



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 1

## Plague of the Locusts

After God sent the seventh plague, hail, to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites, Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron to repent. He begged, "Please ask the Lord to stop the thunder and hail. Then, I will let the Israelites go."

Moses left the city and he spread out his hands. The hail and thunder stopped, but Pharaoh hardened his heart. He would not let the children of Israel leave Egypt, for they were his slaves.

The Lord told Moses and Aaron to give a message to Pharaoh. They visited him, saying, "The Lord has is asking you, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before the Lord? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. If you refuse, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your land, and they will eat every tree that grows in the field and fill the houses of all the Egyptians.'"

Later, Pharaoh's servants spoke to him, saying, "How long will you let Moses burden us? Do you not know that Egypt is destroyed?" Pharaoh was frightened for locusts are like grasshoppers. They would consume all the crops in the land.

After hearing this, Moses and Aaron were once again called to Pharaoh. "Go and serve the Lord your God," Pharaoh said. "But who will go with you?"

"We will go with our young, our old, our sons, our daughters, our flocks, and our herds," Moses answered.

Pharaoh was angry that they wanted to take everything with them, so he forced them away from

his presence. Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt. The Lord brought the locusts in with a wind from the east. All that day, that night, and the next morning, locusts came into the land of Egypt.

*Exodus 10:1-13*

**Memory Verse:** *The east wind brought the locusts.*

*Exodus 10:13*

## A Broken Eggshell

"I hate you, Alexander!" Elijah shouted. "Don't ever come in my room again! You're a thief!"



"Woah, there," called Grandpa, coming down the hall. "What's all this yelling about?"

"Alexander says I stole his toolbox, but I didn't," Elijah called from his room. "He's a liar, and he better stay out of my room!" Elijah slammed his door.

With a sigh, Grandpa checked into the incident. It wasn't long before he discovered the toolbox sitting by the garage door. With angry words, both boys insisted the other had left it there.

"Quiet!" ordered Grandpa. He motioned for them to follow him and headed for the kitchen where he placed an egg and an empty cup on the counter. "Alexander, you crack this egg into the cup," said Grandpa. The boys wondered what he was getting at, but Alexander obeyed. "Now, Elijah, you put the egg back into the shell again, please—just the way it was."

Elijah frowned. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"That's impossible, Grandpa. You can't fix a broken egg."

"Like humpty dumpty, eh?" Grandpa chuckled. Then

### Questions:

1. For whom did Pharaoh send?
2. Who would go with Moses to worship?
3. What did Moses stretch out over Egypt?
4. What did the Lord send in on an east wind?

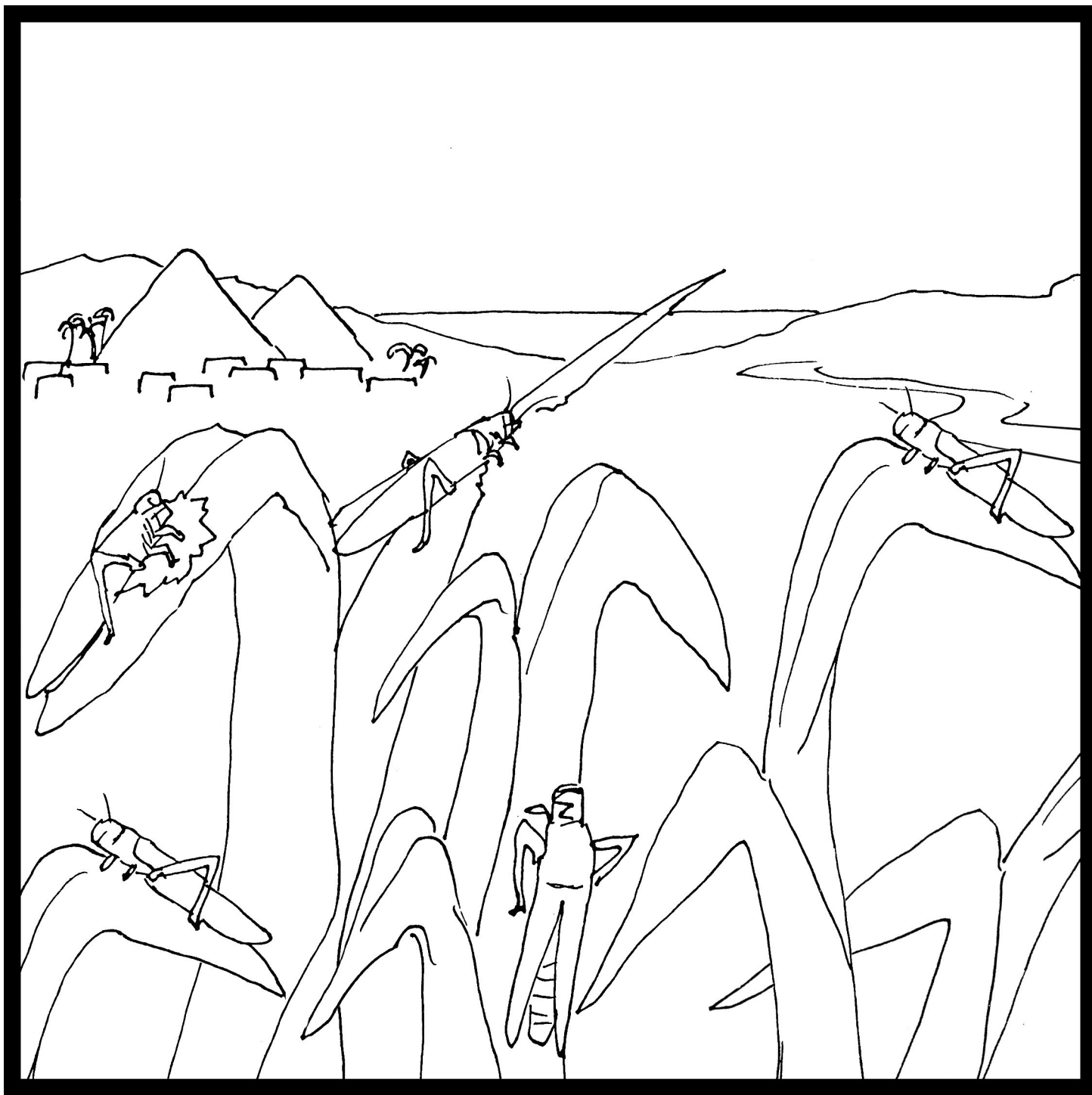
he became serious. "The point is, there's something else like humpty dumpty—something that can't be easily mended. I'm thinking of feelings. You boys said some ugly things to each other. Taking words back is just as impossible as mending an egg." Both boys felt bad. "Never forget how hurtful words can be," cautioned Grandpa. "God says the tongue is like

