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**It would be a good idea to send a letter home with each child the first week of class to tell parents what their son/daughter will be learning this quarter. Copy this chart into the letter and replace the week number with the date the lesson will be taught. Additionally, suggest to parents that they may want to use the Scripture passages for next week's lesson as quiet time reading assignments in preparation for class.

Introduction

TO THE TEACHER:

The following unit of lessons is fourth in a series which is taking your students progressively through the Scriptures in a three year program. The lessons are written to be used in either evening "junior" meetings or a morning Sabbath School program. One whole lesson is to be taught each week.

The Bible lessons have been written and developed largely from *Promise and Deliverance* (4 Volumes) by S.G. DeGraaf. It is highly recommended that you be familiar with this work, particularly the introduction in Volume I. Mr. DeGraaf offers some very helpful counsel and instruction as to what the aim of our teaching is to be and how we are to approach the teaching of God's Word. The focus which he offers will be very helpful as you seek to see your students come to faith in Christ and a clear understanding of the whole of Scripture. A list of other resources which have been used as aids in developing these lessons is included if you desire further study on the material.

The format of each lesson is designed to help you in arranging the time for your class into these major areas (the minutes listed are only suggestions):

Bible lesson	30 minutes
Prayer and Psalm singing	5-10 minutes
Memory work	5 minutes

The Bible lesson is designed to be conducted as a discussion, with the teacher using the questions provided in the curriculum. Each Bible lesson is laid out with two columns. The column marked "Lesson" is for you to use in preparation for the lesson, and provides important notes and background information needed to explain the passage. The column marked "Questions and Answers" is for you to use during class.

With each lesson there is a recommended Bible verse for memory that ties in with the lesson. You may choose to begin working systematically through the Shorter Catechism rather than using Scripture verses. Whichever you use, the students need to be encouraged and challenged to memorize. There are various methods which you can use to accomplish this. Perhaps you can have some sort of memory contest, either between teams or individuals. You may choose to have a system of rewards. Some congregations reward their students with "money" which accumulates to pay their way to family conferences. Be consistent in checking their work and be involved in the memorization yourself. Review is very important. (***Note:** Immanuel RPC teachers should use the verses from the congregation's monthly memory sheet and NOT the ones assigned in this curriculum).

In order to encourage your students in personal quiet time and study, a personal devotions sheet should be handed out weekly with a passage for them to spend time on during the week. Or they may choose a passage or more to study from their own Scripture schedule. Shorter Catechism Q. #3 reads, "What do the Scriptures principally teach? A.: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man." The personal devotion sheets are based on this teaching from the catechism. You may choose another method, but there should be an attempt to encourage them to establish good, consistent time in God's Word during the week. They need to be taught how they can do this, and you can encourage them in developing the necessary habits. Also, be willing and ready to share openly about your own devotional life.

Perhaps most important to a successful use of these materials is that you, the teacher, allow ample time for preparation and personal study in order to adequately present the material to the children. The lessons are designed to be a guide to help you understand the material. You must do the study. Know the Scriptures. Present Christ honestly and clearly. Challenge them as to their relationship to Him and their daily walk. Our responsibility is great. May the Lord find us to be faithful.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

DeGraaf, S.G., *Promise and Deliverance*, Vol. 1-4, USA, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1981.

Keil, G.F. and Delitzsch, F., *Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vols. 1 and 4, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980.

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*, USA: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1980.

Balaam Blesses Israel

QUARTER 4

LESSON 1

SCRIPTURE: NUMBERS 22, 23, AND 24

Lesson Aims: After this lesson, the children will:

- Retell the main details of the story of Balaam
- Tell why Balaam could not curse Israel
- State at least one blessing from Balaam's oracles

REVIEW:

1. Tell some of the actions the Lord took to show that He had chosen Aaron as high priest and the people were to accept him as leader. (killed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram by having the earth swallow him; killed 250 followers of these men by sending fire; sending a plague when these people grumbled about the killing of these men; causing Aaron's staff to bud)
2. The Lord caused Aaron's staff, made of dead wood, to come to life and produce almonds. This is a picture of Christ bring life to whom? How? (new life to those who are dead in their sins who turn to Christ as their savior)
3. Why did the people complain at Kadesh in the Desert of Zin? (they had no water)
4. What did the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do? (take his staff gather all the people and speak to a rock and it would give water)
5. Did Moses and Aaron follow the Lord's command exactly? What did they do? (struck the rock twice and did not give the Lord credit for the miracle of the water from the rock)
6. What was their punishment? (they would not enter Canaan)
7. The Lord commanded Moses, Aaron, Eleazer, Aaron's son, to go to mount Hor. What happened up there? (Aaron's priestly clothing was put on Eleazer and Aaron died.)
8. Later the people complained again about having no water or bread, although they really had bread in form of manna. How did the Lord punish them this time? (sent poisonous snakes and many people died)
9. What did the Lord tell Moses to do? (put a bronze snake up on a pole. Anyone who was bitten could look at that and live.)
10. Who can we look up to for life when we are "bitten by sin?" (Christ on the cross)
11. What happen to Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of the Baahan, and their people? (the Lord gave Israel victory over them.)

LESSON:

PART 1: NUMBERS 22:1-20

Balak, the king of Moab, saw all that the Israelites had done to Sihon and Og and their people, and he was terrified. The Moabites were also distant relatives of Israel, as they were descendents of Lot, Abraham's nephew, so Israel did not go into that land. Still the king of Moab was afraid. He was not

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Who was Lot? (Abraham's nephew from Sodom) Did he love the Lord? (Yes)

The people of Moab are descendents

servicing the Lord, as his ancestor Lot had, so he did not pray about his worry. Balak knew he could not defeat Israel in battle, because he knew God fought on Israel's side. He thought his only hope was to have the Lord's people cursed.

They sent for Balaam, a prophet and a fortune-teller. It seems Balaam received revelations from the Lord, but also continued the heathen practice of fortune telling.

Messengers from Balak came to Balaam, offering him money if he would curse Israel. Instead of telling them no the next morning Balaam told the men that he would not go with them. He did not tell the men all the Lord had told him—that the people were blessed and he could not curse them.

The next morning Balaam told the men he would not go with them. He did not tell the men all that the Lord had told him—that the people were blessed so he could not curse them.

After these men returned to Balak, the king sent another group of more powerful men to Balaam, offering him more rewards to come and curse Israel. Balaam said, "Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with gold and silver, I could not go against the command of the Lord." Evidently Balaam's heart still had some desire to go, so he could get the rewards, because he told the men to spend the night and he would ask the Lord again, even though the Lord had already given Balaam His answer. God allowed Balaam to yield to the evils of his heart and go with the men.

PART 2: NUMBERS 22:21-38

In the morning Balaam went with the princes of Moab, riding on his donkey. In His anger, the Lord sent his angel to stand in the road in front of Balaam. The donkey saw the angel and turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat the donkey and got off her back on the road. The angel then stood in a narrow place between two walls. The donkey saw this and pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot. He beat her again. The donkey lay down under Balaam. Balaam had become very angry by this time and beat the donkey again. The Lord opened the donkey's mouth and she said, "What have I don't to you to make you beat me these three times?"

of Lot. Try to decide if they trusted God.

Read Numbers 22:2-20, perhaps as a radio play with students reading parts of Balak, Balaam, God, Moabites, and a narrator. Stop at times to ask questions.

Did God know who were staying with Balaam? Why did he ask Balaam? (verse 9)

Did Balaam tell the princes the whole reason God gave for him not to go with them? (verses 12,13)

Do you think Balaam really wanted to curse Israel? Why? What do you think the Lord thought when Balaam had the men spend the night so he could ask the Lord a second time? Did it please the Lord for Balaam to go with the men, or was he just letting Balaam go with his own heart's desires? Did the Moabites trust God?

Read Numbers 22:21-38.

If you read it as a play, assign parts of a narrator, Balaam, donkey, angel of the Lord, and Balak, stopping as needed to ask questions.

What might Balaam have been thinking as he traveled? Thoughts of obeying the Lord or of the rewards he would get if he would curse Israel?

"You have made a fool of me," said Balaam. "If I had a sword right now, I would kill you."

"Do I usually do this kind of thing to you?" the donkey asked.

"No," said Balaam and then the Lord opened his eyes to see the angel of the Lord in the road, with his sword drawn. Balaam bowed low.

"I have come here to oppose you because you know that you are going the wrong way," said the angel. The donkey turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would have killed you by now."

"I have sinned," responded Balaam. "I did not know you were in the road. If you tell me to, I will go back home."

The Lord knew that even though Balaam confessed he had sinned, his heart was really not changed. God allowed Balaam to continue with the men, but warned him to speak only what He told him to say.

Balak was glad to see Balaam and treated him well. "I must speak only words the Lord puts in my mouth," said Balaam.

PART 3: NUMBERS 22:39-24:25

The next morning Balak took Balaam to a high place, from which they could see some of the camp of Israel. Balaam requested that Balak build seven altars and they sacrificed a bull and a ram on each. Balaam then walked away to be by himself and talk to the Lord. He returned to Balak and spoke the words the Lord gave him.

"The king of Moab brought me to curse Israel. How shall I curse those who God has not cursed? From this mountain-top I see this a people living alone and not like the other nations. Who can count the people of Israel—like the dust of the earth?"

Balak was angry. "I brought you here to curse my enemies and you have blessed them," he said.

Balaam responded, "Didn't I tell you I must speak the words the Lord puts in my mouth?"

Balak decided to try again. He took Balaam to another high place. They could still only see part of Israel's camp, for it was so large. They again built seven altars, offering a bull and a ram on each. Balaam left the group to listen to what the Lord would tell him. He returned to Balak and said, "God is not a man, that he should lie or change his mind. When he speaks, he will do it. The Lord is with them. They will have victory and people will say, 'See what God has done!'"

Did Balaam realize the miracle of the donkey speaking? Because of sin in his heart, Balaam was blind to the angel, who might have been Christ. If we have sinful hearts, what things can we not "see"? (God's love and grace to us).

Balaam said he had sinned. Do you think his heart was really changed? (If students don't know the answer yet, ask them to think about it and discuss it later).

Tell most of this story in your own words, having the children read occasional verses.

Was Balaam still hoping to curse Israel and get a large reward? (Yes, or he would not have let Balak try so many times.)

Read Numbers 23:19. What does this tell us about God? (God does what he says and keeps His promises.) Work on this verse for the memory verse. If

the students need a short break to stand up and stretch, hide papers with their verse on it around the room and have the students search until each finds a paper.

"Don't curse them or bless them either one," replied Balak in anger.

"I must do what ever the Lord says," answered Balaam.

Balak took Balaam to yet another high place, where seven sacrifices were made as before. Balaam gave this oracle, or prophecy: "How beautiful are your tents, O Israel!" God brought you out of Egypt and made you strong. May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed!"

"I said I would reward you for cursing them," exclaimed Balak. "You God has kept you from being rewarded. Now leave and go home."

"I said I would say the words of the Lord," answered Balaam. "I will leave, but let me first warn you of what this people will do to you in the future." Then Balaam gave his fourth oracle: "IN the distant future, I see a star, a scepter rising out of Israel. This king will destroy Moab and Edom." By this he was speaking of David and especially David's descent Christ. David would have a large kingdom, conquering many nations, but Christ would eventually conquer all the enemies of God's people.

Read Numbers 24:17.

Explain the meaning of this, as given at left.

Did Balaam have an obedient attitude toward God? Since it might not be 100% clear from this part of the bible, God has given us this answer later in the Bible. Read 2 Peter 2:15-16.

APPLICATION:

Why couldn't Balaam curse Israel? (God had blessed Israel, Balaam wanted to curse Israel but wasn't more powerful than God, read Numbers 23:23.)

Where did Balaam make his first mistake that led him to sin? (Letting the men of Moab spend the night, when he knew he could not curse Israel.)

Do we ever say we want to do things God's way, but then try to wait awhile to decide what to do, instead of saying an immediate "no" to sin and temptation? Our resistance gets weaker as we entertain these thoughts in our hearts and minds.

The true Israel is the people who belong to the Lord with all their heart and who have an attitude of obedience to Him. In this passage, the Lord reveals that the true Israel is the one He has blessed forever.

Pray. Praise the Lord that He is so much above us that He does not lie and that when He says He will do something, He keeps His promises. Thank Him for His promise to bless the true Israel forever. Pray that the children will know whether or not they truly belong to Him and will turn to him if they don't yet know Him, or if they haven't yet asked Him to forgive their sins through Christ's sacrifice. Pray that all would be ready to say a

quick and forceful "no" to sin and temptation.

MEMORY WORK:

Numbers 23:19

Preparing to Enter Canaan

QUARTER 4

LESSON 2

SCRIPTURE: NUMBERS 25-27, 31-35

Lesson Aims:

- To name the leader to succeed Moses.
- To tell at least two of the commands concerning what Israel was to do in the Promised Land (drive out the people, destroy their place of worship, distribute the land by drawing lots, give the Levites cities, set aside cities of refuge, etc.)

