

TEACHER NOTECARDS LEVEL 2, QUARTER B—  
WHY WE GOT THE BIBLE

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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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 1: The Bible Enters My Mind

Big Idea: **God develops my mind when I read the Bible.**

### 1 Kings 3:2-15 [outline form]

Intro: *King Solomon pleased God by asking Him for wisdom.*

Ask: *Why did God bless Solomon with wealth and fame?*

1. Solomon honored God as his father, David, had.

- *The Temple had not yet been built.* . . . . . 1 Kings 3:2
- *King Solomon loved the LORD.* . . . . . 3:3
- *Solomon offered 1,000 sacrifices at Gibeon (picture 2B.1).* . . . . . 3:4

2. Solomon's actions pleased God.

- *In a dream, God offered Solomon anything he wanted.* . . . . . 3:5
- *Solomon humbled himself.* . . . . . 3:6-8
- *The king ask for wisdom to govern God's people.* . . . . . 3:9

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3. God granted Solomon's request and gave him even more than he'd asked for.

- *God gave Solomon a wise and discerning heart.* . . . . . 3:12
- *He also gave the king riches and honor.* . . . . . 3:13
- *God promised Solomon long life if he remained obedient.* . . . . . 3:14

Conclusion: *God's Word will give us wisdom to make good choices. Be like Solomon and humbly ask for God's wisdom!*

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 1: The Bible Enters My Mind

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### 1 Kings 3:2-15 [narrative form]

Intro: *King Solomon pleased God by asking Him for wisdom.*

Ask: *Why did God bless Solomon with wealth and fame?*

When King David died, his son Solomon became the king of Israel. Solomon wanted to be a good king. One day Solomon went to Gibeon to make a special sacrifice. He wanted to show God how much he loved Him. Solomon prayed and worshiped God, and offered 1,000 burnt offerings to the LORD (picture 2B.1)!

That night, God appeared to King Solomon in a dream. "Solomon, because you love and obey Me, I will give you anything you ask." He could have asked for anything. He could have asked for money or power or fame.

Solomon answered, "Please give me wisdom, and teach me how to be a good king." He did not ask for money, or power, or fame. Wisdom means understanding right from wrong and knowing the right thing to do. King Solomon asked God to develop his mind so that he could rule Israel like God wanted him to rule the kingdom.

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God said, "I will make you wiser than any other man, and I will help you know how to be a good king and lead My people. Because you did not ask Me for money, I will make you rich. Because you did not ask Me for fame, I will make you famous. If you follow Me as a king, obey My commands, and worship Me as your father David did, you will always have what you need."

When he returned home to Jerusalem, the first thing Solomon did was worship God. Afterwards, he threw a huge party for his servants and attendants. Even in the middle of the party, though, he must have been thinking about the wonderful promise God had made to him during that unforgettable dream.

Solomon understood that what you do comes from how you think. He wanted to think like God. So with God's Word in his mind, Solomon knew he would be able to do what God wanted him to do. And guess what? God did give Solomon wisdom and used him to write three books in the Bible that we can read today—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. We can read the Bible to allow God to shape our minds with the same wisdom that God gave to Solomon.

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Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 2: The Bible Molds My Heart

Big Idea: **God shapes my heart when I respond to the Bible.**

**Exodus 35:4-29; 36:3-7** [outline form]

Intro: *God's people gave generously to the construction of His tabernacle.*

Ask: *Why did the people give so much to God?*

1. Moses told the people God's instructions for creating the tabernacle.

- *God wanted everyone who was willing to give offerings. . . . . Exodus 35:4-5*
- *The people were to give their treasures and their skill . . . . . 35:5-10*
- *God gave specific plans for the tabernacle. . . . . 35:11-19*

2. The people withdrew and examined their hearts.

- *Those whose hearts were moved brought offerings (picture 2B.3) . . . . . 35:21*
- *The people brought many different treasures for the tabernacle. . . . . 35:22-28*
- *Everyone gave their gifts by choice, not by command. . . . . 35:29*

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3. God's people were very grateful to God for delivering them.

- *The people brought more sacrificial gifts every day . . . . . 36:3*
- *The workers had more material than they could use . . . . . 36:5*
- *Moses had to restrain people from bringing more offerings. . . . . 36:6*

Conclusion: *The people's hearts were moved by God to give generously back to Him. God molds our hearts as we listen to Him and read His Word!*

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Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 2: The Bible Molds My Heart

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**Exodus 35:4-29; 36:3-7** [narrative form]

Intro: *God's people gave generously to the construction of His tabernacle.*

Ask: *Why did the people give so much to God?*

After Moses and the Israelites had left Egypt, God told Moses to make a tabernacle for Him. This was to be a special place of worship like our churches today. It was designed so that it could be moved whenever Israel moved. God wanted the tabernacle to be a very special place, so they needed valuable things to build it.

