

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 1, 2018



A Baby in a Basket God Protects His People

Scripture Reading: Exodus 2:1-10

Picture a dark night on an island in the Pacific with war raging around you. The world is in its second war, and you are a soldier for the United States Marines. You look around and suddenly realize your fellow soldiers are nowhere to be found—you are completely alone. You drop to the ground when you hear enemy soldiers just over the ridge and with your heart beating hard in your chest, you scramble into one of the caves in the rocks.

Sure, you're safe for the moment, but it's only a matter of time until your enemies come over the rise and search the caves. They'll find you faster than you can escape! But there's nowhere for you to go now, so you close your eyes and send up a whispered prayer. "Dear God, if it's your will, please protect me. I love and trust you. Amen." You lay for another minute, and as you do, you watch a spider begin to weave its web across the entrance of your cave. Layer after layer of silky web are strung across the hole in front of you, and through

it you can see the soldiers begin searching the caves around you.

Memory Verse

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Key Thought

God has a plan for each of His children, and He protects them from harm.

Lesson

Discussion

- Why did the soldier in the first story feel humbled and chastised?
- Can you think of a time your parent kept you safe in a dangerous situation?
- Which "fruit of the spirit" did Moses' mother have when she put her baby in the basket and floated him on the river?
- How does reading stories like these increase our faith in God's protection of us?

Sarcastically, you think, "Well, I need a brick wall and all I get is a spider web,"

but as a soldier approaches the entrance to your cave, he glances at the web and simply turns to go. Feeling chastised and humbled, you realize that God allowed that spider to weave its web in order to make it look as though no one had entered the cave in a long time. You give fervent thanks in your heart.

This story isn't one that's been proven absolutely true, but the principle of it has been verified again and again throughout time.

God protects His people.

Can you think of a place in the Bible where God provided a way of escape for one of His children? There are many instances we can read about, but one miraculous story is of how God protected the baby in the basket—Baby Moses.

The children of Israel, the descendants of Jacob, had lived in the land of Egypt for hundreds of years, but eventually found themselves enslaved by the Egyptians. The pharaoh began worrying that the Israelites would become so great in number that they would wage a war against him for their freedom, so he issued a wicked decree. All Israelite boys under the age of two were to be killed. The grief of the Israelites must have been overwhelming, but there was one mother who followed what must have been God's whisper to her heart to hide her beautiful baby boy.

For three months she hid her baby, but eventually it was impossible to keep him hidden. She made a basket and waterproofed it, then laid her baby inside and floated the basket in the tall grass that grew near the banks of the Nile. Moses' older sister stood nearby and kept a close watch on the basket.

Soon, the daughter of Pharaoh came to the river to wash and saw the basket. She sent a maid into the water to fetch it, and when she opened it and saw the face of the beautiful child and heard his pitiful cries, her heart was softened with compassion. Moses' sister approached the daughter of the Pharaoh with courage in her heart and offered to find a nurse among the Hebrew women to care for the child. When the daughter agreed, Moses was taken back to his mother until the time came for him to return to the house of the king.

God always has a plan and He goes to great lengths to protect His children.

What a comfort for us as we go through life!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

VERSE MATCH!

Draw lines from the verse reference to the phrase to match them up!

Isaiah 41:10

Psalms 91:9

2 Timothy
4:18

Isaiah 54:12

2 Samuel
22:3

"...preserve me unto his heavenly
kingdom..."

"...the heritage of the servants of the
Lord..."

"The God of my rock..."

"...the shadow of the Almighty."

"...yea, I will uphold thee..."

NO PEPPER PLEASE!

What do you think the salt and pepper represent in our experiment today?

The salt represents your life!

The pepper represents the harm that the devil wants to bring into our lives—lies, physical harm, hurts and offenses, etc.. The spoon represents what God wants to do for you! He wants to use His amazing power to remove harmful things from your life. What do you think you need for God to be able to remove those things? **You need to pray and ask, first of all! And then you need to have faith that God will answer.** He loves answering your prayers and keeping your life free from harm.



Materials:

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of pepper
- Small glass plate or bowl
 - Plastic spoon

Directions:

- Pour the salt into the middle of the plate/bowl.
- Drop a pinch of pepper over the mound of salt.
- Rub the plastic spoon on a piece of clothing to create static electricity.
- Move the spoon over the mound and the pepper will attach itself to the spoon.



Scripture Reading: Revelation 1:8; John 1:1-4;

Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 13:8

Have you ever played with a color wonder book and marker? The marker has clear ink, but when you color the pages, colors and pictures that were invisible before begin to take shape! God is kind of like that coloring book. You can look at the world around you or even open your Bible and not see Him. But if you pray and ask Him to show Himself to you, you will begin to see things that were invisible to you before.

In the book of Revelation, God spoke about Himself saying,

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending.”

John described the Lord as being He “which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” What

do you think alpha and omega mean? They are letters in the Greek alphabet—the first and last letters. Alpha means

Memory Verse

**And God said to Moses,
“I AM WHO I AM.” (NKJV)
And God said unto Moses,
I AM THAT I AM: (KJV)**

Exodus 3:14

Key Thought

**No matter how many
wonderful traits you can
name about God, you will
never name them all.**

Lesson Discussion

- Why do you think God wants you to ask Him to show Himself to you?
- Go around to each student in your class

and name your favorite wonderful thing about God.

- Why is it important that we realize God is more perfect than we can imagine? Do we deserve to be loved by such a wonderful Creator?
- How do you feel when you think about the fact that God is yours (if you have asked Him into your heart)?

the first, the beginning, or a leader. Omega, being the last letter, is symbolic of the end, or something that is finished. God was trying to portray just how vast He is! He is the beginning and the end of everything! He is the Lord which is here with us today, which was here before time began, and which is already in tomorrow. He inhabits *all of time*.

The Bible tells a lot of stories that depict who God is. In the gospel of John, we learn about the beginning of time. Just the first four verses list four attributes of God: He is the Word, He is the creator of everything, He is life, and He is the light. Another verse in Isaiah says, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:

**and his name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace.”**

Do you need protection? The government is His. Do you need joy? He is Wonderful. Do you need wisdom? He is your Counselor. Do you need strength? He is the Mighty God. Do you need reassurance? He is the Everlasting Father. Do you need rest? He is the Prince of Peace. What a comforting list of characteristics to know God possesses!

You’ve heard all these things in church and they are true and wonderful, but did you know God can be something for you? If you have asked Him to forgive your wrongs and dwell in your heart, He becomes the place you can go for all your needs. When your brother or sister is annoying you, He is your patience. When your Mom asks you to clean the kitchen, He is your obedience. When you let your anger get the better of you, He is forgiving. There isn’t a single situation you can find yourself in that God won’t help you with.

