

Teacher Notecards Level 1, Quarter D— Village Life 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: **God leads His people to places where they can serve Him best.**

Genesis 12-13 [outline form]

Intro: *Abraham followed God to an unknown location.*

Ask: *Why is it important to trust God?*

1. God called Abram and blessed him.

- *God told Abram to leave his home and follow Him Genesis 12:1*
- *God would bless Abram and make his family into a great nation 12:2*
- *Everyone would be blessed through Abram and his descendants 12:3*

2. Abram obeyed God and left his home.

- *Abram took his family and possessions and left for Canaan (picture 1D.1) . . . 12:4-5*
- *God promised the land to Abram’s offspring 12:7*
- *Abram built two altars to God 12:7-8*

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3. Abram’s family grew too large to travel together.

- *Abram returned to the place of his first altar 13:4*
- *Abram offered Lot his choice of the land (picture 1D.2) 13:8-9*
- *Lot chose the land that looked best to him 13:10-11*
- *God promised Abram he would be blessed in his new land 13:14-16*

Conclusion: *No matter where God calls us to go, He will be with us. We can trust Him to direct us and provide what we need!*

2

Big Idea: **God leads His people to places where they can serve Him best.**

Genesis 12-13 [narrative form]

Intro: *Abraham followed God to an unknown location.*

Ask: *Why is it important to trust God?*

Abraham lived in Bible times. One day, Abraham heard from God! “Abraham, leave your father’s country. Take your family and move to a new land I will show you. I’m going to make you into a great nation. Everyone will know your name. You will be a blessing.”

Abraham obeyed. “Yes, God, I will go!” Then he told his wife, Sarah, and his nephew, Lot, to pack all their belongings for a long trip. Everyone in their group began packing tents, clothing, and everything they owned. Abraham got his cattle and sheep herds ready to travel. Camels and donkeys were loaded with the tents, cooking supplies, clothing, and blankets (picture 1D.1).

Abraham started traveling in the direction God told him to go. He didn’t know where he would end up. But he trusted God to direct him and to care for him and his

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family. Finally, Abraham’s family arrived at a place called Canaan, God spoke again, “I’ll give this land to your children.” Abraham built an altar where he prayed and worshiped God. Then God directed him to travel to some hills near a place called Bethel. Abraham obeyed. “Yes, God, I will go!” He moved his family to Bethel where they set up their tents for a while. Abraham built another altar at Bethel where he prayed and worshiped God.

Abraham’s group was pretty big—there were many family members and servants, and lots of sheep and other livestock. It became too crowded for both Abraham’s family and his nephew Lot’s family to stay in the same tent village.

They needed to spread out! So Abraham gave Lot a choice. “You can take the land on the left side,” Abraham said, “or the right.” Lot looked at both sections of land (picture 1D.2). One had lots of water and was green and beautiful. The other side looked dry and dusty. Which do you think Lot chose? The green, pretty one!

Then God spoke again. “Abraham, I will give you and your children all the land you can see. Your family will be really big, and they’ll own all this land.” What a great gift! Abraham unpacked his tents near some oak trees and settled down. To thank and honor God for giving him this huge blessing, he built another altar there.

2

Big Idea: God shows His people the way as they travel.

Genesis 32-33 [outline form]

Intro: Jacob traveled to reunite with his brother, Esau.

Ask: How can we know that God is with us when we travel?

- 1. Jacob set out to return home and meet his brother, Esau (picture 1D.3).
 - Jacob sent a message to Esau Genesis 32:3-5
 - The messengers told Jacob that Esau was coming with 400 men 32:6
 - Jacob was afraid of Esau and prayed to God 32:9-12
 - Jacob sent gifts of herd animals to Esau 32:17-21
- 2. Jacob wrestled with God.
 - Jacob wrestled with a man he could not defeat 32:24-25
 - Jacob asked for the man’s blessing 32:26
 - The man blessed Jacob and gave him the name Israel 32:28
 - Jacob realized the man was really God 32:29-30



- 3. Jacob was reunited with Esau.
 - Jacob went up to Esau and bowed seven times (picture 1D.4) 33:3
 - Esau hugged his brother and they cried 33:4
 - Esau asked about the animals Jacob sent 33:8
 - Jacob told Esau to take the animals as a gift. 33:11
 - Jacob and Esau parted company, reconciled 33:15-17

Conclusion: God is with us wherever we go—even when we travel far from home. Praise God for showing us the way!



Big Idea: God shows His people the way as they travel.

Genesis 32-33 [narrative form]

Intro: Jacob traveled to reunite with his brother, Esau.