Moses went to the people and said, "God wants you to help build the Tabernacle. If you are willing, please give gold, silver, bronze, blue, purple, or scarlet material, fine linen, goats' hair, acacia wood, and oil." Moses also asked them for people who knew how to make things out of these items.

Remember that Israel had been slaves in Egypt for many, many years. After the tenth plague came in Egypt, God made the Egyptians show favor to the Israelites. As Moses requested, the people asked the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing, and they had given it to them. The Israelites now had these items, but Moses did

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not know if they would be willing to give them as an offering to God.

The people went home from the meeting. Every one of them who felt God tell their hearts to give, gave generously (picture 2B.3). They gave so much that it would all be worth more than a million dollars today.

Then workers came to help. Women who knew how to spin, spun the materials and goats' hair into what was needed. Gold and silver workers began melting the jewelry into objects for the tabernacle. The people were not only willing to give generously—they were willing to work hard, too. They gave so much that one day the skilled craftspeople came to Moses.

"The people are bringing us so many gifts that we have more than we need." said the craftspeople. "Please tell them to stop."

So Moses went to the people and said, "You have brought enough for us to build the tabernacle. Thank you! Please, don't bring anything else." Only after Moses told the people did they stop bringing things. After many days and much work, the tabernacle was finished. It was beautiful!

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Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 3: *The Bible Changes My Life*

Big Idea: **God transforms my life when I believe and obey what the Bible says.**

**Philemon** [outline form]

Intro: *God changed a runaway slave's life with the power of Jesus' message.*

Ask: *How can the Bible change your life?*

1. Paul wrote a letter to a Christian named Philemon (picture 2B.5).

- *Paul was in prison at the time* ..... *Philemon 1:1*
- *Paul thanked God for Philemon* ..... *1:4*

2. Paul mentioned Onesimus, Philemon's slave.

- *Paul asked a favor rather than giving an order.* ..... *1:8-9*
- *Onesimus had become like a son to Paul* ..... *1:10-11*
- *Paul was sending Onesimus back to Philemon* ..... *1:12-14*

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3. Paul asked Philemon to welcome Onesimus.

- *Onesimus had become a Christian* ..... *1:16*
- *Paul offered to pay any debt or penalty Onesimus had* ..... *1:18-19*
- *Paul hoped Philemon would accept Onesimus as a brother* ..... *1:20-21*

Conclusion: *Paul wrote to tell Philemon how Jesus had transformed Onesimus. Even after we have accepted Christ, the Bible has the power to change our lives!*

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**Philemon** [narrative form]

Intro: *God changed a runaway slave's life with the power of Jesus' message.*

Ask: *How can the Bible change your life?*

In Bible times, Paul wrote many letters. Paul was a follower of Jesus who started many churches. Today we will look at one letter that he wrote to a rich man named Philemon.

Paul told Philemon that he thanked God for him every time he prayed for him. He complimented him on how well he was serving God, and he prayed that his faith would continue to grow. Paul told Philemon why he was writing the letter.

“Onesimus was your slave and he ran away from you. God brought him to me here in Rome. Before he was trouble for you, but now God has transformed him into someone wonderful. He is now our brother in Christ. Onesimus knew he had sinned and asked God for forgiveness. He became a Christian, and God has

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completely changed him. He has done so much for me here in prison. I want to keep him with me, but I know that he must go back to you. Please receive Onesimus not as a slave, but in the same way that you would welcome me.”

Now Paul did not stop there; he went on to say, “If he owes you anything, I will pay it. I know that you will do more than I ask, but look at these words so you know that I have written this letter to you with my own hands. Please do what is right and forgive Onesimus.”

That was a powerful letter. Paul wanted Philemon to know that God changed Onesimus and Paul had seen that change (picture 2B.5).

God changed Onesimus because he believed that Jesus died on the cross to forgive his sins and that He rose from the dead. Jesus did this for you and me, too. When Onesimus heard God's Word, he believed and received Jesus as his Savior. God completely transformed his heart—and Onesimus was changed forever. If we ask Him, God can change each one of us just as He changed Onesimus.

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Big Idea: **God equips me to serve Him when I choose His way.**

### **Psalm 119:105-128** [outline form]

Intro: *God's Word will show us the best way to live.*

Ask: *Why do you think God's Word is so important?*

#### 1. God's Word lights our way.

- *It is good to follow God's Word* (picture 2B.7) . . . . . Psalm 119:106
- *It is right to learn God's Word.* . . . . . 119:108
- *It is important to remember God's Word* . . . . . 119:109

#### 2. We can love God's Word.

- *God's Word gives us hope* . . . . . 119:114
- *God's Word gives us a standard* . . . . . 119:117-118
- *God's Word gives us awe and respect for God* . . . . . 119:120

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#### 3. God's Word shows us the way to salvation.

