



Stories OF GRACE

VOLUME 4: BEHIND THE
SCENES CHARACTERS

Children's
MINISTRY
Curriculum

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How to Use This Curriculum

Stories of Grace

This manual is Volume 4 of a larger series, *Stories of Grace*. The complete series provides a four-quarter, fifty-two lesson resource. Together, all four volumes in this set are as follows:

- Volume 1: Old Testament Bible Characters
- Volume 2: New Testament Bible Characters
- Volume 3: Objects and Animals Used by God
- Volume 4: Behind the Scenes Bible Helpers

For a complete scope and sequence chart, listing the Bible stories and lessons presented in each volume, visit strivingtogether.com/storiesofgrace.

A Series of Thirteen Lessons

This teacher manual contains thirteen lessons, each focusing on the life of one of thirteen prominent characters in the New Testament. Each lesson contains a riveting story and emphasizes an applicable truth for children. Lessons are thoroughly supplemented with biblical references, teaching resources, and creative ideas.

Class Time

Each lesson contains sufficient resources to fill a ninety-minute class period. For those attempting to use the curriculum for a sixty-minute class period, we suggest the teacher choose which resources would be most effective and use them accordingly.

Age Appropriateness

This curriculum and its accompanying resources have been written for use with elementary-age children. Those who teach preschool-age children will also find it compatible for use with ages four and under.

Ideas & Resources Included

Experts suggest that we can estimate the average child's attention span as one minute per year of life. So for example, those teaching eight-year-olds should expect to change activities in the classroom every eight minutes or so to keep the students' attention. The one exception to this rule would be the main Bible lesson itself. During the Bible lesson, attention can be kept through the combined use of visual aids such as flash cards, objects, role-play, digital projection, and a chalk/dry-erase board.

Included in Every Lesson:

One-Page Lesson Snapshot

At the beginning of each lesson is a summary page, intended to be photocopied by the teacher and tucked into his or her Bible for ready reference. This page may also be distributed to the assistant teachers in advance, so they may prepare for their classroom responsibilities. This page includes each week's lesson title, Scripture references, memory verse, lesson outline, and a suggested class schedule.

Lesson One Overview		Suggested Classroom Schedule	
John the Baptist Theme—Humility		Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Scripture John 1:6-8, 19-34		Opening	Welcome
Memory Verse John 3:30—"He must increase, but I must decrease."		Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Lesson Outline Introducing the Story We're often glad to tell people good things about ourselves. We don't usually, however, want to tell others when we have done poorly. What about the apostle, "Who are you?" John, the man in today's true story from the Bible gave a very interesting answer.		Song Time	
Telling the Story 1. John Had a Special Purpose. (John 1:6-8) —Flashcard 11 2. John Preaches Jesus (John 1:15-18) —Flashcard 12 3. John Explains His Purpose (John 1:19-23) —Flashcard 13 4. John Baptizes (John 1:24-34) 5. John Baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)		Memory Verse	John 3:30
Applying the Story This was a man for God! He stepped up to make Him known to the world. You may have many blessings in your life, but the true value in your life is in service for the Lord—doing what God designed you to do—making Him known.		Song Time	
		Object Lesson	Winning the Battle of Humility
		Bible Lesson	John the Baptist
		Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
		Snack	Edible Grasshoppers
		Review Game/Questions	
		Craft	Pocket Pal
		Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

Teacher's Checklist

Use the weekly checklist to gather the appropriate materials in preparation for Sunday. Instructions may be given to an assistant teacher to pick up the needed items for the suggested craft, snack, game, or object lesson. The checklist identifies additional items found on the Ministry Resource download (sold separately).

Snack Suggestion

Children will enjoy a different snack each week, which will not only be a treat but also a reminder of the truth learned. This is a fun and tasty way to give children a break during their time in the classroom.

Scripture Passage

Great teaching begins with God's Word! Teachers should study the included Scripture passage numerous times throughout the week, make notes, and become familiar with the passage.

Lesson Introduction

In many lessons, thought-provoking questions are asked at the beginning so students may consider their own real-life circumstances, similar to those they will encounter in the Scripture. As you begin these lessons, allow for a brief period of answers and open discussion.

Bible Lesson

Each lesson surveys a select portion of Scripture, taking a walk of discovery through the biblical record. Lessons are divided into easy-to-identify points with helpful cross-references included. As each story develops, we offer possibilities of daily routines and feelings for each character based on the context of Scripture. These contextual illustrations are used to support the theme of the lesson and are not taken directly from Scripture.

Lesson Application

At the conclusion of each lesson, the teacher should seek to remind students of one or two primary truths to take away from the story. Then ask, in practical terms, how children might apply those truths during the week. At this time in the lesson, students who would like to receive Christ as Saviour should be encouraged to speak to a trained counselor.

Review Game with Questions

A unique, theme-oriented game is included in each lesson for the purpose of review. While other questions may be added by the teacher, a list of initial review questions designed to reinforce the lesson are provided for use during the game.

Teaching the Memory Verse

A creative way of teaching the week's memory verse is included in each lesson. The Visual Resource Packet (sold separately) includes visuals for use with each memory verse. These visuals are also available on the Ministry Resource download (sold separately).

Object Lesson

Children will remember the five-minute object lessons designed to support the Bible lesson. Each object lesson is easy to teach and simple to prepare using objects most of us have at home or that are available at a retail store.

Craft

Each lesson includes a craft that students and parents will enjoy putting on display! The craft section includes a supply list, easy-to-follow directions, and simple thoughts on how the craft relates to the Bible lesson.

Teaching Tips

Creative ideas and suggestions are provided for the purpose of effectively delivering the truths contained in each week's lesson.

Teacher's Note

Historical notes, practical instructions, and biblical definitions are provided to assist the teacher in study and preparation.

Suggested Visual Aids:

The “mixing up” of the weekly visuals will keep students engaged and will prevent predictability.

Flashcards

In the thirteen lessons, flash cards are used to illustrate the Bible story (three cards for each story). Find the arrow in the lesson margin to show the flash card to the students at the appropriate time. These thirty-nine flash cards are included in the Visual Resource Packet (sold separately).

Act It Out

In certain lessons, we suggest selecting students to help “act out” the Bible story. Vary your choices to give all students wishing to be involved the opportunity to do so throughout the course of the series. The students more eager to participate in this role play are likely those who will benefit most from the exercise.

Use an Object

Some weeks, teachers may utilize a physical object to keep students’ attention. Suggested props of this nature are found at strategic points in the margin of the Bible lesson.

Draw It!

Many classrooms are equipped with a chalk or dry-erase board. Included in the margin of select lessons are simple sketches that even the most artistically-challenged teacher can draw. We suggest that you have the students draw along with you to reinforce the events taking place in the story.

The Ministry Resource Download:

We recommend that each church or class purchase the Ministry Resource download and make the files available to as many teachers as desired. This enables the investment in the download to be spread over an unlimited volume and time.

Coloring Pages

Younger children (roughly three-year-olds through third grade) will enjoy coloring a scene from each week’s Bible lesson. Share an original copy with each teacher and provide as many photocopies as needed for all classes, one per student.

Activity Pages

Older children (roughly 3rd through 6th grades) will enjoy creative activities related to each week's Bible lesson. Activities include word searches, crossword puzzles, mazes, and brainteasers. Share an original copy with each teacher and provide as many photocopies as needed for all classes, one per student.

Student Take-Home Paper

The take-home paper is designed to help students take the Bible truth into the week ahead as they leave the classroom. Take-home papers will remind students of the weekly memory verse, include additional review questions, and suggest practical ways for applying the lesson in everyday experiences. Share an original copy with each teacher and provide as many photocopies as needed for all classes, one per student.

PowerPoint Presentation

A Microsoft PowerPoint presentation is available for each of the thirteen lessons. If you have a television, computer monitor, or projector available, children will enjoy being able to follow the main points of the lesson on the screen. Each week's memory verse is also included in the presentation. These presentations are fully editable and may be shared with as many teachers as desired. Feel free to add or edit slides as you wish.

Memory Verse Visuals

The same visuals included in the Visual Resource Packet are included in PDF form on the Ministry Resource download. These are provided so that teachers may use the images in projection or another form, including providing copies to students.

Craft and Game Templates

Throughout the series, templates are utilized with select crafts and games. These templates are found on the Ministry Resource download in PDF form.

Lesson One Overview

Abraham's Servant

Theme—Faithfulness

Scripture

Genesis 24

Memory Verse

Luke 16:10—“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Lesson Outline

- 1. The Servant's Promise to Abraham**
(Genesis 24:1–9)
—Flashcard 1.1
- 2. The Servant's Journey to Nahor and His Request to God** (Genesis 24:10–14)
—Flashcard 1.2
- 3. The Servant Meets Rebekah** (Genesis 24:15–60)
—Flashcard 1.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Luke 16:10
Song Time	
Object Lesson	“Stick Together” Relay
Bible Lesson	Abraham's Servant
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Wedding Cake
Review Game/Questions	Paddle Ball
Craft	Faithfulness Cards Magnet
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

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LESSON ONE

Abraham's Servant

Theme: Faithfulness

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Genesis 24.
- Study Lesson One.
- Flashcards 1.1–1.3
- Prepare snack—Wedding Cake.
- Gather for object lesson—balloons and painters tape.
- Gather for review game—paddle ball.
- Gather for craft—2 small magnets per student, “Faithfulness” printables from the Ministry Resource download, 1 small envelope per student, and 1 glue stick per student.
- Gather for memory verse review—Memory Verse Circles from the Ministry Resource download, 28 paper plates, and tape.
- Print Memory Verse Flashcards from the Ministry Resource download.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate the Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 24:1-9

- 1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.
- 2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:
- 3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

SNACK SUGGESTION

Wedding Cake

Make or purchase a cake or cupcakes, such as would be served at a wedding. Remind students that because Abraham's servant was faithful to fulfill his duty, Isaac found a bride in Rebekah.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 16:10

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Lesson One—Abraham’s Servant

- 4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.
- 5 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?
- 6 And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again.
- 7 The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father’s house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.
- 8 And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again.
- 9 And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter.

Introducing the Story

How would you define the word “faithful”? (Allow response.) A faithful person is reliable, true to their word, and does what they say they will do. Because they do what they say, we know we can trust that what they say is true, and we trust them to do what they say.

A faithful person does what he promised even when the thing he agreed to do becomes harder than he thought. He keeps his word even when he begins to wonder if there’s any way the thing he agreed to do can possibly work out. When a faithful person makes a promise, he is committed to remaining faithful to his word.

Psalm 15:1, 4

- 1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- 4 ...He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Anyone can be faithful. You don’t have to be rich, popular, pretty, handsome, or smart to be faithful. You just have to be true to your word.

God can use faithful people anywhere, because faithful people will do what they promise, *no matter what*. And other people—parents, teachers, principals,

Lesson One—Abraham’s Servant

coaches, bosses, etc.—choose faithful people to do important things because they have confidence that they are trustworthy.

In today’s true story from the Bible, God used a faithful person, who was unknown to most people, to be part of carrying out God’s plan to send the Saviour who would pay for the sins of the whole world.

The Story

1. The Servant’s Promise to Abraham (Genesis 24:1–9)

We don’t even know the name of the faithful person in this story. It’s not that he wasn’t important, because every person is important. It’s just that what he did was so important to all of us, that what he did shines so much brighter than his name ever could. The Bible just tells us that he was “Abraham’s servant.”

Abraham had many people who worked for him. In the Old Testament days, these people were called servants. But the servant in this story was Abraham’s head servant—the one he trusted most.

Abraham’s servant was always busy doing things for Abraham—making Abraham’s life better. There wasn’t a thing he agreed to do for Abraham that he didn’t follow through on. And if Abraham asked him to do something his servant didn’t know how to do, Abraham’s servant learned how to do it.

Abraham’s servant was so faithful that Abraham trusted him with all of his possessions. Everything Abraham owned was under the care of Abraham’s servant.

When Abraham had a question about his animals, he just asked his servant, because his servant was in charge of them. When Abraham wanted to know how the crops were coming along, he asked his servant, because his servant was in charge of them.

But Abraham didn’t just trust his servant with his possessions—he trusted him with his business relationships. When Abraham had an important message he wanted delivered, he sent his servant, because he knew he could trust him to faithfully deliver the message. Abraham never worried that his servant wouldn’t do what he agreed to do.

Proverbs 26:6

- 6 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.

TEACHER’S NOTE

In Genesis 15:2, we see that the steward of Abraham’s house was named *Eliezer*. The servant in this passage may have been the same one, but since this story took place fifty to sixty years later than the Genesis 15 story, we don’t know for sure the servant’s identity.

When Abraham needed to send someone on the most important mission of all, he sent his trusted servant.

Abraham knew it was time for his son Isaac to be married. God had promised Abraham that he would have many descendants and that the Saviour who would one day pay for the sins of the whole world would be one of Abraham’s descendants. He knew that it was important that his son not marry one of the women in Canaan where he lived, because the Canaanite women worshiped idols.

Flash Card 1.1

Abraham called for his servant. “I am sending you on a journey back to Mesopotamia, where I was born. I want you to go find a wife for my son Isaac. I am too old to make the journey myself, so I am trusting you to do it.

“It’s very important that Isaac not marry a woman from Canaan. Promise me that you will not take a woman from Canaan for Isaac.”

Abraham’s servant thought carefully about Abraham’s request. “What if I find a wife for Isaac, but she is not willing to come back here to Canaan with me?” he asked. “Should I take Isaac to Mesopotamia?”

“No!” Abraham said. “Absolutely do not take Isaac back to Mesopotamia. God sent me to this land, and He promised to give it to me and to my descendants. He will be with you, and you will bring a wife for Isaac back here.

“But, if you find someone, and she won’t come back, then I understand. There is nothing you can do if she isn’t willing to come. You would then be free from your promise. Only do not take my son back to Mesopotamia.”

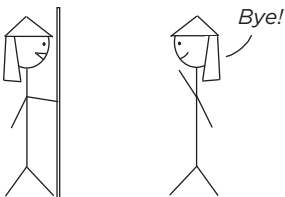
“I will do everything you have asked,” the servant promised.

2. The Servant’s Journey to Nahor and His Request to God (Genesis 24:10–14)

Abraham’s servant thought about the journey he was about to take. He remembered everything Abraham had told him about the promises God had made to Abraham and how important it was that Isaac did not marry a woman who didn’t serve the true God of Heaven.

“Abraham told me that in the beginning of everything,” Abraham’s servant thought, “God created the world and everything in it, including the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden, where everything was perfect. There was no sickness or pain; and no person, animal, or plant would ever have to die. Those must have been wonderful days.

DRAW IT!



Lesson One—Abraham’s Servant

“God allowed Adam and Eve to eat from any tree in the garden,” he thought, “except for one—the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If they ate from that tree, they would die.

“I remember how sad I was when Abraham told me that Satan tempted them to eat from the tree, and they did. That was the very first sin ever, and that sin brought death, just as God had warned. Not only would their bodies die one day, but now their spirits—the part of them that knew God—were dead. They became separated from God, and they wouldn’t be able to live with God in Heaven when they died. They would have to pay the penalty for their sin, which was death and hell.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death....

“But, on that very day, God made them a promise. He would send a Saviour who would pay the price for their sin. He would die in their place.

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

“Time passed quickly,” Abraham’s servant thought, “and children, grandchildren, and so on were born, and God called out one man—my master Abraham—to be the father, the beginning, of the Hebrew (or Jewish) nation—the nation the Saviour would come from. Abraham’s family is very important to every person, because we need a Saviour!

“God promised Abraham he would have so many descendants that he wouldn’t be able to count them, and God brought Abraham away from Mesopotamia, to where I stand right now—Canaan—the land that will belong to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham trusted God, followed God, worked hard, and has now become a very wealthy man.

“And he trusts me to go back to Mesopotamia to find the right wife for Isaac. What a responsibility! I trust that the God of Heaven will lead me to the right one.”

Abraham’s servant was excited. “Imagine, Isaac is going to get married!” he thought as he packed supplies for the long journey. He packed ten camels with

TEACHER’S NOTE

Genesis 3:15 is called the “Protoevangelium” (the first gospel). Notice, the seed referred to is the seed of the woman, rather than of the man. That is because Jesus would not have an earthly father. Notice also, the Saviour would be bruised for our sins (see Isaiah 53:5–6) which would bruise Satan in final defeat (see Revelation 20:1–3).

gifts for the young lady and her family, as well as with food for the camels and food and clothing for himself. Then he started his journey to Mesopotamia.

The days turned into weeks as Abraham’s servant traveled. “Wow!” he thought. “I’m going to a place I’ve never been to find a woman I’ve never met to be Isaac’s wife. I’m going to need God’s help and guidance to find the right person.” Through the sunshine and rain, through the heat and cold, Abraham’s servant traveled on. He was going to do exactly what he had promised.

Finally, one evening around sunset, he reached the city of Nahor in Mesopotamia. “Where will I find the right wife for Isaac?” he wondered. He came to a well, where he made his camels kneel down to rest, and he asked God to show him who it would be.

“Lord God—Abraham’s God,” he prayed, “please show kindness to Abraham. Please allow me to find the woman this very day.

“I am standing here by this well of water, and all the young women of the city are coming here to draw water for their homes. I don’t know any of them—but You know all of them.

“Abraham has trusted me, and I don’t want to make a mistake. Please show me exactly who You want Isaac to marry.

“Lord, will You show me a sign?” he continued. “When I ask one of these young women (there are so many of them) for a drink, and she says, ‘Sure, and I will give your camels a drink also,’ let her be the wife for Isaac.”

DRAW IT!



Flash Card 1.2

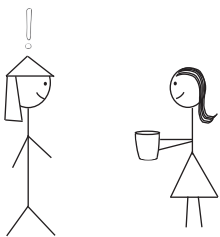
3. The Servant Meets Rebekah (Genesis 24:15–60)

Abraham’s servant was still talking to God when a beautiful young woman named Rebekah came to the well, carrying a pitcher on her shoulder.

Isaiah 65:24

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

DRAW IT!



As the young woman filled her pitcher and turned to leave, Abraham’s servant ran to meet her. “Excuse me,” he said. “May I have a drink of water from your pitcher?”

“Of course,” the young woman answered as she quickly gave him a drink.

“Let me give your camels a drink as well,” she said. Then she drew bucket after bucket from the well to fill a trough for the camels to drink from.

Lesson One—Abraham’s Servant

“Is this the one?” Abraham’s servant wondered, barely able to believe that God had answered his prayer so quickly. “I won’t say anything about it until I am sure that she is the one.”

Abraham’s servant reached into one of the camel’s bags and pulled out a beautiful, expensive gold ring and two beautiful gold bracelets and gave them to the young woman. “Who is your father?” he asked. “We are a long way from home. Is there room for us to stay in your home?”

“My father is Bethuel, and my grandfather was Nahor,” she answered. “We have room for you to stay, and we have straw and hay for your camels too.”

“Nahor?” Abraham’s servant thought. “Abraham told me about this family—I have come to exactly the right place!” Abraham’s servant was overwhelmed by what God had done. He was so grateful to God for leading him, that he bowed his head and worshiped the Lord. “Thank You, Lord,” he said. “You are showing Abraham such mercy. All I had to do was follow Abraham’s orders and Your leading, and You have led me to the house of Abraham’s family.”

Rebekah couldn’t believe what had just happened. She gave a man and his camels a drink of water, and he gave her beautiful, expensive gold jewelry! She ran home to tell her family what had happened.

Rebekah’s brother Laban hurried to meet Abraham’s servant and brought him back home where they sat down for a meal.

“Wait—I can’t eat until I have told you why I am here,” Abraham’s faithful servant answered.

“God has blessed Abraham greatly. He has become wealthy. It is time for his son Isaac to be married, and Abraham has sent me here to you to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham made me promise that I would not take a wife from the Canaanites for Isaac.

“So, I have followed his instructions, and God led me to the well outside your city. I asked God to show me which young woman was to be the wife for Isaac by having her offer water to my camels when I asked her for a drink. And, even before I had finished praying, Rebekah came to the well and did exactly what I had prayed for!”

Abraham’s servant knew he had faithfully done exactly what he was supposed to do, so he trusted the answer that would be from the Lord. “So, will you allow Rebekah to go with me to Canaan and marry Isaac?” Abraham’s servant asked Laban and Rebekah’s father.

“We can see that this is from the Lord,” they answered. “She may go.”

Abraham’s servant was so full of gratefulness that he bowed himself to the ground and worshiped the Lord.

Flash Card 1.3

Applying the Story

The Bible story we just heard from Genesis 24 isn’t mainly about Abraham’s servant. It’s actually about Abraham and Isaac and Rebekah. It’s about God’s promise to send the Saviour through Abraham’s descendants. It’s about Abraham’s trust in God and his desire to follow God in every way, even in finding the right wife for his son.

Abraham’s servant isn’t one of the main characters in the Bible like Abraham and Isaac are. We don’t even really know his name, but Abraham’s servant did what it doesn’t take a main character to do—he was faithful.

Can you think of ways Abraham’s servant proved himself to be faithful? (Allow response.)

- He was faithful with Abraham’s possessions, for a wealthy man would trust his possessions only to someone he knew to be faithful.
- He was faithful throughout the long journey. There would have been many temptations along the way to quit or turn back, but he kept going.
- He was faithful to accomplish his mission before he stopped to rest from his long journey. He immediately went to the city well, hoping he would find Isaac’s bride.
- He was faithful to God as he asked Him to be the one to show who would be Isaac’s wife. He didn’t trust himself to make a decision that was so important.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- He was faithful to God when he told Rebekah that, even though he hadn’t known where to go and what to do, *God* had led him to her.
- He was faithful to thank God for answering his prayers and sending him to just the right place to find just the right wife for Isaac.
- He was faithful when he wasn’t willing to eat with Laban until he had shared the reason for his journey.

Lesson One—Abraham's Servant

Abraham's servant didn't need any special talent to do what he did. Anyone could have done what he did. He only needed to be faithful. Abraham's servant's faithfulness didn't begin when Abraham had a really important mission for him to do. He had been faithful all along, even in the little things. That's how Abraham knew he could trust him in the big things.

You don't need any special talent, riches, looks, or popularity to do great things for God either. When you choose to be faithful, you are usable to God.

God will trust you with bigger things when you are faithful in the small things. You can:

- Be faithful to read God's Word and talk to Him through prayer.
- Be faithful to share the gospel.
- Be faithful to take care of the things God has given you—keep your room clean, make your bed, put your things away, etc.
- Be faithful to take care of other people's things.
- Be faithful to obey.
- Be faithful to keep your word and fulfill your promises.

Maybe you haven't been faithful. Maybe your parents, teachers, and friends *don't* feel as if they can trust you. You can talk to God and ask His forgiveness and ask Him to teach you how to be faithful. You can go to the people you have been unfaithful to and ask their forgiveness, telling them that you are asking God to help you become a faithful person. And *then*, you can choose to be faithful in each situation in your life.

You, like Abraham's servant, will not only be trusted by others, but you will be used by God to do things an unfaithful person would never be able to do!

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Paddle ball

Playing the Game

Explain to your students that being faithful requires doing the right thing over and over again. Faithfulness involves consistent obedience! For today’s game, divide the class into two teams. Ask questions, alternating between teams. When a student answers correctly, allow him to come to the front of the class and bounce the ball on the paddle. For each completed bounce, his team earns a point. So, if the student consistently bounces the ball on the paddle ten times before missing, his team receives ten points. At the end of the game, tally the score to determine the winning team.

1. What was the name of Abraham’s servant?

Answer: The Bible doesn’t say.

2. Why did Abraham trust his servant so much?

Answer: Because he was faithful

3. Why did Abraham send his servant on a trip to Mesopotamia?

Answer: To find a wife for Isaac

4. Why did Abraham’s servant have to go all the way to Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac?

Answer: Because Abraham made him promise that he would not take a wife from the Canaanites for Isaac

5. Once Abraham's servant got to the town of Nahor, where did he stop to find a wife for Isaac?

Answer: The well

6. Because there were so many women at the well, Abraham’s servant asked God to give him a special sign so he would know which one was for Isaac. What was the sign?

Answer: When he asked for a drink of water, the woman who offered to water his camels also would be the one for Isaac.

7. What did Abraham’s servant give the young woman who gave him and his camels a drink?

Answer: A gold ring and two gold bracelets

8. What was the name of the young woman who agreed to be Isaac’s wife?

Answer: Rebekah

Lesson One—Abraham’s Servant

9. Why didn’t Abraham’s servant need any special talent to do what he did?

Answer: Because anybody can be faithful

10. When we are faithful in small things, God will be able to trust us with bigger things. What are some small things you can be faithful in?

Answer: Reading God’s Word, talking to Him through prayer, sharing the gospel, taking care of the things God has given you, taking care of other people’s things, obeying, keeping your word, and fulfilling your promises

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Luke 16:10

10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Circles from the Ministry Resource download

28 paper plates

Tape

Teaching the Verse

To assemble, cut out the Memory Verse and glue or tape to the paper plates. To play, tape the paper plates to the class board or give one plate per student in your class. Arrange or distribute the paper plates so that every student in your class can read the verse.

Before reading the verse together, explain what it means to be faithful in little things. Using the paper plates as an example, discuss situations where these plates would apply to being faithful in small responsibilities, such as:

- Eating all your food at dinner
- Taking your plate to the sink after a meal
- Helping your parents with the dishes
- Serving others

Remind them that Abraham’s servant was faithful to do what was asked of him, and God blessed Abraham’s family because of it. Then, recite the verse together as a class.

Say the verse several times, taking a plate or two away each time until no plates remain.

OBJECT LESSON—“Stick Together” Relay

Materials Needed

Balloons—enough for one balloon per two students

Painters tape

Set Up

Before class, blow up balloons (enough for sets of two students to share one balloon). Create a path or an easy obstacle course and, using the painters tape, mark off “Start” and “Finish” lines.

Lesson

Give each team of two students a balloon. Explain that the object of this relay is not just to finish first, but to get the balloon from the “Start” line to the “Finish” line without it falling to the floor. They must put the balloon between them, and without using their arms, legs, or mouth, try to stick together, keeping the balloon up and secure. (Children can place the balloons between their arms, shoulders, etc.)

If a balloon falls while the team is walking the course, they can pick it up and return to the starting line to finish the race.

Application

One aspect of the word *faithful* implies strong adherence to a person, thing, oath, or promise. Abraham’s servant held tightly to Abraham! He loved and respected Abraham, and he wanted to do what was asked of him without dropping the ball (or balloon!). We should all seek to be like Abraham’s servant by being faithful to our God and our families—sticking together and remaining faithful in good times and bad, in easy or difficult tasks!

CRAFT—Faithfulness Cards Magnet

Supplies

- 2 small magnets per student
- 1 set of “Faithfulness” printables per student from the Ministry Resource download
- 1 small envelope per student (the dollar store carries decorative envelopes)
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Precut the “Faithfulness” cards out.
2. Give one stack of “Faithfulness” cards to each student.
3. Give one envelope to each student.
4. Instruct the students to glue one “Faithfulness” card to the front of the envelope and put the rest of the “Faithfulness” cards inside the envelope.
5. Ask the students to glue two magnets on the back of the envelope.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Two Overview

Miriam

Theme—Dependability

Scripture

Exodus 1-2:10

Memory Verse

Philippians 1:6—“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Israelites Become Slaves in Egypt**
(Exodus 1:6-14)
2. **Pharaoh’s Decrees** (Exodus 1:15-22)
—Flashcard 2.1
3. **Moses’ Birth** (Exodus 2:1-2)
—Flashcard 2.2
4. **Pharaoh’s Daughter Finds the Baby**
(Exodus 2:4-10)
—Flashcard 2.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Philippians 1:6
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Pass the pens, please!
Bible Lesson	Miriam
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Moses in a Basket
Review Game/Questions	Watching from the Bulrushes
Craft	Miriam Family Puppets
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON TWO

Miriam

Theme: Dependability

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Exodus 1–2:10.
- Study Lesson Two.
- Flashcards 2.1–2.3
- Prepare snack—Moses in a Basket.
- Gather for object lesson—one large retractable pen, several retractable pens.
- Gather for game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and pocket chart.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—memory verse strips from the Ministry Resource download and magnets.
- Gather for craft—Miriam family printable per student from the Ministry Resource download, popsicle sticks, and glue sticks.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate the Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 2:1-10

- 1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.
- 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.
- 3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.
- 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

SNACK SUGGESTION

Moses in a Basket

- Crescent roll dough
- Lil' smokies sausages

Cut the crescent roll dough into small pieces and wrap the dough around the sausage, covering the bottom of the sausage, but leaving the top uncovered. The sausage will represent the baby, and the dough will represent the basket. Put on an ungreased baking sheet and bake according to the crescent roll dough package instructions (typically for 10–12 minutes at 375 degrees). You can serve with a dipping sauce of your choice.

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Lesson Two—Miriam

- 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.
- 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.
- 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?
- 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.
- 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.
- 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Our true story from the Bible today is about a girl who was dependable. Can anyone tell me what *dependable* means? (Allow response.) Dependable is like a car that you know will always start or a dog you know will always bark when a stranger comes to the door. Because the car has always started, you know it will continue to start. And because the dog has always barked when a stranger comes to the door, you know it will continue to bark when strangers come to the door.

Because the car starts when you need it for small things—errands to the grocery store or post office—you believe it will start when you need it for an emergency, like a trip to the hospital when you break your leg. And because the dog barks when your aunt from another state comes to visit, you believe it will bark at an important time, like when someone is trying to break into your house.

If the car didn't work for small things, you would get another car as soon as you could, because you want a dependable car. And if your dog didn't bark

Lesson Two—Miriam

for strangers, but you needed a watch dog, you would get a dependable dog that *would* bark, so you would feel safe.

The girl in today's story was dependable like a good car or a good watchdog. She did what she was supposed to do in everyday life. The time came when her parents needed someone dependable to do something that took great courage. If an undependable person had been asked to do what her parents asked her to do, it would have been a very sad day in her family's life, and all of history would have been changed.

The Story

1. Israelites Become Slaves in Egypt (Exodus 1:6-14)

The Israelite people lived in a nation that wasn't their own. They were in the land of Egypt, living as slaves. The children must have wondered how they ever became slaves.

"Why does Pharaoh make you work so hard and treat you so cruelly?" they asked their dad.

"It's a sad story," their dad answered. "But it's part of our history.

"God warned Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, that the penalty for sin (doing things their way instead of God's) would be death. But when they did sin, God was so kind to them. He promised that He would one day send the Messiah—a Saviour who would pay the penalty for the sins of everyone in the world.

"Years went by, and children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were born. Eventually, there was a man named Abraham. God promised Abraham before he even had children that he would have as many descendants as there were stars in the sky, and He promised that the Messiah would be one of those descendants. Years before Abraham had the son God promised (Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born), Abraham kept trusting God and walking with Him. God called Abraham His friend.

James 2:23

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Lesson Two—Miriam

“When Isaac grew up, he had a son named Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons, one of them named Joseph,” their dad continued the story. “Now here’s the good news/bad news part of the story. The bad news was that Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him, hated him, and sold him to slave traders who sold him to a political leader in Egypt. Joseph was lied about and put in prison.

“But the good news is that Joseph continued to trust God. When a seven-year famine was going to come, God gave the Egyptian ruler (the Pharaoh) a dream about the coming famine, but Pharaoh didn’t know what the dream meant. God gave Joseph understanding of dreams, and Joseph told Pharaoh the meaning of the dream: there would be seven years where the land produced greater crops than usual, and then there would be seven years of famine where there would be no crops.

“Then Pharaoh made Joseph the second ruler in all of Egypt, and Joseph led the people in storing up food during the seven good years; and Joseph was in charge of distributing the food during the seven years of famine.

“Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to get food, and Joseph forgave them for selling him all those years earlier. He asked his brothers to bring his father back to Egypt, so he could take care of him through the famine.”

“Wow!” the children said. “God sure used Joseph in Egypt!”