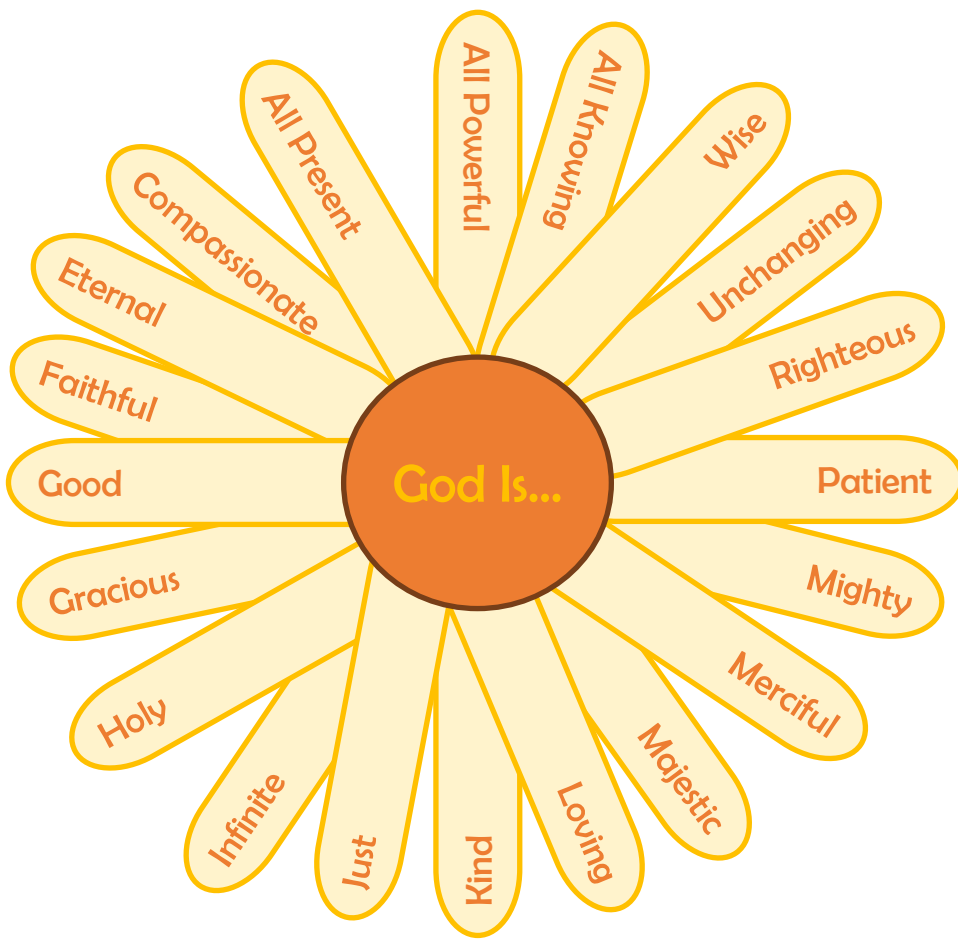
But guess what? It gets better! On top of being the only thing you’ll ever need, God also never changes. Hebrews 1:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” How old are you today? Ten years old? God is everything you need today. How old will you be in five years? God will be everything you need when you are fifteen. He will be everything you need when you are twenty and sixty and eighty, and if you live to be one hundred years old, He will still be all you need! How incredible is that?

You could try to think of every good trait possible, and you would never come close to naming all the good things about God.

**In just a few words, God sums Himself up. He
said, “I am.”**

And He is. He is everything good and true, and He is yours!

Lindsey Gellenbeck



Job 42:2
 Isaiah 26:4
 Psalm 145:8
 Romans 11:22
 Exodus 15:11
 James 1:17
 Deuteronomy 7:9
 Psalm 145:9
 Daniel 9:9
 Psalm 71:19
 Psalm 139:1-4
 Psalm 99:9
 Jeremiah 31:3
 Psalm 89:9
 Psalm 139:7-12
 2 Thessalonians 1:6
 Psalm 90:2
 Psalm 103:8
 2 Peter 3:9
 Romans 11:33

**MATCH THE VERSES TO THE LISTED CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD.
CAN YOU BEAT YOUR CLASSMATES IN FINDING EACH VERSE?**

WHITE CRAYON ART

Materials:

- White Crayon
- Watercolor
- Paint Brushes
- Watercolor or heavy white paper

Directions:

- Have each child choose their favorite characteristic of God and write the word on their paper with the white crayon. Add doodles or designs with the crayon if desired.
- Use watercolor paints to “reveal” the word on their page.

Like we talked about in the lesson, it could be pretty easy to miss God in the world around us if we aren't looking for Him. What can we do to open our eyes to His goodness and presence? Pray! If we ask God to reveal Himself to us, He will start “painting” our world in a way that brings all His wonderful characteristics to light. It is always His will that we see Him in everything and we should always remember to praise Him for His goodness!





Junior Sunday School ■ July 15, 2018



The Burning Bush

I Am Hath Sent Me

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses, the tiny baby saved from the river by the daughter of Pharaoh, grew up with a deep compassion for his Hebrew brothers and sisters. Despite his life of privilege in the palace, he looked upon the suffering of the children of Israel and felt sorry for what they endured. This deep sense of sadness drove Moses to kill an Egyptian slave master who was bringing harm to a Hebrew man. He feared for his life and ran from Egypt to Midian. There, he met his wife and kept his father in law's sheep.

For a long time, Moses stayed in Midian. The Bible does not give many details about what Moses did or thought during those years, but the Lord must have been preparing his heart, for he was the man God had chosen to lead His children out of bondage. While Moses was watching his flock, he came to Mount Horeb, and he saw a bush that was burning but was not consumed. Imagine Moses' fright and amazement!

Memory Verse

Not slothful in business;
fervent in spirit; serving the
Lord. Romans 12:11

Key Thought

God's calling on your life
has no age limit. Listen for
His voice and work
however He calls you to
work!

The voice of God
called to him from
the bush, saying,
"Moses, Moses."
He responded,
"Here am I."

Lesson Discussion

- Why did Moses feel inadequate for the job God had given him?
- What was God's fix for all of Moses' worries?
- Do you believe God's call on Nicole's life was legitimate, even at age nine?
- Discuss with your classmates whether you have felt God call you to something, whether big or small.

God instructed Moses not to come any closer but to remove his sandals from his feet, for the ground upon which he stood was holy. There, from the midst of the burning bush, God explained to Moses his calling: to go before Pharaoh and demand that he free the children of Israel so that they could leave Egypt and dwell in the land of Canaan. Moses felt completely unworthy and even incapable of the task. He asked, "What will I tell the children of Israel when they ask who has sent me?"

"I am that I am," God replied. "Tell the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'"

Can you imagine Moses' feelings at that moment? He was a man who had sinned gravely against God—he had killed a man in Egypt and had to flee for his life! The Bible tells us that Moses could not speak well, and therefore didn't feel capable of being a public leader of such a large number of people. Moreover, Moses hadn't even grown up among his own people. How was he supposed to know what they would need and want? But God had an answer to all these worries. He said, "I am that I am." Where Moses wasn't sufficient to lead the people out of Egypt, God certainly was.

Did you know that you can be called to a task just like Moses was? There was a young girl not very long ago who felt God's whisper in her heart at a very young age. When she was only nine years old, she looked at her mom and said, "I want to be a missionary in Africa." That girl's name is Nicole Elwell! You might know her. Even though she was young when she first spoke of going to Africa, her heart knew what God was calling her to do. For the next ten years, she spoke of going to Africa on and off, and prayed that God would open the doors for her to go. At age nineteen, she felt like God gave her three separate reassurances that it was time for her to go. Since that first trip in 2011, she has been to Africa at least five more times!

Not everyone is called to be a great leader or missionary, but God can give YOU a specific calling even at your young age.

Perhaps He wants you to pray for someone specific or become the friend of an outcast. Pray and ask God what task He has in mind for you!

Lindsey Gellenbeck



DOES GOD CALL ONLY MISSIONARIES AND PREACHERS?

Either with your Sunday school teacher, or at home with your parents, read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Paul is speaking to the church at Corinth about gifts, or callings. He lists some different ways a person might work for God, but it's only a short list! Did you know God calls people to more than just preaching, teaching, singing, or being a missionary? Think about different ways God might call you! Using the table below, fill in some practical ways you can fulfill God's call on your life.

As a friend	
As a helper	
As a son/daughter	
As a sister/brother	
As a student	

Teachers:

Have the kids either sit in a circle or line up and play the old telephone game (also known as Chinese Whispers) to show how important it is to listen carefully to the Word of God. You can use the following phrases or make up your own:

1. When God spoke to Moses, He did it in a very strange way, by using a bush.
2. Moses was not prepared to hear what he heard up in the mountain.
3. God has a special plan for all of us, so we need to listen carefully to what the Word of God says.

LISTEN CLOSELY!

Old Time Telephone

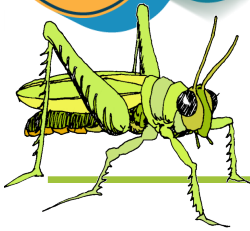


God desires to communicate with us all the time.

