



IN-CAR & IN-HOME

Biblical Lessons for the Family

"Repeat [the LORD's commands] again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

-DEUTERONOMY 6:7, NLT



PERSON TO PERSON MINISTERING THROUGH CIRCLES OF FAITH

VOLUME 3

- 10 LESSONS -

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to join with fellow Christians to mentor, teach, and share God's Word with families and to develop a strong, unbreakable bond of faith in God that will continue to be passed on from generation to generation.

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE AND HOW TO USE IT:

This ministry is first dedicated to the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and second to the parents who use the materials and resources to instruct their children about Jesus and the Word of God. We believe in the need for these lessons to be an intimate sharing of God's Word within the family through the bonding of you, your children, and God. The Bible tells us to instruct our children so that they may teach their children and generations to follow. It is impossible for us to know each child individually who may be reached through this ministry; therefore, we will leave it to individual parents how the lessons are presented. We have given you a guide to share the stories of the Bible. This may be used as it is written, or you may want to adapt the lessons to be more suitable for your children's level of understanding. You know them better than anyone else. This face-to-face interaction with your children, talking and learning about Jesus and the Bible, will enable them to see God through your eyes and your teachings. We ask you to be diligent in using these materials in a manner that enables the needs of your children to accomplish that objective. Thank you for your participation in the Bond of Faith Children's Ministries. You and your family will always be in our prayers.

ALL LESSONS FOLLOW THIS TEMPLATE:

- 1. Biblical Title** for Lesson.
- 2. Introduction** or Lead-In.
- 3. Supporting Scripture.**
- 4. Example retelling of this lesson for your Child:** This version will only be a guide. Over time parents will need to make this presentation their own personal conversation with their child. Please be aware that our suggestions are aimed at a general age group of 6-10. It is up to the parent to scale the presentation up or down to appeal to each child and be most understandable.
- 5. Prayer** inspired by this lesson. Our prayer will only be another suggestion. The parents should give their own prayer for the child and eventually have their child do so on their own.
- 6. Lessons to Stress:** These are key points in the lessons for your child to learn. Again, our suggestions are only meant as a guide. As you become more familiar with the lessons, you may want to add to this list or make your own.

- 7. Example Discussion:** a discussion of the lesson with your child using:
 - A. Short questions and answers. These should be simple.
Example for “The Creation” Lesson: Who created all the universe with earth and all we see? God.
 - B. Using open-ended questions to draw your child into a discussion.
Example for “The Creation” Lesson: What did God do during The Creation that showed His love for us (you)? You will get many answers here. Made man and woman. Made plants and animals for food. Made the earth a good place to live and multiply. You will need to guide the discussion in the direction you want it to go. As you repeat the lessons, come up with your own questions. Your growing familiarity with the lesson will generate plenty of questions you can see in your child’s mind.
- 8. Additional Prayers:** When you or your child are so moved, enter into a spur-of-the-moment prayer session.
- 9. Focus on Jesus:** Always end each lesson by focusing on Jesus.
- 10. Follow Up:** Before you leave each lesson, have your child(ren) retell the story in his/her own words. Enter into a discussion still again. Revisit the lesson from time to time. By the time your children are teenagers, they will have these lessons firmly planted in their minds and will be well on their way to a life in Christ.



Peter Denies Jesus

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-One

INTRODUCTION:

Peter was known as one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, but sometimes he didn't follow through with his promises. Peter had assured Jesus that he would always be loyal to Him no matter the consequences. However, Jesus knew otherwise. Jesus had just shared with His disciples that He would be arrested and crucified. So when Peter made this vow, Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter strongly disagreed and assured Jesus of his loyalty. When questioned, Peter did as Jesus predicted. The human desire to preserve one's life won the day. How often does fear force us to take the easy way out of a threatening situation? Fear can be erased with a strong faith in Christ. Peter's fear disappeared as his faith grew. He eventually became a strong defender of Jesus and His teachings.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:54-62, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

The soldiers captured Jesus and led Him away to the house of the high priest. Peter followed way behind so as to not be detected. His fear of being arrested with Jesus was apparent. Peter came into the courtyard and sat down with others who had gathered there.

A servant girl recognized him as having been with Jesus and commented, “This man was with Him.” Peter denied it, saying, “Woman, I don’t know Him.”

A short time later someone else recognized Peter as having been with Jesus and said, “You also are one of them.” The second time Peter denied knowing Jesus.

About an hour later another person made the comment, “Certainly this fellow was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” For the third time, Peter denied knowing Jesus, and as he was speaking, a rooster crowed. Peter then remembered what Jesus had said to Him about denying Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter went outside and cried uncontrollably.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Jesus, I beg Your forgiveness for every time I have ever denied You as my Savior and Redeemer. Please let my faith in You be strong enough to allow me to always stand up for You.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. We can overcome our fears through a strong faith in Jesus.
2. Like Peter, we are all human and must find ourselves in Christ to become Christians.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Consider first how this lesson applies to your own life. Tell your child about a time when you betrayed a friend, or a friend betrayed you. Share how both parties responded. Then inquire if your child has experienced such a situation (from either perspective). Compare and contrast how Jesus responds to our failures, and how this changes how we respond going forward.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is faithful, even when we are not.

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown himself.”
(2 Timothy 2:13, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: As you revisit this, read with your child John 21:15-19 and talk about Jesus’ forgiveness and redemption following our failures if we, like Peter, “weep” or “mourn” over our sins (Matthew 5:4), and then race back to be with Jesus (John 21:7).

A series of horizontal lines providing space for writing or drawing.



JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Two

INTRODUCTION:

The crucifixion of Jesus is the most heart-wrenching event in all of human history. It is indeed sad but at the same time uplifting and motivational. Our Lord gave up His only Son so that we can have an everlasting life. No other act shows God’s love for us more than this.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. (Matthew 27:32-44, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

The story I am going to tell you about today is the story of Jesus dying on the cross. It is called the crucifixion of Jesus. A crucifixion puts a person to death in the cruelest manner possible. The person's body is nailed to a cross, and he hangs there until he dies. It seems like a really sad story, but it's one of the greatest stories of all! Jesus died knowing that all of us would do wrong things. He knew what we all would do when He died so many years ago. Jesus died for everyone's sins, so now when we ask God to forgive us, and we are truly sorry for what we've done, He will forgive us as though it never happened. This was made possible by Jesus' crucifixion.

When Jesus was preaching and performing miracles, many Jews came to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jewish leaders feared Jesus because His followers were increasing. With the help of Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples who betrayed Him, Roman soldiers assisted in the arrest of Jesus. He was put on trial for claiming to be the king of the Jews. According to Roman law, the punishment for rebellion against the king was death by crucifixion.

The cruelty to Jesus began before the crucifixion as they led Him to the place to be crucified. The soldiers stripped Jesus of His clothing and replaced it with a scarlet robe. They twisted a crown made of thorns and put it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt, and mocked Him, calling Him the king of the Jews. They spit on Him, took the staff from Him, and beat Him with it. After their mockery and torture of Him, they replaced His clothes and made Him carry His cross to be crucified.

