



Baby Moses

Lesson Text: Exodus 1, 2:1-10

The descendants of Joseph stayed in Egypt and became a mighty people. They were the Hebrews, the children of Israel. A new king who did not know Joseph became Pharaoh of Egypt, and he did not like that there were so many Hebrews living in Egypt. He was scared that one day they would turn against the Egyptians and fight.

The Egyptians made the Hebrews their slaves and worked them very hard, but God blessed them and they grew as a nation. Then, the king commanded the Hebrews to throw their baby boys into the Nile River.

One Hebrew mother, Jochebed, hid her son until he grew too big to stay quiet. She made a waterproof basket out of bulrushes, put her child in the basket and hid the basket in the reeds along the river's bank. The baby's big sister, Miriam, stayed around the river to watch the basket.

The daughter of Pharaoh and her maids came to the river's bank to wash. She saw the basket in the papyrus reeds and asked one of her maids to get the basket. The

princess opened the basket and looked at the crying baby. She felt love toward the child, and knew he was a Hebrew boy.

At this time, Miriam ran to the princess and said, "Shall I go get a nurse for you to take care of this baby?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, and Miriam ran to get her mother. The princess told Jochebed to take the child and raise him until he was older. Once he was old enough to live with the princess, she took him into her home and called him Moses, because she drew him out of the water.

And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Exodus 2:6

- What was another name for the Hebrews?
- What wicked act did the king command of the Hebrews?
- What is the name of Moses' big sister?
- Who did Moses live with when he grew from a baby to a young boy?

Bountiful Blessings

The hot sun warms the trees and grasses until their scent permeates the air.

Cherry trees bend from the weight of plump cherries on their branches, and boysenberry and blackberry bushes hide deep purple berries under green leaves.

A lemonade stand or two can be found on the side of the road.

The Mackey family unpack their picnic lunch and sit on a blanket near Salmon River. It's a Saturday afternoon.

They eat thick roast beef sandwiches, then Anderson and Kathryn watch Jack and Violet splash in a shallow area. The children shriek with laughter and shock as the cold water hits their skin.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Kathryn asks Anderson softly.

He squeezes her hand and draws her close. "That this is where Jack first came into our life," he responds.

Kathryn nods. "Kind of makes me think of baby Moses. You found him near the water after Violet drew him out of hiding when she fell into the river last spring."

Anderson's hand tightens around Kathryn's shoulder. They are both quiet, thinking how God brought Jack into their heart and home.

Jack and Violet continue to giggle as they splash each other in the cold water. "May we start fishing now?" Violet calls out. "Jack can get me with larger splashes and I'm already wet up to my knees!"

The family laughs and Anderson gets the fishing poles from the pickup. The children start to dry as they sit on the riverbank with poles in hand, swinging their feet and chattering about who will catch the first fish.

Anderson catches two brook trout, and the children are ready for something new.

"Let's see if we can find any wild blackberries for our dessert before we leave," Kathryn suggests.

They do, and with purple-stained fingers and lips, the family heads back to their cabin to fry their fish for dinner.

Anderson and Jack finish the evening chores while Kathryn fries the fish and Violet mixes a salad with lettuces, tomato and onion from their garden. Kathryn pours everyone a tall glass of citrus mint green tea.

Anderson thanks the Lord for the wonderful day and for the joy the Lord provides. He squeezes Jack's hand, and Jack grins as he looks around at his beloved family.

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



Moses Becomes a Man

Lesson Text: Exodus 2:11-25

Moses grew up in the palaces of Egypt, but he never forgot that he was a Hebrew by birth. He loved his people, and it made him sad that the Egyptians treated the Hebrews so poorly.

One day, Moses saw an Egyptian hitting one of the Hebrew men. Moses looked around, and when he realized no one was watching, he killed the Egyptian for hurting the Hebrew.

The next day, Moses saw two Hebrew men fighting and he said, "Why are you hitting your fellow man?"

One of the Hebrews replied, "Who do you think you are? You aren't a judge or a king over us. Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?"

When Pharaoh heard about it, he tried to find Moses to kill him, but Moses left Egypt and came to a land called Midian.

He stopped by a well to rest and met seven young ladies who came to draw water for their father's flocks of sheep.

Shepherds tried to drive the girl's flocks away so they could use the water for their own animals, but Moses helped the sisters and watered their flocks.

The girls went back home, and their father, who was the priest of Midian, asked them how they were home so early.

They told him how an Egyptian man delivered them from the shepherds and made sure their flocks received water.

He said, "Well, where is he? Did you leave him there? Call him, that he may eat with me."

Moses ended up staying in Midian, and married one of the daughters, who was named Zipporah.

Back in Egypt, the Hebrew children cried to God because they were slaves and wanted to be free. God heard their cries, and He remembered His promise with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God looked at the children of Israel and knew it was time to deliver them out of Egypt.

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore. Genesis 22:17

- Did Moses forget about the Hebrews since he grew up in Egyptian palaces?
- What happened when the Midianite girls tried to water their flocks?
- How did Moses make Midian his new home?
- Did God hear the cries of the Hebrews in Egypt? What did He remember?

Trouble in the City

Jack and Violet chat back and forth like two happy canaries. Anderson smiles as he listens to their banter, driving his old pickup down the winding mountain road into town.

They tumble out the passenger door in excitement as soon as Anderson stops at the general store and run to find Mrs. Knelson.

Anderson picks up some new gloves and a few posts to fix a fence, then catches up with the old men sitting around a chess board in the back of the store.

"Say Anderson, plan to bring your family back to town this Saturday for our July 4th celebration," one of the men drawls.

"Yep, plannin' on it," Anderson replies.

"Well, it's 'posed to be a hot one. Hopefully we don't have no trouble from any folk from the big city. The hotter it gets the meaner a bunch of them are acting."

Anderson frowns. He's heard whispers of the trouble going on in Portland over an expansion dispute, but he thought it would be settled by now.

"Yeah," another grizzled mountain man sighs. "Just yesterday

some windows were busted and a riot broke out. You'd think they could work out their differences like civilized folk, but it appears not."

Jack and Violet stand a few feet behind Anderson, listening. They looked at each other with big eyes. It is their first time hearing about the tension, since Anderson and Kathryn are careful about what they let the children hear at home.

Anderson doesn't hum as he drives back up the mountain road. Finally, Jack says, "Dad, why are people fighting over buildings and land? Why are they hurting each other?"

Anderson looks at his two children, so full of innocence. He wraps his arm around their small shoulders and drives with one hand.

"Children, we will deal with evil in this world because the devil is working as hard as he can right now to claim as many souls as possible before Jesus returns to punish him. People who allow him into their hearts are tricked into thinking anyone different than they are a threat. People mistreat others based on skin color, wealth, and different opinions. But Jesus wants to live in our hearts instead, so we always treat every person we meet with respect, honor, and kindness."

Karissa Carver





God Speaks to Moses

Lesson Text: Exodus 3

Moses watched his father-in-law's flock of sheep while he lived in Midian. One day, he led the flock to the back desert of Horeb.

God's spirit appeared in a flame of fire on a bush. Moses noticed the bush burning, but the bush was not burning up. Moses said, "I'm going to see what's going on. I've never seen this before!"

As he walked toward the bush, God called to him out of the fire. "Moses, do not come any closer until you have removed your shoes. You stand on holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look upon God.

God continued speaking. "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt. I will deliver them from the Egyptians and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. I want you to go before Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of bondage."

Moses asked, "Who am I, that I should be the one to deliver your people?"

God replied, "I will be with you."

Moses thought of another question. "When I speak to the Israelites, and they ask me your name, what shall I say?"

God answered, "I AM THAT I AM. Tell them 'I AM has sent me to you.' After telling this to the children of Israel, go and gather the elders and tell them how I will deliver them from bondage and bring them to a new land. They will listen to you, and then you will go to Pharaoh and tell him the Lord God of the Hebrews has asked his people to go into the wilderness to offer sacrifices."

"I am sure he will not let you go, and I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with great afflictions. After this, he will let you go."

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today,
and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

- How did God appear to Moses?
- What did God say when Moses felt like he wasn't capable of leading the Israelites?
- Do you believe that God is always with you to help you like he promised Moses?
- When did God say Pharaoh would let the children of Israel go?

Cattle Drive

"Wake up, son. We better get a move on if we want to make it to Mr. Sully's ranch on time."

Anderson's voice rouses Jack from sleep. Jack slowly rubs his eyes, then grins at his dad and hops out of bed.

Jeans, a button-down shirt and work boots are scrambled into in a flash, and Jack is in the kitchen ready for breakfast.

Kathryn rumples Jack's hair after she sets a platter of sausage and eggs on the table. Jack is accompanying Anderson on a cattle drive and he's humming with excitement. He can't wait to see some real cowboys on horses and a big herd of cattle.