- *We can trust God to protect us* . . . . . 119:121-122
- *We can trust God to give us understanding* . . . . . 119:125
- *We can trust God to help us choose right from wrong* . . . . . 119:128

Conclusion: *There are so many reasons to treasure God's Word. Ask God to show you His will through the wisdom of the Bible!*

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Big Idea: **God equips me to serve Him when I choose His way.**

### **Psalm 119:105-128** [narrative form]

Intro: *God's Word will show us the best way to live.*

Ask: *Why do you think God's Word is so important?*

God often repeats Himself in the Bible when He wants us to understand something very important. For example, God's Word is called many different things in the Bible. Let's look at a small section of Psalm 119 and see how many different ways the author referred to God's Word. Read Psalm 119:105-28 (picture 2B.7) from your own version of the Bible or use the following paraphrase.

Your Word lights my way. I will keep Your righteous ordinances. Bad things have happened to me; revive me with Your Word. Take my words, and teach me Your ordinances. I have to make so many choices. I don't want to forget Your Law. Wicked people want me to do bad things, but I follow Your precepts. Your testimony brings me joy. I will follow Your statutes forever.

I don't like people who are double-minded, but I love Your Law. You are my hiding place and shield. I do what Your Word says. Get away from me wicked people! I

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am going to follow God's commandments. God, let me live by Your Word and not be ashamed of my hope in You. Keep me safe so I can continue to honor Your statutes. You reject those who don't follow Your statutes. I love Your testimonies because You remove the wicked from the earth. Sometimes even I am afraid of Your judgments.

I have done what is right; so don't let the wicked get me. Stand before me so that no one can hurt me. I long for Your salvation and for Your righteous Word. Show me Your loving kindness as You teach me Your statutes. Help me understand Your testimonies. It's time for you to do something, God, because people have broken Your Law. I love Your commandments more than silver and gold. I hold Your precepts above everything that is false.

In all of Psalm 119, this Bible-times author mentioned God's Word using nine different words. *Why do you think he did that?* (He wanted to stress that God's Word equips us to live our lives well.)

God says over and over in the Bible that His Word will teach you how to live. When God repeats something often, it means that what He is saying is extremely important. When you choose God's way, He will equip you to make the right choices. Let's all choose to live His way!

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Big Idea: **God touches my friends when I share the Good News about Jesus' love and forgiveness.**

## 2 Chronicles 17:1-10 [outline form]

Intro: *King Jehoshaphat wanted everyone in his kingdom to know God's Word.*

Ask: *Why is it important for others to know about the Bible?*

1. Jehoshaphat became king of Judah.

- *His father was King Asa.* . . . . . 2 Chronicles 17:2
- *He built up his kingdom to protect it.* . . . . . 17:2

2. The Lord was with Jehoshaphat (picture 2B.9).

- *From his young days, Jehoshaphat followed God.* . . . . . 17:3
- *His heart was devoted to God* . . . . . 17:6
- *He removed idols from Judah* . . . . . 17:6

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3. King Jehoshaphat wanted the people in his kingdom to know God's Word.

- *He sent priests and officials to all the towns* . . . . . 17:7-8
- *They all carried copies of God's Word.* . . . . . 17:9
- *They taught everyone God's Law* . . . . . 17:9

Conclusion: *Jehoshaphat developed a way to teach God's Word to everyone in Judah. We need to tell everyone we know about Jesus' love and forgiveness!*

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Big Idea: **God touches my friends when I share the Good News about Jesus' love and forgiveness.**

## 2 Chronicles 17:1-10 [narrative form]

Intro: *King Jehoshaphat wanted everyone in his kingdom to know God's Word.*

Ask: *Why is it important for others to know about the Bible?*

Here's a king with a long, funny name: Jehoshaphat. God wanted Jehoshaphat to become king because Jehoshaphat did the same type of things that King David had done when he was younger. Like David, he loved God and wanted to do what God wanted him to do. King Jehoshaphat knew that God loved him very much. He wanted to tell everyone he could about God's love and forgiveness.

Jehoshaphat talked to God about everything he did, because he wanted to please God. Jehoshaphat did what he was supposed to do as a ruler and did it well. Jehoshaphat did not worship false gods.

Jehoshaphat was a good king and followed God, so all God's people respected him. This only made King Jehoshaphat want to serve God more, so he removed

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all the idols from Judah. He wanted to do more, but what else could he do?

