

Teacher Notecards Level 1, Quarter B— At Work With God

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: **Workers use their special skills to serve others and honor God.**

Exodus 35:30—36:7 [outline form]

Intro: *God chose two men with special skills to decorate the tabernacle.*

Ask: *Why is work important to God?*

1. God chose Bezalel to work on the tabernacle.

- *Bezalel was skilled at many crafts* Exodus 35:31
- *He worked in precious metals* 35:32
- *He cut and set precious stones* 35:32
- *He made designs in wood.* 35:32

2. God chose Oholiab to decorate the tabernacle.

- *Oholiab and Bezalel had skill to teach others.* 35:34
- *Oholiab embroidered cloth* (picture 1B.1) 35:35
- *He was a skilled weaver* 35:35

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3. Bezalel and Oholiab used their skills to build the tabernacle.

- *All who had skill and desire to work assembled* 36:2
- *They used the gifts God’s people brought them* 36:3
- *They completed tabernacle just as God commanded* (picture 1B.2) 39:32

Conclusion: *God uses our work skills to accomplish His will. How can you use your talents to serve God and others?*

2

Big Idea: **Workers use their special skills to serve others and honor God.**

Exodus 35:30—36:7 [narrative form]

Intro: *God chose two men with special skills to decorate the tabernacle.*

Ask: *Why is work important to God?*

When God’s people were walking through the wilderness to the land God promised them, God wanted His people to have a special place where He could be among them. He wanted them to know He was with them during this difficult time.

So God told Moses, “Build a special tent called a tabernacle where you can worship Me! Make it beautiful, with lovely designs and bright colors. Weave pictures of angels in special curtains on the tent walls. Use threads of real gold and silver in the cloth. Build the furniture inside with real gold, silver, and bronze.” What a beautiful place it would be!

Moses stood before the people of Israel. Bezalel and Oholiab were beside him. Moses announced, “People of Israel, look at these two men, Bezalel and Oholiab! God has chosen them to be in charge of building the tabernacle where we’ll

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worship Him. Bezalel, tell us what special skills God gave you.”

Bezalel answered, “God has shown me how to make beautiful things with gold and silver. I can cut jewels, like diamonds, emeralds, and rubies, and set them into metal. And I can carve wood into beautiful shapes.”

Moses said, “People of Israel, God has given Bezalel many talents he will use to help build the tabernacle. Hooray for God’s goodness! Next, I present to you Oholiab. What will you do to help build the tabernacle?”

Oholiab replied, “God has shown me how to cut designs into wood or metal. I can weave fabric and sew it, and embroider beautiful designs on material (picture 1B.1).” Moses announced, “God has also called Oholiab to help us build the tabernacle. Let’s hear it for God’s goodness! Bezalel and Oholiab will use their talents from God to teach the rest of us how to work on the tabernacle! We’ll all help!”

God’s people were thankful He had blessed Bezalel and Oholiab with so many skills. Many other people worked with Bezalel and Oholiab for a long time to build, decorate, and furnish the tabernacle. Finally, it was done (picture 1B.2)! Bezalel and Oholiab had used the special talents God gave them to make a place for His people to worship Him!

2

Big Idea: **As a farmer cares for young plants, God patiently watches over His children.**

1 Kings 19:19-21; Mark 4:3-20 [outline form]

Intro: *Elisha was a farmer before God called him to be a prophet.*

Ask: *What does God want our hearts to be like?*

1. Elisha was in the fields when Elijah came.

- *Elisha was plowing the fields with a pair of oxen* (picture 1B.3) . . . 1 Kings 19:19
- *Elijah threw his cloak around Elisha.* 19:20
- *Elisha cooked his oxen and went with Elijah* 19:21

2. Jesus told a parable about four types of soil (picture 1B.4).

- *Birds ate the seeds on the path.* Mark 4:4
- *The sun shriveled the plants in the rocks* 4:5-6
- *Weeds choked the plants in the thorny soil* 4:7
- *Plants thrived in the good soil.* 4:8



3. Jesus explained the story to His disciples.

- *Satan takes the Word away from some people (path/shallow soil)* 4:15
- *Other people fall away when trouble comes (rocky soil)* 4:17
- *Some people let the worries of the world “choke” the Word (thorny soil)* . . 4:19
- *Some hear the Word, accept it, and produce a crop (good soil)* 4:20

Conclusion: *God cares for us just as a farmer cares for his crops. Let’s all grow hearts that respond to His Word!*



Big Idea: **As a farmer cares for young plants, God patiently watches over His children.**

1 Kings 19:19-21; Mark 4:3-20 [narrative form]

Intro: *Elisha was a farmer before God called him to be a prophet.*

Ask: *What does God want our hearts to be like?*

Farmers grow what we eat. One farmer from Bible times was named Elisha. One day he was plowing his field with oxen (picture 1B.3). Elisha was getting ready to plant a new crop. He was making the dirt soft and level so his seeds would have the best chance to grow.