Father and son arrive at Mr. Sully's just as the sun starts to tinge the horizon pink. A group of men and boys mill around, some on horseback, some leaning against fenceposts and others waiting in their trucks.

Mr. Sully explains to the men what needs to be done and they separate into groups. Anderson finds a gentle mare for Jack to ride, and grins to himself as Jack climbs on with a very sober expression on his young face.

Jack's never been on a horse before, but Anderson knows he wouldn't want the cowboys to know that. Mr. Sully winks at Anderson as Jack takes the reins and slowly starts to lead the mare toward the gate. Anderson rides beside Jack as they make their way across the hills and to the large field the first group of men will arrive at late afternoon with the herd of cattle.

For now, Anderson and Jack's group set up tents and the campfire. Shortly the cook gets Jack to help him prepare for the big dinner and then one of the cowboys asks Jack if he'd like to learn to rope.

Jack's eyes shine as the cowboy shows him how to hold, swing and throw the lasso. He thinks he could live out here every day.

That evening, Jack and Anderson lay in their tent looking at the big sky dotted with little white stars. Jack hears the soft lowing of the cattle and an occasional laugh from one of the men on night watch.

"Doesn't God feel real close, Dad?" With that, Jack's eyes flutter shut and he dreams of cowboys and cattle and a great big God.

Karissa Carver





I Am the Lord

Lesson Text: Exodus 4-11

Moses prepared to leave for Egypt after God spoke to him from the burning bush. God spoke to Aaron and told him to meet his brother in the wilderness. God planned to use both Aaron and Moses to speak to Pharaoh.

They asked Pharaoh to let them leave to worship God. Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, and why should I obey Him? I don't know Him, and I won't let you go."

Pharaoh punished the Hebrews by making them work even harder. Moses prayed to the Lord and asked Him why the Hebrews were in a worse state than before he returned.

God replied, "I am the Lord. I made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and I have heard the groanings of my people. I will bring you out from under your burdens, I will rid you of bondage, I will redeem you.

I will bring you into the land I promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I will give it to you for a heritage. I am the Lord."

Then God commanded Moses to return to Pharaoh and ask that he let the children of Israel go. Moses was not sure how Pharaoh would listen to him. God said, "Pharaoh's heart will harden as I send out my signs and plagues

on Egypt. But in the end, the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."

Moses spoke again to Pharaoh and he refused to let the people leave. So began the ten plagues of Egypt. God would send a plague, Pharaoh would ask Moses to ask the Lord to take it away and say he'd let the people go, and once the plague was gone Pharaoh would change his mind.

After nine plagues, God told Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Egypt which will cause Pharaoh to let you go."

He gave Moses special instructions on how to prepare for the final plague.

I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me. Isaiah 45:5

- What did Pharaoh tell Moses and Aaron about God when they asked to leave?
- How many plagues did God send to Egypt?
- Does God know when you ignore His voice?
- Are there places in your heart that hold you in bondage like the Hebrews? Ask God to deliver you, too.

The Secret

"Violet, want to know a secret?" Jack asks one day while they feed the chickens and cows.

"Yeah!"

"I'm making Dad a new leather strap for his keys to give him on his birthday. But you can't tell! It's a surprise. Mom gave me the leather, a key ring, and the other tools I need. I've been working on it in my bedroom after devotions before I go to bed."

That night, Anderson sits down at the dinner table and sighs. "I guess I'll have to get something new soon for my keys. My current leather strap has held up all these years but it's getting so worn."

Jack and Kathryn share a secret smile when Anderson looks down at his plate. Violet bounces in her seat. Before Anderson spoons the beans and cornbread in his mouth she shouts, "Well, don't go buying a new one because you'll get one for your birthday soon!"

Jack's face turns red and he glares at Violet. His eyes fill with hot tears but he swallows hard. Anderson quickly realizes what's going on as he glances between the children.

"Well, this ole leather strap should work a few weeks longer.

I won't be buying one next week or anything," he says. "Kathryn, supper sure tastes good. As always. I am a right blessed man to have you in my life."

They smile at each other and Kathryn reaches for his hand.

"Sweetie, why did you share Jack's secret?" Kathryn asks Violet as they clean the kitchen after dinner. "He wanted to surprise your dad. It wasn't your news to share."

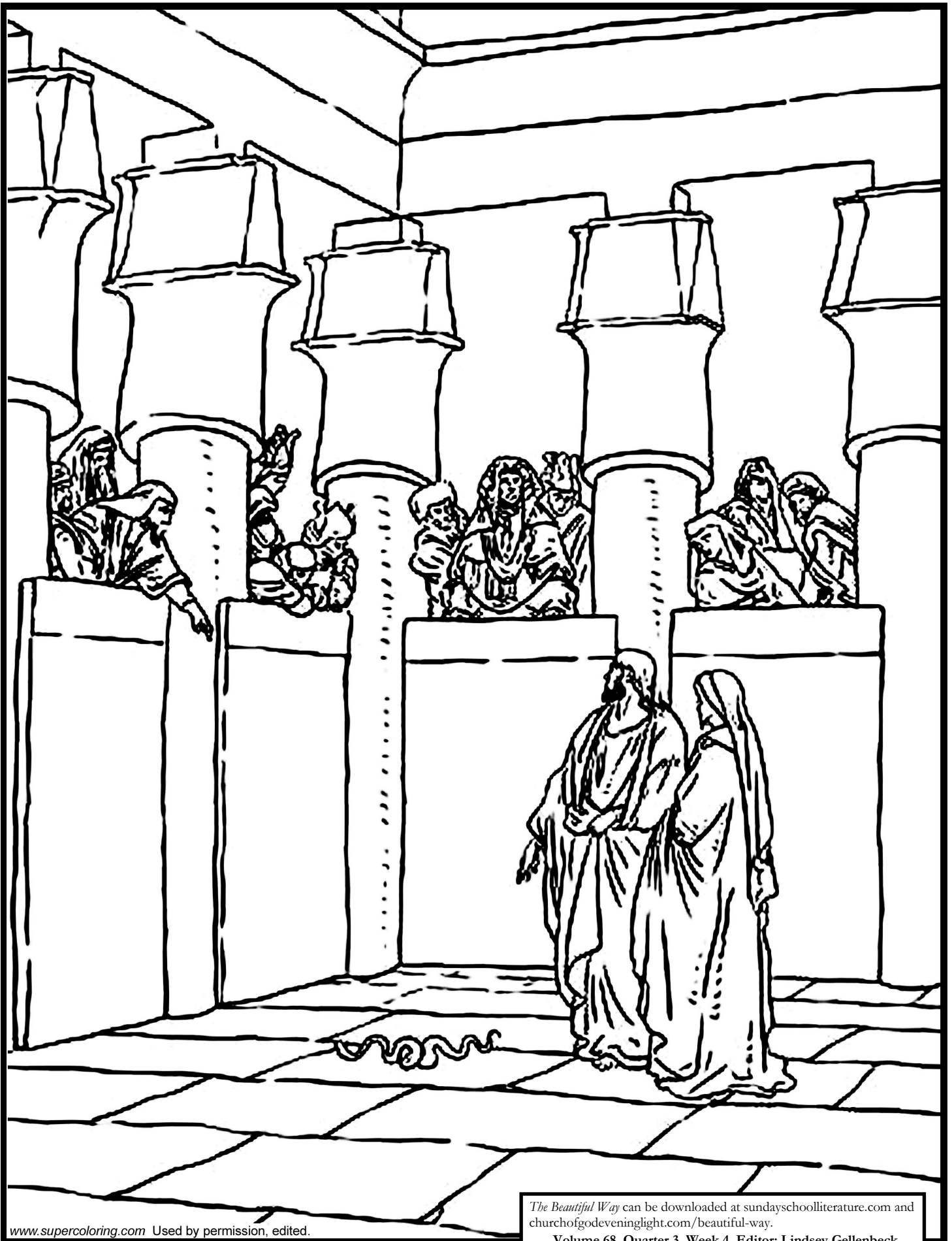
That night, she tosses and turns. She tries to ignore the little voice inside her head, but finally starts to cry. Once she stops fighting her conscience she closes her eyes and listens to God's Holy Spirit convicting her young heart.

"Violet, you made Jack very sad. You need to say you are sorry and ask forgiveness."

Violet gets out of bed and quietly knocks on Jack's door. "Jack, if you're awake I am real sorry. I know I shouldn't tell other people's secrets and I need to learn to be quiet. I hope you forgive me."

"I do," came his muffled reply. "Maybe tomorrow you can help me finish."

Karissa Carver





Free at Last

Lesson Text: Exodus 11:5, 12, 13

The Lord told Moses about the tenth, final plague and how to prepare. God planned to smite every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the servants and even the animals.