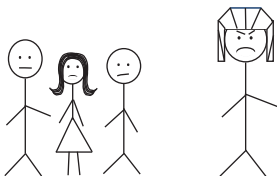
“The whole family stayed in Egypt for many years,” their dad went on. “In fact, we are part of that family. We Israelites have been in Egypt for four hundred years now, and the old Pharaoh died, and there have been many Pharaohs since then. The new Pharaoh doesn’t remember how Joseph saved all of the Egyptians from starvation. The new Pharaoh is afraid that, because there are so many of us, we will one day join with Egypt’s enemies in a war and leave Egypt. So he has made us slaves.”

“But Dad, they are so cruel to you,” the children said. “They give you more work than you can do—they make you work in the fields all day. You have to make bricks and lay bricks, and when you can’t do all the work they give you, they beat you.”

“I don’t understand it,” their father answered. “They think if they can keep us controlled, we won’t be able to turn against them.”

But the Israelite population kept growing, and Pharaoh was more worried than ever.

DRAW IT!



2. Pharaoh's Decrees (Exodus 1:15–22)

“I have an idea,” thought Pharaoh. “I know how to keep the Hebrew (Israelite) population from growing!”

Pharaoh called for the two midwives who delivered the babies for the Hebrew women. “Every time you deliver a Hebrew baby,” he commanded, “if it is a boy, you are to kill it. But if it is a girl, you can let her live.”

But the midwives feared God more than they feared the cruel Pharaoh, and they didn't kill the boy babies. So, the Israelite people continued to multiply.

“There's only one thing left for me to do,” thought Pharaoh. He commanded all his people to throw every Hebrew baby that was born into the Nile River.

3. Moses' Birth (Exodus 2:1–2)

It was into that frightening world that the Hebrew, Moses, was born.

“He is the most beautiful baby I have ever seen,” his mother Jochebed said. “I believe God has a special purpose for him.”

“You know what the king has commanded,” said his father Amram. “But I'm not afraid of Pharaoh's commandments. We will do everything we can to keep our baby alive.”

Hebrews 11:23

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

For three months, the family hid that beautiful baby. Jochebed stayed in the house with him while Amram went to work in the fields or brickyard.

Miriam, Moses' older sister, would take her three-year old brother Aaron outside to play, but Jochebed stayed in the house with the baby. “Shhh,” she would whisper to him if he started to cry. Jochebed didn't want to take a chance that anyone would hear the baby.

“Miriam is such a dependable girl,” Jochebed said to Amram when he came home late each night. “I don't know what I would do without her. She takes care of Aaron, and she plays with the baby. I am so thankful I can depend on her.”

“She sure is,” Amram answered, as he pulled Miriam onto his lap. “Miriam, we don't know what we would do without you,” he said.

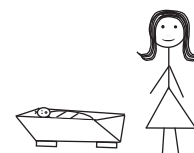
The days went on like that for three months. Amram went out to the field early each morning, and Jochebed took care of the baby day and night, making

DRAW IT!



Flash Card 2.1

DRAW IT!



TEACHER'S NOTE

Exodus 7:7 tells us that Aaron was three years older than Moses, but we don't know the age difference between Miriam and her brothers.

sure his every need was met. Any time he would start to whimper, Jochebed or Miriam would run to him to quiet him.

Finally, Jochebed knew she couldn't hide the baby any longer. If the Egyptians found out she was hiding a baby boy, they would take him and drown him in the Nile River.

One day she called Miriam to her, and she looked carefully into her eyes. "Miriam," she said. "I can't tell you how thankful I am for you. Anytime I ask you to do something, I know it will be done. You take care of your brothers just like you know I would whenever I'm not there.

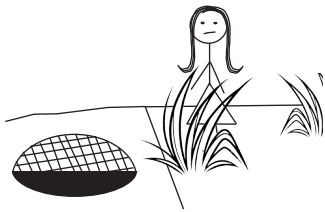
"And we've had this baby boy in our home for three months now, and you have been dependable to keep him a secret. Not only have you kept him quiet, but you have never told anyone about him.

"The time has come," Jochebed continued, "for us to make a change. We can't hide the baby any more. He will soon be crawling and then walking. He won't be happy just being in his bed or in our arms anymore. The Egyptians will find out about him, and they will drown him in the Nile.

"I need your help. I have made a tiny ark (boat) and put the baby inside it. I am going to set it in the tall reeds at the edge of the Nile. I want you to watch and see what happens. You are so dependable, Miriam. I know you will do the right thing."

Flash Card 2.2

DRAW IT!



4. Pharaoh's Daughter Finds the Baby (Exodus 2:4-10)

So Miriam stood quietly at the edge of the river, a distance away so she wouldn't be noticed. She didn't dare to take her eyes off the tiny ark that held her baby brother. Her heart was filled with fear as she wondered what would happen to him.

She heard voices in the distance, coming closer; then she heard footsteps. "I wonder who it is," Miriam thought.

It was Pharaoh's daughter, along with her servants, coming to the river to wash herself. "Pharaoh's daughter!" Miriam thought. "What's going to happen now?"

Pharaoh's daughter saw the tiny ark in the reeds at the edge of the river. "I wonder what that is," she said to one of her servants. "Run and get it so we can see what's inside."

When the servant came back with the little ark, Pharaoh's daughter opened it. The baby looked out from his little bed inside the ark, and when he saw it wasn't his own mother, he cried.

"Poor little thing," Pharaoh's daughter said. "It's one of the Hebrew children."

Miriam's heart filled with hope for her baby brother. "The princess feels sorry for him," she thought. And she calmly walked over to where Pharaoh's daughter held the tiny ark.

"Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman so she can nurse the baby for you?" Miriam asked.

"Yes, go find a Hebrew mother," Pharaoh's daughter answered.

Miriam's heart sang as she went home to the baby's own mother. "Mom, Pharaoh's daughter found our little baby at the edge of the Nile! She wants a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for her! You can be that Hebrew woman!"

Jochebed's heart filled with gratitude to God. She hurried back to the Nile to meet Pharaoh's daughter. "Take this child away and nurse it for me," Pharaoh's daughter said. "I will pay you to take care of him for me."

The baby grew, and when he didn't need to be nursed any longer, Jochebed brought him to the palace, and he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter. "Because I drew him out of the water," the princess said, "I will name him Moses."

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace, but after many years, God used Moses to lead the millions of Israelite people out of slavery in Egypt back to the land God had promised to Abraham many years earlier.

Applying the Story

Moses became one of the greatest leaders in all of history. God used him to lead the Israelite people to the place where He wanted them to live. He used Moses to protect the Israelite people from whom the Messiah—the Saviour—would one day come.

Just think, if Amram and Jochebed hadn't kept their baby hidden, Moses would have been drowned in the Nile River when he was a tiny baby. After they hid him, if Jochebed hadn't put him in the tiny boat, he would have been found by the Egyptians, and he would have been drowned in the Nile River.

And, if Pharaoh's daughter hadn't felt sorry for the crying baby, she would have ordered him to be thrown into the Nile River, since she was the daughter of Pharaoh who had made the law that all the Hebrew boy babies were to be thrown into the Nile.

Lesson Two—Miriam

And, if Miriam hadn't been dependable, her mother never could have sent her to the river to watch over the baby in the boat. If Miriam hadn't been dependable, Jochebed wouldn't have known that Miriam would do the right thing at the river.

Proverbs 25:19

19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

If Miriam hadn't been dependable, bravely offering to find a Hebrew nurse for the baby, Pharaoh's daughter might have brought the baby home, and her father would have ordered him to be drowned in the Nile River.

When baby Moses was born, his sister had no idea that God had a special plan for him. When baby Moses was put into the boat in the edge of the Nile River, Miriam didn't know that he would become one of the greatest leaders in the world, who would one day lead her and all of her people out of the terrible slavery they were suffering and into the land God had promised to give them.

If Miriam had known those things, it would have been very easy for her to realize what a wonderful thing she was being asked to do, and it would have been easier to do it.

But Miriam didn't need to know those things to be dependable. She only needed to do what was right each time she had a decision to make.

- When her mother needed someone to take Aaron out to play, Miriam needed to be obedient and helpful and take him outside so he wouldn't wake the baby.
- When her mother needed to make dinner, Miriam needed to be obedient and helpful to take care of the baby so he wouldn't make noise and be heard by the Egyptians.
- When her dad left for work in the morning, Miriam needed to be polite and helpful to her mother while he was away.
- When she was tired, Miriam needed to be patient and kind.
- When she didn't feel like studying, Miriam needed to do the schoolwork her parents gave her.
- When Miriam met friends outside or at the market, she needed to be dependable to keep the family's secret about the baby.

Lesson Two—Miriam

Then, when it was time to take the baby to the river because he couldn't be kept hidden any longer, Miriam's parents knew they could depend on her to do the right thing. They had watched her life, and they knew she was wise and consistently made the right choices.

"We can depend on her," they thought, and they sent her to the river to see what would happen to the baby.

And Miriam was dependable! Even though she may have been afraid to see what would happen to the baby (Would crocodiles get him? Would an Egyptian find him?), she carefully watched him, just as her mother had told her to do. Even though she may have been afraid to go to Pharaoh's daughter, she went. Even though she may have been afraid to offer to get a nurse for the baby, she offered.

Because she was dependable, Moses' life was saved, and he later led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

It's easy to think we would do great things if we had the opportunity. But, the thing about doing great things is, we often don't know what great is. Miriam didn't know she was doing something great as she was dependable day after day in Egypt. She didn't even know she was doing something great when she watched baby Moses at the river that day. But she was dependable to do the right thing at the right time, and God made what she did great. I wonder what great thing God wants to use us for today.

- Would it be great for us to listen to the sermon in church?
- Would it be great for us to learn our memory verse?
- Would it be great for us to be kind to our brother or sister on the way home from church?
- Would it be great to help our mom fix lunch and do the dishes afterward?
- Would it be great for us to obey our parents?
- Would it be great for us to finish our homework before we play or watch TV?
- Would it be great for us to befriend someone who is being made fun of at school?

Dependability comes from doing the right thing each time. While we are becoming dependable, doing the right thing each time, we never know what God will be doing through us!

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download
Pocket chart

Set Up

Print and cut the game pieces from the Ministry Resource download. Then fold along the dotted lines, so that the students can see only the bulrushes, not what is contained inside. Place the game pieces in a pocket chart.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams and ask questions, alternating between each team. When a student answers correctly, she can come to the front of the class to select a game piece from the pocket chart. Baby Moses is floating behind only one bulrush, and the team who finds him first wins the game. You can repeat the game as necessary, depending on how quickly Moses is found.

1. In what nation were the Israelites slaves, and which one of Jacob's sons had been sold to that country many years earlier?

Answer: Egypt; Joseph

2. What did Pharaoh tell the midwives to do when the Israelite babies were born?

Answer: To kill the boy babies

3. Why didn't the midwives kill the boy babies?

Answer: They feared God more than they feared Pharaoh.

4. What did Pharaoh command to be done with the boy Hebrew babies after the midwives didn't carry out his plan?

Answer: They were to be thrown into the Nile River.

5. Why did Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, decide to hide him?

Answer: They believed God had a special purpose for him, and they weren't afraid of Pharaoh's commandment.

6. How old was the baby when his mother knew she couldn't keep him hidden any longer?

Answer: Three months

Lesson Two—Miriam

7. What did Jochebed do with her baby when she could no longer keep him hidden?
Answer: She put him in a tiny boat and set it in the reeds at the edge of the Nile River.
8. Who found the baby?
Answer: Pharaoh's daughter
9. Why did Jochebed trust Miriam to watch the baby in the tiny boat at the Nile River?
Answer: Because she was dependable, and her mother knew she would do the right thing.
10. How do you develop dependability?
Answer: By doing the right thing each time

CRAFT—Miriam Family Puppets

Supplies

- 1 Miriam family printable per student
(Precut the puppets)
- 4 popsicle sticks per student
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one glue stick, one set of Miriam family puppets, and four popsicle sticks.
2. Instruct each student to glue one puppet to each popsicle stick.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 1:6

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Materials Needed

Memory verse strips from the Ministry Resource download

Magnets

Set Up

Print and cut two sets of the memory verse strips from the Ministry Resource download. (You can laminate the cards for durability and future use.)

Attach small magnets to the back of each verse strip, and place the verse strips on the dry-erase board. Alternately, you can use a tabletop or pocket chart to arrange the verse for the class to see.

Teaching the Verse

To play this memory verse review game, recite the verse together as a class several times until your students are fairly familiar with it. Divide the class into two teams, and select one student from each team to come to the front and arrange the verse strips into correct order on the board. The team to win after several rounds can receive a piece of candy.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

OBJECT LESSON—Pass the Pens, Please!

Materials Needed

1 large retractable pen

Several retractable pens (one for each student in the class)

(optional: You may attach a craft tag to each pen with the phrase, “I want to be dependable!”)

Lesson

As you seek to reinforce the quality of dependability as demonstrated by Miriam in today’s lesson, bring an oversized retractable pen to class. You may also provide retractable pens for every student.

Allow the students to play with the pens, retracting and clicking them. You may also allow them to work on their Activity Sheets using these special pens.

Then, ask the students to describe the pen. Allow for feedback before asking them how to spell “pen.” Ask if any students recognize those three letters from a key word in today’s story. Encourage them to see the word “pen” in the word “dependability.”

Application

When we studied today’s lesson and then this pen in your hands, we found the word “pen” in the word “dependability”! When people look at *you*, can they find the dependability they need to get the job done? Take this pen home and whenever you use it (or any pen like it!), try to remember Miriam and our lesson on *dependability*!

Lesson Three Overview

Aaron and Hur

Theme—Praying for Others

Scripture

Exodus 17:8–16

Memory Verse

Romans 15:30—“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Amalek Battles Israel** (*Exodus 17:8*)
2. **Moses Assigns Joshua to Lead the Battle** (*Exodus 17:9–10*)
—Flashcard 3.1
3. **Moses Holds Up His Hands** (*Exodus 17:10–11*)
4. **Aaron and Hur Lift Up Moses’ Arms and the Israelites Win the Battle** (*Exodus 17:12–13*)
—Flashcard 3.2
5. **Moses Worships the Lord** (*Exodus 17:14–16*)
—Flashcard 3.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Romans 15:30
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Folded Hands
Bible Lesson	Aaron and Hur
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Pretzel Banners
Review Game/Questions	Hands Up or Down?
Craft	Prayer Pail
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

3

LESSON THREE

Aaron and Hur

Theme: Praying for Others

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Exodus 17:8–16.
- Study Lesson Three.
- Flashcards 3.1–3.3
- Prepare snack—Pretzel Banners.
- Gather for review game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and a pocket chart.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—Memory Verse Cards from the Ministry Resource download.
- Gather for craft—mini pail or containers, hand-shaped sticky notes or regular sticky notes, and black permanent marker.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate the Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 17:8-16

- 8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.
- 9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.
- 10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
- 11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.
- 12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the

SNACK SUGGESTION

Pretzel Banners

- Pretzel rods
- Fruit by the Foot roll-ups

Break off a piece of fruit roll-up and wrap each end around each pretzel stick, creating a banner with the fruit roll-up. Remind the students that Moses declared “The Lord is Our Banner” after the Israelites experienced victory in battle.

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 15:30

“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;”

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Does anybody know what a banner is? (Allow response.) A banner is designed to draw people’s attention to it or to something the maker of the banner wants people to notice.

Banners on websites are advertisements that get your attention so they can let you know about a product, a sale, etc. Often they are designed so that when you click on them, you will be taken to a page that explains more about what they are advertising and where you can purchase that item.

A more traditional type of banner is a piece of cloth with the logo or emblem of a particular team, company, or country. Can someone describe the banner of the United States of America? (Hint: It’s called the U.S. flag.) (Allow response.) When Americans who are thankful for their country see the red, white, and blue United States flag, it means something to them. It means that many others have gone before us and fought, prayed, and sacrificed so we could enjoy the freedom we have. It’s not about one person—it’s about everyone who has given for the sake of our country.

The Olympic games begin with a parade, where athletes from each country “march” behind their flag. People see their country’s flag, or banner, and they cheer. They aren’t cheering for each individual athlete, but they’re cheering for the country represented.

When countries are at war, the banner (flag) that is left standing at the end is the victory marker—it shows us who won the battle. It is a symbol for the whole country.

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

So, a banner is a symbol of teamwork. When a high school team plays under their banner, each member of the team is hopefully thinking about how they can work together to bring victory to their team.

Christians are on whose team? (Allow response.) We are on the Lord's team. We are to work together to show the world that God loves them and sent His Son to pay the price for their sins; if they trust Him as their Saviour from sin, they will become His child, will have a relationship with Him, and will go to Heaven to live with Him when they die.

But the world won't notice how good God is if we don't work together. If everyone wants to be up front, doing the things that get noticed, the world will see arguing instead of teamwork, fighting instead of love, and pride instead of humility.

John 13:35

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

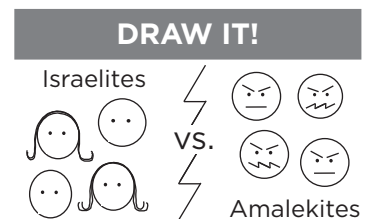
In today's true story from the Bible, God put two men in an unnoticed place, doing an "unglamorous" job to teach the Israelites to live and "march" under *His* banner, showing the world that *He* was the one who fought their battles for them.

The Story

1. Amalek Battles Israel (Exodus 17:8)

The Israelites—all two or three million of them—were journeying toward the land God had promised to give them when He led them out of slavery in Egypt.

The Israelites had seen God do amazing things for them. He had made Moses into the great leader who met with the cruel Egyptian ruler, ordering him to let the Israelites go. The Egyptian ruler, the Pharaoh, refused, and God told Moses, "Lift your rod over the waters of Egypt and hit the waters with your rod," and when Moses did so, God turned all the water in Egypt into blood. When Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go, God told Moses to lift his rod over the waters again, and when he did, frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. Pharaoh still refused to let the people go, and God told Moses to stretch his rod over the dust of the land, and to hit the dust with his rod; when Moses obeyed, all the dust turned into lice. Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the people go, and God sent seven more plagues, until, finally, Pharaoh let the people go.



Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

The miracles didn't stop there! Soon after they left Egypt, the Israelites came to the Red Sea, with the Egyptians following close behind, intending to bring the Israelites back to Egypt. God told Moses, "Stretch your rod over the Red Sea," and when Moses did, the waters of the sea stood up like giant walls, with a dry road right through the middle of the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross. They crossed the Red Sea on dry ground!

God had made Moses a great man in the eyes of the Israelite people, and He often showed that He was with Moses through the rod (staff) Moses carried. His rod was like a banner, showing everyone that it was not Moses, but God, who did the miracles.

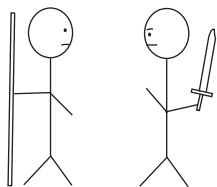
God continued to do miracles. He began sending the Israelites manna from Heaven every morning. They ate manna for forty years as they wandered through the wilderness. God was so good to them.

The Israelites became thirsty, and there was no water to drink. God told Moses to hit a huge rock with his rod, and when he did, God sent water pouring like a fountain out of the rock. God had done so much for the Israelites.

But now they had a problem. An enemy army, the Amalekites, attacked them out of nowhere, it seemed! The Israelites didn't really have an army. They had just escaped Egypt, and they were travelers—not warriors.

2. Moses Assigns Joshua to Lead the Battle (Exodus 17:9–10)

DRAW IT!



Flash Card 3.1

Although Moses was the great leader of the Israelites, he wasn't the one who led the Israelites in this battle with the Amalekites.

Moses called a young man, Joshua, to lead the battle. "Choose out men to fight for us," Moses commanded Joshua. "Tomorrow you will go into battle, and I will stand at the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."

"Moses has always led us the right way in the past," Joshua must have thought. "But I wonder why he is going to stand on top of the hill with his rod in his hand while we fight this battle."

Joshua did as Moses had told him, and he and his chosen men battled the Amalekites.

3. Moses Holds Up His Hands (Exodus 17:10–11)

Moses, his brother Aaron, and a man named Hur climbed to the top of the hill. Moses stood on the top of the hill where all the Israelites could see him, holding

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

high his rod that God had used so often. As the Israelite warriors fought, they must have felt secure as they saw that rod that God had used to do so many miracles for them. As long as Moses stood there with his hands raised high, the Israelites were winning the battle.

But Moses' arms grew tired, and his muscles grew sore. Finally, he could no longer hold his arms up. "I can't do it anymore," he thought, and his arms slumped down to his sides.

"Oh no!" the people cried. "Look—we're falling behind in the battle!"

"I'll lift my arms again," Moses thought. And slowly, he raised the rod back up in the air, and the Israelites were winning again.

But Moses' arms grew heavy again, and they fell back to his sides.

"Oh no!" the people cried again. "The Amalekites are winning now!"

4. Aaron and Hur Lift Up Moses' Arms, and the Israelites Win the Battle (Exodus 17:12-13)

"This is too much for Moses to do alone," Aaron and Hur said. "He needs us!" Aaron and Hur pushed a big stone behind Moses, and Moses sat down on the stone.

"Whew! Thank you," Moses exclaimed.

Aaron stood on one side of Moses, Hur stood on the other, and each one lifted up one of Moses' arms. They stood there until the sun went down, holding up Moses' arms with the rod in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

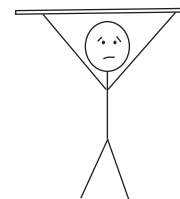
- 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.
- 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

And the Israelites, with General Joshua leading them, defeated the Amalekites that day.

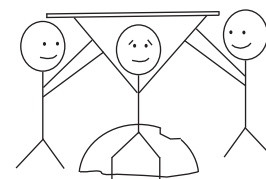
5. Moses Worships the Lord (Exodus 17:14-16)

"You saw what I did today," God told Moses. "I want you to write this down in a book and tell Joshua exactly what happened. Tell him that it was I, not the Israelite army, who defeated the Amalekites today. Tell him that when you

DRAW IT!

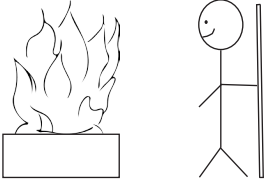


DRAW IT!



Flash Card 3.2

DRAW IT!



Flash Card 3.3

held up the rod in your hands, Israel prevailed, and when your arms fell down, Amalek prevailed. Tell him that Aaron and Hur came alongside you and held up your arms when you couldn't do it anymore. Tell him that you trusted Me and asked Me for the victory. Joshua needs to know that this victory was from Me, not from the Israelite army. He needs to know that every victory comes from Me.”

“And Moses,” God said, “the Amalekites were defeated today; but one day they will be totally defeated, never to cause you trouble again.”

“You are wonderful!” Moses told God, and he built an altar to God there so that whenever the Israelites passed that way, they would see the altar and remember what God had done for them in the battle with the Amalekites. “What God has done today is so important,” Moses thought, “that this altar needs to be given a name that reminds us.”

“Jehovah-Nissi—that's the name,” Moses said. All the Israelites knew that name meant, “The Lord is our banner.”

Applying the Story

Why do you suppose Moses named the altar *The Lord is our banner*? (Allow response.) The Lord who fought for the Israelites. He wanted the Israelites to “hold up His banner,” which wasn't a banner you could see, but it was a banner of the heart—one they could be thankful for and tell others about. They held up His banner when they said, “The God of Heaven is the one who takes care of us.” They held up His banner when they said, “The God of Heaven is the one who fights our battles for us.” They held up His banner when they said, “Our victory came from the Lord.” They held up His banner when they said, “The God of Heaven is our strength.”

Aaron and Hur weren't great leaders like Moses or Joshua, and they weren't warriors fighting on the front line. They were men who, during the battle with the Amalekites, quietly stepped up and held up Moses' hands because they saw that Joshua and the warriors couldn't win the battle without Moses' hands being raised, and they saw that Moses couldn't raise his hands without their help. So they willingly held up Moses' hands. Aaron and Hur were men who wanted to help accomplish God's will.

When the battle was over and the Israelites were the victors, Aaron and Hur probably didn't get much credit for the victory. “Oh, Joshua, you are a great general!” the Israelites probably said. “Thank you, Moses, for putting

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

Joshua in charge, and thank you for holding up the rod of God today,” they likely said.

But they probably didn’t notice Aaron and Hur. They didn’t say, “Aaron and Hur, you did an amazing job holding up Moses’ hands during the battle! You guys are amazing!”

But Aaron and Hur had done an amazing job. Without them, there would have been no victory for the Israelites that day. Although the Israelites likely didn’t praise Aaron and Hur for holding up Moses’ hands, Aaron and Hur had joy in their hearts in knowing they had done their part.

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Sometimes the job God has for us is a leadership role—a job out in the front where we are seen and maybe even admired. Sometimes the job God has for us is behind the scenes where nobody knows we are even doing our part.

Maybe God wants us to clean the church building. Most people won’t even notice that we did it, but we are honoring God and making the building where people meet to worship and learn more about Him beautiful.

Maybe God wants us to help with younger children. Maybe the children are so young that it seems like they don’t even understand what we are saying. But when we sing with them and smile at them, they have happy memories of being at church, and they will want to keep coming. Nobody may ever notice what you do when you work with children, but you are honoring God and making a difference in a child’s life.

Maybe God wants you to be at your class a little early so you can make visitors or shy classmates feel welcome. Most people will never notice that you did that, but you will be honoring God and making a difference in someone’s life.

Psalms 84:10

10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

No matter what job God has for us in any situation, we can, and should, pray. We learn from Aaron and Hur that we should especially pray for the man

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

of God, our pastor. Think of it—Moses was the man of God for the Israelite people. When Moses lifted his hands up toward Heaven with the rod in his hands, it was a symbol that he trusted God and was asking Him for victory. Moses was praying for Israel.

When Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses, lifting his arms, it was a symbol that they trusted God, knew beyond any shadow of a doubt that the victory would come from Him, and were asking Him for the victory. Aaron and Hur were praying for victory from God.

Praying for God to work through the leader is the most important thing we can do. Whether you are the leader or someone else is the leader, you should always ask God to do what only He can do.

We sometimes call that “lifting someone in prayer.” Remember how Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ arms because he wasn’t strong enough to keep them up by himself? They were lifting him up to God, asking God to give him victory. We do that in our hearts when we pray. It’s like we reach the arms of our hearts underneath that person and lift them up to God, asking God to give them victory in whatever area of life they need it.

In our church, we should pray for our pastor, asking God to give him wisdom to lead our church. We should ask God to help our pastor to make the right decisions and to be strong in the Lord. We should ask God to teach our pastor what God wants him to preach. We should ask the Lord to help our pastor not get discouraged with all the responsibilities of leading our church. We should ask God to give our pastor victory over temptations.

It’s the same in your family. Do you pray for God to work in your dad and mom’s life, helping them to lead your family in a way that honors Him? You and your brothers and sisters could, like Aaron and Hur, together lift your parents up to the Lord in prayer. You can ask God to give them wisdom to lead your family and to make right decisions. You can ask God to help them not get discouraged and give them victory over temptations.

Aaron and Hur needed to hold up Moses’ hands so Moses could hold up the rod. If they had not kept Moses’ hands lifted, defeat would have been certain. Our prayers are like that. We may not see God working through them, but He does. Just as Aaron and Hur were “unseen heroes,” lifting the Israelites to victory, we can be “unseen heroes,” lifting our pastors, parents, teachers, family, and friends to victory through prayer.

So, who is in your life that you should pray for? (Allow response.) You should pray for your parents. You should pray for your pastor. You should pray for your teachers. You should pray for your other family members. You should

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

pray for your friends. You should pray for your church family. You should pray for people you know who are not saved.

Prayer is a banner we can hold up—it's one of those banners of the heart. When we pray, it shows that we are God's and that we trust Him with our lives and with the lives of those we pray for. We trust Him for the victory; and when He answers prayer and brings victory, we, like Moses, can tell others, "The victory was the Lord's."

TEACHER'S NOTE

You could pass out small notebooks to be used as prayer journals.

Encourage your students to write down specific people and then to ask those people for their prayer requests. Also encourage them to choose a specific time when they are going to pray for those people.

You could also dedicate the few first or last minutes of your class time to begin praying together for your pastor. Encourage students to pray for him during this time as well.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download
Pocket chart

Set Up

Print, cut, and assemble the game pieces from the Ministry Resource download. Each game piece should have points on one side and a set of hands on the other.

Place the game pieces in a pocket chart with the points facing outward so the students can read them.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams and begin asking questions. When a student answers correctly, he can pick a card containing the point value he wants. Behind each card, however, is a set of hands that are raised or a set of hands that are lowered. If the card contains raised hands, his team may keep the points. If the card contains lowered hands, points are deducted from the team's total.

1. What is the purpose of a banner?
Answer: To draw attention; to show whose side you are on
2. Who was the leader of the Israelite army when they fought against the Amalekites?
Answer: Joshua
3. What was Moses' job when they fought against the Amalekites?
Answer: To stand on top of the hill holding up the rod of God
4. What had the rod been used for earlier?
Answer: To turn the waters of Egypt to blood, bringing the plagues of frogs and lice to the Egyptians, parting the waters of the Red Sea, bringing water out of the rock
5. What happened when Moses kept the rod held up?
Answer: The Israelites were ahead in the battle.
6. What happened when Moses' arms became too tired, and he let them drop?
Answer: The Israelites fell behind in the battle.
7. What did Aaron and Hur do when they saw Moses couldn't keep his hands up by himself?
Answer: They rolled a stone for him to sit on and they held up his arms.

Lesson Three—Aaron and Hur

8. Who won the battle?

Answer: The Israelites

9. What name did Moses give to the altar he built?

Answer: Jehovah-Nissi, which means “the Lord is our banner”

10. How is prayer like a banner?

Answer: It shows that we are God’s, and we trust Him. When He answers prayer and brings victory, we can share that it was the Lord’s victory.

OBJECT LESSON—Folded Hands

Materials Needed

Your hand

Lesson

Using this guide, explain how we can pray for others in our lives!

Thumb—Pray for those who are near you! Who are the people near you? (Allow for feedback with answers of those who are relationally close to your students such as friends and family!)

Pointing Finger—Pray for those who teach and help! Who are people who teach and help? (Answers could include Sunday school teachers, pastors, school teachers, doctors, policemen, firefighters, etc.)

Tall Finger—Pray for your leaders—those who stand tall to provide leadership in our lives! Who are some leaders in your life? (Answer could include parents, presidents, principals, etc.)

Ring Finger—Do you know that your fourth finger is your weakest finger? So when you get to this finger, remember to pray for those who are weak or in emotional or physical pain.

Little Finger—Pray for yourself. After you’ve prayed through others on your finger list, take time to pray for yourself. You might have needs and burdens, too! And God wants to hear from you!

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Romans 15:30

30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Cards from Ministry Resource download

Set Up

Print the memory verse cards. (Print two-sided or glue the corresponding picture to the back of the card.)

Cut the verse cards along the dotted lines to create two puzzle pieces for each card. (You can print multiple copies so that there is enough for each student to have one puzzle piece.)

Teaching the Verse

After reviewing the verse together several times, shuffle the verse card puzzle pieces, and distribute them to the students in your class. Once you say "Go," encourage them to find the student who has the corresponding puzzle piece. Once they find their partner, they can read the verse together to receive a prize. You can play this game as a race (the first team to connect and quote the verse, wins) or as a group game in which everyone is rewarded once everyone has quoted the verse together.

Remind the students that as they worked together to play this game, we can work together to help other people in our lives, just like Aaron and Hur did.