Sometimes, however, we are just too busy to listen to God. Perhaps we feel God has more important things to do than talk to us. But that cannot be further from the truth. God loves us very much and wants to tell us many things. That's why we need to take time to pray, and hear what God has to say. Let's pray now and ask God to help us to listen to Him.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 22, 2018



Just One God Ten Plagues. Ten Gods.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7:14-12:32

In many ancient cultures, people served more than one god. Maybe you've learned about some of the Greek and Roman gods in school and the different stories that were dreamed up to go along with them. Ancient Egypt was the same way—there were many gods and people made sacrifices to more than one, hoping the different gods would bring them different kinds of blessings.

When Moses went before Pharaoh to demand the release of the Hebrew people, Pharaoh refused. Most of us know the story of the ten terrible plagues God sent to Egypt, but did you know that those ten plagues were directed at different Egyptian gods?

Part of the Lord's purpose was to prove to the Egyptians and Pharaoh that all their many gods were false and imagined beings.

They were nothing but man's ideas carved into wood and stone. Let's look at each plague and see which Egyptian god the Lord proved false and powerless!

Water turned to blood. Hapi was the god of the Nile. Egyptians believed he caused the river to flood every year, bringing rich soil to the crops.

Memory Verse

For thou art great, and
doest wondrous things:
thou art God alone.

Psalms 86:10

Key Thought

God wanted to prove that
He was the only God. All
the plagues He sent to
Egypt proved that no false
gods had power over Him.

Lesson Discussion

- Were all the plagues chosen randomly by God? What was part of their purpose?
- Do you think some Egyptians lost faith in

their false gods after all the plagues?

- Why is it so important to God that we only worship Him?
- What kinds of things can become like false gods in our lives? Think about things that take your attention and love away from God.

When God turned all the water into blood, He was proving His divine power over the power of the false god, Hapi.

Frogs. Heket was the goddess of water and renewal, and she was depicted with the head of a frog. When God caused frogs to come out of the river and cover the land, He was proving Himself against Heket. There were so many frogs in Egypt that they got into the bread ovens and were baked into the loaves. Yuck!

Lice from the dust. Geb was the god of dust. God proved His power over Geb when He caused all the dust to become lice.

Flies. Khepri was the god of creation. He was depicted with the head of a fly. There were flies everywhere in Egypt, biting both people and animals. The amazing thing was, all the Hebrews and their animals were not infested with flies!

Dead livestock. Hathor was the goddess of love and protection. She had the head of a cow! All the livestock in Egypt, including donkeys, sheep, goats, and cattle died during this plague. Again, none of the Hebrew livestock died. God proved Himself against Hathor, didn't He?

Boils. Isis was the goddess of medicine and peace. Moses took a handful of ash from the furnace and threw it into the heavens. It became a dust that spread over Egypt and inflicted everyone with oozing, bloody, painful boils. Even the animals had boils! Who do you think had power over medicine: Isis or God?

Hail and lightning. Nut—the goddess of the sky. Surely if she was powerful, she could have stopped the incredible hail and lightning storm that swept over Egypt, right? No, any person or animal who was not inside when this storm hit was killed by the massive hail that fell from the sky.

Locusts. Seth was the god of storms and disorder. When an east wind blew all day and night, locusts came on the wind and covered Egypt so that no ground could be seen. They ate every green plant there was. Could Seth fix that disorder? No! God is the God of storms.

Tangible darkness. Ra was the most worshiped god in Egypt besides the pharaoh himself. He was the sun god, but he could not save the Egyptians from three days of darkness. The absence of light was so intense that even a candle could not burn. The Bible says that no one moved from their seat for the entire three days of darkness.

Death of the firstborn. Egyptians believed the pharaoh was the god of all life.

God proved that He is the only life-giver when He caused the firstborn of every man and beast to die in the Passover.

There was not one house in Egypt where someone did not die.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

THE GODS OF EGYPT ARE DESTROYED!

Draw a picture of each plague in the box provided and write the name of the Egyptian god whom the Lord proved false and powerless!



TASTE AND SEE!

How can we ensure we don't make the same mistake the Egyptians did and serve false gods? (You discussed false gods after reading the lesson. Some could be computer time, a very beloved toy, books, games, or even a person who might lead you away from God. These are all things that aren't necessarily wrong but they have the potential to become more important than God Himself.) It's really pretty easy to tell what kinds

of things are false gods. Psalm 34:8 says, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." If you partake of something that is pushing God out from being your top priority, it will end up leaving a pretty bad taste in your mouth—just like the unsweetened Kool-Aid. But God, when He is most important in your life, will leave your mouth and soul tasting sweet and satisfied!

Teachers:

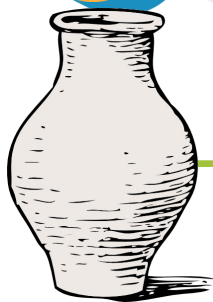
Prepare two pitchers of Kool-Aid before class. Only sweeten one of the pitchers. Bring enough paper or plastic cups for each student to taste both kinds of Kool-Aid. Serve the Kool-Aid to the children before reading the section below.

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 29, 2018



The Final Plague A Hardened Heart

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 11:1-8, 12:29-32;
Isaiah 64:8**

Isaiah 64:8 says, "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

In a small village, there lived a man named Carl. Every time he was wronged by a villager, he would become angry, distant, and bitter. Eventually, there was hardly a person in the village who was still friends with Carl, for he'd pushed them all away.

He even ignored God's quiet whisper to forgive.

In desperation, his parents asked him to visit an old preacher whose unusual ways had a reputation of helping in difficult situations.

Carl visited the preacher who asked him to get two lumps of clay. With one of the lumps, the preacher instructed Carl to make a vase. Thinking a creative outlet might help his anger, Carl threw himself into the task with enthusiasm. When he'd shaped and decorated the vase, he placed it in the kiln to harden. When it was completely cooled, Carl presented the vase to the preacher with satisfaction.

The preacher smiled and handed Carl a hammer.

Memory Verse

Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Proverb 28:14

Key Thought

God wants your heart to be soft and pliable in His hands.

Lesson Discussion

- Did God send warning signs to Pharaoh that a great consequence was coming?
- What was Pharaoh's mistake each

time another plague came upon Egypt?

- Discuss some ways you could resist God's call to you.
- Discuss some ways you can respond positively when your heart wants to become hard.

"Hit the vase with the hammer," he instructed.

"No! I spent hours on it! Isn't it good enough for you?"

"Just hit it with the hammer," the preacher calmly repeated.

Feeling annoyed, Carl took the hammer and firmly struck the vase. It immediately shattered into pieces. "Are you happy now?" he asked. "It's ruined, and all my time is wasted!"

Quietly, the preacher left the room. When he came back, he bent and placed the second lump of clay on the floor next to the broken pieces. "Now hit the clay with the hammer."

Carl struck a hard blow to the lump of clay, letting his aggression show in the action. A large mark appeared in the clay where the hammer had struck. "What was the point of that?" Carl muttered angrily.

Holding a piece of the vase, the preacher said, "This vase is like your heart. You have hardened it against your friends, and even against God's call to forgiveness, but it has only made you fragile. Adversity easily breaks your spirit." Bending to pick up the piece of marked clay, the preacher continued,

"You need to soften your heart like this piece of clay. It is still impacted by the blow, but it isn't broken."

You will still feel the pain, but you will be able to absorb the blow instead of resisting it."

Does this story remind you of anything you've read in the Bible? Pharaoh hardened his heart against God and didn't let the Egyptians go when Moses asked it of him. What finally broke the hard heart of the Pharaoh?

God spoke to Moses about the final plague He would send upon Egypt. He had already sent nine terrible plagues, and each time Pharaoh hardened his heart more. Finally, God instructed Moses to prepare for the final plague: the Passover. Every Hebrew household painted their door posts with the blood of a lamb and prepared a feast. At midnight, an angel of the Lord swept through Egypt and slayed the firstborn of each house that was not painted with blood.

There was a mighty, terrible cry in the land as the Egyptians realized their firstborn had died. Among those grieving was the Pharaoh himself.

Pharaoh sent a message to Moses, saying, "Rise up and leave from among my people, you and the children of Israel, and go serve the Lord as you have said."