After being king for three years, King Jehoshaphat realized that if he didn't tell others about God, the joy that God gave him would remain a secret. He wanted everyone to know God's greatness. But what could he do?

That was it! King Jehoshaphat told his officials and the priests about the love of His great God, and then he sent them out to tell others. Each of the priests took the book of the Law with them. These men went to every city in Judah, and they taught the people there (picture 2B.9). The people of Judah learned about God like we learn about Him at church. Some of these people had never heard God's Word before! With the help of others, King Jehoshaphat told everyone in his kingdom that God loved them. The secret was out. God blessed the whole country with a time of peace.

We can do the same thing that King Jehoshaphat did. God wants us to tell our family and friends that Jesus loves and forgives them. God wants to use you.

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Big Idea: **God's message extends around the world when Christians show Jesus' love.**

### **Genesis 12:1-3; 15** [outline form]

Intro: *God blessed the entire world through Abram and his descendant, Jesus.*

Ask: *How can we help God's Word reach other places in the world?*

1. God directed Abram to a new land.

- *God would make Abram's family a great nation.* . . . . . *Genesis 12:2*
- *Abram's name would be great.* . . . . . *12:2*
- *Everyone would be blessed through Abram.* . . . . . *12:3*

2. Abram later asked God about His promise (picture 2B.11).

- *Abram still had no children.* . . . . . *15:2*
- *He feared a servant would be his heir.* . . . . . *15:3*

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3. God reiterated and expanded on His promise.

- *God promised Abram a son.* . . . . . *15:4*
- *Abram's heirs would be as numerous as the stars.* . . . . . *15:5*
- *Abram believed God, and God called him righteous.* . . . . . *15:6*
- *Jesus blesses all nations, fulfilling God's promise to Abram.* . . . . *Galatians 3:14*

Conclusion: *God's blessing to Abram was for all people who believe in Jesus. We should give everyone in the world a chance to respond to Jesus' offer of forgiveness.*

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Big Idea: **God's message extends around the world when Christians show Jesus' love.**

### **Genesis 12:1-3; 15** [narrative form]

Intro: *God blessed the entire world through Abram and his descendant, Jesus.*

Ask: *How can we help God's Word reach other places in the world?*

Two thousand years before Jesus was born, a man named Abram lived in a big city called Ur. Abram was already old when God spoke to him. "Pack your things," God said, "because I want to take you to a new place. I will make you into a great nation, and through you I will bless all the nations in the whole world."

Right away, Abram obeyed God and left his father's house, his city, and his friends. As Abram traveled, he wondered how God would do this marvelous thing. He didn't have any children. In fact, he and his wife, Sarai, were too old to have children. And how would all the nations of the world be blessed through him? The world was so big. How did God plan on keeping this promise?

As the years passed and Abram got older, God took him to many interesting

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places. He met some very important people. Wherever Abram went, God blessed him. But one thing never left Abram's mind. He and Sarai still had no children.

One dark night, Abram asked God about His promise of a family. God led him outside and said, "Look up, Abram, and tell Me what you see." "Stars," came Abram's reply. "Beautiful stars (picture 2B.11)." "And how many stars do you see? Count them, Abram."

As Abram began to count the stars, his eyes soon grew tired. "I cannot count them, LORD. There are too many." "This is how large your family will be," said the LORD. "You will never be able to count them, either." That's a lot of people to have in your family. God didn't mean that Abram would have that many children, but He meant that he would have a child, who would have a child, who would have a child, until there were that many people in his whole extended family.

God gave Abram a son when he was 100 years old. He also changed Abram's name to "Abraham," which means "father of many nations." Abraham's son had a son, who also had a son. Finally, after 2,000 years, Jesus was born. Abraham was the great-great-great-great-(forty greats!) grandfather of Jesus. Jesus was the answer to God's promise, because all the nations were blessed when Jesus came to the world to forgive our sins.

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 7: The Bible Reaches Asia

Big Idea: **God transforms people from generation to generation and from continent to continent.**

### **Psalm 78:1-8** [outline form]

Intro: *God commands us to tell everyone about Him.*

Ask: *Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?*

1. Psalm 78 begins with a clear call to teach God's Word to our children and to other people.

- *We must pay attention to God's Word* . . . . . Psalm 78:1
- *God's Word helps us learn from the past.* . . . . . 78:2
- *We must tell the next generation about God's greatness* . . . . . 78:4
- *God has given us His law and commanded us to teach our children* . . . . 78:5
- *Every generation will know about God* (picture 2B.13) . . . . . 78:6
- *Our children can put their hope in God* . . . . . 78:7
- *God's Word will work in the hearts of those who hear.* . . . . . 78:8

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Conclusion: *God wants His Word to spread around the world. Pray for the people in Asia to hear the Good News about Jesus!*

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 7: The Bible Reaches Asia

Big Idea: **God transforms people from generation to generation and from continent to continent.**

### **Psalm 78:1-8** [narrative form]

Intro: *God commands us to tell everyone about Him.*

Ask: *Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?*

Asia is a continent on the other side of the world. More people live there than on any other continent. God loves the people in Asia as much as He loves us. God loves all people. He wants everyone to know Him. That's what God's Word tells us.