CRAFT—Prayer Pail

Supplies

- 1 mini pail or container per student
- 1 set of hand-shaped sticky notes or regular sticky notes per student
- 1 black permanent marker



Instructions

1. Give each student one pad of sticky notes and one mini pail.
2. Taking turns, have each student write their name and “Prayer Pail” on the front of the pail.
3. Ask the students to fill out prayer requests on the sticky notes and to pray for each request daily.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Four Overview

Joshua and Caleb

Theme—Looking to God in Trust

Scripture

Numbers 13-14; Joshua 1-2

Memory Verse

Psalms 28:7a—“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Moses Sends Twelve Men to Search Out the Promised Land** (*Numbers 13:1-3*)
2. **The Spies Search Out Canaan** (*Numbers 13:21-24*)
—Flashcard 4.1
3. **The Spies Give Their Reports** (*Numbers 13:25-33*)
—Flashcard 4.2
4. **The Israelites Believe the Ten Spies** (*Numbers 14:1-4*)
Joshua and Caleb Make a Final Plea (*Numbers 14:5-9*)
—Flashcard 4.3
5. **The Israelites Believe the Ten Spies** (*Numbers 14:10-45*)

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Psalms 28:7a
Song Time	
Object Lesson	What are you looking at?
Bible Lesson	Joshua and Caleb
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Great Grapes
Review Game/Questions	Giant Grapes
Craft	Spy Binoculars
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

4

LESSON FOUR

Joshua and Caleb

Theme: Looking to God in Trust

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Numbers 13–14; Joshua 1–2.
- Study Lesson Four.
- Flashcards 4.1–4.3
- Prepare snack—Great Grapes.
- Gather for review game—15 purple balloons and 15 small pieces of paper containing point values.
- Gather for object lesson—any type of glasses that enhance vision or enlarge objects (binoculars, magnifying glass, etc.).
- Gather for craft—binocular printable from the Ministry Resource download, pieces of black string approximately 5 1/2 inches long, pieces of black string approximately 40 inches, glue sticks, and a hole punch.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—dowel (or used wrapping paper roll) and memory verse printables from the Ministry Resource download.
- Print Memory Verse Flashcards from the Ministry Resource download.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SNACK SUGGESTION

Great Grapes

Serve grape clusters to the class, reminding them of the incredibly large grapes that grew in the Promised Land.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 28:7a

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped.”

SCRIPTURES

Numbers 14:1–10

- 1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.
- 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

- 3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?
- 4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.
- 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.
- 6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:
- 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.
- 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.
- 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.
- 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

TEACHER'S NOTE

You may wish to demonstrate the idea of a majority by asking for a show of hands as to who believes the Bible is true. Follow up by sharing Scripture.

- “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever” (Psalm 119:160).
- “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Have you heard the saying, “The majority is always right” or “Majority rules”? What do you think it means? (Allow students to respond.)

Majority means “the greater or larger number or part; most; more than half.” So, if most of the people in this class think we should have new curtains (or white board, or paint, or carpet, or chairs, etc.), then we should, because “majority rules.”

It means that if most people in the church decide we should stop having Sunday school, then there must be a good reason for it, and we should stop having Sunday school, because “the majority is always right.”

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

It means that if most of the people in your school think it would be wrong to wear the color blue on Wednesdays, then no one should wear blue on Wednesdays, because “majority rules.”

Do you agree—do you think the majority is always right? (Allow response.)

Sometimes, the majority *is* right. For instance, if I asked all of you in this class if you believe the Bible is true, I think most of you would say you believe it is. The majority in this case would be right, because the Bible *is* true.

People have always had differing opinions. There are some things that don’t really have a right and wrong answer, like “Fried chicken is the best food.” It doesn’t really matter if you think fried chicken is the best or if you prefer macaroni and cheese. There is no right or wrong answer—just differences opinions.

But many things *do* have a right or wrong answer, like “God created the world.” Sometimes the majority (more than half of the group) says God didn’t create the world—it evolved. Should we believe them because they are the majority? No, we should trust God and His Word.

Proverbs 20:1

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Because the majority has more people in it, the majority is usually louder and seems stronger; it takes courage to say we don’t agree. If we are going to believe God rather than the majority, we need to look to God more than we look to the majority. When we look to God, we know we can trust Him.

Micah 7:7

7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Romans 3:4

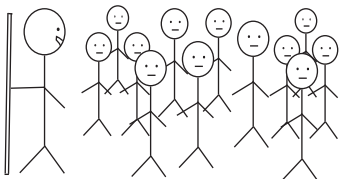
4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar....

In today’s true story from the Bible, two men who believed God stood up against the majority, and, too late, the whole nation of Israel saw that the two men were right and the majority was wrong.

The Story

1. Moses Sends Twelve Men to Search Out the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-3)

DRAW IT!



God had done amazing miracles as He led His special people, the Israelites, out of slavery in Egypt, with Moses as their leader. Throughout the next year, God continued to do miracle after miracle to take care of them. And every one of the Israelites saw God's miracles.

- He opened up the Red Sea for them to cross over on dry ground, and every Israelite saw and experienced this miracle. They *knew* God could do *anything*. (Exodus 14)
- He gave them manna to eat every single day, and every one of the Israelites saw and experienced this miracle. They *knew* God could do *anything*. (Exodus 16)
- He gave them water to drink out of a rock, and every one of the Israelites saw and experienced this miracle. They *knew* God could do *anything*. (Exodus 17)
- He defeated the Amalekites for them, and every one of the Israelites saw and experienced this miracle. They *knew* God could do *anything*. (Exodus 17)
- He led them by a pillar of cloud, and every one of the Israelites saw and experienced this miracle. They *knew* God could do *anything*. (Exodus 40:34-38)

The Israelites could clearly see that God was God, and He could get them through whatever they faced. And now in Kadesh-Barnea, they stood for the first time at the border of Canaan, the land God had promised to give to them.

God spoke to Moses: “Send men to search out the land of Canaan—one leader from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.”

So, Moses chose twelve leaders, one from each tribe.

“Go in from the south, and go up into the mountain,” he directed. “From there you will be able to see the land better. Now, here is what you are to notice about Canaan”:

- The people—are they strong or weak, few or many?
- The land—is it good or bad, fat or lean (productive or poor)?
- What kind of cities do the people live in?

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

- Do they live in tents or in secure buildings with walled cities?
- Are there trees for wood?

And then, knowing the spies would be tempted to be afraid when they saw the people of the land, Moses encouraged them, “Be of good courage.” He was saying, “Don’t be afraid—trust God!”

Moses’ final direction to the spies was, “Bring back some of the fruit of the land.”

2. The Spies Search Out Canaan (Numbers 13:21-24)

The twelve spies obeyed Moses’ orders, going into Canaan from the south and searching all the land of Canaan.

“Wow! God said Canaan was a land of milk and honey,” they said, “and He surely was right!”

Leviticus 20:24

24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.

“Look at the crops!” they said. “With all this pasture, the cows must give more milk than we ever thought possible when we were back in Egypt!

“And think of the bees it takes to keep all these crops pollinated. This land really does flow with honey!”

“This land is just like God promised. It’s rich!”

Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, were especially encouraged as they thought about God’s promises and how He had cared for the Israelite people. As they looked over the land the Lord had promised to the Israelites, they thought, “Just think, this is going to be our new home. We couldn’t imagine a more wonderful place to live—and God’s going to give it to us!”

“But have you noticed the people?” the other ten spies asked. “They’re giants! There is absolutely no way we can defeat them and take over the land.”

“Oh, don’t look at the people—look at God,” Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the rest. “It doesn’t matter how big or how strong the people are, because God is the biggest and strongest. God promised us this land, and He will defeat the people of the land.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

“Think of all God’s done for us—parting the Red Sea, sending the manna, providing water from the rock, defeating the Amalekites! We *know* God can do anything. And remember what Moses told us: ‘Don’t be afraid.’ God will take care of us. He will continue to lead us *in* this land just as He has led us *to* this land.

“You’re right, though—the people of the land are strong—much stronger than we are; but our God, who made them, is so much stronger than they are. He will see us through.”

The twelve spies continued scouting the Promised Land of Canaan. At the brook Eshcol they exclaimed, “Have you ever seen anything like this! These grapes are so big it will take two of us just to carry one cluster of them! Let’s take some of these grapes back to Moses.” They hung a cluster of grapes over a long pole, with one man carrying one end and another carrying the other end.

“And look at these pomegranates! And these figs!” they shouted. And they gathered up some pomegranates and figs to take back to the people along with the grapes.

Flash Card 4.1

3. The Spies Give Their Reports (Numbers 13:25–33)

“Hey, the spies are coming back!” one of the Israelite men shouted, pointing off into the distance.

“I hope they have good news,” his friend answered.

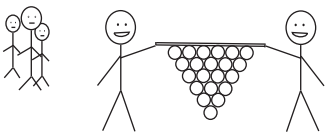
“Well, they must have good news,” another man shouted as the spies came closer. “Look at those grapes they are carrying. I’ve never seen anything like them in my life!”

When the twelve spies returned to Moses, the whole crowd of Israelite people assembled. After forty days of scouting out the Promised Land, the spies proudly displayed the grapes and other fruit they had brought from Canaan, and all the people were amazed. “Wow, that is awesome fruit!” all the people exclaimed.

“Just like the Lord promised,” the spies told the people, “the land of Canaan is a rich land, flowing with milk and honey.”

The people’s hearts filled with joy and excitement as they thought of the wonderful land they were headed for—a land where the grapes are so big it

DRAW IT!



Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

takes two men to carry one cluster of them! A land flowing with milk and honey! “And it’s going to be our land!” they thought.

“But wait!” the ten fearful spies warned. “Not everything in Canaan is so wonderful. There is a big problem in Canaan—it’s the people! The people in Canaan are very strong, and they live in cities that have walls all around them.”

Caleb and Joshua thought about God and His promise to give Canaan to the Israelites. And they thought about the miracles they had seen God do. Caleb and Joshua knew God was stronger than all the strong men and all the walled cities of Canaan, and they knew God wanted the Israelites to have the land of Canaan. “Listen everyone,” Caleb shouted. “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it” (Numbers 13:30b).

“No!” some of the other spies answered. “We are not able to go into Canaan. The people are stronger than we are. In fact, the people are giants!”

“That’s right,” the rest of the ten spies said. “When we looked at ourselves compared to those men of Canaan, we seemed as small as little grasshoppers. And when the Canaanites looked at us, we’re sure we looked like little grasshoppers to them, too. There is no way we can defeat them. We can’t go up to Canaan.”

4. The Israelites Believe the Ten Spies (Numbers 14:1-4)

The Israelites must have thought, “The majority has to be right. Look, ten of the spies say we can’t defeat the Canaanites, and only two of them say we can. Majority rules.” And the Israelite people cried all night long because of their disappointment. Here they were, at the edge of the Promised Land—the land they had been hoping for—and now they couldn’t go in.

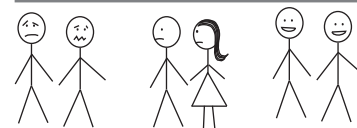
“Why didn’t we just stay in Egypt?” the people angrily cried to Moses. “Why has the Lord brought us to this land where our wives and our children will probably be killed?”

“We need to make us a different captain than Moses,” they said. “We need someone to take us back to Egypt!”

5. Joshua and Caleb Make a Final Plea (Numbers 14:5-9)

Joshua and Caleb couldn’t believe what was happening. Why didn’t the people remember the miracles God had done for them? They spoke to all the people: “The land which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

DRAW IT!

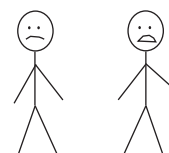


Flash Card 4.2

DRAW IT!



DRAW IT!



Flash Card 4.3

If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us” (Numbers 14:7b–8a).

“But don’t rebel against the Lord, and don’t be afraid of the people. With the Lord on our side, those big, strong people of Canaan don’t have any defense. They may look strong to us, but don’t look at *them*—look at the *Lord*. He is so much stronger than any army in the world.”

6. The Israelites Believe the Ten Spies (Numbers 14:10–45)

The Israelites were so overcome with fear of the Canaanites that they didn’t want to hear what Joshua and Caleb said. “Let’s stone Joshua and Caleb!” they shouted.

Then God’s glory shone before all the Israelites; and God spoke to Moses: “These people have seen My glory and all the miracles I have done for them, and yet they won’t believe Me. Because of their unbelief, none of the adults twenty years and older will be able to enter into the Promised Land.

“The Israelites will wander in this wilderness for forty years, until all those over twenty years old have died. Then your children, who you said would die in Canaan, will go into Canaan. I will give them the Promised Land.

“Only Joshua and Caleb, who believed Me, will go into the Promised Land.”

After forty years of wandering through the wilderness, after all the adults twenty years and older had died, the Israelites stood again at the edge of the Promised Land. Joshua, who was now the leader since Moses had died, sent two spies to search out the land. The spies met a woman named Rahab, and she said, “We are all afraid of you Israelites. We heard how your God dried up the Red Sea when you came out of Egypt. When we heard about you and your God, our hearts melted, and we lost all courage!” (Joshua 2:9–11).

So, forty years earlier, when the Israelites just knew that the Canaanites thought they were little grasshoppers, the Canaanites were actually so afraid of the Israelites that they had no courage!

If the people had just believed God instead of the majority, they could have all gone into the Promised Land together.

Applying the Story

At the beginning, the majority was just the ten spies, and the minority was the two spies—Joshua and Caleb. All Joshua and Caleb had to stand up against at first were those ten other spies who didn’t believe God.

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

But the ten spies who didn't believe God spoke so loudly and so persuasively that the rest of the Israelite people thought they must be right. The Israelite people trusted ten fearful men more than they trusted their all-knowing, all-powerful God who had led them and done so many miracles for them. So, the majority became millions of Israelite people, and the minority was still two little spies. What are two people against so many?

Psalm 56:11

11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Romans 8:31

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Two people (or even one person) who believe what God says might never be the majority, but they will be right—because God is always right.

Psalm 18:30

30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Psalm 33:4

4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

If you believe God's Word, you will have times in your life when you will believe differently than the majority. You will be tempted, like the ten fearful spies, to look at what *seems* right, rather than looking at God, who *is* right.

Remember how the ten spies were so sure that they seemed so small (like grasshoppers) to the people of Canaan? God's Word shows us that things are not always as they seem. What seemed like it was true wasn't true at all.

Sometimes you will believe differently than the majority about what is the right thing to do.

- The majority may say it's okay to drink, smoke, or take drugs. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)
- The majority may say it's your own life—your parents can't tell you what to do. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (Ephesians 6:1–2)

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

- The majority may say do whatever you want and go wherever you want on the internet. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (Romans 8:1–2)

Sometimes your beliefs themselves will be different than the majority, and you will be tempted to listen to the majority because they are so loud and seem so strong.

- The majority may say marriage doesn't have to be between a man and a woman. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (Matthew 19:5)
- The majority may say you are whatever gender you feel like, even if it isn't the gender God made you in your mother's womb. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (Mark 10:6)
- The majority may say it's a woman's choice whether or not she wants to end the life of a baby in her womb. Look to God—believe Him. He is always right. (Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5)
- The majority may say it's foolish to believe God and to trust Him in any area of life. Look to God—believe Him. God is always right. (Isaiah 55:8–9)

Sometimes the voice that seems bigger and louder than God's isn't the majority at all. Sometimes it is Satan himself, trying to get us to look away from God and trust our hearts.

- The enemy tells us to fear. Look to God. (Isaiah 41:10)
- The enemy tells us it would be better to lie than to tell the truth. Look to God. (Proverbs 12:19)
- The enemy tells us to doubt God's Word. Look to God. (Matthew 24:35)

If the Israelites had looked at God's power and His bigness instead of looking at the Canaanites, they wouldn't have been afraid at all. They would have believed God, and God would have given them the Promised Land. Their lives would have been full of God's blessings. But instead, they lived lives of disappointment, not even knowing how much they were missing.

When we look at God's power and His bigness instead of looking at the majority, we won't be at all afraid to believe Him. When we believe Him, He will give us courage, strength, joy, peace, and all the other blessings that come to those who trust Him. Those who don't believe and trust Him don't even know how much they miss!

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

15 purple balloons

15 small pieces of paper containing point values

Set Up

Blow up fifteen purple balloons and insert the point values before tying the balloon. Attach the balloons to your classroom board or wall in the shape of a grape cluster. (The top row contains 5 balloons; the second row, 4; the third row, 3; the fourth row, 2; and the final row, 1.)

Playing the Game

To play this game, divide your class into two teams and begin asking questions, alternating between each team. When a student answers correctly, he can select a grape balloon, pop it, and read the point value contained inside. Continue playing the game and alternating teams until each balloon has been popped. The team with the most points wins. You may consider awarding the winning team with grape gumdrops or candy.

1. How many tribes of Israelites were there?

Answer: Twelve

2. How many spies were sent to scout out the Promised Land of Canaan?

Answer: Twelve

3. What were the spies supposed to find out about Canaan?

Answer: Answers will vary but should include any from the following: if the people were strong or weak, few or many; if the land is good or bad, fat or lean; kind of cities and houses; if there was wood in the land

4. What had God promised the Israelites the land of Canaan would be like?

Answer: A land flowing with milk and honey

5. What was the amazing fruit they found by the brook Eshcol?

Answer: Grapes so large it took two men to carry one cluster

6. What did the ten spies who didn't believe God tell the people when they returned?

Answer: The people of the land were too big and too strong; they couldn't go into the Promised Land.

Lesson Four—Joshua and Caleb

7. Who were the two spies who believed God would help them and give them the land just like He had promised?

Answer: Joshua and Caleb

8. How many days were the spies gone? How many years would the Israelites have to wander in the wilderness because they didn't trust the Lord?

Answer: Forty days and forty years

9. Was the majority right?

Answer: No

10. When the two spies went into Canaan forty years later, what did Rahab tell them about her people?

Answer: Her people were afraid of the Israelites (Note: The Israelites were not as grasshoppers in the sight of the Canaanites!)

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 28:7a

7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped:

Materials Needed

Dowel (or used wrapping paper roll)

Memory verse printables from Ministry Resource download

Set Up

To prepare for this review game, print and cut two sets of the memory verse printables from the Ministry Resource download. Be sure to cut the hole in the middle of each printable.

Teaching the Verse

To teach the verse, recite it several times as a class, using the Verse Card from the Visual Aid Pack. When students feel they know the verse well enough, divide the class into two teams, and give a set of “weights” (verse cards) for the students to put on the “dumbbell” (dowel). (You can give one or two cards per student. When you say, “Go!” the students can work together to put their verse cards in order on the dumbbell. The first team to finish in the correct order wins. You can play several times. Remind your class that God can give us the strength we need to accomplish His tasks, just as He blessed Joshua and Caleb with strength and courage to obey.

OBJECT LESSON —What are you looking at?

Materials Needed

Any type of glasses that enhance vision or enlarge objects (binoculars, magnifying glass, etc.)

Lesson

Today I have with me a magnifying glass. I like it so much because it enlarges things so I can see them better! (As you teach, put items under the magnifying glass, and allow feedback from students on what can be seen beneath its lens).

Sometimes, we go through life with an invisible magnifying glass. And, every time we see a problem, we stop to focus on it. We think about how much we don't like it. We analyze it and talk about how bad it is. The more we do this, the more sad and frustrated we become. (For greater effectiveness with this object lesson, you may wish to bring items into class that represent problems a student might have. You could bring in a test with a poor grade, a medical prop, etc.)

But God has a solution! He wants us to look to Him! (As you continue to teach, use your magnifying glass and Bible as if you are searching the Scriptures.) Instead of focusing on our problems, He wants us to look to Him. As we read His Word and follow Him in obedience, He gives us peace and courage to face any problem we have. And when we look to God, He gets bigger and our problems get smaller!

Application

As you go through life this week, if you find yourself worrying or getting frustrated about a problem, take time to read the Bible and pray—turning your attention away from your problems and on to the Lord. Then trust Him to give you the courage you need to do His will!

CRAFT—Spy Binoculars

Supplies

- 1 binocular printable per student from the Ministry Resource download (includes 3 pieces)
- 4 pieces of black string per student, approximately 5 1/2 inches long
- 1 piece of black string per student, approximately 40 inches long
- 1 glue stick per student
- Hole punch



Instructions

1. Give each student the binocular printable, four pieces of string 5 1/2 inches long, one piece of string 40 inches long, and one glue stick.
2. Instruct each student to roll the binocular printable into two tubes and glue along the edge. Next, have the students place the binocular tubes side by side with one inch between them. Have the students glue the 4-inch strip from the binocular printable on first tube approximately halfway down the tube. Then have the students glue the other end of the strip to the other binocular tube, leaving one inch between each tube.
3. Ask each student to glue one of the 5 1/2-inch pieces of string to the top and bottom of each tube.
4. Next, have each student make one hole punch at the bottom of each binocular tube, slightly above the black string.
5. Instruct each student to tie one end of the 40-inch-long string to the right binocular tube. Then, have the student tie the other end to the left binocular tube.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Five Overview

Jonathan

Theme—Rejoicing in Others' Successes

Scripture

1 Samuel 13:1-14; 14:1-23; 17; 18:1-16; 19:1-5; 20:1-42; 23:16-18

Memory Verse

Proverbs 17:17—“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Jonathan** (1 Samuel 14:1-23)
2. **David** (1 Samuel 17:34-36)
3. **Saul's Disobedience** (1 Samuel 13:1-14)
4. **Saul's Jealousy** (1 Samuel 17; 18:6-9)
—Flashcard 5.1
5. **David and Jonathan Become Friends**
(1 Samuel 18:1-4)
—Flashcard 5.2
6. **Saul Becomes David's Enemy**
(1 Samuel 18:10-16)
7. **Jonathan's Faithful Friendship**
(1 Samuel 19:1-5; 20:1-42; 23:16-18)
—Flashcard 5.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Loving and Loyal
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Proverbs 17:17
Bible Lesson	Jonathan
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Friendship Bars
Review Game/Questions	Jealousy Jeopardy
Craft	Jesus Friendship Bands
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON FIVE

Jonathan

Theme: Rejoicing in Others' Successes

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read 1 Samuel 13:1–14; 14:1–23; 17; 18:1–16; 19:1–5; 20:1–42; 23:16–18.
- Study Lesson Five.
- Flashcards 5.1–5.3
- Prepare snack—Friendship Bars.
- Gather for the review game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and a pocket chart.
- Gather for object lesson—pictures of various types of dogs or various types of dog stuffed animals.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack, Heart Accordion printables from the Ministry Resource download, and tape.
- Gather for craft— 7-inch stretchable strings, colorful beads, and letter beads spelling out “I love Jesus,” “I love God,” “Jesus,” or “God.”
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 23:16–18

- 16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.
- 17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.
- 18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

SNACK SUGGESTION

Friendship Bars

Serve Twix candy bars, and explain how both candy bar pieces can remind us of the true and godly friendship between David and Jonathan.

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Jealousy is something we all struggle with at times. *Jealousy* means that feeling that rises up in us when we are afraid someone else will get—or has already received—the attention, love, or advantage we desire for ourselves (adapted from Webster’s 1828 Dictionary). It can make us feel angry, unhappy, or discouraged when we think about how we want what they have.

We may feel jealous when we hear someone else complimented. We want those compliments. We may feel jealous when someone gets better grades than we do. We want those grades. We may feel jealous when someone gets a new house, outfit, pet, or game. We want those things. We may feel jealous when a classmate, brother, or sister seems to get more attention than we do. We want that attention.

Jealousy keeps us from trusting God and from loving people.

1 Corinthians 13:4

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not....

Jealousy can actually make us sick.

Proverbs 14:30

30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Jealousy is Satan’s tool to confuse us and keep us from serving God.

James 3:16

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

What would be the opposite of jealousy? (Allow response.) The opposite of jealousy would be rejoicing in the achievements of others—being glad when others succeed, when they are loved, and when they are blessed with nice possessions. Rejoicing in the success of others is an important characteristic of a true friend.

Today’s true story from the Bible is about Jonathan, a true friend. He rejoiced for the success of his friend, even risking his life to help his friend succeed.

Lesson Five—Jonathan

Jonathan’s life is like one of those stories where a rich person trades lives with a poor person for a period of time (e.g., “The Prince and the Pauper”). The difference is that Jonathan’s story is true—it’s the biography of his life. He didn’t just trade places for a time—it was forever, and it was an important part of God’s plan. And in that trade, Jonathan rejoiced in his friend’s success.

The Story

1. Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1–23)

Jonathan and his friend were very different on the outside but very much alike on the inside.

Jonathan was the son of the king of Israel. As the firstborn prince, we would expect Jonathan to be Israel’s next king, and he would have been, but in God’s plan, Jonathan instead became a behind-the-scenes helper.

Before Jonathan’s father, the nation of Israel had no king. They had been led by men like Moses and Joshua, and then by judges, some of whom were also prophets (preachers).

The Israelites were often invaded by enemies. The cruelest of these were the Philistines.

When the Israelites walked with and trusted God, He gave them victory over their enemies. But far too often, the Israelites didn’t walk with God.

Judges 21:25

25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

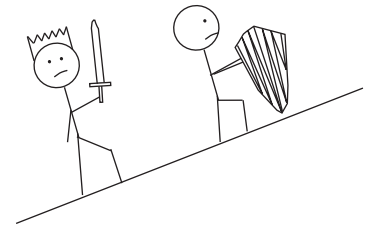
They often turned from God and served the false gods of the nations around them and were often defeated by their enemies.

“We need better leaders,” they complained, not willing to accept that if they would just obey God, He would defeat their enemies for them. “If we had a king like the other nations—instead of these judges and prophets—we would be able to overthrow the Philistines.”

So, God gave them a king—Jonathan’s father, Saul. His son Jonathan would have made a great second king, not because he was Saul’s son, but because Jonathan trusted God.

One time the Israelites were in a seemingly hopeless war with the Philistines. Defeat was almost certain. “Let’s go alone to the Philistines’ camp,” Jonathan said

DRAW IT!



to his armor bearer one dark night. “Maybe God will use us.” And the two of them, hearts full of trust in God, climbed the hills to the Philistines’ camp.

“It may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6b), Jonathan encouraged his armor bearer. They knew God was with them, and the two men fought the Philistine army all by themselves.

As Jonathan and his armor bearer killed Philistine soldier after Philistine soldier, the Philistines became confused and started killing each other. God gave the victory to Israel through two brave men—Jonathan and his armor bearer.

Jonathan’s victory over the Philistines was known and admired by all the Israelites.

On the outside, Jonathan was the wealthy son of the king, who lived in the palace and was known by all of Israel.

But on the inside, Jonathan was a brave man who, with all his heart, trusted God to do great things through him.

2. David (1 Samuel 17:34–36)

At the same time Jonathan lived as a prince in the palace, sure to become the next king, a simple shepherd boy named David was out in the pasture, taking care of his father Jesse’s sheep. As an unknown shepherd, we would expect David to perhaps become a behind-the-scenes helper; and he would have been, but in God’s plan, David became a main character—the second king of Israel!

David was going to make a great king, not because he was anyone special, but because David trusted God. One time when David was out caring for the sheep, a lion came and stole one of the lambs. David grabbed the lion by the beard and killed him. Another time a bear stole one of the lambs, and David killed him. He knew that God was with him and allowed him to kill the lion and the bear.

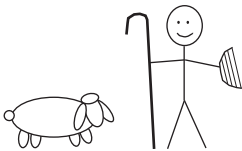
David’s victories over the lion and the bear were known only by David and his family.

On the outside, David was the simple shepherd son of a poor farmer who lived way out in the countryside and was known by only his family and close friends.

But on the inside, David was a brave man who, with all his heart, trusted God to do great things through him.

Jonathan and David lived very different lives, but, they were still very much the same in their hearts. Just as Jonathan had trusted God with all his heart, allowing Him to do great things through him, David trusted God with all his heart, and God did amazing things through him.

DRAW IT!



3. Saul's Disobedience (1 Samuel 13:1-14)

Then, something happened that changed the history that everyone was sure would come to be. The change began in King Saul's heart. At first, Saul had been a humble king, trusting and obeying God. But then his heart became filled with pride. Saul began to trust himself more than God, and when God gave him instructions for a battle, he disobeyed God, following his own heart rather than God's commands.

"I am going to give the kingdom to someone who walks with Me" (1 Samuel 13:14), God said, and He chose the young shepherd David to take Saul's place as king. Even though it would be many years before David would actually take Saul's place as king, God sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse's house to privately anoint David to be king.

4. Saul's Jealousy (1 Samuel 17; 18:6-9)

Saul's heart grew further and further away from God.

Israel went to war with the Philistines again, and the Philistines had a champion—a giant named Goliath, who was over nine feet tall (1 Samuel 17:4).

All the Israelites were afraid of Goliath. But David knew that God would help him defeat Goliath, just as He had helped him kill the lion and bear.

With only a sling and five stones, David went to meet Goliath. "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a shield," he called out to Goliath. "But I come to you in the name of the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have challenged! God will deliver you into my hand!"

David carefully placed a stone in his sling, whirled it around, and shot it toward Goliath. The stone sunk into Goliath's forehead, killing him. God used David to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines.

King Saul didn't know that David was chosen to be the next king, and he was so impressed by David that he decided to keep him in the palace from then on. Saul gave David a place of leadership over the Israelite army, and David always followed Saul's orders completely (1 Samuel 18:5). David trusted God to work through him, and when David led the army to war, God gave victory.

David gained many victories, and the Israelites talked about what a great man he was. The women, who often sang victory songs, sang about David. "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7).

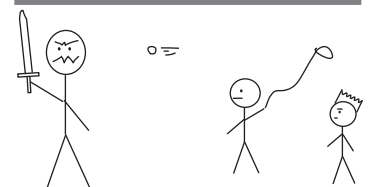
DRAW IT!



TEACHER'S NOTE

cubit = approximately 18"
span = approximately 9"
Goliath was approximately 9' 3" tall.

DRAW IT!



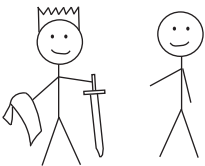
Flash Card 5.1

“What!” King Saul couldn’t believe his ears. “They say that David has killed ten thousands, but that I have only killed thousands!” Saul’s heart raged with jealousy toward David.

Saul no longer cared that God was using David to defeat the Philistines. All he could think about was that David was getting more honor than he was. His jealousy controlled his heart. “I’ll get him!” Saul thought, and he devised a plan to kill David.

5. David and Jonathan Become Friends (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

DRAW IT!



But Saul’s son Jonathan wasn’t at all jealous of David. As he watched David kill Goliath and heard David give the credit to God, Jonathan thought of the time he had trusted God to kill all those Philistines with only the help of his armor bearer. “David’s heart is like mine,” Jonathan thought. “David believes God can do great things through him, and I also know God can do great things through me, or through anyone. God doesn’t need mighty armies. He just needs a man who is willing to trust Him.

“He’s like me—I love him like I love my own self,” Jonathan thought. “We both trust God completely.” And Jonathan and David made a covenant with each other. “We will be there for each other, no matter what.”

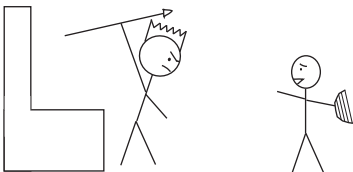
Psalm 119:63

63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

Flash Card 5.2

Jonathan took off his prince’s robe and gave it to David. “Here, take my shirt, my sword, my bow, and my sash too,” Jonathan said as he gave David the clothes of a prince.

DRAW IT!



6. Saul Becomes David’s Enemy (1 Samuel 18:10-16)

As Jonathan and David’s friendship grew, Saul’s jealousy also grew. Saul asked David to come to the palace to play his harp, as he had done many times in the past. As David played, Saul watched for just the right moment to hurl his spear at David, hoping to kill him. David jumped out of the way and escaped.

Lesson Five—Jonathan

David continued to serve Saul wisely as he had always done. And the more he served Saul, the more the Israelites loved him. And the more the Israelites loved David, the more jealous Saul became.

Saul devised more schemes to kill David, being careful to be private, because the Israelites would be angry if they found out. Saul tried over and over and over to kill David, because his jealousy was so strong; but his schemes always failed.