When they reached the place where the crucifixion was to take place, Jesus was laid on the cross, and His hands and feet were nailed to it. The cross was lifted into place, and Jesus hung there until His death.

We must remember that this was God's plan from the beginning. God gave his Son to save us. Even today we can lay our sins on the Cross with Jesus, commit our lives to serve God, and go forward to spend forever in Heaven with Jesus.

TIP: Encourage your child to pray in his/her own words, and praise genuine attempts to speak to God honestly. The perfect words are not necessary, just a humble heart.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Lord, let us never forget and always honor Your sacrifice of Jesus for our chance to be saved. Your love for us is overwhelming.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Always remember Jesus went to the Cross to save you and me.
2. Don't waste God's love! Honor it by being saved.
3. We cannot escape from sin on our own. We all need Jesus' help.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Illustrate the debt of sin to your child(ren). Example: Ask your child, “What is the wage or penalty for a single sin?” (Answer: “Death”; see Romans 6:23). Hand your child a dollar bill (or something else a younger child might value) and say, “Let’s pretend that this represents the wages of a single sin. How much would you suppose you owe God if you had to pay back every sin?” Go through the ten commandments in light of the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) and let them test their “goodness.” Then say, “Now think about how many people are on the earth— throughout history. How could Jesus pay for all our sins?” Bring them to the conclusion: Jesus’ life is worth SO much that he could pay for all sins—IN FULL!

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus took the punishment for all our sins on the cross.

“[Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2. NIV)

FOLLOW UP: When revisiting this lesson, consider reading the Crucifixion accounts in the other Gospels. Compare and contrast the different eyewitness accounts with your child.



The Resurrection of Jesus

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Three

INTRODUCTION:

The word *resurrection* means the revitalization or the revival of something. The Christian belief is that the resurrection is the raising of Jesus from the dead. This is the foundation of our Christian faith. When Jesus rose from the dead, He confirmed His identity as the Son of God, the Messiah, and the King of kings. All Christians celebrate this victory and bathe in the hope it provides.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they

were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.” He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from high.” When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (Luke 24:1-53)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Jesus died for us on the cross, but that is not the end of the story. Jesus rose from the dead because He is God, and God is more powerful than death, Jesus rose and went to Heaven and promised that all who believed in Him would do the same. This story is part of the Easter story, and it is the final and most wonderful part. At Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the victory over sin.

After Jesus had been arrested, tried, found guilty of calling Himself a king, and crucified, and died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. A group of women who believed in Him and loved Him dearly had come to the cemetery to prepare His body with spices and herbs. They immediately noticed the huge stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled away. On entering, they found the body of Jesus was missing. Suddenly two men wearing bright, shining clothing appeared. They were angels. They startled the women but quickly calmed them by reminding them what Jesus had said about His returning from the dead three days after His death had come true.

The women went immediately to Jesus' disciples to deliver the great news. Peter, who was one of the leading disciples, ran to the tomb to see for himself. He saw only strips of linen that was part of Jesus' clothing. Peter went away confused and trying to make sense of what had happened. Two other disciples were walking down the road near Jerusalem, and the risen Jesus came to join them. They did not recognize Him, and since they thought Jesus did not seem to know what had happened, they proceeded to tell Him the whole story. Jesus let them know of His disappointment in their lack of faith in His word regarding His crucifixion and resurrection. He went with them to eat, and when He broke the bread to serve them, they recognized Him as Jesus, the risen Messiah. Jesus then disappeared.

The two disciples with whom Jesus broke bread hurried to tell their brother disciples about their encounter with Jesus. While they were doing so, Jesus appeared among the group and said, "Peace be with you." They were disturbed and frightened, thinking He was a ghost. He showed them His hands and feet where the nails had gone through when He was nailed to the cross. Also they saw the cut in his side where the soldier had stuck Him with a spear. Jesus once again reminded them of what He had told them about His persecution, crucifixion, and resurrection. Most slowly understood what was the truth, but Doubting Thomas still did not believe it. Jesus invited him to explore His wounds, including the cut in His side. After a thorough examination of the wounds, Thomas finally believed this was really Jesus risen from the dead.

As I told you earlier, this is the final and most wonderful part of the Easter story. It gave us God's final plan for salvation. Jesus said all who believe in Him will have eternal life with Him in Heaven. He also told His disciples to spread His story and His word by testifying all over the world. As Christians, this has become our responsibility too. Jesus then rose into Heaven to be with His Holy Father. Jesus is now everywhere. He is with each of us through prayer and His words found in the Bible. We can bond with Him through our faith.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Lord, we feel Your love constantly. Please help us to always increase our faith in You and continue to grow as Christians. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus died on the Cross to save us.
2. God is all powerful! He can even overcome death.
3. God's patience with us is overwhelming, but we should fear it may come to an end someday and mend our sinful ways.
4. Once we believe and start building our faith, we discover what it is to be truly alive and free.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was resurrected to show He conquered sin and death on our behalf.

“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:9-11, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: When revisiting this lesson, consider reading a Resurrection account in another Gospel (see Matthew 28; Mark 16; John 20). After each instance, have your child point out new details in each eyewitness account.



THE ARMOR OF GOD

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Four

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible tells us that we are fighting a war with Satan, who wants to destroy our faith in God. It also tells us that this war is spiritual and there are no man-made weapons that can be used effectively to stop him. We do not know what plans Satan has to use against us, but if we follow God's instructions, we will be able to stand and defeat him and his followers.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17, NIV)

TIP: Prior to the lesson, gather some visual aids that will help your child(ren) remember the lesson. Sure, a real suit of armor would be incredible to have, but trust God to help you teach with whatever is available: a toy sword, a football helmet, or a pair of flip-flops.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Scripture in the Bible tells us that as believers of God, we will always be in a battle with Satan. We will not always know what Satan is trying to do or how he will attack. We only know that God gives us the knowledge and the power to defeat evil and sinful ways if we follow the path that God has provided for us.

God uses the comparison of the weapons the soldiers used in Jesus' time to defeat their enemies to the weapons he has prepared and given us to fight our spiritual enemies that want to destroy our faith in Him.

The first of these weapons was the belt the soldiers wore to keep the long robes of their clothes from causing them to trip and fall when they were in battle. The weapon God has given us is truth. Satan is the father of lies, and he uses these lies to deceive us. God compared the tripping and falling to being deceived by lies. God described deception and lies as a disgrace to Him. Therefore, if we put on our spiritual armor, which is the "belt" of truth, we will be delivered from falling into the trap of lies. We will also be a witness to those who need us.

Second, we are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate soldiers wore protected them from blows from their enemies that would cause their death. The righteousness of Christ is assigned to us by God and received by faith. It protects our hearts against any accusations or charges Satan may throw at us.

God tells us how the soldiers prepared their feet for warfare that might place them against dangerous obstacles as they advanced against their enemies. He also tells us that we need to advance into Satan's territory with the gospel of peace and be aware of the traps that Satan might set for us. We must deliver this message of grace as it is necessary to win souls to Christ. To do this, we must study the gospel to be prepared for the many obstacles Satan has already placed in our path to stop the spreading of God's Word.