Today, we are going to learn about Psalm 78. Read verse one. You know how a coach or team leader might say, "Listen up, people!" when he or she wants our attention? That's like what the writer was saying here.

Read verses two, three, and four directly from the Bible. This means that everyone needs to praise God for his strength and what He's done. Read verse five. God said it was important for children to learn about the laws of God (picture 2B.13).

Read verse six. God wanted the children to know His Word so that when they

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grew up, they could teach His Word to their children. That way, everyone would know about God. Read verse seven. God wanted everyone to believe in Him, remember what He had done for them, and keep His commandments.

Read verse eight from the Bible. God wanted everyone to make their hearts right before Him and to be faithful to Him. He did not want them to be stubborn and rebellious. Stubborn and rebellious people sometimes get what they want at first, but then bad things happen. When we put those verses all together they might sound like this: "Listen up, people! Praise God for His strength and His works! Teach the children God's Law. When they grow up, they will teach their children. Then everyone will believe in God and keep His commandments. And their hearts will remain faithful to God."

Today we need to follow each step that we learned in Psalm 78. Are you listening carefully and learning as much as you can about God and the Bible? If you are, then you can explain it to others right now. Someday when you grow up, you might be a mom or a dad or a teacher and then you will be ready to teach children to love God, too. You might even get a chance to tell people about God in other countries as a missionary!

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 8: The Bible Reaches Europe

Big Idea: **God empowers people He has called to serve Him.**

### 2 Kings 6:8-23 [outline form]

Intro: *God's power enabled Elisha to do great things for His glory.*

Ask: *How can God's power help us reach others with the Gospel?*

#### 1. Elisha thwarted the King of Aram's plans to attack Israel.

- *Aram planned to ambush Israel's armies* . . . . . 2 Kings 6:8
- *Elisha warned Israel's king about Aram's plans.* . . . . . 6:9
- *Aram was furious with Elisha for countering him* . . . . . 6:13

#### 2. The King of Aram sent troops to capture Elisha.

- *A great army with chariots surrounded the city of Dothan* . . . . . 6:14
- *Elisha's servant saw the army and despaired.* . . . . . 6:15
- *Elisha prayed, asking God to open his servant's eyes.* . . . . . 6:17
- *Elisha's servant saw God's army surrounding the enemy (picture 2B.15)* . . . . 6:17

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#### 3. Elisha used God's power to save himself and Israel.

- *Elisha asked God to strike the army blind, and God did.* . . . . . 6:18
- *Elisha led the blind soldiers to Israel's king in Samaria.* . . . . . 6:19
- *Elisha asked God to open the Aramean's eyes, and God did.* . . . . . 6:20
- *Elisha spared their lives, and they did not bother Israel again* . . . . . 6:21-23

Conclusion: *We are not alone when we tell others about God's Word—God is with us! Pray for God's power when you need help to do His will!*

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 8: The Bible Reaches Europe

Big Idea: **God empowers people He has called to serve Him.**

### 2 Kings 6:8-23 [narrative form]

Intro: *God's power enabled Elisha to do great things for His glory.*

Ask: *How can God's power help us reach others with the Gospel?*

Once, the king of Aram wanted to attack Israel. He planned to camp in a hidden place to surprise them and fight. But God told the prophet, Elisha, and Elisha told his king where the enemy was hiding. The king of Israel kept his soldiers from getting caught in the ambush. This made the King Aram, really angry. He thought someone in his group was an Israelite spy.

His servants told him, "Elisha is the problem. God tells Elisha, Elisha tells the king, and the king tells his people. We can't surprise them, because everyone knows where we are hiding."

The king of Aram said, "Find Elisha and stop him." He sent a huge army with horses and chariots to capture Elisha. They traveled at night. By morning they completely surrounded the city called Dothan. Elisha and his servant were trapped!

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That morning, Elisha's servant woke up early and looked outside. "Master," he said. "What are we going to do?" "Don't worry," said Elisha. "There are more on our side than on their side." Then Elisha prayed that his servant's eyes would be opened.

