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DOCTRINE OF GOD

Natural Attributes of God—Part 1 (Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help children understand how great God is
- To help them realize that God knows everything they think, say and do
- To show them how to live in the presence of this God



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Ps.139 (Omniscient/Omnipresent/Omnipotent God)



MEMORY VERSE

Heb.4:13: Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Materials Needed:

- Bible

- Several phone books (one for every three to four children, if possible).



INTRODUCTION

Today we will learn about what God is like. He has many natural qualities, and today we will learn about three of them — His Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence.

Omniscient means that God knows all things:

- He knows exactly what X (name of a student) was doing at 4 o' clock yesterday
- He knows how many hairs are there on Y's (name of another student) head
- He knows exactly how many problems Z (name of a student) is having at school

God knows all things!

Omnipresent means that God is everywhere:

- Right now God is sitting with X, though we can't see him with our eyes
- But right now, God is also sitting with Y's mummy, who is in another place
- And right now, God is also on the moon!

God is everywhere at once!

Omnipotent means that God has the power to do all things:

- God is powerful enough to answer all of X's prayers
- God is powerful enough to send rain, when we pray for it
- God is powerful enough to bring a dead person back to life

Nothing is impossible for God!

We will now read Ps.139 which describes these three qualities of God. But I need your help while I'm reading...



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: The Phone Book

Hold up one of the phone books. Who can tell me what this is? Pause. That's right, it's a telephone book. Flip the book open to a page of listings. What do you find in a phone book? Pause. Inside a phone book, we find the names of all the people who live in or near our city. Along with each name is a phone number and the address of the house the person or family lives in.

Distribute the phone books to kids so each child can be near one. Flip through your phone book to see whether you can guess how many houses are in our city. Pause briefly for the children to flip through the pages. Have children guess how many houses might be in their city.

I don't know exactly how many houses are in [name of city], but there are a lot of them. Turn to your neighbor, and tell him or her where you live. If you don't know your exact address, tell your friend something about your house.

As kids share, retrieve the phone books. Open your Bible to Acts 17:27. The Bible says in Acts 17:27 that "God...is not far from each one of us." That means God is with each one of us at the same time, no matter where we are.

God is with us when we are in our house. Let's see how many houses that would be if we just count those of us here at the front. Have the children count off, each child giving a number.

That's [number of children] houses that God is in! Now turn around, and look at the other families here at church today. Pause briefly for the children to look at the congregation. God is in each of those houses, too. Boy, that's a lot of houses!

But God is not just in each of our houses. Acts 17:27 says, "God...is not far from each one of us." That means God's with us everywhere. Even if we leave our houses, God is with us!



TEACHING CONTENT

Story:

Rachel's mummy went to the market to buy some vegetables, leaving her alone at home for a little while. While leaving, she said to Rachel, "Remember what I told you. Don't open the door to strangers. And don't play with the ball inside the house."

After Mummy left, Rachel was all alone. So she thought, "If I play with the ball now, Mummy will not get to know." So she took out her new red ball and began to play.

She thought nobody could see her disobeying Mummy. But SOMEONE was quietly watching her disobey her mother.

Ask the children:

Who do you think was watching her? (Let them guess...)

Explain:

Even when we are all alone, God is with us. He is Omnipresent. And He knows about every wrong thing we do. Mummy didn't know that Rachel was disobeying her; but God was in the room with her and God knew.

As Rachel was playing, suddenly the ball bounced off an expensive flower vase... and it broke. Rachel was terrified that Mummy would scold her after she returned home from the market.

When Mummy got home, she asked Rachel what had happened.

Rachel said that the neighbour's cat had come inside and upset the vase. Mummy believed her and went to the neighbors to complain about the cat.

But SOMEONE knew that she was lying.

Ask the children:

Who do you think knew that Rachel was lying? (Let them guess...)

Explain:

God knows everything. When we do good things secretly, God knows about it. And when we do bad things secretly, God knows about that too. He is Omniscient.

Rachel was very scared the whole of the next day. She knew that God knew what she had done. And she was afraid that God would send a lightning bolt from heaven to strike her dead.

But nothing bad happened. Then Rachel decided that God wouldn't punish her, after all. And she stopped being scared...



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

If we do wrong things secretly, will our parents get to know about it?

[Maybe not]

If we do wrong things secretly, will God get to know about it?

[Definitely. God is Omniscient and Omnipresent]

Why do some people practice sinful things secretly, even though they know that God sees and knows?

[They probably keep on sinning because they feel confident that God won't punish them]

When God sees us sinning secretly, does he punish us?

[Sometimes God punishes directly. For instance, if you try copying in the exam, God may help the teacher catch you doing it. And you will get your punishment immediately.

But usually, we bring the punishment down on our own heads. Every time we tell a lie, or disobey, or sin secretly, we open the door to Satan. And he comes into our life and harms us in all kinds of ways. He poisons our hearts and minds so

that we will choose sinful things over godly things. He may stop us from succeeding in our studies and in other areas of life. He may even allow us to get hurt in different ways.

So every time we sin secretly, we don't benefit. Rather, we open the door to Satan, and allow him to steal, kill and destroy us (Jn.10:10)].

What if Rachel had refused to lie? What if she had honestly confessed to her mother that she disobeyed and broke the vase? What would have happened to her?

[Maybe her mother would have punished her. Or maybe her mother would have excused her.

But one thing is for sure! God would have used His Omnipotent power to reward Rachel for her honesty. He is all-powerful. And He would have used His all-powerful power to bless Rachel in some beautiful way].

Why do some people have lots of blessing in their lives? And why do some people have so few?

[God is Omnipresent. He sees everything that people do. And He blesses those who are obeying Him, just as He promised He would in the Bible (Ps.5:12).

God is Omniscient. He even knows what we're thinking in our minds. So He rewards us according to our thoughts, speech and actions.

God is Omnipotent. When He sees someone trying hard to live for Him, He uses His Omnipotent power to bless them. But if they choose to follow Satan, then He allows them to follow Satan; and Satan makes them suffer.

This is why some people enjoy so many blessings, while others struggle with so few].



APPLICATION

God is Omniscient and knows everything. This means he even knows all your thoughts.

This week, every time you have an angry thought or a jealous thought, know that God knows. And ask God to help you get rid of that negative thought.