7. Jonathan's Faithful Friendship (1 Samuel 19:1-5; 20:1-42; 23:16-18)

As a faithful friend, Jonathan defended David to his father. "Don't be against David," he pleaded. "He has been so good to you. He risked his life and killed the giant. Remember how happy you were then? Why are you against an innocent man?"

But Saul continued to seek David's life.

Finally David went to Jonathan. "What have I done to your father?" he asked. "Why does he keep trying to kill me?"

"I'll do anything I can to help you," Jonathan promised.

"Your father will be expecting me to be at the feast tomorrow," David answered. "When he asks about me, tell him you let me go home to see my family. If your father isn't angry, we'll know everything's fine; but if he gets angry, we will know he is planning to kill me."

The meal was held as planned, and Saul asked, "Why isn't David here?"

"He asked me to let him go home to Bethlehem to see his family," Jonathan answered.

Saul's heart filled with anger toward his son. "Don't you know that as long as David is alive, you will never be the king?" And Saul hurled his spear at his own son Jonathan!

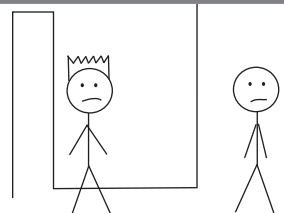
Jonathan went out to the field where David was hiding to let him know that his father hadn't changed his mind.

The two men wept together, because their hearts were like one heart—both loving and trusting God for everything, and now they would be separated, with David having to live in hiding from Saul. Jonathan reminded David of their promise to always be there for each other, and David went into hiding while Jonathan returned to the palace.

Saul continued to hunt for David day after day, week after week, month after month through the wilderness. David grew tired, lonely, and sometimes afraid, but still he trusted God.

Flash Card 5.3

DRAW IT!



Psalm 7:1

1 O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:

“He must be so afraid,” Jonathan’s heart ached for David. “I wish I could remind him how much God loves and cares for him. I don’t have any strength to give him, but I can remind him of the Lord’s strength. I want to encourage him.”

Jonathan searched for David until he found him hiding in the woods in Ziph. “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan said to David. “My father won’t find you. You will be the next king of Israel, and I will stand beside you, helping you.”

Jonathan and David reminded each other of the promise they had made before the Lord—that they would always be there for each other and for each other’s families. And David stayed in hiding in the woods, but Jonathan returned home.

Time passed, Saul and Jonathan died in battle, and David, the poor shepherd who should have been a behind-the-scenes helper, became the king of Israel. He never forgot Jonathan’s kindness to him or the promise he had made. When he heard that Jonathan had a son who hadn’t been killed in the battle, David brought him to the palace and cared for him as his own son.

Applying the Story

Even though Jonathan was the “prince” in this story, and David was the “pauper,” Jonathan freely gave up his right and his desire to be the king because he trusted God, and he loved his friend David.

When David was chosen to be the king because of Saul’s pride, Jonathan didn’t become jealous. Instead, Jonathan became David’s closest friend and protector. What kept Jonathan from jealousy?

- **Faith in God**—Jonathan believed God’s plan was the very best plan, even if it didn’t include him being the king. He believed God is always right.
- **Trust in God**—As a young man, Jonathan trusted God, fighting the Philistine army with the help of only one other man. Jonathan trusted God later on, when he wasn’t afraid to protect David or to search for David’s hideout in the woods. Jonathan knew he could trust God in everything.

Lesson Five—Jonathan

- **Humility**—Jonathan knew his victories came from God, and he didn't seek credit for them. His humility made him happy for God to get glory and for others to be honored.
- **Loyalty**—When he knew his friend was in danger, Jonathan was willing to risk his life to help David. He stood up for his friend when his friend was wrongly persecuted. Jonathan was willing to be there in the hard times.
- **God's love**—Jonathan loved with God's love, loving God more than he loved honor. And God's love in Jonathan caused him to love his friend more than he loved honor.
- **A heart to encourage**—Because Jonathan's desire was to strengthen David—to give him courage to continue in the hard times he was facing—he focused on how he could meet his friend's need, rather than what he wished he had. Jonathan didn't seek to strengthen David in himself, but to strengthen him in the Lord. He reminded David that David would be the king of Israel, and he promised to be there for him.

We all want friends like Jonathan—friends who have faith and trust in God and are humble, loyal, loving, and encouraging. Those are qualities we should look for in a friend—especially the faith and trust in God, because without those qualities, the other qualities won't last through hard times.

But the lesson we especially learn from Jonathan is how to be the truest kind of friend. If we have faith and trust in God, believing His plan is best, we will rejoice in whatever God does, we will love our friends with God's love, and we will strengthen our friends in the Lord.

So, what if you struggle with jealousy? How can you become a friend who rejoices in others' successes? The characteristics that gave Jonathan that ability are gifts God freely gives to everyone who seeks Him. They all come through looking to God, believing He is right and His plan is trustworthy. Ask God to forgive you for angry jealousy and to remind you of His great love for you. Ask Him to make you a true friend.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download
Pocket chart

Set Up

Print, cut, and assemble the game pieces from the Ministry Resource download (two variations are included). Before class, place the game pieces on your pocket chart or tape to your classroom board.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into teams and begin asking questions, alternating between teams. For every question answered correctly, the student can select up to three game pieces from the pocket chart. For every game piece containing points, those points are awarded to the team total. But, if a game piece is chosen containing the word “jealousy” on the back, the team loses all their points. The team with the most points at the end of the game, wins.

1. What do we call the feeling we get when someone else gets what we wish for?

Answer: Jealousy

2. What is the opposite of jealousy?

Answer: Rejoicing in the success of others

3. Why were the Israelites often defeated by their enemies?

Answer: They often served the false gods of the nations around them.

4. Who helped Jonathan and his armor bearer defeat the Philistine army by themselves?

Answer: God

5. Who helped David kill the lion and the bear and Goliath?

Answer: God

6. Why did God remove Saul from being the king of Israel?

Answer: His heart became filled with pride, and he followed his own way rather than God’s way.

Lesson Five—Jonathan

7. Why was Saul jealous of David?

Answer: The women sang “Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” The Israelite people loved David.

8. What did Jonathan notice about David that caused him to want David’s friendship?

Answer: David had a heart like his. They both loved and trusted God.

9. What did Saul’s jealousy cause him to do?

Answer: It caused him to try to kill David many times.

10. What did Jonathan’s rejoicing in David’s success cause him to do?

Answer: It caused him to help David; to protect David; to encourage David.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 17:17

17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack

Heart Accordion printables from Ministry Resource download

Tape

Set Up

Print and cut the heart shapes from the Ministry Resource download.

Tape the hearts together, following the tabs on the printables, to create a heart “accordion.”

Teaching the Verse

Allow two students to volunteer to hold each end of the heart accordion, and as the class recites, allow the volunteers to reveal one word at a time. Repeat several times, allowing different students to take a turn until the class is familiar with the verse.

OBJECT LESSON—Loving and Loyal

Materials Needed

Pictures of Various Types of Dogs

Variation: Various Types of Dog Stuffed Animals

Lesson

Show the pictures or stuffed animals to your class, and ask them various questions about the dogs. Questions could include:

How are they different?

What colors are they?

Which ones are short?

Which ones are tall?

Which ones tend to be more calm?

Which ones are more excitable?

As you conclude your list of questions pointing out the differences in the different types of dogs, ask the question, “What do most dogs have in common?” While dogs have much in common (such as tails, four paws, etc.), the answer you are looking for is *loyalty*. Most dogs are known for being loyal to their owners! Loyalty is one of a dog’s most loved qualities!

Application

Dogs come in all shapes and sizes and colors and temperaments...just like everyone in this world and every student in our class! We are all specially made by Jesus. But, one thing we can all share in common is loyalty. Who should we be loyal to? Always the Lord! And, if God places you in a family who shares biblical principles or gives you a friend who loves Him—be loyal to them too, just like Jonathan’s armor bearer in our story today.

CRAFT—Jesus Friendship Bands

Supplies

7-inch stretchable string per student

Approximately 30 colorful beads
per student

Letter beads spelling out “I love Jesus,”
“I love God,” “Jesus,” or “God”—one
per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one stretchable string approximately 7 inches long, thirty colorful beads, and one phrase of beads spelling out “I love Jesus,” “I love God,” “Jesus,” or “God.”
2. Instruct the students to tie a knot in one end of the string. Then, have each student place one bead at a time onto the string until he has designed his own personal unique “Jesus” friendship band. Ask each student to tie the two ends of the string together.
3. Ask each student to give his or her mom, grandmother, sister, or friend a Jesus “friendship” band.

Optional: Add a key ring at one end to make a key chain instead of making a band.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Six Overview

Jonathan's Armor Bearer

Theme—Loyalty

Scripture

1 Samuel 14:1-23

Memory Verse

Psalm 12:1—“Help, LORD, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.”

Lesson Outline

- Jonathan Suggests They Battle the Philistines Alone** (1 Samuel 14:1-3)
—Flashcard 6.1
- Jonathan's Armor Bearer's Decision**
(1 Samuel 14:4-7)
—Flashcard 6.2
- The Battle** (1 Samuel 14:8-23)
—Flashcard 6.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Psalm 12:1
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Roots of Bitterness
Bible Lesson	Jonathan's Armor Bearer
Application/Invitation	
Snack	Arrows of Truth
Review Game/Questions	Arrows of Friendship
Craft	Jonathan's Armor Bearer Bookmark
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

6

LESSON SIX

Jonathan's Armor Bearer

Theme: Loyalty

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read 1 Samuel 14:1–23.
- Study Lesson Six.
- Flashcards 6.1—6.3
- Prepare snack—Arrows of Truth.
- Gather for “Use an Object”—cloth bag with pieces of material.
- Gather for object lesson—flowers, weeds, and weed killer.
- Gather for review game—30 paint stir sticks, 60 magnet circles, black Sharpie marker, and arrow Printables from the Ministry Resource download.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource download.
- Gather for craft—colored paper clips, pieces of 1/8-inch-wide colored ribbon approximately 5 inches in length, printable armor bearer from Ministry Resource download, and glue sticks.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SNACK SUGGESTION

Arrows of Truth

- Pretzel rods
- Jelly heart candies

Place one jelly heart at one end of the pretzel rod. Trim the top of another heart in a v-shape and place on the end of the arrow (to represent feathers on an arrow). Give each student one or two arrows, and allow for discussion about how arrows were used in today's Bible story.

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 14:4–15

- 4 And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 12:1

“Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.”

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

- 5 The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.
- 6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.
- 7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.
- 8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.
- 9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.
- 10 But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us.
- 11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.
- 12 And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.
- 13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.
- 14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow.
- 15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

In God’s plan, every job is important. Some people are definitely more seen by others because their jobs are more obvious, up-front jobs. Those jobs would be things like these:

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

- Pastor of a church
- President of the United States
- Governor of our state
- Can you think of other jobs that are more noticed? (Allow response.) (doctors, attorneys, church song leaders, teachers, etc.)

All the jobs we have mentioned are important, but all the people with these jobs have helpers—people who maybe aren’t noticed but who are necessary for the jobs to get done:

- The pastor often has an assistant, secretary, and others who help and encourage him.
- The President has a cabinet of people who help with his work.
- The governor has a lieutenant governor, secretaries, office assistants, etc.
- The doctor has nurses, receptionists, bookkeepers, and others who keep everything running.

In addition to these helpers, there are others who are maybe even less noticed. There are the mechanics who keep the vehicles running so the ones with the noticed jobs can get to work. There are the janitors who keep the buildings maintained. There are the cooks who make the meals. There are many others who are truly behind-the-scenes helpers. We may never notice their jobs, but without them, the other jobs couldn’t be performed nearly as well.

Last week we learned that David became the second king of Israel. Do you remember the man whom everyone expected to become the king? (Allow response.) Jonathan, son of Saul (Israel’s first king) was the likely choice to become the second king.

But God’s plan was different than everyone expected. Instead of becoming king, Jonathan was the loyal friend and protector of David.

Jonathan’s job became that of a behind-the-scenes helper, rather than the up-front job he was expected to have, but even behind-the-scenes helpers don’t work alone. They have other people working “behind-behind-the-scenes,” helping them do their jobs. One of Jonathan’s helpers was his armor bearer; and in today’s true story from the Bible, we will learn a lesson on loyalty from this very courageous man.

TEACHING TIP

Every time you allow your students to share life experiences, they feel more connected to you and to the lesson.

Try to elicit from your students the jobs their parents perform and whether they are in a “noticed” position or more of an auxiliary position. Share with the students that it is often a matter of perspective. Some jobs that seem auxiliary to one person may be a more up-front position to another.

You will be able to expand on the bullets to the left in accordance to the jobs your students suggest.

TEACHER’S NOTE

Loyal—unswerving in allegiance; faithful in allegiance to one’s lawful sovereign or government; faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due; faithful; devoted

The Story

1. Jonathan Suggests They Battle the Philistines Alone (1 Samuel 14:1–3)

Do you remember from last week, who were Israel’s cruelest enemies? (Allow response.) The *Philistines* were not only Israel’s enemies, but they were God’s enemies, serving and worshiping false idols.

The Israelites often battled the Philistines, and when the Israelites trusted, obeyed, and walked with God, He gave the Israelites victory. But when the Israelites turned away from God and served the false gods of the people around them, the Israelites were usually defeated.

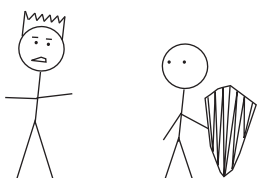
Last week we talked about a battle with the Philistines. It seemed the Israelites would surely be defeated. King Saul didn’t seem to even be thinking of the enemy. He was resting under the shade of a pomegranate tree, and about six hundred soldiers were there with him.

“What’s going on here?” Jonathan thought. “Are we just going to sit here and wait for the Philistines to defeat us? I wonder...” Jonathan looked over at the young man who carried his armor. “I wonder if God wants to do something through me. I can’t do it alone. I need my armor bearer. He’s always been there for me—standing beside me, helping me, protecting me. I wonder what he would think if I asked him to go with me?”

“Let’s go over to the Philistines’ camp—just you and me,” he whispered to his armor bearer. Jonathan knew what the answer would be, because the answer had always been the same every time Jonathan made a request of his armor bearer.

Flash Card 6.1

DRAW IT!



2. Jonathan’s Armor Bearer’s Decision (1 Samuel 14:4–7)

Jonathan’s armor bearer’s main job was to carry Jonathan’s armor and weapons. But his job was more than a job to him—it was his life. Jonathan’s armor bearer had decided from the beginning that he would give his all to serve Jonathan. He knew Jonathan faithfully served God, and Jonathan’s armor bearer trusted Jonathan to make the right decisions. He would be loyal to Jonathan.

When Jonathan gave a command or request, Jonathan’s armor bearer was going to do everything in his power to fulfill it. Jonathan’s armor bearer wasn’t

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

going to go to someone else and say, “Can you believe what Jonathan is asking me to do? That’s crazy!” He was going to give his all.

And he wasn’t just going to say he was loyal to Jonathan; he was going to be loyal from his heart.

Proverbs 20:6

6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

He wasn’t going to *act* like he was serving Jonathan but not give his all.

Colossians 3:22

22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

And he wasn’t going to make decisions about being loyal to Jonathan based on his feelings at the moment, because he knew feelings change.

James 1:8

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

So, if Jonathan made a request, his armor bearer was going to support him. Even if Jonathan had corrected him earlier in the day, his armor bearer wasn’t going to decide, “Jonathan doesn’t really appreciate me; I don’t think I’ll help him this time.”

Jonathan’s armor bearer had made the decision to be loyal, and that’s what he was going to do.

Now, as he heard Jonathan’s idea—to go fight the Philistines, just the two of them—the armor bearer must have wondered how Jonathan could possibly think they could do it. They would have to make a dangerous, rugged, rock-covered hike to the Philistine camp. Their lives would be in great danger.

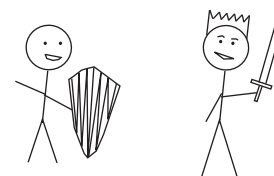
But as he wondered, Jonathan’s armor bearer remembered the job God had given him to do. “I will stand beside my leader, just as God has planned for me. I will honor, help, and protect him. And God will help me!”

“Come on—let’s go!” Jonathan almost shouted in his excitement. “You know, the Lord might work for us and through us. God doesn’t need a whole

TEACHER’S NOTE

Eyeservice—service performed only under inspection or the eye of an employer

DRAW IT!



bunch of men to win the battle. He can save Israel through a whole army of people, or He can save Israel through just a few. After all, He is *God!*”

“Jonathan and the Lord are counting on me,” the armor bearer thought. “My leader Jonathan trusts and follows God; and I decided a long time ago I would trust and follow Jonathan.”

Flash Card 6.2

“Yes, I’ll go,” the armor bearer answered. “Do all that is in your heart. Whatever you do, I am with you!”

3. The Battle (1 Samuel 14:8-23)

“I knew I could count on you!” Jonathan said. “Now, here’s the plan: We’ll pass over so the Philistines can see us. If they say, ‘Stay where you are,’ we will stay—we won’t go up to them.

“But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we’ll go. That will be a sign that the Lord will give us the victory.”

“I’m with you,” his armor bearer answered.

So Jonathan and his armor bearer climbed through the hills and rocks until they got close enough so the Philistines could see them off in the distance. “Hey, the Israelites are coming out of the holes where they have been hiding,” the Philistines announced to each other.

Then a man hollered out to Jonathan, “Come up to us, you Israelites! We’ll show you what we’re going to do to you!”

“Just like I said,” Jonathan whispered to his armor bearer. “The Lord has delivered them into our hands. Come on!”

“I’m with you,” his armor bearer thought. They got down low on their hands and feet and scrambled through the rocks and brush until they came to the Philistines’ camp.

Jonathan took his sword, and his armor bearer took his sword, and they killed Philistine after Philistine. Within a short time, twenty Philistines had been killed just by Jonathan and his armor bearer.

Then, all of a sudden, the earth began to rumble and shake. “What’s going on?” the Philistines yelled. “Do you hear that noise? The whole Israelite army is attacking us!”

Flash Card 6.3

The Philistines panicked. They thought the earthquake God had sent was the sound of the Israelite army invading them. They didn’t know it was just Jonathan, his armor bearer, and the Lord’s earthquake. They didn’t know the Lord didn’t need a whole army to fight for His people.

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

The Philistine soldiers became so afraid and so confused, that they began attacking whoever was in their way; and whoever was in their way was each other! The Philistines chased and killed their own soldiers, and finally all the Philistines that were left became so confused and afraid, that they ran away.

Jonathan, with only his armor bearer and his God, defeated the Philistine army.

Applying the Story

What characteristic made Jonathan’s armor bearer able to follow Jonathan into a battle with the Philistines? (Allow response.)

He was loyal, and his loyalty was from deep in his heart. Long before Jonathan said, “Let’s go to the Philistine camp,” his armor bearer had decided to be loyal. Loyalty requires a decision.

Jonathan’s armor bearer’s loyalty didn’t depend on his feelings at the moment.

- He may have been tired and may not have felt like going; but he had decided to be loyal, so he went.
- He may have been going through a trial and felt too weak in his heart to do such a dangerous thing; but he had decided to be loyal, so he went.
- He may have been disappointed with Jonathan for something; but he had decided to be loyal, so he went.
- Others may have told him Jonathan didn’t deserve his loyalty and that he deserved better than to have to serve Jonathan, and he may have been tempted to believe them; but he had decided to be loyal, so he went.

Loyalty doesn’t come and go based on feelings or circumstances. In fact, it is when some of these circumstances and temptations come into our lives that we see if our loyalty is really real!

Proverbs 17:17

17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Loyalty *is* a decision, but a Christian shouldn’t just decide to be loyal to any person. Think about it: What happens when you decide to be loyal to a person who expects you to join them in doing something you know is against God’s

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

Word? If you think, “This person is my friend, and I have decided to be loyal to him or her,” you will find yourself being loyal to a person and disloyal to God.

Acts 4:19

19 ...Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For a Christian, loyalty to God comes first, before loyalty to any person or to any cause. We can be loyal to God because He is our perfect Creator, and He is perfectly loyal to us.

Psalm 89:34

34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

He made us, knows what is best for us, and would never lead us to do anything that would hurt our walk with Him.

2 Corinthians 2:14

14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ....

So, our first loyalty is to God. Loyalty to God is a decision. Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I loyal to God?
- Have I decided that, no matter what, I will serve and be true to God?
- When life doesn’t go how I wish it would, do I still trust and obey God, believing His Word rather than my own thoughts and heart (or the thoughts and heart of other people)?

Isaiah 55:9

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Loyalty to God will teach us the other areas of loyalty we should have. When we have chosen to be loyal to God, we will choose to be loyal to beliefs that are true to God’s Word, and we will be loyal to people to whom God instructs us to be loyal. The Bible instructs us to be loyal to the right people.

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

- **Our Parents—Ephesians 6:1–2**

When our parents are loyal to and love the Lord, we can trust that loyalty to God will lead us to loyalty to our parents. God promises that when we are loyal to them, He will bless us!

Loyalty to our parents would include obedience, kind words (not talking back or talking about them behind their backs), and respect. It would include doing whatever we can to honor them.

Even if your parents aren’t Christians, loyalty to them would include doing every right thing they ask or tell you to do. In fact, sometimes a child’s loyalty and obedience will be just the thing that proves to an unsaved parent that God is really real!

Sadly, some people have parents (or other authorities) to whom they can’t be loyal in the usual sense of the word. They can’t just decide to be loyal to that parent, because doing what their parent says would be being disloyal to God.

This would not be when a parent tells you to do a good thing you wish you didn’t have to do, like clean your room, help with the yard work, or get ready for school. Those are good things that God wants all of us to do.

This would only be when the parent instructs you to sin against God. When a parent tells a child to sin against God, the child would be disloyal to God if he or she followed the parent’s instructions.

- **Our Pastor—Hebrews 13:17**

Our pastor is God’s servant who teaches us how to walk with God. Many people don’t like to hear the truths of the Bible, because when they hear the Bible, it reminds them of their own sin. Because of this, many people will criticize and be disloyal to pastors.

Loyalty to our pastor would include standing up for him when others criticize, helping him in any way he needs it, and encouraging him through notes, words, and smiles.

- **Authorities—Romans 13:1–7**

Our authorities include teachers, policemen, employers (as we get older), and anyone else who is over us in some way.

It is easy not to want to be loyal to authorities. We don’t always like to think of someone as being “over us.” Our human nature wants to be independent, not having to answer to others.

But that’s not the way God designed life, and His Word tells us that we are to obey, respect, and honor authorities.

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

- **Our Friends—Proverbs 13:20**

It is important that we choose friends who are loyal to God. When our friends are loyal to God, they will encourage us to be loyal to God.

Loyalty to our friends includes being there for them in hard times, sticking with them when they’re in a bad mood, sticking up for them when others say negative things about them, and helping them when they need it. It also includes encouraging them to follow the Lord when they are tempted to sin.

When we have a friend who refuses to be loyal to God, the Bible tells us that we are not to continue a close relationship with them.

Proverbs 14:7

7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

- **We are also to be loyal to the right beliefs and causes. (Romans 3:4b)**

When we decide to be loyal to God, we won’t have to decide if we are going to be loyal to the truths of His Word.

— We will choose to go to the places He would send us.

— We will share the gospel with the lost.

— We will read His Word and talk to Him in prayer.

— We will believe His Word about politics, abortion, gender, finances, marriage, and anything else about which people have different beliefs. We won’t have to decide what we believe, because we have already decided that we believe God’s Word.

We live in a world that doesn’t honor God and His ways—people are often *disloyal* rather than loyal. Instead of trusting in God and His Word, they trust their feelings.

Friends desert each other over small things. Husbands and wives are not loyal to each other. Employees gossip about their boss who has given them a job so they can earn a living. Students are disrespectful to their teachers.

But God’s ways are different. He blesses greatly through loyalty. We admire Jonathan’s armor bearer because we see God’s way of loyalty in him. The armor bearer’s loyalty was a choice—a choice that drew our attention to an otherwise unknown man, and a choice he never regretted.

It can be your choice as well.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

30 paint stir sticks
60 magnet circles
Black Sharpie marker
Arrow Printables from Ministry Resource download

Set Up

Assemble thirty arrows by gluing the arrow pieces to both ends of the stir sticks. Then, attach two adhesive magnets to the back of the arrows. With the black Sharpie marker, write point values on the back of each arrow. Then, fill your dry-erase board with arrows before class begins.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams and alternate asking questions of each team. When a student answers correctly, she can select an arrow from off the board, and the points listed on the back of her arrow are awarded to her team. The team with the most points at the end of the game, wins. (If you assemble all thirty paint sticks, you can make this game last a little longer by asking review questions from previous lessons.)

1. Who were Israel’s cruelest enemies?
Answer: The Philistines
2. Why did the Israelites lose battles with the Philistines?
Answer: They stopped trusting God and served the false gods of the nations around them.
3. Where was King Saul at the time of this battle with the Philistines?
Answer: Under a tree
4. What idea came to Jonathan?
Answer: Maybe God would use just him and his armor bearer to defeat the Philistines.
5. What was Jonathan’s armor bearer’s job?
Answer: To carry Jonathan’s weapons, to stand beside him, and to protect him

Lesson Six—Jonathan’s Armor Bearer

6. What was the armor bearer’s answer to Jonathan?

Answer: Yes. Do all that is in your heart. Whatever you do, I am with you.

7. What quality caused Jonathan to make that decision?

Answer: Loyalty

8. What caused the sound and shaking that made the Philistines think the whole Israelite army was attacking them?

Answer: God sent an earthquake.

9. How did most of the Philistines die?

Answer: They became confused and afraid and killed each other.

10. To whom are we to be loyal above all others?

Answer: God

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 12:1

- 1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource download

Teaching the Verse

Print both sets of Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource. Repeat the verse as a class several times using the set of cards containing both pictures and words. Once the students are familiar with the verse, switch to the set of cards containing only pictures. Instruct the students to say the verse using the picture cards only to see how well they can remember the words.

OBJECT LESSON —Roots of Bitterness

Materials Needed

Flowers

Weeds

Weed killer

Lesson

Has any student in this class ever seen a garden full of beautiful flowers? (Consider showing pictures of manicured flower gardens by way of prints or screens, if your classroom is equipped.)

Flower gardens are so beautiful! They smell beautiful. They can be a peaceful place for people to sit and read or think. The beautiful colors can help lift your spirits and awaken your senses! Flower gardens are wonderful!

But, do you know there is one common enemy in every flower garden? There is one issue that every flower garden must overcome if it’s going to be beautiful and lovely. Can anyone guess what it is? Yes! It is WEEDS! (Show the weeds you brought to class.)

Weeds can so quickly overtake a beautiful flower garden! So, if a garden is beautiful, it’s because a gardener takes a weed killer, like the one I have here, and he kills any weeds he finds. He will either spray them with weed killer or do something even more effective—he will pull up the weeds from their roots!

Do you know that if a gardener does not do this, a beautiful flower garden can so quickly turn into a messy plot of tangled weeds and thorns? It wouldn’t be pretty anymore. People wouldn’t be able to enjoy the flowers like they did before.

Application

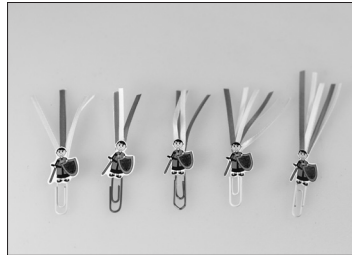
Your life and relationship can be like a beautiful flower garden. God allows people into our lives to make life better and enjoyable! But, if we aren’t careful, we can allow weeds of jealousy and envy to creep into our garden. Maybe a friend plays the piano perfectly at her piano recital, and you messed up your song. Perhaps someone else made quarterback on the football team, but you had to play defense. Maybe someone always gets picked to do the one job you were hoping for! Whatever the case, God doesn’t want us to get mad at those people. He doesn’t want us to be jealous or upset when they succeed...He wants us to be happy for them!

This is sometimes hard, but God promises to help us rejoice when others rejoice! If you choose to let jealousy into your heart, your life garden will become a sad, confusing, disappointing, and dark place. So—today, choose to carry some weed killer with you! Determine to think pleasant thoughts, to claim a promise from the Bible to help you, and to truly be happy for the successes of your friends and family. And if you need to (and you will at some point), grab that bitterness by the root and pull it out! Get rid of that jealousy all together!

CRAFT —Jonathan's Armor Bearer Bookmark

Supplies

- 1 colored paper clip per student
- 3 pieces of 1/8-inch-wide colored ribbon per student, approximately 5 inches in length
- 1 printable armor bearer per student
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one colored paper clip, three pieces of colored ribbon, one printable armor bearer, and one glue stick.
2. Instruct each student to take the three pieces of colored ribbon and place them through the paper clip and tie them into a knot.
3. Have each student glue one printable armor bearer to the front of the paper clip, hiding the knot.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Seven Overview

David's Three Mighty Men

Theme—Honor

Scripture

2 Samuel 23:8-39; 1 Chronicles 11:10-47

Memory Verse

Revelation 4:11—“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Lesson Outline

David's Mighty Men (2 Samuel 23:8-12, 18-39;
1 Chronicles 11:10-14, 20-47)
—Flashcard 7.1

1. David Longs for Water from Bethlehem
(2 Samuel 23:13-15; 1 Chronicles 11:15-17)

The Three Mighty Men Risk Their Lives to Get Water for David
(2 Samuel 23:16; 1 Chronicles 11:18)
—Flashcard 7.2

2. David Pours the Water Out to the Lord
(2 Samuel 23:16-17; 1 Chronicles 11:18-19)
—Flashcard 7.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Revelation 4:11
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Matters of Respect
Bible Lesson	David's Three Mighty Men
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Refreshing Water
Review Game/Questions	Drop of Water
Craft	Shield Craft
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON SEVEN

David's Three Mighty Men

Theme: Honor

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read 2 Samuel 23:8–39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10–47.
- Study Lesson Seven.
- Flashcards 7.1–7.3
- Prepare snack—Refreshing Water.
- Gather for review game—five small, plastic sand buckets (from your local dollar store) and water drop game pieces from the Ministry Resource download.
- Gather for object lesson—dry-erase board and dry-erase markers.
- Gather for craft—silver trays, 10-inch pieces of silver duct tape, 3-inch pieces of silver duct tape, shield printables from the Ministry Resource download, and glue sticks.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—Memory Verse Card from the Visual Aid Pack, 28 plastic, disposable drinking cups, and a table.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 23:13–17

- 13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.
- 14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Beth-lehem.
- 15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Beth-lehem, which is by the gate!

SNACK SUGGESTION

Refreshing Water

- individual water bottles
- individual flavored water packets

Give each student a water bottle and flavored water packet, allowing them to mix and drink during class. (You can serve crackers first, allowing them to create a thirst for the water before serving it.)

MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 4:11

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

- 16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Beth-lehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.
- 17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Most of us have heard the saying, “Your wish is my command.” What do you think that means? (Allow response.) When someone says, “Your wish is my command,” they are saying, “I don’t need a command. I don’t need a request. If I know you just want something, I will make it my goal to get it for you or to do it for you.”

Is there anyone that you feel that way toward—that if you know they just wish for something, you will do anything you can to get it for them or to do it for them? (Allow response.)

We don’t say, “Your wish is my command” to just anybody. We say it to someone we love, respect, and want to show honor.

In today’s true story from the Bible, we will meet three brave men who never said, “Your wish is my command,” but they showed us the meaning of it by their lives.

The Story

1. David’s Mighty Men (2 Samuel 23:8-12, 18-39; 1 Chronicles 11:10-14, 20-47)

David, the king of Israel, wasn’t just a king sitting in a palace. He was a mighty warrior. When his people went out to war, King David went out to war. He led the army by example.

Along the way, King David had gained a mighty band of men who admired him, loved him, and would do anything for him. These men didn’t love him “just because.” David had helped these men years earlier, long before he even was the king of Israel.