a fire that cannot be put out. That's how much damage words can do. Even saying you're sorry doesn't make them disappear."

"I am sorry, though," Elijah said to his brother.

"Yeah, well... me too," replied Alexander. "You can come into my room if you want."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 1. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 2

## Darkness Over Egypt

When Pharaoh refused to let the children of Israel worship God in the wilderness, God sent locusts to the land of Egypt. The locusts came in on an east wind and covered everything. There were so many of them that the land was dark, and they ate all of the green things left in Egypt.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. "I have sinned against God and against you," Pharaoh said. "Please forgive me and ask the Lord your God to take away these locusts." Moses prayed for deliverance. A strong west wind began blowing and cast the locusts into the Red Sea. There was not one locust left in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh saw that they were gone, he hardened his heart. He would not let the children of Israel leave his land.

"Stretch out your hand toward heaven," the Lord told Moses. "Then there will be a darkness over the land of Egypt."

There was a thick darkness in all of the land of Egypt for three days. The people could not see one another; so they stayed in their houses, but there was light where the children of Israel lived.

"Go and serve your God," Pharaoh told Moses. "Only, do not take your flocks or your herds."

"We must have animals for sacrifices," Moses replied. "Our cattle shall go with us."

Pharaoh's heart was hardened once again. "Get away from me," Pharaoh commanded. "Do not let me see your face anymore. If you do, you will die."

"You are correct," Moses countered. "I will not see your face anymore."

*Exodus 10:14-29*

### Questions:

1. Where did the locusts go?
2. How many days did the next plague last?
3. Where did the Egyptians stay for three days?
4. What would happen if Pharaoh saw Moses again?

**Memory Verse:** *They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days. Exodus 10:23*

## TLC for Toby

"Hold still, Toby," Matthew commanded. "I know you don't like this, but you have to be on a leash



when we take a walk." The impatient little dog wriggled and squirmed, but, at last, Matthew said, "Okay, fella, now we can go."

As they walked along, Toby kept pulling on his leash, wanting to dash off after a butterfly or to investigate a rustling in the bushes. "You've got a lively dog there," called Mr. Bell from his yard.

"Yeah," agreed Matthew, walking over to Mr. Bell. "You know what?" he asked with a sigh. "We might have to move soon because Dad lost his job. And last night, my bike was stolen. It seems like everything is going wrong for me. I'm so mixed up!" He paused, then added, "Mr. Bell, you're a Christian. Tell me... If God really cares for me, why has he let all these bad things happen?"

As Matthew spoke, Toby tugged hard on his leash. Matthew picked him up and held him in his arms. "Toby doesn't like his leash, does he?" observed Mr. Bell. "Why don't you just let him roam free?"

Matthew gave his puppy a squeeze. "If he ran free, he might get run over or attacked by a big dog or something."

"I suppose he doesn't like some other things you do, either—like giving him a bath or taking him to the vet for shots," suggested Mr. Bell, "or punishing him when he's been bad."

Matthew managed a little smile. "Sometimes Toby

thinks I'm being mean to him, but I'm really just giving him TLC—tender, loving care.”

“Matthew,” Mr. Bell said, “God is giving you TLC, too. He loves you far more than you love Toby, and he knows what’s best for you. He allows trials in your life as a way to train you and to develop your Christian character. Learn from them, and trust the

Lord to take care of you.” Just then, Toby reached up and nuzzled Matthew’s cheek. “See how much Toby loves you, even though you discipline him?” Mr. Bell asked. “Shouldn’t you give the same response to God?”

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 2. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.





Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 3

### Preparation to Leave

Even after seeing all of the waters of Egypt turned to blood, the land covered with frogs, lice, flies, and locusts, sick cattle, Egyptians breaking out in boils, and hail and darkness falling over the land of Egypt, Pharaoh still hardened his heart against Moses and Aaron. He would not let the Israelites leave to worship God.

“Pharaoh will let you go after the next plague I will send to Egypt,” the Lord told Moses.

The Lord gave Moses and Aaron many instructions of how they should get ready to leave. The Hebrew men killed a lamb for their households. They put the blood from the lamb on their doorposts and roasted the lamb, then they ate unleavened bread and bitter herbs along with the meat. All of this they were to do clothed for departure.

At midnight, the Lord passed over the land of Egypt. All of the firstborn men in Egypt were killed unless there was blood on the doorposts of the home, even Pharaoh’s son. Pharaoh and his servants could not sleep that night. They heard terrible cries throughout the land because there was not an Egyptian house untouched by death.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “When you get to the land that I have promised you, continue to keep this service for now. When your children ask you why you keep it, say ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover when death passed over the houses of the children of Israel but killed the firstborn Egyptians.’”

*Exodus 12:1-30*

#### Questions:

1. Name some of the plagues on Egypt.
2. What did they kill to eat?
3. What did they put on the doorposts?
4. What happened when the Lord passed over?