God is Omnipresent. He is everywhere at once... He is with you even when you are all alone. So if you feel afraid when you're alone, remember immediately that He is right there beside you, and He will take care of you.

God is Omnipotent. He is all-powerful and He can solve even your most difficult problems.

So even if you're worried about something, stop being worried!

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Omniscient, Omnipresent, and Omnipotent God changed your life.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



DOCTRINE OF GOD

Natural Attributes of God—Part 2 (Eternal and Unchanging God)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the Eternal nature of God
- To assure children that God is Unchanging, and will always be there for them



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Gen. 37-50 (Unchanging God in Joseph's Changing Life)



MEMORY VERSE

Mal.3:6: "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Materials Needed:

- Small lump of play dough for each child
- One stone for each child



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How did the Omnipotent God help you throughout this week? Give examples.
- What does ‘Omniscient’ mean? Why do we call God ‘Omniscient’?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Heb.4:13)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about three important natural qualities of God—His Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence. Today we will learn about another two natural qualities of God—His Eternal nature and His Unchanging nature.

‘Eternal’ means that God has always been there. No one made God. He was always there. He existed before the earth and planets were ever made.

‘Eternal’ also means that God will continue to exist forever and ever. Nothing and no one can bring Him to an end.

So God has no beginning or end. He was always there, and He will always continue to be there.

Ask:

When did this pencil begin to exist? (Pick up a pencil and ask)

[When did the people in the factory make it]

When did the tree outside begin to exist?

[When someone put a seed in the ground, and the plant began to grow from it]

When did X (name of a student) begin to exist?

[When he/she was born inside the mother's womb]

Explain:

Everything has a beginning. But God has no beginning. He was always there. No one made Him. He is eternal.

Ask:

When will this pencil stop existing?

[When someone destroys it]

When will the tree stop existing?

[When someone chops it down and burns it up]

When will you and I stop existing?

[Never. Even after our bodies die, we will continue to live in heaven or hell]

Explain:

God will always continue to live forever and ever. He will not stop existing. In the same way, we too will live forever and ever.

Clarify:

Just like God, we too will live forever and ever. Does this mean that we are the same as God?

[No. God is special. Nobody made Him. He always existed. We started existing only after God made us]



ATTENTION GETTER

God is not only eternal, He is also unchanging.

Activity: Play Dough Figures

Give each child a small lump of play dough, and ask them to create a star. After they've done that, ask them to reshape the dough into another figure.

Next, give each child a stone. Ask them to reshape the stone into a star. As the stone is unchanging, they will not be able to do so.

Explain:

People are like the play dough. They change their shape every day.

One day, they treat us lovingly and make nice promises. They may even promise to be our best friend. But the next day, they may change their attitude and stop being friends with us.

But God doesn't change shape day after day. He is always loving, always good, and always faithful. So we can trust Him completely.



TEACHING CONTENT

Story of Joseph:

[Note: This is a lengthy story. So if the time available is limited, the teacher can pick out two good and two bad situations from Joseph's life, and focus only on those. The goal is to show that Joseph's circumstances kept changing, but God's love and support remained constant]

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name was Jacob, and they lived in Canaan—the place his grandfather was from.

Joseph was seventeen (these days it would make him old enough to study in the twelfth standard). He had eleven brothers, with only one brother younger than him. Can you imagine having eleven brothers to play with or fight with?

The Special Robe (A happy event in Joseph's life)

Because Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent more time with him, and he became very special to him. So Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. (They didn't have jackets back then, so this was a very special jacket). It was very beautiful and had every color you could imagine in it.

Jealousy of the Brothers (A sad event in Joseph's life)

All of Joseph's older brothers saw this and they got very jealous. The word 'jealous' means that Joseph's brothers disliked him (because he got the special coat, they thought their father liked him more). They got so jealous that they couldn't even say a kind word to him.

The Dreams (Something Special happens in Joseph's life)

One day Joseph had a dream, and he went to tell his brothers. He said, "Guess what? Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me." The brothers looked at each

other in disgust; but Joseph continued. "Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

"Who do you think you are?" the brothers said. "Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?" This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more.

When he told his father about his dreams he said, "Those are strange dreams." But he thought carefully about what Joseph had told him.

His Brothers Sell Him (Something Terrible happens in Joseph's life)

A few days later Joseph's father asked him to check on his brothers. They were in the fields quite a distance away. So Joseph went to find them.

When the brothers saw Joseph in the distance, they made a plan to kill him. But when Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother heard this he said, "Let's not kill him, just throw him in a well out here in the field." He said this because he was secretly planning to come back and rescue Joseph when the other brothers had left.

So when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful robe and they threw him in an empty well. A little while later a group of people came by that were wanting to sell some things in Egypt. One of the brothers spoke up, "Why don't we sell him to these people; this way we never have to see him again, and we don't have to kill him."

The other brothers liked this idea. So they sold him to the people who were going to Egypt.

Unfortunately, Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what happened. When he returned to the well, he noticed that Joseph was gone.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in animal blood, and took it back to their father. When the father saw this, he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days... so much so that nobody could comfort him.

From Slave to CEO (Good starts coming out of the Terrible situation)

Joseph had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, an assistant to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Joseph started out as a slave, but the Lord was with Joseph, and He helped him do everything right. So Potiphar made him his helper, and put him in charge of everything that he owned.

From CEO to Condemned Prisoner (The Good stops, and things become Worse)

The problem came when Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph to her husband. Because of her, Potiphar had Joseph put into jail.

From Condemned Prisoner to Top Prisoner (The Worst situation becomes slightly better)

The Lord was still with Joseph in jail, and the warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. He never worried

because the Lord was with Joseph and helped him do everything right.

Cup bearer promises a Favor (Hope begins to enter Joseph's dark world)

After Joseph had been in jail for some time, a cupbearer and baker to Pharaoh had been sent there. One night each of them had a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph and he told the cupbearer that he would soon be let out of jail. "Please tell Pharaoh about me, and ask him to get me out of here," Joseph said. When the cup bearer agreed, Joseph was very happy.

Cup bearer forgets his promise (Hopes shattered. Two more long years of Jail)

But after the cupbearer was freed, he forgot about what Joseph did. So Joseph stayed in jail for two more years.

From Prisoner to Prime Minister (Complete change from the depths to the heights)

Finally one day, the Pharaoh had a dream and nobody could explain it to him. The cupbearer then remembered what Joseph had done for him, and Joseph was brought to Pharaoh.