Let’s review a little from last week: King Saul, Israel’s first king, had become extremely jealous of David because the Israelite people seemed to admire David more than they admired him. King Saul was so jealous, in fact, that his desire to

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

see David’s life ended became the focus of his life. He tried to kill David on many occasions, and David had no other option but to run to the wilderness and live in hiding from Saul. David hid in woods, in caves, and anywhere he could find shelter from Saul and his soldiers.

The cave of Adullam near David’s hometown of Bethlehem was one of David’s hiding places. It was in this cave that his band of men started coming to him. These were men who were in trouble, perhaps with King Saul.

1 Samuel 22:2

- 2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

As David hid from King Saul, these men hid with him. When David had to escape to a new hiding place, these men escaped with him. When David fought the Philistines, these men fought with him.

With David, these men whose lives had been troubled now had purpose. They had protection, hope, and a leader who led them to trust the Lord like he did. They were a team, and David was their leader.

Thirty-seven (2 Samuel 23:39) of these men became mighty warriors, like David their leader. The Bible calls them David’s “mighty men.”

- Adino—He killed eight hundred people at one time with only his spear.
- Eleazar—Along with David, he killed many Philistines in a battle. His hand became so tired, but he held onto his sword and kept fighting.
- Shammah—He stood alone in a field, defending it from the Philistines when everyone else had run in fear.
- Abishai—He killed three hundred men at one time with his spear.
- Benaiah—He killed two “lionlike men of Moab.” He also killed a lion in a snowy pit. He killed a huge (over seven feet tall) Egyptian, plucking his spear out of his hand and killing him with his own spear.

Flash Card 7.1

2. David Longs for Water from Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:13–15; 1 Chronicles 11:15–17)

Now, many years later, Saul has died and David is the king of Israel. Israel is at war with the cruel Philistines, and King David is again in the protection of the cave of Adullam, where he lays out the battle plans and gives orders to his men.

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

It is harvest time, and the Philistine army is gathered, ready to attack, in the valley of Rephaim, near the cave.

Three of David’s mighty men come to David in the cave, waiting for his next command.

But David doesn’t give a command—at least, not yet. His mind is somewhere else. He has been hiding here in this cave, so close to the town where he grew up as a shepherd boy. He is thinking about his boyhood—about the harp he played as he watched over his sheep, the green pastures where he led them to eat, and the well where he led them to drink.

“That was amazing water,” he thinks. “The best water I’ve ever drunk—so cool and clear and refreshing.”

Then he speaks, almost to himself. “Oh, I wish someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem!”

3. The Three Mighty Men Risk Their Lives to Get Water for David (2 Samuel 23:16; 1 Chronicles 11:18)

The three mighty men catch each other’s eyes. They each know what is in the others’ minds. Unnoticed by King David, they give a slight nod to each other and quietly leave the cave.

“The well is on the other side of the valley of Rephaim, you know,” one of the three mighty men says to the others.

“We know. God will guide us through the Philistine troops to that well.”

With hearts full of faith in God and love for their king, the three mighty men left the safety of the cave and carefully sneaked around behind or through the enemy lines to get to the well of Bethlehem. With every step they took, they knew that they could lose their lives.

They got to the well, drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, and then had to go back the same way they came—past the enemy—and delivered the precious water to King David.

4. David Pours the Water Out to the Lord (2 Samuel 23:16b-17; 1 Chronicles 11:18b-19)

David felt so loved, so honored, and so respected. “These men truly risked their own lives—for me!” he thought.

Flash Card 7.2

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

“I can’t drink this water,” David said. “This isn’t just water; it’s like the blood of these men who put their lives in jeopardy just to bring me a drink. They were willing to shed their blood if they had to—to honor me!”

“They sacrificed their own safety for me, and now I pour this water out as a sacrifice to the Lord.” David didn’t drink one drop of the water, but he poured it out to the Lord.

Flash Card 7.3

Applying the Story

David’s three mighty men didn’t *have* to get water for him from the well of Bethlehem. Now, if David had ordered the three mighty men to get him a drink from the well of Bethlehem, they would have tried to get it for him. It would have been hard, but they would have done it because they had to.

But David didn’t give them an order. He didn’t even ask them to get water for him. He just wished out loud.

So, why did the men go? They didn’t go because it was easy, and they didn’t go because it was safe. They had been in many battles with the Philistines, and they knew how risky it was for them to break through the Philistine army’s lines. They knew they would likely lose their lives.

But they loved their king, and that love caused them to want to show him honor. They *looked* for ways to honor him. “What would please King David?” was always on their minds.

They always did what David *told* them to do. That was just part of their job as Israelite soldiers.

Honor caused them to want to do more. They didn’t just want to obey his orders; they wanted to honor his wishes. His wish became “their command.”

The three mighty men didn’t choose to show honor to a wicked man—one who walked in his own way rather than God’s. They honored a man who loved and followed God.

TEACHER’S NOTE

Honor—regard with great respect; admire; esteem; to express respect or high estimation by words or actions

Acts 13:22

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

By doing so, God received honor. Think of it, when they honored David by breaking through enemy lines to get him a drink of water, David honored God.

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

He poured out the water, which was to him a symbol of the blood those men were willing to shed to get him a drink of water, as a sacrifice to God.

These three mighty men are to serve as examples to us. In fact, God gives us specific people to whom we are especially to show honor.

- **Our Parents**

Exodus 20:12

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Before we can honor, we must first obey. If we try to show honor, making their wishes our commands, but we haven’t first obeyed, our parents won’t feel honored.

We are to gladly do what they ask or command, and then think beyond to honoring them.

“Mom’s tired—I’ll do the dishes for her.” “Dad’s had a long week at work. I’ll mow the lawn before he gets home.” “It means so much to Dad and Mom when my room is clean. I’m going to clean it up and keep it that way.” “I’m going to write them a note, thanking them for (you fill in the blank) that they did for me.”

Sadly, some people have parents who don’t follow the Lord. Some parents live in ways that are not pleasing to God, and some struggle with sins that damage their families. How can you honor those parents?

One thing to remember is that in honoring others, we must always honor God. So, if our parents give commands or have wishes that violate God’s wishes and commands, we can’t honor those things, because that would be dishonoring God. When a parent tries to force their child to do something that is against God’s Word, the most honoring thing the child can do is pray for them and let someone who can help, know what is happening.

We may be able to find other ways to honor them—speaking respectfully, obeying commands and requests that don’t go against the Bible, and praying for them.

- **Our Governmental Leaders**

1 Peter 2:17

17 ...Honour the king.

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

We don’t have a king in our country, but we have leaders—the President, congressmen, senators, judges, policemen, etc.

To honor them, we obey the law, but we don’t only obey the law. We think of what would please those in authority.

Many of the leaders of our country are not respected. Many citizens accuse them of being unfair and partial to one group or another, even while the leaders are trying to protect us. Can you imagine how much an honoring thank you note would mean to them? We can thank them for their service to us—for listening to us and protecting us. We can make them treats to show we care. We can pray for them.

Some of these may not be men or women who stand for the Lord. They may make laws that are the opposite of God’s laws.

So, how do we honor *them*? We obey every law we can obey, we treat them with respect because they serve our country, we write notes of gratitude when we can, and we pray for them.

- **Pastors**

1 Timothy 5:17

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

What would a pastor wish for? What wishes could be our commands?

Pastors wish that their sermons would be used in the listeners’ lives. When the Lord has spoken to you through a sermon, you can say something like, “Pastor, thank you for that message. The Lord helped me through it. I really needed that reminder.” Or you can write him a note letting him know how God spoke to you through a particular message.

Pastors wish for us to encourage each other. Ask the Lord who you can encourage at church.

Pastors wish for unity in the church. Ask God to give you love for every person in your church.

Pastors wish for us to walk with the Lord. Share with your pastor ways you are growing in your walk with the Lord. (e.g., “I gave a tract to the cashier at McDonald’s—pray he gets saved.” “I haven’t missed a day this week reading my Bible—God is working in my life.”)

TEACHER’S NOTE

Others that God specifically says to honor:

- The Old Man (Leviticus 19:32)
- Widows (1 Timothy 5:3)
- Masters (1 Timothy 6:1)
- Everyone (1 Peter 2:17a)
- Husbands to Wives (1 Peter 3:7)

Lesson Seven—David's Three Mighty Men

Pastors wish for all the members to be at every service. Let him know that you love coming to church, and thank him for all he does to make your church wonderful.

Pastors wish to know they are loved. Let others know what a great pastor you have, and they might let the pastor know what you said!

Pastors wish for all the needs of the church to be met. Be faithful to give money in the offering. Ask your pastor what you can do to help in specific areas in the church (e.g., cleaning the nursery, addressing envelopes, keeping records, etc.).

Pastors wish for people to pray for them. Write a note or say to him, “I pray for you and your family every day, Pastor.”

- **God**

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Let's put ourselves in the three mighty men's place. And let's put God in King David's place. What would we do if we heard God say, “I wish...”?

Would we be like the three mighty men who looked at each other, nodded, and went to work to do what we know God wants, realizing the cost may be great? Would we trust God to take care of us and to guide us to fulfill His wishes?

There are hundreds of commandments in the Bible. But in the New Testament, a man asked Jesus what is the greatest commandment, and Jesus answered him.

Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Lesson Seven—David's Three Mighty Men

We know God absolutely commands us to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds and to love others as we love ourselves.

We make His wishes our commands as we ask Him what that looks like in each situation in our lives and then seek to fulfill His wishes.

- So we share the gospel, even if it means embarrassment or ridicule, because we know it is His wish that everyone be saved. That's why Jesus died on the cross.
- So we get up early in the morning to spend time with Him—even though it's hard and we're tired—because we know it is His wish to spend time with us.
- So we show love to other Christians, even when we are irritated with them or disappointed in them, because we know it is His wish for those who don't know Him to see His love in Christians.
- So we listen to music that honors Him, even when we are tempted to listen to music of the world, because we know it is His wish for everything we do to show Him to others.
- So we speak kind and true words, even when we are tempted to lie or show anger, because we know it is His wish that our tongues speak only for Him.

What are some other ways you can give honor to the Lord?

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

5 small, plastic sand buckets (from your local dollar store)

Water drop game pieces from the Ministry Resource download

Set Up

Print and cut the water drop game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and divide them into the five water buckets prior to the beginning of class.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams and begin asking review questions. When a student answers correctly, he can walk to a water bucket of his choice and retrieve a water drop. The points listed on the water drop are awarded to his team. Continue playing this game until all questions have been asked or all water drops have been collected from the buckets. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

1. What did King David do when his people went to war?

Answer: He went to war.

2. What town was the cave of Adullam near?

Answer: Bethlehem—David's hometown

3. What were the thirty-seven brave men who followed David called?

Answer: His mighty men

4. From what well did David wish for water?

Answer: The well at Bethlehem

5. Did David command his mighty men to get him a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem?

Answer: No, he simply said he wished he had one.

6. Was it easy for David's mighty men to get him a drink from the well at Bethlehem?

Answer: No, they had to break through the enemy lines.

7. Why did David pour out the water instead of drinking it?

Answer: He poured it out as a sacrifice to the Lord because the men had been willing to sacrifice their lives to get it for him.

8. What quality caused the three mighty men to want to do more than to just obey David?

Answer: Honor

Lesson Seven—David’s Three Mighty Men

9. Who are some specific people to whom God has instructed us to show honor?

Answer: Parents, pastors, government leaders

10. What are some ways we can show honor to God?

Answer: Share the gospel, get up early to spend time with Him, show love to other Christians, etc.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Flashcard from the Visual Aid Pack
28 plastic, disposable drinking cups
Table

Set Up

To prepare for this review game, write one word of the verse on each of the 27 cups, and the reference on the 28th cup.

Teaching the Verse

To teach the verse, quote it together as a class, using the Memory Verse Flashcard from the Visual Aid Pack. Once the students think they have learned the verse, allow volunteers to stack the cups in the shape of a pyramid. Starting with the bottom row, the student can place seven cups in correct order, following 6 cups in order on the next row, etc. The top of the pyramid should be the cup containing the reference. As you have time, allow students to take turns building the pyramid. Alternately, you could let the class work in teams of two to complete the game.

If you teach older students, you can ask them to set up the cups with the words going in reverse order. (The reference cup would be the bottom left cup on the first row of the pyramid and the first word of the verse would be the top row. This requires more strategy and effort and may present a more challenging game for those who are interested in a harder playing level.

OBJECT LESSON—Matters of Respect

Materials Needed

Dry-erase board

Dry-erase markers

Lesson

Before class, write the word “Respect” on the middle of your classroom board. Underneath that word, create three columns with these headers: “Looks Like,” “Sounds Like,” “Feels Like.” (To incorporate more objects, you could bring binoculars, a hearing aid or megaphone, and a tissue or blanket to demonstrate each category.)

Explain that in today’s lesson, we learned about three men who honored and respected King David. These men held David in high esteem—they treated him with importance. Just like these men honored David through their actions, God calls us to honor those around us, especially our leaders, parents, and HIM! But, we can honor our friends and family members too!

Ask students what respect looks like. They may need help at first, so prepare a few scenarios in which someone shows respect (i.e., David’s mighty men showed respect by risking their lives to meet David’s needs. We can show respect to God by listening to His Word when it is taught.) As students give examples, write them on the board under the “Looks Like” category. Continue on to the “Sounds Like” column on the board. Ask students what respect would sound like in day-to-day interactions, (i.e. when a young man says, “yes, ma’am” with a good attitude in response to his mom’s instructions). Finally, encourage your students to consider what respect feels like. Perhaps it feels like a soft tissue when someone is crying from pain or sadness. Maybe it is a warm embrace with a parent after a time of discipline or to express gratitude.

Continue to exchange and record examples of respect, allowing students to think of practical ways to apply the lesson throughout the week.

Application

Respect isn’t just a quality that people in the Bible demonstrated...it is a quality God wants us to develop every day of our lives. As we look for ways to demonstrate respect to our God-given authority, He will bless us and give us greater opportunities for usefulness in His Kingdom!

CRAFT—Shield Craft

Supplies

- 1 silver tray per student (available at your local dollar store)
- 1 10-inch piece of silver duct tape per student
- 2 3-inch pieces of silver duct tape per student
- 1 shield printable per student
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one silver tray, one 10-inch piece of silver duct tape, two 3-inch pieces of silver duct tape, one shield printable, and one glue stick.
2. Instruct each student to glue the shield printable to the front of the silver tray.
3. Ask each student to flip over the silver tray.
4. Next, have each student fold the 10-inch silver duct tape lengthwise $\frac{1}{3}$. Repeat so no part of the adhesive back is showing. This will make the shield's handle.
5. Then, have the students place the duct tape handle on the back of the silver tray. Ask the students to tape down the left side of the handle using one of the 3-inch pieces of duct tape, and then using the other 3-inch piece of duct tape, tape down the right side of the handle.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Eight Overview

Naaman's Maid

Theme—Influence

Scripture

2 Kings 5:1-19

Memory Verse

Matthew 5:16—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Naaman Was a Leper** (2 Kings 5:1)
—Flashcard 8.1
2. **The Israelite Servant Girl Makes Choices**
(2 Kings 5:2)
3. **Naaman's Maid Has Compassion on Naaman's Leprosy** (2 Kings 5:3)
—Flashcard 8.2
4. **Naaman Is Healed** (2 Kings 5:5-19)
—Flashcard 8.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Matthew 5:16
Song Time	
Bible Lesson	Naaman's Maid
Object Lesson	Circle of Influence
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Cheese Dip
Review Game/Questions	Easily Identified
Craft	Naaman Family Finger Puppets
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON EIGHT

Naaman's Maid

Theme: Influence

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read 2 Kings 5:1–19.
- Study Lesson Eight.
- Flashcards 8.1–8.3
- Prepare snack—Cheese Dip.
- Gather for object lesson—whole milk, one cup liquid dish soap, cotton swabs, food coloring (3–5 colors), and a pie tin.
- Gather for game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and a pocket chart or tape.
- Gather for craft—Naaman family finger puppet printables from the Ministry Resource download and glue sticks.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—one strand of Christmas lights (any type, but small, white lights work well), Memory Verse Review Card Printables from the Ministry Resource download, and clothespins.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

2 Kings 5:1–3

- 1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.
- 2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.
- 3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

SNACK SUGGESTION

Cheese Dip

Serve breadstick and cheese dip snack packs. Encourage your students to remember how many times Naaman had to dip in the water before he was healed.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Sometimes in my life I have felt insignificant—like what I do doesn’t really matter in the grand scheme of things. What does my job matter to anyone else? What does what I say matter anyway?

Have you ever felt like that—like you are unimportant? (Allow response.) Have you ever felt like you’re so young that you can’t make a difference in your world? Like maybe someday you will be important in some way but not now?

In today’s true story from the Bible, we will meet a girl whose circumstances made her seem more unimportant than any of us in this room today. But God used her life to show you and me that no matter how young, small, or insignificant we may feel, He will do great things through us if we make ourselves usable to Him.

The Story

1. Naaman Was a Leper (2 Kings 5:1)

The Israelites had now been in the Promised Land for a long time—about 450 years. They had been ruled by many kings during that time, and they had often been invaded by enemies.

One of the invading enemy armies was Syria, and their general was Naaman. Naaman was a very important man to the Syrians, and it seemed like he had everything going for him. He was honored by his king. He was admired by the people. He was brave. He led a victorious army. But Naaman had a major problem in his life—he had a sickness called leprosy.

Leprosy is a terrible disease that starts as a small spot on the skin. The spot changes color and begins to grow. Eventually, as the disease spreads throughout the whole body, the leprosy eats away fingers, toes, the nose, and other parts of the body. Eventually the person dies.

When Naaman realized he had leprosy, his whole family became afraid. “What will happen to my husband, to me, and to our children?” his wife wondered. “Before long, our nation will lose a great leader, I will lose my husband, and our children will lose their father!”



Flash Card 8.1

2. The Israelite Servant Girl Makes Choices (2 Kings 5:2)

Now, Naaman’s wife had a maid—a young servant girl who had been captured by Naaman and the Syrian army on one of their invasions into Israel.

This servant girl—we’ll call her “Naaman’s maid” because we don’t know her name—was a very ordinary person. She was a slave. She spent her days carrying water, cleaning house, weeding the garden, helping with children, and doing all the things slaves of the Syrians did back then. Naaman’s maid wasn’t like Naaman—she didn’t seem important to the Syrians.

But her life had been different before she was taken captive by the Syrians. Back then she had lived with her family in the Promised Land. She played and worked with her brothers and sisters. Her parents taught her about the true God of the Bible. She studied the commandments God had given to the Israelites. She heard of the miracles God had done through the prophets Elijah and Elisha. She loved God.

Her life changed in a moment. The Syrian army marched into her land, killing some people and taking others as prisoners. Naaman’s maid was snatched from the family she loved and who loved her, and she was taken far away to Syria.

Now here she was, a slave in a strange land, living with and serving people who were not the loving family she had always known. These people worshiped false gods. She was just a young girl being forced to serve as a slave to the family of the general who had captured her! Did her life really matter anymore?

As Naaman’s maid lay down to sleep at night, her heart was broken. This was the hardest thing she had gone through in her whole life. She thought of home, and then she thought of the many choices she now had to make—choices she didn’t want to make. But as she thought of her choices, the truths she had learned from the Bible ran through her mind over and over and over again.

- Will I worship the gods of the Syrians?

Exodus 20:3

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

- Will I be bitter against these people who captured me, or will I forgive them?

Psalms 86:5

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive....

Lesson Eight—Naaman’s Maid

- Will I be angry?

Proverbs 16:32

32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

- How can I serve these people who have captured me, when I really just want to fight against the work I am given to do?

Colossians 3:23-24

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

- Can I trust God?

Psalms 9:10

10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

She knew what she had to do. She would trust and serve God as a slave in this strange land, just as she had trusted Him while she was free back in Israel. She would forgive the Syrians for capturing her and making her a slave, just as God had forgiven her for her sins against Him. She would do everything she was required to do without complaining, just as if she were doing it for the Lord who had always taken care of her. In fact, she would do all her work for the Lord!

When she carried water, she carried it for the Lord. When she cleaned the house, she cleaned it for the Lord. When she weeded the garden, she weeded it for the Lord. When she cared for Naaman’s children, she cared for them for the Lord. Everything she did in Naaman’s house was done for the Lord.

Naaman’s maid didn’t realize it, but Naaman and his wife noticed her diligence. They noticed that she didn’t complain and that she didn’t talk back when she was told to do something. They noticed that the house was cleaner than it had ever been and that the children were happy.

“There’s something different about that little maid from Israel,” Naaman’s wife said to him.

“I’ve noticed it too,” Naaman answered. “I think she serves her God faithfully, and it seems to make a difference in her life.”

3. Naaman’s Maid Has Compassion on Naaman’s Leprosy (2 Kings 5:3)

As Naaman’s maid went about her work, she often thought of home. She thought of her parents and her brothers and sisters. “I’m so thankful for the family You gave me, Lord,” she would pray.

She thought of the prophet Elisha and all she had heard about him. “God has done great miracles through Elisha,” she thought. “Elisha struck the water of the Jordan River, and the waters parted so he could cross on dry land (2 Kings 14). That was a miracle! Another time God used Elisha to provide enough oil from a widow’s one little jar to fill many jars—enough to sell to pay off all her debts (2 Kings 4:1–7). That was a miracle! Then, God used Elisha to raise a woman’s son from the dead—the son Elisha had prayed to the Lord to give her years earlier (2 Kings 4:8–37). That was a miracle! And he did so many other miracles, too!” she thought.

One day as Naaman’s maid was serving his wife, she noticed that Naaman’s wife seemed very discouraged. “She must be thinking about her husband’s sickness,” Naaman’s maid thought. “I feel so sorry for them. I wish Naaman were back in Israel. I’ve never seen the prophet Elisha heal a man of leprosy, but I have seen him do so many other miracles. I know Elisha could heal Naaman.”

Naaman’s maid’s heart ached for Naaman and his wife. “Ma’am,” she said to Naaman’s wife, “If Naaman could go to the prophet in Israel, I know he would heal him from his leprosy.”

Flash Card 8.2

4. Naaman Is Healed (2 Kings 5:5–19)

Naaman’s wife called another servant to her. “Go at once to Naaman,” she instructed. “Tell him that this little servant girl from Israel has said that the prophet of her God can heal him!”

The servant told Naaman and the king, and the king sent Naaman to Israel with gifts and a letter telling the king of Israel that he wanted Naaman healed of his leprosy.

“What!” the king of Israel cried when Naaman gave him the letter. “Who does the king of Syria think I am? He knows I am not God—I don’t have power to heal people! The king of Syria is trying to make trouble for me.” And the king was so distressed that he tore his clothes as they did in those days.

Lesson Eight—Naaman’s Maid

When Elisha heard of the king’s distress, he sent a messenger to the king, saying, “Send the man to me. This man will find out that there truly is a prophet of God in Israel.”

“So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean” (2 Kings 5:9–10).

Naaman became angry. “Why doesn’t this great prophet just come out to me and call on his God and hold his hand over me and heal me? Why did he tell me to go into the muddy Jordan River? We have much better rivers in our country!” And Naaman “went away in a rage” (2 Kings 5:12).

“Sir,” Naaman’s servants called as they ran after him. “If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn’t you have done it so you could be healed? All he told you to do was to go into the river seven times, and you would be clean!”

Naaman realized his servants were right, and he went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself in its water seven times, just as Elisha had instructed. And the seventh time he came up out of the water, he was healed, and his diseased skin was now as soft as a child’s!

“Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel,” (2 Kings 5:15b) Naaman said to the prophet Elisha.

Flash Card 8.3

Applying the Story

Naaman’s maid was just an ordinary little girl living in the house of a great ruler in a foreign land. She was young, and she was a slave. Her life may have seemed very unimportant.

But it wasn’t. Naaman’s maid belonged to God, and He had an important plan for her. She was going to bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 1:27

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Naaman’s maid had many reasons she could have given for not serving the Lord.

Lesson Eight—Naaman’s Maid

- She was taken away from the family she loved.
- She had been made a slave against her will.
- She was young and lonely and afraid.
- She didn’t have the prophet to teach her more about God every week.
- She lived among people who didn’t even believe in God. How could she be strong when she was all alone in her beliefs?

Because Naaman’s maid decided to do everything she did as if she were doing it for the Lord, her heart followed her work.

Proverbs 16:3

- 3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

The more she worked from a heart of love for her Lord, the more she loved Him. The more she loved Him, the more she loved those she served. And the more she loved those she served, the more they noticed there was something different about her. The more they noticed she was different from other slaves, the more influence the Lord gave her with those she served!

Think about it—she was just a young girl, a slave to an enemy nation, yet the general of the enemy army trusted her! When she said a prophet in her country could heal him, he believed her.

If Naaman’s maid hadn’t done her work as to the Lord, and if she had held anger and bitterness in her heart, she would have missed so much. She would have missed being trusted by her master and his wife. She would have missed the joy of seeing Naaman healed by the prophet Elisha. She would have missed having a master who came to know the true God. She would have missed the blessing the Lord gives to those who live and work for Him.

Colossians 3:24

- 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

We, like Naaman’s maid, are ordinary people. Our lives may seem insignificant and unimportant. But, like Naaman’s maid, we belong to the Lord, and He has a plan for each of us. We are to bring glory to Him.

You, too, may have reasons for not serving the Lord. Naaman’s maid had them.

- You may not live with the whole family to which you were born.

Lesson Eight—Naaman’s Maid

- You may be lonely and afraid.
- You may not be allowed to go to church every week.
- You may have family and classmates who don’t even believe in God.

You can’t change those things, but you can do what Naaman’s maid did. You can do what God has placed before you. You can decide to do all you do for the Lord, and you will be amazed at what God does through you.

When you are in a situation you wouldn’t choose, and there are changes in your life that you wish weren’t there, God is still there, and not only does He still love you, but He still has a plan for you—right where you are. His plan is for you to bring glory to Him.

No matter where you are, you can do your job for the Lord. When you are working for the Lord from your heart, your heart will follow your work, and your love will grow. You will always do the very best job you can do with the very best spirit you can have.

Others will see the difference in you, and God will give you influence in their lives.

Proverbs 22:29

29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

When you serve the Lord by serving others, God will be glorified.

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Whether you are a little servant girl or just a regular girl or boy in your home, school, and church, when you serve others as unto the Lord, others will notice, and God will be glorified through you.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download

Pocket chart or tape

Set Up

Print, cut, and assemble game pieces so that logos are on the front and point values are on the back. Place the game pieces, with logos facing the front, on the pocket chart or tape to the wall or dry-erase board.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams before asking alternating questions to each. When a student answers correctly, she has the opportunity to select and correctly identify a logo. If she correctly recognizes the logo, her team receives the points. If she answers incorrectly, no points are given, and the other team has the chance to answer instead. Continue playing until all questions have been asked or logos have been identified. Remind students that when people see us, we should be easily identified as a Christian because of the love we show to other people.

1. What was the name of the Syrian general, and what disease did he have?

Answer: Naaman, and he had leprosy.

2. What was Naaman’s maid’s name, and what country was she from?

Answer: We don’t know her name, but she was from Israel.

3. Did Naaman and his family serve the true God of Heaven?

Answer: No, they worshiped idols.

4. What was Naaman’s maid’s job?

Answer: She served Naaman’s wife.

5. Did Naaman’s maid forgive the Syrians, or was she angry and bitter because they had taken her captive?

Answer: She forgave them.

6. What did Naaman’s maid tell Naaman’s wife about his leprosy?

Answer: She told him that the prophet in Israel could heal him.

Lesson Eight—Naaman’s Maid

7. Why did Naaman and his wife believe Naaman’s maid?

Answer: She had served faithfully and done her work without complaining; they could tell there was something different about her.

8. What was the name of the prophet?

Answer: Elisha

9. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed?

Answer: Dip himself seven times in the water of the Jordan River

10. What happened in Naaman’s heart after he was healed?

Answer: He believed in the true God.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:16

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Materials Needed

1 strand of Christmas lights (any type, but small, white lights work well)
Memory Verse Review Card Printables from the Ministry Resource download (You may want to laminate for durability and future use.)
Clothespins

Set Up

To set up, hang the strand of Christmas lights at the front of your classroom. Then, using the clothespins, attach one verse card between each light.

Teaching the Verse

To teach the verse, recite it together several times as a class. Once the students know it well enough, take one word down at a time, reciting the verse together after each word has been removed from the strand. Continue reciting the verse until all verse cards have been removed. (If time permits, you can have your students put the verse cards back in order and show you where to hang the cards back on the strand of lights.)

OBJECT LESSON —Circle of Influence

Materials Needed

Whole milk
1 cup liquid dish soap
Cotton swabs
Food coloring (3–5 colors)
Pie tin

Lesson

Pour milk in the pie tin, and explain that the milk in the pie tin represents the world we live in—your home, neighborhood, school, and church.

Next, squeeze a few drops of each color of food coloring into the whole milk, toward the edge of the pie tin. Explain that the food coloring represents people we interact with every day.

As you continue the object lesson, hold up a single cotton swab and point out that it represents each student in your class. Remind each student that even though they are small and only one person, they are not insignificant. They still have a circle of influence given to them by God.

Swirl one tip of your cotton swab in the liquid dish soap. As you do this, explain that the soap represents acts of service and kindness, like the ones demonstrated by the girl in today’s Bible story.

Then, place the very soapy end of the cotton swab straight down into the milk and hold it steady. (Be sure not to stir.) The cotton swab will cause movement in the milk, pushing the water in different directions. Soon, the food coloring will begin to move, mixing with and “influencing” other colors in the pie tin. (Our kindness not only helps other people, but it can help those people help others, too!)

To continue this lesson, you can pull the cotton swab out of the milk and place it straight down into the milk once again. This time, though, place it in a different part of the tin. The same result will occur while the motion from the first dip of the cotton swab continues. The lesson? Our influence can make a lasting impact.

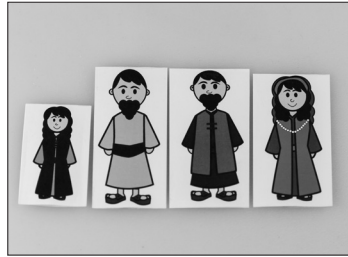
Application

The world seems like a very big place, and we can sometimes think that the little good we do doesn’t make a difference. But God has given each of us a circle of influence, and as we each do our part to serve others and show kindness, we CAN make a lasting difference in the lives of others. God can take the little we do and make much out of it!

CRAFT—Naaman Family Finger Puppets

Supplies

- 1 Naaman family finger puppet printable per student from the Ministry Resource download
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one Naaman family finger puppet printable and one glue stick.
2. Instruct each student to fold each finger puppet in half. Then take each puppet and glue the right side and left side, keeping the bottom open.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Nine Overview

Great Woman of Shunem

Theme—Rewards of Giving

Scripture

2 Kings 4:8-38; 8:1-6

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6—“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

Lesson Outline

1. **The Shunammite Provides Meals for Elisha**
(2 Kings 4:8)
—Flashcard 9.1
2. **The Shunammite’s Husband Makes a Room for Elisha** (2 Kings 4:9-10)
3. **Elisha Asks What He Can Do for the Shunammite** (2 Kings 4:11-13)
4. **The Reward of a Son** (2 Kings 4:14-17)
—Flashcard 9.2
5. **The Child Becomes Sick and Dies**
(2 Kings 4:18-20)
6. **The Reward of Healing** (2 Kings 4:20-37)
—Flashcard 9.3
7. **The Reward of Returned Property**
(2 Kings 8:1-6)

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	2 Corinthians 9:6
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Giving What You Have
Bible Lesson	Great Woman of Shunem
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	“Chicken in a Biskit”
Review Game/Questions	Sparingly vs. Bountifully
Craft	Rewards of Giving Bag
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON NINE

Great Woman of Shunem

Theme: Rewards of Giving

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read 2 Kings 4:8–38; 8:1–6.
- Study Lesson Nine.
- Flashcards 9.1–9.3
- Prepare snack—“Chicken in a Biskit.”
- Gather for object lesson—wafer cookies or graham crackers, vanilla icing (in a piping bag for best results), and a table or flat surface for demonstration.
- Gather for review game—10 or more paper plates and game pieces from the Ministry Resource download.
- Gather for teaching the verse—two pizza pans or pie tins and clothespins.
- Gather for craft—plastic bag for each student, 8-inch pieces of curling ribbon, church tracts, and new items that the students brought in.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

2 Kings 4:8–10

- 8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.
- 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

SNACK SUGGESTION

“Chicken in a Biskit”

Ask students what their favorite meal is and encourage them to think of what the Great Woman may have served God’s prophet when he came to her house. Serve “Chicken in a Biskit” crackers and allow the students to experience the yummy chicken flavor, reminding them of a hot, warm meal.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:6
“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

- 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

When we give because we love God, He *always* gives back to us. Sometimes He gives back the same type of thing we gave.