The soldiers also carried shields to protect their bodies from the arrows of their enemies. God gives us the shield of faith to stop all the fiery arrows Satan casts at us. Satan tries to cause doubt, criticism, and distrust of Christianity with those "arrows of sin," but the shield of faith protects us from all of his efforts.

The final weapon the soldiers wore to protect them from their enemies was the helmet to keep their heads safe. Our head armor from God is the helmet of salvation. This keeps our way of thinking on the right path. It gives us the hope of eternal life and will not allow us to receive false doctrines or give in to Satan's temptations. The unsaved person is not capable of distinguishing between spiritual truth and Satan's lies.

Our armor of God is the Word of God. Wear it with pride, for there are no greater weapons. Keep these things in your heart and mind—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, and salvation—the full armor of God. These things, along with prayer from which we draw strength, are the tools God has given us to be victorious over Satan and his evil.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Lord, thank You for Your love. The armor you provide to keep us safe from the devil is such a blessing. Please allow us to use it effectively. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God wants to teach us how to protect ourselves from the devil's schemes.
2. He provides protection for us by giving us armor in the form of faith in Him.
3. He gives us a defensive weapon in His Word (The Bible). He doesn't want us to fall or get tripped up by the enemy because He loves us!

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: When your child stumbles to answer a question, encourage him/her to ask the Holy Spirit and listen. God loves to give wisdom to humble hearts of faith (James 1:5). It is right and good to admit we don't know and seek God for understanding.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus gives us the victory.

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world..” (1 John 4:4, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Revisit this lesson on occasion. Look for opportunities to connect back to the lesson outside of scheduled time. Example: While shopping for new shoes, talk about staying ready to spread the good news of Jesus. “And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:15, NIV).



ADAM AND EVE

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Five

INTRODUCTION:

On the sixth day, God created Adam in His own image. God decided Adam needed a female companion and took a rib from Adam and created Eve. God was thoroughly pleased with His first two humans. He showed His love for them by placing them in the Garden of Eden, where they ruled over all the plants and animals and lived in comfort. The appearance of the Devil changed everything, and we have suffered from his presence ever since. God is still our protector, but now many lose His protection through a misguided free will.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild

animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2:7-25, NIV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'" To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'" Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "The

man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:1-24, NIV)

EXAMPLE VERSION FOR YOUR CHILD:

God created Adam and Eve. He showed His deep love for them by placing them in the beautiful and perfect Garden of Eden. God made it clear they could eat from any tree in the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The fruit from this tree was off limits, and Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat it. Everything was perfect for Adam and Eve, and they were very happy. They had everything they needed.

Then one day the Devil came to the Garden disguised as a snake. He did not want Adam and Eve to be happy. He very cleverly convinced Eve to eat fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Since nothing bad seemed to happen to Eve when she ate the fruit, she then convinced Adam to join her in disobeying God. As soon as God returned to the Garden, He knew what had happened. Adam and Eve immediately realized they had sinned against God, and their lives would be badly damaged. God showed His displeasure by sending Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden forever. They had to go out into the world and suffer hard labor to make a living, and all of their family would now be forced to suffer for their sin against God.

God had allowed Adam and Eve to have free will, which means they could make choices for themselves. They had the choice to do as God asked or disobey God and do the opposite. We all have this free will. We can choose what God offers or follow the devil. Always follow Christ. He loves and protects us.

TIP: Ask immersive questions as you tell the story. Give your child(ren) a chance to consider what Adam and Eve felt or thought at certain moments.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Dear God, thank You for always offering the right way. Please always give me the intelligence and willingness to choose Your way. Amen.

TIP: During your preparation study, write out a prayer of your own.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God loves us no matter what, and He always wants what's best for us.
2. God has given us free will, and we can choose what we want to do as we travel through life. In order to live our best life, we must all have faith in God and follow His lead.
3. God will never force you to do anything. He only offers His way, and you must follow Him by your choice.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Don't be afraid to ask questions even if you yourself might not know the answers. Doing this models honesty and demonstrates that you are not the source for answers, but God is. Example: "Why did God make the serpent and put him in the garden?" Now, give opportunity to search for the answer together.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the Seed of the woman (born of a virgin) that crushed the Serpent's head (conquered the power of evil), and is the sacrifice God made to cover our sin and shame.

"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: This event is a foundation of our faith. Revisit this lesson from time to time, even in the middle of other lessons. Our enemy the devil is always questioning, "Did God really say?" We are always being tempted to take what God has forbidden and then blame others for our actions. And God is always calling for us to return to Him, ready to cover our shame with His sacrifice.



NOAH AND THE ARK

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Six

INTRODUCTION:

No other scriptures in the Bible display God’s deep disappointment and frustration with man more than the story of Noah and the Ark. Man had repeatedly disobeyed God and had chosen to engage in sinful things, following the lead of the devil. The grief God suffered, even for Him, had to be almost unbearable. He had created man in His own image and poured His love out to him, only to be betrayed. Adam and Eve’s descendants had also become extremely wicked. God’s heart was filled with so much grief and sadness that He regretted that He had created them. He declared that He would destroy every living creature on earth—both humans and animals. However, God recognized one man, Noah, as a true believer. Therefore, He spared Noah and his family from certain death to carry on the lives of all God’s creatures from the original creation.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons

and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him. (Genesis 6:9-22, NIV)

The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. (Genesis 7:24, NIV)

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. (Genesis 8:1-22, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

God had created man in His own image and had demonstrated the consequences of choosing wrong over right; however, men and women continued to grow more and more wicked with time. They passed this wickedness on to their children, causing God to see nothing but evil among His creation. He finally decided the only way to end this evil was to destroy all living creatures on earth with a worldwide flood.

God did see one man, Noah, that He knew to be good and living by His teachings. God came to Noah and explained His plan to destroy all of the earth and its inhabitants. He would spare only Noah and his family. There was, in addition to Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives. He gave Noah detailed instructions on how to build an ark using cypress wood. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was to be sealed inside and out with tar. It would have lower, middle, and upper decks covered by a roof. The ark was built to house Noah and his family, thousands of animals, and supplies to feed and support those inside for as long as required.

God next told Noah to bring two of every living creature on earth, a male and a female, onto the ark. This was done so that when the flood was over, the earth could be repopulated with all of God's creatures. Noah did just as God ordered, and after much hard work, everything was accomplished. The heavens then opened up, and it began raining. The heavy downpour lasted for 40 days and 40 nights. The earth was thoroughly flooded, with even the highest mountain top being at least 20 feet below the surface. No living creature survived except Noah, his family, and the animals inside the ark.

After the rain had ceased, God sent the wind, which gradually dried up the earth. The ark finally settled on the mountain of Ararat. Noah then sent out ravens and doves to find plant life in the surrounding areas. Finally a dove came back with an olive leaf in its beak, and Noah knew the time was near for them to exit the ark. God then told Noah to come out of the ark with his family and all of the animals. Noah gladly obeyed, and God told all His creatures to go forth and repopulate the earth. The first thing Noah did was build an altar and sacrifice clean animals to honor God. This aroused the deep love God had for Noah and his family and all of His living creatures. God was moved to promise He would never destroy the whole earth again by flood. This He promised in a covenant to Noah and all of his descendants to come after him. God then created the first rainbow as a reminder of His covenant and His love for all of His living creation.

