) Why did the Israelites need to make sacrifices?

- 3) Who was in charge of making the sacrifices?

- 4) Why did the Israelites need to sacrifice their best animals to God?

- 5) What was special about the Sabbath day?

- 6) What were the Israelites supposed to do on the first day of every month?

- 7) What festivals were the Israelites to keep every year?

- 8) What three special times were to be observed in the seventh month?

Memory Verse:

“Command the Israelites and say to them: Be sure to present to me at its appointed time my offering and my food as my fire offering, a pleasing aroma to me” (Numbers 28:2).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 13: Israel Leaves Sinai

(Numbers 1-3, 9-12)

Before leaving Sinai, God told Moses to take a census and number all the male Israelites and the Levites who could do the work of the tabernacle, according to all their groups and families. The Lord also told the Israelites how they were to camp around the tabernacle. With so many people, God wanted things done in a certain way. So, the tribes of Judah, Isaachar, and Zebulun, along with Moses, Aaron, and the priests camped on the eastern side of the tabernacle. The tribes of Reuben, Simeon, and Gad, along with the Kohathites camped on the southern side of the tabernacle. The tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin, along with the Gershonites camped on the western side of the tabernacle. Finally, the tribes of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali, along with the Merarites camped on the northern side of the tabernacle.

The Israelites would know that they needed to break camp and start on their journey whenever the cloud that covered the tabernacle (that looked like fire at night) lifted into the sky. Since the tabernacle was built, this cloud remained over it so that the Israelites would stay at Sinai. But, whenever it lifted, they were to go where the Lord would lead them. When it came to rest again, the people would stop traveling. Sometimes this would be a long time. Sometimes it would be a short time.

Moses was also told to make two silver trumpets. These trumpets would be used to send messages to the Israelites. Different sounds would be made with the trumpets to send different messages. Some messages meant that it was time for them to leave. Some messages meant that it was time for them to come together at the tabernacle. Some messages meant there was a battle. Then, the trumpets were also to be blown over some sacrifices and at certain festivals.

On the 20th day of the second month in the second year, the cloud was lifted above the tabernacle and the Israelites left the Wilderness of Sinai. Those who camped with Judah left first, with the Gershonites and the Merarites bringing the

tabernacle. Those who camped with Reuben left next, with the Kohathites bringing the holy objects of the tabernacle. Those who camped with Ephraim left next. Then, those who camped with Dan left last.

The ark of the covenant would go in front of the Israelites when they traveled. When the ark set out, Moses would say, “Arise, Lord! Let your enemies be scattered, and those who hate you flee from your presence” (Numbers 10:35). When it would come to rest, Moses would say, “Return, Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel” (Numbers 10:36).

While the Israelites were traveling, some people began to complain. This made God angry with the people and He sent fire to burn the outer part of the camp. Then, when the people cried out to Moses, Moses prayed and the fire died down. This place was called Taberah.

Then, some of the people kept complaining about food. Even though God was giving them manna, they wanted the kind of food they had back in Egypt (like fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic). This made God angry with them. But, God sent a great many quails to give meat to the people. However, because some people were greedy, God caused a severe plague among them and killed them. This place was called Kibroth-havattavah because they buried people who craved meat. Then, the Israelites traveled to Hazeroth.

Later, Aaron and Miriam complained against Moses. But, God told them that Moses was special because God spoke to him directly and he saw the form of God. So, God was angry with them and caused Miriam’s skin to become diseased and look white as snow. Then, they admitted they were wrong and Moses cried out for God to heal her. After this, the Israelites traveled to the Wilderness of Paran and camped there.

Study Questions:

- 1) How many tribes of the Israelites camped on each side of the tabernacle?

- 2) How would the Israelites know they needed to break camp?

- 3) How would the Israelites know they needed to stop traveling?

- 4) What were the two silver trumpets for?

- 5) What traveled in front of the Israelites?

- 6) What did God do when the people complained in Taberah?

- 7) What did God do when the people complained and were greedy in Kibroth-havattavah?

- 8) What did God do when Aaron and Miriam complained against Moses?