REVIEW:

1. Why was Balak, the king of Moab, worried? (He saw that Israel had defeated Sihon and OG and thought they would attack his country next.)
2. Who did Balak send his messengers to get? (Balaam)
3. What did Balak want Balaam to do? (curse Israel)
4. Did Balaam want to do it? (yes) Why? (he would get rewards)
5. Who told Balaam not to go with the messengers? (the Lord)
6. When more messengers came from Balak, what did Balaam do? (told them to spend the night and he would ask the Lord again if he could go)
7. Did it please the Lord for Balaam to go with them, or was he just letting Balaam go with his heart's evil desires? (the latter)
8. What strange things did Balaam's donkey do? (turned off the road into a field, crushed Balaam's foot against a wall, and lay down under Balaam.)
9. Why did she do this? (the angel of the Lord, holding a sword, was in the way.)
10. How did Balaam treat the donkey? (beat her)
11. What miracle happened then? (the donkey talked to Balaam)
12. Did Balaam realize the miracle of the donkey talking? (no)
13. Did this cause him to truly repent of his sin? (no)
14. The Lord allowed Balaam to continue to Balak, but he gave him a warning. What was it? (speak only the words the Lord gave you)
15. Where did Balak take Balaam and what happened there? (three times the king took Balaam to high places overlooking the camp of Israel. They build altars and made sacrifices to God. Balaam spoke the words God gave him to say.)
16. Tell some of the sayings of Balaam in his four oracles prophecies. (I cant curse those whom God has not cursed. Who can count the people of Israel? I see people whop are different from the other nations. God is not a man that he should lie or change his mind. When he speaks he will do it. The Lord is with them and they will have victory. May those who bless them be blessed and those who curse them be cursed.)
17. When Balaam prophesied and said, "I see a star in the distant future rising out of Israel. This king will destroy Moab and Edom," of whom was he speaking? (David and especially David's descendent Christ)
18. What are some of the lessons we can learn from Balaam? (God is in charge of what happens. He watches over his people. When we don't say "no" to temptation immediately, we become more likely to yield to it. The true Israel, the people belong to the Lord and will be blessed to God forever)

LESSON:**PART 1: NUMBERS 25-27**

Balaam continued to hate Israel, even though he had not been able to curse them. He lived among the Midianites and urged the Midianite and Moabite women to tempt Israel. The women were to invite the men of Israel to the sacrifices to their god, Baal. Israel fell right into their trap. How easily they dishonored the Lord.

The Lord was angry and sent a plague on Israel. Moses told the judges of Israel that they must kill those men who had sinned by worshiping Baal. While the people were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, a man of Israel brought a Midianite woman to his tent. Phinehas, son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, saw this and left the assembly. He took his spear and killed the man and woman. The plague stopped immediately, although 24,000 were killed by it. The Lord blessed Phinehas because he had stood up for the Lord's honor as more important than anything else. He helped the people carry out the Lord's justice on sin.

The Lord told Moses and Eleazar to take a census of all the men twenty years of age or older. There were over 600,000 men, not counting the women and children. What a large army God had proved for Israel. The numbers in each tribe were to help divide the promised land evenly, after it was conquered. This census and the one taken in Chapter 1 explain the reason for the name of this book of the Bible. Only three men were left who had been over twenty years old when the first census was taken at Sinai. These three were Moses, Caleb and Joshua.

The Lord told Moses that he would soon die. Because of his and Aaron's sin, he would not be allowed to enter the promise land, but would be able to go up on a high mountain and view it. Moses asked the Lord to appoint another leader for the people, so they would not be like sheep without a shepherd. The Lord told Moses to take Joshua and commission him in front of Eleazar the high priest and all the people. Moses was to lay his hands on Joshua and give him some of the authority the Lord had given Moses.

PART 2: NUMBERS 31

The Lord told Moses to fight the Midianites to punish them for tempting Israel to worship their gods. One thousand men

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Tell the first part of this story in your own words.

Balak knew he couldn't beat Israel in battle he had not been able to get Balaam to curse Israel, so what tactics did he use? (temptation to turn from the Lord) Did it work? Are there people in your life that try to tempt you to disobey God? How do you handle the situation?

Read Numbers 25:6-13.

Phinehas was a picture of someone who came after him who loved God's justice enough to die for it. Who was this? (Christ)

Read Numbers 26:2,51-55,62.

What were the two reasons for this census? (know the size of the army, get ready to divide the land fairly) Only 3 men were left who were over age 20 in the census at Sinai. Who were they?

Read Numbers 27:12, 13, 15-20

List the good things we know about Joshua? (had the spirit of the Lord, had been with Moses at many important times, was one of the 2 spies who had faith, etc.)

Read Numbers 31:3, 4, 6-10, 14, 15, and then tell the rest of the story

from each tribe went to battle, along with Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the priest. They killed every man, including the five kings of Midian and Balaam. Israel burned all the towns of Midian, but took back to Moses and Eleazar all the women, children, animals and valuables.

Moses was angry with the commanders of the army. "Why didn't you kill the women?" He asked. "They were the ones who listened to Balaam and tempted men of Israel away from the Lord. **You must kill all the boys and all the married women." They were allowed to keep the girls and unmarried women as servants.

The Lord Himself told Israel how to divide up the spoils of the battle. The men who had fought received half of it and the rest was divided among the other people. All had to dedicate a certain amount of what was theirs to the Lord, by giving some of it to the Levites. **

PART 3: NUMBERS 32-35

The tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half of tribe of Manasseh asked Moses and the leaders if they could have their inheritance of land on the eastern side of the Jordan. They had large flocks and this land was good for livestock. Since this land had already been conquered, Moses at first thought these men were trying to avoid the battles that lay ahead for Israel. The men promised to build fortified cities for their women, children and flocks and then cross the Jordan with their brothers and fight. Only when all the other tribes had received their land would these men return to their homes. The Lord told Moses to give these tribes what they asked for.

The Lord gave them other commands about taking over the promised land. They were to drive out all the people of the land and destroy their gods. If they did not drive out all the people, the people who remained would give Israel trouble, warned the Lord. The land was to be divided by having the tribes draw lots. Then they would not say that a man gave them their land, but the hand of the Lord. The Lord told Moses the boundaries of the land of Canaan and appointed one man from each tribe to help assign the land. Moses passed all the words of the Lord along to the people.

(between the 2 ** in your own words).

Why did the Lord want Israel to punish Midian? (they had tempted Israel to sin by getting the men to turn from the Lord to their own worship of their gods.)

Why did the Lord asked them to give part of the spoils or booty to Him? (he had given them the victory, so it really all belonged to Him.)

Read Numbers 32:1, 2, 5-6, 16-19.

The 2 ½ tribes were given their land on the east side of the Jordan. Who gave them the land? (the Lord)

The Lord gave other commands about the promised land. Read Numbers 33:50-56.

Why were they to drive out all the people in the land? (the Lord told them to. Perhaps any people allowed to remain would tempt them to sin or turn from the Lord.)

Why might the Lord have wanted them to receive their land by drawing lots? (They would help them remember that their assigned land was chosen for them by the Lord, not by man.)

Look at Numbers chapter 34. The Lord

tells them the exact boundaries of Canaan in the first part of the chapter and assigns the men to help divide the land at the end of the chapter.

The Levites were to have a few cities in each tribe. The tribe of the priests would be scattered among the people. Some of the cities of the Levites were cities of refuge. If one person accidentally killed another, the murderer could flee to a city of refuge. No one could kill him there until the judges had decided if he deserved to die. The Lord required that a man die if he killed another on purpose. Life had to be protected, and the sin of murder punished by death. However, God made a special provision, so an innocent man wasn't killed by an unintentional murder.

Tell the last paragraph of part 3 in your own words.

APPLICATION:

Moses said he wanted the Lord to appoint a leader for the people for he died. He did not want the people to be like a sheep without a _____. (shepherd) We don't have Joshua as our shepherd or leader. Who is our shepherd? (the Lord) What does He do for us that a shepherd does for sheep? (loves us, cares for us, is willing to fight and die for us)

The people of Israel received the promised land from the Lord. It was called their inheritance. If we belong to the Lord, what "promised land" will we receive? (heaven) An inheritance is usually given to a person by someone who loves them who has died. Who died so that we could receive our inheritance? (Christ) Our memory verse talks about the Lord saving us, being our shepherd and the idea of inheritance. (Work on the memory verse at this time.)

Pray that the children and you would hate sin and want to protect the Lord's honor as Phinehas did. Thank the Lord for the promise of our inheritance through Christ and for the shepherding He does over us each day. Perhaps have some of the children pray for particular needs that they mention.

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 28:9

Moses' Final Words To Israel

QUARTER 4

LESSON 3

SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-5; DEUTERONOMY 29-34; JOSHUA 1

Lesson Aims:

- To recite the first six books of the Old Testament, in order and give the meaning of their names.
- To tell several of the last things Moses did and said before his death.
- To tell the command given to Joshua to help him be a wise, courageous and faithful leader.

REVIEW:

Review the names of the Old Testament books, in order, as lessons are presented thought hem. Eventually you want the students to know the names of all the Old Testament books. At this point, have the children recite the names of the first six books. Genesis means the origin or beginning. Exodus is similar to the word 'exit', meaning leaving. Leviticus is concerned with the laws of the Levitical priesthood, and Numbers is so named because twice in it a census was taken. Deuteronomy is Greek meaning second law or second edition of the law. This book repeats many of the laws already given in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. We will only spend one week in this book. Next week we will begin in Joshua, a book written about the time when Joshua was leader of Israel. Perhaps Joshua wrote it, or someone close to him, such as Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. How did Midianite and Moabite women tempt Israel? (The women invited the men of Israel to the sacrifices of this god, Baal.)
2. How did the Lord punish the people? (sent a plague)
3. Who stood up for the Lord's honor as more important than anything else, killed the Israelite man and Midianite woman? (Phinehas)
4. Why did the Lord tell Moses and Eleazar to take a census of Israel? (know the size of the army: get ready to divide the promise land fairly)
5. How many men did they count? (over 600,000)
6. Only three men were living who were over age 20 in the census at Sinai. Who were they? (Moses, Caleb and Joshua)
7. Why did Israel fight the Midianites? (The Lord told them to fight to punish the Midianites)
8. Why was Moses angry with the army commanders when they came back from the battle? (They had let the women live. The women had been the ones to temp the men of Israel.)
9. What did the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh want to do? (get their inheritance of land on the east side of the Jordan)
10. Moses said they could do this if they did what? (built cities on the east side for their women, children and animals and then crossed the river and help their brothers conquer the rest of the land)
11. What commands did God give them about conquering and dividing Canaan? (They were to drive out the people of the land and destroy their gods. They were to divide the land by drawing lots.)

12. What were the Levites to receive? (a few cities in each tribe, rather than a large parcel of land)
13. Moses did not want the people to be like sheep without a shepherd. What did he ask the Lord to do? (appoint a new leader) Whom did the Lord appoint? (Joshua)

LESSON:

PART 1: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-5; 29; 30; 31:1-13

The words in the book of Deuteronomy are the final words Moses spoke to the people before his death. He reminded them of all the things the Lord had done for them during their forty years in the wilderness. The Lord sent manna to feed them, teaching them "that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Christ quoted from the book of Deuteronomy when Satan tempted him after he had been in the dessert for forty days. The Lord also sent quail to Israel at times, gave them water through several miracles, led them by his angel, and did not let their clothes or sandals wear out. He defeated their enemies for them and continued the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Remember, a covenant is an agreement between two parties in which the rights and duties of both parties are spelled out.

Moses was telling them again the words which God spoke to them at Sinai. If they obeyed the Lord, they were choosing life and prosperity, which God promised them. If their heart turned away from God, they were choosing death and destruction.

Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests and elders. Every seven years they were to assemble all the people and read the entire law to them.

PART 2: DEUTERONOMY 31:14 – DEUTERONOMY 33

The Lord told Moses that the people would soon forsake Him and worship other gods, the foreign gods of the land of Canaan. "I will be angry with them, " said the Lord, "and I will hid my face from them and they will be destroyed." The Lord told Moses to write down the words of a song to teach Israel. The words would be a witness for the Lord against the people. God surely tried to warn them.

In the song, Moses praised the Lord, who had greatly blessed His people. When they go and serve other gods, the Lord will punish them and scatter them, but He will never completely leave them. One day God will defeat His enemies and the enemies of His people. We, too, can know this promise that God's grace will have the final victory. This song witnesses against those people today who reject the Lord, but gives

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3.

Christ quoted these words from Deuteronomy. Do you know ho he was speaking to and where he was? (He spoke to Satan who was tempting Him to turn stones in to bread after forty days of fasting in the desert.)

Have the children read Deuteronomy 8:4-5; Deuteronomy 29:2-5, 7-9, 12-13 to themselves. Make a list of the blessing God gave Israel and the ways He cared for them during the forty years in the dessert. What is a covenant?

Read Deuteronomy 30: 15-18

What two choices did Israel have?

Read Deuteronomy 31:9-11

How often were they to read the law?

Read Deuteronomy 31:16-19; 32:3-6

Summarize this paragraph in your own words.

promises to those who accept His grace, through Christ.

Moses blessed the tribes, predicting what the Lord would do for them in the future. Even though these tribes would sin and people would fall away from the Lord, Moses could promise that the tribes would belong to the kingdom of the Lord forever, because of the Lord's grace and faithfulness. These blessings belong to us if we are part of the true Israel. God's covenant people.

PART 3: DEUTERONOMY 34; JOSHUA 1

Moses climbed Mount Nebo as the Lord had instructed him. The Lord allowed him to look down on the promised land and then Moses died. Although he was a hundred and twenty years old, he still had the strength and good vision of a much younger man. No prophet has come to Israel since Moses who showed all the power or did the great miracles Moses did. The Lord knew him face to face, unlike other prophets who lived after him. The people of Israel mourned for Moses thirty days, until their usual time of grieving was over.

The Lord told Joshua to prepare Israel to cross the Jordan River into the promised land. The Lord promised that He would be with Joshua as He had been with Moses. He would not leave him. He encouraged Joshua to be strong and have courage and commanded him to know the law and follow it carefully.

Joshua commanded the people to get their supplies ready to cross the river. He reminded the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh of their promise to cross over with their brothers and fight. The people obeyed Joshua and accepted him as their leader. They promised that whoever refused to obey Joshua would be killed.

Have the children glance at Deuteronomy 33.

Who else gave blessings such as this just before he died? (Jacob or Israel blessed his 12 sons.)

Summarize this paragraph in your own words.

Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12.

Why wasn't Moses allowed to enter the promised land? (he and Aaron hadn't completely obeyed and honored the Lord when striking the rock at the waters of Meribah.) List some differences between Moses and other men or prophets.

Read Joshua 1:1-2, 5-8.

Summarize this paragraph in your own words.

CONCLUSION:

Joshua was taking on a difficult job. How did Moses often feel about his role as leader of the people? (discouraged, ready to give up, complaining, etc) What promise did the Lord give Joshua? (He would never leave him nor forsake him. He would be with him as He was with Moses. No one would be able to stand up against him.) What was Joshua commanded to do daily, to give him faith and courage and wisdom for the task? (know God's law, meditate on it, be careful to obey it).

Ask students to list specific prayer requests from what was learned in this lesson (such as that they become knowledgeable of God's Word and obedient to it, that they consider the word more necessary to life than bread, etc.) Pray or have several students pray.

MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 1:8 (for the next two weeks)

The Lord Brings Them into Canaan

QUARTER 4

LESSON 4

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 1-5:12

Lesson Aims:

- To review the first six books of the Old Testament, in order, and give the meaning of their names.
- To name Jesus as the One who was represented by the Ark of the Covenant, clearly seen as the One who brought His people through the Jordan, into the land of Canaan.
- To name Rahab as One who had confessed faith in the True God and trusted in His covenant promises.

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHER:

You may choose to use a series of pictures to accompany the stories in Joshua available through A Beka Books, Pensacola, FL.

REVIEW:

Again, review the names of the Old Testament books in order. Have the children recall the meanings of the names (see last week's lesson review).

1. Where, in what book of the Bible, do we find the final words of Moses to the people? (Deuteronomy)
2. When Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy that man cannot live by bread alone, where was He and to whom was He speaking? (during the forty days of His temptation in the wilderness when He was speaking with Satan)
3. Name one blessing God gave Israel during their time in the wilderness.
4. Name other blessings. (manna, quail, water, led them by His angel, didn't let their clothes or sandals wear out.)
5. What is a covenant? (an agreement between two parties in which the duties of both parties are spelled out.)
6. As Moses told them again of God's law, what two choices did the people have? (obey: choose life and prosperity; disobey: choose death and destruction)
7. How often were they to assemble all the people and read the law to them? (every seven years)
8. What did Moses do to the people before He died? (blessed them)
9. Before he died, what was Moses allowed to do? (view the promised land from Mount Nebo)
10. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land? (Because of his sin of striking the rock instead of speaking to it as the Lord had told him)
11. How old was Moses when he died? (120)
12. What did the Lord tell Joshua to prepare the people for? (cross the Jordan)
13. What did the people say about Joshua? (they accepted him as leader; said that whoever did not obey him would be killed)

Review the memory verse: An interesting twist is to teach it using sign language. If you do not have a book of sign, the library should have several copies.

LESSON:

PART 1: JOSHUA 1

After the Lord spoke to Joshua the promise that we have memorized and told him that none would be able to stand against them, Joshua told his officers to tell the people to get food ready because in three days they would enter the land.

You can imagine how excited the people must have been. They had been wandering around in the wilderness for forty years. They still had the manna, but soon they would feast on the goodness of the promised land!

Joshua reminded the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh of their responsibility. Even though their portions would be on the east side of the Jordan, they promised to cross over and help the other tribes defeat the enemy on the west side.

They responded that they would fully obey the commands of Joshua, and anyone who would not, would die. The last thing they said in reply was exactly the words the Lord had commanded: "Be strong and courageous."

The Lord had caused the people to accept Joshua as their leader and his commands in faith. So for us, who have a leader in Jesus. We, too, accept Him as our head. And in faith we follow His commands.

PART 2: JOSHUA 2

Though the Lord had said that He would give them the land, it did not mean that they would not have to fight for it. So, Joshua sent two spies to Jericho to check things out. They soon discovered that it was a city with very thick walls...so thick that a house could be built on top.

When they got there, they went to the house of a prostitute named Rahab. She took them in, but the king was told that spies had entered and were at Rahab's house. He sent messengers to find them, but Rahab hid them under flax she was drying on the roof. She lied to the messengers and told them that the men had been there and had left. If they hurried, she said, they could probably still catch them.

After the messenger left, Rahab talked with the spies. She told them of her faith. She knew that the Lord was giving the

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Read Joshua 1:10-11.

**What did Joshua tell the leader to do?
How do you think the people would have felt about this?**

Read Joshua 1:13-15.

What did Joshua tell the men of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh?

Read Joshua 1:15-18.

**How did they respond to Joshua?
What was the last thing they said to him? Of what does that remind you?**

Summarize the account of the spies entering Jericho in your own words.

Read Joshua 2:8-13.

What did Rahab tell the spies?

land into their hands.

The two spies promised to deal faithfully with Rahab and her family if she kept their secret. Then she let them down with a rope on the outside of the city wall and told them to hide in the hills for three days before crossing back over the Jordan. They reminded her of the oath and instructed her to tie a red cord in her window. That would be the sign to the Israelite army when they conquered the city that everyone in that house was to be spared.

As soon as the spies were gone, Rahab hung the red cord in her window. Thus, she showed her faith in the God of Israel and waited for the deliverance, which would come from Him.

The spies waited in the hill country for three days until the king's men stopped hunting for them and returned to Jericho. Then they crossed over the Jordan to report to Joshua. Their report centered on the Lord. Indeed He had gone before them. The people were in great fear of the Lord's army. Their hearts had melted. All the Israelites had to do was trust Him and act in faith. So with us!

PART 3: JOSHUA 3-4

Early the next morning, Joshua and Israel set out from where they had been camped and came to the Jordan. There they stayed for three days next to the raging river, which was at flood stage. It was the rainy season, and the snows of the mountains had melted, so the river was very deep with a swift current. During those three days, the people must have wondered how they could cross the river. The Lord wanted them to see how impossible it was for the two million people to cross on their own.

At last the Lord told Joshua how He was going to lead the people through...it would be a way they had never seen before, and through this the Lord would show the people that Joshua was to be their leader.

Joshua told the people to get themselves ready by cleaning themselves. This was not just to be an outward cleansing, but one which was from the heart. They were to confess their sin. In this way they would be ready to meet the Lord who would appear in their midst.

The Israelites did sanctify themselves and the next day, Joshua told the priests to take the ark of the covenant and carry it in front of the people. They were to carry it half a mile in front so that everyone could see it.

The ark was the picture for them of the Lord Jesus. It was

Summarize this part of the story in your own words.

Read Joshua 2:24.

What did the spies report to Joshua? Was this a "good report? Why? (It was based on faith, centered in the Lord and what He was doing).

Summarize the story for the children in your own words.

Why do you think the Lord had them wait three days?

Of what was the ark a picture?

important that they would see and understand that He was the One going before them, preparing the way. He was the One bringing them into the land. All eyes were to be on the ark.

The moment the priests' feet stepped into the Jordan, the river stopped flowing. The water to the North, several miles up, formed a wall while the water kept flowing to the South. Thus there was a nice wide path of a dry riverbed for the many people to cross over. Just think of it: all their animals, all the people and their possessions. It must have really been something to see. And as they all crossed the river, they would have passed the ark being held by the priests in the middle of the riverbed. They all would have recognized that the promised Savior was the One who had prepared the way for them. They entered Canaan by a miracle, and they trusted in Him through faith. In the same way, we enter into a relationship with the Lord through faith in Jesus Christ. The parallels are clear. Have we trusted in Him?

The Lord then had Joshua command a man from each of the twelve tribes to take up a stone from the riverbed and bring it to the shore. Likewise, Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the riverbed. These piles of stones were to serve as memorials, so that when future generations would ask what those stones meant, the people would pass on the record of the crossing of the River Jordan. Thus the people would be reminded of the mighty acts of the Lord.

PART 4: JOSHUA 5:1-12

They camped at Gilgal and were undisturbed for several days. What had occurred was spread to all the Canaanites, and they were terrified.

Now, during their time in the wilderness, the people had sinned greatly against the Lord. He did not desert them, but neither had they enjoyed many of the blessings of their relationship with Him. All during that time, the boys had not been circumcised (the sign of their covenant relationship with Him), nor had the people celebrated the Passover.

Here at Gilgal, the people once again experienced these blessings and drew close to the Lord in fellowship. And so they named the place Gilgal, which means "turning" because the Lord had turned away the reproach of the Egyptians. Now the Egyptians knew that the Lord had not led His people into the wilderness to let them die as the Egyptians had claimed.

At this point, the manna stopped falling, for now the people could eat the abundant produce of the land. The Lord had kept His promise.

Read Joshua 4:21-24.

What was the purpose of the pile of stones?

What signs do we have today that correspond to their means of fellowship and blessing? (baptism and communion)

MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 1:8

The Lord Comes To Give Victory

QUARTER 4

LESSON 5

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 5:13 – 8:35

REVIEW:

1. After the people had mourned for Moses for 30 days, and the Lord had spoken His promises to Joshua, what did Joshua command the people to do? (Prepare to cross the Jordan in three days.)
2. What did Joshua remind the tribes of God, Reuben and Manasseh? (Their soldiers were to cross with the other people to help fight for Canaan. Then they could return to their portions east of the Jordan.)
3. Where did the two spies go when they entered Jericho? (The home of Rahab.)
4. What did Rahab tell the spies? (The people of Jericho were afraid of them. She knew the Lord had given them the Land. They had heard of everything God had done for them. She told of her belief in Him and asked for mercy.)
5. What did she do for the spies? (Hid them and helped them escape.)
6. What was to be the sin to the Israelites of Rahab's house? (Scarlet cord in the window.)
7. How was the report of the two spies to Joshua a "good" one? (It showed their faith: The people's hearts were melted. The Lord had given the land into their hands.)
8. Why was it going to be seemingly impossible for the people to cross the Jordan? (It was at flood stage; there were about two million Israelites plus all their possessions.)
9. Of what was the ark a picture? (The Lord Jesus; the presence of the Lord with His people, going before them.)
10. What happened when the feet of the priests touched the water? (The river stopped flowing and the river dried up.)
11. What did Joshua have one man from each tribe do? (Take a stone from the riverbed and take it to the other side where they would make a pile for a memorial.)
12. What was the purpose of the memorial stones? (When future generations would ask, "what do these stones mean?" the parents would tell the miracle that Lord had done that day).
13. What had the people not been able to do during the forty years in the wilderness? (celebrate the Passover and have the sign of circumcision).
14. Now at Gilgal, they had these blessing again. What does Gilgal, the place they camped, mean? (Turning; the Lord had turned away the reproach of the Egyptians.)
15. What did the people stop receiving after they crossed the Jordan? (manna)
16. Why? (Now they could eat the produce of the land.)
17. Review again with the children the first six books of the Bible and their message.

LESSON:

PART 1: JOSHUA 5:13 – 6:5

After the people had crossed the Jordan, Joshua began to think about their first battle: Jericho. While he was examining the city, he suddenly looked up and saw someone with a sword drawn in his hand. Joshua immediately asked him if

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Read Joshua 5:13-6:5.
Review the events by asking the children questions.

was for them or for their enemies. He was told that the visitor was the Captain of the Lord's host.

Joshua may not have recognized immediately who this was. It was the Lord himself ... Jesus of the Old Testament. He was the same One who had appeared to Abraham in human form. Now, He was revealing Himself to Joshua in order that he and all Israel might know that Jesus was the One who would win the victory along with His host of angels. Joshua and the Israelites would go to battle, but the Lord would be the One who would win for them.

Joshua threw himself to the ground and asked the Lord what He wanted him to do. He was told to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. At this point, Joshua would have known for sure that he was in the presence of the Lord Himself.

The gates of Jericho had been shut tight, but the Lord had a battle plan. He would deliver the city with those impenetrable walls into the hands of His people without a battle. All they had to do was follow his instructions: march around the city every day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day. There was to be a certain order. The army behind and in front with the priests in the middle carrying the ark and seven priests blowing the trumpet. Again the visibility of the ark would remind the people of the presence of the Lord. He was the One who would win the battle. They were to simply obey His orders.

PART 2: JOSHUA 6:6-27

Joshua gave the orders of the Lord to the people. All the armed men walked around Jericho those seven days. The ark was in the middle with the seven priests blowing the trumpets in front of the ark. That would have been the sign of the victory of the Lord for His people.

Jericho stood there with its strong walls. What a strange sight it all would have been. As the Israelites walked around the walls those seven days, they were all silent as they had been commanded. They had to wait faithfully for the Lord to do His work. He was coming. The people waited for Him in faith.

At the end of the seventh time around the city on the seventh day, Joshua told the people to shout for the Lord had given the city into their hands. He also told them to make sure everything was destroyed as the Lord had commanded. They were to be careful not to take anything under the ban in order not to covet them and thus bring trouble to the people. Rahab and her house were to be saved

**Where was Joshua?
Who did the person say He was? Who was that?**

Who are the "host of the Lord?" (angels)

At what point would Joshua have known for sure it was the Lord?

What were the orders the Lord gave Joshua?

Why did they need the ark?

Who would be the One to win the battle? (Joshua 6:2)

**Read Joshua 6:6-12.
What was the battle plan?**

Why would they need the ark with them?

What were all the people to do while they marched?

**Read Joshua 6:15-19.
After marching the seventh day, what were the people told to do?**

What were they to be very careful not to do?

because of her faith, and the metals (gold, silver, bronze and iron) were to be saved for use in the sanctuary.