TIP: While there is much in our culture to soften this account of God's judgment (e.g., cute animals in a tiny boat), do not miss the opportunity to discuss the reality of God's judgment upon sin so that we can also see the great size of His mercy.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Dear Lord, help us to be like Noah, strong in faith and obedient to Your every command. Thank You for Your everlasting love and providing for our salvation. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God expects everyone to worship Him and obey what He teaches.
2. God readily recognizes evil and good behavior. You can never hide your actions from Him.
3. He loves us all but will bless only good behavior.
4. He made us in His image and expects us to follow His lead to the cross and salvation.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Discuss with your child(ren) how they are able to buy gifts for their parent(s). Make the connection that God provided even for the sacrifices that Noah and his family would make once they exited the ark. Why is it important for us to understand this?

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our “deliverer from the wrath to come.”

“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” (1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Revisit the lesson on occasion. Every time you do, see if your child(ren) can spot Jesus in a new aspect of the story.



Abraham and Sarah

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Seven

INTRODUCTION:

Abraham is best known for his faith and devotion to serving God. He became known as the father of the Jewish people. Abraham and Sarah lived happily in their small home, and their only wish was that they would have a son. God entered into a covenant with Abraham and promised him that he would have a son with his wife, Sarah, and that he would be the father of the great nation of Israel. Time passed, and Abraham and Sarah grew very old. They started to doubt that God would follow through on His promise. They thought they were too old to have a baby. God did follow through, and they had a son named Isaac. God is faithful and always keeps His promises.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” (Genesis 17:1-8, NIV)

God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her

so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.” When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him. (Genesis 17:15-22, NIV)

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.” (Genesis 21:1-7, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Once, there was a servant of God named Abram, who had a wife named Sarai. God called Abram to be the father of many nations even though Abram didn't have any children, and He was very, very old. God made a “covenant,” or a sacred agreement, with Abram and then He changed Abram's name to Abraham. God promised Abraham that Sarai would have a son, and then He changed her name to Sarah. God often changes people's names when He calls them into His service. Since Abraham and Sarah were very old, Abraham laughed at the thought of him and Sarah having a baby. Abraham and Sarah waited, and waited, and waited. They started to doubt that God would keep His promise to them. They even tried other ways to make that promise happen because they just weren't sure that God would follow through, and they were getting impatient. However, God did follow through, and Sarah had a baby and named him, Isaac. Isaac means “he laughs” and shows how happy both Sarah and Abraham were about having a baby. They both were so thankful for such a special blessing. Their faith in God won the day.

TIP: Remember that this retelling is just an example. No two sets of children and parents are the same, and it is important that we prayerfully study the passage so that we can convey God's word as faithfully as possible.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Thank you, Lord, for such a special lesson in Your truthfulness. Never let us doubt Your love for us.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God has a plan for each of us. We must seek out the Lord and follow Him to enjoy His plan.
2. Never doubt the Lord in all that He promises.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

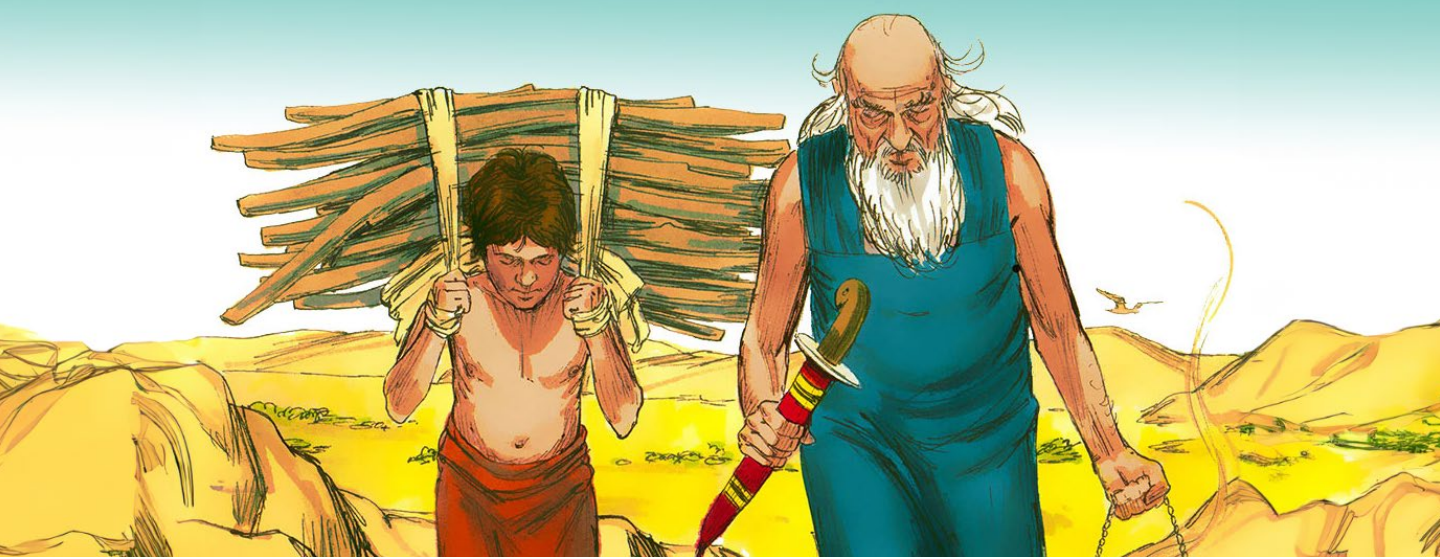
TIP: Share a time where you felt God promise you something specific, and He faithfully provided (even if you doubted).

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the promised Son through whom the world is blessed.

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Revisit this passage on occasion. Take time at one point to focus on Abraham, while at another focus on Sarah.

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ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Eight

INTRODUCTION:

The story of Abraham and Isaac is the ultimate example of faith in God. Abraham showed his full trust, faith, and obedience. Whenever God allows our faith to be tested, He has a good purpose in mind though we may not be aware of it. God tested Abraham's faith by directing him to sacrifice his son Isaac as an offering to the Lord. Isaac was the long-awaited son that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah, and the one that God promised would lead the Jewish nation. Having knowledge of this, Abraham had to choose to either trust God with what mattered most to him or distrust God. Abraham chose to trust, and God honored Abraham's obedience and faith by sparing his son.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the

altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba. (Genesis 22:1-19, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Abraham and Sarah's son, Isaac, grew into a fine young man. He often accompanied his father to offer sacrifices of lambs to the Lord. This is where his father taught him the importance of this practice. Abraham walked in obedience to the Lord, so he knew when God was talking to him. One day God called to Abraham, and Abraham responded. He readily recognized God's voice. This time God told Abraham to go up to the mountain and offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering to Him. Abraham could hardly believe it; but because he knew God and trusted Him, he obeyed. He took his son, wood, a donkey, other tools, and a couple of servants, and headed up to the mountain. His heart was heavy because he loved his son, but he trusted God and believed that He would make everything right. Abraham stopped and told his servants to stay in that spot with the donkey; then he and Isaac continued up the mountain. On the way, Isaac asked why they didn't have a lamb or pure offering to sacrifice to the Lord. Abraham replied that God would provide, and Isaac believed him. Once they arrived, Abraham prepared the spot, bound up his son, and laid him on the altar. As he raised his sword, an angel called out to him and said not to hurt Isaac. Abraham spotted a ram with its horns caught in some bushes. Abraham retrieved the ram and sacrificed it instead of Isaac.