Proverbs 19:17

17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

- If we give a needy person food, we may get food back.
- If we give someone an outfit, we may get clothes back.
- If we give money, we may get money back.
- If we give someone a place to stay for the night, we may later on, when we need it, get a place to stay for the night.

Sometimes He gives back something much different than we gave.

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

- If we give food, we may get a family vacation.
- If we give an outfit, we may get a meal at a restaurant.
- If we give money, we may get needed encouragement from a place we didn't expect to receive it.
- If we give someone a place to spend the night, we may get a pair of shoes.

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

- If we give someone a ride to church, we may be given an opportunity to do something we would love to do.

Sometimes we may not even notice the rewards for our giving. It's easy for us to just think that we should always have good things happen to us, so instead of noticing our blessings, we only notice when things don't go the way we wish they would go.

Today's true story from the Bible is about a giving woman who noticed the needs of the preacher. This woman didn't preach great sermons, like the preacher to whom she gave. She wasn't used of God to do miracles, as was the preacher to whom she gave, but she was used of God to help the preacher who *did* preach great sermons and who *did* perform miracles. Her giving was very important. When the woman in our story gave out of a heart of love, God gave back to her in unbelievable ways.

TEACHER'S TIP

Encourage students to notice the blessings that came to the Shunammite throughout the story. Perhaps you could have them raise their hand when they notice a blessing that may have been a result of the Shunammite's giving.

The Story

1. The Shunammite Provides Meals for Elisha (2 Kings 4:8)

The giver in our story is one of those people whose name the Bible doesn't give. Because she is from the city of Shunem, she is referred to as "this Shunammite" or "that Shunammite." We will call her "the Shunammite."

The prophet Elisha traveled from town to town preaching God's Word to the Israelite people. In his travels he often passed through the town of Shunem, where the Shunammite and her husband lived.

The Shunammite had a heart to help people, and she noticed that Elisha often passed their way. "He's been traveling a long while," she thought, "and he must be hungry."

"Why don't you join us for dinner?" she invited him.

As Elisha, the Shunammite, and her husband ate, the Shunammite said, "You know, God has been so good to us. We always have enough. And you travel through here so often. Our table will always be open to you. Every time you pass through Shunem, please stop and have a meal with us."

Elisha thanked the Shunammite for dinner and the kind offer, and he went on his way. He thanked God for providing for him through these kind people. Each time he passed through Shunem after that, he always stopped for a meal at the Shunammite's house.

Flash Card 9.1

2. The Shunammite’s Husband Makes a Room for Elisha (2 Kings 4:9-10)

One day the Shunammite and her husband were talking. “I am sure Elisha is a very godly man,” she said. “He’s a traveling prophet, but he has never one time asked to spend the night with us. I’m sure he has to find lodging somewhere every time he passes through,” she continued. “We could be a help to him. We have so much—why don’t we make a room so he and his servant could stay with us when they pass through? It wouldn’t need much—a bed, a writing table with a stool, and a lamp.”

“You’re right,” her husband answered. “There’s no reason for him to have to find another place to stay when we have plenty of room right here.”

They prepared the room for Elisha, and every time he and his servant Gehazi passed through Shunem after that, they stopped for a meal and a good night’s sleep.

3. Elisha Asks What He Can Do for the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:11-13)

One day as Elisha lay resting on the bed in his room in the Shunammite’s house, he thought about how good the Shunammite had been to him. “I wonder what I can do to repay her?” he thought.

“Gehazi,” Elisha called. “I want you to go to the Shunammite. Tell her that we know she’s done so much for us. She’s given us food, drink, and a comfortable place to stay. She furnished this room especially for us. She’s been so generous, allowing us to stop here every time we pass by.

“Then, after you have thanked her for her generosity, ask her what we can do for her. Would she like us to talk to the king for her and ask him to do a special favor for her and her husband?”

“Oh, no thank you,” the Shunammite answered Gehazi. “I can’t think of a thing I want or need. I live in this beautiful town with my husband, relatives, and friends. I have a comfortable house and a happy life. There is nothing I want or need.”

Gehazi returned to Elisha with the Shunammite’s response. “Too bad,” Elisha answered. “I really want to do something to express our gratefulness. Do you have any ideas?”

4. The Reward of a Son (2 Kings 4:14–17)

“You know,” Gehazi said thoughtfully, “the Shunammite doesn’t have any children, and her husband is old.”

“Perfect!” answered Elisha. “Call the Shunammite.”

As the Shunammite stood in the doorway of Elisha’s room, Elisha said, “About one year from now you will give birth to a son.”

The Shunammite couldn’t believe her ears. She and her husband had been married for many years and had never had a child. “Oh, please don’t lie to me!” she cried.

But what Elisha had promised came true. The following year the Shunammite gave birth to a son. And in her heart, the Shunammite knew that, even though she didn’t feel she deserved such kindness, God had given her a son because she gave to the prophet.

5. The Child Becomes Sick and Dies (2 Kings 4:18–20)

As the Shunammite’s son grew older, even before he was big enough to actually help with the work, he loved to go out to the field with his dad and the hired workers. One day as he was watching the men harvest the crop, his head began to ache. The ache grew more and more painful, until finally he cried to his dad, “My head, my head!”

His father quickly yelled to a young man, “Carry him to his mother!”

The Shunammite gently held her sick little boy on her lap. The hours went by, and he didn’t get any better. Finally, at noon, the Shunammite’s son died.

6. The Reward of Healing (2 Kings 4:20–37)

The Shunammite knew what she had to do. “It was the prophet who promised this son to me,” she thought. “God blessed me through the prophet, and I need to go to him!”

She carried her son’s body to Elisha’s room, laid him on the bed, and shut the door. She saddled a donkey and went on her way to Elisha.

Elisha looked down the road and saw someone off in the distance. “It’s that Shunammite,” he said to Gehazi. “It’s odd that she would be coming here today. Run ahead and ask her if everything’s all right.”

She pushed past Gehazi and fell down in front of Elisha and “caught him by the feet” (2 Kings 4:27).

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

“I never asked for a son,” the Shunammite cried, “even though my husband and I had been married a long time and had never had children. And then you told me I would have a son—remember? And I said to you, ‘Please don’t lie to me!’”

Elisha realized that something was terribly wrong with the Shunammite’s son. “Gehazi,” he said, “go to the Shunammite’s house and lay my staff upon the child’s face.”

“That’s not enough,” the Shunammite thought. “I want the prophet to go to my son.”

“I won’t leave you,” she said to Elisha. “You need to come with me.”

As the Shunammite and Elisha came near to the house, Gehazi met them. “The child is not awakened,” he announced.

Elisha went into the room the Shunammite had furnished for him, and he saw her son lying on his own bed. He closed the door and prayed, “Lord, only You can give life. Please restore the Shunammite’s son’s life.” Then Elisha stretched himself over the Shunammite’s son, and he felt the child’s body begin to get warm.

Elisha got up and walked back and forth, asking God to heal the boy. He went back to the boy’s body, stretched himself again over the child, and the child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

“Gehazi!” Elisha yelled, “Call the Shunammite.”

The Shunammite came to the door, and Elisha said, “Take up your son.”

“He’s alive!” she thought. The Shunammite went into the room, thanked Elisha, took her son, and went out. She knew her son was a gift from the Lord, because she had given to Elisha. And now, his life was given to her again!

7. The Reward of Returned Property (2 Kings 8:1-6)

As her son grew, the Shunammite always remembered what God had done for her through the prophet. And she always gave the prophet a meal and a place to stay when he passed through Shunem.

A few years later, God told Elisha there would be a seven-year famine in the land. Elisha called for the Shunammite and told her to take her family and go wherever she could find food and a place to stay.

The Shunammite followed the word of the prophet, and she moved her family to the land of the Philistines, where they stayed during the seven-year famine.

Flash Card 9.3

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

When the famine finally ended, the Shunammite returned to Israel to ask the king to give her back the land she had owned before she left.

As she and her son walked into the king's court, Gehazi was already there, talking to the king.

“Tell me,” the king said, “all the great things Elisha has done.”

Gehazi told the king of the many miracles God had done through Elisha, and he told him of the prophecies that had come true. And just as he finished telling the king how Elisha had restored the Shunammite's son's dead body to life, the Shunammite and her son came up and “cried to the king for her house and for her land” (2 Kings 8:5b).

“Oh king,” Gehazi cried, “this is the woman I was just telling you about. And this is her son whom Elisha restored to life!”

The king turned to the woman. “Is this true?” he asked.

And the Shunammite told the king their story. The king called an officer and said, “Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now” (2 Kings 8:6).

Proverbs 18:16

16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

The Shunammite knew that her son, her son's restored life, and now the return of her land, were gifts from the Lord, because she had given to Elisha.

Applying the Story

The Shunammite probably had a very nice home with a lot of land and hired workers. She and her husband were most likely wealthy. In fact, the Bible called her “a great woman,” which probably means that she was well known, with a lot of money and influence.

Not everyone who has money is a giver. Sometimes people who have a lot of possessions think mostly about their possessions and that they would like to have more. They may not even notice the needs of others and how much they could give to meet those needs.

So, it wasn't the Shunammite's money that made her a giver. Her heart to notice not only what she had, but also what others needed, made her a giver.

When the prophet Elisha passed by her home, and the Shunammite noticed him, she didn't just notice, “Hmmm, that man passes by here a lot.” She saw

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

his need and her ability to meet it. She noticed, “I see him pass our way often. He must be hungry when he comes through Shunem. We can give him a meal.”

As the Shunammite and her husband gave Elisha and Gehazi meals when they passed through Shunem, she noticed something else. She saw their need and her ability to meet it. “I wonder where they spend the night. We have a nice home with enough room. I’ll ask my husband if they can stay here.”

And so, Elisha, the prophet of God, had a place to stay when he passed through Shunem. Because the Shunammite had seen Elisha’s need and her ability to meet it, Elisha could arrive at the next town rested and ready to preach God’s Word to the people.

When the Shunammite gave to Elisha, God didn’t bless her, at first, in the same way she had blessed Elisha. The Shunammite didn’t need a meal or a place to spend the night. She already had those things.

But God knew of the Shunammite’s desire to have a son, so He repaid her kindness to Elisha by giving her a son.

And God’s giving back to the Shunammite didn’t end there! When her precious son died, God gave his life back to him. It was a miracle—something that only God could do, and He did it for the Shunammite.

That wasn’t the end of it either. At the end of the Shunammite’s story, she did need food and a place to live. God worked out every detail of the timing so that the Shunammite would cry to the king for her land at the exact time Gehazi was telling the king about her. God repaid the Shunammite’s giving to Elisha by returning her land to her.

The Shunammite didn’t give so she could be repaid. She gave because she noticed that she had enough, not only for her own family, but to help Elisha as well. She gave because she loved God.

The Shunammite gave what she had, and God gave her what she didn’t have. God gave her what her money and influence could never give her.

We can learn from the Shunammite:

- To notice others’ needs
- To notice our ability to meet those needs
- To give from our hearts
- That we shouldn’t wait to be asked to give—we should notice needs ourselves
- To notice what God gives us in return
- That God repays what we give in ways bigger and better than we could imagine

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

God wants all of us to be givers, partly so we can help others, and partly so we can have the rewards of giving.

So, how can *you* give? (Allow response.)

God tells us that we should never give in hopes that others will notice that we are giving. He says that if we give to be noticed by others, our reward will be just the fact that they noticed and think we are a good person.

Instead, we should give privately, without telling many people. And “thy father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly” (Matthew 6:4b).

What can you give?

We can give what the Shunammite gave. She gave what she had, and we can give what we have.

We have enough. When we notice that we have enough, we notice that we have enough to give. And when we give, we notice that God gives back to us, often in ways we would never expect.

Some people think the secret to being a good giver is to have a lot of money or things to give. But the truth is, the secret to being a good giver is being a good “noticer.”

We need to notice what other people need.

- Do they need food or water?
- Do they need clothing?
- Do they need money?
- Do they need a place to stay?
- Do they need friendship?
- Do they need a kind word?
- Do they need the Lord? (Everybody needs the Lord.)

We need to notice what we have.

- We have enough food and water.
- We have enough clothes to cover us and keep us warm.
- We have enough money.
- We have a roof over our heads.
- We have the ability to be a friend and say a kind word.
- We who are saved have the Lord.
- We have this church to attend.

Like the Shunammite, we need to notice others’ needs and then notice our ability to meet them. Then, when we give to meet those needs through a heart of love for God, we can be sure God will reward us.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

10 or more paper plates

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download

Set Up

Print and cut the game pieces and glue to the back of the paper plates. Place the plates along the tray of your dry-erase board.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams and ask review questions, alternating between the two teams. When a student answers correctly, he can pick a plate. But instead of keeping the point value behind the plate, he must give those points to the other team. Each time a student answers correctly, he gives his points to the other team. However, if the word “bountifully” is listed behind the paper plate, both teams get the points! So, if a plate is chosen with the word “sparingly,” only the other team gets the points. But, if you choose a plate with the word, “bountifully,” that team is rewarded and both teams get the points!

1. What is the giver’s name in this story?

Answer: We don’t know—we call her the Shunammite.

2. To whom did the Shunammite give?

Answer: To Elisha, the prophet of God

3. What was the first thing the Shunammite gave to Elisha?

Answer: She gave him meals at her home.

4. What did she ask her husband?

Answer: If they could furnish a room for Elisha and his servant Gehazi

5. How did the Shunammite answer Gehazi when he asked her what Elisha could do to repay her?

Answer: She didn’t need or want anything.

6. What did Gehazi realize the Shunammite didn’t have?

Answer: A child

7. What did the Shunammite do when her son died?

Answer: She went to Elisha for help.

Lesson Nine—Great Woman of Shunem

8. What did Elisha do to help the Shunammite's son?

Answer: He prayed for him and stretched himself across him, and his life came back into him.

9. What happened when the Shunammite went to ask the king to restore her property to her?

Answer: Gehazi was already there telling the king about the Shunammite's son, and the king gave her back her property.

10. Does God always reward us for giving?

Answer: Yes, but often it is not with the same thing we gave or in the way that we would expect.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:6

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Materials Needed

2 pizza pans or pie tins
Clothespins

Set Up

To set up this review game, write one word from the verse on each clothespin. Create a "Start" pin (color it green or write the word "START" with a green marker) and a "Finish" pin (write the word "FINISH" in red, or color the pin red).

Teaching the Verse

Shuffle the clothespins, and then pass one out to each student in your class. (For smaller classes, students can have 2–3 clothespins.)

Allow the students to work together as a team to put the verse in correct order between the "start" and "finish" pins on the pie tin or pizza pan.

Discuss with the students that the woman of Shunem was happy to give food to God's prophet, and we should be happy to give what we can to bless others, as well.

Variation: Make two sets of this game and divide the class into teams, allowing them to race. The first team to place the memory verse words in correct order wins.

OBJECT LESSON —Giving What You Have

Materials Needed

Wafer cookies or graham crackers
Vanilla icing (in a piping bag for best results)
Table or flat surface for demonstration

Lesson

Review the first portion of today’s lesson, beginning with the fact that the Shunammite woman provided meals for Elisha. As you discuss this again with the class, show the plate of rectangle wafer cookies. Maybe even eat one as you talk about how good the food would have tasted to Elisha after he worked so hard for the Lord.

Then, remind the students of the way the Shunammite’s husband gave to God’s man by building a guest room for him. As you review, invite your students to come around your table and watch or assist you as you build the Shunammite woman’s house, and focus on Elisha’s guest room.

The house does not need to be big or fancy. Using the icing and wafers, simply construct a house similar to the way you would a Christmas gingerbread house. If you have the time and resources, you may include decorative and edible items for the landscape surrounding the home.

Depending on the size and age group of your class, you could divide the students into groups and allow them to each build a house. They can use their creativity, but there is one requirement: each house would need to include a room for Elisha.

Application

Just as the great woman of Shunem and her husband gave of their time and resources to God’s man in providing food and shelter, God desires that we should give to Him and to others as well! We may not have a lot of money, but we can give of our time, our resources, and our talents to be a blessing to others. And when we do, God promises to reward our giving just as He did for the great woman of Shunem.

CRAFT—Rewards of Giving Bag

Supplies

The week or two before you teach lesson #9:

Ask each student to bring in new items like Gatorade, bottle of water, small package of tissue, granola bars, and prepackaged bags of candy, cookies, or trail mix to make a bag for someone in need.

- 1 plastic bag for each student
- 3 8-inch pieces of curling ribbon for each student
- 1 church tract for each student
- New items that the students brought in



Instructions

1. Give each student one plastic bag, three 8-inch pieces of curling ribbon, and a church tract.
2. Evenly distribute the new items the students brought in.
3. Ask the students to put each item in their bag.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Ten Overview

Peter's Mother-in-Law

Theme—Ministering

Scripture

Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Memory Verse

1 Samuel 12:24 — “Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.”

Lesson Outline

- 1. Peter's Mother-in-law Is Sick**
(Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)
—Flashcard 10.1
- 2. Jesus Visits Peter's House**
(Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38)
- 3. Jesus Is Told about the Sickness**
(Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)
- 4. Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law**
(Matthew 8:15; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:39)
—Flashcard 10.2
- 5. Peter's Mother-in-law Serves**
(Matthew 8:15-16; Mark 1:31-34; Luke 4:39-41)
—Flashcard 10.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	1 Samuel 12:24
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Candy & Ice
Bible Lesson	Peter's Mother-in-Law
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Oyster Crackers
Review Game/Questions	Serving Spoons
Craft	Serving God Journal
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.



LESSON TEN

Peter's Mother-in-Law

Theme: Ministering

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Matthew 8:14–15, Mark 1:29–31, and Luke 4:38–39.
- Study Lesson Ten.
- Flashcards 10.1–10.3
- Prepare snack—Oyster Crackers.
- Gather for review game—plastic spoons, a cup, and a Sharpie marker.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—Memory Verse Card from the Visual Aid Pack, apron, kitchen gloves, and snack (from snack suggestion at the beginning of the lesson).
- Gather for object lesson—candy of your choice, ice cubes, and disposable bath cups.
- Gather for craft—Serving God Journal printable from the Ministry Resource download; glue sticks; pom poms; photo of each student; 1-inch-wide ribbons approximately 4.25 inches long; 1/8 inch wide ribbon per student approximately 4.25 inches long; and a stapler and staples.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 8:14–15

- 14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.
- 15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

SNACK SUGGESTION

Oyster Crackers

Serve oyster crackers this week and explain to students that oyster crackers are often a yummy addition to soup. Soup is a comforting meal for those who are sick and those who aren't! This snack can remind us of Peter's mother-in-law, who was once sick, but rose to serve Jesus once He healed her. (If your class size or weather are conducive to this, you could serve the oyster crackers with small cups of soup.)

MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24

*"Only fear the LORD,
and serve him in truth
with all your heart:
for consider how
great things he hath
done for you."*

Mark 1:29–31

- 29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
- 30 But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.
- 31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

Luke 4:38–39

- 38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. And Simon’s wife’s mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.
- 39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

What do you think of when you hear the word *minister*? (Allow students to respond.) You may picture a preacher standing behind a pulpit. He reads the Bible, he prays, he preaches a sermon, and he gives an invitation. After the service, he stands by the door to greet those who have come to church. He may visit his church members when they are sick. He may perform weddings and funerals. He is called a minister because he serves the Lord and others.

Or you may picture the head of a government, such as the prime minister of England. Now, in America the head of our government is called the president; but in England and some other countries, the equivalent to our president is called the prime minister. These leaders run their areas of government, and they are called ministers because they serve the people of their country.

As you may have guessed, minister means “to attend and serve; to perform service; to afford supplies; to give things needful; to supply the means of relief.”

Do you think you need to have a specific title to minister? (Allow response.) Who can minister? (Allow response.) Everyone can minister. In fact, as we will learn from today’s behind-the-scenes helper, ministering is exactly what every Christian is called to do.

The Story

1. Peter’s Mother-in-law Is Sick (Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)

The first thing the Bible tells us about our behind-the-scenes helper is that she was Peter’s wife’s mother—his mother-in-law. Shortly before today’s story, Peter and his brother Andrew had been fishing in the Sea of Galilee, when Jesus walked by and called, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus. So now, Peter was a disciple of Jesus.

The second thing the Bible tells us about Peter’s mother-in-law is that she was sick—very sick. She lay on a mat, burning up with “a great fever.” The fever made her so sick that she couldn’t get up. All she could do was lie there, burning with fever.

With high fevers, sometimes the person feels like they’re on fire. Then, sometimes great chills run through their body, and they shake and shiver, and no matter how many blankets they wrap themselves in, and no matter how warm the room they are in, they can’t get warm.

The person with the fever is burning hot, and then freezing cold, over and over and over. Usually their head hurts and their eyes burn and their body aches. Sometimes the fever is so high that they become delirious (unable to speak or think clearly), and they say things that don’t make sense.

Peter’s mother-in-law must have felt all these things, because the Bible says she “was taken of a great fever.” She could do nothing but lie there with a great fever.

2. Jesus Visits Peter’s House (Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38)

And then everything changed for Peter’s mother-in-law. Peter and Andrew, whose families both lived in the house with her, came home, bringing two other disciples—James and John—along with Jesus.

The disciples had been in the synagogue with Jesus, listening to Him preach. The Bible says that when Jesus preached, all the people that heard Him were amazed, because “His word was with power” (Luke 4:32b). The people listening in the synagogue could see there was something different about Jesus. They were used to hearing the scribes preach in the synagogue, and the scribes’

Flash Card 10.1

DRAW IT!



Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

preaching didn’t seem to have power. But Jesus’ preaching was with power because it came from God—Jesus *is* God the Son.

Then, in that synagogue full of people, a man cried out, “Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24). This man, the Bible says, was possessed by an evil spirit; and the spirit recognized that Jesus was God.

“Hold thy peace, and come out of him” (Mark 1:25b), Jesus commanded the evil spirit. “And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him” (Mark 1:26).

There in the synagogue that Sabbath day, all the people saw Jesus do something they had never seen before. He had cast an evil spirit out of a man! They were amazed. “We can’t believe this,” they said to each other. “What is going on here? What is this man teaching? He can even command the evil spirits—and *they obey Him!*” When they left the synagogue, they told everybody what they had seen.

That wasn’t the first miracle the people had seen Jesus do. Jesus had been walking with a group of people, and a man had come to him and said, “Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy [paralysis], grievously tormented” (Matthew 8:6). Jesus told the man that He would go home with the man and heal his servant.

“Oh, no,” the man said. “I am not worthy for You to come to my house. But I know You just have to say the Word, and my servant will be healed.”

Jesus turned to the people who were following Him and said, “I haven’t seen anyone with such great faith.” Jesus was very pleased, because faith is what pleases Him the most.

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Then Jesus spoke to the man, “Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee” (Matthew 8:13). And the servant was healed!

So, with a crowd of people watching, Jesus told a man that his servant was healed, and *Jesus didn’t even need to be present with the servant to heal him*. And the servant was healed!

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

Those were wonderful times for the disciples—being Jesus’ followers as great crowds of people watched Him do miracles. But now they were home, and things would be quiet, they thought.

3. Jesus Is Told about the Sickness (Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)

But Jesus doesn’t need great crowds of people to do miracles. Jesus works quietly in individual lives; and that is what He did in Peter’s house that day.

As they came through the door, Peter asked his family, “How is she doing?” “She’s no better,” they answered. “We’re really worried about her.”

“I’ve seen what Jesus can do,” Peter thought. “Nothing is too hard for Him.”

“But what if...” Peter may have wondered, “what if Jesus only heals people when there are crowds of people watching, so everyone will see His great power and will know that He is God? Here we are, in our little house, with no one except the few of us looking on. Would Jesus do a miracle here?”

But Peter knew better, because He knew Jesus. He turned to Jesus and quietly said, “My mother-in-law is very sick. One minute she’s burning with fever, and the next minute she’s shaking with chills. Will You take a look at her?”

4. Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law (Matthew 8:15; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:39)

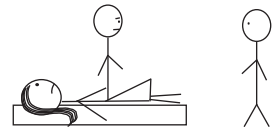
Peter led Jesus to the mat where his mother-in-law lay burning with fever. “Oh, look!” the family members probably whispered to each other. “Jesus cares about her. Look how He stands over her, looking at her so kindly.”

They saw Jesus reach down and gently touch her hand. Jesus felt the fever as He touched her. And as Jesus took her by the hand, He spoke—He commanded the fever to leave her body, and Peter’s mother-in-law was miraculously healed by Jesus!

5. Peter’s Mother-in-law Serves (Matthew 8:15–16; Mark 1:31–34; Luke 4:39–41)

In an instant, Peter’s mother-in-law was completely healed. One minute she had been lying on the mat, aching and burning and then shivering with fever, and the next minute there was not a thing wrong with her.

DRAW IT!



Flash Card 10.2

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

She wasn’t weak. She didn’t have a little fever left. She didn’t need to rest. She didn’t need to take medicine to make sure the fever didn’t come back. It was as if she had never been sick.

“I’m healed—thank You, Jesus,” she said. “You’ve done a miracle in my life.”

1 Samuel 12:24

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Now, let me get busy serving Him,” she thought. And then Peter’s mother-in-law did what every Christian should do: she served.

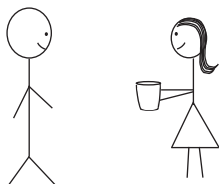
She served Jesus and the other people in the house. The Bible says, “she ministered unto them” (Mark 1:31). *Minister* means “to attend and serve; to perform service; to afford supplies; to give things needful; to supply the means of relief.”

“It’s time to eat,” she thought.

And with a happy smile she prepared, served, and cleaned up after a meal.

Flash Card 10.3

DRAW IT!



Psalms 100:2

2 Serve the LORD with gladness...

She may have washed their feet. She may have brought them a cup of tea and a piece of fruit after the meal. She did whatever she could do for them. She didn’t just send something to them—she *ministered* to them. She was right there, meeting their needs.

Applying the Story

Peter’s mother-in-law wasn’t a main character in the Bible. In fact, the only place we read about her in the Bible is in this story—in just a few short verses. She was simply a woman—probably a widow—living with and serving her family. Peter’s mother-in-law was a woman who was thankful for what Jesus had done in her life. That thankfulness led her to minister to Jesus. And one way she ministered to Jesus was ministering to others.

Matthew 25:40

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

Jesus didn’t heal Peter’s mother-in-law in front of great crowds, as He did others. He healed her in front of just a few people—her family and a few disciples. But by sharing her story in the Bible, one of the things God teaches us is that the result of Jesus’ blessing our lives should be our ministering to Him.

Peter’s mother-in-law didn’t minister to or serve Jesus so He would do something great for her. Jesus already *had* done something great for her. He had done a miracle in her life. Jesus didn’t do the miracle because she was serving Him. She served Him because He had done the miracle.

And that’s how it is with us. Serving God doesn’t make us Christians, but being Christians makes us want to serve God. And serving Him is the right thing for Christians to do. God has done so much for us that it’s only reasonable for us to serve Him.

Romans 12:1

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

Peter’s mother-in-law knew this, and she gave her whole self to serve the Lord. Her body had been healed, and she used it for His service.

Most of us haven’t been miraculously healed from a disease. But can you think of a miracle God has done in your life? (Allow response.) If you have trusted Jesus as your Saviour, He has done a miracle in your life. He has given you eternal life. You will never have to go to the awful place the Bible calls *Hell* to pay the price for your sins. Jesus has already paid that price for you, and if you have accepted His free gift of salvation, He has done the greatest miracle of all in your life.

So, like Peter’s mother-in-law, we are to get up and minister to the Lord. We have been given eternal life, and we are to use the new life (2 Corinthians 5:17) He has given us to serve Him—to minister to Him. When we do that, God will be glorified.

1 Peter 4:11

- 11 ...If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

Ministering goes beyond just serving—it involves serving from the heart. We minister because we sense a person’s real need, and we do what we can to meet that need—from our heart.

The most significant thing about ministering to Jesus is that when we are ministering to Him, we are *with* Him. We attend Him, like a waitress attends a table in a restaurant. She is there to reach out to those on whom she waits. She is there to notice and supply their needs.

In the Bible, at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days and forty nights. At the end of His fast, the Bible says that angels came and ministered unto Him (Matthew 4:11). The angels had been studying Jesus, and they knew exactly what Jesus wanted and needed; and they graciously and lovingly reached out to Him and supplied His needs.

That is exactly how we can minister to Jesus. We study Him through His Word. Then, we will know exactly what He wants, and we can graciously and lovingly reach out to Him.

The Bible is absolutely brimming over with information as to how we can please the Lord, and the more we read it, the better we will know Him. And the better we know Him, the more we will want to be with Him and minister to Him.

Jesus summed all the commandments in the Bible up into two short commandments.

Matthew 22:37–39

- 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- 38 This is the first and great commandment.
- 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Peter knew that Jesus, who loved him, would always take care of him.

Matthew 6:26

- 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

So, how do we minister to Jesus? We love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. When we love Him, we will minister to Him.

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

- We will spend time with Him, reading His Word.
- We will spend time with Him, talking to Him, asking Him to teach us more about Him, and telling Him we love Him.
- We will spend time with Him, going to church to hear His Word preached and taught.
- We will spend time with Him, telling others about Him.
(Matthew 28:18–20).
- We will spend time with Him, asking Him to teach us how to minister to others.

How do we minister to Jesus? We love others as much as we love ourselves. When we love others, we will minister to them.

- When we spend time with Jesus, we will become more like Him, living for others.
- When we spend time with Jesus, we will realize how much everyone else needs Him, and we will want to spend time with them, sharing the gospel with them.
- When we spend time with Jesus, we will notice how much He has done for us, and we will want to spend time with others, sharing with them how good God is.
- When we spend time with Jesus, we will begin to notice the needs of others, and we will want to spend time with them to meet those needs. Their needs may be physical, like for food or a helping hand. Their needs may be emotional, like for comfort or encouragement. Their needs may be spiritual, like needing the gospel.

Anyone can minister to Jesus—anywhere! When you are riding the school bus, you can be with Jesus, telling Him in your heart how thankful you are for Him. When you are at school, you can be with Jesus, asking Him to help you minister to others. When you are doing your chores at home, you can be with Jesus, asking Him to help you serve your family. When you are at church, you can be with Jesus, asking Him to help you reach out to and encourage others.

Ministry is for every Christian, every place and everywhere. Ministry flows out of hearts that are grateful for what Jesus has done for us. The first step to becoming a minister is loving the Lord, spending time with Him, and noticing the great things He has done for you in the new life He has given you. Then, like Peter’s mother-in-law, you can use your life to minister to Him.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Plastic spoons

Cup

Sharpie marker

Set Up

Write various point values on each spoon and place face down in a cup or holder.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into teams and begin taking turns, asking questions to each team. When a student answers a question correctly, he can take a spoon from the cup. Whatever points are listed on the spoon are awarded to his team. The team with the most points at the end of the game, wins.

1. Where were Jesus and the disciples before they went to Peter’s house?

Answer: In the synagogue

2. What had the disciples seen Jesus do?

Answer: Heal the sick and cast out evil spirits

3. What was wrong with Peter’s mother-in-law?

Answer: She was sick with a great fever.