Memory Verse:

“...We’re setting out for the place the Lord promised: ‘I will give it to you.’ Come with us, and we will treat you well, for the Lord has promised good things to Israel” (Numbers 10:29).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 14: Israel Refuses To Enter Canaan

(Numbers 13:1-14:45)

Way back in Genesis chapter 12, remember that God made three main promises to Abraham. First, God promised to make a great nation out of his descendants. This promise has been fulfilled in the Bible story because Israel is now a large people – and getting even larger. Second, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham’s descendants. This is the promise God is now trying to keep (as we will study in this lesson). Third, God promised to bless the entire world through the Seed of Abraham. We will keep watching the Bible story for God to keep this promise.

After bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, God now tells Moses to send twelve men to go into the land of Canaan and come back to tell them what they saw. So, the twelve men were selected from the twelve tribes. The twelve included Joshua and Caleb.

Moses told them to go into Canaan and scout out the land to see what it was like. Moses wanted to know whether the people who lived there were strong or weak, whether they were large in number or small. He wanted to know whether the land was good or bad. He wanted to know whether the cities were only camps or whether they were strong. He wanted to know whether the land was good for growing food and whether there were trees in it or not. And, he told them to bring back some fruit from the land.

So, the twelve men went up and scouted the land. They went from the Wilderness of Zin (in the south) to Rehob near the entrance to Hamath (in the north). They went through the Negev and came to Hebron and went to the Valley of Eshcol. There, they cut down a branch with a cluster of grapes on it that was hung from a pole and carried by two men. They also took some pomegranates and figs. At the end of 40 days, they returned back to the Israelites at Kadesh.

Then, the twelve men told all the people what they had seen. They all said that the land was flowing with milk and honey and showed them the fruit they brought back. However, they said that the people living in the land were strong and the cities were large and well protected. They said they also saw descendants of giants living there, as well as the Amalekites, Hethites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites.

Caleb quieted the people and told them, “Let’s go up now and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it” (Numbers 13:30). Caleb and Joshua knew that God would keep His promise and give them the land. However, the other ten men said, “We can’t attack the people because they are stronger than we are!” (Numbers 13:31), and they gave a bad report to the people. They said that they were like grasshoppers to some of the people who lived there.

This news made the Israelites very sad, complain that they had left Egypt, and want to choose a new leader to take them back to Egypt. Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb were sad that the people did not trust in God. Joshua tried to tell the people that God would give them the land if they would listen to Him and that they should not be afraid of the people in the land.

Then, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the tabernacle. God knew that the Israelites did not trust in Him. This made God angry because He had done so much for them. He had shown them how powerful He was. Therefore, He wanted to destroy the people because they would not trust in Him. But, He did not.

However, because the Israelites did not trust God, they would not be given the land of Canaan yet. All the people who were 20 years old and older would die in the wilderness and they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years. The only two older than this who would be allowed to go into Canaan were Joshua and Caleb (because they did trust in God). Whenever the people heard this news and said they were wrong, they tried to go up and defeat the people of Canaan. But, they could not – because God was not with them.

Study Questions:

1) What were the three main promises God made to Abraham? Which one was God now trying to keep?

2) How many men were sent into Canaan? Name two of them.

3) Why were the twelve men sent into Canaan?

4) How long were these men in the land of Canaan?

5) What did the twelve men say about the land, the cities, and the people of Canaan?

6) What did Joshua and Caleb say that was different than the other men?

7) Did the Israelites decide to go into Canaan? Why or why not?

8) How did God punish the Israelites? What did He do for Joshua and Caleb?

Memory Verse:

“If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us” (Numbers 14:8).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 15: Wandering In The Wilderness, Part 1

(Numbers 16:1-17:13; 20:1-29)

The Israelites were now punished to wander in the wilderness for a total of 40 years – one year for every day the men scouted the land of Canaan. Now, Korah (a Kohathite), Dathan and Abiram (from the tribe of Reuben), and 250 leading Israelite men and representatives came together to complain against Moses and Aaron. They said that Moses and Aaron should not put themselves above the other Israelites since they were all God's people.

So, Moses told Korah and his followers that God would choose, and told them all to take firepans the next day and offer incense to God. When they did this, God told Moses and Aaron to get away from where these rebels lived and to make all the Israelites do the same. Moses told the people God's warning and said that they would know God had chosen him by the way Korah and the other rebels would die. If they would die like all people die, God had not sent him. But, if they would die because the ground opened up and swallowed them, then they would know God had sent him.