Despite all the warning signs God had sent, Pharaoh ignored and resisted God's call. It is a dangerous thing to allow your heart to be hardened against God. The consequence may not be as harsh as it was for Pharaoh, but there is always a price to pay. Lindsey Gellenbeck

WORD SEARCH!

A N G X D W N G S G B S H E Z Y R V W Z E W Q A I A N S Q U
O N E A T R V Z D P E V A S Z S W N P G W J G G Q C O Z O M
R E V O S S A P Q U M G M A K H N D Y Q V I Y G B F G Z E W
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R X R G M R S G B P V O G N A A V D R K W P G I D U R V T N
I H G L N I O Z M M E P S S I E Y X A M S S S O X A D D L R
U V T E T A B F U I C O G H I V U V W S D S T N G U G C E L
Q S X W F R B G R T U P H E A R A C D U L U E N Z H W F A N
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AGGRESSION

ANGER

BITTER

CLAY

EGYPTIANS

FORGIVE

HAMMER

HARDEN

PASSOVER

PLAGUES

SOFTEN

VASE

WARNING

HARD BOILED

Materials:

- One hardboiled egg
- One uncooked egg

(Mark the eggs so you know which is which)

- Table

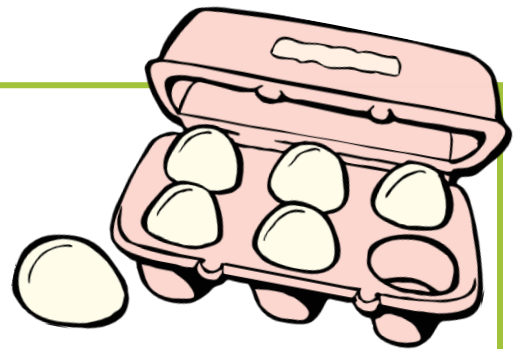
Directions:

Spin the uncooked egg like a top. It should spin easily and quickly. Spin the hardboiled egg like a top. It will not spin as easily as the uncooked egg.

These two eggs look the same, but there is a difference inside. What do you think it is? Why did they act differently when they were spun? That's right, one is HARD inside and one isn't. How do you think that translates to our lesson today?

God can use a person who is soft inside a lot more easily than He can use someone who is hard. The devil loves to harden the hearts of

Christians so they are not as easily used by God. We must work hard to keep our hearts soft toward God so He can use us to work for Him!



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 5, 2018



Walk on Dry Ground A Miracle Working God

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:5-31

People sometimes question whether God still works miracles today. If we're going to be honest, it doesn't seem like He works the same kinds of awe-inspiring, supernatural miracles that He did in Bible days. But He is still a miracle working God!

When the children of Israel were leaving Egypt, the pharaoh's heart was hardened one last time. He began questioning what he had been thinking to let his entire work force leave the country! How would he get anything done? So, he gathered six hundred of his best chariots and captains and pursued the incredible mass of people fleeing Egypt.

The Hebrews were encamped by the sea waiting for the Lord to direct them, but when they turned and saw the king fast on their heels, they became very afraid. Crying out to Moses, they said, "Why have you brought us here? We are all going to die! It would have been better for us to stay and serve the Egyptians!"

Moses said, "Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will show you today."

Memory Verse

**Behold, I am the LORD,
the God of all flesh: is there
anything too hard for me?**

Jeremiah 32:27

Key Thought

**God still works miracles.
The most amazing miracle
is salvation!**

The Egyptians whom you see today—you will never see them again. The Lord will fight for you!"

Lesson Discussion

- Do you believe God doesn't work miracles anymore?
- Why is it easy to believe God doesn't work miracles like He used to?
- Which kind of miracle is the most amazing?
- Have you experienced a miracle like the one described in the second half of the lesson?

Moses lifted up his rod and stretched it over the water. The water divided and the people began walking through on dry ground! God put a cloud of darkness between the Hebrews and the Egyptian army so the Egyptians could not follow. All night, a strong wind blew while the Israelites crossed to safety between massive walls of water. As soon as they reached the far shore, the Egyptians were able to see and began following them. God caused all of their wheels to fall off so their chariots could not drive through. Then the walls of water collapsed and drowned every single Egyptian and animal. What a miracle!

"God never does anything like that anymore!" someone might say.

But did you know God still performs the most amazing miracle of all? The miracle of salvation is a miracle of incredible proportions!

When I was thirteen, I let the devil take over a big part of my life. I was addicted to music because it made me feel all kinds of feelings. Believe it or not, the sad songs were my favorite—I actually enjoyed feeling sad. There was not a day when I didn't listen to unclean music and it got to the point where I couldn't go to sleep without my radio on. The noise and words of the music drowned out the quiet voice inside telling me to turn it off and pray. Too many nights, I ignored that voice and just kept listening to the music. My heart became hard and bitter—I didn't want to obey my parents or listen to anyone who tried to help me. Finally, my parents took away all of my privileges. No friends, no computer time, no extra activities, and definitely no music or radio.

Did you know God performed a miracle in my heart after that? I decided to return to God and listen to His gentle voice, and in return He completely broke the power that music had over my heart. I wasn't addicted to it anymore. It didn't make me have all those feelings, and I even didn't want to listen to it. Thank you, Jesus!

The kind of miracle God works in a person's heart is the most incredible miracle of all. Salvation is more awesome than millions of people walking through a sea on dry ground.

A heart that is soft and tender toward God when it used to be hard and bitter is more amazing than all those waters standing still for the Israelites.

God is still a miracle working God, and He wants to start by saving you!
Lindsey Gellenbeck



“COMMON PLACE MIRACLES”

What does “common place” mean? It means ordinary. Think about things that happen to you every day. Do they just happen because that’s the way things are, or are they small, easily unnoticed miracles that God gifts you? List as many “common place miracles” in the space below as you can think of and remember to thank God for them as you go through your week!

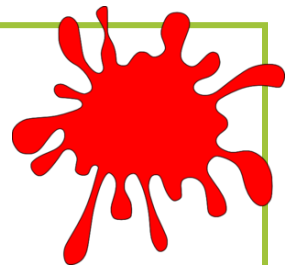
Materials:

- Red food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol
- Small glass plate (without cup indentation)
 - Eyedropper
 - Water
 - Small glass

Directions:

- Fill glass with water and add a few drops of red food coloring. Use the eyedropper to gather a small amount of rubbing alcohol.
- Pour a small pool of red water into the saucer, representing the Red Sea. Using the eyedropper, squeeze a few drops of alcohol into the center of the water. The water will separate and form a dry spot in the middle.

PARTING THE SEA



Our tiny little Red Sea on the plate is nothing compared to the life-sized Red Sea! Imagine how big of an eyedropper you would need to part the entire sea! It wouldn’t be possible, for sure.

What you witnessed today on the plate is basic science. Rubbing alcohol causes water to dry up.

But science cannot compete with our miracle working God! When the world tries to explain away miracles you know God has performed, imagine an enormous eyedropper attempting to dry up the Red Sea—how ridiculous! Only God can go beyond science and perform supernatural works of power!



Junior Sunday School ■ August 12, 2018

Manna in the Wilderness

What is This?

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-35; Deuteronomy 29:5

Some people seem like they are not happy unless they are complaining. In fact, no matter what happens or what they do, they voice or somehow show their displeasure. There are times we do feel like grumbling. At least a little. Sometimes nothing even needs to happen to make us grumble—we just wake up with that feeling. How should we react at those times? Let's explore the attitude of the children of Israel and see what we can learn.

Imagine a big city the size of San Antonio, Texas; there are approximately 2.4 million people in that city. The number of Hebrew people who exited the land of Egypt also numbered approximately 2.4 million people and maybe more! It was no small group that now camped in the wilderness. Imagine this: the book of Exodus tells us the whole congregation (or city) of the children of Israel murmured against Moses. They said, "We wish we would have died in Egypt. Have you brought us into the wilderness just to kill us with hunger?"

Memory Verse

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever. John 6:51

Key Thought

Choose gratitude and belief rather than grumbling and bellyaching.