Ask: How can we know that God is with us when we travel?

Jacob had left home a long time ago. Jacob had cheated his twin brother, Esau, and had stolen a very important gift—their father’s blessing. When Esau found out, he was so mad at Jacob that he wanted to kill his brother. So Jacob had run away.

Many years later, God spoke to Jacob in a dream: “Pack up your family and your belongings and go back to the land of your birth.” Jacob obeyed. He packed all his belongings, put his family on camels, and left his home (picture 1D.3).

It was a long trip, and Jacob had many days to think and pray. Jacob’s brother, Esau, would be there—and he still might be very mad at Jacob. God knew Jacob was afraid. He sent His angels to meet Jacob. When Jacob saw the angels, he knew that God was with him.

When Jacob was almost home, he prayed for God’s protection. Jacob planned to



give Esau a present. He chose 220 goats, 220 sheep, 30 camels, 40 cows, 10 bulls, and 30 donkeys. He sent them ahead in three different groups to meet Esau. One by one, three servants met Esau and gave him gifts, announcing that his brother, Jacob, was on his way and wanted to be friends.

The next day, Jacob saw his brother, Esau, coming with 400 men! Jacob was afraid of what Esau might do, but he trusted God to help him do what was right. Jacob walked in front of everyone. He bowed to the ground seven times to show he was sorry for stealing from Esau. When Jacob looked up the last time, Esau was running right toward him (picture 1D.4)! Esau threw his arms around Jacob! He hugged him and kissed him. Both brothers cried with the happiness at being together after so many years. Jacob introduced his family to Esau.

Esau didn’t want to take all the gifts from Jacob. “Please forgive me and accept my gifts,” Jacob said. “God has been so good and gracious to me. I have more than I want.” So Esau forgave Jacob and accepted the gifts.

After a short visit, Esau returned to his home, and Jacob traveled on to Canaan where he worshiped God, thanking Him for safe travel and for renewing his relationship with Esau.



Big Idea: **God controls the seasons and the weather to accomplish His purposes.**

1 Kings 17:1-7, 18:41-46 [outline form]

Intro: *God control the weather to show God's people His power.*

Ask: *How can you appreciate the weather God sends?*

1. Elijah gave the people messages from God.

- *Elijah announced that God would stop sending rain 1 Kings 17:1*
- *God sent Elijah to a safe place with water 17:2-4*
- *God sent ravens to feed Elijah (picture 1D.5) 17:5-6*
- *Eventually the drought dried up the brook. 17:7*



2. After a contest between Elijah and the priests of the false god, Baal, God confirmed His power and authority.

- *Elijah told King Ahab that rain was coming 18:41*
- *Elijah prayed to God and sent his servant to watch the sky 18:42-43*
- *After seven times, Elijah's servant saw a tiny cloud over the sea (picture 1D.6) 18:44*
- *God sent a great storm to Israel. 18:45*

Conclusion: *God showed that He controls everything, even the weather. We should be thankful to God for the weather He sends.*



Big Idea: **God controls the seasons and the weather to accomplish His purposes.**

1 Kings 17:1-7, 18:41-46 [narrative form]

Intro: *God control the weather to show God's people His power.*

Ask: *How can you appreciate the weather God sends?*

Every spring in Israel, rains filled the lakes and rivers. They brought moisture so the crops in the fields would grow. The people depended on these rains before the hot summer sun dried out the land.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel didn't want to obey God's Word. They worshiped false gods. They encouraged God's people to stop listening to the LORD, too. King Ahab especially hated Elijah, a prophet of the LORD.

God wanted to teach King Ahab and His people a lesson. So, He stopped sending rain. Soon the plants withered and the streams dried up. There was no food to eat. There was no water to drink. But the LORD sent Elijah to a special brook where he could drink water. Every day, God sent ravens to bring Elijah food (picture 1D.5). Every



morning, these big black birds brought bread and meat for Elijah. Every evening, the ravens brought him more bread and meat to eat. God took care of Elijah.

Because God's people did not obey Him, no rain fell for three whole years! They were desperate! One day, King Ahab and the false prophets gathered on Mt. Carmel. Elijah met them and had a contest to prove that the LORD is greater than Baal, King Ahab's false god. The LORD sent fire from heaven! Baal did nothing. *Who was greater, the LORD or Baal?* Encourage responses.

Then Elijah told King Ahab, "Get ready for a heavy rainstorm." Elijah and his servant climbed to the top of Mount Carmel. Elijah got on his knees and prayed for God to send rain. He told his servant, "Go; look toward the great sea; tell me what you see." The servant returned and said to Elijah, "I saw nothing." Elijah prayed again. Then he sent his servant to look. Again the servant saw nothing. This happened six times. But on the seventh time, the servant said, "I saw a tiny cloud far in the distance." (picture 1D.6) Elijah knew that the LORD would soon answer his prayer.

The sky grew black. The wind blew hard. Then the rain started to fall. God sent a great rainstorm. Elijah knew that God sent the storm. King Ahab knew that God was in charge of the weather. God controls the seasons and weather to accomplish His purposes.



Big Idea: **God created plants and herbs for people to enjoy.**

Numbers 13-14 [outline form]

Intro: *God led His people to land with great fruits and vegetables (picture 1D.7).*

Ask: *Why did God create plants?*

1. God commanded Moses to send scouts into Canaan.

- *Moses chose twelve men, one from each tribe Numbers 13:3-15*
- *Moses told them to explore the land. 13:19*
- *Moses told them to assess the people and their strongholds 13:19*
- *Moses told them to bring back fruit from the land 13:20*

2. The scouts explored the land for forty days.

- *They covered the whole area 13:21-22*
- *They brought back grapes, pomegranates, and figs (picture 1D.8) 13:23*
- *They reported to Moses and the whole assembly 13:26*

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3. The scouts disagreed about whether or not to invade the land.

- *Ten of the men believed the people in Canaan were too powerful. . . . 13:28-29*
- *Caleb told Moses they could defeat the Canaanites 13:30*
- *The ten spread gossip about how powerful the Canaanites were 13:31-33*

4. The people needed to decide whether or not they trusted God.

- *The people were upset because they could not enter Canaan. 14:1-4*
- *Caleb and Joshua told the people to trust God 14:6-9*
- *The people wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. 14:10*
- *God was displeased with the people's lack of faith 14:11*

Conclusion: *God provides the good things that grow that we eat. Be thankful for your food and trust God to do what He says He will do.*

2

Big Idea: **God created plants and herbs for people to enjoy.**

Numbers 13-14 [narrative form]

Intro: *God led His people to land with great fruits and vegetables.*

Ask: *Why did God create plants?*

God's people were excited—they would soon enter the Promised Land! He said it was a land flowing with milk and honey. You can see why God's people were excited. They couldn't wait to live there and build homes and gardens (picture 1D.7).

The Israelites had stopped at the edge of the Promised Land. The LORD said to Moses, "Send twelve men to explore this land I am going to give you." Moses chose twelve scouts. He told them, "Go see what this land is like. Check out the people who live there. Is the land good for growing crops? Bring back some fruit from the land."

While the rest of God's people waited at their camp in the desert, the twelve men spied out the land. When they came back after forty days, the spies told Moses everything they had seen. "The land is wonderful. Just like God said, it 'flows with milk and honey.' There's lots of fruit." They showed Moses one gigantic cluster of

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grapes carried on a pole, along with figs and pomegranates (picture 1D.8).

But then they told Moses, "The cities are huge and protected like fortresses. And some of the people in that land are giants!" That was bad news! God's people were afraid of the strong cities and giants. But Caleb, one of the explorers, said, "Quiet, everyone! We should go conquer this land."

From the twelve men who spied out the new land, only two—Caleb and Joshua—believed that God would do as He promised to help them defeat the giants and strong cities. But the people didn't trust God. Instead they cried and complained to Moses.

Caleb and Joshua spoke again. "God loves us, and this land is His gift to us! Don't rebel against God. Don't be afraid. The LORD is with us!" Instead of listening, everyone wanted to throw stones at the two men. God said to Moses, "After all I have done for these people, how can they still refuse to believe in Me?" Moses asked God to forgive them for not trusting Him.

The LORD agreed to forgive them, but they would be punished for their choices. Only Caleb and Joshua, the two who trusted God, would get to live in the wonderful Promised Land. Everyone else would wander for forty years in the desert and never see the new land.

2

Big Idea: **God made animals for people to care for and enjoy.**

Genesis 1-2 [outline form]

Intro: *God created the animals and put people in charge of them.*

Ask: *How can we care for the animals God created?*

1. God created everything.

- *God created light and darkness* *Genesis 1:4-5*
- *God created the earth* *1:6-10*
- *God created plants* *1:11-12*
- *God created animals (picture 1D.9)* *1:20-25*

2. God created people.

- *God gave people dominion over the animals* *1:28*
- *God gave people and animals the plants to eat* *1:29-30*



3. God gave Adam a job.

- *Adam was to work and care for Eden* *2:15*
- *God brought all the animals to Adam (picture 1D.10)* *2:19*
- *Adam named each of the animals* *2:20*

Conclusion: *God created the animals for people to care for and enjoy. We need to take good care of the animals God created!*



Big Idea: **God made animals for people to care for and enjoy.**

Genesis 1-2 [narrative form]

Intro: *God created the animals and but put people in charge of them.*

Ask: *How can we care for the animals God created?*

Do you know how all these animals got their names? Do you think God named them? God created them, but He didn't name them. So who did?

The Bible tells us that on the first day, God created light and dark. On the second day, He created sky and water. On the third day, He made all kinds of plant life. On the fourth day, He created the sun, moon, and stars. On the fifth day, He made birds and fish. And on the sixth day, God created every animal that moves on land (picture 1D.9)! God made all those, and lots more. Wow, God is creative and powerful!

But God didn't name them. He had more to make on this sixth day of creation. What do you think God created next? God made the first person! He made a



man, named him Adam, and placed him in a beautiful garden—the garden of Eden.

Then God gave Adam his first job. In Genesis 2:19, God brought every animal to Adam (picture 1D.10). What do you think Adam thought when God brought a huge rhinoceros right up to him? Or a hooting monkey? Or a tall giraffe?

Because God created Adam in His image, Adam was creative, too. God asked Adam to think up the names for all the creatures God had made. What a fun job that must have been!

Once Adam finished naming the animals, God saw that Adam was still alone, so He decided to create one more person. God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took a rib from Adam's side and used it to make the first woman. Her name was Eve. God blessed them and said, "Be in charge of and care for all the creatures on earth."



Big Idea: **God designed every small creature to fulfill His purposes.**

Exodus 8-10 [outline form]

Intro: *God used tiny insects to help free His people.*

Ask: *Why are insects important to God?*

1. God sent plagues to Egypt.

- *Frogs plagued the Egyptian houses and families* Exodus 8:6
- *God sent gnats to bother the Egyptians* 8:17
- *Swarms of flies ruined the land.* 8:21
- *The flies did not swarm where God's people lived.* 8:22

2. Pharaoh still refused to free God's people (picture 1D.12).

- *God sent plagues on livestock, plagues of boils, and hail* 9:6,10,25
- *God sent locusts that destroyed all Egypt's crops.* 10:14-15
- *Sent the locusts away with a mighty wind* 10:19

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3. God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he still refused to let God's people go.

- *God sent a plague of darkness* 10:22-23
- *After a final, tenth plague, Pharaoh free the Israelites* 12:31

Conclusion: *God can use even the smallest insects to carry out His plan. Thank God for creating every creature to accomplish his purposes!*

2

Big Idea: **God designed every small creature to fulfill His purposes.**

Exodus 8-10 [narrative form]

Intro: *God used tiny insects to help free His people.*

Ask: *Why are insects important to God?*

How many of you know that God can use even small creatures like birds and insects to do His work? After God's people had been slaves for four hundred years in Egypt, God gave Moses the job of leading them to freedom. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, wanted to keep the Israelites as slaves. God used His little creatures, insects, to help Moses persuade Pharaoh to let the people go.

God told Moses he would bring special kinds of trouble, called plagues, on the Egyptian people. The first time, God changed the water of the Nile River into blood. Then He sent a plague of frogs up from the lakes and rivers into the homes and yards of the Egyptians. Pharaoh wouldn't let God's people go (picture 1D.12).

Then the LORD sent gnats—little tiny bugs that crawled all over the people and animals—in their ears, in their eyes, in their noses. But in spite of all those gnats,

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Pharaoh's heart was still hard, and he wouldn't let God's people go.

Next God sent flies to crawl all over the Egyptian people. No flies bothered God's people, but the Egyptians were going crazy with the flies.

God sent more plagues. Nearly all the cattle, sheep, and goats of Egypt died. Then God made everybody break out in really bad blisters. And next, God sent a terrible thunderstorm with so much hail that all the plants and trees were destroyed.

Pharaoh still had a hardened heart. So Moses told Pharaoh, "Let my people go! And if you don't, tomorrow there will be so many locusts that you won't even be able to see the ground, and the locusts will eat everything in sight!"

Pharaoh refused. So the LORD made the wind blow from the east all day and all night. And by morning, the wind had brought millions of locusts. They covered the ground and ate everything in Egypt, just as God promised. There was nothing green left in the land.

After the locusts, Pharaoh still didn't let God's people go. It took two more plagues to persuade him. The first pitch-black darkness and the other was the death of all the firstborn children of Egypt. On that night, God spared the lives of the Israelite children, and He set them free from Egypt.

2

Big Idea: **God provides everything His people need.**

Ezekiel 27:12-24 [outline form]

Intro: *Tyre had a large marketplace where people bought and sold goods.*

Ask: *How does God provide everything we need?*

1. Tyre traded goods with many nations (picture 1D.13).
 - *The nations traded precious and useful metals* Ezekiel 27:12-13
 - *They traded horses and mules* 12:14
 - *They traded exotic items* 12:15-16
2. Tyre’s marketplace included goods from God’s people (picture 1D.14).
 - *Israel and Judah traded wheat and honey* 12:17
 - *They traded oil and balm* 12:17
 - *Damascus traded wine and wool.* 12:18



3. God’s judgment was on Tyre.
 - *Tyre did not acknowledge God’s providence* 12:3
 - *God would punish the people of Tyre for their self-reliance* 12:26-27

Conclusion: *God created everything that people use to make what we have today. No matter what people bought or traded for in Bible times or today, it all came from God, our provider.*



Big Idea: **God provides everything His people need.**

Ezekiel 27:12-24 [narrative form]

Intro: *Tyre had a large marketplace where people bought and sold goods.*

Ask: *How does God provide everything we need?*

In Old Testament times, every city and town had a local market where farmers sold their fruit, vegetables, and grain, and craftsmen sold their pots, metal and cloth goods. People went to a marketplace to buy or trade for what they needed.

Traders and merchants would have spaces and booths on the streets where they sold or traded food, cloth, pottery, oil for lamps, animals, leather, baskets, and other things people needed for everyday life. Cities started to grow and traders started to take their goods to other places where people wanted special cloth, food they couldn’t get in their towns, and other items such as jewels and spices.

In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet named Ezekiel tells about the colorful, beautiful, and special things in the marketplace in a city called Tyre (picture 1D.13). Tyre was beside the ocean, so ships from other countries came there and brought their



best goods. At some shops in the Tyre market, you could find metals like silver, iron, tin, and lead. Because Tyre was on the coast, there would be people selling fish. Then there was a street full of horses and mules to buy. They could be used to carry things, to plow the farmers’ fields, or to fight in times of war.

Some traders used ivory tusks from elephants and ebony wood to trade for what they needed from the Tyre sellers. Some traders came to Tyre to find beautiful material in turquoise and purple, precious jewels of coral and rubies, and embroidered cloth.

Most people of Israel were farmers. They brought wheat, wine, wool, oil, and honey. Imagine how busy and crowded it could be in this marketplace (picture 1D.14)! People would be bumping up against each other, carrying loads of goods, calling out for buyers to look at what they were selling.

People from many different countries and cities came to Tyre to buy and sell and trade. But most of the people who came there didn’t know that everything, from the horses and saddles to the wheat and bright cloth, came from one provider. God created everything that people use to make what we have today. No matter what people bought or traded for in Bible times or today, it all came from God, our provider.



Big Idea: **God gives His people guidelines to care for their bodies.**

2 Kings 5:1-19 [outline form]

Intro: *Naaman submitted to God, and God healed his leprosy.*

Ask: *How is God responsible for all healing?*

1. Naaman was a soldier for the King of Aram.

- *God had given Naaman great victories, but he had leprosy 2 Kings 5:1*
- *The servant girl told Naaman's wife to see Elisha 5:3*
- *Naaman left Aram with gifts and a letter from the king 5:4-5*
- *The king assumed Israel's king believed in Elisha 5:6*

2. Naaman came to the king of Israel.

- *The king had no idea what the letter was talking about 5:7*
- *Elisha sent a message to the king 5:8*
- *Naaman went to see Elisha 5:9*

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3. Naaman came to Elisha's house (picture 1D.15).

- *Elisha's servant met Naaman and told him to wash in the Jordan river . . 5:10*
- *Naaman was upset—he was proud and wanted a great healing 5:11-12*
- *Naaman humbled himself and obey—and was healed 5:14*
- *Naaman promised to worship God 5:17*
- *Naaman returned home (picture 1D.16) 5:19*

Conclusion: *God is the Great Healer, but we must be humble and rely on His power.*

2

Big Idea: **God gives His people guidelines to care for their bodies.**

2 Kings 5:1-19 [narrative form]

Intro: *Naaman submitted to God, and God healed his leprosy.*

Ask: *How is God responsible for all healing?*

Naaman was brave and strong. Even though he didn't know about the LORD God, God had helped him win battles. But now Naaman had a big problem. He had leprosy. Leprosy was a terrible skin disease that made a person's skin turn white and scaly.