God said not one firstborn among the children of Israel would die, but they had to follow special instructions so the angel of death would pass over them.

God gave instructions for what would be called the Passover. On a special day that God appointed, every family took a lamb to sacrifice. The blood of the lamb was brushed on both sides and above their doors. The meat of the lamb was roasted and eaten.

That night, at midnight, the Lord smote all the firstborn in Egypt but passed over every doorpost that was covered by the blood. Pharaoh woke up and realized what happened. A great cry rose from Egypt, and he called Moses and Aaron that night.

"Rise, get away from my people and go serve the Lord," he said.

The Egyptians wanted the children of Israel to leave as soon as possible. They gave them jewels of silver and gold, fine

clothes, and anything else the Hebrews needed.

After four hundred thirty years in Egypt, the children of Israel began their journey to the promised land. They baked the unleavened bread God commanded them to eat for seven days after the Passover, in remembrance of their freedom from bondage.

Moses told the people, "Remember this day that you were delivered from Egypt by the strength of the Lord. When your children ask you why you keep the Passover and eat the unleavened bread each year, you will tell them how the Lord delivered you."

God led the people through the wilderness to the Red Sea. By day, He guided them with a pillar of cloud and by night he guided them with a pillar of fire.

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God. Deuteronomy 6:9

- What was the tenth and final plague?
- The blood of the sacrificed lamb saved the Hebrews. Whose blood was sacrificed to save you?
- How did God lead the children of Israel through the wilderness?
- What are some ways that you can thank the Lord for delivering you from your bondage of sin? (Singing, praying, testifying.)

A Forest Walk

Anderson opens the back-pasture gate and closes it behind Jack. It's an uncharacteristically cloudy day for Oregon in July. The temperature is slightly lower, and a cool breeze rolls off the mountain.

Jack hops on one foot then the other. He wears an army-green backpack full of supplies like a flashlight, matches and ponchos and of course a few hearty ham sandwiches Kathryn packed for their lunch.

He grins up at Anderson and Anderson affectionately pushes down on Jack's straw hat.

Anderson had promised Jack that one day he'd show him around the forest behind their house and today Anderson found himself caught up on his crops and repair work. He wanted Jack to be familiar with the trees, the streams and the animals around their house.

"Here, look at the compass. It's pointing north when you stand with your back to the pasture," Anderson shows Jack.

They walk along a deer trail and are soon deep within the thick forest. Trees loom a hundred feet above Jack's head. It's quiet, except for the singing of black-throated gray warblers and the chatter of squirrels.

Anderson points out different animal footprints to Jack. They continue walking, enjoying the peace found in the stillness of the great mountain.

Jack breathes in the clean air. Does life get any better?

Anderson stops, squints and frowns. "Here, son. I want to show you something." He heads toward a lodgepole pine.

The pine tree looks half-dead. A few branches still hold to their green needles, but many have dead or dropped pine needles and the bark is dry.

Anderson pulls out his pocketknife and shaves a patch of bark from the trunk. White bark beetles that look like rice grains swarm.

"What are they doing?" Jack exclaims.

"They are eating the inside of the tree. Soon this tree will completely die and if a fire comes through it will quickly burn. These beetles help the Earth recycle and replenish with new trees. But they can become pests. They can kill so many trees they're like a plague."

"A plague like God sent to the Egyptians?" Jack wonders.

"Yes, God is in control of this Earth and all that lives on it. Never forget that, son."

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Grumblers

Lesson Text: Exodus 15:22-26, Exodus 16:1-5, 13-15 Exodus 17:1-6

Moses led the Hebrews from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur. They could not find water for three days, and when they did find water at Marah they couldn't drink the water because it was bitter.

The people complained to Moses, saying, "What are we supposed to drink?"

Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree to cut and cast into the waters. This made the water sweet. Then God said, "If you will listen to my voice and keep my commandments, I will put none of the diseases on you which are on the Egyptians. I am the Lord that heals you."

Then God led them to a place called Elim, full of wells of water and palm trees.

After they left Elim, they entered the wilderness of Sin. The Hebrews complained again because they were hungry.

God told Moses, "I will rain food from Heaven for the people to gather every day, but on the sixth day they shall gather twice as much."

God sent quail in the evenings and manna in the mornings.

Then the children of Israel traveled out of the wilderness of Sin and into Rephidim. They couldn't find water and complained again.

Moses prayed to God. He was afraid because the Hebrews were so upset he thought they would try to kill him. God told him to go to a rock in Horeb and hit it with his rod. He did, and water flowed out.

The children of Israel were grumblers. God had just parted the Red Sea, and how quickly they forgot when they got thirsty! Instead of trusting that God would provide them with water, they grumbled.

God supplied the Hebrews with water, and they complained about not having food. Sometimes God doesn't answer prayer as quickly as we think He should, but we serve the God who parted the Red Sea and caused water to flow from a rock. Let us look forward to what the Lord will do instead of complaining when something doesn't go our way.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth
for you. 1 Peter 5:7

- Where did God lead the Hebrews after He turned bitter water sweet?
- What did the Hebrews complain about after God provided them with water?
- Did the Hebrews have faith that God would provide their needs?
- Do you grumble when things don't go your way, or do you remember everything God has already done for you?

The Blueberry Patch

Kathryn and the children rise early to pick blueberries at a U-pick farm thirty minutes from their home. Kathryn loads spare containers into the pickup.

Once loaded, mother and children are on their way. Violet rubs her eyes. She still feels tired and isn't looking forward to standing in the sun for several hours.

Berry-picking is new to Jack, who's only visited a few U-pick farms since his adoption. He can tell Violet isn't very excited and her attitude affects him, too.

Kathryn notices but doesn't say anything. Instead, she pops a CD into the old player and hums along. She knows her children need to know how to work. Children who are never made to do chores or work are spoiled, selfish and often lazy. She wants to raise upstanding, hard little workers who will grow up to be upstanding, big workers when they are adults.

She speaks to the farmer at the produce stand and he directs

her to the right field. The children slowly unload the pickup, take a container and stand in front of a blueberry bush.

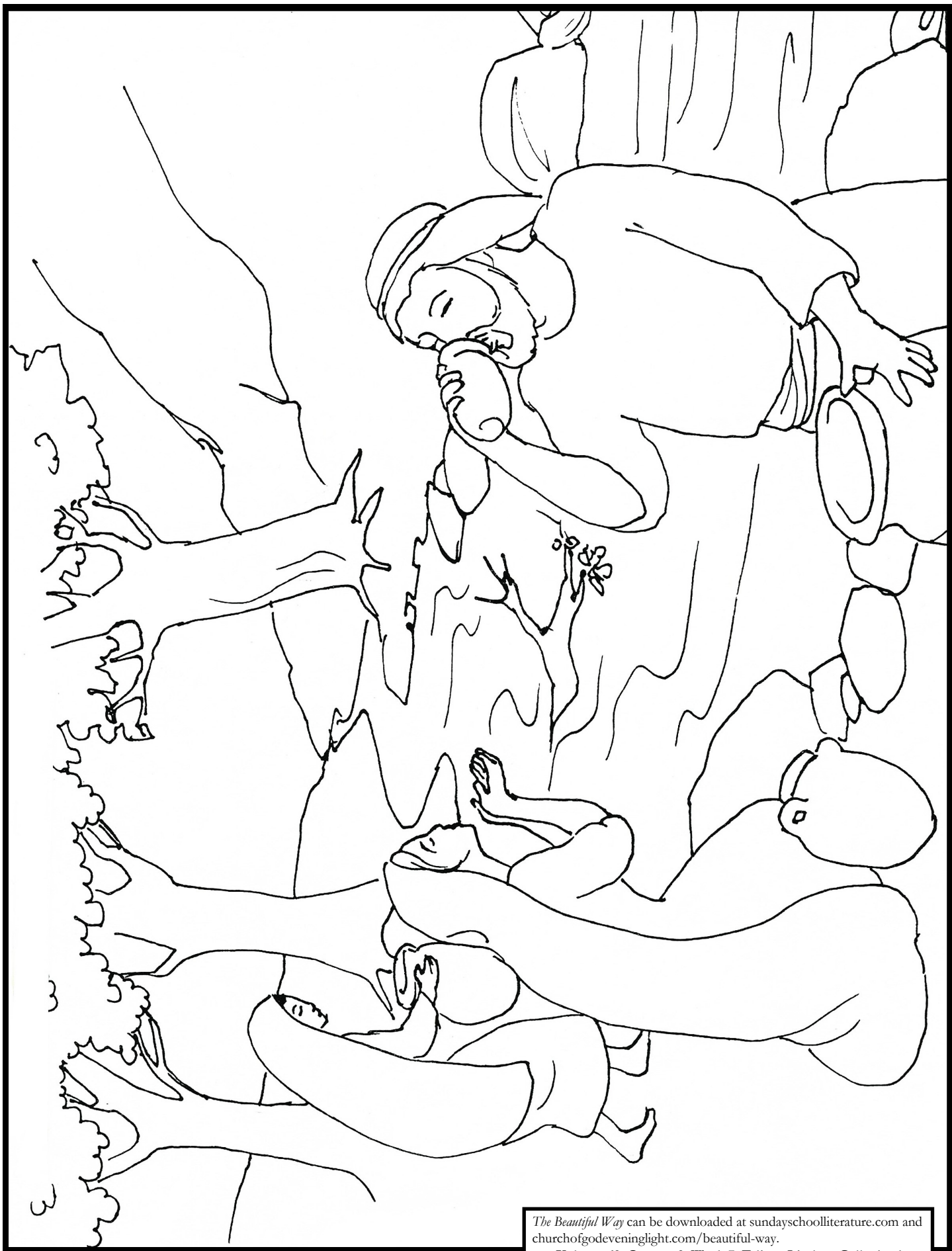
"See how many blueberries are on these bushes!" Kathryn exclaims. "It will be quick work for us to fill our buckets!"