That day Elijah, the prophet, came to see Elisha, the farmer! Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha’s shoulders. That was a sign that God was giving Elisha a new job! Instead of farming, he would now be a prophet, God’s messenger. Elisha was ready to do what God asked. To show he was determined to do what God wanted, Elisha killed his oxen, cooked them, and gave the meat away. Then he left his farm and went with Elijah.



Turn to Mark 4:3-20. Now, when Jesus was on earth, He told stories to show people

what God wanted. This story was about a farmer who scattered seeds (picture 1B.4). Jesus said our hearts are like dirt. Some places hardly have any dirt for something to grow in. Seeds that fall on this dirt never really get started. Then hungry birds swoop down and gobble up those seeds! Nothing could grow in that kind of dirt. People who let Satan steal God’s Word from them have hearts like shallow dirt.

Jesus said another kind of heart is like rocky dirt. The seeds that fall on this rocky dirt can get started, but when they grow into plants, their roots aren’t strong. When the sun shines on them, they just curl up and die. People who don’t think carefully about God’s Word have hearts like rocky dirt.

When weeds grow in your garden, they take away the vitamins and water from your corn and carrots and beans. The good plants you planted can’t get sunlight because these weeds grow too big. People who always worry about the bad things that happen to them or who spend their time thinking about getting money and possessions—they have hearts like weedy dirt.

The last kind of dirt Jesus talked about was the good soil. When the farmer plants his seeds in this healthy dirt, plants grow strong! This is the best kind of dirt for seeds to grow in. A farmer always wants this kind of dirt for his crops. Jesus said this good dirt is what God wants our hearts to be like.



Big Idea: **As a potter shapes soft clay, God molds His children to be righteous like Him.**

Jeremiah 18 [outline form]

Intro: *God taught Jeremiah a lesson using a potter and his clay.*

Ask: *Why does God want our hearts to be soft like clay?*

1. God sent Jeremiah to the potter’s house.
 - *God had a message to give Jeremiah* Jeremiah 18:2
 - *The pot the potter was making became flawed* (picture 1B.5). 18:4
 - *The potter reshaped the clay into a new pot* (picture 1B.6). 18:4
2. God explained His message to Jeremiah.
 - *God is the potter* 18:6
 - *God’s people are the clay*. 18:6
 - *God can change how He treats people based on their actions* 18:7-10

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3. God gave a message to the people of Israel and Judah.
 - *God planned to punish them for their sins* 18:11
 - *God urged them to repent and soften their hearts* 18:11
 - *The people would not change because their hearts were hard* 18:12

Conclusion: *God wants our hearts to be soft and moldable like clay. We can let Him mold us to be more like Jesus!*

2

Big Idea: **As a potter shapes soft clay, God molds His children to be righteous like Him.**

Jeremiah 18 [narrative form]

Intro: *God taught Jeremiah a lesson using a potter and his clay.*

Ask: *Why does God want our hearts to be soft like clay?*

Jeremiah was a prophet. Prophets were God’s messengers. They gave God’s words to His people, the Israelites. Jeremiah often had to tell people God wanted them to change and live the way He knew was best. Many people had hard hearts and didn’t want to change. They became angry with prophets like Jeremiah.

One day God sent Jeremiah on a journey. God said, “Jeremiah, go to the potter’s house. I have something to show you.” So Jeremiah went. (picture 1B.5). At the potter’s house, Jeremiah watched the potter work. The potter sat behind a stone wheel. He put a large lump of clay in the middle of the wheel. Then he used his feet to spin the wheel around and around. Using his hands, he turned the lumps of clay into jars, pots, and dishes. (picture 1B.6).

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But Jeremiah saw that the potter wasn’t happy. There was something wrong with the clay on the wheel. It just wasn’t right. The potter wasn’t happy with what the clay was becoming. Jeremiah saw that it was ruined. So the potter just squished the pot he was making into a big blob and started all over.

Jeremiah saw what happened to the clay. Then God told him the message to give to His people, using the clay and the potter as an example. God said the people were the clay, and God was the potter. If the people didn’t obey God and choose to live righteous lives as God asked, He would have to destroy them like a potter would destroy a pot that wasn’t made right.

That wasn’t an easy thing for Jeremiah to tell God’s people, but he told them that God was the potter and they were the clay. If they didn’t obey and let God mold them to be righteous, God would destroy them. The people didn’t like it and they didn’t want to change. What do you think happened? God let their enemies defeat them. It was a really sad, hard time.