Lesson Discussion

- Why did the people complain against Moses? How did God provide food for them?
- In what other ways did He take care of them?
- Who is our "bread from heaven" today? (Hint: Read John 6:50-58) How does Jesus "feed" us?
- Discuss things that cause us to want to complain. What are practical solutions to help us choose happiness rather than complaint?

They had already forgotten the miracle of crossing the Red Sea.

God wanted to give them a beautiful new home in the land of Canaan where they would no longer be slaves, but all they could think about were pictures of fish, cucumbers, melons, garlic and onions they ate while slaves in Egypt. So they cried and complained.

As God sat in heaven, the noise of complaint rose, surrounding Him and filling His ears. What a loud noise it must have been. He could have folded His arms and just listened, insulted by the fact they didn't believe He would take care of them. Instead, He sent rain. Only it was not the kind of water-rain they were used to. It rained manna. When they saw it they said, "Man-hu!"—"What is this?"

Manna was bread from heaven and tasted sweet like honey. The psalmist David described manna as "angels' food."

From that day forward, the children of Israel received their bread fresh from the bakery of heaven and straight from the hand of God every day for 40 years! They were to gather only what they needed for each day, but no more. Some people greedily tried to save manna overnight, but when they awoke the next morning it was filled with worms and it smelled bad. In addition to manna, God sent enough quail so the people would have meat to eat. Not only did He feed them, but He took care of them in other ways, as well. Unbelievably, their shoes and clothes did not wear out the forty years they were in the wilderness.

God gives us numerous gifts every day. Are we truly grateful for everything God gives us or do we take them for granted and then quickly move on to other activities?

Practice gratitude. Believe God is bigger than your trouble. Focus on the favorable things in your life. Get in the habit of happiness. Choose laughter over complaining.

You see, God is our pilot. He is in complete control of our trip through life. He knows exactly where He is going. If we will ride with Him we will be completely safe and there should be absolutely zero reason to complain. Sure! Things may not always go our way. We may experience waves rocking our boat or squirm a little due to air bumps that jostle us around from time to time that cause us to say, "What is this?" but God promised to always supply our every need!

Sister Julie Elwell

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing...the Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Psalms 126:2

Did You Know?

1. Laughter relaxes the whole body.
2. Laughter boosts the immune system.
3. Laughter triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals.
4. Laughter protects the heart.
5. Laughter burns calories.
6. Laughter lightens anger's heavy load.
7. Laughter improves mood.
8. Laughter strengthens relationships
9. Laughter helps defuse conflict.
10. Laughter strengthens relationships.

Adapted from:

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/laughter-is-the-best-medicine.htm>

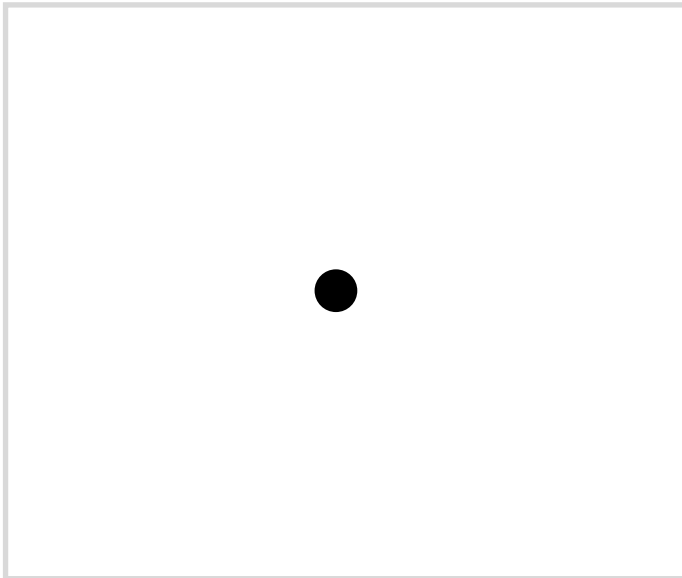


While there are situations which require us to be quiet and not silly, let's now forget that God wants us to be joyful! When we focus on finding things to smile about and laugh over, we win a battle with the devil! The devil would have us constantly grumbling and complaining. God would have us be joyful and happy!

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. Proverbs 17:22

Challenge: Write down as many things as you can think of for which to be glad.

ARE YOU FOCUSING ON THE BLACK DOT?



Consider the image to the left. What do you notice right away? If your answer is “the black dot,” you would have answered perhaps the same as everyone else. When presented with a perfectly white piece of paper with a small black dot, it seems to “glare” at us in an otherwise spotless piece of paper. If we assume the black dot represents all the “bad stuff” in our life and the white area represents all the positive “good stuff,” which area do we tend to automatically be drawn to? This example shows us that the average person’s tendency is to focus on “imperfections” and “negative things” when everything else can be going perfectly well. Rather than focusing on the many God-given blessings in our lives, we get hung up on the “black dot.” Let’s practice keeping our focus on God!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School
August 19, 2018



Jehovah-Nissi
God is My Banner

Scripture Reading:
Exodus 17:1-15

Two months after leaving Egypt, the enormous two million-plus Israelites arrived in the city of Rephidim. Rephidim means “resting place,” which is exactly what the dusty, thirsty Israelites wanted to do—rest! No rest was to be had. Let’s find out why.

Distant cousins of the Israelites, a tribe called the Amalekites, came to make war against them. The Amalekites were descendants of Esau, brother of Jacob—and they didn’t fight fair. Rather than attack them head-on like men, they attacked the rear of the camp, smiting the weak and tired (*Deuteronomy 25:18*).

Strong men were in the camp of the Israelites, but they had only been slaves—they were not trained warriors!

What would they do in this *first* battle they faced?

Moses told a young man Joshua, who is mentioned for the first time in the Bible and would later become the future

Memory Verse

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. Isaiah 59:19

Key Thought

Victory over the devil comes through prayer and teamwork, fighting under God’s banner.

Lesson Discussion

- How did the Amalekites fight unfairly? Does the devil ever fight you in the same way? How?
- Discuss teamwork. Did one person do all the work to defeat the Amalekites? Who all played a part and what

was their role? In what ways do we need other people to help us?

- How does writing down what God does help us remember our spiritual victories?
- What does “Jehovah Nissi” mean? What is a banner? What does it mean to fight under his flag?

leader of the children of Israel, “Choose men to go out and fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill—with the rod of God in my hand (*the same rod with which he parted the Red Sea and struck the rock for water*).” The next day Joshua and his men fought the Amalekites. Moses stood at the top of the hill with his arms raised up. Aaron (his brother) and Hur (thought to be his brother-in-law and husband of Miriam,) sat on either side of him.

As long as Moses held his arms up, the Israelites started winning the battle.

When his arms got heavy and started to fall, the Amalekites started winning. Moses needed help! Aaron and Hur were right there to help! Aaron held up one arm and Hur held up the other arm. In this way, Moses’ arms remained steady in an uplifted manner of prayer and supplication toward God until the sun set! God gave the untrained warriors and once-upon-a-time slaves in Egypt victory!

It is fun to write stories of happenings of our lives—maybe you do this in your school papers or in a diary? If you write down things God does for you, it will be an encouragement to you later. In the same way, God told Moses, “Write this experience down in a book and then read it in the presence of Joshua.” God did not want the people to forget that HE was the one who gave them victory. Moses then built an altar to God and called it Jehovah Nissi (jə'hōvə nee-see), meaning, “God is my banner (*flag*).”

We are safe from an Amalekite attack, but we are not safe from the attacks of the devil. He will sneak up behind us and fight our weaknesses, *just like the Amalekites did to the children of Israel*. He will try to steal the best thing we own—our heart. He may try to get us to go somewhere our parents told us not to go. He will try and cause bad attitudes of resentment and anger to stir around in our hearts—maybe toward our siblings, parents, teachers or friends. He gleefully rejoices if he can get us to say bad words, tell bad jokes, or enter bad conversations. He will attack our desire to want to fit in and be popular by tempting us to “want to look cool or beautiful” by wearing clothes that are less than godly.