"Can you understand dreams?" Pharaoh asked. "I can't, but God helps me," Joseph replied. After Pharaoh had told him his dream, Joseph explained, "God is warning you. There will be seven years when nothing will grow and there won't be any food for anyone."

"What can I do?" Pharaoh asked.

"God has shown you what to do. There will be seven good years before the bad years start. They will be so good that there will be extra food for everyone. So you should save a little bit of each year's harvest. That way, you will have enough to get you through the bad years," Joseph said.

The Pharaoh believed all that Joseph told him and put him in charge of all the land of Egypt.

Family Restored (Joseph's lonely life is made full once more)

People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because the whole world was in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. (It had been over 10 years since they had seen him).

The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person... just as he dreamed they would at the beginning.

After a few meetings with his brothers he could not keep it in any longer and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So his father, his brothers and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph and they had all the food they needed.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

When God gave Joseph an important position in Potiphar's house, how much do you think God loved him?

[Lots! Joseph was just a slave. But God made him the most important officer in Potiphar's household. God showed him a lot of love when He raised him up to that high position]

Did God stop loving him after a while? Is that why Joseph got thrown into prison, even though he didn't do anything wrong?

[Circumstances change. Sometimes good things happen. And sometimes bad things happen. But God continues to love us exactly the same way. His love never reduces or changes]

If God loved Joseph, why did he allow him to be thrown into prison?

[God did not throw Joseph into prison. It was the evil wife of Potiphar who told lies and had him imprisoned.

But in spite of what she had done, God continued to show love to Joseph. Even in that horrible prison, God continued to help him and blessed him with a leadership position.

So God showed love and did good to Joseph. On the other hand, Satan did evil to Joseph, with the help of Potiphar's wife]

When I get really good friends at school, does this show God's love for me?

[Yes. He gives me good friends so that I can enjoy much fun and laughter]

When all my friends leave me, does this mean that God now hates me?

[No. God still loves me. He still wants me to have lots of fun and laughter. But my friends changed. They didn't want to love me anymore.

So people change. But God never changes]

When very painful things happen.... when a loved one dies, does this mean God doesn't love me anymore?

[No. God still loves me. He doesn't want me to suffer painful situations.

But painful things like accidents and death happen to us because we live in a world that is filled with sin]



APPLICATION

This week remember that God NEVER changes. He ALWAYS loves you lots!

Bad things may happen to you this week:

Maybe you will study hard for a test, and get poor marks. But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you. Continue to trust Him and work hard. And you will gradually see things improving... just as they did in Joseph's life.

Maybe your best friend will fight with you and stop being friends with you.

But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you.

Continue to trust Him and pray for help. And God will either give you back your friend, or He will give you a new better friend.

Maybe your parents will face a serious money problem at home.

But remember that God hasn't changed. He still loves you and He still wants to help you.

Continue to trust him and pray for help. And you will gradually see things improving... just as they did in Joseph's life.

Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Unchanging God helped you in your different situations.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



DOCTRINE OF GOD

Moral Attributes of God—Part 1



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help them see that God is Just
- To help them understand the immensity of God's Love



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Deut 10:17; Deut 32:4; Rom 6:23 (The Just God)



MEMORY VERSE

Isa.53:5: But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Materials Needed

- Biscuits
- One whole cake



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How did the Unchanging God help you throughout this week? Give examples.
- What does 'Eternal' mean? Why do we call God 'Eternal'?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Mal.3:6)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two natural qualities of God—His Eternal nature and His Unchanging nature. Today we will learn about two of His moral qualities—his Loving nature and His Just nature.

Ask the children questions, to bring out the different kinds of love:

- Name one person that you love very much
- Name the toy that you love the most
- Name the food that you love best
- Name the subject that you love very much

Explain:

We love so many things! But did you notice that we love different things differently? We love some things more and some things less.

Ask one of the students:

Do you love your parents?

Do you love your class teacher?

How much do you love your parents? (Stretch out your hands and show the measure of your love)

How much do you love your teacher? (Again stretch out your hands and show the measure of your love)

[Note: Generally, children will stretch out their hands wider (to demonstrate a greater measure of love) for their parents... rather than for their teachers]

Observe:

We love some people more and some people less. But God's love is greatest. His love is so large that even if you totally stretch out your hands, you can't show the full measure of His love!



ATTENTION GETTER

Preparations for the Activity:

Purchase biscuits. Break three of the biscuits into half. Break another biscuit into very small bits (This will leave you with three sizes—whole biscuits, halved biscuits, and smaller pieces).

Also purchase a whole cake (or bake one at home).

Arrange them on two separate plates prior to the class and keep them covered.

The Activity: Biscuit-sized Love

Uncover the plate of biscuits and explain:

The size of our love is like these biscuits.

- We give some people very little love (Demonstrate by giving a broken piece of biscuit to X—one of the students)
- We give some people more love (Demonstrate by giving a halved biscuit to X—the same student)
- But we give some people special love because they are very important to us (Demonstrate by giving a whole biscuit to X—the same student)

Explain:

So, the size of my love for X may be very little (display the broken piece of biscuit).

Or it may be a **little more** than that (display the halved biscuit). Or it may be **lots** (display the whole biscuit).

Ask:

How much do you think is the size of **God's love** for X?

- Join 3 biscuits together and ask, "Is God's love for X this big?"
- Join 7 biscuits together and ask, "Is God's love this big?"
- Join 15 biscuits together and ask, "Is it this big?"

Demonstrate:

Uncover the large whole cake and proclaim, “God’s love for X is not just biscuit size. It’s Cake-size!”

Explain:

In fact, if we attached together a million cakes of this size, God’s love for X would be larger than even that quantity! That’s how much God loves X! And that’s how much God loves everyone of you!

Elaborate:

Most people live life as if God loved them only biscuit-size.

So, even when they pray to God, they don’t really believe He’ll answer their prayers. They think in their hearts, “God loves me only a little bit. So why will He bother to answer my prayers?”

They don’t realize that God loves them very, very much.

Encourage:

In future, when you pray, remember how greatly God loves you. So pray confidently, knowing that God really cares about your prayer requests and He will definitely help you.

**TEACHING CONTENT**

God is not only a Loving God, but also a Just God. A Just God is someone who **rewards godliness** and **punishes sinfulness**.