As the people raised up the shout after all those days of silence, the power of the Lord became evident. The walls of Jericho collapsed and the Israelites ran into the city on all side destroying everything under the ban. The Lord's judgment was being meted out against those who hated him.

Rahab and those in her house were saved because of her faith. She escaped the judgment by faith. We, too, can escape God's judgment by exercising the same faith. Have we heard of the mighty deeds of the Lord? Do we know of and trust in His promises? Have we seen the power of the Lord Jesus as He has defeated Satan by His work on the cross? Have we bowed in humble obedience and given Him our life?

After the battle, Joshua swore to the people that whoever would attempt to rebuild Jericho, would be cursed. The open walls of the city were always to remain that way. The Lord had given the land to His people.

PART 3: JOSHUA 7 – 8:28

After the defeat of Jericho, the next city to attack was Ai. At the advice of the spies he had sent to Jericho, and without consulting the Lord, Joshua sent 3,000 soldiers to a city they thought would be easy to defeat. But they were defeated and 36 men were killed.

The people were discouraged, and Joshua went humbly before the Lord. He knew that the enemies would hear of this defeat and regain their courage to fight the Israelites. The honor of the Lord was at stake.

The Lord answered Joshua that there was sin in the camp. One man had disobeyed the Lord's clear command not to take anything under the ban. He told Joshua that the next morning, he would reveal who the man was. The man and his family would have to be judged.

The next morning, lots were cast and Achan of the tribe of Judah was pointed out at the one. He confessed the sin. He had taken a robe from Babylon, 200 pieces of silver and a bar of gold. Achan and his family were stoned and all their possessions were burned.

This may seem like a harsh punishment, but consider what he had done. Apparently this man thought very lightly of the Lord's Word and the Lord's right to deal in judgment with His enemies and all that they possess. In his greed, he had

What happened when the people shouted?

Why were Rahab and her family saved?

Memory verse: Challenge the children as to their own faith.

Summarize this part of the story in your own words.

Why do you think it was necessary for this punishment to be carried out against Achan and his family?

decided that the Lord and His covenant were not as important or valuable as the thing sin in this world. And his family shared in the sin, for they must have known something of what he had done.

After the camp had been purified of this sin they were ready to march against Ai. This time, Joshua used a trick by preparing an ambush and getting the men of Ai out of the city so that the rest of the army could go into the city and burn it.

This time, the people were allowed to keep the spoils for themselves. They received the treasures by the Lord's hand.

PART 4: JOSHUA 8:30-35

With the defeats of Jericho and Ai, the first part of Canaan was in their possession. Now Joshua saw to it that they carried out something Moses had told them to do when they entered the land. They traveled north to two mountains, Ebal and Gerizim. On Ebal, they built an altar and made offerings. Joshua wrote the law on two tablets and had six tribes stand on one mountain, and six on the other. The priests stood between the mountains to read the Law.

When the priests read the curse, which God would give if the people were unfaithful, all the people on Mt. Ebal shouted "Amen!" When the blessings were read the people on Mt. Gerizim shouted "Amen!" Thus the people were saying they were in hearty agreement with the Lord's commands and his justice in dealing with obedience and disobedience.

In Christ, we all have the blessing in that He has obeyed fully and we cannot. He took the curse of the law upon Himself. In Him alone we can say "Amen!" He has accomplished it all for us. Praise the Lord for what he has done for us.

We must all consider whether we are like Rahab, exercising faith and choosing to follow the lord or like Achan, despising the Lord and His covenant. Have you received the blessing or the cursing? Let's pray.

(It may be tempting to omit the accounts of God's judgment, but it is crucial for the children's understanding of God's holiness and justice.)

IIII

Read Deuteronomy 27:11-14.

MEMORY WORK:

Hebrews 11:30-31 (Extra credit for verse 31!)

The Righteous Judgment of God

QUARTER 4

LESSON 6

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 3-12

REVIEW:

1. As Joshua was near Jericho. Just after the people had entered the land, he met a man. What did this man have in his hand? (a drawn sword)
2. Who did this man say he was? (the Commander or Captain of the Lord's host)
3. Who are "the Lord's host"/ (angels)
4. When Joshua asked the Lord what He wanted him to do, what did He tell him to do and why? (take off his shoes, for he was standing on holy ground)
5. In what order were they to march around Jericho? (army in front and behind with the ark in middle and seven priests blowing trumpets in front of ark)
6. Why was the ark to be there? (represent the presence of the Lord)
7. As they marched around the city for those seven days what were all the people supposed to do? (be silent)
8. After marching around the city those seven times on the seventh day, what did Joshua tell the people to do? (Shout! For the Lord has given the city into your hands)
9. What were they told specifically NOT to do? (not to take any the spoils for themselves. Everything and everyone, except Rahab and her household were to be destroyed. The metals---gold, silver, bronze, were to be kept for use in the sanctuary)
10. When Joshua sent an army of 3,000 to attack the Ai, what happened? (they were defeated and 36 men were killed)
11. When Joshua went to the Lord about this, what did he discover? (there was sin in the camp. Someone had taken something under the ban)
12. When Achan was pointed out by the Lord the next morning as the man, what did he confess to having done? (took 200 pieces of silver, a bar of gold, and a robe and buried them under his tent)
13. What happened to Achan and his family as a result of his sin? (They were stoned and piled over with rocks)
14. Why did Achan receive such a harsh punishment? What had he regarded more valuable than the Lord's righteous judgment? (He wanted the things of this world. He was greedy, but not concerned for the Lord and his honor and promises)
15. When the Israelites returned to Ai, how did they defeat the city? (with an ambush trick)
16. What did they do at Mt. Gerizim and Ebal that Moses had instructed them to do? (blessings and cursings. "Amen!")

LESSON:

PART 1: JOSHUA 9

After the people had been to Mt. Ebal and Gerizim, they camped at Gilgal, where some strange men came to them. It looked as if they had come a long distance. They had holes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Tell the narrative in your own words.

What did the strange men say when they come to the camp? Read Joshua 9:6.

in their wineskins, their sandals were worn out, and their bread was moldy. They said they had come from a far land... therefore, they were not from Canaan... and they wanted to make a treaty with the Israelites.

At first, the men of Israel were suspicious and challenged them as to whether they could be from Canaan. They were not to make any covenants with the people from Canaan.

The strangers turned to Joshua, and said they were servants. When he asked where they were from, they explained that they had come from a far land where they had heard of the Lord and His people. Therefore, they said, they had come to make a covenant with God's people. As proof of what they were saying, the strangers showed Joshua their worn out clothing and provisions from their journey.

Joshua was convinced of their truthfulness, and without seeking the Lord's direction, he made a vow with the strangers. The Israelites swore to the agreement in the Lord's name.

When the Israelites reached Gibeon three days later, they realized they had been deceived by the Gibeonites. They explained that they had heard the commandment that all the Canaanites were to be destroyed, so they worked out this deceitful plan to save their lives.

Joshua and the Israelites could not go back on their vow. They were bound to it in the Lord's name. The Israelites complained, for Joshua had been in error in not seeking the Lord's will. All Joshua could do was curse the Gibeonites and condemn them to be servants. This was a fulfillment of Noah's curse on Canaan (Genesis 9:25) when he prophesied that Canaan would become slave of Israel.

PART 2: JOSHUA 10-12

When the king of Jerusalem, Adoni-zedek, heard about the defeats of Jericho and Ai and about the treaty that the Gibeonites had made with Israel, he was afraid. Gibeon was a great city... more so than Ai... and it had mighty men. So, he had a plan. He called four other kings from cities around him and asked them to become allies to go together to fight against Gibeon who had betrayed the other Canaanite cities.

The Gibeonites called to the Israelites to come and help them. The Lord told Joshua to go, for He had given them all into their hands.

The Israelite army marched through the night and surprised the armies of the five kings who tried to flee back to their

How did the men try to "prove" that they were from a far land? (verses 12-13)

What did Joshua NOT do? (verse 14)

What happened to the Gibeonites? (verse 27)

Read Genesis 9:25.

Point out the fulfillment of Noah's curse.

Tell the narrative in your own words.

Have someone read Joshua 10:4. What did the king of Jerusalem ask the other four kings to do?

Have someone read Joshua 10:8. What did the Lord tell Joshua?

Have children read the account of the battle (Joshua 10:9-15). What did the

fortified cities through a mountain pass. But at that very pass the Lord caused a great hailstorm to fall, and more of the enemy was killed by the hailstorm than by swords of the Israelites.

When the Israelites chased the remaining enemies, Joshua was concerned that none of them escape, so he commanded the sun and the moon to stand still. At his word, the daylight lasted almost twice as long as normal. The Lord performed a miracle in order that his purposes might be fulfilled and his people would have complete victory. The Lord's judgment was being carried out against His enemies.

During the Battle, someone told Joshua that the five kings had fled to a cave. He commanded that a large stone be rolled in front of it so that they could not escape. After the battle, the whole army assembled in front of the cave, and Joshua had the five kings brought out. He then commanded the chiefs of the army to have courage and put their feet on the necks of the kings and put them to death. By executing this judgment against the enemies of the Lord, Joshua and the Israelites were demonstrating that they belonged exclusively to the Lord and would do as He commanded in destroying God's enemies.

One day, the Bible clearly teaches, that we will all face judgment. We are no better than those five kings. We have been just as sinful and rebellious to God's ways. But the Lord Jesus has done something very special. He has taken God's judgment on Himself on our behalf. He allowed his life to be taken for ours.

After the defeat of the five kings, Joshua and the Israelites went on to defeat the other cities of the south. Their victories are briefly recorded in the rest of Joshua 10. As the Lord had commanded they wiped out all the people and kept the cattle and the spoils for themselves.

PART 3: JOSHUA 11-12

News of Israel's victory over the southern cities reached the northern kings, and Jabin, the king of Hazor formed an alliance with the northern cities. It was a very large army, and they had horses and chariots, signs of great strength and power.

Again, the Lord told Joshua not to be Afraid, for He was giving the army into their hands. Joshua quickly marched his army to the north, attacked the kings and their armies, and destroyed them. He did just as the Lord had commanded him. He burned the chariots and hamstringed the horses to show that these things man trust in for strength are nothing in comparison with the Lord's might.

Lord do to win the battle?

When it was time to kill the five kings what did Joshua tell the people? (10:25)

What were these armies like? (11:4)

What again did the Lord again tell Joshua? (11:6)

Joshua then took all the cities of these kings and destroyed them. He also defeated the sons of Anak, those giants of whom the Israelites had been so afraid years before.

It's important to notice verse 20 of chapter 11. The hearts of those people were hardened so that they hated the Lord. They hated His people and the covenant promise of the One who was to come. On this basis, they had to be destroyed.

Now all of Canaan was in the power of God's people. There were still Canaanites to do away with, but that could be done as the individual tribes took possession of their inheritances.

APPLICATION:

God, in righteousness, had executed his judgment upon his enemies. He will one day execute His judgment on all men. Only if we have been reconciled to Him through Jesus, and by faith had His righteousness accounted to us, can we escape His condemnation. First of all, we need to seriously consider: Where do I stand in relation to Him? Do I have Christ's righteousness? Have I trusted in Him alone for salvation? OR have I put my trust in things that man thinks are "strong" and able to save us?

Secondly: We each need to consider friends and relatives who have not placed their trust in Christ. Let's each list at least one person who does not know the Lord so that we can be praying for them. Also, let's pray that the Lord will give us courage to witness for the Lord and His righteousness. Let's pray for another one to boldly tell these people who are bound to destruction about the saving grace of the Lord Jesus, for only He can deliver them.

List names on the board. Have children record them in their notebooks. Pray together for each other and the non-Christians listed.

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 9:7-8

The Inheritance and the Covenant

QUARTER 4

LESSON 7

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 13-24

REVIEW:

Review again with the students the name of the first six books of the Old Testament and their meaning.

1. What trick did the Gibeonites pull on the Israelites? (pretended they had come from a far county to make a covenant with them).
2. Why did they do this? (They had heard the command to Moses to destroy all the Canaanites. They were saving their own necks).
3. What did Joshua and the leaders do when they found out they had been deceived by the Gibeonites? (Made them servants, hewers of wood and drawers of water).
4. Of what prophecy was this a fulfillment? (Noah's curse on Canaan, the son of Ham, Gen 9:25).
5. What did Adoni-zodek, the King of Jerusalem, do when he heard about the defeats of the other cities and the treaty with the Gibeonites? (Called on four other kings of the southern cities to make and alliance with him).
6. When the five cities made their alliance, what did they do? (Went to battle against Gibeon).
7. When Gibeon called to Israel for help and Joshua asked the Lord what to do, what was the answer? (Go, for I have given them into your hand).
8. Why were the armies of the five kings surprised by the army of Israel? (Israel marched through the night and got to Gibeon early in the morning).
9. Name one of the miracles that the Lord wrought to help His people defeat the enemy. (Rained hailstones on them; caused the moon and sun to stand still).
10. Name the other.
11. Why did the Israelites need the extra daylight? (To have time to kill all the enemies and destroy them completely).
12. What happened to the five kings? (They were shut into the cave they tried to hide in, then after the battle Joshua had the leaders put their feet on their necks and kill them).
13. Why did this have to be? (God is righteous and just. These kings hated the Lord and His covenant promises. They had to be judged).
14. When Jabin and the other kings of the North formed their alliance, what made them think they were so strong? (Their horses and chariots).
15. When the Israelites defeated these armies, what did the Lord tell them to do with the horses and chariots? (Burn the chariots and hamstring the horses).

List the names again of the non-Christians the children are to be praying for together. Remind them again of the application of last week. All of us will face judgment, just as the five kings did. Either we put our trust in the Lord and His power to save us through the work of the Lord Jesus, or we put our trust in the world and what it has to offer. Either we are a Rahab or and Achan, A Cain or an Able, a Ham or Shem. Ad if we have faith in Jesus, we ought to have a burden for those around us who do not know Him and we are bound for certain destruction unless they come to Christ. Pray again for each other and these non-Christian friends and relatives.

LESSON:**PART 1: JOSHUA 13-15**

After the defeat of the kings of the North, there were still Canaanites to drive out of the land but Joshua was getting old. It was time to divide the land into the inheritance of the different tribes who would then be responsible for driving out the remaining enemies.

There were only nine and a half tribes among which to divide the land on the west side of the Jordan because Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had received their inheritance on the east side while Moses was still alive. And the tribe of Levi would not receive any land because the Lord was their inheritance. They were to serve in the worship of the Lord and be given cities within the territories of each tribe

(Note: You might choose to explain why there were still twelve tribes to receive an inheritance. Jacob had promised Joseph that he would receive a double portion, and therefore, his sons Ephraim and Manasseh were counted as sons of Jacob. And since the tribe of Levi did not receive a separate inheritance, the land was divided among twelve tribes.)

Caleb came to Joshua and asked that he be given the inheritance, promised him by Moses. Though he was now 85 years old, he pointed out that he was as strong as 40 years earlier when they had spied out the land and brought back the good report of faith. He asked for the portion which was to be part of the inheritance of his tribe, Judah. The portion he requested was not an easy one. It was where the remaining Anakem or giants were, but he knew the Lord would help him drive them out. Caleb quickly went to work to rid his land of the enemy. He displayed faith and courage and was rewarded with victory and peace by the Lord.

Caleb was of the tribe of Judah which was given its inheritance surrounding Hebron where Caleb was. They followed Caleb's lead and began to rid their land of the enemy.

PART 2: JOSHUA 16-19

The tribe of Judah had received its inheritance, and now the rest of the land was divided up by lots. At one point when Ephraim and Manasseh came to complain that their portion was too small, Joshua told them to get busy and clear the land, and use the power given them from the Lord to rid the land of the enemy.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Be ready to relate the narrative in your own words. As the students read the references listed and then answer the questions.

Why did Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh not get an inheritance at this time? (Read Joshua 13:8).

What about the tribe of Levi? (Joshua 13: 33).

What had Moses promised Caleb and why? (Joshua 14:9)

How old was Caleb now and how did he feel? (Joshua 14:10-11)

What was the land that Caleb asked for like? What did he know? (Joshua 14:12)

Be familiar with the narrative and share it in your own words.

When the remaining tribes moved too slowly to claim their inheritance, Joshua had them meet at Shiloh where he appointed three men from each tribe to survey the land and divide it. Thus the remaining seven tribes received their inheritances.

And then the Sons of Israel gave Joshua the inheritance due him. He chose a portion within the land of the tribe of Ephraim, for that was his tribe. He built a city there and withdrew to live. He did not desire to be Israel's king. He knew the Lord Himself would be their leader.

PART 3: JOSHUA 20-22

At the command of the Lord, Joshua named the cities that were to be places of refuge where an innocent person could flee if he killed a person unintentionally. This had all been spelled out in the books of law written by Moses.

Then he also named the cities which were to be given to the Levites with pasture land for their cattle. This tribe was set apart for special service to the Lord. All the tribes were to serve the Lord, but the sons of Aaron were to serve as priests in the tabernacle and live largely from the gifts and offerings from the whole nation. The priests were to be mediators and remind the people of their service to the Lord.

After all the tribe had received their inheritance, we read that the Lord gave them rest from every side and fulfilled every promise which He had made to Israel. The Lord is faithful!

Now it was time for the two and a half tribes who had their inheritance east of the Jordan to return to their places. When they got home, they erected a big altar, and when the tribes on the west saw it they were greatly disturbed. The Lord was to be worshipped at only one altar.

So the tribes on the west got ready for battle. But Phinehas and some others went across to talk with the two and a half tribes. They were greatly relieved to hear that the altar had only been built to remind all the tribes that together they served one Lord. They didn't want to the other tribes across the Jordan to think that because the river separated them, they had no portion in the Lord. They built the altar as a reminder that they, too, had a portion in the Lord and His service. The other tribes were very relieved to hear this news and blessed the Lord.

PART 4: JOSHUA 23-24

Joshua was getting old, and wanted to give another message to the people, so he called all the leaders together. The first

Read Joshua 21:43-45.

What does this tell us about the Lord?

Read Joshua 22:34.

What did the tribes on the call the altar? Why?

If you have time, have the students read Joshua 23:2-11. (If not, just read

things he did was to remind them of God's promise. The Lord had given them the land, just as He had said. He had helped them drive out the enemies, but there were still more to drive out. If the people would rely in faith on the Lord, He would help them finish the job. And in that faith, He would see that they had no desire to mingle with the foreign idols but would cling to Him alone. Joshua strongly warned them that if they mixed with the Canaanites, they would become a snare to Israel, cause them to serve idols and bring the Lord's judgment.

Joshua then gathered all the people together at Shechem to renew the covenant. He reminded them of their history, of all the things the Lord had done for them. Then he challenged them to decide whom they would serve. Either they would choose the heathen idols or the Lord. Joshua, as the mediator (picture of Jesus) declared his intention to serve the Lord. When the people declared the same, he warned them of the seriousness of what they were saying and what the consequences would be if they failed. Would the people keep their promise? Many of course would fail, but there would always be some who remained faithful, and eventually the Lord Jesus would come.

Joshua made a covenant with the people and wrote it in a book and put up a large stone as a witness of the covenant.

Not long after all these things took place, Joshua died at the age of 110. The people buried him in the place of his inheritance. They also buried the bones of Joseph which they had brought from Egypt. Joseph had asked that this be done. It was a sign of his link with the inheritance. Eleazar, the priest also died. He had been Joshua's right hand man, just as his father Aaron had been to Moses.

verses 9-10). What had the Lord done?

Read Joshua 23:12-13.
What would happen if the people failed to drive out the Canaanites?

Read Joshua 24:13.
What had the Lord done?

Note the memory verse.

Read Joshua 24:25-26.
When the people answered that they would serve the Lord, what did Joshua do?

APPLICATION:

To us, too, the Lord says, "Choose you this day whom you will serve. If your response is that you want to serve Him, you must remember that you can only do this by surrendering completely to Him. The Lord is either everything to you or nothing. There have been many people down through the ages who have said they would serve the Lord, but then turned away from Him. Obviously, they had not surrendered to Him with their whole heart. Let's pray for one another.

MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 24:15

The Cycle Begins

QUARTER 4

LESSON 8

SCRIPTURE: JUDGES 1-5

Lesson Aims:

- To name the first 7 books of the Bible and their meaning.
- To tell the cycle that occurs throughout the book of Judges.

REVIEW:

Today, we begin our study in the book of Judges. Begin class by having the children review the names of the first six books of the Bible and what those names mean. Then add the seventh book, Judges. The name obviously refers to the men and women God raised up to deliver His people during this time. They are all referred to as judges because they executed God's judgment on His enemies.

1. Why did two and a half tribes, Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, not get an inheritance in last week's lesson? (They had already gotten their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan).
2. Why did the tribe of Levi not get an inheritance? (They were to be the priests. That was their inheritance).
3. How old was Caleb when he came to Joshua to ask for his inheritance and what kind of shape was he in? (He was 85 years old and as strong as when they had spied out the land).
4. What was the portion like that Caleb asked for? (Not an easy one to conquer...where giants lived).
5. How was the land for the tribes on the west side of the Jordan divided up? (By lot).
6. When the two and a half tribes returned on the other side of the Jordan, what did they do? (Erected an altar).
7. What did the other tribes think of the altar? (They thought they were serving other gods; got ready to go to battle against them).
8. Why had the two and a half tribes built the altar? (To remind the other tribes that they were also a part of Israel and the Covenant).
9. Before he died, Joshua called the leaders together to remind them of God's promise and give them a warning. What would happen if they mixed with the Canaanites? (The Canaanites would become a snare to them, cause them to serve idols and bring the Lord's judgment).
10. When Joshua called all the people together, he renewed something with them and wrote it in a book. What was it? (The covenant).
11. How old was Joshua when he died? (110)
12. Whose bones did they bury when they buried Joshua? (Joseph's).

Review last week's memory verse.

List the names of the non-Christian friends and relative for whom you have been praying. Remind the children again to be praying for these people and for one another as we seek to witness to them. Pray together through the list.

LESSON:**PART 1: JUDGES 1:1-2:5**

For a few years before Joshua died, the Israelites stopped their wars against the Canaanites. But when he died, they knew it was their duty to wipe out the enemy, so they asked the Lord which tribe should lead out.

The Lord said Judah should be the one, and they asked Simeon to join them since their territory was within Judah's.

Adoni-bezek came to battle against them and they defeated him. Then they went on to capture Jerusalem. The city was on the border between Benjamin and Judah, so after defeating it, they left it to the Benjamin to rebuild it. Benjamin never did that, so the Canaanites took control of it again.

Judah and Simeon conquered many other cities and did well in the hill country, but in the valleys the enemy had iron chariots. Their faith was weak because of their fear, and they never were able to defeat these enemies.

Ephraim and Manasseh defeated some cities but they, too, lacked faith and failed to drive out the Canaanites completely.

The northern tribes were not very successful either. We read that Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants but let them live among them.

The tribe of Dan was driven into the hills by the enemy. What a shameful lack of faith they exhibited.

As a result of their unbelief and allowing the Canaanites to remain, idol worship remained in the land and worse yet, the Israelites lived in peace with these idol worshipers.

The Lord had warned the people that He alone was to be served...the land was to belong entirely to Him and His people for His glory. Now, the Lord by the angel appeared to His people in judgment and mercy. He came to where the elders of the land were meeting one day...and he came from the direction of Gilgal. You'll remember that's where the people first camped when they came across the Jordan. It was there that the Lord renewed the covenant with His people. It was there that the angel of the Lord appeared to

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Be prepared with a map for this lesson to show the various placements of tribes.

**Which tribe was to lead out and who was to help them?
Read Judges 1:2-3.**

Show Jerusalem on map.

**Read verse 19.
List the tribes on the board as you go through this chapter, pointing out the verses which indicate that they did not drive out the enemies.
Read first part of verses 21, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34.**

What was Gilgal?

Joshua and told them that He would be with them to defeat Jericho.

The angel of the Lord scolded the people for their unbelief and announced His judgment. Because of their lack of faith and failure to drive out the enemy, He would no longer drive them out for them. Their own ins would punish them. The idol worshipers would be like thorns in their side.

When the people heard what the angel of the Lord said, they wept. So the place was called Bochim, which means "weeping". But the Lord did not change His mind. His people would now experience great trials, but it was necessary so that they would learn of their sins and turn to the Lord. His judgment was based on His mercy toward His people.

PART 2: JUDGES 2:11-23

In these verses, the stage is set for the book of Judges. After Joshua's death, and the death of his generation, a new generation arose which had not experienced the wars under Joshua. They began to see the Canaanites as friends rather than enemies, intermarried with them and worshipped their gods. Their whole lives were wrapped up in this idol worship and the Lord became just one of many gods. Thus, Israel became unfaithful and broke the covenant. They sinned grievously against the Lord...the first step in the cycle we will see again and again as we go through the book of Judges.

But the Lord did not abandon His people. In His mercy, He let them fall into the hands of the enemy and be put through tribulations. They came under servitude to their oppressors.

And when they cried out to God (supplication), He heard their cry and saved them by sending a judge to deliver them. These judges were not always perfect, as we will see, but the Lord filled them with His Spirit and enabled them by His power to deliver His people.

PART 3: JUDGES 3

The people of the Lord married the Canaanites, worshipped their gods and committed great evil against the Lord. The lord then sold them into the hands of a powerful king of that time, Cushan-rishathaim, who oppressed them for eight years. When the people cried out to the Lord (supplication), He sent a deliverer named Othniel, the younger brother of Caleb. The Spirit of the Lord filled him. His heart was thus opened to have faith and believe the Lord so that he did not fear the enemy but trusted God's promises. He defeated the enemy and the land rested for 40 years.

Read 2:1-3.

**What did the angel of the Lord say?
How did the people respond?**

Place the four underlined words in a cycle... with sin at the top, then going clockwise with arrows leading to the next stage of the cycle.

Read 3:7.

What did the people do?

Continue to refer to the four stages of the cycle as you go through each judge.

Begin a list of the names of the judges. Put Othniel on the board.

But again, the people sinned against the Lord and again the Lord allowed someone to oppress His people. This time it was Eglon, a Moabite king. His oppression lasted for 18 years, during which time, the people had to pay him heavy taxes. Finally, the people cried out to the Lord, and he sent a left handed man named Ehud. Ehud went to visit Eglon one day... to pay taxes, and when they were alone, he surprised him by pulling a dagger from beneath his robe with his left hand. Eglon died and Ehud went on to deliver God's people, with the people joining him in battle. In faith, they were able to defeat ones whom the Lord had caused them to finally see as their enemies. Then the land had rest for 80 years.

We only have one verse on Shamgar, the third judge. But it was enough to tell us that he too was given strength and power to deliver God's people. With an ozgoad, he was able to kill 600 Philistine and save them.

PART 4: JUDGES 4-5

The people quickly forgot the deliverance and returned to their sin. So again, the Lord sent an oppressor. This time it was Jabin, a king in Canaan. He had a commander of his army named Sisera and 900 chariots, so the people were in great fear. Finally they cried out to the Lord, and this time, He raised up a woman to judge. Deborah was also a prophetess.