We cannot beat the wicked ‘ole devil by ourselves. But.

Through prayer and with God’s help we will always be on the winning side.

Sometimes we will also need the support and encouragement of faithful and godly people such as our parents, grandparents, pastor or a respected and godly person! Never forget that if we want victory, fighting under God’s banner is the only answer.

Sister Julie Elwell

GOD'S BANNER



It is said there are 193 nations in the world, each having a flag. No doubt the number of different flags in our world cannot be estimated. In the United States alone each state has a flag and many cities also have their own flag. Flags are pieces of cloth attached to a pole upon which are colors, shapes and pictures. These are powerful symbols which remind people of their common heritage, history and ideals.

The story is told of one soldier who had lost his freedom. He was taken prisoner and lived on breadcrumbs and sawdust. Finally the day came when the war was over and he was freed. As he walked unsteadily toward freedom, he was approached by a young boy who offered comfort and compassion. The boy gave him his own food and touched him gently and compassionately. The soldier cried his first tears in years. The boy wiped his tears with a handkerchief, which later the soldier realized was a small flag. That same flag became the soldier's symbol of hope, freedom, and life.

The greatest flag ever flown in the history of the world—is invisible! God's banner—Jehovaha Nissi—cannot be seen with our natural eyes. He has not stuck a flagpole with a flag attached somewhere on the earth. But get excited! *It is more real and has more power* in what it represents than any earthly, wind-whipped, cloth attached to a flag pole. Ultimate victory comes in pledging our allegiance to God. In return, He has promised to protect us, provide for us, be our friend, lead us and guide us. Can you think of ways God or Jesus are represented in the Bible? (*i.e., Jesus as a lamb*)

TEAMWORK!

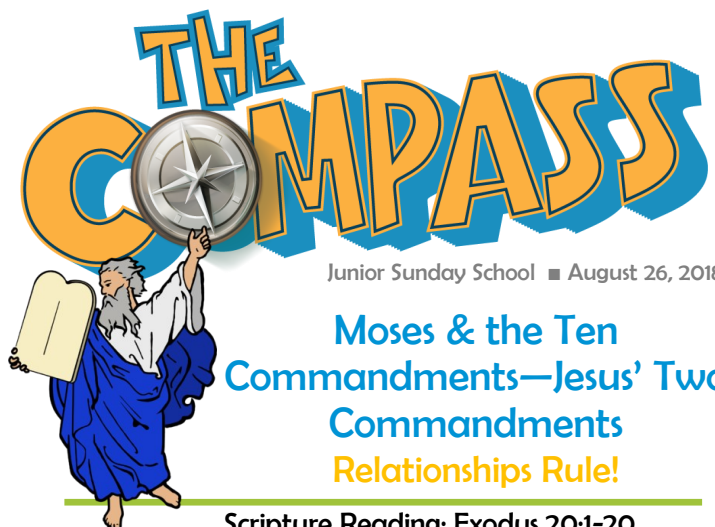


Many people think they can “do things by themselves” and they “don’t need any help!” This object lesson illustrates why teamwork and unity are so important. Place one Solo cup on the floor, open-side down. Ask for a volunteer to stand on the Solo cup. What happens? (It immediately crumples). To illustrate the power of teamwork, then place four rows of Solo cups (open-side down) on the floor—five in the first row, six in the second row, five in the third row, and six in the fourth row. Place a cookie sheet face-up on the Solo cups. Again ask for a child volunteer to stand on the cookie sheet. What happens now? (They do not crumble and hold the weight of the child with no problem!) The Solo cups did

Materials:

- 23 red Solo cups
- Cookie sheet
- Volunteer

not change shape or size—but with many of them “working together” they were able to do what a solo Solo cup could not do on its own. List the characters in our story today who worked together to defeat the Amalekites. Was one person more important than another? Who gave the ultimate victory?



Junior Sunday School ■ August 26, 2018

Moses & the Ten Commandments—Jesus' Two Commandments Relationships Rule!

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-20

Raise your hand if you relish rules (*that means if you love them*)! Parents have rules. Teachers have rules. There are rules of the road. It seems like everyone has rules. Why do we have them anyway? Surely life would be much easier and more fun if we could do what we wanted!

Wouldn't it be great if you could:

- Stay up as late as you felt like,
- Eat whatever and whenever you wanted,
- Could skip chores, and
- Got to hang out with your friends anytime?

One of the rules I never liked was “no running in the halls at school.” Teachers seemed to always be guarding the halls for students breaking the “no-running rule.” It wasn't so much that I wanted to be rebellious. It wasn't so much that I wanted to run (except when I was late for class). I just didn't like the rule! Do you have rules you don't like?

Let's talk about why we have rules for a few minutes.

In our last lesson, the children of Israel defeated the Amalekites at Rephidim. Immediately afterward, they set up camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. It was no

doubt becoming quickly evident that over two million people

Memory Verse

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome).

1 John 5:3

Key Thought

God's laws are designed to make our lives happier than they would have

Lesson

Discussion

- Why don't people like rules?
- How many commandments did God give Moses? Can you name them without looking?
- What two commandments did Jesus bring? Discuss what they mean to you.
- Name some of the reasons for rules. Are they good reasons?

needed a few rules in their camp to bring organization and peace. Imagine the chaos of living with that many people with no rules! So God called Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai. There He wrote special instructions on two stone tablets. These were laws (*or rules*) He wanted the people to obey. We know them as the Ten Commandments. Without looking, can you name them all? Here they are:

1. I am the Lord your God. You must not have any other god but me.
2. You must not make or worship any idol or image.
3. Do not use My name as a swearword.
4. The Sabbath day belongs to me—keep it holy. It is a day of rest.
5. Respect and obey your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Be loyal to the person you are married to.
8. Do not take other people's things.
9. Do not tell lies about others.
10. Do not long for (covet) something that belongs to someone else.

These rules were good and were given by God to govern the people. A problem presented itself, however.

As time went on, the rules were either rejected and people did what they wanted (which ended in disaster), or the rules themselves became more important God.

Remember the Pharisees and Sadducees?

Listen hard! God wants a *relationship* with us! When Jesus came to earth He simplified the commandments to just two. Can you name them?

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Instead of all the “You must not's” of the Ten Commandments, the focus changed. It was now centered around a relationship of love. If people kept those two commandments, they would be keeping all the other ten, as well. His commands were now to be written, not on stone, but on the soft places of our hearts.

Yes! There are God-given Biblical “rules” we must obey. (*If you want to look at it like that.*) But rules, whether in the home, at school, or on the road—as well as God's “rules”—are not designed to make our lives unhappy and miserable. They keep us safe by warning us of danger. They help us keep good relationships, both with God and other people. They help us understand what it means to be holy and how to live to please Him. We also begin to understand how much we need God's grace, forgiveness, and help. Really, Rules rule!

Sister Julie Elwell

THE GRIZZLY BEAR AND HER CUBS

There were three young grizzly cubs playfully exploring the woods near their den. The scent of food caused them to be drawn away from the protection of their mother. Their curiosity drew them closer and closer to danger. The food they had smelled was a caribou carcass that belonged to a family of wolves who had hidden it in the bushes and dirt near their own den.

As the cubs came closer, the wolves circled preparing for a deadly attack. The mother bear heard the cries from her cubs and came running to their defense. The mother bear fought savagely and was finally able to separate herself and her cubs from the attacking wolves.

They had just reached the safety of a nearby hill when the weakest of the three cubs ignored the protective wishes of its mother and returned to sniff the caribou. In seconds it was surrounded by the wolf pack. The mother now had to expose herself and the other

two cubs to the battle again.

The lead wolf had returned from hunting and distracted the mother bear while four other wolves attacked the weak cub. The mother bear broke free from the lead wolf and roared furiously at those who were attacking her cub. She wildly swung her paws in defense. Finally, she drove the three cubs through a thick patch of brush and into a glacial stream.

The smallest cub cringed on the shore, frightened . . . The mother pushed it into the water so the wolves would no longer follow. The wounds the young cub suffered were a lasting reminder of the consequences of not following the instructions of the one caring for you.