The grumbling soon begins. First, Violet complains about a bug she sees on the bush. Then Jack grumbles about the way the sun is shining down hot on his back.

Kathryn is quiet for a long time, but finally says in a firm voice, "Children, nothing you say will get you out of working any faster. Grumbling won't make you feel any better, either. How would you feel if you had to listen to someone else grumble over every piddly thing? Instead, think about how good it will feel when you fill up a bucket! Think about the delicious blueberry pie we can make when we get home!"

At lunch, Kathryn leads the children to a shade tree and says a prayer over the food. She prays that the Lord will help them appreciate the beauty of the outdoors and the opportunity to pick fruit for the family.

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A Sea Parts

Lesson Text: Exodus 14

God told Moses to camp for the night by the Red Sea soon after the children of Israel left Egypt.

Then, He gave Moses some surprising news. "Pharaoh will think you are lost in the wilderness. His heart will harden again and he will come for you. But I will be glorified, and all the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."

Sure enough, Pharaoh became angry that he let the Israelites go and he said, "Why did I agree to this?"

He prepared his chariot and ordered hundreds of soldiers to accompany him into the desert. The large army of soldiers on chariots, led by horses, pursued the Hebrews. The Hebrews saw the Egyptians coming in the distance and became very afraid. They thought they were all going to die in the wilderness.

Moses said, "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He will fight for you, and you will hold your peace."

The Lord instructed Moses to lift his rod above the great sea. Then, the pillar of cloud moved behind the Hebrews and covered the Egyptians in darkness but gave light to the children of Israel.

As Moses stretched his hand over the sea, the Lord caused a strong wind to blow all night and it divided the waters of the sea so there was a dry path to cross.

The children of Israel walked on this path, between the two huge walls of water, to the other side. The Egyptians went after them, and the Lord allowed the walls of water to stay drawn for some time. However, in the morning as the Egyptians were crossing the sea, God caused the wheels of their chariots to start flying off!

The Egyptians knew they were in trouble and began to run the other way. God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the waters again, and the Lord allowed the sea to return together. The host of Pharaoh was lost, but the children of Israel were all safe on the other side.

I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withheld from thee. Job 42:2

- Do you think the children of Israel expected the Egyptians to come after them? How would that make you feel?
- Does God want you to be afraid when you are in a scary situation? Why not?
- What happened to the chariots?
- Is the God who protected the Hebrews the same God who protects you?

Forest Fire

Anderson bursts through the door. "Fire! A forest fire north of us is heading our way. We may not have much time. The winds changed direction unexpectedly and we need to drive to town. I've already let out Annie and Arthur and the chickens."

Kathryn's face turns white as snow. But she only nods and hurries to round up Jack and Violet. The four of them crowd into Anderson's pickup.

"Mama, are we going to lose our home?" Violet asks with quivering lips. Kathryn pulls Violet close and kisses the top of her head.

"Only God knows, child. It is in His hands. We must pray."

She leads the family in prayer, entreating the Lord to watch over their home, crops and livestock. She prays for the surrounding mountain homes and for each person to feel the peace of the Holy Spirit.

Anderson parks at the general store. A large group sit or stand, huddled around an old radio.

"Oh, the Mackey family is here! We were worried."

Mrs. Knelson says. She hands each person a glass of cold lemonade.

"Dad?" Jack looks up at Anderson. "Will that lodgepole pine with all the beetles burn up like you said it would when we went walking last week?"

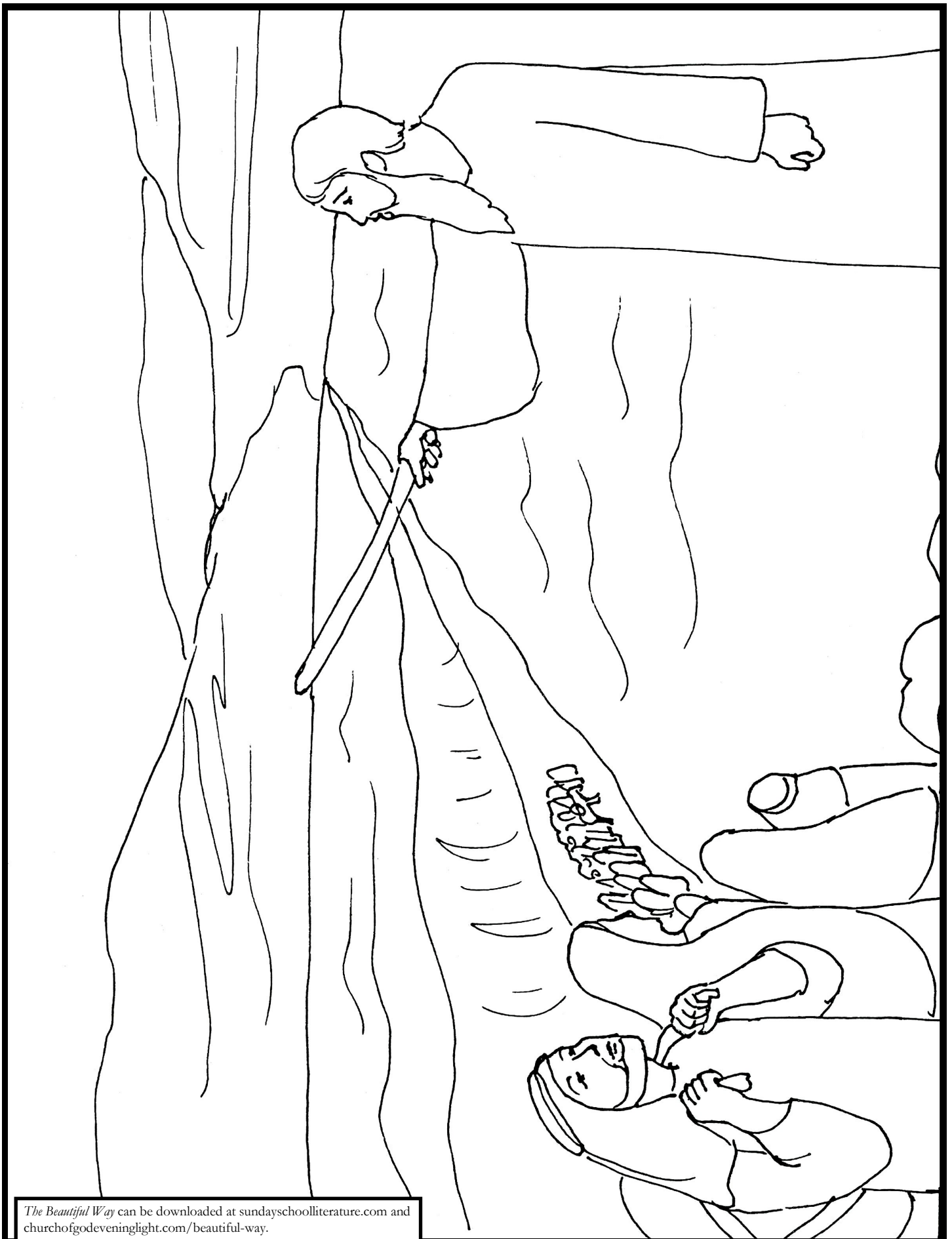
"Yes, son, if the fire gets to it. That would be awful close to our home."

Around 3 pm, a voice over the crackling radio announces that the wind has shifted again and is blowing the fire back north. Firefighters are working hard to contain the blaze, and if they can get the fire to Salmon River the water should help.

That night, the sooty firefighters arrive in town and give the go-ahead for the mountain families to return home. The fire miraculously died down enough for the men and women to contain it and they don't believe any homes were hit.