She sent word to Barak that he was to get 10,000 troops from the northern tribes and go to battle against Sisera whom the Lord would deliver into their hands. Barak was afraid, and in his unbelief he said that he would only go if Deborah would go with him. Deborah said she would go, but because of his lack of faith, a woman, rather than Barak would get the honor for the defeat of the enemy.

Sisera's army was in a plain... normally a good place to fight with his chariots, but the army of Israel descended from the mountain. The Scriptures tell us that the Lord confused the army of Sisera with the edge of the sword before Barak, and the Israelites were able to kill all the enemy. But Sisera escaped on foot.

He fled to the tent of Jael, the wife of a man who had made peace with Jabin. But Jael was a woman who loved the Lord, she would have been anxiously awaiting the word of how the battle was going for the Lord's people.

Jael invited him into her tent. When he asked for a drink, she gave him warm milk and told him she would watch while he slept. Then, while he slept, she drove a tent peg through his head and killed him. Thus a woman received the honor, just as Deborah had prophesied, of giving the death blow to

What did the people do again?

Read Judges 3:12a.
Put Ehud on the board.

Put Shamgar on the board.

Read Judges 4:15.
How did the battle go for God's people?

God's enemies.

Deborah and Barak sang a song after the victory to give praise to the Lord. You can read it in chapter 5 of Judges. In this song, they praised the tribes who had fought faithfully for the Lord's honor, but they cursed the one who had failed to show up for the battle.

Once more the light was shining through God's people... the ones through whom the Promised One would come who would save the world from sin. Deborah's song ends with our memory verse for the week. Let's learn it together, and let's pray for one another that we will be these kinds of lights through whom Christ can shine.

Memory Verse

MEMORY WORK:

Judges 5:31

Gideon: From Fear to Faith

QUARTER 4

LESSON 9

SCRIPTURE: JUDGES 6-9

Lesson Aims:

- To recite the continuing cycle of sin, servitude, supplication, and salvation found in the book of Judges.
- To be able to name Gideon as one of the Judges and recall that he refused the people's desire for him to be their king but cited the Lord as their only King and Head.

REVIEW:

Review last week's memory verse.

Go through the list of the first 7 books of the Bible with the children. Again have them list the non-Christian friends and relatives on their class list. Pray together for these individuals. Pray for one another to be effective witnesses for the Lord to these people.

Review last week's lesson with the following questions:

1. In last week's lesson, we went through the time right after Joshua's death, and tribe by tribe, we saw that they failed to do something. What was it? (drive the Canaanites out)
2. Because they failed to completely drive out the Canaanites, what happened as a result... something the Lord had told them would happen? (the Canaanites became a snare to them; they intermarried, worshiped their gods, etc.)
3. When the angel of the Lord came to the leaders from the direction of Gilgal, what did he tell them? (the Lord would no longer drive the enemies out... the people would experience judgment and trials because of the enemy. It was the Lord's punishment.)
4. Name the first, second, third, and fourth steps of the cycle in the book of Judges. (Sin, servitude or slavery, supplication or prayer and repentance, salvation or deliverance)
5. Othniel was the first judge for Israel. Why was he able to fight the enemy and deliver God's people? (He was filled with the Spirit of the Lord.)
6. Ehud was the second judge. What was it that was different about him? (He was left handed.)
7. We only had one verse about Shamgar. What did he use to kill 600 Philistines. (an oxgoad)
8. The fourth oppressor to cause tribulation for Israel was a king named Jabin and the captain of his army, Sisera. What did they have in their army that made the Israelites so afraid? (900 chariots)
9. What was special about the person the Lord raised up this time to be a judge? (She was a woman, Deborah)
10. When she called Barak and told him he was to go to battle against Sisera and the Lord would give them into their hands, what was Barak's response? (He was afraid; said he would only go if she went with him).
11. Deborah said she would go, but because of Barak's lack of faith, a woman would get the honor for the victory).
12. How was it that Deborah's prophecy came true? (Jael drove the tent peg through Sisera's head).
13. After the victory, what did Deborah and Barak do? (sang a song)

LESSON:**PART 1: JUDGES 6:1-24**

After the time of Deborah and Barak, the Israelites again sinned against the Lord, and the cycle began again. They became more and more involved with the Canaanites and worshiped their gods. So this time the Lord caused the Midianites to bring trouble to His people. Remember, that He allowed this to happen because of His mercy, so that His people would again turn to Him for their salvation.

What were these Midianites like? They were nomads who traveled around rather than living in one place. The easiest way for these people to get food for themselves and their animals was to steal from the Israelites, so every year at the harvest they would come and take the produce of the land. This went on for seven years.

What did the Israelites do? They hid in caves from these enemies. They were very much afraid, rather than putting their faith to work. But the people finally called out to the Lord... not that they truly repented and turned away from the worship of the false gods, but they called out to the true God whom they knew had answered many times before.

And in His mercy, He did answer. This time He first sent a prophet. We do not know his name, but he came to remind the people of the great deeds of the Lord. He scolded them for their unfaithfulness.

Then the Lord raised up another judge. One day, Gideon was threshing wheat in a wine press. Normally, he would have been doing this on the threshing floor, but now he was doing it in secret because of the Midianites.

While he was threshing, a man came up and spoke to him, saying that the Lord was with him and calling him a mighty warrior.

Gideon answered the man that it certainly didn't seem like the Lord was with His people anymore because of all the things that were happening to the Israelites. Gideon must have been thinking about the mighty doings of the Lord in the past. He knew that the situation they were now in was because the people had turned from Him, and so, the Lord had allowed all this trouble to come from the Midianites.

The Lord then told Gideon to go in the strength of the Lord

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Read the first part of Judges 5:1.
What had the people done again?

Read Judges 6:3-5.
What did the Midianites do to the Israelites?

Read Judges 6:2.
What did the Israelites do?
What did this show about God's people?

Read Judges 6:6.
What did the people finally do?

Read Judges 6:8-10.
What did the prophet say?

Be prepared to tell this part of the narrative.

Read Judges 6:12.
What did the angel of the Lord say to Gideon?

and fight the Midianites. He was being sent by the Lord Himself.

Gideon could only respond that he was a man from a small tribe, and an unimportant family within that tribe. The Lord simply answered him that he would go and the Lord would be with him to defeat the Midianites.

At this point, Gideon's faith needed to be strengthened so that he could do what the Lord was telling him. So he asked the Lord to stay while he went to prepare an offering. When he returned with the prepared food, he was told to place it on a rock. The Lord then caused fire to come up and consume the meat and bread, and then He disappeared.

Immediately, Gideon knew that he had been in the presence of the Lord, but the Lord told him not to be afraid. He could have peace. He would not die. So, Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it "The Lord is peace."

The Lord had come to call another man to be a judge, to work to deliver His people. Indeed He is a Lord of mercy and peace.

PART 2: JUDGES 6:25-40

Gideon had built this altar to the Lord but it stood in the midst of many altars of Baal and Ashterah. So that same night, the Lord told Gideon to tear down the altar to the Baal that was in his father's yard, and use the wood to build an altar there to the Lord and offer his father's 7 year old bull on it.

Gideon did as the Lord told him.. but he did it at night because he was afraid of his father and other who worshiped these false gods. He took ten of his servants with him.

The next morning, the whole town found out what had happened and that Gideon was responsible. They wanted to kill him. But the Lord must have also done something in his father's house for he responded that if Baal was god, he ought to be able to take care of himself. No one could answer that kind of reasoning and so Gideon became known as Jerubaal which meant "Let Baal contend with him."

The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Gideon and he blew the trumpet to call the people to battle. The first ones to answer were those of his own tribe... the very ones who had shortly before wanted to kill him. They too had been moved by the Spirit of the Lord as they saw the faith of Gideon put into action. Other tribes soon joined them.

Read Judges 6:26-27.

What did the Lord tell Gideon to do?

Read Judges 6:27.

Why did Gideon tear down the altar at night?

Read Judges 6:31.

What did Joash, Gideon's father, say?

But even with this response from the tribes, Gideon still needed his faith strengthened. So, he asked the Lord for a sign. He put out a sheep's fleece at night and asked the Lord to let the fleece be wet but all the land around it dry the next morning. When that occurred, to make sure it wasn't just a thing of nature (because the Baal worship was one of nature)... the next night he asked that the fleece be dry and the land around it wet. In doing as Gideon requested, the Lord demonstrated that He is in control of all things. Indeed, the Lord could and would keep His promise to deliver them from the hand of Midian! And Gideon's faith was built up.

PART 3: JUDGES 7

With all the men who had responded to the call of battle, Gideon had 32,000 men. That wasn't very much compared to what the Midianites had, but it was something. Gideon told any who were afraid to go home, and 22,000 left! But the Lord apparently thought that was still too many. Everyone had to know that this battle would be won in the strength of the Lord, not man. So the Lord told Gideon to take the men to the water to get a drink. The men who lapped the water out of their hands were set apart for the battle... that was only 300 men! The others were sent to their tents.

During the night, the Lord told Gideon to go down to the enemy camp if he was afraid. There, he would hear something which would again strengthen his faith. He and his servant, Purah, came within listening distance of an enemy tent. They heard one man telling another of a dream he had had in which a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down over their captain's tent. The other man, on the hearing about the dream, said that this meant Gideon would conquer them. Overhearing this made it plain to Gideon that the Lord had indeed given them the victory.

At the beginning of the second night, he divided his men into three groups. When he gave the signal, they were to blow their trumpets, break their jars that had torches, and shout. "For the Lord and for Gideon!" With this strange strategy, the enemy would think they were surrounded by a huge army. And indeed, the Midianites were very confused, so much so that they began killing each other. All the Israelites had to do was chase them. The victory was the Lord's!

PART 4: JUDGES 8

The Lord gave the Israelites great victory that day, and the other men were called to join in the battle, but there were still problems. Some people obviously did not see the victory as coming from the Lord. Some came to Gideon and blamed him for not allowing them to get some of the glory in the battle. How self-centered they were. But Gideon handled the

Why do you think the Lord did as Gideon requested?

Why do you think the Lord wanted them to have such a small army?

situation well, and the complainers went away satisfied.

Since there were still two of the Midianite kings on the loose, Gideon pursued them. The people of one city refused to even give his men bread and even chided Gideon for not having yet captured the enemy kings! Another city treated the Israelite army the same way. They were responding out of mocking unbelief, and they were to be punished later. After the two kings were captured, he flogged the man of Succoth with thistles and thorns and tore down the tower of the other city, Penuel.

Sometime after the victory, the people came and asked Gideon to be their king. Let's look together at our memory verse for next week for it tells us something of Gideon's response. Who is to be our King?

Although Gideon's response at that time was right, he did not continue to live in that way of faith. He asked the people for their gold jewelry from the spoils of battle. With that, he made himself an ephod, a richly ornamented priestly robe, and people came to worship there in Ophrah. He set up a sort of cult rather than encouraging the people to worship as the Lord had intended. He also took many wives. Success had apparently gone to Gideon's head, and he did not rely on the Lord as formally.

Though he had been a picture for a time of THE JUDGE who had come who would finally and once and for all deliver His people for THE enemy, yet Gideon was far from perfect. He took his eyes off of that One of whom he had once told the people would be their only ruler.

Gideon's life then, must be a warning to us. We must continually ask the Lord to build up our faith and follow Him alone as our King.

Let's pray.

Read Judges 8:22.

What did the people want Gideon to do?

Read Judges 8:23.

How did Gideon respond?

Memory verse.

As one of the judges, of whom was Gideon to be a picture?

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 74:12

Jephthah And Samson

QUARTER 4

LESSON 10

SCRIPTURE: JUDGES 10-16

Lesson Aims:

- To recite the first seven books of the Bible.
- To recite the continuing cycle of sin, servitude, supplication, and salvation found in the book of Judges.
- To name Jephthah and Samson as two of the judges raised up by the Lord to deliver His people.

REVIEW:

Review last week's memory verse.

Questions for review to be divided between teams or individuals:

1. Name the first seven books of the Old Testament.
2. Tell the cycle which was continually repeated in the book of Judges. (sin, servitude, supplication, salvation)
3. Name two of the judges. (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon)
4. In last week's lesson, the Midianites were the enemy who oppressed the Israelites. What were these people like, how did they live? (nomads, traveled around, stole food)
5. Why was Gideon threshing wheat in a wine press? (to hide the wheat from the Midianites)
6. Who came to see him there? (the angel of the Lord)
7. When the Lord told him to go fight the Midianites in the strength of the Lord, how did Gideon respond? (the youngest son from one of the smallest tribes)
8. What was the first thing he was told to do? (destroy the Baal in his father's yard)
9. What did the town's people do the next morning when they found the Baal destroyed? (wanted to kill Gideon)
10. What did Gideon's father do? (said if Baal was god, he could take care of himself)
11. How many soldiers showed up when Gideon first blew the call to battle? (32,000)
12. How many Midianites were there? (120,000)
13. How many were left after Gideon told those who were afraid to go home? (10,000)
14. What did the Lord tell Gideon to do to make the army even smaller? (have the men get a drink from the brook; those who got down on their stomach to drink were to be excused)
15. Now how large was the army? (300)
16. Why did the Lord want the army to be so small? (so that that people would know the victory was from the Lord, not their own strength)
17. What did the Lord allow Gideon to hear to increase his faith for the battle? (overheard two enemy soldiers discussing a dream)
18. What special strategy did Gideon use? (clay pots, torches, and trumpets; confused the enemy, etc)
19. After the victory, what did the Israelites want Gideon to be? (their king)
20. What did Gideon say in response? (He would not rule over them; only the Lord could do that)

21. To the end of his life, was Gideon always a good man, living in the faith of the Lord? (no, strayed from his calling, and even made himself a priestly robe and people came to his town to worship rather than Shiloh)

Note: Briefly mention the judges which receive little attention. Also, the judgeship of Jephthah will be treated briefly. There is a dispute as to the meaning of his vow about the "sacrifice" of his daughter. Therefore, it is probably best at this age level not to explain or deal with it but to simply recognize him as one of the judges.

LESSON:

PART 1: JUDGES 10-11

After the time of Gideon, two more judges arose, but the Bible only tells us their names and really nothing much of what they actually did. Their names were Jair and Tola.

Again we read that the Israelites sinned against the Lord and worshiped the false gods. Because of their sin, the Lord became angry and allowed them to fall into the hands of the Ammonites in the east and the Philistines in the west. The Israelites were in great distress.

This time, when the people turned to Him, the Lord told them to let their other gods save them!

The people were in such distress, that they called out further to the Lord, asked in forgiveness and even put away their strange gods (for a time... obviously not in sincere repentance since they returned to them later). And the Lord, though He knew their lack of sincere commitment could not ignore their pleas for the sake of His promise. Jephthah was raised up to help deliver the people.

Jephthah was known to be a mighty warrior and was called on by the people to fight the Ammonites. He was able to go to battle against them because of the spirit of the Lord with which he was filled. He led Israel for six years.

Three more men have their names recorded as judges at the end of Chapter 12, but again, we only are told their names, and not much more. Their names are Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon.

PART 2: JUDGES 13

Again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and the Philistines oppressed for 40 years.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Write Jair and Tola on the board.

Read Judges 10:6.
What did the people do again?

Read Judges 10:7.
What did the Lord do?

Read Judges 10:8.
How long?

Read Judges 10:11-14.
What did the Lord say when the people cried out to Him?

Read Judges 11:29a.
Why was Jephthah able to lead the Israelites in victory?

Write Ibzan, Elon, Abdon on the board.

Read Judges 13:1.
What happened again?

In the southwest part of Canaan, in the little town of Zorah, a man named Manoah and his wife lived. One day, a man came to see her. He had a very special appearance. He told her she was going to have a son, and that this son was to be a Nazirite from birth. Now, she would have known immediately what that meant. He was to be set apart for special service. He would not be allowed to use anything grown on the vine or drink strong drinks. This would show that he did not get his strength from the earth but solely from the spirit of the Lord. Neither was he to have his hair cut. This was to be a sign that his strength was to be unbroken. Normally, a Nazirite was not to ever touch a dead body, but apparently this rule did not apply in this case (the angel did not specify this rule) because of this man's special calling.

Monoah wasn't there when the man appeared to his wife, and she told her husband of his awesome appearance and what she had been told. Monoah then prayed and asked the Lord to please have the man return so that he, too, could hear the message. That prayer was answered, and when the man returned, they brought a burnt offering. When Manoah asked the man his full name the Lord responded that it was "wonderful." When the offering was placed on a rock, the Lord ascended in the flame to heaven, and the Monoah and his wife knew that it had been the Lord Himself who had appeared to them, and Monoah was afraid they would die. But she reminded him of the promise, and then knew the Lord would fulfill that promise through them.

When the child was born, he was named Samson, which means "mighty one." He would be used of the Lord to deliver His people, so it was an appropriate name.

PART 3: JUDGES 14-15

When Samson became a man, the spirit of the Lord began to stir in him and caused him to cross over the border of his tribe Dan into the territory of the Philistines. It was there that he saw a young woman he thought he would like to marry. His parents tried to dissuade him. They wanted him to marry an Israelite, but they did not understand that this was all part of the Lord's plan. They gave into his desire and they all went to Timnah where the girl lived.

On the way there a young lion came roaring toward Samson, with such power that he was able to tear the lion apart with his bare hands. In other words, the Lord opened his heart in faith so that what he was able to do in the power of the Lord. Though this, he was able to see his calling, but he didn't tell anyone about it.

Later, when he returned for the wedding, he stopped by that

Be familiar with the narrative and relate it to the students.

Read Judges 13:4-5.

What was Samson's mother told about the child?

List two rules of the Nazarite which applied to Samson on the board.

Read Judges 14:6.

Why was Samson able to kill the lion?

same place and found the carcass of the lion full of honey.

The wedding feast lasted for seven days. Thirty men were proved for Samson to be his companions, and Samson gave them a riddle to solve: "Out of the eater came something to eat; out of the strong came something sweet."

Now, Samson really shouldn't have been playing games with something the Lord had given him in that encounter with the lion. He should have kept it a secret. It was really being pretty reckless. But the agreement he made with the 30 men was that if they could tell him the riddle by the end of the 7 days, he would give them each a new suit of clothes. If not, they would give him 30 sets of clothes. When the Philistines could not come up with the answer, they went to his wife and threatened to kill her and her family if she did not find out the answer for them, and so, she nagged him. Finally, he told her the answer, and she told the 30 men. At the end of the seventh day, they told him the answer: "What is sweeter than honey; what is stronger than a lion?"

By being deceived in this was, Samson was able to see that the Philistines were his enemies. The Spirit of the Lord filled him mightily. He went to another town and killed 30 Philistines to give their clothes to the 30 men.

After a while he wanted to see his wife, but when he returned, he found her father had given her to another man. In his anger, Samson tied the tails of foxes together, attached torches to them and let them loose in the grain fields of the Philistines, destroying their crops. He also killed many of them.

Samson then went to live in a cave and when the Philistines came against Judah, Judah asked what they wanted and volunteered to capture Samson and deliver him to them. By this, the Israelites showed that they did not recognize the deliverance of the Lord.

Samson allowed them to take him and bind him with new ropes, but the Spirit of the Lord again came upon Samson in a mighty way, and he broke from the ropes and with the jawbone of a donkey slew 1,000 Philistines. The place was called Ramath-lehi which means "Jawbone hill."

After the fighting, he was very thirsty and could find no water. He was humbled... and on the basis of who the Lord is... the One who had given the victory... he asked that the Lord give him water. The Lord gave water from a rock, and Samson was revived.

After this battle, Israel apparently recognized Samson as

Read Judges 14:19.

When Samson realized he had been deceived, what happened?

Read Judges 15:14.

After he had been bound by the Philistines what happened to Samson that allowed him to defeat them?

Read Judges 15:18.

Who did Samson realize had had the victory?

their deliverer, for it says he led Israel for 20 years.

PART 4: JUDGES 16

The sad part of the story of Samson is how he continued to play with sin... even though God continued to fill him with mighty power in order to use him against the Philistines.

Be prepared to tell this narrative.

One time, Samson went to be with a Philistine woman and stayed the night with her. The Philistines thought they could keep him there in that city by locking the city gates, but he simply picked up those very heavy gates and their posts and carried them many miles to a hill near Hebron in Israel. Through this, the Israelites could see that the Lord had opened the gates of the Philistines to them.

But Samson continued to play with sin and fell in love with a Philistine girl named Delilah. She made an agreement with the Philistine leaders to find the secret to his strength. After lying to her twice, he began to get rather close to the truth by revealing that his strength had something to do with hair. By the fourth time, he revealed the whole truth to her. When he did that, he gave up himself to the enemy. He had shown contempt for the Lord's secret, but the Lord would remain faithful.

With his strength gone, he was powerless. The Lord allowed him to fall into the enemy's hands. His eyes were put out and he was enslaved.

Many weeks later, Samson was brought before a crowd who had gathered to honor the false god, Dagon. He asked the boy who brought him in to allow him to lean on the pillars of the temple. Believing again in the Lord's calling, Samson was able to call out in faith on the Lord. In the strength of that faith he grabbed onto those pillars, pulled them away, and the temple collapsed killing Samson and all who were there... more than he had killed in all his lifetime. He gave himself to that death for the deliverance of God's people.

His people gathered his body and buried it near his father.

Again, we have a judge who, though sinful, acted as a deliverer in faith and was a picture of that Redeemer who was to come. Have you trusted in that One who is THE JUDGE? Are you acting in faith, praying and witnessing for these friends and relatives for whom we have been praying?

Let's pray.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Ruth and the Redeemer

QUARTER 4

LESSON 11

SCRIPTURE: JUDGES 17-21; RUTH

Lesson Aims:

- To name the first eight book so the Bible in order and tell briefly of their contents or meaning of their name.
- To recall the cycle of sin, servitude, supplication, and salvation in the book of Judges.
- To define “redeemer” and the significance of redemption in the book of Ruth.
- To name Ruth and Boaz as ancestors of Christ.

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHER:

The story of Ruth took place during the times of the judges, most likely during the time of the Midianite raids. Remind the children that Israel experienced great famine during this time, before Gideon was raised up as their deliverer.

It is important to remember as you teach this story that the history recorded here is really the story of Boaz, the redeemer. In Hebrew, the word for redeemer, “goel,” means “one who acts as a kinsman” or “one who performs the duty of the next of kin.” This duty could be fulfilled by taking a kinsman’s wife in order to beget the children for the man who had died. Or he could redeem a kinsman’s field after he was forced to sell it to pay off a debt. The law of the “goel” was intended to keep land from being lost to a family or a family line from dying out. The word “goel” is also used to refer to what the Lord did in delivering Israel from Egypt. The covenant God is spoken of as the “goel”. DeGraaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, pg 57.

REVIEW:

Review last week’s memory verse.

1. Name the first seven book so the Bible in order.
2. What does Genesis mean?
3. What is Leviticus about? (the law implemented)
4. What does Exodus mean?
5. Why does the book of Numbers bear that name? (people were numbered)
6. What was the cycle which kept recurring in the book of Judges? (sin, servitude, supplication, salvation)
7. Last week, we briefly studied a man who judged Israel for six years. He was a mighty warrior who the Lord raised up. Who is he? (Jephthah)
8. When the Lord came to Manoah’s wife, what did he say was going to happen to her? (She would bear a son)
9. What was to be special about this one? (He would be a Nazirite from birth)
10. What special things was the Nazirite to be careful not to do? (cut his hair, touch a dead body, eat or drink anything from the vine)
11. Which of the three parts of the Nazirite vow did the Lord mention in this case, probably because of Samson’s special calling? (touching of dead bodies)

12. After Samson's wife persuaded him to tell her the answer to the riddle, and she told 30 "friends," what did Samson realize which enabled him to begin to defeat the Philistines? (He began to see them as the enemy)
13. After Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, he was thirsty, but he couldn't find any water. What did he do? (He prayed, telling the Lord that he knew the Lord had been the one to give the victory)
14. How did the Lord answer Samson's prayer? (gave water from a rock)
15. Though the Lord continued to dill Samson with His Spirit and us him against the enemy, what did Samson continue to do? (sin by turning to Philistine women)
16. When he went to a Philistine woman in Gaza and they locked the gate that night, what did Samson do? (picked the whole gate up and carried it more than 20 miles to a hill in Israel near Hebron)
17. When Samson fell in love with Delilah, what did she nag him into doing? (telling her the secret of his strength so that she cut his hair and "sold" him to the Philistines)
18. What was Samson's last great act of strength, through the power of the Spirit? (pulled down the pillars and killed all the Philistines gathered to celebrate their god, Dagon. He died also)
19. How many years did Samson judge Israel? (20)

LESSON:

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

PART 1: JUDGES 17-21

Though we are not really going to spend much time studying the last few chapters of Judges, we are going to mention them briefly. We need to recognize that the people continued to sin against the Lord. In these last chapters, we read how they stole from each other, they made idols out of silver and hired their own priests to serve in the temples they had made for themselves. All this was great sin against the Lord who had set up the way they were to worship Him and the place.

Again and again in these chapters, we read that the people had no king in these days. The tribes should have been watching out each other and made sure the Lord's ways were followed and obeyed. But instead, we read that "every man did what was right in his own eyes."

In the last couple of chapters, one particular tribe, the Danites, had sinned greatly. The other tribes went to battle against them, and that tribe was almost annihilated. The Israelites knew what a terrible thing it was that one tribe was almost gone from Israel, so they took steps to make sure the tribe of Dan would live on. But the sad part about the book of Judges is that it ends with that verse that "everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Sin prevailed even in the ways they tried to do a good thing like preserving the tribe of Dan.

The thing we must remember as we leave the book of Judges in our studies is that the Lord was faithful and tremendously merciful. Though the people sinned again and again, the Lord brought enemies to bother the people and

Read Judges 17:6.

What did the people not have these days? What did the people do?

bring them to the point where they saw the need for the Lord. Then, he would send a deliverer. All of these men were pictures of THE great deliverer who would one day come in perfection to finally and once and for all deliver His people from THE enemy.

PART 2: RUTH 1

During Joshua's time, the land was divided among the tribes, and everyone received his inheritance. Every family took pride in their land and hoped that their families would be able to live there until the coming of the promised Messiah. No one was to give up his land.

But sometimes, especially when times became difficult as in the times of the judges, the people's faith weakened. That must have been what happened to a man named Elimelech, because during a time of severe famine, he left his land and took his wife and two sons across the Jordan to the land of Moab where they had food. Elimelech died in Moab, and so did his two sons, but they had both married Moabite women.

After ten years, Naomi, Elimelech's wife decided it was time to return to their home town of Bethlehem in Judah. She had heard that the famine was over. Her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, accompanied her on her journey, and on the way, Naomi tried to persuade them to turn back. She would not be able to offer them much of a future in terms of a family of their own.

Orpah was convinced by Naomi's argument, and returned to her land of Moab. But Ruth was bound to Naomi not just by marriage. She had become bound to the Lord. Her heart had been opened to his covenant, and she told Naomi she wanted to return with her because Israel's God was her God. She would live and die in His land with His people.

So together, they returned to Bethlehem. The whole town was moved by Naomi's return. But she returned without land and without family. But the Lord in His mercy would see that all of that would be restored.

PART 2: RUTH 2

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, it was the beginning of the barley harvest. The law of God provided that poor people would go into the fields and pick up grain behind the reapers (Deut. 24:19). Ruth said she would be a gleaner, and found herself in the field of a wealthy man named Boaz.

While she was gleaning, Boaz himself came to the field and

What did the tribe receive during Joshua's time?

Do you remember what the Midianites did to Israel before Gideon was their judge?

Read Ruth 1:16-17.

What did Ruth say to Naomi? What do you think she meant?

Read Deuteronomy 24:19.

What did God's law tell the people to do when they harvested the grain?

Read Ruth 2:4.

greeted his workers in the name of the Lord, asking them who the young woman was. When he heard it was Ruth, he knew it was the girl who had chosen Israel's God to be her own. He spoke to her and promised her freedom and protection. He told her he desired God's blessing on her and her choice. Then he invited her to have lunch with him, and gave her more than she could eat.

When they returned to the fields, Boaz told the workers to leave plenty for Ruth to glean. After he had day of work, she threshed it and returned to Naomi with a bushel of grain and the leftovers from her lunch. When she told Naomi of the kindness shown by this man and that his name was Boaz, Naomi immediately recognized him as a near relative of her husband. He would have the power to be a kinsman-redeemer! And the Lord had led Ruth to his field. Naomi's faith was strengthen... perhaps the Lord would yet see that her land and her family would not be cut off. She encouraged Ruth to return to his field.

PART 3: RUTH 3

The redeemer's duty was not just to buy back the land that Elimelech had been forced to sell. In keeping with the law, he would also have to marry Ruth and have children who would then be counted as Elimelech's children so that his family line would be carried on.

Naomi knew that the redeemer would have to be asked to exercise this right. Yet, he must be approached in the right way... so that if he wanted to refuse, there would be no dishonor. Naomi therefore told Ruth to go to the threshing floor at night. Boaz and his men would be threshing the grain in the morning and evening breezes. She could put the question to him then, so that he could have complete freedom in his decision, when no one else would hear it.

Ruth did as Naomi told her, and when she put the question to Boaz, he was delighted that Ruth was faithful to the Lord's covenant and laws in this matter in wanting Elimelech's family to be maintained. He told her he would be happy to do that duty as the kinsman-redeemer, but there was another man who was a closer relative. He would first need to be given the chance to perform that duty. If that man refused, Boaz could be the redeemer. He made a vow to Ruth, and early in the morning, sent her home.

Ruth shared the happenings with Naomi. Together, they waited to see what the result would be.

PART 4: RUTH 4

The next morning, Boaz called that man who was first in line

How did Boaz greet his workers? What does this show you about him?

Explain briefly to the students what the duty of the kinsman-redeemer involved.

Be prepared to tell this part of the narrative.

to be the redeemer to the city gate. He also called 10 city elders to witness what was to take place.

He told the man the situation. The man was willing to redeem the land. If that was all that was required, as soon as Naomi died he knew that the land would become his. But when Boaz told him he would also have to marry Ruth, he was unwilling. He knew that meant that the land would be considered Elimelech's again and would be inherited by the offspring which would be raised up through the marriage to Ruth. This man obviously had eyes only for the financial gain he might get, not for the passing on of the covenant and its promises.

According to custom then, Boaz had the man taken off his shoe (with which he would have walked on the land he would have redeemed). This was a sign of his giving up the right to that land. Boaz then accepted the responsibility as the redeemer by buying the field and marrying Ruth. The people and the elders asked the Lord to bless Boaz and Ruth.

And the Lord blessed them with a son. The women of the town came to tell Naomi their praise of the Lord for His raising up a redeemer for Elimelech's line.

They named him Obed, which means "servant" for he served to save Elimelech's line. Obed was an ancestor to David, and therefore of Christ. Boaz was a type of that Redeemer who restores our inheritance and gives us a name which will last to eternity. We need to examine our relationship to Him. Have you trusted in Him as your redeemer? Have you "married" Him in faith?

Read Ruth 4:6.

What was the man's response? Why didn't he want to be the redeemer?

Memory Verse.

MEMORY WORK:

Ruth 4:14

Samuel: Forerunner to the King

QUARTER 4

LESSON 12

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 1-4

Lesson Aims:

- To name Samuel as the one who was the forerunner to making preparation for the king.
- To name Samuel and Eli as the last of the judges.
- To list some of the indications of the degeneration of Israel under the leadership of Eli's sons.
- To name Samuel as a prophet to whom the Word of the Lord came.

REVIEW:

Review last week's memory verse.

Have the children name the first nine books of the Bible.

To review previous lessons, play a short round of "Jeopardy," or simply use some of the questions listed.

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

To establish the historical setting of the birth of Samuel, give the children the following information: 1 Samuel begins during the time of the judges, when Israel was being oppressed by the Philistines.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

What judge would have been ready to come on the scene at that time? (Samson)

LESSON:

PART 1: 1 SAMUEL 1-2:11

There was a man named Elkanah of Ephraim living at this time. He had two wives named Hannah and Penninah. Such a situation always brings misery, and it was certainly true in this case. Penninah was able to have children, but Hannah was not. Elkanah loved Hannah more, and Penninah, probably out of jealousy, tormented Hannah over her inability to bear children.

Once a year when the family went to offer sacrifices at Shiloh, Elkanah would give portions of meat to Penninah and her sons and daughters, but he would give a double portion to Hannah because he loved her and the Lord had closed her womb. All this did was make matters worse with Penninah who would provoke Hannah even more. And poor Elkanah did not understand. He would ask Hannah if he wasn't more

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Read 1 Samuel 1:2.

What were Elkanah's two wives names?

What was their situation?

Read 1 Samuel 1:4-5.

When the family went to Shiloh, what did Elkanah do? What do you think the result was?

important to her than 10 sons.

One of these times at Shiloh, the situation was particularly bad, and poor Hannah wept and poured her heart out before the Lord in the sanctuary. She prayed that the Lord would give her a son, and if the Lord would grant that request, she promised to give him to the Lord, consecrating him as a Nazirite.

While Hannah prayed, Eli, the High Priest was sitting at the door of the tabernacle. Hannah was praying silently and only her lips were moving, so that Eli thought she must be drunk. He approached Hannah and scolded her. Things in Israel had become pretty bad for him to assume this and be unable to recognize that moving of God's Spirit.

When he heard Hannah's account, the Lord enabled Eli to prophecy that the Lord would give her a son. In faith, Hannah received the promise and named her son Samuel, which means "head of God." She did not return to Shiloh until she could fulfill her promise and leave Samuel there in service to the Lord.

When Samuel was weaned, she took him to Shiloh and reminded Eli of who she was. He responded in praise to the Lord. Hannah then broke out in song to the Lord, singing of her joy in the Lord and what He had done to His enemies. She also sang of the coming King, thus singing of the Lord Jesus who would exalt God's people.

PART 2: 1 SAMUEL 2:12- 36

Although Hannah had prayed for Samuel and knew he was a gift from the Lord, she probably had no idea of his special calling. He was to be the one to prepare the people for the king God would give them.

What kind of environment did he grow up in? The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, made a joke of their service to the Lord as priests. They did not take just the things that they were supposed to take when the people brought their offerings. When the sacrificial meals were being cooked, they took whatever they could get out of the pan with a fork. Then, they forced the people to give them the best portions of meat... the part that was meant for the Lord on the altar. All this was provoking the Lord.

This was the setting in which Samuel grew up, but the Lord preserved him, and watched over him. Every year, his mother would bring him a new robe. This was a sign of her faith and obedience to the vow, for she was encouraging him in his service to the Lord. Seeing this faith, Eli prayed that

Read 1 Samuel 1:11.
What did Hannah pray?

Review with the students what it meant to be a Nazirite.

Have students read Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2:1-10). What things did she list that the Lord does?

Israel didn't have a king. To whom does verse 10 refer?

Read 1 Samuel 2:12, 17.
What kind of men were Hophni and Phinehas?

Read 1 Samuel 2:18-19.
What was the boy Samuel doing?
What did his mother bring for him every year? Why would she do that?

the Lord would bless her with more children, and He did: 3 sons and 2 daughters.

But Eli's son continued to commit terrible sins against the Lord, and when Eli heard word from others of his sons lives, he confronted them. He warned them that if a man sins against another man, other men will judge him, but if a man hardens himself against the Lord and His holiness, there is not much room left for prayer.

Hophni and Phinehas did not regard their father's warning. Their hearts were apparently too hardened for them to hear, and the Bible tells us that the Lord intended to put them to death, for their sin had become very great against Him.

The Lord sent a prophet to Eli. He was at least partly to blame, for although he had warned his sons, he apparently had not strictly disciplined them when they were younger. You children ought to truly be thankful for parents who care enough to discipline you while you are young so that when you are grown, you hopefully will not have hardened hearts against the Lord.

When the prophet came to Eli, he told him that his house would fall from the priesthood. Eli and his line would be replaced by someone who would be faithful to the Lord and His service and would serve along with the king the Lord would provide. He was told that no man of his house would grow old. Anyone who was still alive from Eli's house when the new priest took over would come to that man begging for work and food.

This judgment of the Lord upon Eli and his sons was done in mercy by the Lord. The Lord had to see that His covenant was faithfully carried out by those He appointed. When we look at the verses regarding Samuel in this section (verses 18 and 26) and compare them with the ones that describe Eli's sons (especially verses 12 and 17), we see a striking difference. Though Hophni and Phinehas certainly had the office and the appearance of being men of the Lord, the Bible clearly tells us that they did not know Him. Samuel grew up with sin all around him, yet he grew in favor with the Lord and men. Are you a Hophni or Phinehas... or are you a Samuel?

PART 3: 1 SAMUEL 3

In those days, there were not many prophets. Samuel grew up in a time when there was little revelation from the Lord, but the Lord intended to use him as a prophet, and he needed to learn to hear God's voice.

Be prepared to tell this part of the narrative.

Memory Verse.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1.

What were those days like as far as revelation from the Lord?

One night before the candle of the Lord had gone out in the sanctuary, the Lord called Samuel. He thought that Eli was calling him, so he ran to his old Eli's bedside who had become blind and pretty much an invalid. After this happened three times, Eli knew that it must be the Lord calling to Samuel. When the Lord called again, Samuel answered just as Eli had told him, and for the first time, he heard the Lord's revelation to him. It was not good news. Rather, it was the revelation of the terrible judgment that was to come upon Eli's house.

And it wasn't long before Samuel learned how difficult it could be to communicate the word of the Lord. He had to tell Eli of what the Lord had revealed to him. That must have been a very difficult thing for Samuel to do, but he knew God's calling. Though he was reluctant, he told everything to Eli and Eli responded in submission to the Lord's Word. Eli demonstrated faith in his response.

After this, the Lord revealed more and more to Samuel and fulfilled everything which he said through His prophet. The people began to recognize Samuel as a prophet and the Lord used him to call the people back to Him, thus preparing the way for the king who the Lord would provide for His people. In this way, Samuel was a picture of John the Baptist who would provide the way for the King, Jesus.

PART 4: 1 SAMUEL 4

It wasn't long before the judgment fell on Eli's house. The Israelites were being oppressed by the Philistines and gathered an army to fight against them. They were defeated and 4,000 men were killed.

The elders held a meeting to try to decide why the Lord was not with them. They obviously didn't consider the sin in their midst. Instead, they came up with the idea of taking the ark with them in battle. Surely, then, they thought, the Lord would be with them. They were thinking of the ark as a lucky charm, while in the sanctuary itself, God's holiness was profaned and laughed at by the very actions of the priests. They should have been thinking of repentance but they were not walking with the Lord in faith and thus did not turn to Him in the way they should have.

The ark was brought to the battle by Hophni and Phinehas, and the army shouted for joy. The philistines were afraid when they heard what the cause of the shouting was, for they had known that in the past what it meant when the Lord fought for His people. But they needn't be afraid this time, for the Lord' judgment would be carried out against His disobedient people. The battle ended in a great defeat for Israel. 30,000 Israelite men were killed, the ark was

The students ought to be familiar with this story. Have them recall it with you.

Read 1 Samuel 3:15.

How did Samuel feel about telling Eli what the Lord had revealed to him?

Read 1 Samuel 3:18.

How did Eli respond to Samuel's news?

Read 1 Samuel 3:19-21.

**What happened to Samuel after this?
How did the people respond to him?**

Read 1 Samuel 4:3.

What did the elders think they could do to help win the battle?

What should they have done?

captured, and Hophni and Phinehas were killed.

When Eli heard the news of this great disaster, the Bible tells us that he fell of his chair backwards and dies from a broken neck.

The wife of Phinehas was having a baby and she was so distressed with the news of the ark, that she died after giving birth to a son. Upon her death, she named her son "Ichabod" which means, "the glory has departed." From her perspective, and in the eyes of many others, hope for their nation died. The ark was evidence of God's presence with His people. The ark was gone. Darkness had come to God's people. The response by the people at least demonstrated that the fear of the Lord was not gone from the Land. The Lord would not forsake His people. He was dealing with them as His children... in mercy. He would keep His covenant promises to an unfaithful people for the sake of the Christ who was to come as that truly faithful Priest. Let's thank the Lord for His mercy and grace and ask Him to give us hearts like Samuel, ready to grown in stature and in favor with God and man.

Read 1 Samuel 4:18.

What happened to Eli when he heard the news?

Read 1 Samuel 4:21-22.

Why did she name her son Ichabod?

MEMORY WORK:

1 Samuel 2:26