BREAK THE RULES! FUN OR NOT?

Pay attention to what happens
and then discuss what was
learned.

1. Was it fun to break the rules?

2. Was it fun when other people broke the rules? Why or why not?

3. Talk about the object of the game. Were the objectives met fairly?

4. How did everyone get along?

5. What kinds of feelings were going on inside?

6. Is life a game? Do some people treat it like it is?

7. Talk about how rules—especially good ones given by God—are beneficial.

Materials:

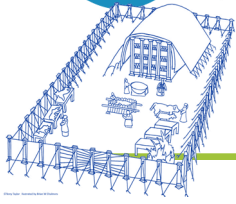
- A game of checkers, Monopoly, Battleship, or a game most people know how to play
 - Pencil

Directions:

Give everyone 10 minutes to play the game. The only rule is this—there are **NO RULES!** They can break them, forget them, or bend and twist them.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 2, 2018



Building the Tabernacle

Only the Best is Good Enough

Have you ever played with Legos either by yourself or with someone else? Sixty-nine years ago, in 1949, a Danish man named Ole Christiansen began making these popular building bricks. He named his company “Lego” which comes from two Danish words meaning *play well*—and then ran his company with the motto “*Only the best is good enough.*” Legos are sometimes “hard fun” because you have to think about what you want to build and then figure out how to build it.

Fun Fact: One Lego costs approximately 10.4 cents.

God had a tabernacle (*a tent that could be built and taken down easily*) he wanted built back in Moses’ time—greater than any Lego creation ever constructed. He wanted to be close to the children of Israel, live among them, and show them how much He loved them. Instructions for how to build God’s “house” were specific and exact. The Lord told Moses to take an offering from the people.

He said, “Whoever has a willing heart, let him bring an offering to the Lord.”

Many of the children of Israel had been given rich gifts by the Egyptians when they left Egypt. When they heard God asked for willing offerings, they hurried to their own tents with cheerful and excited hearts, bringing back gold, silver and precious stones.

Memory Verse

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Key Thought

Cheerfully and willingly give your best to God.

Lesson Discussion

- Why did God want Moses to build Him a tabernacle? What is a tabernacle?
- Did God use cheap materials for his house? Do you think He likes shoddy, half-

hearted work?

- How did God make His presence known to the children of Israel?
- Does it take hard work to “give to God” today? Is it worth it? Why or why not?

OUTSIDE THE TABERNACLE

The Altar of Burnt Offering
The Bronze Bowl

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

The Holy Place:

The Table of Showbread
The Altar of Incense
The Golden Lampstand

The Most Holy Place:

The Veil

The Ark of the Covenant
The 10 Commandments
A golden pot filled with manna
Aaron’s rod that budded

Only the best was good enough!

Here is a list of items the people could bring:

(Exodus 24:3-7)

- Gold, silver, bronze
- Yarn (blue, purple, scarlet)
- Fine Linen
- Goat hair, ram skins, badger hides
- Acacia wood
- Olive oil, spices
- Onyx stones and gems

The Lord also said the people could help by using their talents and abilities. The people worked hard for two years. Women spun beautiful, brightly-colored cloth. Under the direction of two men whom God chose many were taught to carve, engrave, weave and embroider. The inside walls were made of boards covered with gold and placed on silver bases. The roof was made of four curtains, one laid above the other. The inner curtain was beautiful cloth, but the outer curtains were made of skins to keep the rain out. The day came the tabernacle was finally ready for God to move into!

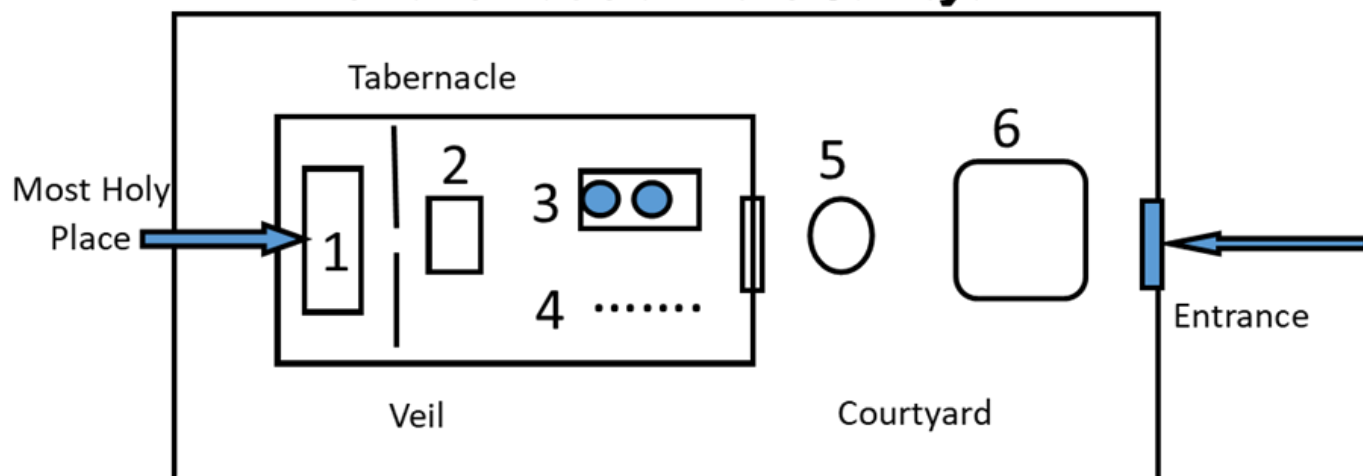
The people made themselves ready and held their breath in anticipation! A cloud with God’s awesome presence came down and settled about the tabernacle. Every day thereafter, the cloud rested on the tabernacle and every night a cloud of fire was there. When the people saw these things, they knew God was living among them.

Today, God does not live in a take-down-tabernacle that we can see, but instead He lives in our hearts.

Some things are still the same, however. He is still asking us to willingly give the best we have to him. Thinking of creative ways to give back to God can sometimes be “hard fun” but many times it is easier than you think. God does not play favorites based on age. You don’t have to be a preacher! Willingly offer the small things you have and God *WILL* use them. Drop a little of your allowance into the offering box. Speak kind words to the cashier at the store. Sing a song of praise. Pray. Help carry the groceries inside the house. Be **EXCITED** and willing to serve God in the small things. It is not the size or the cost of the gift that matters to God, but rather the heart with which we give the gift.

Sister Julie Elwell

The Tabernacle and the Courtyard



Inside the Tabernacle:

The Table of the Showbread (3): On this wooden table that was covered with gold, twelve loaves of bread were placed every Sabbath day.

The Altar of Incense (2): This was where the priest burned incense in the morning and evening.

The Golden Lampstand (4): The Lampstand was made of pure gold and had seven branches, each one with a light. It was filled with oil every day and never allowed to go out.

The Most Holy Place: The veil was a curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, closing the way into God's presence. The colors used in the curtain were blue, purple and scarlet.

The Ark of the Covenant (1): The Ark was a beautiful box made of acacia wood and covered with gold. It would help the Israelites remember what they had learned about God on their journey through the desert.

Inside the Ark were three things:

The Ten commandments written on stone by God, a golden pot filled with manna, and Aaron's rod that budded

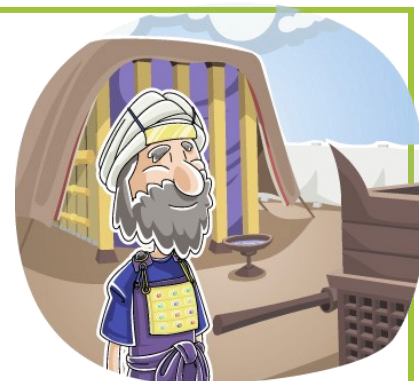
Outside the Tabernacle:

The Altar of Burnt Offering (6): On this altar animals were killed and offered to God as a sacrifice for sins.

The Bronze Bowl (5): This is where the priests washed their hands and feet before going into the presence of God.