Anderson drives his family home after their long day. "We'll see how close the fire got to us tomorrow, but for tonight let's say a prayer of thanksgiving to God and then get some sleep. He always watches over His children, no matter the storm."

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God's Law

Lesson Text: Exodus 19:9,16-19, 20:1-21, 24:1,12,15

God desired to give His law to the children of Israel. He told Moses He would come in a great cloud and gave instructions for Moses and the people to follow.

Three days later, a dark cloud descended on Mount Sinai. Thunder rumbled and lightning cracked. The voice of a trumpet sounded long, and God descended on the mountain in fire. The entire mountain shook with God's presence.

The children of Israel were afraid they would die if they heard the voice of God, so they told Moses to tell them what God said.

Moses told them, "Fear not, for God is come to prove you, that his fear may be before your face so you don't sin."

The people stood afar off, and Moses drew near into the cloud to be with God. God spoke directly to Moses. First, He told him what we know as The Ten Commandments.

"I am the Lord thy God. You will have no other gods than me. You will not make any graven image, and you will not bow down to any graven image.

You will not take my name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath, for it is holy. You will work six days

out of the week, but the seventh day is the Lord's day. I made the heaven and earth and sea in six days, and I rested on the seventh. So, do you.

Honor your father and mother, that you may live long on the land I give you.

Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal.

Do not say lies about your neighbor, and do not covet your neighbor's belongings.

God gave Moses many more instructions. When Moses shared God's word with the people, they said, "All the words which the Lord has said will we do."

God commanded Moses to come back into His presence, and this was when God wrote His law on tables of stone.

Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord.

Exodus 32:29

- What would happen if we lived in a country with no law? What would it be like to drive on the roads?
- What happened when God descended on Mt. Sinai?
- Does God want us to worship other gods?
- What can be other gods in your life? (Selfishness, disobedience, whining, etc.)

Honor Your Parents

The Mackey's arrive in town for Timber Spring's annual fruit harvest festival. It's a time when the neighbors gather for pie-baking contests, jelly and jam competitions, and arts and crafts all celebrating the bountiful fruit production in Oregon's Willamette Valley region.

The mayor calls for everyone to gather around the town square before the day's festivities begin. He says a prayer of thanksgiving, honoring God for His blessings and for providing them the delicious fruit.

The family walks around together and as they admire the rosy red strawberry and cherry pies and the glistening blueberry crumbles, Jack's belly loudly growls.

Violet giggles and Anderson chuckles. "Yes, it all looks good son, doesn't it? We will buy a few slices for our dessert after lunch."

"Yippee!" Violet shouts. "I was hoping we could!"

The family visits the woodcarving booth. Anderson and Jack learn how to carve an airplane from a piece of birch wood and Kathryn helps Violet dye stripes on the toy using the juice from mashed blackberries and marionberries.

Afterwards, they see another craft booth they want to visit, but Anderson says to wait until after lunch. The children accept and follow their parents to a picnic table for lunch.

They hear a screeching noise and see a boy sitting on the ground with a very red face. His mother is bending over him. She has a red face, too. He shrieks at her, "No! I want to go to the sandbox. I don't wanna eat lunch. No no no!" He hits the ground with his fists and kicks his feet.

Jack and Violet stare at the boy. "Dad, that boy is my age. He was in my class last year." Jack says in consternation. "And I'm 9!"

Anderson shakes his head and leads his family to a table. "He acts like that here because he gets away with that behavior at home. His parents are not teaching him to honor his father and mother, and it will only hurt him in life. When he gets older, other people won't be so patient with him as his parents. He will have trouble keeping friends and holding down a job if he doesn't learn that life doesn't always go his way."

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



The Greatest is Love

Lesson Text: Exodus 21, 22:1-12,

Deuteronomy 7:7-8, Matthew 22:36-39, 1 Corinthians 13:13

God spoke to Moses in Mt. Sinai about His law and how He wanted the children of Israel to treat one another. A common theme threads all of God's commandments together: love.

God commanded the people to treat one another with respect and compassion. If they did not, the consequences were serious. For example, death was the consequence for kidnapping, cursing one's parents, and killing another person on purpose.

God told the Hebrews to not treat an outsider or a person from another country in any rude way, because they themselves were once strangers in a foreign land.

He told them never to afflict a widow or fatherless child or His anger would wax hot and death would be the consequence. He expected them to not take advantage of the poor, and He said to respect the leaders of the land.

He expected them to respect their animals, the earth and the land that they farmed.

God did not want the children of Israel to think they were better than other people. He told them He did not choose them because they were a great people, but because He loved them. God expects the same from us.

When Jesus came to earth, someone asked Him to name the greatest commandment. Jesus answered, "Thou shalt love the

Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

When a Christian loves God with all their heart, they will follow the laws God commanded in the Old Testament without even trying to follow a law. God writes His law in the heart of everyone who loves Him. This Christian will treat strangers and friends the same. They won't be mean to animals and they will take care of the earth that God gave them to use and enjoy. They will not hit people when they become angry and they won't take advantage of another person.

Instead, their heart is full of love toward their Creator and fellow humans. They know they are saved only by the love of God and the blood of Jesus.

O Lord, there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee. 1 Chronicles 17:20

- Paul wrote on a special topic in 1 Corinthians 13. What does he say is the greatest character trait to possess?
- Do you know any "strangers?" A stranger could be someone with a different background than you, a neighbor who is not a Christian, or an outcast at school. How does God expect you to treat any person who looks or acts different than you?
- What are the two greatest commandments?
- Is it easy for a person who loves God to respect others? Why?

Love Your Neighbor

Violet enjoys reading, and Kathryn often takes her and Jack to the Timber Springs library.

One day, Violet finds a book called "Meet Addy." It looks interesting, and she asks Kathryn to read the first chapter to her before she checks it out. Kathryn smiles a sad little smile to herself before she starts reading. She remembers when American Girl began, and she knows a little about this story. Violet doesn't know about the history of African-American slaves in America, but it's a good book to open up the important conversation with her young girl.

Kathryn begins to read. Soon, Violet's eyes narrow and her lip quivers a little. "Mama, why is that man talking to Addy and her mama like that?"

"Sweetie, for years and years humans have enslaved each other for their own economic gain. Many people have been slaves throughout the years. Almost every group of people have been slaves at some point in history. Americans bought African

slaves on the slave trade. They brought them to America to work in fields and in their homes.

Often, slaves are treated like they aren't worth anything when in fact, slaves are the entire reason empires are built. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and they built mighty structures for the Egyptians.

God is not pleased when any human treats another human like they are less important or not worth as much. Every person is worth an equal amount. What the early Americans did was not right, no matter how hard they tried to justify their actions. They lied to themselves to the point that many believed they were better than the slaves just because they were a different color. They could have just as easily been the ones the Africans enslaved. Color doesn't mean anything when it comes to our souls."

God says, "If a person says 'I love God,' but hates another person, they are a liar. If a person can't love those around him/her, how can they love a God they have never seen?"

(1 John 4:20)

Karissa Carver





The Lord's House

Lesson Text: Exodus 25-29

As God spoke to Moses on the mountain, He told Moses He wanted a tabernacle built so He would have a place to dwell among the people and they would have a place to worship Him.

God gave Moses specific instructions for the tabernacle. He told Moses to tell the children of Israel to bring offerings that they were willing to give. God wanted His people to give because they wanted to, not because they had to.

Offerings included gold, silver and brass, and blue, purple, scarlet and linen fabrics. Goat's hair, ram's skins dyed red and badgers' skins, and oils, spices, shittim wood and precious stones.

God told Moses exactly how to build everything that would go into the tabernacle, such as the ark of the covenant, the mercy seat, the table, dishes and spoons, a candlestick and special bowls.

The curtains of the tabernacle were made from either fine linen fabric or the goat's hair that the Israelites offered, and the tent covering was made from the red ram's skins. The ceiling was made from the badger's skins and the pillars were made from shittim wood and gold.

The table was covered in gold, and the spoons, bowls, dishes, and candlestick were made from pure gold.

God commanded that an altar of shittim wood be made, and He told Moses exactly where to place every object, how long each part of the tabernacle must measure, and how the priests would dress.

God told Moses, "I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God."

I am the Lord, I change not. Malachi 3:6

- God needed a physical home in the Old Testament, but where does He live in the New Testament times?
- Why could God not live in the hearts of humans in the Old Testament?
- Do you believe that Jesus paid the price for you so God's spirit can dwell in your heart?
- If God cared so much about the details of the tabernacle, do you think He cares about the details of your life and how you live since your heart is supposed to be His home?

A Heart for God

Miss Charlotte quieted her Sunday-School class of rambunctious children aged four through seven. She smiled affectionately at them and when each pair of earnest eyes were watching her and each child sat fidgeting in their seat, she began to speak.