Today God still is the potter, and we’re the clay. If we let God mold us, we’re like soft clay that He can make into something useful. God gives us a choice—be hardhearted and say “no” to God’s molding, or be soft and moldable so we can be more like Jesus.

2

Big Idea: **As a builder constructs a grand building, God builds strong character into His children.**

Genesis 6 [outline form]

Intro: *Noah spent 120 years building an ark to God’s specifications.*

Ask: *How does God build character into our lives?*

1. God decided to wipe out all humanity.
 - *Humanity’s wickedness broke God’s heart.* Genesis 6:5-6
 - *People had filled the earth with violence* 6:13
 - *God chose to wipe out all the animals as well.* 6:7

2. Noah found favor in God’s eyes.
 - *Noah was blameless and walked closely with God* 6:9
 - *God chose to save Noah and his family* 6:18
 - *God made a covenant with Noah* 6:18



3. God commanded Noah to build the ark (picture 1B.7).
 - *The ark was to be made of a specific wood* 6:14
 - *The ark was to be made with specific dimensions* 6:15
 - *Noah did everything God commanded* (picture 1B.8) 6:22

Conclusion: *God built Noah’s character as Noah built the ark. Work is a great way for us to grow closer to God.*



Big Idea: **As a builder constructs a grand building, God builds strong character into His children.**

Genesis 6 [narrative form]

Intro: *Noah spent 120 years building an ark to God’s specifications.*

Ask: *How does God build character into our lives?*

Hi, my name is Noah! I lived a long, long, long time ago, in early Bible times. I was actually a farmer, but God gave me a big job, so I learned how to build.

God told me to build a huge boat, called an ark. This seemed kind of strange, because there weren’t any lakes or oceans where I lived. It was all dry land! I had followed Him all my life, and God had never let me down. So when He said to build, that’s what I did.

God told me this boat would be huge and it would save my family. God said He was going to flood the world as a judgment against all the wicked and sinful people. People just weren’t following God and honoring Him. He decided to make it rain so much that the water would cover everything on the land. All the people and the



animals would die. Then God would start over.

But God told me to build this gigantic boat so my family and I would be saved from the floods that were coming. Wow! I was so thankful God was faithful to protect me and my family because we had lived by His rules (picture 1B.7).

What do you think I did first in my boat-building project? Well, all I had to do was follow God’s directions. First I had to get wood from some special trees. God told me exactly what size to make the sides of this boat, and how high to build the walls. My sons and I sawed wood and pounded nails and kept going for days. Actually it was years—120 years! We built up the sides until the ark was as tall as a four-story building. We put on a roof, so the rain wouldn’t come in, and even built an immense door. There were three decks or levels in the boat. Lots of room, for sure. God also said to paint dark, sticky stuff all over the inside and outside of the boat. It was called pitch, and it made sure the water didn’t leak in. God thought of everything!

After 120 years of sawing wood, painting on that sticky pitch, and adding a roof, the giant boat was finished (picture 1B.8). I knew God would be faithful to me and my family, no matter how bad the flood would be. I also realized that while I was building the ark, God was building my character, and I became even closer to Him.



Big Idea: **As servants honor their kind master, God’s children eagerly serve and please Him.**

Genesis 37; 39:1-6 [outline form]

Intro: *God was with Joseph in the middle of hardship.*

Ask: *Why did God let bad things happen to Joseph?*

1. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him.
 - *His father, Jacob, loved him best and gave him a bright robe Genesis 37:3*
 - *God sent Jacob dreams about ruling over his family 37:7,9*
 - *All these things made his brothers hate him 37:4, 8, 11*
2. Joseph’s brothers made a plan to get rid of him.
 - *Joseph went to find his brothers in the fields. 37:17*
 - *The brothers threw Joseph in a well 37:24*
 - *They sold Joseph to a caravan of traders (picture 1B.9). 37:28*
 - *The brothers tricked Jacob into thinking Joseph had been killed. . . . 37:32-33*



3. Joseph was taken to Egypt, where he became a slave.
 - *The traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, captain of the guard (picture 1B.10). . . 37:36*
 - *God was with Joseph 39:2*
 - *Joseph succeeded at everything he did. 39:3*
 - *Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole household 39:4-5*

Conclusion: *Joseph went through some difficult times, but God was watching over him. How wonderful to know that God is always with us, too!*



Big Idea: **As servants honor their kind master, God’s children eagerly serve and please Him.**

Genesis 37; 39:1-6 [narrative form]

Intro: *God was with Joseph in the middle of hardship.*

Ask: *Why did God let bad things happen to Joseph?*

This story from Genesis is about a young man named Joseph. He had grown up in a very special family. His father was Jacob. His grandfather was Isaac. His great-grandfather was Abraham. He had ten older brothers and one younger brother. Wow!