When he finished speaking these words, the ground split open under Korah and the rebels, swallowing them, their households, and their possessions. God also caused fire to consume the 250 men who were offering the incense. Then, those firepans that were used for offering incense were taken and used on the altar.

The next day, the Israelites complained that Moses and Aaron had killed God's people. So, God's glory appeared at the tabernacle. God was angry with the people who complained and wanted to destroy them – and started to do this. It seems that God had started in the front of the crowd of Israelites and they began to fall down dead one-by-one. So, Moses told Aaron to take a firepan, put fire in it, and add incense. Then, he was to run to the middle of the people and stand between the dead and the living. When he did, the plague stopped. 14,700 people died from this plague because they complained!

God told Moses to take one staff from the leaders of each of the twelve tribes and write each man's name on each staff. Aaron's name was to be written on Levi's staff. Then, they were to be placed in front of the ark of the covenant in the

tabernacle. The staff that sprouted would be the man God chose. When Moses did this, it was Aaron's staff that sprouted, formed buds, blossomed, and produced almonds! This staff was to be kept in front of the ark of the covenant as a sign for the rebels and end all these complaints.

As the Israelites continued in the wilderness (in Kadesh), Miriam (Moses and Aaron's sister) died and was buried there. Then, there was no water for the Israelites and the people were upset again. They complained about not dying with the others and for being brought out of Egypt. God told Moses to take the staff and assemble the people so they could watch. He was to speak to the rock – and it would provide water for the people.

But, Moses did not obey God. Instead of speaking to the rock as God commanded him, he said, "Listen, you rebels! Must we bring water out of this rock for you?" (Numbers 20:10). Then, he raised his hand and hit the rock twice with the staff. Although God made water come out of the rock, He was not pleased with Moses and Aaron. He told them that because they did not trust Him in front of all the Israelites, they would not bring the Israelites into the land of Canaan! The waters were called Meribah (which meant "quarreling").

As the Israelites continued to wander in the wilderness, the king of Edom would not let them pass through their land. So, they came to Mount Hor. While they were there, God told Moses and Aaron that Aaron would die there because he and Moses had not obeyed God with the waters of Meribah. Aaron's son, Eleazar, was to go with Moses and Aaron up Mount Hor. The high priest's clothing was then taken off Aaron and put on Eleazar. Then, Aaron died. Eleazar was now the high priest and he and Moses came down from the mountain – and Israel mourned for Aaron for 30 days.

Study Questions:

1) How long would the Israelites wander in the wilderness? Why did God make them do this?

2) Who complained that Moses and Aaron put themselves above the other Israelites? What did God do to the rebels?

3) Why did the rest of the Israelites complain against Moses and Aaron?

4) What did God do to them? How did this plague stop?

5) How did God show He had chosen Moses and Aaron?

6) Why did the people complain in Kadesh?

7) What did Moses and Aaron do that did not please God? How would God punish them?

8) Who became the high priest after Aaron died?

Memory Verse:

“You will bear the consequences of your iniquities forty years based on the number of the forty days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know my displeasure” (Numbers 14:34).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 16: Wandering In The Wilderness, Part 2

(Numbers 21:1-24:25, 31)

After Edom said the Israelites could not travel through their land, they traveled from Mount Hor by way of the Red Sea. Again, the people of Israel began to complain about God and Moses, saying that they should never have been brought out of Egypt! Then, God sent burning snakes to the people who complained and bit them so that many Israelites died.

When the Israelites saw this, they told Moses that they had sinned and asked him to talk with God so He would take the snakes away. God told Moses to make the image of a snake and put it on a pole so that whenever anyone was bitten and looks at it, that person would get better. Then, Moses obeyed God and put a bronze snake on a pole for the Israelites to look at.

As the people continued to wander in the wilderness, they camped many places between Kadesh and Mount Pisgah. At Pisgah, the Israelites asked the king of the Amorites to let them travel through their land. But, the king would not allow it. Instead, his army fought against Israel. The Israelites won the battle and took the cities. Then, they also fought against King Og of Bashan and God gave them another victory.