God was very happy with Abraham's obedience, and He again promised that Abraham would have as many descendants as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

TIP: Some lessons are more difficult than others. Spend time in personal prayer if you are unsure of how to convey this to a younger child.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Lord, help us to be willing to give up everything for You, even our most prized possessions, and to trust that You have better for us.

TIP: Make it real. Have your child(ren) bring you their favorite toy that they can hold for the lesson. Ask at the end, “What if God asked you to give up that toy?” Then hold out your hand.

OR

Give your child(ren) a lump of clay and ask them to make their favorite thing while you teach the lesson (if it doesn't become a distraction). Give them time to make it. Once they are finished, ask them to flatten it (sacrifice it). Discuss with your child about how God often asks us to give up what we cherish most. However, if we trust God is good, then He will show us how what we love is only a shadow of the real thing. And if we love Jesus most of all, God promises to give us “all things” (see Romans 8:32).

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God is faithful, and He will provide all that we need when He calls us to a task.
2. God honors our obedience.
3. When we spend time with God in prayer and reading His Word, we will recognize His voice in our lives.
4. Don't be afraid to give everything to the Lord. He will always make things right.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our substitute, the “only Son” of God who died for our sins.

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: There are many ways that Isaac is a shadow of Jesus. With each visit to this lesson, focus on a different one. Consider these things:

1. Both were a miraculous birth.
 2. Both were offered as a sacrifice by his father.
 3. Both carried the wood for the sacrifice on their backs.
 4. Both were obedient to the point of death.
 5. Both had a three-day experience.
- See what others you can find.



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Nine

INTRODUCTION:

The story of Jacob and his 12 sons is a wonderful illustration of God’s overall plan for our lives. Joseph was the youngest of Jacob’s sons. When Joseph’s brother’s did evil, he responded with kindness and forgiveness. Joseph saw divine control, so he was able to forgive his brothers even though he knew they did wrong. He was also able to see that it was God’s ultimate plan for this life that he end up in Egypt. Many of us have experienced harsh treatment by others, and it is hard to forgive those who sin against us. We have to remember that we are forgiven way more than we have to forgive.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob’s family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and all eleven stars were bowing down to me.” When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to

the ground before you?” His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Now his brothers had gone to graze their father’s flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, “As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them.” “Very well,” he replied. So he said to him, “Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me.” Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, “What are you looking for?” He replied, “I’m looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?” “They have moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.” When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Where can I turn now?” Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.” He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.” Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.” (Genesis 37:1-36, NIV).

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and

became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. (Genesis 39:1-5, NIV)

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Jacob had twelve sons, and one of them was born to him when he was very old. His name was Joseph, and Jacob loved him more than the other sons. The other sons were jealous of Joseph. Jacob made a beautiful cloak with many colors for Joseph which made the brothers even more jealous. God blessed Joseph with the ability to have and interpret dreams. Joseph had two dreams that he shared with his brothers. In one of them, they were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly Joseph's sheaf rose and stood upright. The brothers' sheaves gathered around his and bowed down to it. In the other dream, the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to Joseph. These dreams made the brothers believe Joseph thought himself better than them. This caused the brothers to hate Joseph so much that they decided to kill him when they were all out in the field tending to sheep. One of the brothers, Reuben, asked them not to kill Joseph but to throw him into a pit. They did that and planned to tell Jacob that Joseph was dead. Then a band of Ishmaelites came through with merchandise to sell, so the brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him as a slave to the merchants for 20 pieces of silver. The brothers took Joseph's cloak of colors and dipped it into a goat's blood, then brought it back to Jacob. He was very, very sad because he believed that his beloved Joseph was dead.

The Ishmaelites brought Joseph to Potiphar, an Egyptian official and the head of the Egyptian bodyguard under Pharaoh. Potiphar purchased Joseph and saw that the Lord was with him because everything he touched was successful. Joseph was put in charge of everything in Potiphar's home, and the Lord blessed it.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Father, God, please help us to see even when we are in the middle of what looks like a bad situation that You are with us, and You will never leave us.

TIP: There are many characters and perspectives to explore in such an account. Have your child(ren) think about each person and what he might have felt or thought. Example: How would you feel if you had a little brother that dreamed he was going to be your boss?

LESSONS TO STRESS:

Sometimes bad things happen to us and people can be mean to us, but God will never leave us, and He always protects and provides for us.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Have you ever had a prophetic dream come true? Do you know someone that this has happened to? Tell your child about it. How might the dream have even been a part of its own fulfillment?

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was the favored Son who was murdered while doing His father's will.

“And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:17, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Revisit this lesson on occasion. Try retelling it in first person, each time from a different point of view.



JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

Volume Three | Lesson Thirty

INTRODUCTION:

The story of the father Jacob and his sons, Joseph and his brothers, is a wonderful illustration of God’s overall plan for our lives. Joseph’s family faced evil, and he responded with kindness and forgiveness. Joseph saw divine control. He knew his brothers did wrong, but he was able to forgive because he understood it was God’s divine power that sent him to Egypt in His ultimate plan for Joseph’s life. Many of us have been sinned against by others, and we feel they don’t deserve our forgiveness, but we have been forgiven more than we have to forgive.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream. In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. Now a young Hebrew was

there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged.” So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows came up—scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up. In my dream I saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads sprouted—withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me.” Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.... Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.” The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.” So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, “Make way!” Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt.” Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his

wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.... The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world. (Genesis 41:1-57, NIV)

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die." Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also. Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food." Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected." "No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food. We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies." "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected." But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more." Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: You are spies! And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!" And he put them all in custody for three days. On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." This they proceeded to do. They

said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.” Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.” They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes. Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man’s silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. “My silver has been returned,” he said to his brothers. “Here it is in my sack.” Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, “What is this that God has done to us?” When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They said, “The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as though we were spying on the land. But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we are not spies. We were twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in Canaan.’ Then the man who is lord over the land said to us, ‘This is how I will know whether you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go. But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land.’” As they were emptying their sacks, there in each man’s sack was his pouch of silver! When they and their father saw the money pouches, they were frightened. Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!” Then Reuben said to his father, “You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back.” But Jacob said, “My son will not go down there with you; his brother is dead and he is the only one left. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow.” (Genesis 42:1-38, NIV)

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your

lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him. When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.’ You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’” So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes. And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Don’t quarrel on the way!” So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt.” Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.” (Genesis 45:1-28, NIV)

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed. Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to the number of their children. (Genesis 47:11-12, NIV)

EXAMPLE VERSION FOR YOUR CHILD:

Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery to Potiphar in Egypt. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, so when Pharaoh had two troubling dreams that none of his subjects could explain, he sent for Joseph to interpret them. In the first dream, seven fat cows were eaten by seven skinny cows. In the second dream, seven healthy stalks of grain were swallowed up by seven scorched, thin stalks. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph told Pharaoh that his dreams meant that a lot of food would grow in Egypt for seven years, but then a famine would come when no food would grow for seven years. Joseph advised Pharaoh to store up food during the good times to prepare for the famine. This impressed Pharaoh so much that he put Joseph in charge of storing up all of the excess grain, making Joseph one of the most powerful men in Egypt. God had blessed Joseph and made him very successful.

When Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt, he sent his sons to try to get some as the family was suffering from the famine and would surely starve. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food, but when they bowed before Joseph they didn't recognize him. He recognized them but treated them harshly until he saw that they had changed. At that time he cleared the room and revealed himself to them. The brothers were so afraid because of what they had done to Joseph, but he forgave them. He told them that while they meant to harm him, God used it all for good. He told them to bring all of the family to Egypt and he would provide for them.

PRAYER (HAVE YOUR CHILD JOIN YOU IN PRAYER): Lord, teach us to trust You when we face adversity. Help us to not grow bitter when people are mean to us. Teach us to forgive others as You forgive us and experience freedom from the need to get revenge.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God uses many different people to do good things.
2. God is always concerned about and works for our well-being.
3. If we learn from our mistakes and correct our behavior, showing God we have changed to the good, He will forgive and bless us.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

TIP: Make a list below of some discussion questions to ask your child.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

Q:

A:

TIP: Come up with different types of questions. Some questions have a factual answer and test to see if child(ren) are listening. Other questions are meant to draw out opinions and immerse child(ren) in the story by identifying with a character. Still others are designed to initiate deeper discussion of more complex themes and invoke curiosity, stirring within us questions of our own.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was exalted to offer forgiveness to all those who demonstrate a love for the Father by repentance.

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.” (Acts 5:31, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Revisit this lesson on occasion. On each visit, ask God to show you a new “Focus on Jesus” to present to your child(ren). “The story of Joseph is the story of Jesus in miniature,” (D.A. Criswell).

CHILDREN'S PAGES: These are simple summaries of the previous biblical lessons, and are intended for children. You can present them at any time. We do, however, believe they will best be understood once you have completed your teaching of each lesson. These pages are available as a separate pack. We suggest your child collect and preserve them for future reference.



JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Volume Two | Lesson Twelve

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, You gave Your life for us. We owe You so much. Our ungrateful hearts are small tokens to repay You for such a wonderful gift. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER FROM THIS LESSON.

- 1. Jesus loves us.
- 2. We should never be afraid of Him.
- 3. When we have a problem, we should always turn to Him.

FOCUS ON

"Then they of their disciples hushed."



Jesus had been teaching that they rear a lake.



When evening came, He asked His disciples to Deed a boat with Him and go over to the other side.



Jesus went to the back of the boat and fell peacefully asleep on a cushion.



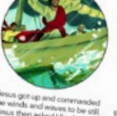
A violent storm came up as they were crossing the lake.



Large waves broke over the boat and it appeared the boat would sink.



The disciples were afraid they would die. They woke Jesus and cried, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"



Jesus got up and commanded the winds and waves to be still. "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"



Even though the disciples followed Jesus and heard His teachings, they were still afraid. They did not believe the fact that He was the Son of God.



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Peter Denies Jesus

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-One

PRAYER: Jesus, I beg Your forgiveness for every time I have ever denied You as my Savior and Redeemer. Please let my faith in You be strong enough to allow me to always stand up for You.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. We can overcome our fears through a strong faith in Jesus.
2. Like Peter, we are all human and must find ourselves in Christ to become Christians.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is faithful, even when we are not.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17, NIV)



After Jesus was taken away, Peter followed at a distance and warmed himself by a fire in the courtyard.



A servant girl saw him there, recognized him, and said, "This man was with him."



But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him."



Someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." Peter answered, "I am not!"



A while later, another claimed, "Certainly this fellow was with him..." and Peter replied, "I do not know what you are talking about!"



Just then the rooster crowed, and Peter remembered Jesus had said he would deny him three times.



Recognizing what he had done, he went outside and wept bitterly.



In John 21, Jesus reconciles Peter to himself by asking him three times, "Do you love me?"





JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Two

PRAYER: Lord, let us never forget and always honor Your sacrifice of Jesus for our chance to be saved. Your love for us is so overwhelming.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. Always remember Jesus went to the Cross to save you and me.
2. Don't waste God's love! Honor it by being saved.
3. We cannot escape from sin on our own. We all need Jesus' help.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus took the punishment for all our sins on the cross.

"[Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2. NIV)



As they went out to crucify him, they forced another man named Simon to carry his cross.



The soldiers offered Jesus sour wine to ease the pain, but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.



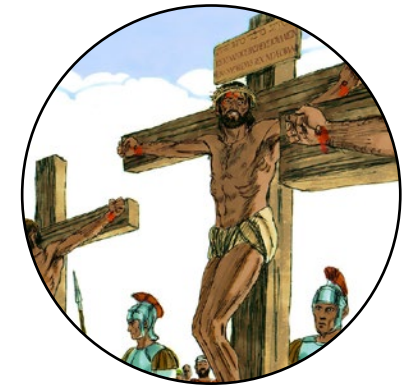
Then they crucified him, nailing him to the cross and raising it up to let him hang there until he died.



The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.



They placed a sign above his head which read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.



Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.



Those who passed by hurled insults at him saying, "Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"



Others also cried, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself!" Jesus bore all these things for our sake.





The Resurrection of Jesus

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Three

PRAYER: Lord, we feel Your love constantly. Please help us to always increase our faith in You and continue to grow as Christians. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. Jesus died on the Cross to save us.
2. God is all powerful! He can even overcome death.
3. God's patience with us is overwhelming, but we should fear it may come to an end someday and mend our sinful ways.
4. Once we believe and start building our faith, we discover what it is to be truly alive and free.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was resurrected to show He conquered sin and death on our behalf.

“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:9-11, NIV)



Three days after the crucifixion, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.



They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.



Suddenly two angels stood beside them and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



The women went back from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven disciples, but they did not believe the women.



Now two disciples were walking to Emmaus and talking about all that had happened when Jesus came and walked with them.



As they walked together, the two did not recognize Jesus. But later he revealed himself to them and then disappeared.



Jesus also appeared to Simon, and then again to the eleven in Jerusalem. He stayed with them awhile and taught them.



He took them to near Bethany and blessed them. Then he was taken up into heaven and the disciples worshiped and left with great joy.