Naaman's wife had a servant girl from Israel. This girl knew God was the healer of any disease. One day the servant girl told Naaman's wife, "If Naaman would see the prophet, Elisha, in Samaria, God would cure him of his leprosy."

When Naaman heard this, he went right to the king of Aram to ask permission to go to Samaria. The king agreed and even wrote a letter to the king of Israel, requesting his help.

But when the king read the letter, he said, "What? Do they think I am God, that I can heal someone? I bet your king just wants to invade our land again!"

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But Elisha the prophet heard about Naaman. He asked the king to send Naaman to him. So Naaman got back in his chariot and showed up at Elisha's front door.

Elisha didn't answer the door, but he sent a messenger out to tell Naaman, "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and you will be healed of your leprosy." (picture 1D.15) Naaman was used to people showing him great respect. "At least this prophet could come out and talk to me. I thought he'd wave his hand over my leprosy, call on his God, and heal me! Our rivers back home are cleaner than this river here. I'll just go home and wash in my own river!"

Naaman's servants said to him, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, you would have done it. So why not just wash and be healed like he says?" Naaman listened to his servants. He trudged down to the river and dipped himself in the water seven times. When he came up, his skin was as good as new! The leprosy was gone!

Naaman and all his servants rushed to Elisha's house. Naaman stood humbly before Elisha. His proud attitude was gone. "Now I know there is no other God in the whole world except the God of Israel!"

And Elisha said to Naaman, "Go in peace." (picture 1D.16)

2

Big Idea: **God protects His people from their enemies.**

Joshua 6 [outline form]

Intro: *City walls could not protect people from God's plan.*

Ask: *How is God like a shield?*

1. The city of Jericho was tightly guarded against invaders. No one could go in or out. Great walls protected the city.

- *God told Joshua that Jericho was theirs to take.* Joshua 6:2
- *God told Joshua what to do* 6:3-5
- *Joshua obeyed God and told the people what to do* 6:6-7

2. God's battle plan included no fighting. God's people trusted Him and obeyed.

- *Seven priests with trumpets went before the Ark of the covenant* 6:8
- *Soldiers marched before and behind the ark.* 6:9
- *Everyone marched silently around the city for six days* (picture 1D.17) 6:10,14

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3. On the seventh day, God gave different orders.

- *Joshua and the army marched around Jericho seven times in one day.* 6:15
- *The priests blew their trumpet, and all the people shouted.* 6:20
- *Jericho's walls fell down* (picture 1D.18) 6:20

Conclusion: *God protects us, not cities and walls. Thank God for the wonderful things He has done for you!*

2

Big Idea: **God protects His people from their enemies.**

Joshua 6 [narrative form]

Intro: *City walls could not protect people from God's plan.*

Ask: *How is God like a shield?*

Jericho was the oldest known Bible-times city. A high stone wall surrounded it. The city wall made the people inside feel safe. Enemies couldn't easily attack them. But the people of Jericho didn't follow the one true God. They didn't have His protection.

The LORD led His people to Jericho. During this time, Joshua was the Israelites' leader. He followed God's direction and always trusted God to protect him. When the Israelite army headed toward Jericho, the city closed its gates and put guards there.

But the LORD said to Joshua, "I have already given Jericho to you, along with its king and its mighty warriors! Do what I tell you, and the city will be yours. Tell the Israelite army to march around the city once a day for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets made of ram's horns, and behind them bring the Ark of the Covenant." Remind kids about the Ark of the Covenant.

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Joshua and the people obeyed God. They trusted Him to protect them from Jericho's soldiers. The Israelite armed men marched around the city wall. Behind them came the priests blowing trumpets and carrying the Ark of the Covenant. And last came another group of soldiers, the rear guard. The priests blew their trumpets the whole time, but all the people were silent (picture 1D.17).

They marched around the city. God's people did exactly the same thing for six days in a row, just as God had commanded.

On the seventh day, the Israelite army, the priests, and the Ark of the Covenant started out again. But God had given a different command for the seventh day. This time they marched around the city seven times!

The seventh time around, when the priests blew their trumpet blasts, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city." All the people shouted as loud as they could (picture 1D.18). Crack...Crunch!...Suddenly the wall of Jericho was falling down!

The wall of stone and brick fell down as though it were made of sand. The people of Israel rushed inside and took over the city. God kept His promise to Joshua and to the Israelites, and gave them the city of Jericho.