The Israelites kept traveling and came to the plains of Moab near the Jordan river, across from Jericho. Balak, the king of Moab, saw what the Israelites had done and was afraid of them. So, Balak sent messengers to Balaam and wanted Balaam to come back with them and put a curse on the Israelites so that Balak could defeat them.

These messengers took money to Balaam and told him what Balak had said. Balaam told them to spend the night and he would give them the answer God would give him. But, God told Balaam not to go with them and not to curse the Israelites

because they were blessed by God. So, Balaam told them the words of God and refused to go with them. The messengers then told the king what happened.

But, Balak sent even more and greater officials to Balaam to ask him the same thing, promising Balaam great things for coming and putting a curse on the Israelites. Although Balaam said he would not go against the command of God, he was not satisfied with God's first answer and wanted another one. So, God told Balaam at night to go with the people, but that he must do what God said.

The next morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the officials of Moab. But, God was angry that Balaam did not listen to His first answer and went with them. So, the angel of the Lord stood on the path Balaam was riding on. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord with a sword drawn, the donkey went off the path into a field – and Balaam hit the donkey. Then, the donkey saw the angel in the road again and she pressed herself against a wall and squeezed Balaam's foot against it – and Balaam hit the donkey again. Finally, when the angel appeared in front of the donkey again and there was no room to turn, the donkey laid down under Balaam – and Balaam hit her again.

Then, God opened the donkey's mouth so she could talk. She asked Balaam why he was hitting her. He said he would kill her if he had a sword. But, when God let Balaam see the angel, the angel said that the donkey had saved his life three times. Later, the angel told Balaam to go to Balak, but only to speak God's words to him. When he went, he continued to bless the Israelites and even said that Moab would be destroyed in the future, even though he was greedy and wanted what the king offered (see Numbers 31).

Study Questions:

- 1) Why did the people complain against God and Moses?

- 2) What did God send to the Israelites for complaining?

- 3) What did Moses make so that the people who were bit could get better?

- 4) Who was the king of Moab?

- 5) What did this king want Balaam to do?

- 6) What did Balaam's donkey do to save him?

- 7) What did the donkey say? What did Balaam tell the donkey?

- 8) Did Balaam bless or curse the Israelites? Why?

Memory Verse:

“You will bear the consequences of your iniquities forty years based on the number of the forty days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know my displeasure” (Numbers 14:34).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 17: The First Settlements

(Numbers 32:1-36:13)

As the time of the wilderness wanderings for the Israelites ended and time came for the Israelites to take possession of the land God had promised them (the land of Canaan), people from the tribes of Reuben and Gad asked Moses, Eleazar (the high priest), and leaders of the people if they could live in land that was not in Canaan (east of the Jordan River). They had so many animals and saw that the land was good. So, they wanted to build pens for their sheep and cities for their families in the land they were in.

At first, Moses asked them why it was right for them to stay in that land while the rest of the Israelites went to war in Canaan. He said that they were acting like their fathers who had rebelled against God by refusing to go into Canaan the first time. He reminded them that God punished their fathers for their rebellion – and said that God would destroy the Israelites if they rebelled like that again.

But, whenever the people from Reuben and Gad promised Moses that they would still go and fight with the other Israelites, Moses gave orders to let them have that land. They would leave their families and their animals in the land while they helped the Israelites conquer the land of Canaan. They would only return to the land after all the tribes of Israel had their inheritance. Later, we are also told that half the tribe of Manasseh would also receive its inheritance on the eastern side of the Jordan River (Numbers 32:39-42 and 34:14).

So, God gave them land east of the Jordan River that was taken when God caused the Israelites to defeat the kings and cities there (also see Deuteronomy 3:1-20). The land was divided between Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. And, they rebuilt the cities and gave them new names.

Then, while the Israelites were still on the plains of Moab by the Jordan River across from Jericho, God told Moses to instruct the Israelites about taking the land of Canaan. Whenever they would come into the land of Canaan, they were supposed to drive out all the people who lived in the land and destroy all their false gods and all the objects and places used to worship them. God was giving this land to His people and He did not want anyone or anything to cause His people to worship a false god.

If the Israelites would not listen and do as God said, then the people of the land would constantly be a pain and burden to them. God wanted to bless the Israelites and give them the land. But, if they would not obey Him, He would trouble the Israelites instead.