Suddenly, Elisha's servant saw a heavenly army, with horses and chariots of fire filling the hills (picture 2B.15)! Elisha was right. God's army outnumbered the enemy!

Then Elisha prayed again, "LORD, please blind this army." God answered Elisha's prayer. The army of Aram became blind. They could not see where they were going. Elisha walked out of the city gates and said, "You are not in the right city. I'll take you to the man you are looking for." Elisha led that enormous army of blind soldiers to the city of Samaria. When they were there, Elisha prayed again, "LORD, open their eyes, so they can see."

Immediately, the soldiers could see. What they saw surprised them. Instead of trapping Elisha, they were trapped by God's people!

The king of Israel followed Elisha's advice and did not hurt the enemy soldiers. He gave them something to eat and sent them home. In the end, these soldiers did not bother God's people again!

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 9: The Bible Reaches Africa

Big Idea: **God reaches new people through the dedication and deeds of His disciples.**

### Genesis 26 [outline form]

Intro: *Isaac patiently followed God, and God blessed his perseverance.*

Ask: *Why does God value patience and perseverance?*

#### 1. Isaac moved his family to Gerar.

- *A famine forced them to the land of the Philistines.* . . . . . Genesis 26:1
- *God spoke to Isaac and told him to settle there.* . . . . . 26:2-3
- *God repeated the promise He made to Isaac's father, Abraham.* . . . . . 26:3-4

#### 2. Isaac prospered in Gerar.

- *His crops yielded a hundredfold harvest.* . . . . . 26:12
- *He became rich with livestock.* . . . . . 26:13-14
- *The Philistines grew jealous.* . . . . . 26:14
- *King Abimelech order Isaac to move away.* . . . . . 26:16

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#### 3. Isaac settled in the valley of Gerar.

- *Isaac reopened the wells of his father (picture 2B.17).* . . . . . 26:18
- *Philistine shepherds claimed ownership of the wells.* . . . . . 26:19-21
- *Isaac did not argue, but instead traveled to a new area.* . . . . . 26:22

#### 4. God blessed Isaac for obeying and persevering.

- *God promised to bless Isaac.* . . . . . 26:24
- *The king came and asked Isaac to make peace with him.* . . . . . 26:28-29
- *God blessed Isaac with a spring of fresh water.* . . . . . 26:32

Conclusion: *God rewards people who don't give up on doing His will. Pray for patience and perseverance when telling others the Good News!*

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## Level 2B—Why We Got the Bible Lesson 9: The Bible Reaches Africa

Big Idea: **God reaches new people through the dedication and deeds of His disciples.**

### Genesis 26 [narrative form]

Intro: *Isaac patiently followed God, and God blessed his perseverance.*

Ask: *Why does God value patience and perseverance?*

Isaac was about 80 years old when he moved his family to a country ruled by the Philistines. The Philistines were not friendly people, and Isaac thought about traveling farther, but God told him to stay. God promised to lead Isaac to a place to live.

Because Isaac lived where God told him, God blessed him greatly. His crops yielded much more than he expected, and he became rich with farm animals and devoted servants. Isaac was very happy. But the Philistines were not happy. They were jealous of Isaac, and the king of the Philistines was afraid that Isaac would become too powerful. The king told Isaac to move away.

Isaac left and tried to find a new place to settle. Isaac began digging wells, looking for a place to live (picture 2B.17).

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One day, Isaac's servants were digging a well and they found a spring! That meant there would always be water in the well. The Philistines in the area had been watching Isaac. They came and claimed that they owned the land and the well. Isaac could have argued with the Philistine shepherds, but he chose to leave peacefully. He kept going farther up the valley.

One day Isaac found a good place to live, and the Philistines did not come to claim his land. God met him in that place, and said, "Do not be afraid of the Philistines. I am with you! I will bless you like I promised to bless your father, Abraham."

Isaac immediately built an altar to God and decided he and his family would live there. Very soon after that, the king of the Philistines came to visit Isaac. The king said, "I am sorry we treated you poorly. It is clear that the LORD is with you and He has blessed you. Will you make an agreement to live in peace with us, like your father did? I will make sure that my people won't bother you again."

Isaac agreed, and the same day the Philistines left, God gave Isaac another blessing. Isaac's servants came running to tell him—the well they had dug was another spring! Isaac would never have to worry about water again!