2

Big Idea: **God appoints human leaders to carry out His wonderful plan.**

Exodus 18 [outline form]

Intro: *Moses appointed judges to help him lead God’s people.*

Ask: *Why is it important to respect and honor our leaders?*

1. Moses’ father-in-law was a wise man named Jethro.
 - *Jethro had heard of all God and Moses had done Exodus 18:1*
 - *Jethro came to visit Moses. 18:5-6*
 - *Jethro praised God for all He had done 18:9-12*
2. Jethro watched Moses with the people and saw that he had a problem.
 - *Moses sat as judge for the people all day (picture 1D.19) 18:13*
 - *Jethro asked Moses about it and he explained he was their leader . . . 18:15-16*
 - *Jethro said it was not good—Moses would wear himself out 18:17-18*

1



3. Jethro gave Moses some good advice (picture 1D.20).
 - *Jethro said to lead the people and teach them God’s laws 18:19-20*
 - *He also told Moses to choose good men to judge over groups. 18:21*
 - *The judges could solve everyday problems for the people. 18:22*
 - *Moses would only have judge to difficult cases 18:22*
 - *Moses took Jethro’s advice 18:24*

Conclusion: *God is charge of the whole earth. He appoints leaders over us that we should honor and respect. Praise God for being our great leader!*

2

Big Idea: **God appoints human leaders to carry out His wonderful plan.**

Exodus 18 [narrative form]

Intro: *Moses appointed judges to help him lead God’s people.*

Ask: *Why is it important to respect and honor our leaders?*

God is in charge of the whole earth. And He had put Moses in charge of all the Israelites. Moses told them God’s messages, he led them in the right direction, and he reminded them to live God’s way. And Moses was also their judge. So when a person or family had a disagreement with another person or family, they came to Moses. He listened to their problem and gave them a solution. When people needed help, they came to ask Moses. Think how long the line of people would be every day when Moses came from his tent to judge the people’s problems!

One day, Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit. Moses was happy to see his father-in-law. He told Jethro about the amazing things God had done for His people. Jethro was really excited to hear this news. He said, “Praise the LORD! He’s greater than any other god!”

1



The next day Moses went to work as usual. He left his tent to listen to the people. He sat there all day, until it was dark, helping the people. He was so tired every night (picture 1D.19). Jethro saw how much time Moses was taking with the people.

“Look how many are standing in line to talk with you,” Jethro said. “Why are you doing all this alone?” Moses explained what he was doing. “This isn’t good,” Jethro told him. “You’re going to wear yourself out—then who will lead these people? Listen to my advice and may God be with you. Teach the people God’s laws, but get some help. Choose trustworthy, honest men. Make them judges over groups of people. Put one man in charge of 1,000 people, and under him, have others who are in charge of smaller groups. If there’s a big problem no one else can solve, then they can bring it to you. The people will go home satisfied, and you won’t get so worn out.”

Moses listened to Jethro’s advice (picture 1D.20). Moses chose leaders who helped judge the people’s problems. And it worked! This was an early form of government in the Bible. Governments today are run much the same way. Leaders make rules for us to obey, and people in authority enforce the rules.

2

Big Idea: **God created marriage for a man and woman to serve Him together.**

Genesis 24 [outline form]

Intro: *Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac.*

Ask: *Why is marriage so special to God?*

1. Abraham wanted a wife for his son, Isaac.
 - *Abraham sent his servant to find Isaac a Hebrew wife Genesis 24:4*
 - *Abraham said the woman must be willing to come to Canaan 24:6-7*
 - *The servant left for the land of Abraham's people 24:10*

2. Abraham's servant arrived with his camels in the evening.
 - *The servant prayed, asking God to show him Isaac's wife. 24:12-14*
 - *Rebekah gave the servant and his camels water (picture 1D.21) . . . 24:15-21*
 - *The servant praised God for answering his prayer 24:26-27*

1



3. Rebekah's family invited Abraham's servant to stay with them.
 - *The servant explained what had happened. 24:34-48*
 - *Rebekah's family agreed that God intended her to marry Isaac. 24:50-51*
 - *Rebekah agreed to return with Abraham's servant. 24:58*
 - *Isaac married Rebekah and loved her (picture 1D.22) 24:67*

Conclusion: *God wants husbands and wives to serve Him together as a team. Marriage is one of God's most wonderful creations!*

2

Big Idea: **God created marriage for a man and woman to serve Him together.**

Genesis 24 [narrative form]

Intro: *Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac.*

Ask: *Why is marriage so special to God?*

In Bible times, parents often chose a bride for their son or a groom for their daughter. That's what Abraham did for his son, Isaac. Abraham's family was living in Canaan, far away from the land where he had been born.