Joseph’s father, Jacob, loved Joseph best of all. He gave Joseph a special present to show his love—a beautiful, colorful coat. It was the best gift Joseph had ever received. When his brothers saw that coat, they were very jealous. “Why doesn’t our father give us gifts like that?” they grumbled.

Then Joseph began to have dreams that came from God. Joseph’s dreams showed him being a great leader, and all Joseph’s brothers serving him. He told his brothers about his dreams. They were more angry than before! They wouldn’t even talk to him.



One day Jacob told Joseph, “Go see how your brothers are doing, taking care of my sheep.” Joseph obeyed his father. When the brothers saw him coming, they started grumbling. They got angrier and angrier. When Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off his special coat and threw him into a deep, dry well! It was cold and dark, but was Joseph alone? No way! God was with him every minute.

A group of travelers passed by on their way to Egypt. Their camels were loaded with spices and things to sell. One of Joseph’s brothers said, “Hey, let’s sell Joseph to these merchants. Let’s sell him as a slave!” The travelers paid the brothers twenty pieces of silver and took Joseph with them to Egypt (picture 1B.9). “What will happen to me in Egypt?” he wondered. “What is it like to be a slave?”

Now was Joseph alone? No way! God was with him every minute. He saw everything that was going on. When the travelers got to Egypt, they sold Joseph to Potiphar. He was one of the Pharaoh’s most important officials. Joseph became a servant in Potiphar’s beautiful house (picture 1B.10).

Joseph worked hard in Potiphar’s house. He did the servant work without complaining and always did his very best. He was honest. God blessed Potiphar because Joseph was his servant! Because Joseph worked so hard and honored God, he became one of the most important people in Egypt.



Big Idea: **As a weaver fashions fine cloth, God weaves His children into special creations.**

Proverbs 31:10-31 [outline form]

Intro: *The woman in Proverbs loved God and her family very much.*

Ask: *How is God like a weaver?*

1. God values a woman of noble character.
 - *She is worth more than rubies.* Proverbs 31:10
 - *She brings good, not harm* 31:12
 - *She speaks with wisdom* 31:26
2. This woman is skilled at weaving.
 - *She selects wool and flax with eager hands* (picture 1B.11) 31:13
 - *She works the loom* (picture 1B.12) 31:19
 - *She clothes her family and her household.* 31:21-22
 - *She sells clothes in the marketplace* 31:24



3. She takes care of her family and the community.
 - *She provides food for everyone.* 31:15
 - *She honors her husband* 31:23
 - *She oversees the affairs of her household.* 31:27
 - *She gives to the poor and needy.* 31:20
4. A woman of noble character is appreciated.
 - *Her children bless her* (picture 1B.12). 31:28
 - *Her husband praises her.* 31:28
 - *Fearing God is better than having charm or beauty* 31:30

Conclusion: *God weaves our lives together to be the people we were meant to be. We can love God just as the woman in Proverbs did!*



Big Idea: **As a weaver fashions fine cloth, God weaves His children into special creations.**

Proverbs 31:10-31 [narrative form]

Intro: *The woman in Proverbs loved God and her family very much.*

Ask: *How is God like a weaver?*

The book of Proverbs tells about a woman who worked hard for her family. One kind of work she did was weaving. Some weaving in Bible times was done with hair from goats or camels. But most weaving was done with wool.

After getting the wool, the woman cleaned it. Then she combed it so all the bits of wool straightened out into one direction. Next she had to spin these short pieces of wool fibers into thread. This took a long time (picture 1B.11). Then the woman took all the threads she had been spinning and wove them in a big loom into a piece of material. To make material that was colored or had designs, she would dye the wool. That made it pretty, but it took more work. Even though she wove a few threads at a time, she always kept in her mind what she wanted the cloth to look like (picture 1B.12). God does the same thing with us. He knows how to



weave our lives together as we grow and follow Him.

After this woman wove the cloth, she sewed clothes for her family. She wove some cloth to sew and some to sell. Other people bought her woven material to make their own clothes. She took the money that she got for the cloth and bought food for her family and servants. Then, she probably bought more wool from other merchants to make more thread so she could weave more cloth.

Weaving wasn't the only work this woman did. The woman in Proverbs made the meals for her family, like baking bread and making yogurt from milk. The Bible says this woman was a hard worker and did her best at everything. God was pleased with her skillful work. God was also pleased that she used kind and wise words. She didn't say things that hurt people. This woman taught her children about God and was a good example, following His commands. She helped the poor.

She had learned about God as she grew up, and she knew God had taught her many things. God teaches us as we grow, so that by the time we're grown-ups we have lots of understanding of God and His ways. The way God teaches us is like weaving. It takes the weaver a long time to make a big piece of cloth, and she has to be very careful. It takes God time and care to weave His truth into our hearts and minds so that we know Him well.