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Big Idea: **God provides for people's needs through the skills and talents of His disciples.**

### Genesis 41:33-57 [outline form]

Intro: *Joseph faithfully served God by serving the needs of others.*

Ask: *Why is it important to meet other people's needs?*

1. Joseph interpreted a dream that God had sent Pharaoh.

- *He advised Pharaoh to collect food for the seven good years . . . . Genesis 41:34*
- *He recommended saving the food in Egypt's storehouses . . . . . 41:35*
- *That way there would be food during the seven years of famine. . . . . 41:36*

2. Joseph's suggestions were well-received by Pharaoh.

- *Pharaoh recognized that Joseph was filled with God's spirit. . . . . 41:38*
- *Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt. . . . . 41:41*
- *Joseph inspected the entire kingdom. . . . . 41:46*

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3. God's prediction (Pharaoh's dream) came true.

- *There were seven years of plenty. . . . . 41:47*
- *Joseph gathered food and kept it in storehouses . . . . . 41:48*
- *When the seven years of famine came, Egypt had food . . . . . 41:54*
- *Joseph distributed the food to those in need (picture 2B.19) . . . . . 41:56-57*

Conclusion: *We please God when we use our skills and talents to help others. You never know when God is going to make you a blessing to other people!*

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Big Idea: **God provides for people's needs through the skills and talents of His disciples.**

### Genesis 41:33-57 [narrative form]

Intro: *Joseph faithfully served God by serving the needs of others.*

Ask: *Why is it important to meet other people's needs?*

The Old Testament tells about a man named Joseph. Joseph was a Hebrew man serving Pharaoh in Egypt. God had told Joseph the meaning of a dream He had given Pharaoh. Egypt was going to have seven years of good crops and then seven years of bad crops. When you have that many bad crops in a row, it produces a famine. According to Pharaoh's dream, this famine would last seven years. Imagine being really hungry and not having any food, not even at the grocery store.

God had also told Joseph that Pharaoh should assign a wise man to collect the food and store it so the people would not starve during the famine. And that is how Joseph got his job as second-in-command over Egypt. He organized things so that the extra grain was gathered for each city to feed the people during the famine years that were to come. He did this for seven years. He had so much grain that

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he couldn't even count how much he had. God had made Joseph one of the most important men in Egypt.

After seven years, the famine came—just like God had said it would. Egypt and all the lands around Egypt could not grow crops, and everyone became hungry. Those in Egypt went to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh told them to go to Joseph.

That's when Joseph began to open the storehouses (picture 2B.19). The cities of Egypt had plenty of grain to make into bread because God blessed them with Joseph's wisdom and planning. Other lands heard that there was food to be bought in Egypt. They came to Egypt to buy that food. Joseph probably needed to find interpreters to communicate with those people from other countries. They didn't speak Egyptian or Hebrew!

God provided food for everyone through Joseph's careful planning. You can use your skills and talents to help others, too. *What are some ways you can learn to be more organized?* Encourage responses. *What other skills can you develop that would help other people?* Always be ready to help when the opportunity comes your way. You never know when God is going to put you in charge of a way to bring blessings to others.

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Big Idea: **God uses people who are willing to follow Him no matter what the cost.**

## Jeremiah 38 [outline form]

Intro: *Jeremiah delivered God's message, even though it could have hurt him to do so.*

Ask: *What are you willing to suffer to follow God?*

1. God spoke to His prophet, Jeremiah. The people had turned away from God again.
  - *God was going to allow the Babylonians to capture Jerusalem . . . Jeremiah 38:3*
  - *Anyone who stayed in Jerusalem would die . . . . . 38:2*
  - *Anyone who fled Jerusalem would live. . . . . 38:2*
2. The city officials did not believe Jeremiah's message.
  - *They asked the king to let them seize Jeremiah . . . . . 38:4*
  - *The king permitted them to do so . . . . . 38:5*
  - *The officials put Jeremiah in a cistern . . . . . 38:6*

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3. An Ethiopian official saved Jeremiah.
  - *The official pleaded with the king . . . . . 38:9*
  - *The king allowed the Ethiopian to rescue Jeremiah . . . . . 38:10*
  - *They lifted Jeremiah from the cistern and placed him in prison (picture 2B.21) . . . . . 38:13*
4. The king visited Jeremiah in prison.
  - *The king asked for the truth . . . . . 38:14*
  - *Jeremiah repeated God's message . . . . . 38:17*
  - *The king kept Jeremiah in prison . . . . . 38:28*

Conclusion: *Jeremiah was God's servant even when threatened with death. Pray for courage and strength when you are persecuted for following God.*

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Big Idea: **God uses people who are willing to follow Him no matter what the cost.**

## Jeremiah 38 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jeremiah delivered God's message, even though it could have hurt him to do so.*

Ask: *What are you willing to suffer to follow God?*

God had a message for His people, and Jeremiah was the prophet He used. Jeremiah told the people in Jerusalem that the Babylonians were going to take over. The city officials liked their jobs. They liked being important. They did not like what Jeremiah said. It was too negative.

Jeremiah told them that if they stayed in the city, they would die. Jeremiah told them that if they surrendered to the Babylonians, they would live. The city officials did not listen.

The officials threw Jeremiah in a hole called a cistern (picture 2B.21). Usually cisterns held water, but this one was almost dry. All it had was mud at the bottom of it. When they dropped Jeremiah into it, his legs sank down into the mud.

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He couldn't move at all! Then they left him there to die. It was hot and smelled horrible in the bottom of the cistern. What could Jeremiah do?

Fortunately, a kind foreign official saw what they had done to Jeremiah. He knew that Jeremiah only said what God told him to say. He got the king's permission to take Jeremiah out of the cistern, but by this time, Jeremiah was very weak.

The foreign official dropped rags down into the hole for Jeremiah to put under his arms. Then he threw down one end of a rope. Jeremiah tied the rope around himself. The rope did not cut into his skin when they pulled him up because the rags protected him. The foreign official was kind to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was taken out of the cistern, and the foreign official found him a place to stay in the guardhouse. Once Jeremiah felt better, the king visited him there at the entrance of the Temple. The king asked Jeremiah to tell him what he knew from God. Jeremiah knew the truth might make the king angry. Jeremiah showed the king respect, but he did not lie. The truth did not make the king happy, but God was pleased that Jeremiah did not lie. The king kept Jeremiah under arrest, but God kept Jeremiah safe, even when the Babylonians came to attack.

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Big Idea: **God prepares people so they can discover His great love.**

## Exodus 2-3 [outline form]

Intro: *God prepared Moses to lead His people.*

Ask: *How might God prepare us to help spread the Gospel message?*

### 1. Moses was born a Hebrew slave.

- *Moses' mother hid him from Pharaoh's soldiers* . . . . . Exodus 2:2-3
- *Pharaoh's daughter found him* . . . . . 2:5-6
- *Moses' mother was able to raise him for a time* . . . . . 2:9
- *Pharaoh's daughter raised him, also* . . . . . 2:10

### 2. When he was older, Moses went to visit the Hebrew slaves.

- *Moses killed a guard for beating a Hebrew slave* . . . . . 2:11-12
- *He fled to the desert to escape Pharaoh's wrath* . . . . . 2:15
- *Moses settled in Midian for many years* . . . . . 2:21-23
- *God continued to watch over His people in Egypt* . . . . . 2:24-25

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### 3. God spoke to Moses and gave him a mission.

- *Moses saw a burning bush in the wilderness (picture 2B.23)* . . . . . 3:2-3
- *God introduced Himself to Moses* . . . . . 3:6
- *God told Moses that he would lead His people* . . . . . 3:10
- *God promised to be with him* . . . . . 3:12

Conclusion: *God is always preparing hearts to experience His great love. Pray that God would use you to show His love to the entire world!*

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Big Idea: **God prepares people so they can discover His great love.**

## Exodus 2-3 [narrative form]

Intro: *God prepared Moses to lead His people.*

Ask: *How might God prepare us to help spread the Gospel message?*

The king of Egypt, the Pharaoh, was afraid that there were too many Hebrew slaves and they would grow too strong. So he commanded that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. To keep Moses from harm, his mother, Jochebed, put him in a waterproof basket and let him float in the river. His sister, Miriam, watched the basket to make sure her brother was okay. God protected Moses because He had a plan for him.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses' basket on the river. She took him out of the basket. Miriam was still watching and she told the princess that her mother would love to be a maidservant. And so it happened that for a few short years Moses' parents raised Moses and taught him about the one true God. Then they gave Moses to the Egyptian princess, and she raised him as her son. So Moses lived in the palace and learned all the things that they taught the princes of Egypt.

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Moses knew he was a Hebrew and should be a slave like the rest of the Hebrews. One day, he saw a soldier hurting a slave. Moses hit the soldier hard—too hard—and the soldier died. Pharaoh found out what he had done, so Moses ran away and hid in the desert. Once again God protected him.

In the desert, Moses didn't know what to do. Then one day, he saw some women watering animals at a well. He helped the women water their animals. They invited him home to meet their father, and Moses ended up staying with them for many, many years. God provided a very good hiding place.

When Moses was much older, he saw a bush that was burning, but the fire didn't destroy the bush (picture 2B.23). Moses went closer, and God spoke to him from that bush.

"Moses! Moses!" said God. "Here I am," said Moses. "Take off your sandals," said God. "You are standing on holy ground."

Moses took off his shoes, and God told him that it was time to lead God's people out of slavery. God knew just what to do to make Moses a great servant and leader for God.

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