**Memory Verse:** *Eat it with your shoes on your feet, and your staff in hand. Exodus 12:11*

### Being Friendly

Ella walked home, her eyes brimming with tears. A cold ache filled her. No one even sees me, she thought as her schoolmates ran by, laughing. That night, she cried herself to sleep.



“Daddy, please, let’s move back to Houston. I hate it here!” she begged the next morning.

“But honey, we can’t,” her father replied. “I’m sorry you’re so unhappy, but I can’t quit my job.”

Tears rolled down Ella’s cheeks. “We’ve been here six weeks, and I still don’t have one friend—not one!”

Mother looked up. “Ella, long ago, I learned a little poem. It says, ‘I went looking for a friend, but not one could be found; I went out to be a friend, and friends were all around.’”

Ella wiped her face with a tissue. “What does that mean?”

Mother explained gently, “It means that you shouldn’t worry about finding a friend. Instead, look for someone who needs a friend.”

Dad stood up. “The Bible gives the same advice in the book of Proverbs,” he said. He squeezed her shoulder. “You’ve been feeling sorry for yourself, honey. It’s time to think about others. Now grab your books, and I’ll give you a ride to school this morning.”

When they got to school, Ella jumped from the car. “Do what God says—be friendly today,” encouraged Dad. “He knows what He’s talking about.”

As Dad drove away, Ella noticed a girl going up the

walk. That looks like the girl who sits across from me in homeroom, Ella thought. What's her name? Oh, yes—Madelyn. I wonder where her friends are? Maybe...

"Madelyn, wait up!" Ella called. "Could I walk with you?"

Madelyn looked up, and a smile spread across her

face. "You sure can. I've been here for seven weeks, and you're the first person who has even noticed me."

A warm feeling filled Ella, driving out the cold, lonely ache. Dad's right, she thought. God does know what he's talking about.

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Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 3. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 4

## The Great Exodus

As Pharaoh heard the cries of his grieving people, he was convinced to send for Moses and Aaron that same night. “Take your people and leave Egypt,” he ordered. “Take your flocks and all of your possessions and be gone.”



The people were ready to go. They took gold and silver from their neighbors, as the Lord commanded them to do. Because of their grief, the Egyptians let

them take whatever they needed. There were about six hundred thousand men, women, and children, and many flocks, herds, and cattle that left their home of four hundred and thirty years. They baked unleavened bread and left as quickly as possible.

The Lord caused a pillar of a cloud to lead them during the day and a pillar of fire to lead them at night.

Pharaoh soon heard that the Israelites had left Egypt. “Why have we let the Israelites leave us?” the people asked. “They were our servants.” This caused Pharaoh to want the Israelites back in his land. Pharaoh’s army of chariots and horsemen overtook the children of Israel as they were camping by the sea. When the Hebrews spotted Pharaoh’s army, they were afraid. “Have you brought us to die in the wilderness?” the people asked Moses.

*Exodus 13:15-22, 14:1-11*

**Memory Verse:** *The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud.... Exodus 13:21*

## Labels and Names

Margie marched into the house and headed for the kitchen where Mom was preparing dinner. “I’m never going back to school again!” she announced, slamming her books on the table. “I hate it there.” “Why, Margie?” Mom asked, looking very surprised. “What’s wrong?”

“The kids call me names,” complained Margie. “Today, some of them were acting up and misbehaving, and they wanted me to join them. I wouldn’t, and they chanted, ‘Chicken, chicken, Margie is a chicken!’”

Mom got out a pan and opened a can of food. “Why, look at that!” she exclaimed. “The label says green beans, but there are peaches inside!”

“Good! I like peaches better than green beans,” Margie said with a grin. “But what am I going to do about being called a chicken?”

“When I was a girl, we used to say a little rhyme,” said Mom. “It went like this: ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.’”

“But words do hurt sometimes, Mom,” Margie countered. “They hurt inside a person.”

“Yes, they do—if you let them,” replied Mom. “What do they mean when they call you a chicken?”

“That I’m scared—chickens are easily scared,” Margie said.

“If that’s what chicken means, I think some of those children are the real chickens,” Mom commented. “They’re afraid they will be laughed at if they stand up for what is right.”

### Questions:

1. Where did the wise man build his house?
2. Where did the foolish man build his house?
3. Who did Jesus compare to the wise man?
4. Who did Jesus compare to the foolish man?

“Hey, that is true,” said Margie.

“But you’re not a chicken,” added Mom. “You weren’t scared to obey your parents in spite of what the crowd did or said. You weren’t afraid to do what you knew was right.” She picked up the can of peaches. “No matter what label was put on this can,

these are still peaches, and that’s what counts. It’s what you really are that counts—not what you’re called. So, next time they call you names, say, ‘No I’m not a chicken. I’m a Christian, and I’m not afraid to act like one.’”

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 4. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 5

### Caught in the Sea



The Israelites were camped by the Red Sea when Pharaoh and his Egyptian army caught up with them. "It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness," the children of Israel cried when they saw the

Egyptians.

"Do not be afraid," Moses told them. "Stand still and see that the Lord will save you. You will not see the Egyptians any more after today. The Lord will fight for you, and you will hold your peace."

The cloud that was leading the children of Israel by day came between the two camps, and darkness fell over the Egyptian army. They could not see anything. Moses stretched his hand out over the sea. The Lord caused a strong wind to pass over the water and divide it so that there was a dry path through which the children of Israel could walk. They walked across the sea with great walls of water on either side.

The Egyptians followed the Israelites blindly into the sea, but they had problems with their chariots. Some of the men began to feel afraid. "Let us run from this place," they said. "The Lord is fighting against us."

"Stretch out your hand," the Lord told Moses. When Moses stretched out his hand, the waters returned to the way they were and covered the Egyptians,

their horses, and their chariots. But the children of Israel were on dry land, and they had great faith in the Lord.