4. Was there a great crowd of people in the house when Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law?

Answer: No, just a few disciples and family members

5. What did Jesus do when He saw Peter’s mother-in-law who had a great fever?

Answer: He stood over her, touched her hand, took her by the hand, and commanded the fever to leave.

6. How long did it take for Peter’s mother-in-law to be healed after Jesus commanded the fever to leave?

Answer: She was healed instantly.

7. What did she do as soon as she was healed?

Answer: She got up and ministered to Jesus and the other people who were in the house.

Lesson Ten—Peter’s Mother-in-Law

8. What does *minister* mean?

Answer: Answers will vary but should include “serving” and/or some of the following: “to attend and serve; to perform service; to afford supplies; to give things needful; to supply the means of relief.”

9. Did Peter’s mother-in-law serve Jesus so He would do something great for her?

Answer: No, she served Him because He had already done something great for her—He had healed her.

10. Do we minister to or for Jesus so we can be saved?

Answer: No, we minister because we *are* saved.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24

24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack

Apron

Kitchen gloves

Snack (from Snack Suggestion at the beginning of the lesson)

Teaching the Verse

Teach this verse in the form of a relay, by calling on one student at a time to come to the front. When you say, “Begin,” the class can recite the verse from the Memory Verse Card. While the class says the verse, the student you select performs a personal relay, putting on the apron and gloves (and any other kitchen props you may want to incorporate) and serving snack to as many students as possible before the verse ends. Once the class has completed reciting the verse, the student stops serving and a new volunteer can come to the front to participate in the relay.

Repeat this exercise until the snack has been distributed to every student or until the students know the verse well enough to say it without help from the Memory Verse Card.

For class discussion, remind the students how quickly Peter’s mother-in-law began serving after Jesus healed her and ask for ways we can quickly and efficiently serve others throughout the week.

OBJECT LESSON—Candy & Ice

Materials Needed

Candy of your choice

Ice cubes

Disposable bath cups

Lesson

Begin this object lesson by asking each student in the class to eat a piece of candy. As they eat their candy, ask the students how it tasted. Perhaps call on a few to describe the flavor and texture of the candy.

Once the candy has been eaten, provide an ice cube for each student. Ask the class to hold the ice cubes in their mouths for as long as possible. When their tongue is so cold and they can no longer bear it, they can spit the ice cube in their little cup.

But, once the ice cube is removed, instruct them to immediately replace it with a piece of candy. (They may need to have a piece of candy unwrapped before holding the ice on their tongue.)

Again, discuss how the candy tasted this time. Because the ice should have numbed their tongues, they should not be able to taste or accurately feel the texture of the candy this time around.

Application

Ask your students, “Why did the candy taste different the second time you ate it? What caused the change in taste and texture, even though it was the same type of candy?”

What can we learn from this experiment? Well, when we only think of ourselves, our heart becomes numb to the needs of others. Just like the ice caused us to be numb to the taste of our candy, our selfish desires can make us numb to how we can help others.

But, when our hearts are soft and attentive to the needs of people around us rather than our own needs, we enjoy the sweet reward of serving others. We delight to do it and look for opportunities to serve over and over again, just like Peter’s mother-in-law!

Any type of service, no matter how big or how small, is important! In what way can you serve others this week? The more you enjoy the sweetness of service, the more you will want to serve others in need!

CRAFT—Serving God Journal

Supplies

- 1 Serving God Journal printable per student
- 1 glue stick per student
- 4 pom poms per student
- 1 photo of each student
- 1 1-inch-wide ribbon per student, approximately 4.25 inches long
- One 1/8-inch-wide ribbon per student, approximately 4.25 inches long
- Stapler and staples



Instructions

1. Give each student a Serving God Journal printable, one 1 inch-wide ribbon, and one 1/8 inch-wide ribbon, four pom poms, and his or her photo. Instruct each student to fold the journal in half and staple the book down the spine using 2–3 staples.
2. Ask each student to glue his or her photo to the cover, then glue the 1-inch-wide ribbon to the outside of the cover on the spine, covering up the staples.
3. Next, have each student glue the 1/8-inch-wide ribbon to the inside middle of the book, covering the staples.
4. Next, ask each student to glue the pom poms to each corner of the photo.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Eleven Overview

The Four Friends

Theme—Soulwinning

Scripture

Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Memory Verse

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Lesson Outline

- 1. The Paralyzed Man**
(Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)
- 2. His Friends Take Him to Jesus**
(Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)
- 3. No Room in the House** (Mark 2:2; Luke 5:19)
- 4. His Friends Lower Him through the Roof**
(Mark 2:4; Luke 5:19)
—Flashcard 11.1
- 5. Jesus Forgives the Paralytic Man**
(Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20)
—Flashcard 11.2
- 6. The Pharisees and Scribes Accuse Jesus in Their Hearts** (Matthew 9:3; Mark 2:6-7; Luke 5:2)
- 7. Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man**
(Matthew 9:3-7; Mark 2:6-12; Luke 5:21-25)
—Flashcard 11.3
- 8. All the People Are Amazed**
(Matthew 9:8; Mark 2:12; Luke 5:26)

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Mark 16:15
Song Time	
Object Lesson	More Than Four!
Bible Lesson	The Four Friends
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Graham Cracker Mats
Review Game/Questions	Connect Four
Craft	Four Friends Puppets
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

11

LESSON ELEVEN

The Four Friends

Theme: Soulwinning

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Matthew 9:2–8, Mark 2:1–12, and Luke 5:17–26.
- Study Lesson Eleven.
- Flashcards 11.1–11.3
- Prepare snack—Graham Cracker Mats.
- Gather for object lesson—128 pieces of small candy and a brown paper bag.
- Gather for review game—*Connect 4* game and a table.
- Gather for teaching the verse—Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack and inflatable globe beach ball.
- Gather for craft—Mini popsicle sticks, strips of material (1 inch by 5 inches long), friends and sick man printables from the Ministry Resource download, craft foam (2 inches by 5 inches long), pieces of yarn (4 inches long), glue sticks, and pairs of scissors.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 9:2–8

- 2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.
- 3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.
- 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

SNACK SUGGESTION

Graham Cracker Mats

- Teddy Grahams (5 pieces per student)
- Graham Crackers (1/4 piece per student)
- Vanilla Icing

This snack can be put together during class time, if your schedule allows. Give each student five Teddy Grahams and one graham cracker rectangle (1/4 of a whole graham cracker). Using the icing, glue the graham cracker piece to the top of four Teddy Grahams (one Teddy Graham in each corner). Place the last Teddy Graham on top of the graham cracker. This creates a picture of the four friends who carried their one friend on a flat bed to meet Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 16:15

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

- 5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?
- 6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.
- 7 And he arose, and departed to his house.
- 8 But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Have you ever heard a story like this?

A person was really sick, or they had a terrible injury. Maybe they had excruciating pain, or they could no longer move part of their body. Maybe they couldn't walk. Then someone said, "I've heard of a doctor who has treated a lot of people with this same problem. The people this doctor has treated have gotten well."

So, the sick or injured person went to that doctor. Then sometime later—maybe a short time, or maybe a long time—the person was well again.

In these stories, we tend to think about how great it is that the person got well. We may think about how great the doctor is that was able to help them get well. But we don't always even know who the person was who told the sick person about the doctor—they aren't usually a main character in the story. But the truth is, if the person hadn't told about the doctor, the sick person may never have heard about the doctor any other way; and the sick person likely wouldn't have gotten well.

So, the person who told their friend about the doctor is what we have been studying about—a behind-the-scenes helper.

Today's true story from the Bible is exactly this kind of story! Some men had a friend who needed healing. And these four behind-the-scenes helpers didn't just *tell* their friend about someone who could heal him—they *brought* him to Him.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Palsy—The loss or defect of the power of voluntary muscular motion in the whole body, or in a particular part; often accompanied by loss of sensation and uncontrollable body movements or tremors; paralysis

The Story

1. The Paralyzed Man (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)

The sick man in our story had likely been sick for a long time. His sickness wasn't the kind that is contagious, like chicken pox or the flu. The Bible says he was "sick of the palsy." When we talk about that particular problem today, we say the person is "paralyzed."

Paralysis can occur in any part of the body. Sometimes the paralyzed body part has uncontrollable movements that cause it to jerk without the person even intending to move.

When a person's legs are paralyzed, the person can't walk, like the sick man in our story. He couldn't do the things we take for granted. He couldn't have walked out to the car or bus to come to church, like we did today. He couldn't have walked out to the kitchen to get a glass of water. He couldn't have walked out the door to go to work.

If this paralyzed man wanted to go somewhere, he had to rely on friends and neighbors to pick up the mat he lay upon and carry him where he wanted to go.

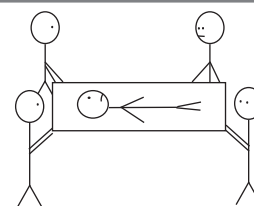
2. His Friends Take Him to Jesus (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:3; Luke 5:18)

The paralyzed man had four friends. These friends were not paralyzed, and when he needed to go somewhere, these friends would get together, lift up the mat he lay on, and carry him.

But the man didn't usually go anywhere. His friends had other things to do. They needed to work to support their families. They needed to spend time with their families. They needed to go to the synagogue to worship on the Sabbath day.

As those four men were out doing what they needed to do, they began hearing rumors of a man who had healed a man from leprosy. They couldn't believe their ears! Leprosy was a terrible disease, and a leper (a person with leprosy) had to be shut off from all their friends and relatives because the disease was so contagious. Leprosy would make a person slowly lose his fingers, toes, ears, nose, and eventually all his body. Lepers, it seemed, never got well, but people were saying that this man had healed a leper!

DRAW IT!



Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

As the days went by, they heard this story more and more—it seemed as if everyone were talking about it.

Mark 1:45

45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

That wasn't the only story they heard about healings, and the person doing all the healing was a man named Jesus.

- In their own synagogue in Capernaum, He had cast a demon out of a man. (Mark 1:21–28)
- He had healed the disciple Peter's mother-in-law of a terrible fever. (Mark 1:29–31)
- He had healed many that were sick of all kinds of diseases. (Mark 2:34)

But the main thing this Jesus did, they heard, was preach the gospel.

Mark 1:14–15

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

The gospel is that Jesus came to Earth as a tiny baby, born of a virgin. He lived His life without ever one time sinning. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. He was buried in a tomb, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again from the dead to give eternal life to all those who trust in His payment for their sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Romans 10:13

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

“I believe,” each of the men said. “I trust in Him.”

The four men hurried to their paralyzed friend’s house. “You’ll never believe it!” they told him. “We have heard about a man named Jesus. He heals sick people! He has cast demons out of people. He healed a man of leprosy and a woman of fever. We believe He can heal you!” The four friends were full of faith.

“Me? Heal me?” The paralyzed man had never thought about being healed. It seemed his life would always be like it was now. It seemed he would always lie on a mat, waiting for others to take care of him and carry him where he needed to go. That’s all he had known.

“Let’s go!” his four friends shouted together. “We have heard that He is preaching at a house down the street.”

The four friends lifted the paralyzed man’s mat, and they headed toward the house where Jesus was preaching.

3. No Room in the House (Mark 2:2; Luke 5:19)

These four men with their friend on his mat were not the only ones who came to hear Jesus at the house in Capernaum. It seemed as if everyone had heard that Jesus would be there that day. When they got to the house, they couldn’t even get up to the door, there were so many people!

“Oh no!” One of the men exclaimed. “There’s no way we can get through all these people.”

“We’ve got to find a way!” one of the friends answered. “This man needs Jesus.”

“We’re not giving up!” they all agreed.

The four friends looked into the eyes of the paralyzed man. “You need Jesus,” they said. “We’ve come this far, and we’re not going back now.”

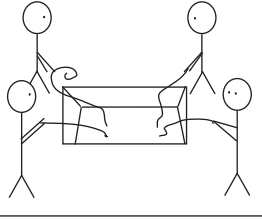
4. His Friends Lower Him through the Roof (Mark 2:4; Luke 5:19)

The four friends could think of nothing else. Nothing was as important to them as getting their friend to Jesus. With hearts full of determination, they carried their paralyzed friend around the outside of the house, and they found a set of stairs that led up to the flat roof of the house. “That’s it!” one of them said. “He looked at the paralyzed man and said, “We’ve found a way! We’re going to make a hole in the roof and lower you down, right at Jesus’ feet!”

That’s exactly what they did. The four men, carrying the man, carefully climbed the stairs up to the roof. “Jesus must be right about here,” they said, and they began breaking up the mud tiles above where Jesus stood preaching.

Flash Card 11.1

DRAW IT!



The people in the house below began to see a little light coming in through the ceiling. Then they began feeling crumbling pieces of mud falling on them. The hole got bigger and, to the people’s surprise, a man was lowered down through that hole, right to the feet of Jesus. They couldn’t believe their eyes!

5. Jesus Forgives the Paralytic Man (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20)

But Jesus *could* believe His eyes. The paralyzed man at His feet was no surprise to Jesus, because Jesus knows everything. He knew what the men were doing on the roof. He knew they wanted their friend to be healed. He knew of their faith in Him, and He knew of the paralyzed man’s faith in Him.

Jesus knew that, while the man’s body was paralyzed, healing from paralysis wasn’t what He needed most. More than anything, this man needed something no one else could see. More than anything, he needed forgiveness for his sins, and Jesus knew the man wanted it.

So, Jesus looked at that man like a father looks at his son, through the most loving eyes the paralyzed man had ever seen.

Flash Card 11.2

Psalm 103:13

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Then Jesus did the greatest miracle of all. “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee,” He said. He forgave the man’s sins.

“I’m free from my sins! I’m forgiven!” the paralyzed man must have thought. He had faith in Jesus, and he was full of joy.

6. The Pharisees and Scribes Accuse Jesus in Their Hearts (Matthew 9:3; Mark 2:6-7; Luke 5:21)

Not everyone in the house was happy that Jesus had forgiven the paralyzed man. Religious leaders called Pharisees and scribes, who were full of pride and didn’t believe they needed a Saviour to forgive them of their sins, said, “This man blasphemes (speaks lies about God or claims to have characteristics that only God has). No one but God can forgive sins!”

And those men were right! No one but God *can* forgive sins. But Jesus is God the Son, and God *can* forgive sins.

7. Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man (Matthew 9:3-7; Mark 2:6-12; Luke 5:21-25)

Not only can God forgive sins, God knows every thought we think. Jesus knew what the religious leaders were thinking.

Psalm 139:2

2 ...thou understandest my thought afar off.

“Why are you thinking these evil thoughts?” Jesus asked. “Do you think it’s easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Arise, and take up your bed, and walk?’ But, I want you to know that I *can* forgive sins.”

So, Jesus again looked at the paralyzed man lying on his mat at Jesus’ feet, and Jesus must have smiled as He said, “Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.”

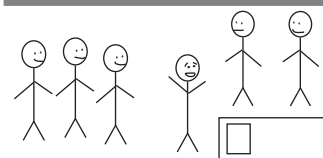
And the man did! “And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God” (Luke 5:25).

Flash Card 11.3

8. All the People Are Amazed (Matthew 9:8; Mark 2:12; Luke 5:26)

Everyone there was amazed! They knew this miracle was from God and that the man who performed it must have been from God. “We’ve never seen anything like this,” they said.

DRAW IT!



Applying the Story

It’s obvious from this story that Jesus is God.

- He knew people’s thoughts. (Psalm 139:2b)
- He saw their faith. (Hebrews 11:6a)
- He healed a man who couldn’t walk. (Psalm 103:3)
- He could perform the miracle that a paralyzed man needed even more than healing—He could forgive his sins. (Psalm 103:3; Daniel 9:9)

The paralyzed man needed what Jesus could give—forgiveness of his sins. Somehow that man needed to get to Jesus. Somehow that man needed to see that there was more to life than what he had known. He needed someone to tell him there was more. He needed Jesus. He needed someone to show him the way.

Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

The paralyzed man couldn't get to Jesus by himself. He needed someone to *take him to Jesus*.

It's a good thing he had four friends who had faith. You could see the faith of those four friends by their actions.

James 1:22

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

These four friends wanted the paralyzed man to get to Jesus before he even knew about Jesus. Those four friends told him who Jesus was, and they brought him to Jesus.

There, at Jesus' feet, the paralyzed man got exactly what he needed most—forgiveness of his sins.

Still today, the most important miracle that Jesus performs is forgiveness of sins. It's what every person in the world needs more than anything else. Every person who hasn't trusted Jesus as his Saviour needs forgiveness of sins more than anything.

- Every sick person needs forgiveness of sins.
- Every heartbroken person needs forgiveness of sins.
- Every person with family struggles needs forgiveness of sins.
- Every bullied person needs forgiveness of sins.
- Every frightened person needs forgiveness of sins.
- Every person in every circumstance needs forgiveness of sins.

Every person who dies without his sins forgiven will spend eternity (which is forever) in an awful place the Bible calls Hell.

But that doesn't have to happen, because Jesus brings people into our lives, just as He brought the paralyzed man into the lives of his four friends, so we can tell them about Jesus. We have to remember with the people in our lives that the most important thing they need is forgiveness of sins. They need to be brought to Jesus.

Sometimes it's easy to forget what the most important thing is.

- You may have a grandma or other loved one who has a sickness like cancer, and you are afraid she won't live very long. You want so much for her to be healed. And you think what she needs most is to be healed. But if your grandma hasn't trusted Jesus as her Saviour, the most important thing she needs in the whole world is forgiveness of sins. She needs you to take her to Jesus. She needs you to tell her who He is and why He came.
- You may know someone who is bullied at school. And you feel sorry for them and think what they need most is a friend to be kind to them. And

Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

they do need a friend to be kind to them. The kindest thing a friend can do for someone is to take them to Jesus—tell them who He is and why He came. They need you to tell them how to have forgiveness of sins.

- You may know someone who has problems in their family. And you try to be there for them, listening to their problems. It's easy to think they need you. And they do need you. They need you to take them to Jesus—tell them who He is and why He came. They need you to tell them how to have forgiveness of sins.

Every person you know needs Jesus more than they need anything else. We are sometimes tempted to think that *we* are what they need. We like the feeling we get when we help people. We like people to trust us enough to share their hearts with us, and we like it when they feel we have helped them.

If we have helped them physically or emotionally, but we haven't helped them spiritually (taking them to Jesus for forgiveness of sins), we have only helped them for a little while. Just like everyone else who hasn't trusted Jesus' death on the cross to pay for their sins, they will one day go to Hell when they die.

The four men *knew* Jesus could help their paralyzed friend. They believed with all their hearts that Jesus could heal the man, and it was worth it to them to do whatever it took to get him to Jesus.

Without these four friends, the story would have ended so differently—the paralyzed man may never have met Jesus. Those four friends—the behind-the-scenes helpers—are a picture of what we can be for our friends and family. We can lead them to Jesus!

They may not know they need Jesus. Like the paralyzed man, they may not even know much about Jesus, and they may think that all they know in life is all there is.

But *you* know they need Jesus. *You* know about Jesus. *You* are the one God has put into their lives to tell them about Him and to lead them to Him.

The four friends didn't give up. They didn't just try to get their friend to Jesus and then see that it was too hard and give up. They didn't turn back when there was no room in the house. They didn't say, "Well, I guess there's no way." They *looked* for another way.

That's what you can do. You can tell your friend or family member what Jesus has done for you in your life. If they appear not to be interested, you can continue to pray for them. You can invite them to church. If they don't come, you can continue to pray for them. You can give them a tract that explains how to trust Jesus. If they don't read it or believe it, you can pray for them. Never give up. Keep asking the Lord to show you another way to get them to Him. And never stop praying for them.

TEACHER'S TIP

Bring enough tracts with you to give several to each student. These should be tracts that present the gospel clearly in a way that could be used by your students to lead someone to Christ.

Leave enough time at the end of the lesson to go through the tract with them, pretending they are the person being witnessed to. They should leave class today with the desire and knowledge to lead someone to Jesus.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Connect 4 Game
Table

Set Up

Assemble the *Connect 4* game as indicated in the instructions. Place on a desk or table.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into two teams. When a student answers a question correctly, she can take a turn playing the game according to the *Connect 4* directions. The first team to “connect four” wins the game.

1. What was the man’s sickness?

Answer: He was sick of the palsy.

2. If the paralyzed man needed to go somewhere, how would he get there?

Answer: His friends or neighbors would take him.

3. How many friends carried this man?

Answer: Four

4. What miracles did these four friends hear about?

Answer: Jesus casting out demons, healing a leper, healing a fever, healing all kinds of sicknesses

5. What did Jesus do besides healing people—which was really the most important thing?

Answer: He forgave people; saved them from their sins.

6. What did the four men carrying the paralyzed man find when they got to the house where Jesus was preaching?

Answer: There were so many people that there was no room for them to get through the door and take him to Jesus.

7. How did the four friends get the man to Jesus?

Answer: They lowered him through a hole they made in the roof.

Lesson Eleven—The Four Friends

8. What was the first thing Jesus said to the paralyzed man?

Answer: Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

9. What did the man do when Jesus said, “Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house”?

Answer: He got up, picked up his bed, and went to his house.

10. What is the most important thing you can do for someone who isn’t saved?

Answer: Take them to Jesus; tell them how to have forgiveness of sin.

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Mark 16:15

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Materials Needed

Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack

Inflatable globe beach ball

Teaching the Verse

Say the verse several times, reciting it from the Memory Verse Card. Once the students have learned the verse, toss the globe ball into the air and instruct the students to recite the verse while simultaneously keeping the ball in the air. If the ball falls to the ground, begin again. Continue until the students have learned the verse and follow the time of review with a brief discussion on the importance of “not dropping the ball” when it comes to sharing the good news of the gospel with the world.

OBJECT LESSON— More Than Four!

Materials Needed

128 pieces of small candy
Brown paper bag

Lesson

Do you know that we can be just like the four friends who brought their one friend to Jesus? We can each do our part to share the gospel with those around us. If we each do our part, God can multiply our efforts, so that many people can come to Christ!

Let me show you how it works. (Hold up one piece of candy.) This one piece of candy represents just one child who has received the gift of salvation. If he tells just one other person (hold up a second piece of candy), now two have a relationship with Jesus!

But, if those two each reach a friend, now there are four friends who have accepted Christ! If those four friends each tell a friend, now eight people have to come to know Jesus.

Continue this pattern, taking the appropriate number of candy pieces out each time, perhaps laying them on a table for the class to see. Continue with sixteen pieces, thirty-two pieces, sixty-four pieces, until you reach 128 pieces of candy, representing 128 people who received the good news of salvation, all because each one did his part to share it.

Application

At the end of this demonstration, allow the children to eat a piece of the candy and explain that when we each do our part to bring others to Christ, it changes lives for eternity! And God multiplies our efforts so that many people can come to know Him!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

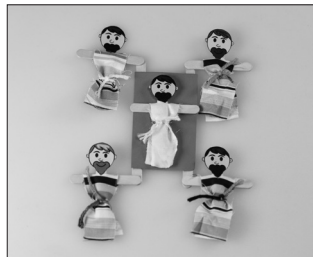
Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

CRAFT—Four Friends Puppets

Supplies

- 14 mini popsicle sticks per student
- 5 strips of material (1 inch by 5 inches long) per student
- 4 friends and 1 sick man printable per student
- 1 (2 inches by 5 inches long) craft foam per student
- 5 (4 inches long) pieces of yarn per student
- 1 glue stick per student
- 1 pair of scissors per student



Instructions

1. Give each student fourteen mini popsicle sticks, five strips of material, five printable heads, one craft foam, five pieces of yarn, and one glue stick.
2. Instruct the students to glue two popsicle sticks together—making a cross.
3. Then instruct the students to cut a small hole in the middle of one strip of material. Insert into the cross. Using a piece of yarn, tie around the cross just below where the mini popsicle sticks are glued together.
4. Then, instruct the students to glue one head onto the top of the popsicle stick, making a puppet.
5. Have the students repeat to make the remaining puppets.
6. Ask the students to take one craft foam and glue two mini popsicle sticks end to end on the right side and then the left side—making a bed.
7. Have the students reenact the story with the puppets.

Lesson Twelve Overview

Onesimus

Theme—Forgiveness and Restitution

Scripture Philemon 1-25

Memory Verse

Colossians 3:13—“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

Lesson Outline

1. **Greetings** (*Philemon 1-3*)
—Flashcard 12.1
2. **Paul’s Praise of Philemon** (*Philemon 4-7*)
—Flashcard 12.2
3. **Paul’s Request** (*Philemon 8-25*)
—Flashcard 12.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Added Weight
Memory Verse	Colossians 3:13
Song Time	
Bible Lesson	Onesimus
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Alphabet Cookies
Review Game/Questions	Quarrel Cards
Craft	Forgive S’more!
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

12

LESSON TWELVE

Onesimus

Theme: Forgiveness
and Restitution

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Philemon 1–25.
- Study Lesson Twelve.
- Flashcards 12.1–12.3
- Purchase snack—Alphabet Cookies.
- Gather for “Draw it!”—dry-erase marker and pens for students.
- Gather for review game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and pocket chart.
- Gather for object lesson—two backpacks and several unopened soup cans (or any type of 16 oz canned goods that can act as weights).
- Gather for teaching the verse—dry-erase board and marker, Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource download, and a container to hold Memory Verse Printables.
- Gather for craft—mini chocolate bars, mini marshmallows, graham crackers or graham cracker sticks, snack size plastic bags, mailing labels, and printable from the Ministry Resource download.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Philemon 1–25

- 1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,
- 2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

SNACK SUGGESTION

Alphabet Cookies

Give each student several alphabet cookies or crackers (such as Cheez-It Scrabble crackers). Encourage them to see if they can spell any words with the letters they have been given. Remind them that Paul wrote a very important letter to Philemon, encouraging him to forgive Onesimus.

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:13

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,
5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and
toward all saints;
6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the
acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.
7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of
the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.
8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that
which is convenient,
9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the
aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.
10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:
11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee
and to me:
12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine
own bowels:
13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have
ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:
14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be
as it were of necessity, but willingly.
15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest
receive him for ever;
16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to
me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?
17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.
18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;
19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not
say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.
20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in
the Lord.
21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that
thou wilt also do more than I say.
22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your
prayers I shall be given unto you.
23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;
24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.
25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Have you every heard the saying, “It’s a small world”? Sometimes people say this when they meet somebody they didn’t know but who knows somebody they did know—especially if they met the person they didn’t already know in a place where they wouldn’t have expected to meet someone who knows someone they already know.

Well, in today’s story, we’ll see Paul meet someone for the first time in a very unexpected place and then discover that this person already knew someone Paul had led to the Lord.

Paul (often called the apostle Paul) was a missionary who traveled from village to village preaching the gospel. On one of his trips, he met a man named Philemon from the town of Colosse, who listened to Paul’s message and trusted Jesus as his Saviour. As Philemon grew in the Lord, he allowed the church in Colosse to meet in his house. (In New Testament times, Christians didn’t have actual church buildings to attend, and church services were held in believers’ homes.)

Paul and Philemon became dear friends who each walked with God and grew to be more and more like Jesus. That’s the way God works in the lives of those who walk with Him—He changes them to be like Him.

Romans 8:29

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son....

Philemon stayed in Colosse, and Paul continued traveling as a missionary. Paul’s life was good, but it wasn’t easy. He was often persecuted for preaching the gospel. He was beaten, whipped, stoned, and imprisoned. He was often hungry and thirsty and cold (2 Corinthians 11:23–27).

Walking with God through his trials, Paul learned to forgive. He knew that God used trials to strengthen him and to draw him closer to the Lord, so he forgave those who wronged him in the trials. After all, hadn’t God forgiven him for so much?

Colossians 3:13

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

TEACHER’S TIP

Ask for a couple of volunteers to help you demonstrate a scenario where you might say “It’s a small world.”

Explain to the class that you are pretending that you don’t already know one of these children, but that they know each other, etc.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

At the time of our story, Paul was an old man in prison in Rome. This imprisonment was different than other imprisonments. Paul had first been beaten and imprisoned in Jerusalem, but because Jerusalem was under Roman rule, he was sent in a ship to Rome to be tried by the Roman government. While he was waiting to go to trial, Paul was allowed to rent a house in Rome. He was still considered a prisoner, but he was allowed to have visits from friends and from people who needed to hear the gospel.

Somehow, some way, a man named Onesimus ended up at Paul's house. What is amazing about this is that Onesimus was the escaped slave of Paul's friend Philemon!

When Paul met Onesimus, he shared the gospel with him, just as Paul did with everyone who came to him. "I know you've sinned, Onesimus," Paul told him. "We all have. Our sin shows us that we need a Saviour. You see, we all deserve to pay for our sins in the place the Bible calls *Hell*," he continued. "But Jesus Christ paid that price for you and for me, when He shed His blood on the cross. That's why He died—to pay for our sin so we wouldn't have to."

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Do you really think God could forgive me?" Onesimus may have asked. "I have sinned so much. I have sinned against God, and I have sinned against Philemon. How could God ever forgive me?"

"God forgives everyone who trusts the payment Jesus made for him on the cross. Jesus didn't die on the cross because people were good—He died because we are sinners. Every person is a sinner and needed Jesus to pay his price.

Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

"Yes, God will forgive you if you trust in the price Jesus paid for you on the cross," Paul said.

"I believe," Onesimus said. "I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, died on the cross to pay for my sins, rose from the dead, and now lives forever in Heaven. I believe, and I trust in Him."

And Onesimus became a new man.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

There in Rome, Onesimus became a servant to Paul. He wasn't Paul's slave—he didn't *have* to serve Paul. He was a servant, because he chose to serve Paul; he *wanted* to serve Paul.

Paul was grateful for Onesimus' service, and he would have liked to have kept Onesimus with him. But Paul knew he had to send him back to Philemon, because Onesimus was Philemon's slave.

Onesimus knew it, too. God had worked in his heart and changed him. Now, instead of wanting to get away from his job with Philemon, he wanted to go back. He wanted to ask Philemon to forgive him. He wanted to tell Philemon that he was a new man, and that he wanted to serve him.

But it was a scary thing for a runaway slave to return to his master. His master could beat him, put him in prison, increase his work load, or maybe even have him killed.

Paul trusted that Philemon wouldn't do any of those things to Onesimus, because Paul knew that Philemon walked with God and had become like God in many ways. "I believe Philemon has become like Christ in the way of forgiveness," Paul told Onesimus. "I believe he will forgive you. In fact, I will ask him to forgive you for my sake."

And that's what the whole letter from Paul to Philemon was about—asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Paul sent Onesimus home to Philemon with a letter from Paul asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus.

The Story

1. Greetings (Philemon 1-3)

"I'm a prisoner of Jesus Christ," Paul began his letter to Philemon. Paul knew that he hadn't committed a crime, and although people had put him in prison for preaching the gospel, he was really there because God wanted to use him there. Because Paul trusted God, he could forgive those who imprisoned him. And so he wrote to Philemon that he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ—not of the Romans.

"I send my greetings to your family and to the church that is in your house," Paul continued. He wanted the whole church to know that he was asking forgiveness for Onesimus.

TEACHER'S NOTE

The Bible text doesn't say that Onesimus was repentant, but his actions show that he was. He wouldn't have gone back to face whatever consequences there may have been had he not been repentant.

James 3:13

Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Flash Card 12.1

“May God bless you with His grace and peace,” Paul wrote.

Flash Card 12.2

2. Paul’s Praise of Philemon (Philemon 4–7)

“I thank God for you, Philemon,” he wrote. “And I pray for you all the time. I pray that not only will people *hear* of your faith, but that they will *see* your faith through your life and testimony.

“I love what I hear about you from others—that you trust and love the Lord. Your relationship with the Lord shines through in your love for other Christians.

“And, Philemon, I can’t tell you what joy it gives me as I think about all the Christians you have helped. I’m thankful that you are my brother in Christ.” Paul was hoping that Philemon would want to help Onesimus, just as he helped others.