THE ARMOR OF GOD

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Four

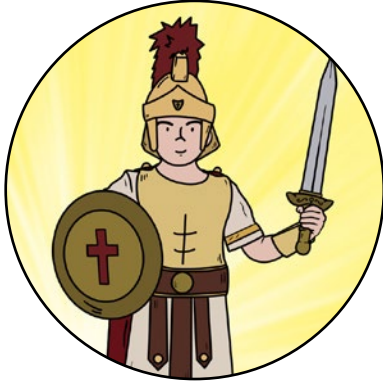
PRAYER: Lord, thank You for Your love. The armor you provide to keep us safe from the devil is such a blessing. Please allow us to use it effectively. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God wants to teach us how to protect ourselves from the devil's schemes.
2. He provides protection for us by giving us armor in the form of faith in Him.
3. He gives us a defensive weapon in His Word (The Bible). Because He loves us, He doesn't want us to fall or get tripped up by the enemy.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus gives us the victory.

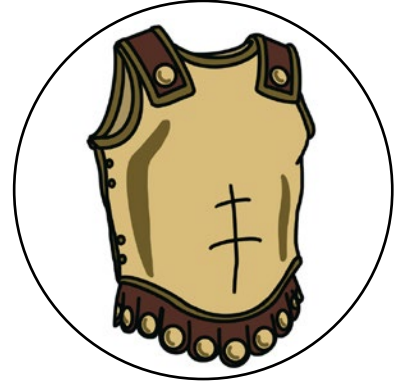
"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.." (1 John 4:4, NIV)



We must put on the full armor of God, so that we can stand against the devil's schemes.



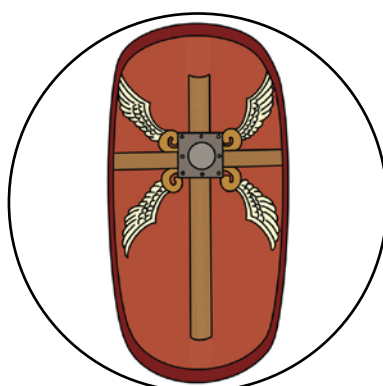
Stand firm, then, with the belt of truth buckled against your waist,



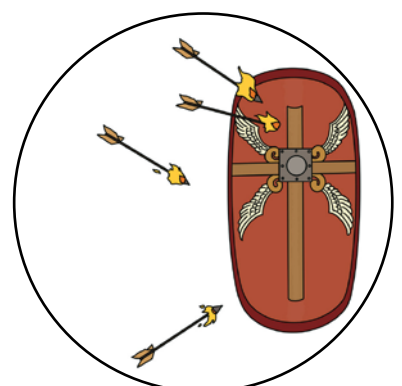
With the breastplate of righteousness in place,



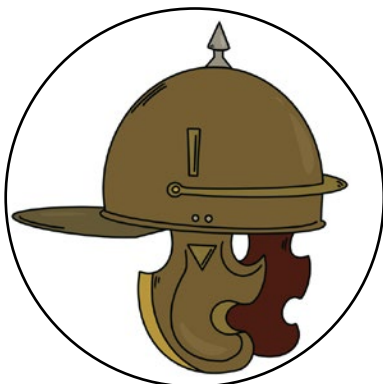
And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.



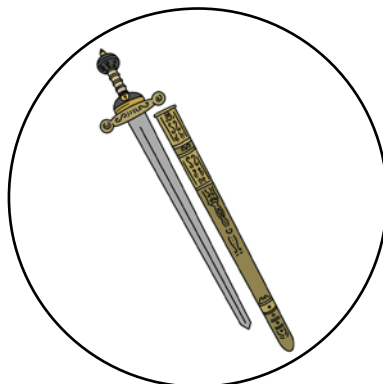
In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,



With which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.



Take up the helmet of salvation



And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.





ADAM AND EVE

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Five

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for always offering the right way. Please always give me the intelligence and willingness to choose Your way. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God loves us no matter what, and He always wants what's best for us.
2. God has given us free will, and we can choose what we want to do as we travel through life. In order to live our best life, we must all have faith in God and follow His lead.
3. God will never force you to do anything. He only offers His way, and you must follow Him by your choice.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the Seed of the woman (born of a virgin) that crushed the Serpent's head (conquered the power of evil), and is the sacrifice God made to cover our sin and shame.

“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22, NIV)



The Lord created man from dust and placed him in the garden to work it and take care of it and rule all living creatures.



God made a woman from Adam's rib and brought her to him as a helper. They were both naked and felt no shame.



The Lord commanded the man, "You must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil; if you do, you will certainly die."



Now the crafty serpent deceived Eve, causing her to question God's word and command.



The woman took fruit of the tree and ate it, and then gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he also ate it.



Then they knew they were naked because of their shame. They made clothes out of leaves and hid from God.



God found them and gave them a chance to confess, but they cast blame. God was gracious, but a curse came upon the earth because of sin.



God banished Adam and Eve from the garden, but not before covering them with a sacrifice and making them a promise to crush the serpent.





NOAH AND THE ARK

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Six

PRAYER: Dear Lord, help us to be like Noah, strong in faith and obedient to Your every command. Thank You for Your everlasting love and providing for our salvation. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God expects everyone to worship Him and obey what He teaches.
2. God readily recognizes evil and good behavior. You can never hide your actions from Him.
3. He loves us all but will bless only good behavior.
4. He made us in His image and expects us to follow His lead to the cross and salvation.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our “deliverer from the wrath to come.”

“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” (1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10, NIV)



Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. So God decided to destroy the earth with a flood.



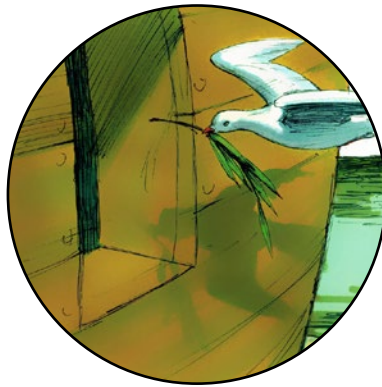
Noah walked with God faithfully, so God promised to spare him and his family, and instructed him to build an ark to save them from the flood.



God told Noah to bring a pair of every living creature onto the ark so that after the flood, they could replenish the earth.



The waters flooded the earth for 150 days.



When Noah sent out a dove and it brought back a fresh olive leaf, he knew that the waters had dried up from the earth.



God told Noah when it was safe to come out of the ark with all his family and all the animals, so they could multiply on the earth.



Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings on it. This pleased the Lord.



The Lord promised never again to destroy all living things with a flood. He gave us the rainbow as a sign of His promise.





Abraham and Sarah

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Seven

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for such a special lesson in Your truthfulness. Never let us doubt Your love for us.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God has a plan for each of us. We must seek out the Lord and follow Him to enjoy His plan.
2. Never doubt the Lord in all that He promises.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the promised Son through whom the world is blessed.

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3, NIV)



The Lord appeared to Abraham and made a covenant with him, promising He would make him the father of many nations.



Abraham fell on his face. God said, "No longer will you be called Abram; Your name will be Abraham."



God also said to Abraham, "You are no longer to call your wife Sarai; her name will be Sarah."



Earlier, Abraham's wife had tried to give him a child through her servant Hagar.



Abram asked God to bless his son Ishmael and establish the covenant with him.



But God promised that Sarah would have a son, and the promised blessing would be on him. He would be named Isaac, which means "laughter."