*Exodus 14:13-31*

**Memory Verse:** *The waters were divided.*

*Exodus 14:21*

### Faith in the Father

Little Alyssa climbed from the pool. Then, she eagerly walked along the edge to the side where her father was standing in waist-deep water. "Catch me again, Daddy!" she called. She leaped toward her father almost before he could get his arms up to catch her.

"Wheel!" called Daddy, as he pulled her around in the water and then took her back to the shallow end where she could touch the bottom. Soon, Alyssa was back up the steps and heading toward her jumping spot.

"Alyssa sure does trust Dad to catch her," observed her older sister, Heather. "And I can't believe how many times Dad keeps doing it. You'd think he'd get tired of it."

Mother smiled. "You know," she said, "I think this is a good picture of our faith in God. It makes your father happy that Alyssa trusts him enough to jump into his arms over and over again. And because he caught her the first few times, she learned to trust him more and more—she jumped almost before he was ready last time."

Heather was perplexed. "How is that like us and God?" she wanted to know.

"Well, I think God is pleased, too, when his children trust him," explained Mother. "And the more we trust him, the easier it becomes."

#### Questions:

1. Who came after the Israelites?
2. Who would fight the battle for the children of Israel?
3. What came in front of the Egyptians?
4. What covered the Egyptians?

Heather nodded. "I think I am starting to find that out for myself," she said.  
"Good," said Mother. "The more we use our faith, the more it grows. When Alyssa jumps into the pool,

she doesn't think, Maybe Dad will catch me. She knows he will. That's the kind of faith that pleases God."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 5. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.





Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 6

## The Miracle of Sweet Water



Moses and the children of Israel rejoiced after the Lord delivered them from the Egyptians. “The Lord is my strength and my song,” Moses and the Israelites sang. They continued, “He has thrown Pharaoh and his chariots into the sea. The Lord’s right hand is powerful. The Lord will reign forever and ever.”

Moses’ sister, Miriam led the women in dances and songs. The Israelites were very thankful for what the Lord had done for them. “Sing unto the Lord. He has triumphed over our enemies,” Miriam rejoiced.

The Israelites left the Red Sea and came into the wilderness of Shur. They journeyed there for three days without seeing any water. Finally, they reached the waters of Marah, but when they tasted the water, it was bitter. The Israelites could hardly stand to drink it, so they began to complain. “What will we drink?” they asked.

Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed Moses a tree and instructed him to throw it into the water. Instantly, the waters became sweet.

Upon making the water sweet for his children, God promised the Hebrews, “If you will listen to my voice, do right in my sight, and keep my commandments, I will not allow the bad things that happened to the Egyptians happen to you. I am the Lord that heals you.”

After this, they came to Elim where there were twelve wells of water and many palm trees. The Lord provided them the rest they needed. They camped there by the water, then journeyed deeper into the wilderness.

*Exodus 15*

### Questions:

1. How long did it take the Israelites to find water?
2. What was wrong with the water in Marah?
3. What did Moses throw into the water?
4. What did the Lord promise the Israelites?

**Memory Verse:** *The waters were made sweet.*

*Exodus 15:25*

## Always Thankful

Being a teenager is rough, Savannah thought moodily as she gazed at the lashing rain. You’re treated like a kid, but expected to act like an adult!

“It’s raining! It’s pouring,” sang five-year-old Aria as she ran into the room. She slid to a stop beside Savannah’s chair. “I love rain. It makes puddles to splash in.”

“Yeah,” Savannah snapped, “and cancels picnics.”

“Were you going on a picnic?” Aria asked.

Savannah scowled. “No, I’m grounded.”

Aria patted Savannah’s hand. “I hope it becomes a storm. Storms are exciting! The lights go out, and we use candles.”

Savannah shuddered. “I hate storms! You’re a strange kid. You love storms and rain and cold weather—and hot weather, too.”

Mother laughed as she came into the room. “To Aria, there is no such thing as bad weather,” she agreed.

Aria wrinkled her brow. “Do you know the seasons, Savannah?” She counted on her fingers. “There’s spring and fall and winter and... uh...”

“Summer,” Savannah filled in.

Aria threw her arms up. “And I love them all!”

Mother sat down beside Savannah. “There are different seasons in life, too,” she said. “There’s childhood, and the teenage years. Then before we know it, we’re adults, parents, and even grandparents.”

“And the teen years are the worst!” Savannah exploded.

Mother shook her head. "No, honey. God has planned for every age to have special blessings as well as problems. It's true there are stormy times in the teen years, but people of every age experience that."

"Is it going to storm?" Aria asked. "I'll get the candles!" She ran from the room, and Savannah

gave a half-smile.

Mother smiled too. "Even storms have a purpose. For example, the rain that falls during storms, waters the plants and helps them grow. As we trust the Lord to teach us, he'll help us grow in all kinds of life's weather too."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 6. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 7

## Food From the Sky

The children of Israel left Elim and traveled farther into the wilderness. They began to complain about leaving Egypt, saying, "Even if we would have died, we should have stayed in Egypt. At least we had as much meat and bread as we wanted there. You have brought us into the wilderness to starve."



"I will send bread from heaven for you," the Lord told Moses. "The people will be able to gather enough for the day every morning."

Moses and Aaron gathered all of the children of Israel together and said, "In the morning, you will see the glory of the Lord. He has heard your complaints."

When the dew dried the next morning, small, round pieces of bread covered the ground. They had never seen anything like it before, and they called it manna.

When the hot afternoon sun beat down on the manna, it melted.

"Gather up enough for your families," the Lord commanded.

The Israelites did as the Lord said. "Do not leave any of it until morning," Moses instructed. Some of the men did not listen to Moses and saved their bread for the next morning. When they got up, they saw that the bread was full of worms and stank badly! Moses was angry that the men hadn't listened to him. The Lord provided manna every day except for

the Sabbath. Only on that day, the day of rest, was the manna preserved overnight, so the children of Israel saved the bread from the day before.