When God gave them the land of Canaan, He was giving them an inheritance by each one of their tribes within a certain area of land. Large tribes would receive more land than smaller ones. And, the land would be divided within those tribes according to how big each family (or, clan) was. Overall, there were twelve tribes of Israelites who would receive land in Canaan (remember that Jacob had twelve sons).

These tribes were: Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. Remember that Jacob blessed Joseph before he died, promising to give his family a double inheritance in the land of Canaan. Joseph's two sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) would both be given land alongside the other tribes.

Then, God made special arrangements for the tribe of Levi (the tribe of the priests). Remember that God would take care of the Levites in special ways. So, not only would they get food from the sacrifices made in their priestly service, but they would also be given cities among the other tribes rather than being given land of their own.

Study Questions:

- 1) Who wanted land on the eastern side of the Jordan River? Did God give them the land?

- 2) What did they promise Moses?

- 3) What were the Israelites to do to all the people who lived in the Canaan land?

- 4) What were the Israelites to do to all the false gods in the land?

- 5) What would happen if the Israelites did not listen?

- 6) How would the Canaan land be divided among the Israelites?

- 7) Who were the twelve tribes who would receive land?

- 8) Why did Joseph's sons each get land? What did God do for the tribe of Levi?

Memory Verse:

“Tell the Israelites: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, you must drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you, destroy all their stone images and cast images, and demolish all their high places” (Numbers 33:51-52).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:



The Exodus

Lesson 18: Moses Prepares The People

(Deuteronomy 1-34)

The time had come for the Israelites to get ready and cross the Jordan River into the land God had promised to give them. The Israelites who complained against and did not obey God in the wilderness had died. And, Moses was not allowed to go into the promised land because he had disobeyed God. So, Moses gathered the people together to prepare them to enter the promised land of Canaan (as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy).

He reminded the Israelites of the many things God had done for them and how they had tested God while they were in the wilderness. Even though God had given Canaan to the Israelites, ten of the men who were sent to spy out the land returned with a report that caused the Israelites to fear. So, the people did not go into the land and they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Yet, God did give the Israelites some victories as they traveled through the wilderness – even gaining some settlements on that side of the Jordan River. Therefore, God had shown them that He is stronger than all their enemies.

The Israelites should have remembered how God was with them and blessed them when they served and worshiped Him. However, they should also have remembered how they were punished whenever they complained against God, did not trust and obey Him, and worshiped false gods. So, Moses reminded the Israelites of God's commandments.

Moses wanted to make sure that they would not forget God when they came into the Canaan land. Yes, it was a good land flowing with milk and honey, but they needed to always love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. They needed to talk about God and His laws with their families and write His laws where they could be reminded of them.

Then, when they came into the promised land, God commanded them not to worship or serve any other gods. In fact, when God would bring them into the land, He commanded them to destroy the people of the land. This was so that the people of the land would not cause the Israelites to forget God or worship a false god. So, they were told to destroy all the people who worshiped other gods and all the things that were used to worship other gods.

The Israelites needed to remember that they were God's special people. He had blessed them in many ways. But, God said that the Israelites needed to fear Him, always keep His commandments, love Him, and worship Him. Moses said that doing these things were for their own good. For, if they would do these things, God would bless them.

Moses taught the people God's laws so that they would remember and keep them whenever they came into the promised land of Canaan. When Moses told them these things, the Israelites all agreed that the Lord is their God and that they would obey Him. Therefore, God said that the Israelites were His people and He would bless them.

Moses told the people that if they obeyed God, God would bless them. He would cause them to win against all their enemies. Everything they would do would be blessed. But, if they would not obey God, Moses warned them that they would be punished. They would not win against their enemies. And, they would not be successful in what they would do. Therefore, Moses said they had a choice between life and death, blessing and punishment – and told them to choose life by obeying God!

Then, after Moses had finished preparing the Israelites to be courageous and obedient to God, Moses went up to Mount Nebo. Because he had not obeyed God, God would not let him go into Canaan. However, God let Moses look into the Canaan land from the top of the mountain. And, Moses died on the mountain and was buried by God. Then, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites who would bring them into the Canaan land.

Memory Verse:

“Be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you are not to turn aside to the right or the left. Follow the whole instruction the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, prosper, and have a long life in the land you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: