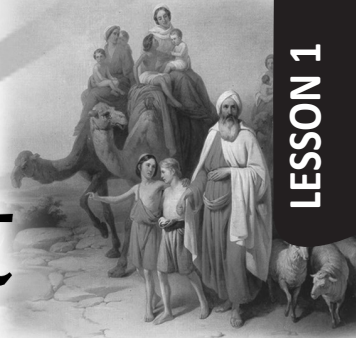


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Old Testament



Genesis



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce the children to the Old Testament.
- To help them understand that the covenant God made with Abraham includes both physical and spiritual blessings.
- To assure children they can be part of the Abrahamic promise and all the promises in the Bible by faith in Jesus.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis chapters 12, 13, 15, 17 and 22



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 1:3 (CEV) "Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!"



INTRODUCTION

The Old Testament is a collection of thirty-nine books. These books contain the fulfillment of the covenant and promises God makes with Abraham.

The promises of:

- A Great Nation
- Land
- And Seed

The covenant God makes with Abraham was not just a physical blessing of an everlasting possession of the land, a great nation as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore and overcoming their enemies. It is spiritual blessing as well.

It is a Spiritual blessing as well because through the covenant God makes with Abraham God intended to bring salvation to all the nations on earth—to the entire human race. God did this through the Seed—His Son—Jesus.



The fulfillment of most of the promises happened way in the future. In his lifetime, Abraham was able to see the fulfillment of just one of the promise—a son. Yet, Abraham believed that God was faithful in keeping His covenant He made with him.

At the end of this series we will see how God was faithful and fulfilled the covenant He made with Abraham.

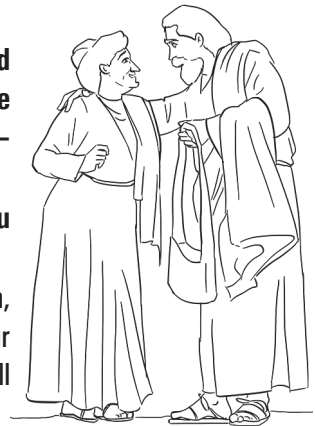


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did God make His Covenant and choose to carry out His plan for the entire mankind through just one man—Abraham?

The following passages will help you find the answer:

Genesis 12:1: “The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you ...’”



Genesis 12:4: "So Abram left, as the Lord had told him ..."

Hebrews 11:8: "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

Genesis 26:4-5: "... all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commandments, my decrees, and my laws."

Genesis 15:6: "Abraham believed in the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Genesis 22:18 says, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." Who is the seed referred to in this verse? To find the answer read Galatians 3:16.

God made the promises to Abraham and his descendants many thousands of years ago. Today, how does it help us to know the promises God made to him?

The following passages will help you find the answer:



Genesis 12:1-3: "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will

make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 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 22:17-18: “... and your descendants shall possess the gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Galatians 3:26-29: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

God promised Abraham in Genesis 17:8 that the whole land of Canaan, He will give as an everlasting possession (a possession for eternity) to Abraham and his descendants after him. We know that the earth will be destroyed one day; then why did God say it will be an everlasting possession?

**Did Abraham understand this Covenant as a physical or a spiritual blessing?
To find the answer, read Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16.**



APPLICATION

The physical promises regarding the land of Israel and being part of the nation of Israel apply only to the Jewish people. The spiritual promises apply to all who by faith in Jesus receive the promises God made to Abraham.

What are the spiritual blessings that we receive as a result of our faith in Jesus;

- Redemption from the curse of sin which is death.
- Restoration in our relationship with God.
- We become sons, daughters of the great, big family of God.
- Victory over our enemy the devil.

This is not all but there are many more blessings. Listed below are a few of the spiritual blessings we have received as a result of our faith in Jesus. It is not enough to merely read and know about the blessings, but like Abraham we need to believe, speak and live a life of obedience and unquestioning faith to see these blessings become a reality in our lives.

Eternal Life

1 John 2:24-25: "See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what He promised us—even eternal life."



Child of God

John 1:12-13: “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

Access to God

Ephesians 3:12: “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

God’s love

1 John 3:1: “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

Chosen by God

Ephesians 1:4: “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

Created to do good works

Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

His care when I feel weak

1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (Cast your burdens)

God’s strength to do all I need to do

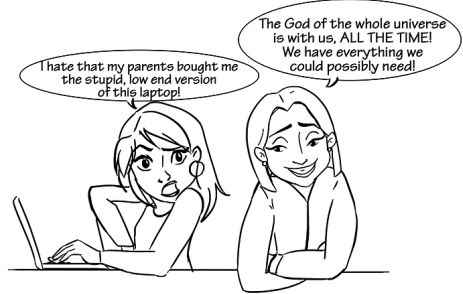
Philippians 4:13: “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

Peace with God. Peace is based on Christ and not my emotions

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

God will not leave or forsake me

Hebrews 13:5: “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”



Eternal inheritance—Heaven

John 14:2-3: “In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Being an overcomer

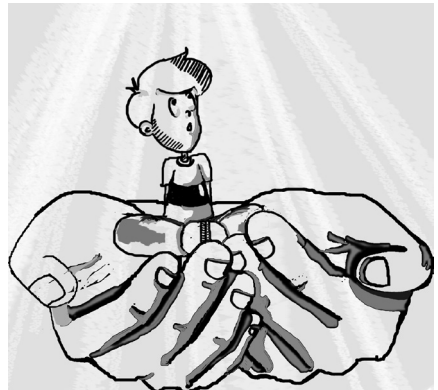
1 John 5:4, 5: “for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

God works in me to be like Him

Philippians 1:6: “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Living hope

1 Peter 1:3-5: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.”



God's help

Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Made complete in Christ

Colossians 2:10: "And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority:"

Nothing can separate me from God's love

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Write down five blessings you would like to appropriate in your life. Believe in it and speak them into your life today and this week.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

What difference did it make in your life this week in believing and speaking the spiritual blessings you received as a result of your faith in Jesus?



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

www.BibleWordSearchPuzzles.com

Read the below promises and find the underlined words in the puzzle.

Mark 9:23: “Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.

2 Peter 1:3 - 4: “as his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Philippians 4:11-13: “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Romans 8:28-31: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom he justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”



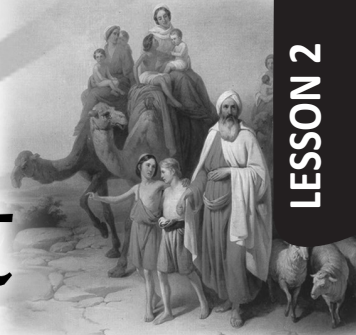
ABASED
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 BELIEVE
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 CONTENT
 DIVINE
 ESCAPED
 EXCEEDING
 FIRSTBORN
 FOREKNOW

GLORIFIED
 GLORY
 GODLINESS
 HUNGRY
 IMAGE
 JUSTIFIED
 LIFE
 LUST
 NATURE
 PERTAIN

POSSIBLE
 PRECIOUS
 PROMISES
 PURPOSE
 RESPECT
 SPEAK
 STATE
 SUFFER
 THINGS
 VIRTUE



Old Testament



Israelite's Wilderness Experience



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Even though we sin, God is faithful in keeping His promises.
- Children will learn the difference between choosing temporary earthly things that pass away and spiritual things that are eternal or that lasts forever.
- Children will learn the importance and consequences of choosing things that are eternal over things that are temporary.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Exodus chapter 14 and 16; Exodus 19:1-2,20; 32:1-6; Numbers 13:1-2; 17-21; 26-33; Numbers 14



MEMORY VERSE

1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."



INTRODUCTION

After Abraham's death God reconfirmed the same promise to Abraham's son, Isaac and to Isaac's son, Jacob whose name God later changed to Israel. Israel means "Overcomer with God." God gave him this name because one day Jacob wrestled all night with God and did not let go until God promised to bless him.

Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob. His brothers who were jealous of Joseph sold him into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt where he went through many ups and downs in his life. But God was with him through every situation because Joseph obeyed and feared God. Eventually God raised Joseph to a position that was second only to Pharaoh. After a time of great famine in the land of Canaan; Jacob and his eleven sons along with their families (70 in all) were forced to go to Egypt. There the pharaoh was kind to them because they were the relatives of Joseph. They lived and prospered in the land of Egypt. We read in Exodus chapter 1 that this family of 70 grew and became so exceedingly numerous that the land of Egypt was filled with them.

For four hundred years after Joseph's death, the Israelites still lived among the Egyptians. They prospered and grew in numbers until another Pharaoh began to see them as a security risk and made them all slaves. (Exodus 1:8-11). The Israelites cried out to God in their suffering and pain. God heard their cry and saw the sufferings of his people—Israel. God was gracious and intervened by raising—Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt and take them to the promise land—Canaan. Since the Pharaoh was stubborn and hard hearted he did not let go of the Israelites. To punish the Pharaoh God sent ten plagues that destroyed most of Egypt. The last and most awful punishment happened when the angel of death passed over all the land of Egypt and killed every firstborn male of the Egyptians both human and of animals. Finally Pharaoh had to let the Israelites go.

Thus we see that God fulfilled three promises He made to Abraham:

- His descendants will be numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore.
- God will bless those who bless Abraham's descendants and curse those who curse them.
- For four hundred years his descendants would be strangers in a country not their own, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated. God said He would punish the nation they served as slaves and afterwards they would come out with great possessions.

Last week, we learnt that the promises God made with Abraham were both physical and spiritual. The verse in Hebrews states that though Abraham understood that the promise of a physical land was temporary and conditional he looked forward for a better country—a heavenly one which was eternal.

Compared to Abraham who looked forward to receive eternal blessings his descendants the Israelites were more interested in temporary rather than the eternal blessings.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why was Moses' attitude different to that of the Israelites? To find the answer, read Hebrews 12:24-26.

What does Jesus teach us regarding choosing things that are eternal? To find the answer, read Matthew 6:19-21.



What are some of the temporary treasures people seek after?





Why is Jesus asking us not to lay up treasures on earth? To find the answer, read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

How do we lay up treasures in heaven? To find the answer, read Matthew 19:16-22.

Thank you so much for letting me wear your dress and jewellery tonight! I've never worn anything like this before in my life!



Actually, why don't you just keep it? It's a perfect fit!

Did you know that God loves you so much that He sent His own Son to pay for your sins?



Handwriting lines for notes.

Look up the verses below to see what the Bible teaches us about loving and desiring things of the world that are temporary?

1 John 2:15-17





















Handwriting lines for notes.

Colossians 3:2

Handwriting lines for notes.

How should we use the temporary treasures we have? To find the answer read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Luke 16:9.

Read the following list. Circle 'thumbs up' for choices that represent eternal values and 'down' for choices that are not:

- Saying a prayer—thanking God before you eat your meals.  
- Copying in a test or exam.  
- Reading the Bible every day.  
- Joining a few friends and making fun of other children in your class.  
- Making friends with someone who is lonely in your class.  
- Grumbling and complaining about the food your mother makes.  
- Doing your chores (cleaning your room, studying etc.) cheerfully.  
- You don't attend church because on Sunday morning you like to watch TV or prefer not to wake up early.  
- Constantly demanding that your parents get you what your friends have.  
- Using part of your pocket money to help the poor. Deciding not to buy one more shoe or clothes so you can give that money to an orphanage or to a mission organisation.  

- Instead of buying new clothes on your Birthday you use that money to buy Bibles to give your friends as your Birthday gift for them. 👍👎
- To avoid getting punished you choose to lie to your parents and teachers. 👍👎
- Listening to gospel music rather than listening to music with lyrics that are morally degrading or words that are filthy. 👍👎
- Watch movies and TV programs that build your spirit man than watching things that are morally degrading. 👍👎
- Using your talent to build God's Kingdom. 👍👎
- Use bad language because it is common in your school and it's cool. 👍👎

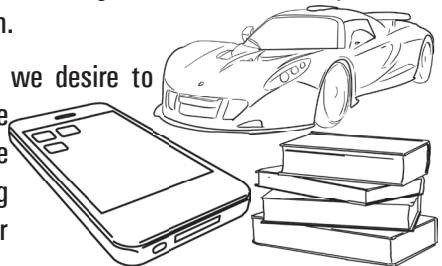


APPLICATION

God chose to make and fulfill all His promises for the Israelites; not only the temporary ones of wanting them to have a land and wanting them to have all the material blessings. He chose them because through them He wanted all the nations around them to know that He alone is the true and living God. He wanted the Israelites to represent God to the others by being Holy as He is holy. Holiness is being separated from sin and being set apart fully to the Lord, for His purposes and glory. In this way they were to attract the other nations to the God of Israel.

We saw that the Israelites chose things that were of temporary value rather than choosing things of eternal significance. The consequence of their choice was pain and death.

Do we sin against God when we desire to have earthly things? No! There are some basic things we value and want to use—food, clothing and shelter. There are other



things we value and want to possess—a means of transportation; various methods of communication; all kinds of things from necessary things to nice things. It's not wrong for us to think about, plan or save for the future. In Matthew 6:19-21 I don't believe Jesus is telling us to ignore the needs of tomorrow. In fact, to fulfill our responsibilities to ourselves, our families, our needy brethren and to support the work of God—it is necessary for us to study, get into a good profession, to work, to have income and to be a possess material or earthly things. Nowhere in the Bible does God tell us that it is sinful to desire an income, to have money and possess earthly things. Nowhere in the Bible will you find a rich man being punished merely because of his wealth nor will you find a poor man highly praised simply because of his poverty.

The whole problem begins when we have this fascination with earthly treasure over heavenly treasure!!

If earthly treasure is our priority; if money, possessions, status and earthly treasures get most of our attention, time and energy—Jesus says, we've got a big problem! Money is not the problem, our misuse of it is. Money is not the problem, our love of it is. The treasures of the earth do not last; they have no permanence; no durability ... and we cannot take them with us. They never fully satisfy, never meet our real needs; there is always something missing. Therefore it makes no sense to devote your whole heart and life to something that will soon be gone and that can never satisfy.

Has this ever happened to you? You get something you have been craving for and the moment you get it, there is a sense of disappointment! Or you get something and after you get over the initial excitement or even before you have had it for very long, your joy in it has begun to dull. After a while you have lost all interest in it; isn't this why we have garages and store rooms full of discarded stuff? That which occupies our interest and attention this year may bore us next year. Our earthly interests are constantly fluctuating, and this is another problem when we invest all our time and energy in this world.

What's more valuable; what's more important and what lasts longer! Heavenly things are so much more valuable than earthly treasure—we ought to want heavenly things and labor for heavenly things and treasure heavenly things far more than earthly things.

The better way to live life is to choose things that are of eternal significance, things that lie in the realm of the spiritual—like forgiveness, fellowship with God, the power of prayer, the development of character and moral excellence, the love of God and believers, the hope of heaven.

Things that are eternal bring us close to God, make us better people and prepare us for a happy eternity after death! Also use the earthly, temporary blessings to store treasures in heaven.

Ask God to help you choose and use things to yield eternal blessings.

Write down 5 temporary treasures—physical and material blessings you will use to gain eternal blessings.

E.g.:

TEMPORARY TREASURES	ETERNAL BLESSINGS
I have an iPod/mobile phone. I love listening to music.	Instead of listening to secular music I'll choose to listen to praise and worship that will edify my spirit.
For my birthday/Christmas I usually get new clothes and shoes.	Instead of buying a new dress or shoes for myself I'll use that money to buy an orphan/poor child a new pair of clothes or shoes.

Pray and ask God to help you to use the material blessings He has given you to build His Kingdom.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

This week, how did you use the material and physical blessings God has given you to build His Kingdom.

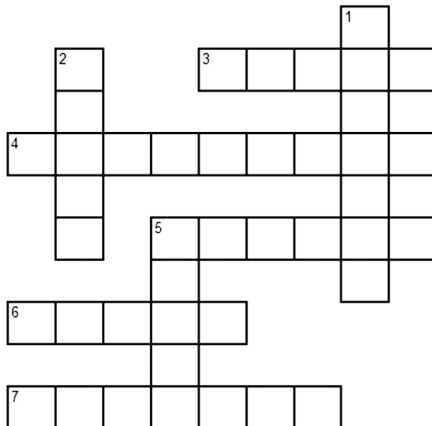


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

HEAVENLY TREASURERS

Kidssundayschool.com

All of the answers to this crossword puzzle about where your treasures should be can be found in Matthew 6:19-21 NIV.



Across

- 3 What are like butterflies, but ugly and destructive? (verse 19 and 20)
- 4 What should you store in Heaven? (verse 20)
- 5 Your treasures should be where? (verse 20)
- 6 What do thieves and robbers do? (verse 19)
- 7 What do moths and vermin do? (verse 19)

Down

- 1 People who take things not belonging to them are called what? (verse 19)
- 2 On what should you not store your treasures? (verse 19)
- 5 Where your treasure is, so will your what be? (verse 21)



Old Testament



Joshua



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- God requires us to obey all His laws and commands.
- Blessings and Success comes only by obeying God and His Word.
- Children will learn not to obey God out of fear but out of love for what He did on the Cross for them.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Joshua chapter 3, 6, 7 and 8



MEMORY VERSE

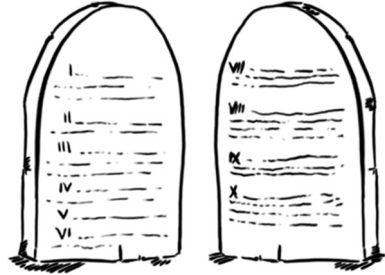
Joshua 1:8: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."



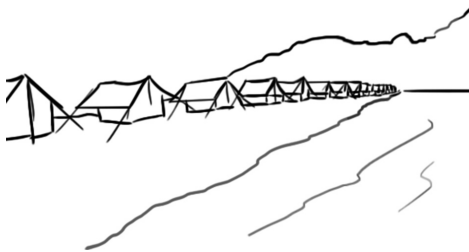
INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw how the Israelites journeyed from Egypt through the desert and finally camped on the borders of the Promised Land—Canaan. Their sin of rebellion, lack of trust and faith in God caused them to live in the desert for an extended 40 years.

Not only the Israelites but even Moses was disqualified from entering the land of Canaan because he sinned against God. Before his death Moses, through a series of sermons restates the Ten Commandments and other laws given in Exodus



and Leviticus to the new generation of Israelites. He also gives them God's instructions on how to live a blessed life in the Promised Land; the specific blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. At God's instruction, Moses transfers his leadership role to Joshua.



In our lesson today, we will study the book of Joshua. The Book of Joshua describes the conquest, the allotment of land to each tribe and settlement of the

Israelites in the Promise Land—Canaan. Thus we see the fulfillment of the Covenant that God made to Abraham.

The book of Joshua does not contain a single word about the Israelites rebelling against their new leader Joshua or grumbling against God. Joshua and the Israelites obeyed whatever God had commanded them. Their obedience brought them victory, and helped them to possess and settle in the Promised Land.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did God ask the Israelites to utterly destroy (all the men, women, children and animals) all the people living in the cities of Canaan?

The following passages will help you find the answer:

Genesis 15:16: “In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

Deuteronomy 9:5: “It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Deuteronomy 20:16-18: “However, in the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the Lord your God has commanded you. Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshipping their gods, and you will sin against the Lord your God.”

Why did God command priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant ahead of the people when they were crossing the river Jordan and marching around the walls of Jericho?



What was God's purpose in asking the Levites to read the whole list of curses and blessings as the people faced Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim?

Why did God ask the people to prepare the altar and to sacrifice on Mount Ebal ?



What is the relationship between God's promises and His commands to Joshua? To find the answer, read Joshua 1:7-8.

Why did God ask Joshua to meditate on His Word and ask Moses to repeat the laws, give instructions on how to live a blessed life in the Promised Land and the specific blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience? To find the answer, read Deuteronomy 30:19-20.



APPLICATION

We see just one command repeated again and again in the book of Joshua that is—to obey God and keep His commands. When the people obeyed God’s command the promises followed them.

The quality of our lives also depends on whether we obey God’s commands or not. If we obey, blessings will “overtake” us; if we do not, disaster will “overtake” us.

In the book of Joshua, we also see God constantly reminding the people of His Love, His presence, provision and His Covenant. God knew that His people would forget His commands so He constantly makes them do various things to remind them of it.

One way we are reminded about God’s commands and laws is by reading His Word and meditating on it. Remember, how blessed you are in life does not depend on which school or college you studied in India or abroad, how intelligent you are, how much you earn but on how much you meditate on God’s Word and how carefully you are to obey it.

God knew that the Israelites are not perfect and they will sin by breaking the law so He made a provision for them to make a sacrifice by which their sins can be forgiven. We are privileged people because we don’t have to make any sacrifice because Jesus made the full sufficient sacrifice for our sins and took upon Himself our curse thus setting us free from every curse. So we can obey God not out of fear but out of love for what He did for us and for how much He loved us. Our obedience to Him should not be just for us to receive His blessing or to be prosperous but our obedience should be out of love for Him. That’s what the Bible reminds us as well.

Jesus says in John 14:15: If you love me, you will obey what I command.

1John 5:3 :This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

Love equals obedience. If we love God we will obey His commandments and do what He wants us to do and live the way He wants us to live.

When we accept Jesus into our lives His love fills our hearts. We can only love God when we focus, meditate and think of His love for us. Just like we know our parents love us but we constantly need to be reminded and remind ourselves that they love us.

When they shout or punish you for doing something wrong or when they don't agree or allow you to watch or do something or go somewhere you get upset. You retaliate by disobeying them, back answering or not studying, sulking not talking to them etc. You do this because you are angry. But when you see them show their love and affection for you in different ways, even after you have misbehaved, you are assured of their love towards you and your angry attitude towards them changes.

Similarly God's love for us never changes. We need to keep reminding ourselves of His love for us. This we can do by thinking of all that He has done for us and by meditating on His Word. Just as God reminded the Israelites' of His love for them in various ways.

Once we do this we will not find it difficult or painful to obey God.



Write down areas in your life where you'll obey God:



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Every day this week, read the following Scripture passages which talk about the incidents in the life of Samson. We will discuss these passages next week.

- Monday : Judges 13:1-25
- Tuesday : Judges 14:1-9
- Wednesday : Judges 14:10-20
- Thursday : Judges 15:10-20
- Friday : Judges 16:1-22
- Saturday : Judges 16:23-31



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

Write down the areas in your life where you made a deliberate choice to obey God this past week.



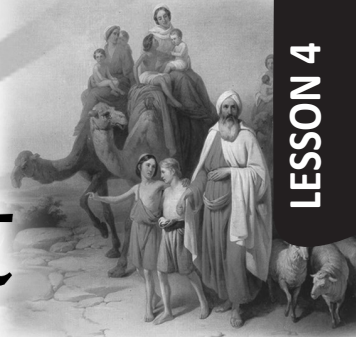
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

The Battle of Jericho Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



Old Testament



Judges of Israel



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn that the choices they make have consequences.
- Children will learn that if they want Jesus to be a part of their lives, they need to make choices to show God they love Him.
- Children will learn that if they want others to know that Jesus is a part of their lives, they need to deliberately choose to act and live in a way that honours Him every day.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Judges chapters 13 - 16



MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw how God helped the Israelites to conquer the cities in Canaan under Joshua's leadership. Before Joshua died, he instructed the Israelites that God Himself would drive out the remaining Canaanites from Canaan, after which the Israelites could take possession of their land. For God to fulfill His promise the Israelites should love God, obey all His laws and not worship, serve or bow down to the gods of the Canaanites.

It did not take long for the Israelites to forget God's goodness, and worship the false gods of the Canaanites. Just as God had warned them, He stopped fighting for them, and they were conquered by other nations. After the people had been enslaved for several years, they cried out to God. In His mercy and goodness, God sent them a deliverer, also called a judge. The judge rescued them from their enemies, and the people worshipped and followed God. Sadly, as soon as the judge died, the Israelites again fell into the temptation of worshipping false gods. This went on and on and on.

The judges ruled Israel from the death of Joshua till the appointment of Saul—the first king of Israel. The judges were not kings; they were leaders who led the people in battle and made decisions that helped bring peace and justice to the people.

Some of the judges were men and women of good character, great faith and moral courage who honoured God in the choices they made. There were also many weak judges who failed to honour God in their choices and relationships.

In our lesson today, we will look at the lives of two judges—Samson and Samuel. The choices Samson made, failed to show:

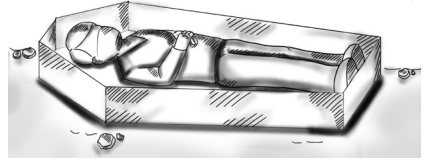


- He belonged to the team - judge and Nazirite
- His love for his people and
- His love and relationship with God



Unlike Samson, Samuel's choices showed his love for his people and faithfulness to God.

Above all, he was faithful in fulfilling his role as a judge and prophet. He showed his love for God by choosing to live a life of integrity and honesty.

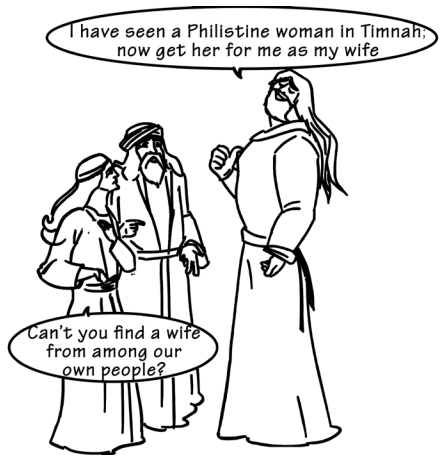


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How were Samuel's choices different from that of Samson?

SAMSON	SAMUEL

2. Why did Samson make those bad choices?



3. Samson's downfall came because he did not choose his companions wisely and gave in to their pressure. Is choosing the right kinds of friends important?



4. What is peer pressure?



5. What were the consequences of Samson and Samuel's choices?



6. Does God require only a few people like Samson and Samuel to be set apart to serve Him? To find the answer, read Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6 and 1 Peter 2:9.

7. After learning about Samuel, when you think of him you would probably think of him as a prophet—who was obedient, honest and faithful to God all his life. When others think of you, what is the FIRST thought that will cross their mind?





APPLICATION

From Samson's and Samuel's lives we learn that:

- We are responsible for the choices we make.
- All our choices have consequences.
- Every choice that we make will either cause us to be blessed or cursed.
- These consequences will be for our betterment or will work to destroy us.
- When we rebel against God and choose our own way, we are choosing a path of destruction.

The choices that we make are so important. Our choices should be based on what the Word of God says and not upon what we feel or what makes us feel good. Instead of being self-centered and saying, "I want," or "I think," or "I feel," or "I need," we need to ask, "What does God want? What would the Lord have me do? What does the Bible say about this situation?" God's Word tells us what is right and what we ought to do.

Just like God chose the Israelites and Samson and Samuel to be His priests, similarly God chose us to be His prophets, priests and missionaries in this world. Not only does God choose us, but His Word also guides us to live in a way that honours Him.

Are you living a life of faithfulness to God? Are you living a life that gives God glory and honor? Or like Samson, have you made some bad, worldly, lust-driven choices that will cost you your soul if you do not change your ways? Who is leading you in this life? Are ungodly friends and peer pressure leading you to make bad choices? Or like Samuel, are you following the choices that God wants you to follow? Are you chasing after the world and all that it supposedly has to offer? Or are you giving God the glory and honor He deserves by following His will?

How can you make choices that honour God?

We can honour God with our choices:

- When we have a passion and desire for God.
- When we continue to grow in hatred of sin and grow in love for righteousness.
- When we want God and desire Him more than anything else in this world.
- When you see God esteemed and above all things and you desire Him above all things.

Would you like to make a decision today to show Jesus you love Him by choosing to honour Him with the choices you make? Do you want others to know that Jesus is a part of your life by choosing to act and live in a way that honours Him every day?

If so, let's pray and commit ourselves to God.

Write down areas in your life where you will honour God with the choices you make.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

In your actions and lifestyle this week how were you able to show others that Jesus is a part of your life?



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

(Taken from biblewise.com)

MATH CODE

Complete the math equations and use the answers to complete the quote from Samuel.

A 10 <u>+33</u>	B 16 <u>-2</u>	C 11 <u>-11</u>	D 6 <u>+9</u>	E 4 <u>+8</u>	F 90 <u>-10</u>	G 12 <u>-5</u>	H 45 <u>+5</u>	I 36 <u>+2</u>
J 75 <u>-72</u>	K 16 <u>-8</u>	L 14 <u>+2</u>	M 49 <u>+5</u>	N 20 <u>-10</u>	O 69 <u>-21</u>	P 52 <u>+32</u>	Q 76 <u>+21</u>	R 54 <u>-23</u>
	S 84 <u>-12</u>	T 41 <u>+16</u>	U 61 <u>+14</u>	V 95 <u>-71</u>	W 15 <u>+15</u>	X 8 <u>-2</u>	Y 30 <u>+6</u>	

"...if ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and...



72 - 12 - 31 - 24 - 12 50 - 38 - 54 48 - 10 - 16 - 36 : 43 - 10 - 15 50 - 12 30 - 38 - 16 - 16

15 - 12 - 16 - 38 - 24 - 12 - 31 36 - 48 - 75 48 - 75 - 57 48 - 80 57 - 50 - 12

"

50 - 43 - 10 - 15 48 - 80 57 - 50 - 12 84 - 50 - 38 - 16 - 38 - 72 - 57 - 38 - 10 - 12 - 72 .



Old Testament



King Saul



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Partial obedience is sin in God's sight.
- Partial obedience will cause us to lose our joy and blessings that God has for us.
- Children will learn the importance of honouring God and following God's commands in front of their friends.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Samuel chapter 9, 10, 13:1-14, chapter 15 and 28



MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 15:22: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."



INTRODUCTION

In the last lesson, we saw how the Israelites sinned against God when they asked for a King. God granted their request by choosing Saul as the first king of Israel. In just two years of reign as King, God was grieved that He made Saul as King over Israel.

God was grieved because King Saul partially obeyed God as fits his needs and desires. He did what he thought was best and pleasing than what God commanded Him to do. Saul wanted to please people and be honoured in their sight than honouring and obeying God.

Samuel described Saul's sin as disobedience, rebellion and arrogance against God. God wanted a King who would honour, love, serve, worship and obey Him with all his heart. A king, who would follow Him truly, consistently and be a godly example to the rest of the nation. Since Saul failed to honour God and be a godly example his partial obedience cost him not only to lose his kingship but also his descendants lost the privilege to be the future Kings of Israel.

I am grieved that I made Saul king.

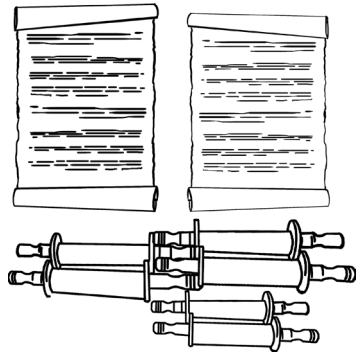


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We read in 1 Samuel 13:7-13 King Saul offered a sacrifice to the Lord because Samuel, the anointed priest of Israel was delayed in meeting Saul. Why did God punish Saul for this?



In this situation we would think what Saul did was probably did the right thing. Or maybe Saul did not know it was sin to make a sacrifice to God. Do you think God's punishment was very severe? To find the answer read Deuteronomy 17:14-20, 1 Samuel 10:8 and 1 Samuel 10:24-25.



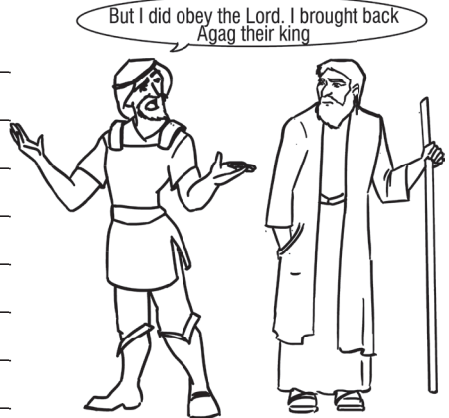
When Saul disobeys God the second time he finally admits to his sin and asks for forgiveness. Why wasn't that good enough? Look up the following verses from the incident in 1 Samuel 15 which will help you decide why his forgiveness wasn't good enough.

1 Samuel 15:13



1 Samuel 15:15

1 Samuel 15:20-21



1 Samuel 15:24

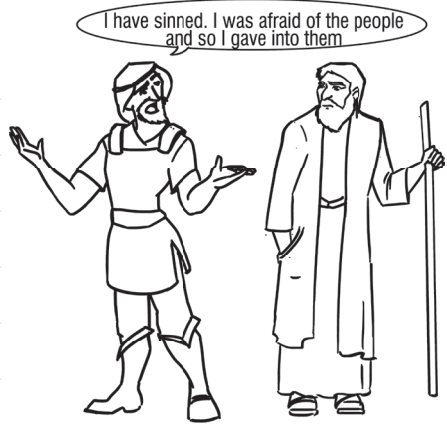
1 Samuel 15:30

What were the reasons that led to Saul's disobedience?

Read 1 Samuel 15:11

Read 1 Samuel 15:17

Read 1 Samuel 15:24



What are the consequences of Saul's and our partial disobedience to God? To find this answer read Deuteronomy 30:16-18.



APPLICATION

In the first stage of King Saul's life, we see he lived an obedient and humble life. Hence, he had wealth, power, fame, family and above all, he had God's anointing.

The second stage of his life was filled with disobedience and pride. He was given ample time to learn his lesson and repent, but instead he chose rebellion, and chose to please people and be honoured in front of them, rather than honour and obey God. This led to him losing his anointing and the Spirit of the Lord left him. He lost his joy, and experienced void and emptiness. His life was filled with envy, jealousy, hatred, anger and

murderous intentions. In time, it cost him his sanity and his life, and cost his sons the throne.

Often, we too are like Saul, wanting to be accepted, recognised by our friends and people around us. So we act in ways that pleases them and is cool. Most often the words, actions and lifestyle that are cool and accepted by our friends are not what is acceptable in God's sight and is not what honours him.

We often find ourselves following the ways of the world and the wrong actions of our friends rather than choosing to honour God.

It is sometimes difficult to fulfill the things of God, but we have to. If not, we are practicing self-serving, selective obedience. We cannot pick and choose the areas in which we will and will not obey God. God asks for full obedience from each one of us in every area of our lives. Partial obedience or disobedience will cause us to lose our joy, peace and the blessing He has in store for us.

- Do you act and make your decisions based on what the Bible says or prayer?
- Are you living in total obedience or partial obedience to God's Word and way?
- Like King Saul are you only obeying God according to what fits your needs and desires?
- Are you doing what seems best and pleasing to you rather than what God commands you to do?
- When you're with your friends and other people are your actions and lifestyle according to what pleases them or what honours God and what He has commanded you to do?
- Do you let peer pressure guide your moral standards?



King Saul

- Do you justify your actions with pride when confronted with the truth and your sin?

Today, do you want to commit yourself to obey God in every area of your life?

Do you want to make a decision to honour God and keep His commands and laws rather than pleasing your friends and people around you?

Write down areas where you will live in total obedience to God.

Write down areas where you will honour God and keep His commands and laws rather than pleasing your friends and people around you?



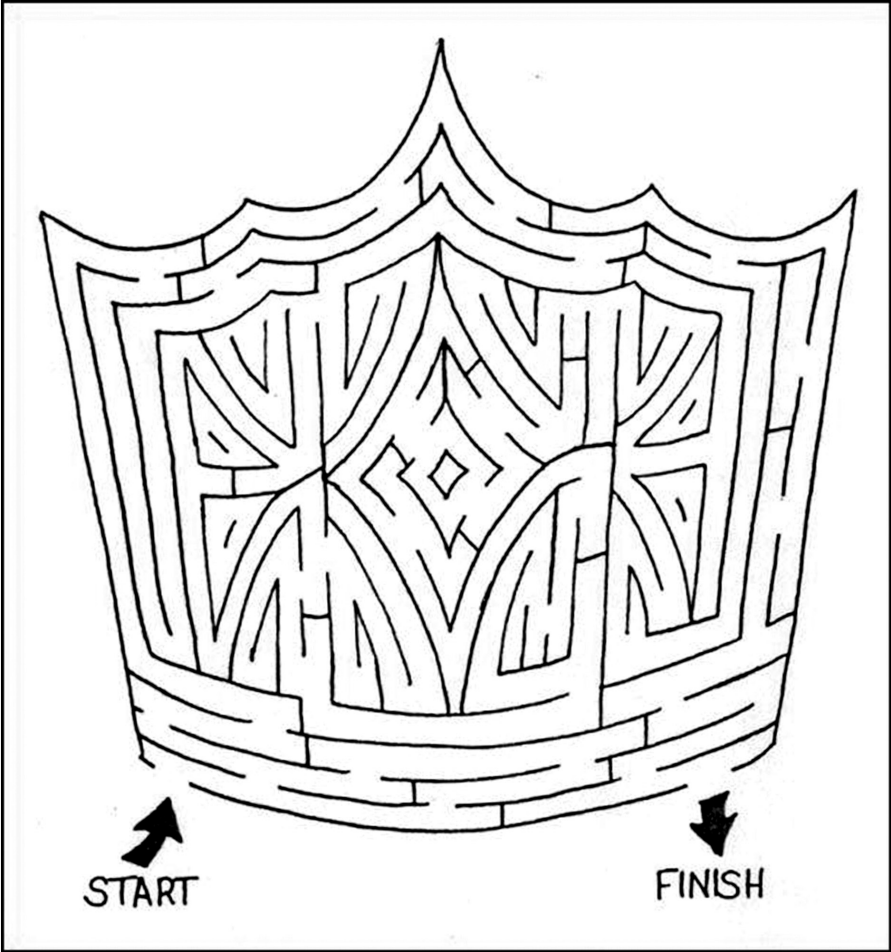
FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

Write down the areas where you were able to honour God and keep His commands before your friends and people around you this week?



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY



Old Testament



King Solomon



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn to put God first in their lives.
- Children will learn to give priority, importance and preference to God rather than to their selfish desires.
- Children will learn not to allow anything to take the place of God in their lives.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Kings 3:15; 3:29-34; 10:14-29; 11:1-13



MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 3:5-7: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil."



INTRODUCTION

In our lesson last week, we saw that God granted the request of Israelites by choosing Saul as their king. In just two years of his reign as king, God was grieved that He made Saul king over Israel. Not only was God grieved over Saul's life but most of the kings of Israel failed to obey God and His commands. They sinned against God by worshipping idols and leading the people to worship other gods.

In our lesson today, we'll look at the life of one such King of Israel—Solomon. After the death of King Saul, David was king for forty years. After he died, his son Solomon inherited a powerful empire.

King Solomon was known for his wisdom, wives and riches. He was so focused on these things these very things slowly turned Solomon's heart away from God. He began worshipping the idols that his wives worshipped. He built temples for those gods and offered sacrifices to them.

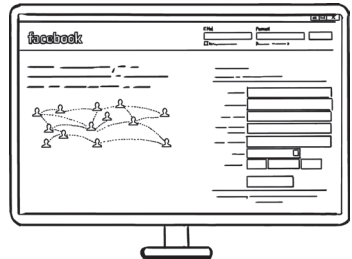
Like Solomon do we worship other "gods" or "idols"?

Yes! Sometimes, we worship other "gods" and idols.

What are these idols or gods that that the world, and even believers worship and love more than Jesus?

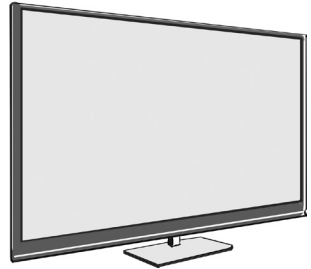
Friends, food, pleasure, possessions, internet, facebook, money, power, prestige, popularity, fame, our bodies, comfort, freedom, fashion, beauty, games, sports, movie stars, music, TV, movies, and even studies and homework.

When do these things become 'gods' or 'idols'?
When they occupy a place of priority, preference and importance in our lives.



No one sets out with the intention of making these things ‘gods’ or worshipping them. We “worship” other gods when we:

- Love and value someone or something too much.
- Devote or sacrifice our time, health, energy to them (e.g., studies, TV, video games, listening to music, mobile phones).
- Find fulfillment and identity in them (e.g., clothes, exam marks, our school, etc).



When we give someone or something more priority, importance or preference, the devil causes us to love and desire these things other than God. The devil loves to be worshiped as God and he loves and desires to take God’s place in our lives. It was for this very reason that he was thrown out of heaven.

The devil slowly leads us into desiring other things. Once we start valuing them too much, giving them greater priority than God, they turn into another ‘god’ in our lives. We become their slaves, and they ultimately control our time, thoughts and energies. These others “gods” become stumbling blocks in our lives, preventing us from loving the One True God with all our hearts.

When these things take the place of God, we end up giving place to the devil in our lives. In a way, we become worshippers of the devil and his dark nature fills us. The end result is punishment, pain, separation from God, and death. Letting God hold the central place in our lives keeps other things from turning into ‘gods’.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make a list of things in your life, or that you notice in other people’s lives, that often become ‘god’s’.



How do we make gods of these relationships or things in our lives?

Why do we make gods of these things?

Why is it harmful to worship these things in place of God?

Will the things of this world give us life, meaning and purpose? Watch a video.

Video Presentation

Video:Void



According to Jesus, which is the first and most important commandment? To find the answer read Mark 12:29-30.

What would it mean to love the things of the world? To find the answer read 1 John 2:15-16.

What would it mean if we were to choose friendship with the things of this world? To find the answer read James 4:4.

Why can't we love both the things of the world and God at the same time? To find the answer read Matthew 6:24?



How do we keep God first in our lives?





APPLICATION

King Solomon's sins speak loudly to us in our materialistic culture. When we worship possessions and fame over God, we are headed for a fall. When Christians marry an unbeliever, they can also expect trouble. God is our first love. We should let nothing come before him.

As long as Solomon obeyed and honoured God, we see him blessed and very prosperous. The moment he chose to let the things that God blessed him with and his desires take God's place in his life, we see God punishing him.

Based on what we have learnt today, it's very clear that we cannot please both God and the things of the world at the same time. God wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This does not mean that He does not want us to enjoy with our friends, listen to music, watch TV, read books, study, excel in sports and other activities etc. All He wants is for us to keep Him at the center of our lives. This means we involve Him in everything we do.

You can begin by committing your day, time and talents to God. Ask God to help, guide and give you the wisdom to choose, do, say, read, watch things that would honor Him. If you do this, God will help you balance it all. He'll surely help you get everything done that needs to be done that day.

Secondly, throughout the day, keep talking to God:

Eg. When choosing friends, ask God to help you choose right.

When you sit down to study, ask God to help you understand and remember what you're studying.

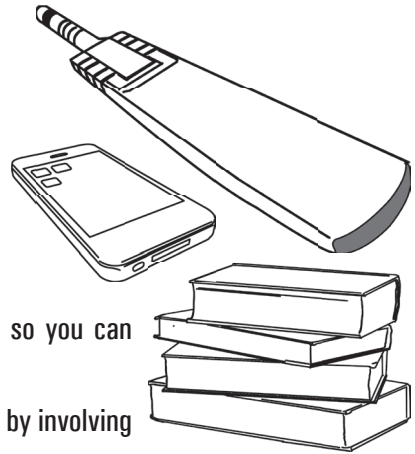
If you love reading, ask God to help you choose a book that would increase your knowledge.



If you are going shopping, ask God to give you the wisdom to choose the best item according to your budget.

This way, you can involve God in your life, and show Him that he is the most important thing to you.

Are there things in your life that have become gods or idols that have taken the place of God in your life? If so write them down. (Talents, TV, music, story books, sports, friends, video games, internet, facebook, mobile, studies etc.)



Would you like to make a commitment to love God and keep Him first in your life? If so you can make your commitment to God.

This week keep God at the center of your life by involving Him in everything you think, say and do.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

Write down how you kept God first in different areas of your life this week.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY



Then Solomon stood before the altar
of the Lord, and spread
his hands towards heaven.
What did he say?



What else did Solomon say?

Write all the 1's in order. Return to the top
and write all the 2's order. then return
to the top and write all the 3's in order.

Use this code to find out.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
P R N H C K A I M S W Z V O J F G O T X B L U D Y E

*0
N V N B X Q N X N P

H J B G Z V S D Z B Z

H J C N Q N X V H F Z

Y N W H C D Z G M Z C

G U N M Z N B N C

Z G B S D U Z V N K

Y N W K D N F Z Z A

Y N W B E N M Z C G C S

N P V N M Z K H S D

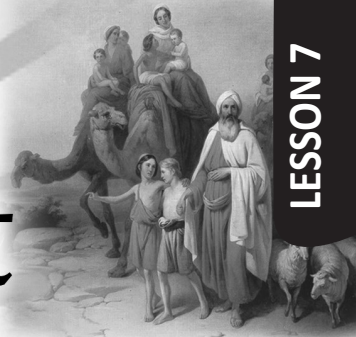
Y N W B J Z B M G C S J

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
Now	You	If	Lord	Said	Only	God	You
3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
Your	Of	Shall	Sons	Israel	Never	any	Keep
2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Fill	Careful	For	to	in	Your	Have	all
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
Servant	a	they	David	Man	do	my	to
3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
to	father	sit	walk	the	before	before	promises
2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
me	me	you	on	as	made	the	you
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
to	throne	have	him	of	done	when	Israel

_____, _____, _____
_____, _____, _____



Old Testament



The Period of Exile and Restoration of Israelites



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the meaning of living a godly life.
- Children will learn how to live a godly life.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Timothy 4:8 : "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."



INTRODUCTION

What is Godliness or what is a godly life?

- Godliness is a commitment, reverence and devotion to God.
- God has a plan for our lives and if we follow God's plan then everything works in the way it is supposed to. A godly life is one which is devoted to and willing to do things God's way. If we want

to live a godly life we need to obey God and do what He wants us to do rather than what we want.

- We can do this only when we get rid of self and align ourselves to God’s plan.

In today’s lesson we’ll look at a few examples of people who led a godly and ungodly live. This will help us understand what godliness or living a godly life means.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why were most of the Kings who ruled Israel termed as ‘ungodly’?



Can we call the people who returned back to Jerusalem to build the temple as godly or ungodly? Why?

Are Ezra and Nehemiah examples of godly men? Why?



In the video the person defined Godliness as devotion to God. What does devotion to God mean?

How is fear of God related to Godliness?

What does love of God have to do with Godliness? To find the answer read 1 John 4:9-10

Did God require only the Israelites to live a godly life? To find the answer, read Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6 and 1 Peter 2:9.

Take a look at your life and access the areas given below and likewise tick the category you belong.

AREA	WEAK MAGNET	GOOD MAGNET	STRONG MAGNET
Fear of God			
Love of God			
Desire for God			



APPLICATION

The godly lives that Ezra and Nehemiah lived not only led to fulfilling God’s plans and purposes for the nation of Israel; but it also led the people of Israel into restoring their relationship with God by obeying and keeping His commandments. Thus Ezra and Nehemiah fulfilled the purpose for which God called them, unlike the ungodly kings of Israel whose lives brought shame, pain and punishment to the nation of Israel. Similarly, God has chosen and set you apart to be His prophets, priests and missionaries to the world. Living a godly life by aligning your will, desires, and plans in accordance to a holy fear and love for God, you will not only fulfill the purpose for which God has chosen you but you can lead others to Him.

Like Ezra and Nehemiah are you willing to align your life to God?

- They were able to align their life because:
- They did what God purposed and planned for their life and did not follow their own dreams and passions. Are you willing to do the same?
- They read God’s Word and obeyed it; are you willing to do the same?
- They did not trust in the wisdom of their friends or the King but waited on God to lead and guide them. Are you willing to do the same?
- They did not trust in their strength or wisdom, they trusted and depended on God? Are you willing to do the same?
- They committed everything to God in fasting and prayer. Are you willing to ask God through prayer and fasting before you make any decision small or big in your life?
- When they saw something wrong they were burdened about it and prayed and corrected the people as God lead them. Are you willing to do that, when you see your friends, classmates indulge in wrong behavior and attitudes?

*God, I commit my day
and time to you...
Guide and help me..*



The areas that you have written ‘Yes’ to, write down the steps you are going to take to do so.

If you answered a ‘Yes’ to one or more can we pray and make a covenant with God. Remember a covenant is not just a promise it’s binding—you have to keep it.

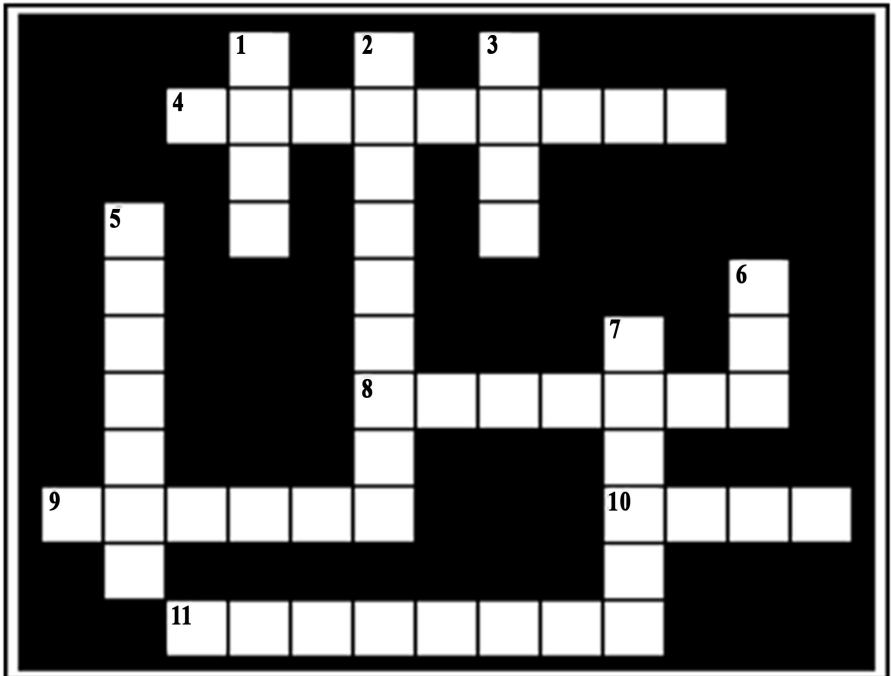


FOLLOW UP

Ways I was able to keep the covenant I made with God.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY



9 ACROSS "O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the _____ of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name." (NEHEMIAH 1:11)

11 ACROSS Nehemiah asked about "the Jews who had escaped, who had _____ the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem." (NEHEMIAH 1:2)

3 DOWN And they said to him, "The _____ of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." (NEHEMIAH 1:3)

1 DOWN Nehemiah said, "So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and _____, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven." (NEHEMIAH 1:4)

2 DOWN Nehemiah was the king's _____. (NEHEMIAH 1:11)

6 DOWN "The king said to me, 'Why is your face _____, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.' " (NEHEMIAH 2:2)

8 ACROSS "I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I might _____ it.' " (NEHEMIAH 2:5)

5 DOWN "Furthermore I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let _____ be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River.' " (NEHEMIAH 2:7)

4 ACROSS Nehemiah writes, "So I came to _____ and was there three days." (NEHEMIAH 2:11)

7 DOWN He writes, "I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and _____ the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire." (NEHEMIAH 2:14)

10 ACROSS "So they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' Then they set their hands to do this good _____." (NEHEMIAH 2:18)