*Exodus 16:1-30*

**Memory Verse:** *And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

*Exodus 16:15*

## Tuna Again

"Yuck," said Robert, scrunching up his face with displeasure. "Tuna casserole! I wish we could order pizza. I think I could live on pizza."

"Yeah, that's all you ever want," his sister, Hadley, told him. "If you're not careful, you'll turn into pizza."

"That's better than turning into tuna," retorted Robert. He imagined Hadley and Mom as silvery tuna fish, napkins sliding off their laps as they tried to pick up a fork with their fins. He burst out laughing.

"Does that laugh mean you've decided to enjoy your dinner?" Mom asked. She bowed her head and gave thanks to God.

Robert picked up his fork and toyed with the mass of noodles Mom had spooned onto his plate. Bright green peas, chunks of tuna, and noodles swam in a creamy white sauce. "Jesus probably never had to eat tuna casserole," he muttered to Hadley.

"Maybe not," she replied. "But he did eat fish. He fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two little fish. And once, he fed 4,000 people with just a few loaves and one fish, remember?"

Mom nodded. "The people were hungry, and Jesus gave them food," she said. "It probably seemed like a Thanksgiving feast to those people."

"Don't tell me this means that we'll have tuna

### Questions:

1. What did the Lord promise to send?
2. What covered the ground in the morning?
3. On which day were the people not to gather manna?
4. On which day did the people rest?

casserole for Thanksgiving!” joked Robert.  
“That’s not what I meant,” Mom answered, “but maybe it would be a good idea.” Robert groaned.  
“Just kidding,” she said, laughing. “But you know, you really should be thankful for this good food. This is what God provided for you today.”

Robert ate a forkful. “It is pretty good,” he admitted, filling his fork a second time. “Especially since I’m hungry. Thanks for cooking dinner for us, Mom.”

“You’re welcome, Robert,” Mom said with a smile.

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 7. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 8

## Water From a Rock

The Lord continued to lead the children of Israel on their journey through the wilderness. They stopped in Rephidim, but there was no water to drink.



They complained to Moses, saying, “Give us water to drink! Why have you brought us out of Egypt?” They asked, “Are we, our children, and our cattle going to die from thirst?”

“What should I do with these people?” Moses asked the Lord. “I am afraid they are angry enough to try to kill me.”

The Lord gave Moses some instructions, so he set out to follow them with his rod in his hand. Some of the elders of the children of Israel went with him.

On Mount Horeb, Moses found the rock the Lord had told him about. He took his rod and hit the rock. Immediately, water gushed from the rock, and the people were able to drink. Once again, the Lord heard the cries of the people and supplied their needs.

Moses called the place Massah, which means ‘strife.’ He named it that because of the complaints from the children of Israel, for they had complained, “Is the Lord with us, or not?”

While they were camped at Rephidim, a tribe called the Amalekites came upon the Israelites and began to fight with them. Moses called for Joshua and asked him to choose men to fight against Amalek.

*Exodus 17:1-9*

**Memory Verse:** Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exodus 17:6

## Walking the High-Wire

“Wasn’t that a great circus?” asked Luke’s dad as they got into the car.

“Yeah!” Luke’s eyes were wide with excitement. “It sure was—especially the high-wire act.”

“Hmm,” murmured Dad, nodding. “That was pretty interesting. It was pretty scary, too, when the one man was riding on the other’s shoulders, and the man lost his balance. What did you think when they both fell?”

“I was glad there was a net to catch them,” said Luke.

Dad agreed, and they drove in silence for a few minutes before he spoke again. “You know, that high-wire act is like life in general.”

Luke was puzzled. “What do you mean?” he asked.

“Well,” Dad said, “the man who was sitting on the other’s shoulders was putting his trust in his partner’s ability to walk the rope safely, right?”

Luke nodded. “Yeah, but the other guy couldn’t do it. If the net hadn’t caught their fall, they might have been killed!”

“It seems we’re all something like that man who trusted his partner,” Dad replied. “We all put our trust in something or someone. Some of us put our trust in other people to help us through the dangers of life. Some of us put our trust in money or in our jobs. But when those things fail... well, tragedy often follows.”

### Questions:

1. Why did the Israelites complain?
2. Where did the Lord tell Moses to go?
3. What did Moses take with him?
4. What did Moses name the place where they drank?

Luke looked out the window as they drove along the streets. He thought about his Sunday school lesson the week before. "That's kind of like what my teacher told us," he noted. "She said we should always trust Jesus to take care of us because he

never fails."

Dad smiled. "That's right," he said. "The Lord Jesus can be trusted to carry us through life's troubles. He'll never lose his balance."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 8. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.





Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 9

## Battle with Amalek

While the Israelites camped in Rephidim, Amalek and his men attacked the Israelite camp. Moses called for Joshua.

“Choose men to fight against Amalek,” Moses ordered. “Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.”

Joshua chose men to be in his army and fought against Amalek while Moses went to the top of the hill. Aaron and Hur went with him. When Moses held up his hand, the children of Israel were victorious over their enemies. When Moses dropped his hand, Amalek and his men began winning the battle.

Moses’ hands began to grow very heavy, and he could no longer hold them up. Aaron and Hur found a stone and put the stone under Moses. Moses sat on the stone while Aaron and Hur stood on both sides of his and held up his hands. They kept Moses’ hands steady until the sun began to set.

Joshua and his men fought against Amalek with swords and finished the battle victoriously.

“Write this down in a book so that you will always remember it,” the Lord told Moses. “I will wipe away any remembrance of Amalek from the earth.”

In obedience, Moses built an altar in praise to the Lord. He named it Jehovahnissi. “I will call it this because the Lord has promised that Amalek and all of his people will never more be remembered,” Moses said.

*Exodus 17:10-16*

### Questions:

1. Where were the Israelites camped when Amalek attacked?
2. Who did Moses choose to lead the fight against Amalek’s army?
3. Who stood by Moses’ sides during the battle?
4. What did the Lord tell Moses he would wipe away?

**Memory Verse:** *And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Exodus 17:11*

## Forgiveness Wins the Battle!

Abigail tried to hide the tears sliding down her face as she searched for a seat in the cafeteria. It had been three weeks since her friends, Hailey and Layla, had spoken to her. She had prayed that she could forgive them, but couldn’t seem to get past the hurt. She had been friends with them since second grade, and now they had abandoned her for a more popular group of friends.

With relief, Abigail spotted an empty table. Hailey, Layla, and their new group of friends were sitting far away, seeming not to notice that Abigail sat alone. She ate quietly, and prayed again that she could find forgiveness in her heart. Then, she remembered a verse from Sunday school: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you,” (Ephesians 4:3).

Abigail suddenly felt as if the weight that was on her shoulders had been lifted. She recalled the Bible story where Aaron and Hur had held up Moses’ hands to win the battle. Her prayer for forgiveness and the verse God had given her felt as if they were holding her arms high, allowing her to win her battle. When she finished her lunch, she left the cafeteria light-hearted and smiling, knowing God had helped her win her fight.

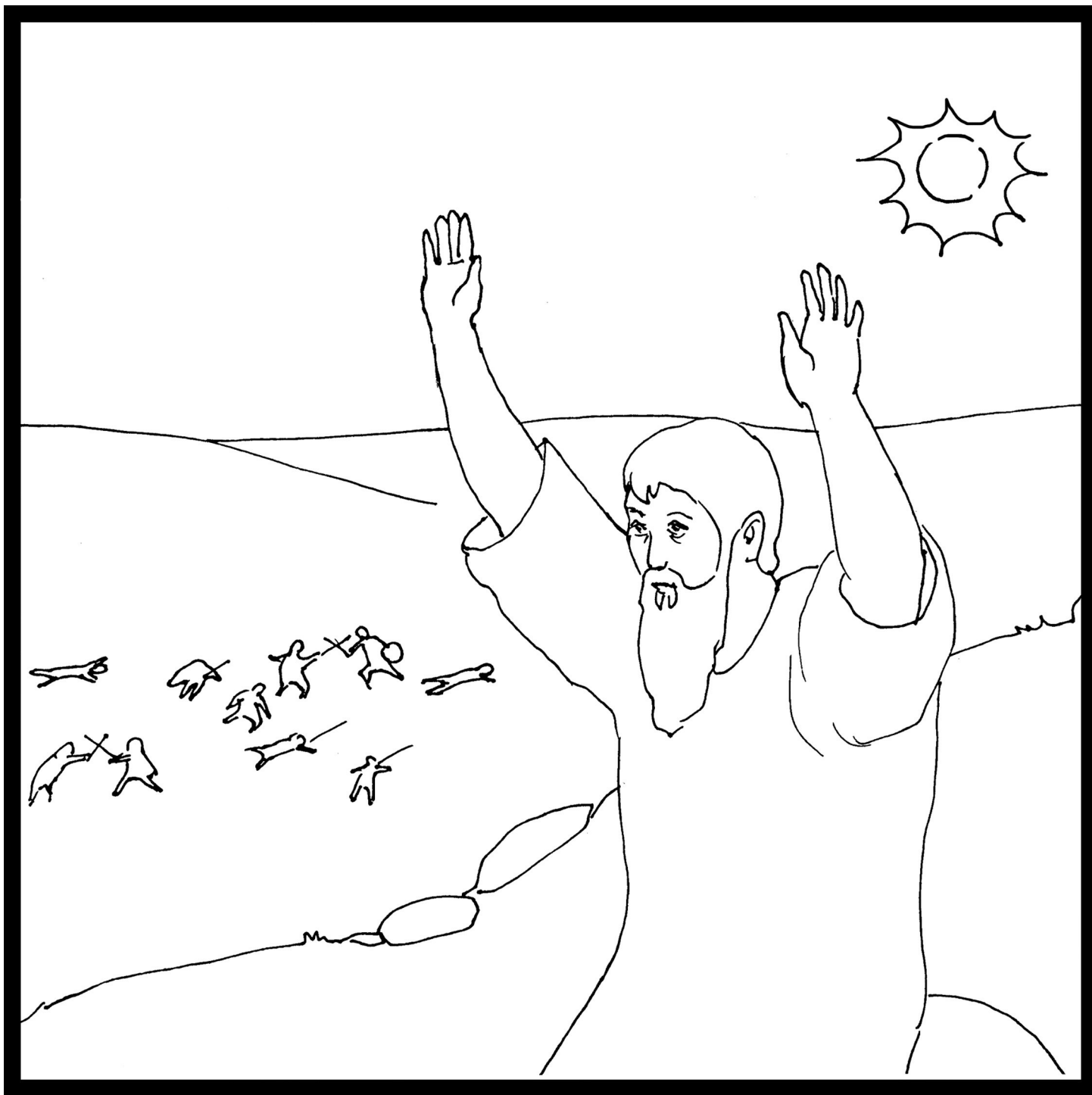
Later, at the end of the school day, Abigail packed up her backpack and got ready to walk home. She had just stepped out the front door when a hand on her arm stopped her. Surprised, she turned to find Hailey looking at her with sad eyes.

“Abigail, I just want to say how sorry I am for treating you badly,” Hailey said. “I didn’t want to ignore you—I just felt like I had to with all those popular girls around. But, I’ve decided I don’t want to hang out with them anymore. Do you think we

could get together and do homework soon?”

She couldn’t hold back her smile. “Of course, Hailey!” she said, embracing her friend. “Come over today!”

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Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 9. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.




Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 10

### Advice from Jethro

Moses' wife was staying with her father, Jethro, while Moses led the children of Israel to their promised land. Jethro heard about all of the miraculous things the Lord was doing for the children of Israel. He took Moses' wife and sons and met Moses in the wilderness.



Moses shared with his father-in-law all the things that the Lord had done for His people. Jethro rejoiced, saying, "Blessed is the Lord who has delivered you out of the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods." Jethro made a sacrifice to the Lord.

The next day, Jethro watched Moses sitting in front of the people. They came all day and into the evening, and Moses solved their problems and disputes.

"Why are the people coming to you all day and night?" Jethro asked.

"I help them solve their problems," Moses replied. "This is a good thing," Jethro counseled. "But there are too many problems for one person to handle. You need to teach the people the laws of God and choose able men to be rulers of thousands. Then, choose other men to rule under these men. The biggest problems can be brought to you, but the men you choose will take care of the small things." Moses listened to Jethro's advice and picked several

men to be judges over the children of Israel. After this, Jethro left Moses and went back to his own land.

*Exodus 18*

**Memory Verse:** So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. Exodus 18:24

### Cookies and Ski Trips

Opening the oven door, Harper removed a pan of cookies. As she set them on the table, her little brother darted into the kitchen. "Cookies!" exclaimed Owen, reaching toward the hot pan. "No!" cried Harper, quickly pulling him aside. Owen howled and kicked furiously. "That's hot! You'll get burned if you touch it," Harper told him.

"What's going on in here?" asked Dad, coming into the kitchen and taking hold of Owen.

"Owen is mad because I stopped him from picking up the hot cookies," said Harper. She went to answer the phone while her father dealt with Owen.

A little later, Harper slumped in a chair as Dad took more cookies from the oven. "That was Avery," Harper said. "She was telling me about the rules Mr. James has made up for our youth group's ski trip. We've been looking forward to going, but I'm not sure it's going to be any fun! Avery says there'll be room cleaning requirements, chaperons, and even a curfew! It's totally unfair!"

"Just like Owen thought you were unfair for not letting him touch the hot cookies?" asked Dad.

Harper looked surprised. "I don't mind if he has some cookies," she said. "I just didn't want him to get burned."

"And Mr. James doesn't mind if you have fun," said Dad, "but he doesn't want you to get hurt. He is a

#### Questions:

1. Where was Moses' wife staying when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt?
2. What did Jethro say when he saw God's miracles?
3. What did Moses do all day for the children of Israel?
4. What did Jethro advise Moses to do?

youth director at church; therefore, he's God servant, and God holds him responsible for every person in the group. God will hold you accountable to obey the guidelines Mr. James sets whenever you're under his care."

Harper sighed. "I suppose," she said as the oven timer buzzed. She grinned at Owen who was sitting

quietly, staring at the cookies. "Come on, little brother," she said, "let's have milk and cookies. They've cooled down, and they'll be great now—you'll see. And maybe I'll discover that the ski trip will be great too, if I follow the rules."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 10. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 11

## Voice From the Mountain



The children of Israel had been away from Egypt for three months when they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They camped at the base of Mount Sinai.

Moses went to the mountain to talk to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain. You will tell the children of Israel these things that I tell you," the Lord instructed. "You have seen what I have done to the Egyptians, and how I delivered you. If you obey my voice and keep my laws, you will be a treasure to me above all people. You will be a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation."

"I will come to you in a thick cloud," the Lord told Moses. "This way, the people will hear when I speak with you, and believe what you say. Tell the people to wash their clothes and to be ready in three days, because the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all of the people. When the trumpet sounds, they will come up to the mountain."

Moses went to the people and they readied themselves. On the third morning, they heard thunder and saw lighting on the mountain. The trumpet sounded so loudly that all of the people in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God. Mount Sinai was covered in smoke, and the Lord descended upon it in fire, then called Moses to come up to the top of the mountain.

*Exodus 19:1-20*

### Questions:

1. What did the Lord tell Moses the children of Israel would be to him?
2. What did the Israelites have to do for God to keep that promise?
3. What did they hear on the third morning?
4. In what did the Lord descend on Mount Sanai?

**Memory Verse:** *And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. Exodus 19:18*

## Traffic Lights

"Slow down, Dad," warned Brayden. He pointed to a cluster of bushes. "I see a cop hiding back there."

"I don't need to slow down, son," Dad answered. "I'm not going over the speed limit."

"Yeah, but don't you feel sort of uneasy when you see a cop, like maybe he'll get you for something you don't even know about?" asked Brayden.

Dad shook his head. "Not a bit," he said, stopping for a red light. "I have no reason to have a guilty conscience."

"My Sunday school teacher says your conscience is kind of like a traffic light, flashing red when you're about to do something wrong, and green when you're doing right," observed Brayden. "Of course, it doesn't actually flash red or green in front of your eye, but we knew what she meant."

Dad nodded. "God has given each person a conscience," he said, "and your conscience works according to what you know about right and wrong. That's why you need to train your conscience when you're young. Studying the Bible and listening to advice from older Christians are good ways to do that."

"Well, I know a kid who does wrong even though he knows better, but he says his conscience doesn't bother him," stated Brayden. "My teacher says kids like him have run through the red light of their conscience so many times that they've become color

-blind.”

The traffic light turned green and Dad drove on.

“When you run a red light—with your car, or by ignoring your conscience—you’re likely to have a wreck,” he said. “And wrecking your life is much more serious than wrecking your car.”

Brayden nodded. “Yeah,” he agreed, “but you know

something, Dad? Sometimes I’m not sure what color my conscience is flashing.”

“When you’re not sure what’s right, observe the yellow caution light and slow down until you know what to do,” advised Dad. “Play it safe. Don’t go ahead until you’re sure it’s okay.”

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 11. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.





Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 12

## The Ten Commandments

Moses went up the mountain to speak with the Lord. The Lord told him, "I am the Lord your God who has brought you out of slavery in Egypt. Do not worship any other gods. Do not make any images of things in heaven or on earth. Do not bow down to the images or worship them. I am a jealous God and will show mercy to all of the people who love me and keep my commandments.