Big Idea: **As a shepherd leads his beloved sheep, Jesus guides His children to follow Him.**

Psalm 23 [outline form]

Intro: *God is like a shepherd who lovingly watches over his sheep.*

Ask: *How can we thank God for being our shepherd?*

- 1. David wrote a Psalm comparing God to a shepherd (picture 1B.13).
 - *God provides food and water (satisfaction and peace)* Psalm 23:2
 - *God leads us down the right path (righteousness)* 23:3
 - *God protects us from danger (comfort)* 23:4
- 2. God does more than watch over us, He also blesses us.
 - *God blesses us even during hardship* 23:5
 - *God showers us with goodness and love* 23:6
 - *God provides a way to live with Him* 23:6

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- 3. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (picture 1B.14).
 - *Jesus knows His people and they know Him* John 10:14
 - *Jesus seeks out those who are lost* Matthew 18:13
 - *Jesus lays down His life for us* John 10:11

Conclusion: *Jesus cares for us as our Good Shepherd. Praise God for the way He loves us and provides all our needs!*

2

Big Idea: **As a shepherd leads his beloved sheep, Jesus guides His children to follow Him.**

Psalm 23 [narrative form]

Intro: *God is like a shepherd who lovingly watches over his sheep.*

Ask: *How can we thank God for being our shepherd?*

King David did many amazing things, but when he was a boy, he was a shepherd. He took care of his father’s herd of sheep (picture 1B.13). That meant he lived many days and nights out in the country, guiding the sheep to good pastures to eat and grow strong and healthy. David learned a lot about sheep, and a lot about God. He wrote many songs and often would sing them.

One of David’s songs is in Psalm 23. He wrote about how God is like a shepherd to us. Here is what he wrote. Read the Psalm from your Bible or use the following paraphrase.

The LORD is my shepherd. I have everything I need. He takes me to green pastures to eat the best grass. He leads me to quiet streams to drink. He gives me strength in my

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mind and heart. God, my Shepherd, guides me along the paths I need to use. And in everything, He gets honor.

Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid because You, God, are close to me. Your rod and staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. Even if my enemies surround me, You’re right there taking care of me. You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil. You treat me as someone important. I am very blessed, like a cup overflowing with a drink.

I know for sure that Your goodness and love will follow me all my life. One day I will live with You in heaven forever.

David knew how much care a shepherd gave to his sheep. He also knew how much God cares for everything about us. He wanted to live to honor and serve God because he loved God and trusted Him.

In the same way, when you and I know that God loves us, we can trust in Jesus as our Good Shepherd (picture 1B.14). Even after we have lived our whole life on earth and die, we will still be a part of God’s family. The end of David’s psalm says that he will be in heaven forever with God. If we trust Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we will never get lost or separated from God again.

2

Big Idea: **As a musician savors beautiful song, God delights in adoration and praise.**

1 Chronicles 15:14-29 [outline form]

Intro: *David brought the Ark to Jerusalem and worshiped God with music.*

Ask: *Why does God want to be praised?*

1. David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem.
 - *David wanted to make sure he did God's will* 1 Chronicles 15:13
 - *The priests purified themselves* 15:14
 - *They carried the Ark according to God's instructions* 15:15

2. David wanted to honor God with music.
 - *He ordered the priests to form a choir* 15:16
 - *The priests chose people to play cymbals, harps, and lyres* 15:19-21
 - *They chose a skillful leader to direct the musicians* 15:22



3. God's people held a parade as they carried the Ark into the city.
 - *God clearly helped them carry the Ark* 15:26
 - *Everyone in the kingdom was there, shouting with joy* (picture 1B.15) . . . 15:28
 - *The musicians played their instruments with enthusiasm* (picture 1B.16) . . . 15:28
 - *King David danced and laughed with joy* 15:29

Conclusion: *We please God when we worship Him with music. God's joy fills our hearts when we praise Him!*



Big Idea: **As a musician savors beautiful song, God delights in adoration and praise.**

1 Chronicles 15:14-29 [narrative form]

Intro: *David brought the Ark to Jerusalem and worshiped God with music.*

Ask: *Why does God want to be praised?*

The Bible tells about a parade in Bible times. David had just become the king. He knew it was important to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant was a very special, sacred container made of gold—it held precious things that reminded the people of God's greatness. The Ark contained items like the Ten Commandments and manna. Manna was the bread God provided for the Israelites while they were in the wilderness. The Ark of the Covenant helped God's people remember that the LORD was their victorious God who was always with them.