Read Aloud:

Deut 10:17: The Lord your God is more powerful than all other gods... His decisions are always fair, and you cannot bribe Him to change His mind (CEV).

Explain:

According to this verse, God cannot be bribed. We can't say, "Lord I'll put money in the offering box. So even if I do sinful things, don't punish me."

God is just and He will definitely punish sinfulness.

Read Aloud:

Deut 32:4: The Lord is a mighty rock and He never does wrong. God can always be trusted to bring justice. But you lie and cheat and are unfaithful to Him. You have disgraced yourselves and are no longer worthy to be His children (CEV)

Explain:

According to this verse, God never does wrong. So, if we do wrong things, we can't call ourselves his children.

Read Aloud:

Rom.6:23: When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death... (CEV)

Explain:

The Bible says that the punishment for sinfulness is eternal death. This means that if we do something sinful, after death we have to live in hell forever and ever.

Ask:

If God is a loving God, why does He allow people to go to hell? Why doesn't He take everyone to heaven?

[Because He is a just God. A just God must **reward** godliness and **punish** sinfulness].

Explain:

The Bible teaches that if we do even one wrong thing (even if it's just one tiny lie), then the punishment is eternal death. After death, we will have to live in hell forever and ever.

Ask:

How many of you have done at least one wrong thing? Told at least one lie? Or become angry at least once and hurt someone in your anger? Or disobeyed your parents at least once? Or been selfish at least once? Or been jealous of someone at least once? Or disobeyed God in some other way at least once?

(Ask them to put up their hands. The teacher too must put up his/her hand if he/she has sinned at least once in life)

Explain:

The Bible teaches that all of us, who have put up our hands, must go to hell forever and ever because we have sinned at least once.

Ask:

- If God is a just God, should He send us to hell because we have sinned?

[Yes. If He didn't punish us, then He would be 'unjust']

- But God is so loving! Can't He just forget the sinful things we have done, and take us to heaven?

[He can't forget our sins because He is just. A just God has to punish sinfulness]

Explain:

As you can see, we're in a helpless condition. Because God is a just God, He must send us to hell even though He loves us very much.

This is why He came up with a different plan...

God's Plan is both Just and Loving

God decided, "I **must** punish sin. So, I will put the sinfulness of all the people on my Son, Jesus. Then I will punish Jesus instead of punishing the people."

So, when Jesus was hanging on the Cross, God put all our sins on Him! All the lies we have told, all the disobedience we have displayed, all the angry words we have spoken, all the secret sins that we have committed—all of our dirty sins—were placed upon Jesus; and Jesus died on the Cross for us.

Clarify by asking a Question:

Why did God put everybody's sin on Jesus and punish Him?

[Because God cannot ignore sin. Because sin is wrong, He **must** punish it.

- This means that God must punish everybody who sins, by sending them to hell.

However, God loves us and didn't want to send us permanently to hell.

- So God decided to place all our sins on the sinless Jesus, and allow Him to take our punishment]



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Case Study: Navin is a student of Class 3, and he has a bad habit of telling lies.

How much does God love Navin? Biscuit-size? Cake-size? Or more than that?

[More than we could ever measure or describe]

Has Navin committed at least one sin in his life?

[He has a constant habit of lying]

According to the Bible, what is the punishment for Navin?

[Eternal Death. This means that he must live in hell forever and ever]

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, did God take Navin's sins and put them on Jesus?

[Yes]

Why did God do this for Navin?

[Because God loves Navin very much. He doesn't want to punish Navin. So He punished Jesus instead]

If Jesus took Navin's punishment on the Cross, will Navin go to heaven or hell after death?

[Depends...]

- If Navin is ready to admit he is sinning (by lying and doing the other wrong things),
- If he promises Jesus to give up all his sinning,

- If he promises to live for Jesus and do whatever he says...

then he becomes a part of God’s family. So, after death, he will go to heaven.

But if Navin chooses to continue sinning... if he doesn’t want to start living for Jesus... then Jesus will not force him to change. He will not become part of God’s family; and so after death, he will go to hell]

Please Clarify:

Please clarify to the children that God loves Navin and doesn’t really want to punish him in hell. So during Navin’s lifetime on earth, God will give him hundreds of opportunities to him, to turn away from his sins and submit to Jesus’ Lordship. If Navin chooses to reject Jesus even after all these opportunities, it then becomes Navin’s fault that he goes to hell. It’s NOT because Jesus does not love him.



APPLICATION

Explain:

Just like Navin, we can choose what we want.

If we DECIDE that we don’t want to live for Jesus... if we DECIDE that we don’t want to follow Him and do what He says...

... then, in that case, the Just God will punish us one day for our sinfulness and send us to hell.

But if we DECIDE that we want to live for Jesus... if we DECIDE that we don’t want to sin any more but rather follow Jesus and do what He says...

... then, in that case, the Just God will not punish us for our sins (because He has already punished Jesus instead of us).

Rather, He will include us in His family, and we will become children of God.

- Those who reject the love of Jesus (by refusing to follow him), will only experience the justice of God. They will experience the punishment for all their sins.
- But those who choose to follow Jesus and live for him will experience both the justice and love of God. They will receive a rich reward for all the godliness in their lives. And they will enjoy His love forever and ever, both here on earth and in heaven.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer as they recommit their lives to a loving and just God. Also pray with those who're making a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time.

DOCTRINE OF GOD

Moral Attributes of God—Part 2



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help them understand that God's Faithfulness never ends
- To help them see God as completely Righteous



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Gen.9:8-17 (God's Promise to Noah)



MEMORY VERSE

Deut.7:9: Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Materials Needed : Mosquito coil, Roll of string, Finger-ring



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How did God express His great love for us? What awesome thing did He do?
- What does ‘Just God’ mean? Why do we call God ‘Just’?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Isa.53:5)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two moral qualities of God—his Just nature and His Loving nature. Today we will learn about another two moral qualities of God—His Faithfulness and His Righteousness.

“Faithful” means that God will always keep His promises. He will never forget the promises He has made to us.



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Beginning and End

State:

Almost everything has a beginning and an end.

Show:

Show the children a mosquito coil

Ask:

Where does this coil begin and where does it end? Show me the starting point and the ending point of this coil.

Next, show the children a small roll of string.

Observe:

We can see the beginning of the string, but we can't see its ending.

Ask:

Do you think this string has an ending? Maybe it has no ending. Maybe it just goes on and on forever...

(Have the children unravel the roll and show the 'ending' of the string)

Next, show the children a finger-ring.

Ask:

Where does this ring end?

Conclude:

A ring doesn't end. It goes on and on.



TEACHING CONTENT

Story of the Rainbow:

Have you ever wondered why the bride and groom exchange rings at a wedding? It indicates that the promises they have made to each other will never end, but will go on and on forever... just like the rings they have exchanged.

The Lord too has made promises to us—to protect us, to take care of us and to help us in times of trouble. And to show us that He will keep His promise, He too gave us a ring. Do you know what it is?

[**Answer:** It's a rainbow. A complete rainbow is a whole circle—just a like a ring. God gave this rainbow to show that His promises will go on and on forever. He will never forget the promises that He has made to us]

(Ask the children to check out pictures of whole rainbows on the internet (Google Images Search: "Whole Rainbow"))

How many of you have seen a rainbow? It is that beautiful arc of colors in the sky when there is rain and sun almost at the same time. Sometimes, instead of just the arc, we even get to see a whole circle. It is beautiful and it has all the colors in it!

Do you know why God made the rainbow? Many years ago, the people on earth were doing things that God did not like, and He sent rain for forty days and forty nights that covered the earth. There was a huge flood and every living thing except one good family, Noah's family, and the animals with them, died. After the flood was over and the earth started growing things again, God said that He would never destroy the world with water again. He made a promise or a covenant with Noah and his family that He would not do that again. Then He gave them the rainbow as a sign that He would always keep His promise. Is He keeping it? Yes! He has not destroyed the world by water again! Who would think of a sign like that? Only God! We don't know exactly when we will see a rainbow, or where it will be, but when we do see one, it is a very lovely reminder that, yes, God is good and He keeps His promises.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Has God given His promises to all people, or only to some people?

[All people – 1 Tim.2:4]

If God gave His promises to all people, then why do we see many people struggling and suffering in life?

[God said in Gen.4:7, “If you do the right thing, won’t you be accepted? But if you don’t do the right thing, sin will be waiting at the door ready to strike...”]

Those who do the right thing will be able to enjoy God’s promises. But those who do wrong things will be destroyed by sin. So even though God wants everyone to enjoy His promises, only those who do right are able to benefit from these promises]

God said, “If you do the right thing, I will accept you.” What do you think are ‘right things,’ and what do you think are ‘wrong things’? Name some.

[Right things: Obey God; help people; work hard, etc.]

[Wrong things: Lying, stealing, hating someone, etc.]

Different people have different ideas of right and wrong. Some people say it is right to worship idols. But some people say that it is wrong to worship idols. So whom do we believe?

[The God of the Bible is a ‘Righteous God.’ This means that He always says and does only what is right. In fact Hab. 1:13

explains, “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.”

So the God of the Bible is the only one who can tell us correctly what is right and what is wrong.

Therefore, if He says something is wrong, then it’s wrong. And if He says that something is right, then its right

So always believe God and His written Word]

What if I decide that it’s not wrong to copy in a small class test? What if my friends explain to me that copying becomes a sin only when I copy in the Final Exam? Whom should I believe?

[The God of the Bible is a ‘Righteous God:’ He knows exactly what is right and what is wrong. So, if he says that cheating is wrong, it’s always wrong—irrespective of whether it’s a small class test or the Final Exam]

What if I disagree with God? What if God says something is wrong, but I believe that it’s right? If I do wrong, will all of God’s promises continue to work in my life?

[No]

But why not? If God is a Faithful God, His promises should never end in my life, isn’t it?

[Jesus said in Jn.15:10, “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.”

God’s loving promises are like a big umbrella. As long as you do what is right, you will stay safe (remain) under the umbrella of His promises and enjoy them. But if you start

doing wrong, it's like stepping out of the umbrella. Sin will then attack you and harm you].



APPLICATION

Ask the children to prepare a list of things that the world considers as right, but which God considers as wrong:

Sample:

World says	God of the Bible says
It's holy to worship idols	It's sinful to worship idols
It's okay to lie if it can help you escape punishment	It's NEVER okay to lie
It's 'funny' to use bad language	It's a sin to use bad language
It's okay to watch any TV program	We must watch only good and godly programs

After you've prepared a short list, encourage the children to hold onto these truths and choose to do what the Righteous God says is correct.

Encourage: Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you chose to believe and obey God rather than the world.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



DOCTRINE OF GOD

El Rohi—God Our Shepherd



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that the Good Shepherd will take care of them in every way
- To assure that He will never abandon them (the way a hired person would)



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Ps.23:1: The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.



MEMORY VERSE

Ps.23:1: You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.

Materials Needed:

Photocopies of the Sheep maze



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- What does 'Faithful God' mean? Why do we call God 'Faithful'?
- Different people believe differently about right and wrong? How do we decide what is actually right?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Deut.7:9)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt about two moral qualities of God, His Faithfulness and His Righteousness. This week we will learn in what way the Lord is our Shepherd.

Psalm 23:1 describes God as El Rohi in the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew word "El Rohi" means 'God the Shepherd.'



ATTENTION GETTER

The Student Workbook contains a 'Sheep Maze' activity. Turn to the Maze and narrate the story.

In this picture we see a sheep that is lost. The sheep got distracted by all the interesting things by the road side, and it drifted away from the shepherd.

For a little while the sheep was very happy. It played among the bushes and flowers. It rolled about in the grass. And it happily chased the butterflies.

But when evening came and it started to grow dark, the sheep got scared. It began to miss the shepherd and wished it had never left him. Scared and desperate for help the sheep began to call out, “Baa... baa... baa...”

The shepherd heard it calling out and he felt sorry for it. He DID NOT think, “That sheep is so naughty. It’s always running away. It never listens to me. So I’ll leave it behind.” Rather he thought, “My little sheep must be feeling so scared. I must go and find it immediately.”

The shepherd loved his sheep even though it disobeyed him sometimes.



TEACHING CONTENT

The Bible says that God is also like a shepherd. He loves us in the same way that the shepherd loves his sheep.

If God is our shepherd what does that make us? (Sheep)

Did you know that we are a lot like sheep? Can anyone think of a way we might be like sheep?

(Examples: We disobey and go away from God sometimes—just like sheep.

We get into serious problems and are unable to come out of them on our own.

Just like sheep, we are not able to protect ourselves in times of danger, etc.)

Sheep need a shepherd to **guide** them, **protect** them and **help** them. We need God to guide us, protect us and help us too.

Tangled up

Sometimes sheep get themselves **tangled** up in brambles because they aren't looking where they are going. Their fleece is thick and the more they try to free themselves the more stuck they become. The shepherd has to come and set the sheep **free**.

Fall over

Sometimes sheep **fall over** and can't get up by themselves. The shepherd has to come and **help** them up.

Lost

Sheep don't always pay attention to where they are going. Sometimes they are so concerned about what they are eating that they tend to wander off and get **lost and the shepherd has to go out and look for them**.

We need God to help us just like sheep need a shepherd to help them when they get in trouble. We need God to help us do the right things. Sheep need the shepherd to save them when they are in trouble. We need Jesus to save us from our sins. He died for us so we can be forgiven of our sins and live forever with Him in heaven.

We are a lot like sheep. There are so many things going on around us that we sometimes forget about God and what He wants us to do. Instead of reading our Bibles and praying, we **wander off** to do other things. We need the Holy Spirit to **guide us and remind us about God**.

Protection

Sheep can't **protect themselves** very well. They don't have sharp claws or sharp teeth and they don't run very fast. The

shepherd has to protect his sheep from dangerous animals. He carries a rod or stick that he uses to fight off any wild animals. **We also need God's protection.** We can go to Him when we are in trouble or scared and He will comfort us.

God is our Shepherd. He is a good Shepherd. A good shepherd knows each one of his sheep by name. He not only knows their names, but he knows everything about them. He knows what they sound like. He can tell by the way they cry if they are in trouble, or lost, or sick. God, Your Shepherd, knows everything about you. He loves you just the way you are, bad things and all. He knows when you are sad, or happy, or lonely.

A good shepherd never leaves his sheep alone (Psalm 23:6) God will never leave you because He is your Good Shepherd (Matthew 28:20).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and **NOT** by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.

Read aloud John 10:11-15:

I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep, and they know Me. Just as the Father knows Me, I know the Father, and I give up my life for my sheep.

Discuss:

Does a good shepherd lay down (or give) his life for the sheep?

(Yes.)

What do you think this means?

(The good shepherd would risk his or her own life to protect the sheep.)

What does a hired hand do when he or she sees the wolf coming?

(Runs the other way leaving the sheep behind.)

What happens to a flock of sheep if there is no shepherd?

(They may be attacked by a wolf and get scattered.)

As our good shepherd, what did Jesus do for us?

(When we sin, our sinful actions give Satan permission to destroy our lives.

On the Cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sinful actions. He took the punishment that we should get.

So now, if we choose to follow Jesus and live for Him, He can protect us from the attacks of Satan)

How can we be good sheep?

(By always following the Shepherd. By never leaving him through our disobedience)



APPLICATION

Ask the children to make three specific commitments:

“In what three ways will I obey and follow the Good Shepherd during this week?”



ACTIVITY

Encourage: Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you chose to obey and follow the Good Shepherd.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



DOCTRINE OF GOD

El Shaddai—Almighty God



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that God can defeat all our giants
- To show that we must look at our giants through God's eyes



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Sam.17 (Almighty God helps Weak David)



MEMORY VERSE

Eph.3:20: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

Materials Needed:

Saucer, Mixture of sugar and staples, Magnet



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How did Jesus the Good Shepherd show us His love?
- What must we do if we want to be good sheep?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Ps.23:1)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt an important name of God, El Rohi. Rohi means 'Shepherd.' God loves us the same way a good shepherd loves his sheep.

Today we will learn another important name of God, El Shaddai. Shaddai means 'All-powerful.' God is so powerful that He can do anything for us.



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Sugar n Staples

Spread sugar in a saucer (the sugar must contain the staples from a stapler)

- Explain: God wants our lives to be sweet, like this sugar.

Point to the staples in the sugar mixture

- Explain: But Satan sows troubles into our lives. They are like sharp and pointed staples that hurt us badly.

Observe: We usually don't have the power to remove the painful staples in our lives. We need the power of God to help us.

Pass a magnet over the saucer. All the staples will attach themselves to the magnet.

Explain: The magnet is powerful enough to get rid of all the staples, and make the sugar sweet and safe once again. In the same way, God is powerful enough to get rid of all our problems, no matter how big and impossible they are.



TEACHING CONTENT

Story of David and Goliath

While David was in his father's field tending his sheep, King Saul and his army was preparing for a battle against the Philistines.

Let's read 1 Samuel 17:3

King Saul and the Israelite army set up camp on a hill overlooking Elah Valley, and they got ready to fight the Philistine army that was on a hill on the other side of the valley.

Story Contd:

The two armies were in position to fight. Each army was camped on a hill and could see the other camp. If one of the armies started to move down the hill into the valley, the other army would see and could attack them as they went into the valley. So each army sat still to see which army would make the first move.

The army of Israel got some entertainment from the Philistines every day. Let's see if it's the kind of entertainment you would want each day.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 17:4-10

The Philistine army had a hero named Goliath who was from the town of Gath and was over nine feet tall. He wore a bronze helmet and had a bronze armor to protect his chest and legs. The chest armor alone weighed about one hundred twenty-five pounds. He carried a bronze sword strapped on his back, and his spear was so big that the iron spearhead alone weighed more than fifteen pounds. A soldier always walked in front of Goliath to carry his shield. Goliath went out and shouted to the army of Israel:

Why are you lining up for battle? I'm the best soldier in our army, and all of you are in Saul's army. Choose your best soldier to come out and fight me! If he can kill me, our people will be your slaves. But if I kill him, your people will be our slaves. Here and now I challenge Israel's whole army! Choose someone to fight me!

Story Contd:

Goliath was taunting Israel and challenging one person to fight him. If the Israelite soldier lost, then all the Israelites would then become slaves of the Philistines.

King Saul and his army belonged to the Living God. He was the One who fought their battles. But God's people forgot Who was on their side. They allowed their enemy to terrify them. Instead of trusting God to fight their enemy, they were paralyzed by fear. For forty days they lived in fear even

as Goliath came out every morning and evening, shouting and challenging Israel to fight him.

Back in Bethlehem, Jesse was thinking about his three oldest sons who were in Saul's army. He hadn't seen or heard from them for awhile and he wanted to know how they were doing. He called for David who was tending his sheep. "David, please take this grain and ten loaves of bread to your brothers who are fighting in Saul's army. I would like you also to take ten blocks of cheese to give to the captains of their army. Will you please find out how your brothers are doing while you are there?"

David found someone to take care of the sheep while he was away and went to visit his brothers, just as his father had commanded. When David arrived at the army of Israel's camp, he showed up just in time for Goliath's daily taunt. Imagine David's surprise as he heard this 9 foot tall giant shouting, "Send me a soldier and I will fight him alone. If you win the battle then we will be your servants. We will serve you. But if I win the battle then you will become our servants and you will serve us. I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man today that we may settle this matter now!"

David must have turned to look at the armies of the Living God to see what they were going to do with this big, angry giant who would defy God and His army. As he turned to look they all ran away in fear (1 Samuel 17:24). David must have been surprised by the fear of Saul's army. He began to ask them questions. "Why will no one fight him? You are God's army. Who is this unclean, ungodly Philistine who would dare defy God's army?" David didn't understand why they would not trust God's power to help them.

Some men told Saul about David and he wanted to meet with him. David knew that God had power over all His enemies and he stood before King Saul very bravely. He said, “Do not let the men’s hearts fear because of this giant. I am your servant and I will go and fight with this Philistine.”

As Saul looked at David, he saw a young man. To fight in an army a man had to be 20 years old. David wasn’t even old enough to fight in Saul’s army. Saul said, “You are not able to go against this Philistine and fight him, you are just a young man and this man has been fighting in the Philistine army since he was a young man.”

“I can do it King Saul, because God will help me. I am responsible for taking care of my father’s sheep. One time I had to kill a lion and another time I had to kill a bear to protect the sheep. If God can help me to kill a lion and a bear with my bare hands, He will help me to win against this Philistine giant who has defied the armies of the Living God.”

King Saul must have been impressed with David’s courage and faith in God’s power. He told David it would be OK for him to fight Goliath and gave him his armor to wear. David was unable to move around in Saul’s armor; so he took it off and headed out to battle in his own clothes. With his shepherd’s staff in one hand, David leaned down and chose five smooth stones from a stream and placed them in his shepherd’s bag.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 17:41-44

Goliath came toward David, walking behind the soldier who was carrying his shield. When Goliath saw that David was just

a healthy, good-looking boy, he made fun of him. "Do you think I'm a dog?" Goliath asked. "Is that why you've come after me with a stick?" He cursed David in the name of the Philistine gods and shouted, "Come on! When I'm finished with you, I'll feed you to the birds and wild animals!"

Story Contd:

Goliath mocked the young shepherd boy who was coming out to fight him. But David was trusting God's power and wasn't afraid. Let's read his response in 1 Samuel 17:45-47.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 17:45-47

David answered:

You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I've come out to fight you in the name of the Lord All-Powerful. He is the God of Israel's army, and you have insulted him too!

Today the Lord will help me defeat you. I'll knock you down and cut off your head, and I'll feed the bodies of the other Philistine soldiers to the birds and wild animals. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a real God. Everybody here will see that the Lord doesn't need swords or spears to save his people. The Lord always wins his battles, and he will help us defeat you.

Story Contd:

If David was going to fight Goliath in his own strength and power he would fail. So David wasn't trusting in his own

strength but in the Name of the Lord Almighty. It is only through God’s power that enemies can be defeated.

Goliath came forward to meet David and as he did, David reached into his shepherd’s bag and took one smooth stone and placed it in his sling. He wound up the sling and as the sling sailed through the air, God guided that stone with speed and accuracy. It hit Goliath smack in the middle of his forehead. The giant who dared defy God and His army fell flat on his face and was a defeated foe.

David was willing to trust God and His power, and God used him to fight against this ungodly enemy. From time to time, all of us face some kind of enemy that either causes us to be afraid, sad, angry, etc. Just as God gave David power to fight his enemy, the Holy Spirit living in your heart will give you power to fight whatever battles come into your life.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Why were King Saul and his army afraid?

(Goliath taunted them every day for 40 days)

What did Jesse ask David to do?

(Take food to his brothers and see how they were doing)

Why was David not afraid of Goliath?

(He knew that God was on his side)

Why did Saul think David couldn't fight Goliath?

(He was too young)

How did God prepare David to fight Goliath?

(When he was a shepherd, God gave him power to fight off animals that tried to hurt the sheep)

How did David fight with Goliath:

a) with his fists b) with Saul's armor and weapons or c) with the Lord's power?



APPLICATION

Ask the children to name some specific giants that they're struggling with in their lives (regarding studies, teasing at school, financial crisis at home, etc.)

Motivate them to trust and pray to El Shaddai, the Almighty God. He will defeat all their giants **if they'll do their part sincerely** (just as David did his part sincerely).

What is my part?

If its studies, then I must work hard. And God will help me to score good marks

If it's teasing at school, I must discuss the issue with my parents. And God will take care of the rest, etc.

Encourage: Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how the Almighty El Shaddai helped you to overcome your personal giants.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOCTRINE OF GOD

Jehovah Jireh—God Our Provider



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To assure that God will provide for all our needs
- To show the importance of obedience



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Gen. 22 (God provides for Abraham)



MEMORY VERSE

Gen.22:14: 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.”

Materials Needed:

Unopened flower bud



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How can we win over troubles that are too great for us to solve or overcome?
- Through whose eyes should we look at our problems —so that they shrink in size and dissolve?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Eph.3:20)



INTRODUCTION

Last week we learnt that the Bible describes God as El Shaddai or ‘All-powerful.’ Today we will reflect on another name of God, Jehovah Jireh.

Jehovah Jireh literally means “The Lord Who Will See to It.” The Lord will see to it that our needs are always met!



ATTENTION GETTER

Show the children an unopened flower bud (preferably the bud of a simple, common flower), and ask:

Do you know when this little flower bud was born? When did it first take shape?

[No]

Do you know in whose garden/ or on which road side it was born?

[No]

Did you ever provide water for this little bud?

[No]

Did you ever pray for this bud, that God would take care of it?

[No]

Observe:

None of us know anything about this little bud. And we didn't do anything to help it.

Why? Because it's not an important or special flower.

However, even though none of us cares about it, God cares. Look at how God has provided for this flower bud:

Point out the green sepals surrounding the unopened bud:

Explain:

Look at the green sepals hiding the petals. God put them around the little bud to protect it. He knew that this little bud was being born into a tough world. Maybe nobody would remember to even water it. So the Lord provided it with green sepals that would protect it from the heat of the sun and shelter it, until the flower grows big and strong.

Ask:

If God takes so much care of an unimportant flower that will die in a few days, will not God take care of us whom He has created in His own image?



TEACHING CONTENT

Story of the Sacrifice of Isaac

Abraham and Sarah dearly loved their new baby boy. They cuddled him and fed him. They played with him and giggled

when he wrapped his little hand around one of their fingers. They laughed when he smiled for the first time, and they were absolutely thrilled when he spoke his first word. Somehow, before they even knew what had happened, he was walking and talking and had grown to be a young man. Isaac was the joy of their lives.

Abraham spent a lot of time with Isaac, teaching him to love and obey God. He told Isaac the story about how God had talked with him and told him to count the stars. He made sure that Isaac knew he was a special child that had been promised by God. As Isaac grew, he learned to worship God just as his father Abraham did.

One day God spoke to Abraham: "**A--bra-ham . . .** "

"I am here," Abraham replied.

"Take your son Isaac, whom you love so much, and go into the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering. I will tell you which mountain when you get there," God commanded.

Abraham loved Isaac more than anything else in the *whole world* and would **never** do **anything** to hurt his son, but he knew he had to obey the voice of God.

Early in the morning, Abraham got up and put a saddle on his donkey. He called for Isaac and two of his young servants. They all went together to chop wood for the sacrifice. Then they started on their journey toward the place God had told Abraham to go.

For *three* days they traveled, eating food they had taken with them and sleeping on the ground. On the third day, Abraham looked into the distance and saw the place where God was leading him.

"You stay here with the donkey while I take Isaac with me to go worship God," Abraham said to his servants.

Abraham picked up the wood and gave it to Isaac to carry. Then he picked up his torch in one hand and his knife in the other, and they started toward the mountain together. While they were walking, Isaac began to wonder about some things. Finally, he just *had* to ask.

"Hey, Dad. I have the wood, and you have the fire, but we didn't bring an animal. Don't we need a lamb for the sacrifice?"

Abraham, fully believing that God had everything under control, spoke quietly:

"Yes, Isaac. God will provide Himself a lamb for the burnt offering."

When they finally arrived at the exact place God had told him of, Abraham started looking for large rocks to build the altar. Carefully he placed one rock on top of another until the job was done. After that, he placed the wood, which Isaac had carried, on top of the altar. Then, after looking around one last time, he had to do the very hardest thing he had ever done in his whole life.

He gave Isaac one last, long hug, and with tears in his eyes, he tied up his son and placed him on the altar. Of course,

Isaac didn't want to be sacrificed as a burnt offering, and Abraham, as a loving father, didn't want to do it, but they both knew they had to obey God, so there was no struggle between them.

Abraham picked up his knife. . . .

He raised it high in the air above his head. . . .

Just as he was getting ready to kill his own son, he heard the voice of the angel of the Lord cry out from heaven:

"ABRAHAM . . . **ABRAHAM!**"

"I am here," Abraham replied.

"**DON'T KILL YOUR SON! DON'T HURT HIM!** For now I know that you respect *God*. You love Him more than anything else, even more than your own son."

Abraham looked up, and there -- right in front of him -- was a ram caught in the thick bushes. Abraham quickly untied Isaac, then caught the ram and put it on the altar. Abraham used his knife to kill the sacrifice, then used the torch to light the fire.

There on the mountain, Abraham and Isaac worshipped the Lord together. They called the name of that place "Jehovah-jireh," which means, "God is my provider."

The angel of the Lord called from heaven to Abraham a second time, saying:

"Because you have done this and have not withheld even your son from me, I will bless you and you will have many

descendants, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed because of you."

Abraham and Isaac walked down the mountain together, rejoicing that the Lord had provided the ram and made another great promise to them. They met the servants at the bottom of the mountain, and they all started on their three-day journey back home.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Why was Abraham not afraid to sacrifice Isaac?

[Abraham knew that when we obey him, the Lord will provide. So, when Isaac questioned him about the sacrificial lamb, he confidently said to his son, "My son... God will provide the lamb" (Gen22:8)]

If God asks us to obey a very difficult order from him, should we be afraid to do so?

[No. God will take care of us]

Gen.22:14 says, "Abraham named that place 'The LORD Will Provide.' And even now people say, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'"

Does this mean that God will provide for our needs only on mountain tops?

[God will provide for us in the Place/Position of Obedience. Abraham obeyed God on the mountain. We may be asked

to obey God in different settings—in the classroom, on the playground, at the shopping mall, etc. Wherever we're asked to obey, we must do it. When we get into this position of obedience, God will provide for us].

Gen.22:3 says, “So Abraham got up early the next morning and chopped wood for the fire. He put a saddle on his donkey and left with Isaac and two servants for the place where God had told him to go.”

According to this verse, how long did Abraham wait before obeying God?

[He obeyed immediately]

Gen.22:10-11 says, “He then took the knife and got ready to kill his son. But the Lord's angel shouted from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’”

Did God provide for Abraham and Isaac on time? Or did God delay?

[God always provides on time]

Sometimes even when we're in need, nothing happens. Why?

[One of the main reasons why our needs go unmet is because of our disobedience. 1 Jn.3:22 says, “He will give us whatever we ask, because we obey him and do what pleases him.”]

Deut.4:40: Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

- **According to this verse, why must we obey the Lord always?**

Pro.13:13: Whoever scorns instruction will pay for it, but whoever respects a command is rewarded.

- **According to this verse, what benefit do the obedient enjoy?**

Eph.6:1-3: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

- In these verses, what does God command us to do?
- What reward does God promise if we obey him?



APPLICATION

Ask the children to think of one main area in which they usually disobey God

(It may be in the area of obeying parents; or losing their temper and hurting others; or it may be telling lies; etc.)

Lead them in making a commitment to consciously obey God, in that area, throughout the next week. And have them thank God in advance, for all the needs He is going to meet the next week (Assure them He will do so because He is Jehovah Jireh. He is the God who “**sees to it**” that our needs are met)

Encourage: Next week, make sure that you come with a testimony of how you chose to obey the Lord in your areas of weakness.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