"Do not take the name of the Lord in vain. Remember the Sabbath day. Keep it holy. You may work for six days, but the Sabbath is the day of rest. The Lord made the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. The Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days will be long on the land that the Lord has given you.

"Do not kill. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie about your neighbor. Do not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, his servants, his animals, or anything that is your neighbor's.

"You will tell the children of Israel that I have talked to you from heaven. You will make an altar to me and make a sacrifice on it."

After the Lord gave Moses these commandments, He also gave Moses many laws concerning servants, punishments for people who committed murder, lied, stole things, or committed adultery. God wants you to obey these commandments just as he wanted Moses to obey them, and He will keep His promises.

*Exodus 20-31*

### Questions:

1. Who did God promise to show mercy upon?
2. What is the day of rest called?
3. What promise goes along with honoring your parents?
4. Upon what did God ask Moses to make a sacrifice?

**Memory Verse:** *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3*

## Jesus Only

"It's not!" Carter's voice rang throughout the house.



"Is too!" Hannah shouted back at her older brother.

"Oh, Hannah, just wait until you're older and have learned more about the world," Carter said crossly. "Then you'll be more broad-minded."

"Well, Dad's older than you, and I'm sure he'll agree with me!" Hannah replied.

"Whoa, what's all the shouting about?" Dad asked as he entered the room.

"Carter has been learning about other religions in school and he thinks they're as good as ours," explained Hannah. "But Jesus is the only way to heaven. Isn't that right, Dad?"

"Well, some of the leaders we've been learning about were really good people," Carter muttered.

"Better be careful what you believe, Carter," Dad cautioned. "Have they told you about Muhammad's tomb? Or Buddha's grave?"

"What do you mean, Dad?" Carter asked, feeling puzzled. "We did learn about Muhammad and Buddha."

"Well, if you wanted to, could you visit the graves or tombs of those men? Dad asked.

Carter shrugged. "I suppose so," he said. "I could visit Jesus' tomb too."

"If you did, what would you find in His grave?" Dad asked.

"I know!" Hannah cried, almost jumping from her

seat. "Just like Mary and the disciples on Easter morning, you'd find nothing in Jesus' grave. At least, not a body like in those other graves."

Dad nodded. "Hannah's right, Carter. Jesus not only died to pay the price for our sins, but he rose again so that we can have eternal life. Those men you are

learning about may have been wise teachers. In fact, many of them mimic the teachings of Jesus. But not one of them took our sins upon himself, died, and then came back to life in order to save us. They are still dead. If you choose to trust in any of them, you are choosing death, not life."

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**Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 12. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.**



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 13

## The Golden Calf

The people began to get restless, for Moses had been on Mount Sanai for forty days and nights.

“Make us gods to worship,” they pleaded with Aaron. “We do not know what has become of Moses.”

Aaron gathered all the gold in the Israelites’ possession, then melted it down and made a golden calf. “This will be your god, oh Israel,” Aaron said. “He brought you out of Egypt.” The Israelites worshiped the calf.

“Go down to your people,” the Lord told Moses. “They have sinned. They have turned from the way I commanded them and have made an idol to worship. They are sacrificing to the idol and saying that it brought them up out of Egypt. I am angry with these people. I will kill all of them and make your descendants be a great nation.”

Moses pleaded with the Lord on behalf of the people, and the Lord was sorry of the evil that He had wanted to do to the people.

Moses went down from the mountain with two stone tablets in his hand. Joshua had been waiting for Moses while he spoke with the Lord. “There is the noise of battle in the camp,” Joshua worried. “No, it is singing that I hear.” Moses reached the camp. He saw the calf and the people dancing. Moses became very angry. He threw the tables down. They broke. He took the calf and ground it to powder.

*Exodus 32*

### Questions:

1. How long did Moses spend on Mount Sanai?
2. Who waited for Moses on the mount?
3. Who helped the Israelites make the golden calf?
4. What did Moses do with the golden calf when he returned to the camp?

**Memory Verse:** *And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. Exodus 32:19*

## False Teeth

“Aaagh!” Kaitlin squealed when she looked on her great-grandmother’s bathroom counter. “There are teeth in that cup!” Gran chuckled as she stopped at the bathroom door. “I forgot that you wear false teeth,” Kaitlin added. “They don’t look false in your mouth.”

“Good,” Gran said. “Then maybe only my dentist and I know for sure.” She gave Kaitlin a toothless grin. “And you,” she added.

The following week, Kaitlin met Aubrey, a new student who talked about God. “We all have God in us, so we can all choose our own right and wrong,” said Aubrey. “You may think certain things are wrong, but I may think they’re okay. And that’s fine. We should decide for ourselves.” Kaitlin was so glad to find a friend who wasn’t afraid to talk about God, she accepted what Aubrey said without thinking too much about it.

One day, Kaitlin got into trouble after hitting her brother, Landon. “Well, Aubrey says we’re all a part of God and can decide for ourselves what’s right,” stated Kaitlin, “and I think it’s okay for me to hit Landon when he’s bothering me.”

“Oh, you do,” said Mom, dryly. “Who’s Aubrey?” “She’s my new Christian friend at school,” Kaitlin explained.

“Are you sure she’s a Christian?” asked Mom. “The things she says sound like New Age thinking, and that’s human-centered, not Christ-centered. You

see, many people use words that sound biblical, but they really aren't." Kaitlin was confused. "Those words are like great-grandmother's teeth," added Mom.

"Gran's teeth!" Kaitlin exclaimed. "What's that supposed to mean?"

"You told me Gran's teeth look real, but they are false," said Mom. "In a similar way, some people use

words that may seem 'Christian,' but they're false—they disagree with what God says. I think you'll have to listen carefully to what Aubrey says." Mom added. "God definitely does not say you can decide for yourself what is right or wrong. His standard is perfect and holy. It's always right, whether we like it or not."

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Volume 66. Quarter 2, Week 13. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Joanna Delphine, Illustrator. 2016.