God wanted the Ark to be at the center of worship. So David told the Levites, whom God chose to be in charge of their worship, to carry the Ark to the city. Then David planned a big parade. He wanted everyone to celebrate. He called the singers to sing and the musicians to play their instruments. "Make songs of joy,"



David commanded (picture 1B.15).

It was a happy, exciting parade. The musicians chose their instruments and practiced so they could play their best. They played instruments with strings called harps and lyres. They played heavy bronze cymbals that were clanged together. The priests blew trumpets (picture 1B.16).

Everyone lined up. The Bible tells the names of the musicians in the parade and exactly what they did. David wanted the best musicians to take part in celebrating this special time. And they dressed up too! David wore his robes and best linen clothes, and so did the priests and musicians and singers.

The people could hardly wait for the parade to begin! It was a great event! The priests and musicians marched along carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The musicians played their instruments loudly. The singers sang their best. David led the way into Jerusalem shouting praises to God. He was so glad to do this for God that he began dancing! People who were watching cheered and clapped.

This was a thrilling and exciting day. The Ark of the Covenant had returned to Jerusalem. King David had led the parade. And all the musicians and singers had made the parade so wonderful—praising and honoring God.



Big Idea: **As a vineyard worker harvests sweet grapes, God produces spiritual fruit in His children.**

1 Kings 21 [outline form]

Intro: *God punishes people unless they ask forgiveness for their sins.*

Ask: *Why did God spare King Ahab?*

1. Naboth grew sweet grapes in his family’s vineyard.
 - *Naboth’s vineyard was near King Ahab’s palace (picture 1B.17) . . . 1 Kings 21:1*
 - *The king wished to buy Naboth’s vineyard. 21:2*
 - *Naboth obeyed God and refused to sell the land 21:3*

2. The king and queen believed they could have whatever they wanted.
 - *King Ahab was very upset that Naboth refused him 22:4*
 - *Queen Jezebel plotted against Naboth 22:7-10*
 - *The queen’s plan worked, and Naboth was killed. 22:13*



3. God sent His prophet, Elijah, to rebuke King Ahab for what he and the queen had done to Naboth.
 - *God directed Elijah to find Ahab in Naboth’s vineyard (picture 1B.18) . . . 22:18*
 - *Elijah delivered God’s message of punishment 22:21-22*
 - *Ahab repented and humbled himself before God 22:27*
 - *God told Elijah that He would not punish Ahab 22:29*

Conclusion: *God will help us “grow good fruit” and forgives us when we are truly sorry about our sins. Ask God to forgive you for what you have done wrong!*



Big Idea: **As a vineyard worker harvests sweet grapes, God produces spiritual fruit in His children.**

1 Kings 21 [narrative form]

Intro: *God punishes people unless they ask forgiveness for their sins.*

Ask: *Why did God spare King Ahab?*

Naboth was a man who raised grapes in a vineyard near the palace of King Ahab. The vineyard had belonged to his family for a long time. Every year, dark green leaves with tendrils grew onto wooden pole fences. Branches spread out all over from sturdy brown vines. Then clumps of white flowers slowly grew into fat red grapes (picture 1B.17).

One day, Naboth was out in his vineyard pruning the grapevines. Suddenly the king and his men galloped on horseback right onto Naboth’s land. King Ahab looked down from his horse. “Naboth, I want to buy your vineyard.” Naboth politely told Ahab, “I could never sell this vineyard. It belonged to my father, and my father’s father, and it will belong to my sons after me. God wouldn’t want me to sell it.”



King Ahab galloped away, and he was furious! The more he thought about Naboth’s

vineyard, the more he wanted it. He couldn’t eat or sleep because he was thinking so much about that vineyard. That’s when King Ahab’s wife, Queen Jezebel, made up a horrible plan. Jezebel didn’t care what God thought. She thought she could have anything she wanted. She had some men lie and say untrue things about Naboth. The people believed the lies about Naboth. They did something that was wrong. They killed him! All because King Ahab wanted something that didn’t belong to him.

So Ahab took Naboth’s vineyard. God saw what Ahab and Jezebel had done. Just because they were the king and queen didn’t make them more important than Naboth.

God told His faithful prophet, Elijah, to tell King Ahab that God was going to punish him. Elijah found King Ahab in the vineyard he had stolen from Naboth (picture 1B.18). Elijah said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Ahab, you have murdered and you have stolen. Now the LORD will bring trouble on you for doing this terrible thing.’”

King Ahab knew he had done wrong. He was sorry for coveting Naboth’s vineyard and following his wife’s evil plan. God saw Ahab was sorry for what he did. God told Elijah, “I won’t punish him like I was planning to do.” God forgave Ahab—even for doing something very evil.