"Good morning, children."

"Good morning, Miss Charlotte," a chorus of young voices chirp.

"Today we are going to talk about the house of God. A long time ago, God's people built Him a special home called the tabernacle. He gave instructions to Moses about how it should look, and the people worked diligently to follow His commands.

The tabernacle was where God lived, because He could not live in the people's hearts yet. Does anyone know why He couldn't dwell in each person's heart?"

"Because Jesus hadn't come to Earth yet," Lara, a knowledgeable seven-year-old, answers.

"That's right, Lara. And what happened when Jesus died on the cross for our sins?"

Lara's hand shot up and she waved it around. Miss Charlotte looks at the other children to see if anyone else knows the answer before she calls on Lara.

She nods at Lara and Lara says, "The Holy Spirit was able to leave the tabernacle and look for anyone who wanted God in their heart!"

"Very good. God cannot live in the heart of someone who has sin. But when Jesus died for the sins of every person in this world, He made a way for the Holy Spirit to enter into the hearts of those who wanted to live for God and free from sin."

"Why do we come to church to worship God?" Violet asks.

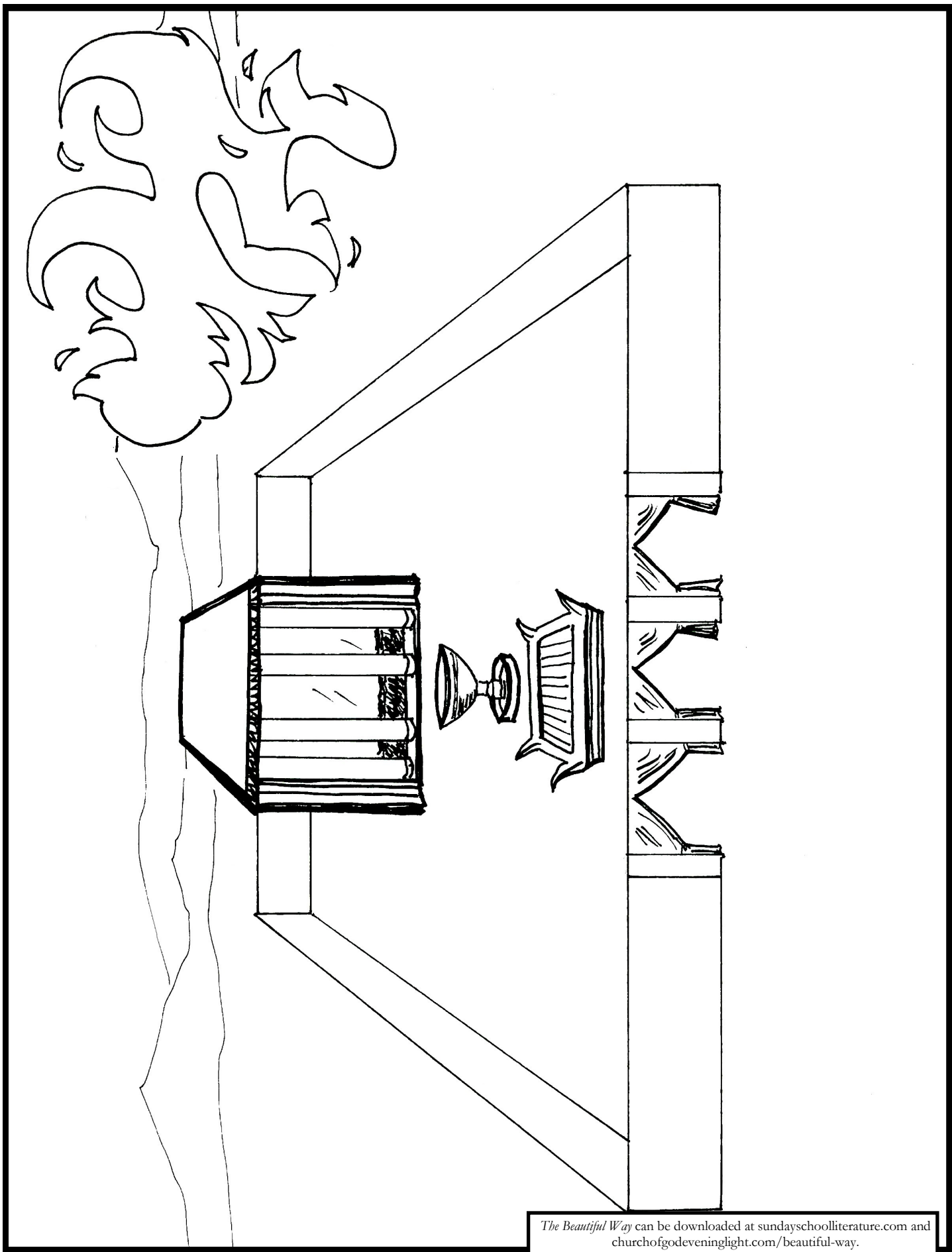
"Good question. The Bible tells us that even though the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts now, we must never stop meeting together. Meeting together to talk about God and the Bible help us stay encouraged and strong. We can ask each other questions like you just asked me and learn together. Isn't it nice to meet each week for Sunday School?"

The children agree. They enjoy meeting together to learn about Jesus and talk with each other.

Miss Charlotte continues, "We still build church buildings as a meeting place, but what is in our heart is now more important than supplying a grand and beautiful building.

We can have church anywhere. Outside, in our house, in a building. God's presence will be wherever His people are."

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



Fiery Serpents

Lesson Text: Numbers 21:5-9

As the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, they started to complain again. They were hungry, and instead of remembering all the ways the Lord provided for them in the past, they decided to whine to Moses.

"Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? There is no bread, there is no water. We can't stand this manna."

God was very angry at His people for their thanklessness. He sent fiery snakes into their camp, and they bit many people.

The people realized their sin, and confessed to Moses, "We have sinned and spoken against the Lord. Pray unto the Lord, that He take these serpents away."

Moses prayed, and God told Moses to make a statue of one of the fiery serpents and put it on a pole. If anyone got bit, they only had to look at the snake statue and God would save them.

Did the brass serpent save the people? No. God used this physical example as a shadow of the salvation to come when He sent His son to die for everyone's sins. His power saved the people who were bitten by the snakes when they looked in faith to Him and not their selves.

The Israelites could never follow the law so perfectly as to gain their way into Heaven or to be good enough while living.

They had sin in their heart, and only God could save them.

Today, Christians can never be good enough to gain our way into Heaven, either. The only way we are saved is by looking to Jesus for our salvation from the sin in our heart.

Sometimes, it is easy to think that we are good enough because our parents raised us in church, we do what our parents say, and we behave differently than people who are not trying to live for Jesus.

This is a trick of the devil, and Jesus never wants us to forget there is only one way we make it to Heaven. Anyone in this world who believes on Him and has faith that Jesus saves them from their sins and invites Him to live in their hearts can make it to Heaven. Anyone.

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

- Why did the Israelites complain this time?
- What did God tell Moses to do so the people could be saved?
- Who saved the people who were bit by the snakes?
- Can you be good enough to make it to Heaven? How will you get to Heaven?

Snake Attack

Violet concentrates on her coloring page. She sits at the kitchen table, biting her lip and trying her best not to color outside the lines. Sometimes it's really hard!

She doesn't see Jack creeping down the hallway or the toy snake in his hands. He disappears for a moment, then loudly bounces into the kitchen. Violet ignores him, which is exactly what Jack wants this time.

"She won't even know what's coming," he thinks gleefully.

He saunters nonchalantly into the mudroom off the backdoor. Kathryn discreetly watches over her computer screen, trying not to smile at the dynamics of her children and wondering what mischief Jack is about to spring on his sister.

He appears behind Violet, holding his fishing pole. He grins at his mom and puts a finger to his mouth. Then he starts reeling his line and Kathryn hears something sliding along the floor in the hallway. She ducks her head so Jack can't see her silent laughs.

"That boy has attached something to his fishing line and is

reeling it toward his sister!" She laughs to herself.

Violet is oblivious to the sounds Jack makes, until the toy snake "slithers" far enough into the kitchen that the movement catches her eye. She glances at the movement and a split second later she screams and climbs on the table.

"Snake!"

Jack howls with laughter and Violet whips around to see her brother behind her, fishing pole in hand and reeling in the toy snake.

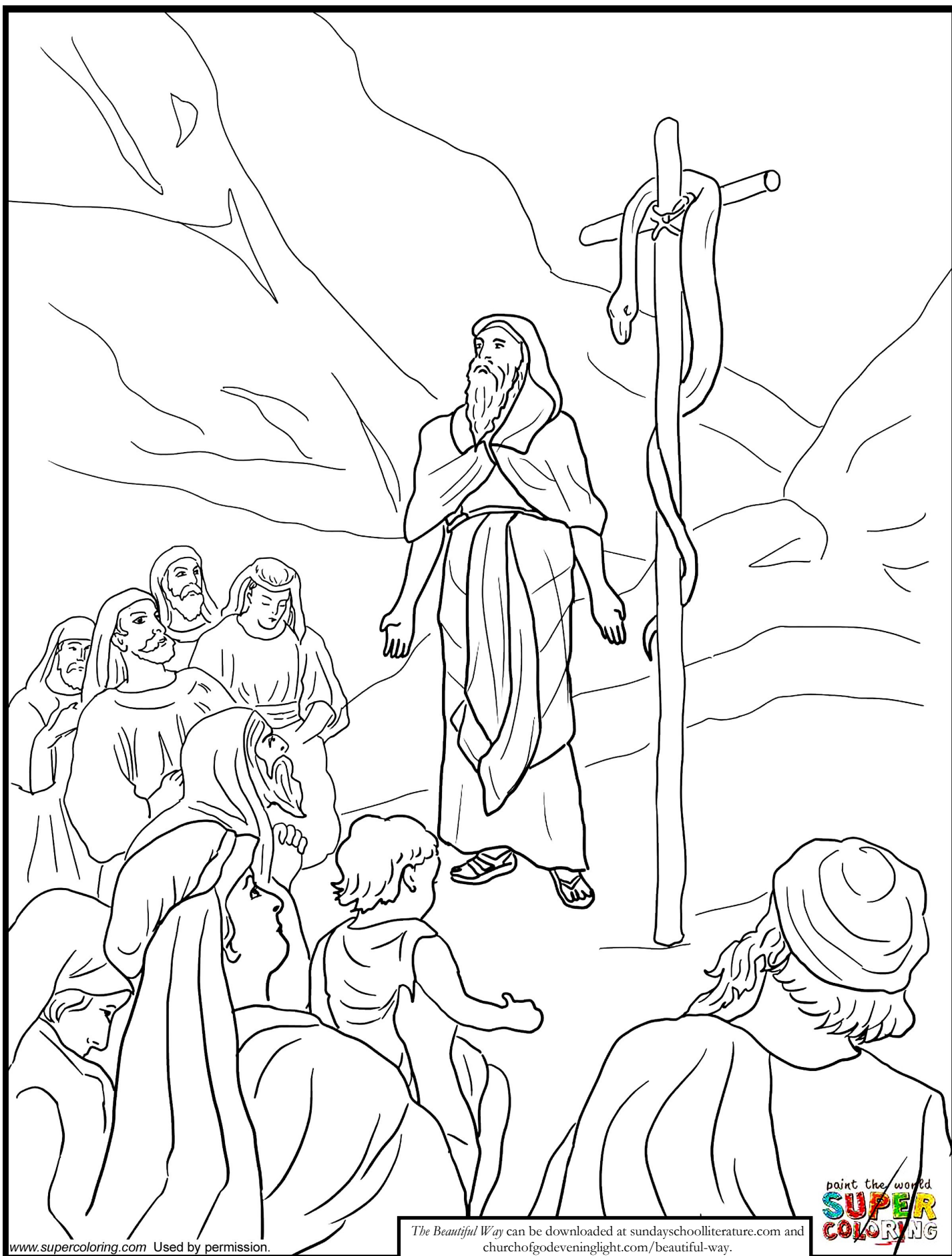
"Mom!" Violet hollers. "Jack attached his toy snake to his fishing hook and reeled it in to the kitchen!"

"I see, I see." Kathryn works to contain the laughter bubbling into her mouth. "Jack, how inventive. Violet, let's be glad it is fake and not real. Your brother likes getting you riled up, you know."

Violet is secretly impressed with Jack's invention, but she doesn't dare admit that to him. She sheepishly climbs back into her chair and tries to glare again at Jack but starts to giggle instead.

"That was a good one, Jack," she says.

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

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A New Land

Lesson Text: Numbers 13, 14:1-39

At last, the Hebrew children were near Canaan after traveling in the wilderness. The Lord spoke to Moses, "Send a man from each tribe to search out the land of Canaan which I give to you."

Moses obeyed, and told the twelve men to scout out the land and the people living in Canaan. He wanted to know if the people were strong or weak and if the land was fruitful.

The spies obeyed and searched the land for forty days. They returned with a large cluster of grapes, pomegranates and figs.

The children of Israel gathered to hear the report. The spies said, "We came into a land flowing with milk and honey. However, the people are strong and the cities are walled."

One of the spies, Caleb, quieted the people and said, "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome."

The other spies disagreed and told Caleb, "We are not able to go against the people. They are stronger than we. The land will eat us up, and all the people are giants. We are grasshoppers compared to the sons of Anak."

The people wept that night after they heard the evil report. They complained against Moses and Aaron saying, "We wish God would have let us die in Egypt. Does He want us to die

in the wilderness? Let us make a captain and return to Egypt."

Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the people and Joshua and Caleb, two of the spies, tore their clothes in grief.

Joshua and Caleb said, "The land is good land. If the Lord delight in us, He will bring us into the land and give it to us. Please, don't rebel against God or be afraid of the people in Canaan. The Lord is with us. Don't be afraid."

But the congregation wanted to stone them, and the Lord told Moses, "How long will it take for them to believe me, after all the signs which I have showed them? These people will not see Canaan, except Caleb and Joshua. They will wander in the wilderness forty years, and their children will possess the land instead."

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

- How long did the spies search in Canaan?
- What did the spies tell the people? What did Caleb say?
- How did God punish the Hebrews for doubting Him yet again?
- What does God want you to do when you are afraid?

Mending Fences

Anderson and Jack work steadily on some worn fenceposts.

Anderson and Kathryn believe in the importance of children learning practical skills and knowing how to work. Anderson knew when he told Jack their plans that Jack would end up getting tired and might even complain, but he knew the benefits outweighed the temporary discomfort.

Jack wipes the sweat beading on his brow. His button-down shirt hangs limply, and everything feels wet. "Son, make sure you're drinking enough water. We brought plenty," Anderson says.

Jack gratefully sets his tools down and retrieves the water bottle from the pickup. "Even the water bottle is wet with perspiration," he thinks.

As he walks back toward his dad, Anderson speaks again. "Jack, I know it's a hot one today. We've been out here for several hours and it's easy to start focusing on everything that feels wrong instead of what's right."

Jack nods in agreement. He's been struggling not to complain

about the heat and how many posts they have to check before they head back.

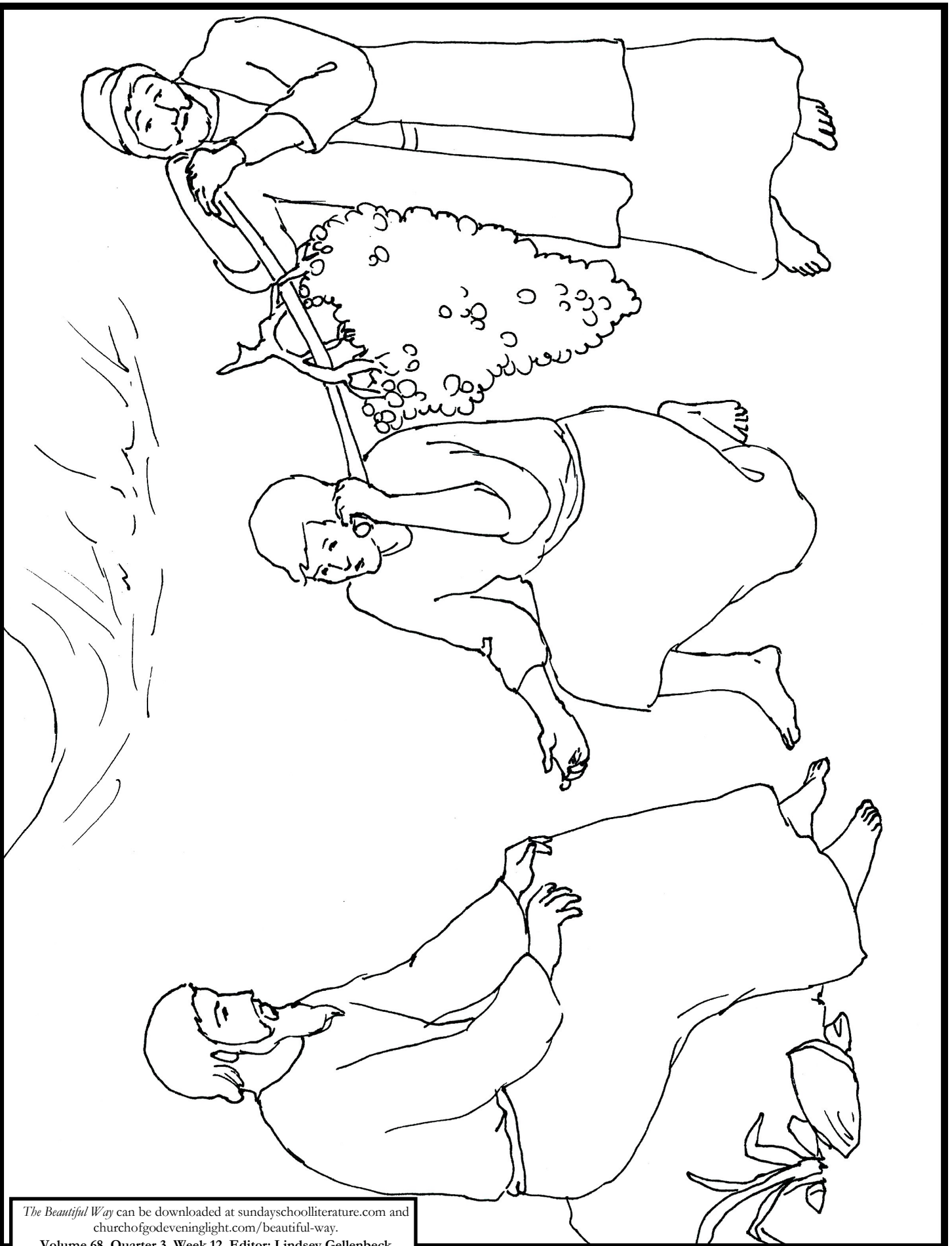
"But I've been proud of you for working through those feelings and not saying them out loud." Anderson continues. "I want you to think about the big-picture, not just what's right in front of your eyes."