3. Paul’s Request (Philemon 8–25)

“I have a request to make of you,” Paul continued. “I could really order you to do this,” he wrote. Since Paul was a church leader, Philemon would actually have had to do whatever Paul told him to do concerning the church.

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

“But I want you to do what I’m going to ask you out of love for the Lord and love for me—not because you have to. I know you know I’m old and I’m a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and I know you would want to do whatever I asked of you because you care about me.

“But what I am going to ask you isn’t really for myself. It’s for someone else—someone you know well.”

“*Hmm...I wonder who it could be,*” Philemon thought as he read the letter. But he didn’t have to wonder long. “You know your slave Onesimus?” Paul continued.

Philemon must have looked up at his runaway slave Onesimus who stood there while Philemon read the letter. His heart must have been full of anger toward this slave who had wronged him and stolen from him.

Philemon looked back to the letter in his hands. “The one who ran away from you? The one who stole from you? Well, he’s here with me in Rome.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

“But he’s a different man now. I imagine that even though his name means ‘profitable,’ you have been thinking his name should be ‘unprofitable.’ But that’s all changed now. Everything’s changed about Onesimus. He’s profitable to me, and he will now be profitable to you.

“He got saved, Philemon—right here in prison with me. I led him to Jesus.

“And I’m sending him back to you, even though I would love to keep him here with me. He’s an incredible help to me. But he’s yours, and I would never keep him without your permission.

“Anyway, it might be that he left you for a little while so he could be with you forever. You will be together forever, because he has trusted Christ, and you will both be together in Heaven forever.

“He’s still your servant, Philemon; but he’s now more than a servant—he’s your brother in Christ. Will you take him back as not only a servant but a brother?

“I know he has wronged you and owes you money, but I want you to put his bill on my account. I will pay you whatever he owes you. Please forgive him for my sake.

“You know, Philemon, you owe me your life. Remember, I am the one who led you to the Lord Jesus Christ. If it weren’t for me, you wouldn’t have heard the gospel, and you may not have been saved.

“I know you, Philemon. I know I don’t have to *tell* you to forgive Onesimus. I know that you will do even more for him than I say. I’m looking forward to the joy I will have when I hear that you have forgiven Onesimus and that he is now serving you not only as a servant, but as a brother.”

Flash Card 12.3

Applying the Story

Paul ended the letter to Philemon (which is recorded in the Bible as the short book of Philemon, which is only one chapter long) by telling him he hopes to be with him soon and asking him to greet others in the church. The Bible doesn’t tell us if Philemon honored Paul’s request, but we assume he did, since Philemon walked with God and since the letter is in our Bibles for all to read.

Forgiveness isn’t easy, and forgiveness isn’t natural to us. The natural thing for us to do when someone wrongs us is to become angry and “hold a grudge.” The natural thing for us to do is to rehearse in our minds, over and over and over, how the person has hurt us. The natural thing for us to do is to tell others what the person did to us. The natural thing for us to do is to become bitter.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

We can be glad that God isn't like that. In fact, one of the most important truths God wants us to know about Himself is that He forgives. He told us many times in the Bible that He is a God of forgiveness.

Psalm 86:5

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

God doesn't just tell us that He forgives; He invites us to come to Him for forgiveness. And God doesn't just invite us to come to Him for forgiveness, He made the way so we *could* come to Him. He sent His Son so we could be forgiven.

Notice, God didn't act like we're good people who don't sin. He told us what sin is, told us we commit sin, told us the penalty for sin, and then provided a way so we wouldn't have to pay that penalty—all at His own expense.

And now, He wants to make us forgiving like He is. Like Paul was. Like Paul asked Philemon to be.

Paul didn't pretend that Onesimus hadn't done anything wrong, and he didn't pretend that there wasn't a price to pay. Even though Onesimus had gotten saved, he still owed Philemon for what he had taken from him.

And that's how it is for us. When we trust Jesus, He forgives us for all our sin, and we become His child. But we may have done things in our lives to other people that we need to make right with them. We may have stolen—we need to pay it back. We may have lied—we need to tell the truth. We may have cheated—we need to make it right. We may have disobeyed—we need to ask forgiveness. It's our responsibility to make right the wrong we have done. That is called *restitution*. When we decide to make restitution for our wrongs, God frees us from the slavery of owing someone because we have wronged them.

But when someone has wronged us, it's not our responsibility to make them make their wrongs right. It's not our responsibility to make them pay. Those who have wronged us are responsible to God for their sin, and He is their judge.

Romans 12:19

19 ...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

But we do have a responsibility to the Lord when someone has wronged us, and it's a responsibility that He helps us to fulfill as we walk with Him and grow in Him. That responsibility is to forgive. As we allow God to conform (mold)

TEACHER'S NOTE

There may be some in your class who are physically abused. They may struggle over what to do with forgiveness. Does forgiveness mean they allow people to sin against them in ways that harm them physically or are against the law? No, forgiveness means they leave their violator's punishment to God. They may need to tell authorities about the wrongs done to them. They may need to tell you so you can help them. They should forgive those who hurt them because God forgives them and gives them the power to forgive others. When they forgive, God will give them freedom from slavery to bitterness.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

us into the image of Jesus, He teaches us forgiveness. He will help us forgive others as He reminds us how He has forgiven us.

So, think back to this past week. Has someone wronged you? It would be a rare thing if anyone went for a whole week without having been wronged by someone. What did you do when they wronged you? Did you become angry at them? Did you yell at them or hit them? Did you talk about them to others? Did you hold bitter feelings toward them in your heart? Do you feel those same feelings now when you think about what they did or said to you? As you feel those bitter feelings, do you feel close to the Lord? Does your heart feel free, or does it feel like a slave to those feelings?

Now, think about yourself. Have you wronged anyone this week? It would be a rare thing if anyone went for a whole week without having wronged someone. Do you want people to hold angry feelings toward you in their heart for what you have done against them?

Now, think about Jesus. Has He ever wronged you? He has never wronged anyone, but we have all wronged Him. And He has forgiven it all. He has no angry or bitter feelings toward us. He loves us perfectly and completely and freely. And that's what He wants to do in us. He wants to teach us to forgive so we can love perfectly and completely and freely.

How can you do that?

- Thank Him for His forgiveness toward you.
- Tell Him how others have wronged you.
- Ask Him to give you His grace and help to forgive them.
- Ask Him to help you trust Him to be their judge.
- Leave judgment with Him and forgive the person.

The more you become like Jesus, the more you will be able to forgive. And the more you forgive, the more you will become like Jesus. So, from the book of Philemon, we learn at least two things about forgiveness:

- When we have been wronged, our responsibility is to forgive.
- When we have wronged others, our responsibility is to ask forgiveness and to make restitution for the wrongs we have done against them.

TEACHER'S TIP

This would be a good lesson for an invitation: Right now, God might be reminding you of a wrong you have done for which you need to make restitution. You have a choice—you can tell the Lord, “Yes, I will do what I know you are telling me to do in my heart,” or you can say, “No, not now, Lord.” If you follow Him and make restitution for your wrong, He will free you from the guilt you carry for your wrong. Right now, in your heart, tell the Lord you will make the wrong He is reminding you of right.

God may be reminding you of someone you haven't forgiven. You have a choice about forgiveness too. You can say to the Lord, “Thank You for forgiving me for my sins. Please give me help and grace to forgive this person.” The Lord *will* give you the grace you need to forgive, and when you accept His grace and forgive the person, you will have a new freedom in your heart. You will no longer be a slave to your bitter feelings.

If you need help and would like to talk to me or another teacher, we will be here after class to talk with you.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download
Pocket chart

Set Up

Before class, cut and assemble the game pieces on the pocket chart with the point values hidden.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into teams and begin asking questions, alternating between the teams. When a student answers a question correctly, he can select a game piece from the pocket chart. The points listed on the back of the card are applied to the team's final score. The point of this game, though, is to have the lowest score possible. Just like we don't want to argue, in this game with the "quarrel cards," we don't want points for arguments! The team with the lowest score wins.

1. What was Paul's life's work?

Answer: Missionary

2. Who did Paul lead to the Lord, in whose house the church at Colosse met?

Answer: Philemon

3. What are some trials Paul went through in his life?

Answer: Answers will vary, but should include specifics from 2 Corinthians 11—beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned, etc.

4. Why was Paul able to forgive others?

Answer: He realized God had forgiven him for so much.

5. Why was Paul in prison in Rome?

Answer: For preaching the gospel

6. Whom did he meet in prison?

Answer: Onesimus, Philemon's slave

7. What happened to Onesimus when he met Paul?

Answer: He got saved.

Lesson Twelve—Onesimus

8. What did Paul ask Philemon to do in the letter he sent with Onesimus?

Answer: To forgive Onesimus

9. Whom did Paul tell Philemon would pay him back for what Onesimus had stolen?

Answer: Paul

10. What is the one thing we are to do when someone has wronged us? When we have wronged others?

Answer: Forgive/ask forgiveness and make restitution

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:13

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Materials Needed

Dry-erase board and marker

Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource download

Container to hold Memory Verse Printables

Set Up

To prepare to teach the verse, print and cut the Memory Verse Printables from the Ministry Resource download; then place in a container. Also, before class, write the verse and reference on the board.

Teaching the Verse

To teach the verse, review it together as a class by reciting it several times from the board. Then call on a student to select a letter card from your container. When a student pulls out a card, erase every word that begins with that letter. Recite the verse as a class with the words that remain on the board. Repeat this process until every word has been erased.

OBJECT LESSON—Added Weight

Materials Needed

Two backpacks

Several unopened soup cans (or any type of 16 oz canned goods that can act as weights). You can decorate these or cover with solid paper.

Lesson

Bring two students to the front of the class and place a backpack on the shoulders of each. Present a scenario in which an offense has been caused between the two students (i.e., one girl said something rude to the other girl; or one boy would not share the ball in a pickup round of basketball; a brother or sister could be frustrated about a perceived mistreatment). As you explain the scenario based on the students you picked, emphasize the nature of the offense and how hard it would be to forgive. You can also emphasize how the offender felt justified in his actions.

As you finish giving the scenario, place a weight (can) into each backpack. Then, explain how the one who caused the offense felt conviction and asked for forgiveness from the friend. Instruct the volunteer student to ask the offended friend to forgive him. Have the offended friend refuse to forgive. When this happens, add another weight to each backpack, explaining that when someone refuses to forgive, it adds a burden to both people involved.

Again, instruct the student to ask his friend for forgiveness (perhaps adding scenarios to your story that would be applicable to your age group. For example, another misunderstanding could take place that would involve forgiveness). And again, instruct the offended friend to refuse to forgive. When this happens, add more “weights” to the backpack.

Continue with the illustration, eventually allowing the offended friend to forgive the offender. Each time forgiveness takes place, remove weights out of the backpacks.

At the end of the role play, ask the volunteer students how it felt when their backpacks were full of weight. Ask them how it felt when they began to forgive.

Application

When we refuse to forgive, we bear burdens and harbor wrong feelings that God doesn't want us to hang on to. God wants us to experience the freedom of forgiveness! When we forgive and when we are forgiven, we can experience the weight that is lifted from our hearts, and we can serve God better and more effectively! Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? If so, forgive today!

CRAFT—Forgive S'more!

Supplies

- 1 mini chocolate bar per student
- 6 mini marshmallows per student
- 3 graham crackers or graham cracker sticks per student
- 1 snack-size plastic bag per student
- 1 mailing label per student
- 1 printable per student (option: print on paper and glue onto bag)



Instructions

1. Give each student one snack-size plastic bag, one mini chocolate bar, six mini marshmallows, three small graham crackers, and one printable label.
2. Have the students place the label on the snack-size plastic bag and insert all the supplies into the bag. Ask the students to think about someone that they need to forgive or someone that they need to ask for forgiveness. Instruct the students to give the “Forgive S'more” bag to someone they have forgiven or to someone that they are asking forgiveness from.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

Lesson Thirteen Overview

Aquila and Priscilla

Theme—Helpers to the Gospel

Scripture

Acts 18:1–28; Romans 16:19

Memory Verse

Romans 16:3—“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus.”

Lesson Outline

1. Aquila and Priscilla Leave Rome (Acts 18:1–2)
2. Aquila and Priscilla Meet Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:3–23)
—Flashcard 13.1
3. Aquila and Priscilla Instruct Apollos (Acts 18:24–27)
—Flashcard 13.2
4. Aquila and Priscilla Share Their Home for a Church (Romans 16:19)
—Flashcard 13.3

Suggested Classroom Schedule

Before Class	Complete attendance record. Provide students with coloring pages/activity pages.
Opening	Welcome
Prayer	Prayer requests and praise reports from the children
Song Time	
Memory Verse	Romans 16:3
Song Time	
Object Lesson	Teamwork and Truth
Bible Lesson	Aquila and Priscilla
Application/Invitation	Help saved students apply lesson. Invite unsaved students to receive Christ.
Snack	Tent Treats
Review Game/Questions	Helpers
Craft	Jesus' Helper Missionary Prayer Card Holder
Closing	Give announcements and pray. Distribute take-home papers.

13

LESSON THIRTEEN

Aquila and Priscilla

Theme: Helpers to the Gospel

TEACHER'S CHECKLIST

- Read Acts 18:1–28 and Romans 16:19.
- Study Lesson Thirteen.
- Flashcards 13.1–13.3
- Prepare snack—Tent Treats.
- Gather for object lesson—several heavy books.
- Gather for review game—game pieces from the Ministry Resource download and pocket chart or tape.
- Gather for teaching the memory verse—dry-erase board and marker and memory verse card from Visual Aid Pack.
- Gather for craft—clothespins, green paint (optional), printable from the Ministry Resource download, printed photo of each student, missionary prayer cards, and glue sticks.
- Print and duplicate Coloring Pages or Activity Pages on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).
- Print and duplicate Take-Home Paper on the Ministry Resource download (one per student).

SCRIPTURES

Acts 18:1–4

- 1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;
- 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.
- 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.
- 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

SNACK SUGGESTION

Tent Treats

- Chocolate candy melts
- Graham crackers
- Caramel apple wraps

Melt the chocolate candy melts and pour in a pastry bag. Pipe the edges of three graham cracker squares with the melted chocolate. Put the graham crackers together to make an A-frame tent.

Once the chocolate has hardened, completely cover the tent with the caramel apple wrap. Cut the front and back flaps of the caramel on either end of the graham cracker tent. Seal the back of the tent shut by pressing the caramel wrap flat. At the front of the tent, wrap the ends open to create the opening flaps of the tent.

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 16:3
“Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:”

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Story

Do you ever wonder, “What does God have for me to do? What am I going to be some day?” Do you have any idea right now what plan God has for your future? (Allow response.)

- You may be a carpenter. That’s what Jesus did in His young years.
- You may be a farmer. Jesus spoke often of farmers.
- You may be a nurse or doctor, helping sick or injured people to get well.
- You may be a wife and mother, taking care of a family and helping them to know the Lord.
- You may be an electrician, a plumber, or a painter, making people’s living conditions more comfortable.
- You may be a musician, using your music to honor God.
- You may be a teacher, helping people understand what they need to know.
- You may be a scientist, learning how God made this world to work.
- You may be a pastor, leading a church.
- You may be a missionary, taking the gospel to a foreign country.

Whatever job God has for your future, it will include the job that the people we are going to study today had. These people were *helpers to the gospel*. Not only *can* we do what they did, but it is part of God’s plan for each of us.

The Story

1. Aquila and Priscilla Leave Rome (Acts 18:1-2)

When we first learn of Aquila and Priscilla, they are in a difficult situation. They are a married couple who are suffering persecution, having been forced to leave their home and everything and everyone they knew.

Aquila and Priscilla were Jews who lived in Rome, Italy. Many of the Jews didn’t believe that Jesus was God the Son, the Saviour from sin they had been waiting for. But Aquila and Priscilla did trust Jesus, and they loved Him. He meant everything to them.

The emperor Claudius commanded all the Jews to leave Rome, and the couple had to go. They had to leave the home they had known, the church

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

family with whom they worshiped, the people they knew in the community—almost everything they held dear.

But there was something they would never have to leave—actually, someone they would never have to leave. Wherever they went and whatever they did, they knew Jesus was with them.

Hebrews 13:5

5 ...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Being sent away from their home and church didn't change Aquila's and Priscilla's service for the Lord. They served Him wherever they went. "We'll share the gospel wherever we go," they said.

2. Aquila and Priscilla Meet Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:3-23)

When they left Rome, Aquila and Priscilla traveled to the city of Corinth in Greece. Corinth was a wicked city, where most people never even thought about God and just lived in whatever way felt good to them.

Proverbs 16:25

25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Aquila and Priscilla didn't stop serving God, just because most of the people around them didn't know God. In fact, they knew that people who didn't know God gave them great opportunity to share the gospel!

They started working in Corinth, doing the job they had learned earlier in life—tent making. They sewed huge pieces of fabric made of goats' hair together to make tents. In their day, many people lived in tents, and others used them for traveling, so tent making was a profitable business.

As Aquila and Priscilla went about their lives, making and selling tents, sharing the gospel, and meeting with other Christians, they met another tentmaker. This man was the apostle Paul, a missionary who traveled from city to city preaching the gospel and helping the people who trusted Jesus as their Saviour from sin, to start churches.

"Stay with us, Paul," they invited. "We have room; and we can work together—tent making, *and* sharing the gospel."



Flash Card 13.1

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

This was good for all of them. They shared their home with him, and as they worked together, Paul taught them the Scriptures. Those were good days for Aquila and Priscilla. It didn't matter that they had to leave their home and almost everything they knew in Rome, because here, in the wicked city of Corinth, they could still love and serve Jesus. They could have fellowship (a relationship) with other believers who also loved and served Him.

Paul stayed in their home in Corinth for a year and a half, preaching in the synagogue every Sabbath day. "This would be so difficult without Aquila's and Priscilla's help and fellowship," Paul must have thought. "Where would I stay if they hadn't taken me in? How could I preach in the synagogue every week? Think of all the people who wouldn't hear the gospel if it weren't for them sharing their home with me!" Paul was able to share the gospel with many people through the help of Aquila and Priscilla.

Aquila and Priscilla became so valuable to Paul, that when it was time for him to leave Corinth and go to the city of Ephesus, he asked them to come with him.

3. Aquila and Priscilla Instruct Apollos (Acts 18:24-27)

Paul preached in the synagogue in Ephesus, but he soon had to leave. Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus, making tents and sharing the gospel. They had learned so much from Paul, watching his life and listening to his teaching. They had grown in the Lord, and they wanted to share Him with others.

News began to spread about an amazing preacher. "Hey, have you heard Apollos?" someone asked. "He's a preacher from Alexandria, Egypt, and I have never heard such a great speaker! You ought to hear him preach. He loves the Lord, and he knows his Bible!"

Aquila and Priscilla went to hear Apollos preach. "Listen to that man! He is a good preacher," they thought. "God could really use a man with such an amazing gift of speaking." Then they looked at each other. "You know," one said to the other, "Apollos is missing something in his preaching. He loves God. He knows the Old Testament. He teaches like John the Baptist taught—'Get ready for the Saviour to come.'"

Matthew 3:3

3 ...Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

“But he doesn’t seem to know the Scriptures about Jesus being the Saviour the Jews have been waiting for. I know he believes; he just needs to know how to explain it.”

So, when Apollos had finished preaching, the couple waited until the crowd cleared out so they could speak to him. “We’ve heard good things about your preaching,” they encouraged him, “and now that we’ve heard you for ourselves, we wholeheartedly believe those reports. You know, Apollos, we have spent the past year and a half with the apostle Paul, and he has taught us so much! We would like to share with you what we have learned.”

Flash Card 13.2

2 Timothy 2:2

- 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

“Thank you,” the preacher Apollos answered. “I want to learn as much as I can about the Lord.” So Aquila and his wife Priscilla began discipling the preacher Apollos. They spent time together studying the Scriptures, with Aquila and Priscilla teaching Apollos the wonderful truths they had learned from Paul. Those truths are in our Bibles today, and we can read them for ourselves!

2 Peter 1:21

- 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

As Apollos learned the truths of the Scriptures that he hadn’t understood before, he began teaching and preaching the whole truth of the gospel; and many people believed. Apollos was able to share the gospel with many people through the help of Aquila and Priscilla.

Apollos’ ministry didn’t end there in Ephesus. The leaders of the Ephesian church sent him to Corinth (where Aquila and Priscilla had last come from) with letters letting the Corinthian church leaders know that he would be a great help to them. And “who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ” (Acts 18:27b–28). Apollos knew how to help these Corinthians who had lived lives so far from the Lord, because Aquila and Priscilla had taught him what they had learned.

TEACHER'S NOTE

The text in Acts 18:27 says Apollos “was disposed to pass into Achaia.” Corinth was a major city in Achaia, and we read in Acts 19 that Apollos was, in fact, in Corinth.

Later on, Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian church. (We have the whole letter in our Bibles, called the book of 1 Corinthians.) “I shared the gospel with you, and some of you trusted Jesus as your Saviour,” he said. “Then Apollos came along and helped you understand more. But it was God who touched hearts and saved people.”

1 Corinthians 3:6

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

4. Aquila and Priscilla Share Their Home for a Church (Romans 16:19)

“There are so many believers now,” Priscilla said to her husband. “We need a permanent place to meet.”

“We would be honored to have the church meet here, in our house,” Aquila answered.

And their home became the place where the Christians met to hear the message of the gospel, to pray together, and to encourage each other in the Lord. It was the place where new believers found help to grow strong and where more mature believers disciplined others.

Flash Card 13.3

1 Corinthians 16:19

19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Aquila and Priscilla were eventually allowed to return to Rome, when the persecution of Jews who believed in Jesus had ended. It wasn't the same as it used to be. Many of their friends were gone, but that didn't stop Aquila and Priscilla from doing what they had always done—helping to spread the gospel. They found the group of believers in Rome, and, as they had done in Ephesus, they allowed the church to meet in their home.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Paul wrote the book of 1 Corinthians from Ephesus, where the church met in Aquila's and Priscilla's house.

Romans 16:3, 5

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquilla my helpers in Christ Jesus:
5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house...

So, it didn't matter if they were in Rome, Corinth, or Ephesus—Aquila and Priscilla did whatever they could to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Applying the Story

Aquila and Priscilla were just an ordinary husband and wife. Their job was making tents. When they were forced, through persecution, to leave the place where they made their home, they ended up in Corinth, a wicked city with few Christians. But instead of living like the Corinthians or just trying to mind their own business and live private lives, they served God. They helped to spread the gospel.

Sometimes they spread the gospel by sharing it with others—talking to people about the Lord Jesus Christ, telling them what He had done for them. “He died to pay the price for your sin,” they said, “because He loves you and wants you to spend eternity with Him. Trust Him and the price He paid for your sin on the cross. Trusting Him is the only way to have eternal life in Heaven.”

Sometimes they shared the gospel by helping others who were sharing it.

- **They helped Paul.**

They allowed Paul to work with them in their business, so he could support himself while he preached the gospel to those who didn't know Jesus. They spent time with him and learned from him and encouraged him. They shared their home and their belongings with him. At least once they even risked their lives for him because they believed sharing the gospel was worth whatever it took. Paul said that not only did he thank them for what they had done for him, but also all the churches who he ministered to thanked them. In their helping Paul, they had helped all the churches!

Romans 16:3-4

- 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:
- 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

- **They helped Apollos.**

They knew Apollos could be greatly used to share the gospel, and they invested in his life. They were willing to take their time to share with him what they had learned so he could share it with others. And when Apollos preached, people listened, people were saved, and people grew in the Lord.

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

- **They helped all the believers.**

Aquila and Priscilla opened up their home to allow the church to meet there. At church, believers were encouraged to go on and were strengthened in their walk with the Lord.

Aquila and Priscilla didn't do what they did for the Lord because it was easy. Can you imagine being exiled to a wicked city, where hardly anyone was a Christian? They had already been persecuted in Rome, and they could easily have been (and probably were) persecuted in Corinth. But instead of being afraid of what might happen to them if they shared the gospel, and instead of becoming like the people around them, they trusted God. They dedicated their lives to walking with and telling others about Him. And, because their hearts were yielded to sharing the gospel, God brought them into contact with preachers they could help—Paul and Apollos.

God's purpose for some of you is to be a preacher or missionary. And in those jobs you will share the gospel. But His purpose for others of you may be to be a plumber, a teacher, a lawyer, or a custodian. Or any other job He leads you to have. How can you serve God if you're not a preacher or a missionary?

You can realize, like Aquila and Priscilla, that your job provides you with the opportunity to share the gospel. You can realize that your most important job is to share the gospel. You can share the gospel with your coworkers. You can share the gospel with your customers. You can share the gospel with your business acquaintances. The most important thing about a person is not their job—it is that they are a Christian. Christians share the gospel. Having a job gives you the ability to earn a living so you can do your most important job—sharing the gospel.

Sometimes, as with Aquila and Priscilla, we will make it possible for the gospel to be shared. We might share our home for a Bible study so the gospel can be shared. We might prepare a meal for a revival service where the gospel will be shared. We might serve at a rescue mission where the gospel will be shared. We might allow a visiting preacher to stay in our home so he can share the gospel.

But what about you—right now? How can you be a helper to the gospel? You don't have a job where you can share the gospel with your coworkers, customers, and business acquaintances. You don't have a home of your own that you can offer for a Bible study or a visiting preacher. You probably don't have what you need to make an entire meal for a revival service.

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

But you *do* have a job that you do right now. You are a student, and students have teachers, classmates, and others they come in contact with.

- You can bow your head before you eat and thank the Lord for your food.
- You can be careful to be kind to others, not arguing or trying to have your own way.
- You can speak words that honor the Lord.
- You can be respectful and helpful to your teacher.

When you do these things—when you live like a Christian—others will see that you are different and that you have a relationship with the Lord. You will have an opportunity to share the gospel with them.

And you have a church—this one, where you are today. There are jobs to be done to keep things running smoothly so the gospel can be shared.

- You can sit quietly and pay attention. That will allow you and others to hear the truths being taught or preached.
- You can learn all you can so you know how to share the truth of the gospel.
- You can share what you have—your Bible with someone who doesn't have one, a treat you win for a prize, or your smile. God has given you everything you have. Ask Him to show you *what* you have that He can use and *how* to share what you have to help the gospel be shared.

And you live in a home where people need to see the Lord in your life. Some of them may be unsaved. Your life lived for the Lord will be a testimony to draw them to Jesus. People want to listen when they see you love Jesus and love them.

This world is absolutely full of opportunities to help share the gospel. Every day, ask the Lord to show you what your part is.

REVIEW GAME/QUESTIONS

Materials Needed

Game pieces from the Ministry Resource download
Pocket chart or tape

Set Up

Cut and assemble the game pieces. Arrange them on the board or pocket chart, so that there are two columns of five cards for each team. There are four teams in this game, so there will be four groups of two columns each.

Playing the Game

Divide the class into four teams and explain that the object of this game is to end with the most helpers! (Each card represents a helper.) Begin asking questions, and when a team answers the question correctly, they can remove four helpers from other teams across the board. (For instance, if Team Four just answered correctly, one helper can be removed from Team One, two helpers can be removed from Team Two, and one helper can be removed from Team Three.) Once a helper is removed from another team, he can join the team who answered the question correctly.

Encourage the teams to strategize and have fun. The team with the most helpers remaining at the end of the game, wins.

1. What city did Aquila and Priscilla have to leave because of persecution?

Answer: Rome, Italy

2. Even though they had to leave everything they knew, what (or who) would always be with them?

Answer: Jesus

3. Were there many Christians in Corinth, the city they moved to?

Answer: No, most of the Corinthians didn't know God.

4. Did Aquila and Priscilla decide to just become like the wicked people of Corinth?

Answer: No, they served Jesus and shared the gospel with the Corinthians.

5. What occupation did Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul do together?

Answer: Tent making

6. How long did Paul stay in their home in Corinth?

Answer: A year and a half

Lesson Thirteen—Aquila and Priscilla

7. Where did Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla go when they left Corinth?

Answer: Ephesus

8. What did Aquila and Priscilla do in Ephesus?

Answer: They shared the gospel and allowed the church to meet in their house.

9. What did Aquila and Priscilla do when they went back to Rome?

Answer: They allowed the church to meet in their house.

10. What are you going to do this week to be a helper to the gospel?

Answer: Answers will vary but may include some suggestions from “Applying the story.”

TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE

Romans 16:3

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Materials Needed

Dry-erase board and marker

Memory Verse Card from Visual Aid Pack

Set Up

Write the verse reference at the top of the dry-erase board. Below the verse reference, draw a Tic-Tac-Toe game template. In each square, write one word of the verse in order (starting at the top left).

Teaching the Verse

After reciting the verse several times from the Memory Verse Card, divide the class into two teams and begin a game of Tic-Tac-Toe—with a twist. When a student from “Team X” selects a square, erase the word contained in that square and ask him to recite the verse correctly. If the student correctly quotes the verse, an X can be written in that square. Continue the same process with “Team O.” If a student is not able to correctly quote the verse, write the word back in the square and switch to the opposing team. Play several rounds as time allows.

OBJECT LESSON —Teamwork and Truth

Materials Needed

Several heavy books

Lesson

Select a few children to come to the front of the class to help as volunteers. To start, call an older child to the front of the room and ask him to hold one heavy book above his head—with arms straight up and palms flat.

Pause for several seconds to allow the student to begin to feel the weight of his book. After a delay, ask if the student is ready to add another book to the stack above his head. Repeat this routine until the books slide out of his flat palms. (Be sure to have teacher assistants ready to help catch the books, so no one gets hurt!)

You can repeat this process with several children. Allow them to test their strength and see how many books they can hold up. Encourage them in their efforts and praise them for their participation, discussing that it can be hard to keep adding weight.

At the end of the object lesson, invite one last student to hold the books, but this time, allow two to four friends to come help him. They can hold up his arms or steady the books. Encourage a group effort and discuss that even though it is still hard to hold the weight of the books, it is much easier when several people join in and share in carrying the load.

Application

What the two to four friends did to support their one friend holding the books is exactly what Aquila and Priscilla did to support Paul and the early believers in the New Testament church—Together, they “held up the arms” of others by teaching them about Christ, discipling them, and helping them grow as Christians.

We can all be like Aquila and Priscilla! We can be helpers of the gospel—servants who teach and share the principles of God’s Word with others. Who can you talk to this week about the Lord? How can you help your Sunday school teachers or pastors as they teach and train others in biblical truth?

CRAFT—Jesus' Helper Missionary Prayer Card Holder

Supplies

- 1 clothespin per student
- Green paint (option: prepaint each clothespin and allow to dry)
- 1 printable per student
- Take one photo of each student and print or have each student bring in a photo of himself
- 1 missionary prayer card per student
- 1 glue stick per student



Instructions

1. Give each student one green clothespin, one printable, one glue stick, one photo of each student, and one missionary prayer card.
2. Instruct each student to cut out the printable and photo of himself.
3. Have the students glue the photo to the printable. Glue the printable onto the green clothespin.
4. Ask the students to open the clothespin and insert the missionary prayer card.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the following items on the Ministry Resource download:

- Coloring Page (for younger children)
- Activity Page (for older children)
- Student Take-Home Paper
- PowerPoint Presentation

ALSO AVAILABLE

FROM STRIVING TOGETHER PUBLICATIONS



The Life of Christ Series

Teacher Edition

- 13 Bible Lessons
- Teaching Tips
- Memory Verses
- Craft Ideas
- Snack Ideas

Visual Resource Packet

- Flash Cards for All Lessons
- Memory Verse Visuals for All Lessons

Teacher's Resource Pack

- Spiral-bound Teacher Edition
- Visual Resource Packet

Ministry Resource Download

With this one download, all of your church's children's classes are granted permission to reproduce **unlimited quantities** of the following resources:

- Student Take-Home Papers
- Coloring Pages
- Activity Pages
- Craft and Game Templates
- Memory Verse Templates
- PowerPoint Presentations

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