Abraham told his chief servant, "I want Isaac to marry a woman who follows the one true God. Go back to the country of my relatives and find a wife for my son, Isaac."

The servant promised to do his best. He took ten camels loaded with gifts and supplies and traveled five hundred miles to the town of Nahor. When he arrived, it was evening, and young women were coming out to draw water from the well.

The servant prayed, "O LORD, when I ask a girl for a drink, and one says 'Drink, and I will water your camels, too,' may that girl be the one You have chosen for Isaac."

1



While he was still praying, a girl arrived with a water jar. Abraham's servant asked her for a drink. She answered, "Of course! I'll give water to your camels, too, until they have enough." (picture 1D.21) The servant asked, "Whose daughter are you? Would your father let us stay with your family tonight?"

The girl answered, "My father's name is Bethuel, and my grandparents are Milcah and Nahor. We have plenty of straw, and room for you to stay with us." The servant could hardly believe his ears. He bowed down and said, "Praise be to God, who has been so kind and faithful to Abraham!"

The girl ran home to tell her parents what had happened. Abraham's servant told Rebekah's family why he had come to their home. Rebekah's father and brother looked at each other and said, "Clearly the LORD has brought you here. Yes, let Rebekah be the wife of your master's son, as God has directed." Rebekah agreed to go back to marry Isaac. Abraham's servant praised God again.

Rebekah said goodbye to her family and set off for the long trip. When they were almost there, Rebekah saw a man in the distance. "Who's that?" she asked the servant. "That's Isaac!" he said (picture 1D.22.) Rebekah and Isaac met, and Isaac was pleased to have Rebekah for his wife. Isaac loved her very much.

2

Big Idea: God directs the birth, life, and death of every person.

Genesis 21,23 [outline form]

Intro: Birth and death are all part of God's wonderful plan.

Ask: How can we know that death is not the end?

1. God had promised Abraham he would have many children, but he had none.

God finally fulfilled His promise (picture 1D.23).

- Sarah gave birth to a baby boy when she was ninety. Genesis 21:1-2
•Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac 21:3
•Sarah was overjoyed at her new son, her gift from God (picture 1D.24) . . . 21:6-7

2. Isaac grew up and Sarah became older.

- Sarah lived until Isaac was thirty-seven-years old. 23:1
•Sarah died in the land of Canaan. 23:2
•Abraham was very sad when she died 23:2



3. Abraham wanted to honor his wife.

- The people offered Abraham free land to bury Sarah. 23:6
•Abraham wanted to buy the land so it would be his 23:8-9
•Abraham buried Sarah in a cave on the land he bought 23:19

Conclusion: Our lives are very important to God—that is why He sent Jesus. Praise God that birth is full of joy and death is not the end!



Big Idea: God directs the birth, life, and death of every person.

Genesis 21,23 [narrative form]

Intro: Birth and death are all part of God's wonderful plan.

Ask: How can we know that death is not the end?

In Bible times, having children was very important for a woman, and the more children the better. But sometimes women couldn't have babies easily. This was true for Sarah. God had promised her husband, Abraham, that He would give him as many descendants (children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) as there were stars in the sky (picture 1D.23). But for years and years, Abraham and Sarah didn't have any children.

When Abraham and Sarah were very old, they had given up the idea of having children. Abraham was ninety-nine and Sarah was eighty-nine years old. Then the LORD appeared to Abraham and said, "Next year you and Sarah will have a son."

God can do anything, and sure enough, Sarah became pregnant, and the next year she gave birth to a son. Abraham named their son Isaac, which means "laughter."



Abraham and Sarah were very happy, and they said, "God has brought us laughter! Who would have dreamed that we could have a baby after all these years!" So Abraham and Sarah raised their son, Isaac, and they all lived happily ever after (picture 1D.24).

Wait! Nobody lives forever on earth, do they? Everybody has to die sometime. And Sarah was already ninety years old when Isaac was born. She did live until Isaac was thirty-seven years old, and when she was one hundred and twenty-seven, she died.

Abraham was very sad, and he cried over his beloved wife. Abraham wanted to bury Sarah. But Abraham didn't own any land. So he went to the people who lived in the town of Hebron and said to the people, "I am a stranger here, and my wife has just died. Please sell me some land so that I can bury her. I would like to buy the cave at the end of Ephron's field."

Ephron, the man who owned the land, agreed to sell it. Abraham buried his wife Sarah there in the cave in Ephron's field. It was God's plan for Abraham to buy a little piece of the Promised Land where God's people would one day live. God had promised that He would make Abraham into a great nation. All of what God said was starting to come true.