Big Idea: **As a soldier battles a dangerous enemy, God’s children combat Satan’s evil forces.**

1 Samuel 17:4-50 [outline form]

Intro: *David trusted God to fight his battles with him.*

Ask: *How can God help you fight against Satan and sin?*

1. Goliath was a Philistine giant who taunted the armies of Israel.
 - *Goliath was nine feet tall* 1 Samuel 17:4
 - *He asked the Israelites to send someone to fight him* 17:10
 - *None of the soldiers were willing to fight him.* 17:11

2. David, a shepherd boy, was willing to fight Goliath.
 - *David came to the battlefield to give his brothers food* 17:20
 - *When David heard Goliath, he was outraged* 17:26
 - *King Saul sent for David, and David asked to fight Goliath.* 17:32
 - *Saul consented and gave David his armor* 17:38

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3. With God on his side, David went to battle Goliath.
 - *David left Saul’s armor and gathered stones for his sling* (picture 1B.20) . . . 17:40
 - *David told Goliath that the battle was the LORD’s* 17:47
 - *David slung a stone at Goliath which struck his forehead* 17:49
 - *David defeated Goliath* (picture 1B.19) 17:50

Conclusion: *God helped David fight a battle against an opponent who seemed unbeatable. Imagine how God can help us when we face trouble!*

2

Big Idea: **As a soldier battles a dangerous enemy, God’s children combat Satan’s evil forces.**

1 Samuel 17:4-50 [narrative form]

Intro: *David trusted God to fight his battles with him.*

Ask: *How can God help you fight against Satan and sin?*

The Bible tells us about soldiers who fought in a battle between God’s people, the Israelites, and the Philistines, who didn’t worship God. The Philistines’ strongest soldier was a giant named Goliath. He was huge—over nine feet tall, and very strong. He wore thick armor and had a heavy sword and long spear. Another soldier carried his gigantic shield for him. Goliath shouted at them, “Choose your champion to fight me! If I kill your soldier, all you Hebrews will become our slaves! Ha, ha, haaa!”

No soldier wanted to fight Goliath. They wanted to run away! Then, a boy named David showed up at the battlefield to bring cheese and bread to his brothers. And was he surprised and mad at what he saw! David asked the soldiers, “Who’s going to fight that guy? He can’t make fun of our God like that!” “No one can beat him,” they answered. “Look how big he is!” “I’m not afraid to fight that giant,” David said.

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King Saul heard about David and sent for him. He agreed to let David fight the giant. Saul tried to get David to wear his own battle armor, but it was way too heavy and big. So David left the armor and went to the creek and chose five smooth stones. He put the stones in his shepherd’s bag and took out his sling.

The next time Goliath came out to brag about himself and to insult God, David was ready. Goliath laughed even harder when saw this boy coming. “Ha ha haaa! What do think I am, a dog? You are sending a little kid to fight me! Come here, and I’ll feed you to the birds.” (picture 1B.19)

David looked straight at Goliath. “You come at me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts. My God will give me the victory over you, so everyone here will know that the battle belongs to the LORD.”

Then David took a stone from his bag and put it in the sling. He twirled it around his head. Then he let the stone fly. The stone zipped through the air and CRACK! It hit Goliath right in the forehead! To everyone’s shock, Goliath crashed to the ground. Soon he was dead. (picture 1B.20) The Hebrews cheered and ran toward the Philistine army. The Philistines were so surprised and frightened that they ran away. And everyone knew God had fought the battle for David.

2

Big Idea: **As a merchant runs an honest business, God treats His children with wisdom and fairness.**

1 Kings 9:26—10:29 [outline form]

Intro: *God blessed Solomon with riches, which he used wisely for his people.*

Ask: *What can God teach you about being wise with money?*

1. Solomon traded goods with many other lands.
 - *He commissioned a fleet of ships for trading (picture 1B.21).* . . . 1 Kings 9:26-28
2. The Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon.
 - *She had heard of his fame and the honor he brought to God.* 10:1
 - *Solomon answered all her questions (picture 1B.22)* 10:3
 - *The queen praised God for Solomon’s wisdom.* 10:6-9
 - *Solomon treated the Queen of Sheba with honor* 10:13

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3. God blessed King Solomon for caring for his people and for honoring God.
 - *Solomon acquired much wealth* 10:14-21
 - *Solomon was richer and wiser than any other king.* 10:23
 - *People from every country came to hear God’s wisdom* 10:24

Conclusion: *God can reward us when live to honor Him. You please God when you use money wisely.*

2

Big Idea: **As a merchant runs an honest business, God treats His children with wisdom and fairness.**

1 Kings 9:26—10:29 [narrative form]

Intro: *God blessed Solomon with riches, which he used wisely for his people.*

Ask: *What can God teach you about being wise with money?*

When Solomon first became king, God offered to give him anything he wanted. Solomon did not ask for fame or wealth; instead he asked for wisdom. God was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. God gave Solomon wisdom, but also wealth and fame—God knew Solomon would be wise and fair with his riches.