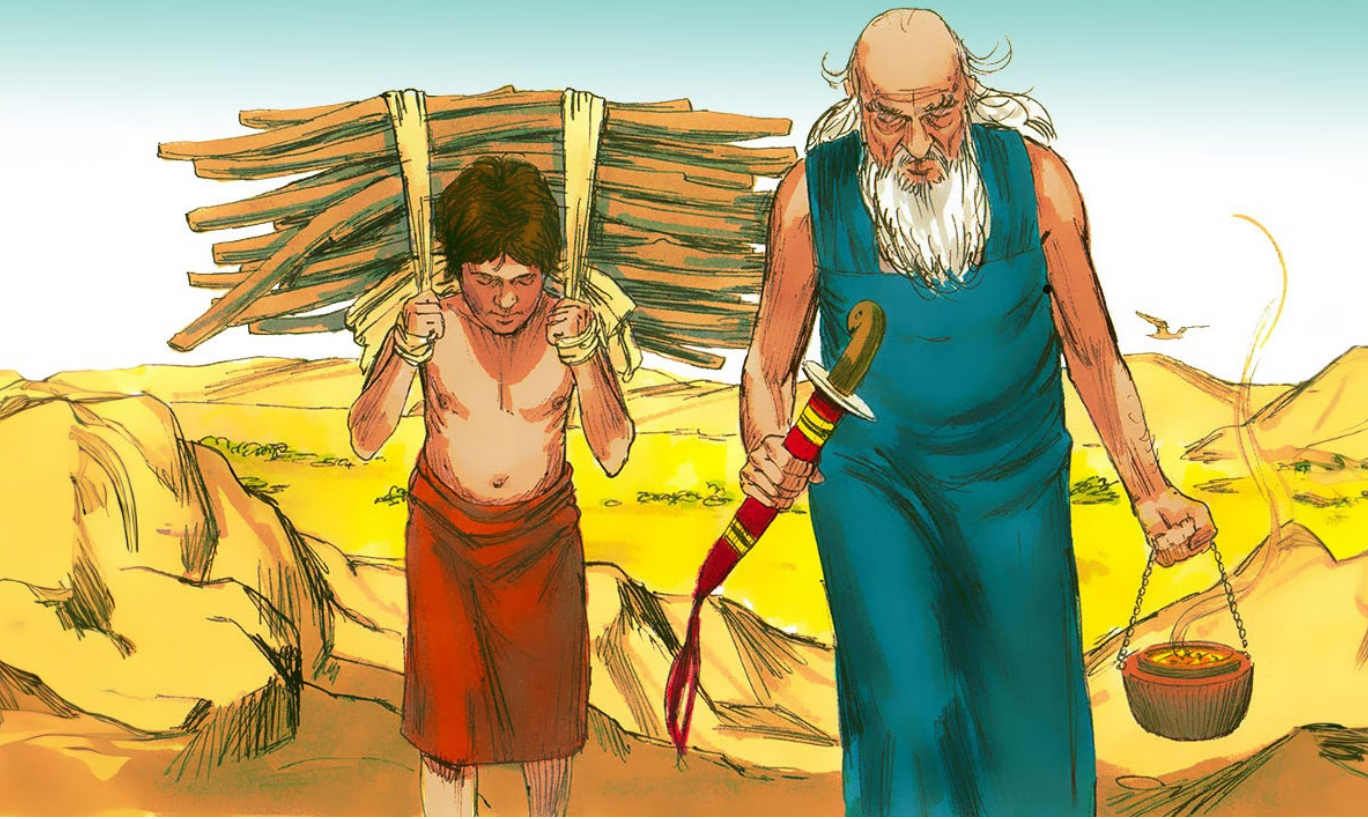


And when Sarah learned that she would have a child in her old age, she laughed in disbelief.



But God is faithful to keep His promises, and Sarah had a son.





ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Eight

PRAYER: Lord, help us to be willing to give up everything for You, even our most prized possessions, and to trust that You have better for us.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God is faithful, and He will provide all that we need when He calls us to a task.
2. God honors our obedience.
3. When we spend time with God in prayer and reading His Word, we will recognize His voice in our lives.
4. Don't be afraid to give everything to the Lord. He will always make things right.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our substitute, the “only Son” of God who died for our sins.

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2, NIV)



God tested Abraham and told him to take his “only son” Isaac, whom he loved, and sacrifice him as an offering to God.



Abraham left with servants early the next morning to do as the Lord asked of him. After three days, Abraham and Isaac continued alone.



Isaac carried the wood. Abraham carried the fire and knife. “Where is the sacrifice?” Isaac asked. Abraham said, “God will provide.”



When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.



He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar. Then he reached out his hand with the knife to kill his son.



But the angel of the LORD called out from heaven for Abraham to stop. He had demonstrated that he loved and feared God.



Abraham looked and saw a ram caught in the brush. He took it and sacrificed it in place of his son and called the place, “The Lord Will Provide.”



God spoke to Abraham again through his angel and promised to bless him and his family because he had obeyed the Lord.





JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Volume Three | Lesson Twenty-Nine

PRAYER: Father, God, please help us to see that You are with us even when we are in the middle of what looks like a bad situation, and You will never leave us.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

Sometimes bad things happen to us, and people can be mean to us, but God will never leave us, and He always protects and provides for us.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was the favored Son who was murdered while doing His father's will.

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17, NIV)



Israel loved his son Joseph more than all his other sons, so he made him a special robe. His brothers were jealous and hated Joseph.



Joseph had a dream that he would be greater than all his brothers, and they hated him even more for it.



He had another dream similar to the first and told his father too, who rebuked him.



Israel sent Joseph to check up on his brothers in the fields. When his brothers saw him coming, they plotted to kill him.



When he came to them, Joseph's brothers tore off his special robe and threw him into an empty pit.



Reuben convinced the other brothers not to kill Joseph, but instead they sold him as a slave to merchants traveling past.



They took Joseph's robe, dipped in goat's blood, and took it to their father to trick him so he wouldn't know what they did.



But the Lord was with Joseph, so he prospered wherever he went.





JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

Volume Three | Lesson Thirty

PRAYER: Lord, teach us to trust You when we face adversity. Help us not to grow bitter when people are mean to us. Teach us to forgive others as You forgive us and experience freedom from the need to get revenge.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON:

1. God uses many different people to do good things.
2. God is always concerned about and works for our well-being.
3. If we learn from our mistakes and correct our behavior, showing God we have changed to the good, He will forgive and bless us.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus was exalted to offer forgiveness to all those who demonstrate a love for the Father by repentance.

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.” (Acts 5:30-31, NIV)



Pharaoh started having dreams about a great famine coming, but he didn't know what they meant.



God gave Joseph the ability to interpret the dreams. Pharaoh put him in charge over all of Egypt to prepare for the famine.



Joseph had a family of his own. He named his first son Manasseh and his second Ephraim.



Under Joseph's orders, all of Egypt prepared for the seven years of famine which would come after the seven years of abundance.



When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food, they did not recognize Joseph. He decided to test them.



He finally revealed his identity, and forgave his brothers. They were afraid, but Joseph assured them.



He said, "God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance."



Joseph brought his whole family into the land of Egypt to survive the famine. He gave them the best land in Egypt.