If you would visualize the zoomed-out version of this work, you'll see that once we mend these fences they won't need mending for a long time, Lord willing. Doing it right also keeps us from having to do it again. The fences will stay strong and keep the property line intact and keep unwanted guests, people or animals, out.

You'll sure feel good about yourself when we get home, too. And you'll be glad you focused on the big picture instead of zooming in on what will soon pass."

Jack thinks of the Israelites Anderson read about last night in devotions. They had zoomed in to their fear of the giants in Canaan instead of seeing the big picture when they would possess all the land once they had done the necessary footwork.

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



A New Time

Lesson Text: Deuteronomy 34, Joshua 1

The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years – they could see Canaan on the other side of the Jordan river, but because of their sin they could not pass over.

Moses also sinned while leading the people when he became angry at the people and disobeyed God's command. Because of this, God told Moses he wouldn't be able to cross into Canaan, either.

When Moses was 120 years old, he knew it was time to die. His eyes were not dim and he had the same strength as when he was younger, but God's plan must move forward. He called all the people together and reminded them of their heritage and what their parents and grandparents endured. He warned them about what would happen when they would choose to turn aside from God, and how God would bless them when they stayed true to Him.

Then he journeyed from the plains of Moab to a mountain that looked over Jericho. The Lord showed him all the promised land, and then Moses died. The Lord buried Moses and is the only one who knows the exact location.

The children of Israel wept for Moses for thirty days, for there was never again a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

Moses had laid hands on Joshua before his death, and the Hebrews recognized him as their new leader.

The Lord spoke to Joshua, "My servant Moses is dead, Arise, go over Jordan into the land that I promised you. Every place that the sole of your foot touches will be yours. No man will be able to stand against you. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, observe my law and meditate on it day and night."

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:2

- How old was Moses when he died? Did he act like an elderly man?
- Even though Moses couldn't enter Canaan, what did God let him see?
- How much land did God promise the Hebrews?
- What did God command Joshua to do with His law? Does He want you to know His word, too?

School Begins

Anderson and Kathryn watch their children walk through the school gate and head toward their respective classrooms. Violet's blue hair ribbon bounces as she walks and she stares ahead with a sober expression. Jack, older and wiser, points Violet in the right direction. Kathryn wipes a tear and smiles up at Anderson.

Anderson tightens his arm around Kathryn's shoulder and kisses the side of her head. "Well, we've got both children in school now. It will be quiet for you during the day, I reckon."

"Yes, but I know they are in good hands. Miss Jane is a good fit for Violet and Mr. Stook will teach Jack well."

But it does feel strange. It's the start of a new era for us, Anderson. Life has a way of clicking on by."

In the schoolhouse gymnasium, each teacher makes sure their students are accounted for, then the principal steps up to the microphone. She welcomes the students to Timber Springs Elementary, speaks about the good behavior she expects and then dismisses the classes to their rooms.

Jack's fifth-grade class passes Violet's and Jack smiles a

reassuring smile at his sister.

Miss Jane leads the young children into a decorated room with a bright rug covered with yellow flowers. The children sit on the rug and their teacher sits in a chair in front of them. She smiles, and says, "It's ok if any of you are nervous or afraid. School is a big adjustment, but I believe we will have great fun. Each desk in the classroom has a name tag, and one of them belong to you. Find your nametag and sit in your new desk.

Violet finds her desk along the side of the classroom. The girl sitting in front of her turns around and says, "Hi, I'm Emma!"

Before Violet can respond, Miss Jane tells the class to get quiet again. She instructs them to draw pictures on the sheets of paper on their desks to help her get to know them a little better.

"Draw whatever you want. Draw your favorite food and animal, how many people you live with at home, your favorite color, anything. I'll collect them in 15 minutes."

Violet hunches over her page. She feels a little more confident, and she can't wait for recess so she can speak to the friendly girl named Emma.

Karissa Carver



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



A New Captain

Lesson Text: Joshua 2:1, 23-24, 3, 4

Joshua sent two spies into Canaan to visit the city of Jericho before the entire company of Israelites passed over the Jordan River.

When the spies returned, they told Joshua all they had seen and heard and said, "Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands. Every person in that country is afraid of us."

The next morning, Joshua moved everyone to the edge of the Jordan. He sent officers through the host of people to tell them to be ready to move when they saw the Levite priests carrying the ark of the covenant. The people were commanded not to get too close, but to follow at a distance so they could see where to go.

Joshua said, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

The Lord told Joshua, "Today I will begin to magnify you in the sight of Israel, that they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses."

Then Joshua told the people, "As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests touch the waters of Jordan, the waters shall part."

The priests walked into the Jordan first, as Joshua commanded. God caused the waters to part. They stayed in the middle of the Jordan, holding the ark, until Joshua was finished talking to the people and all the Israelites had passed over on dry ground. The waters of Jordan returned to their place as soon as the priests stepped into Canaan.

Joshua told the host of people after their crossing that they would build a memorial out of twelve large stones, one for each tribe, to look back on and remember God's blessings.

He said, "When your children ask about these stones, you will let them know how God dried up the waters of Jordan as He did at the Red Sea, so everyone on earth would know God's power, and that you would respect and love the Lord your God forever."

The Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel and they respected him as they had respected Moses all the days of his life.

- What did the two spies tell Joshua? How was this different from the original twelve spies?
- What happened to the Jordan as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water?
- Why did the Hebrews build a memorial?
- Whose power caused the Jordan to part? What places in your life would you like God to "part the waters" for you?

A Class Leader

"Class, start packing your belongings. The bell will ring soon and then we will head to the gym for our physical activity," Mr. Stook announces to the fifth-grade classroom.

"Yippee!" Jack exclaims. "My favorite part of the day!"

The children hurriedly gather into a line that looks more like a wiggly worm. Mr. Stook opens the door and heads outside under the covered walkway to the gym. Once inside, he announces the game the class will play. Kickball.

"Next week we have the field so we can play kickball outside during our physical education class, but for now we are in the gym. Ok, gather round. I want you all to choose two team captains."

Mateo Rodriguez and Douglas Johnson are in class again with Jack, and they are close friends. Mateo's voice rings out above the rest. "I pick Jack for a team captain! He's a good leader and last year he prevented Douglas and Scott from fighting over the soccer ball!"

Mr. Stook nods at Jack and tells him to stand to the side. Tatiana Johnson, Douglas Johnson's twin sister, is chosen as the other team captain. Douglas rolls his eyes.

Jack feels warm inside from the recognition. The other boys look at him with a new level of respect after listening to Mateo and Douglas share the way Jack diffused the situation with Scott. Scott is the biggest boy in school and sometimes a bully.

Jack pulls his team close and they go over their game plan.

After a rousing game of kickball, the teams are tied. Mr. Stook glances at the clock and announces now is probably the best time to end as the teams are tied and the bell is about to ring.

The students walk back to their room after water breaks, congratulating each other on different plays and for working so well to hold off the other team.

The students either read their chosen book or start on homework for the last hour of class.

Jack can't wait to get home and tell his parents how his classmates chose him as their leader. Karissa Carver

Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool. Isaiah 66:1