Solomon was not only a king but also a merchant. A merchant is someone who buys and sells things. Solomon built a fleet of ships so he could bring valuable items to his land from far away. The ships and sailors were always busy, loading and unloading goods on the docks. People in those faraway lands heard about Solomon’s kingdom. They talked about how Solomon was always wise and fair with them when buying and selling goods (picture 1B.21).

The queen of the land of Sheba also heard how Solomon was wise and fair. She

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had heard about Solomon’s great palace and all the things he had done. She wanted to see it for herself, so she decided to visit him. The queen brought King Solomon gifts. A long line of camels came clumping into Jerusalem, full of gifts—precious jewels, spices, and gold. Wow! The Queen of Sheba asked Solomon many questions. “He really is as wise as I heard! God has really blessed him!” she decided (picture 1B.22). And she was amazed at all the things Solomon owned. He had bought wonderful foods, beautiful clothes, and furniture for his whole household to use. He bought the best animals to sacrifice to God.

The queen told Solomon, “Blessed be the LORD your God. He has made you rich and blessed you with much wisdom. He is delighted with you and put you on the throne as the King of Israel. What I heard about was just half of all your greatness and wisdom. He made you the king so you could rule fairly and do right.” Then Solomon gave the Queen many gifts, and she went back to Sheba.

God blessed Solomon so much because Solomon obeyed God and used his wisdom to honor God. He built a large Temple so people could worship God there. It’s hard for us to imagine how much richness Solomon had. Solomon was wealthy because God had blessed him. God knew that Solomon would be wise with all that God had given him.

2

Big Idea: **As a metalworker forges valuable metal, God purifies His precious children.**

1 Kings 7:13-51 [outline form]

Intro: *Hiram created beautiful pieces for the Temple to glorify God.*

Ask: *How does God purify us?*

- 1. King Solomon was building a great Temple for God.
 - *The king sent for Hiram from the city of Tyre.* *1 Kings 7:13*
 - *Hiram was very skilled at working with bronze* (picture 1B.23) *7:14*

- 2. Hiram made great structures to use in the Temple.
 - *He cast two gigantic bronze pillars* *7:15*
 - *Hiram made a large tub for water purification* *7:23*
 - *He created ten bronze stands and basins* *7:34, 38*



- 3. Hiram's accomplishments honored God.
 - *Hiram completed all the work appointed to him* *7:40*
 - *He used more bronze than Solomon could count* *7:47*
 - *Solomon made an account of all that had been made* (picture 1A.24) . . . *7:51*

Conclusion: *God uses work to purify our hearts and minds. Everything we do can be done to give God glory!*



Big Idea: **As a metalworker forges valuable metal, God purifies His precious children.**

1 Kings 7:13-51 [narrative form]

Intro: *Hiram created beautiful pieces for the Temple to glorify God.*

Ask: *How does God purify us?*

King Solomon was building a huge Temple so God's people could worship Him there. Solomon wanted the very best of everything for the Temple, to remind everyone how wonderful and holy God is. King Solomon had heard about a foreign man named Hiram who was really skilled at making beautiful objects from bronze (picture 1B.23).

Hiram's first job was to make two pillars of bronze. Each one was 27 feet tall and 15 feet across! That's as high as a two-story house and as wide as a garage! Then he decorated the top of the pillars with 400 bronze pomegranates (a special kind of fruit).

Next Hiram created a huge metal tub, as big as a swimming pool. This was for the priests who had to purify themselves before they presented offerings to God.



The tub was put on top of ten bronze stands decorated with animals, angels, palm trees, and wreaths. And the stands sat on wheels made from bronze. Hiram worked hard and used all his skill.

To make everything out of metal, Hiram organized workers to build huge, hot fires. Other workers carved molds to pour the hot bronze into. Some workers heated the ore in a pot over the super hot fire. This made dirt and rock pieces float to the top. The metalworkers carefully scooped the dirt off the hot, soft metal. The beautiful, melted bronze remained in the pot. Hiram knew that only the purest metal should be used for the beautiful things he made for God's Temple, because he knew God was holy.

Hiram thought, "When we started, this was just ugly rock. And now it's beautiful and pure and valuable because we took away the parts that were impure. That is what God is doing in my life! He wants to purify me by taking away the attitudes and actions that aren't beautiful. I want God to make me as pure as this bronze pillar we just made!"

So Hiram worked for months and months to make all the beautiful bronze Temple furnishings (picture 1B.24). When it was all finished, the Temple was very beautiful, and Hiram's heart shone too, because he had allowed God to purify it as he worked.