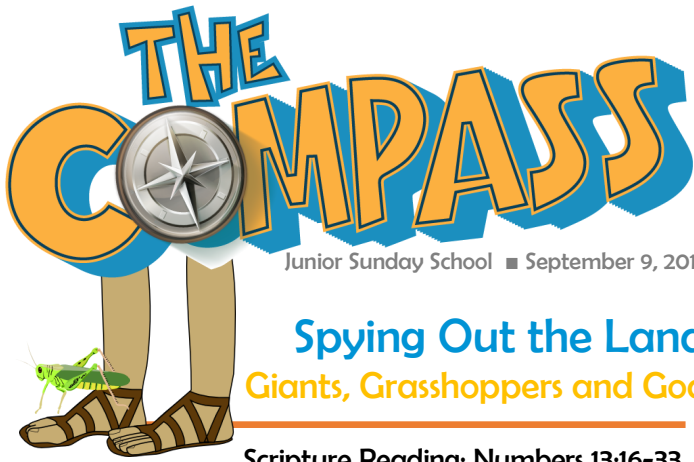
Which piece of furniture in the tabernacle do the following statements match up to?

- _____ The bread reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of life. He gives spiritual life to all who believe in Him.
- _____ The sacrifice of animals can never take away our sin. Only Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, can take away our sin.
- _____ The sweet smell of incense is like our prayers going up to God; Jesus, our High Priest, is in heaven praying to God the Father for us all the time.
- _____ The lamp reminds us of Jesus, who came to be the light of the world.
- _____ Clean hands and feet remind us that all of our behavior must be clean and holy unto the Lord.
- _____ The curtain is a symbol of the body of Jesus. When His body was wounded on the cross for us, the curtain in the Temple was torn right down the middle. Now we can come into God's presence because Jesus has taken the place of the curtain. His death made it possible for us to Go to God through Him.
- _____ These three things remind us of what Jesus came to do and be for us.



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Volume 68, Quarter 3, Week 10 Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2018.



Scripture Reading: Numbers 13:16-33

Scouting and Spying: Excitement buzzed through the camp of the Israelites. Twelve men, one from each tribe, had been chosen to spy out the land of Canaan, their soon-to-be new home. These men were not necessarily going as undercover agents darting from tree to tree, watching the Canaanites with their sunglasses on, hats pulled low. In fact, the word spy means to meander—to search out. It was important to know how many people lived there, what the land was like and if the cities were strong or weak. The men chosen for this job were no doubt quick, strong and intelligent. The trip was to last forty days. (*The number of days is important...keep reading.*)

The men set out, spirits high.

The Promised Land was a rich land. Nothing was lacking.

Toward the end of their scouting trip, most likely in August and September, they stopped at a brook by which grew grapes the size of which they had never seen. Surely Moses and the elders would want to see proof of the goodness of the

Memory Verse

[*God speaking*] But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit in him, and has followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

NYumbers

Key Thought

Believe in a Bigger God!

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss the response of the children of Israel to the report of the ten spies. What did they do?
- Why did the children of Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years?
- Talk about hard things you face. Are they too big for God?
- How should we be like Caleb and Joshua? We should always have an attitude of what? (_ _ L I E _)

land! They cut a branch of ripe grapes. Incredibly, the grapes were so big and heavy they put the branch on a rod and two men carried it between them.

The “Problem”:

Giant grapes were great, but when they saw giant men—giant men that lived in very great and walled cities—the high spirits of ten of the spies deflated like a balloon.

These ten slowly made their way back to the camp of Moses and the elders to give a report. We can’t do it, they cried! We are small, like grasshoppers of the field. **Grasshoppers can’t fight giants and win—can they?!** The camp which had been filled with excitement was now filled with fear.

Caleb and Joshua: Maybe you already know the story and are way ahead! In the midst of the crying, fearful voices, a strong voice rang out—the voice of Caleb. With Joshua by his side, he calmed the crowd. He said, “We can do this! Let’s leave immediately and take control of Canaan. We are **ABLE** to do it! The land we searched out is an exceedingly good land!”

Caleb and Joshua believed God was greater than the giants!

Names of the Other Ten Spies: Can anyone tell us the names of the other ten spies? No. No one remembers what their names were! The sad thing is, these ten nameless spies argued back with Caleb and Joshua. With unbelieving voices, they again said, “The land will eat us up. We can’t do it. We are just tiny grasshoppers.” When the people heard these ten men they cried. They cried all night. They grumbled against Moses and Aaron and said, “We wish we had died in the land of Egypt or died in this wilderness! Let’s find another leader and go back to Egypt.” When Caleb and Joshua tried to convince them of God’s power, the people wanted to stone them.

God’s Response: God was highly displeased with the ten spies and their unbelief. He was highly displeased with the crying, complaining, unbelieving people. He gave them their wish—they wandered forty years in the wilderness, one year for every day the spies had searched out the land (Numbers 14:29). God sent a plague and the ten spies died on the spot, but Caleb and Joshua lived. Every person over the age of 20 years old perished in the wilderness. There is a little more to the story if you want to see what happened to the rest of the people! Read Numbers 14:36-45.

What Can I Learn? Always—always believe in God and His promises. Nothing—nothing you face is a giant too big for a “bigger” God.

Sister Julie Elwell

How Do You SEE LIFE?



Two boys were eating some grapes. One of them remarked, “Aren’t they sweet!” “I guess so,” the other replied, “but they’re full of seeds.”

Wandering into a garden, the first boy exclaimed, “Look at those big, beautiful red roses!” The other commented, “They’re full of thorns!”

It was a warm day, so they stopped at the store for a soft drink. After several swallows, the second youngster complained, “My bottle’s half-empty already.” The first quickly responded, “Mine’s still half-full!”

Many people are like the negative-thinking boy in this story. They always look at life through dark glasses. Like the children of Israel, they complain and grumble when they should be praising the Lord. We don’t have to be like that. We can be like Caleb and Joshua and concentrate on our belief that God is bigger! Look on the bright side. Be radiant, happy, and grateful. Recognize trouble when we see it, but don’t pout, fret or complain. No matter what!

Think about God’s love for you. Praise Him for His care. Instead of complaining about thorns, you’ll be thankful for the roses.

Adapted from Our Daily Bread



Object Lesson #1

Flip the Switch. Close the curtains and make the room as dark as possible. Ask the children what they think will happen when you turn the light switch off. Give a demonstration. Explain to them their belief that the light will go off and come back on by flipping a switch. If we didn’t have faith, we wouldn’t flip the switch.

Object Lesson #2

Fall Backward. Demonstrate faith by having children fall backward into the arms of an adult. Trusting God is sometimes like closing your eyes and falling into His arms.

FAITH!

“A wise bird knows that a scarecrow is simply an advertisement. It announces that some very juicy and delicious fruit is to be had for the picking. There are scarecrows in all the best gardens. If I am wise, I will treat the scarecrow as though it were an invitation. Every giant that makes me feel like a grasshopper is only a scarecrow, inviting me to God’s richest blessings. Faith is a bird which loves to perch on scarecrows.”



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 16, 2018



Balaam's True Traits

Donkeys, Excuses & Good-Sounding Words

Scripture Reading: Numbers 22:1-35

If your dog or cat looked at you and plainly said, "Good morning" you would be astonished. And scared. Animals don't talk in real life. Well, except for once. Do you remember the story of Balaam and Balak [bey-luhm and bey-lak]?

Balak Entices Balaam: After almost 40 years of wilderness wandering, it was time for the Israelites to conquer Canaan. Balak, the king of Moab, was very afraid when he saw the campsites of thousands and thousands of Israelite men covering the countryside so close to his borders. So he sent messengers to Balaam, a wicked prophet. He said, "I will reward you if you curse these people!" But God spoke to Balaam that night. He said, "Do not go with the messengers or curse the people. They are my people and they are blessed." The next morning, Balaam regretfully gave the messengers the news that he would not be able to go with them.

King Balak was not happy with Balaam's answer, so he sent even greater princes to Balaam's door. He said, "I will promote you and make you great. I will give you whatever you want if you curse the Israelites." Balaam again spoke good-sounding words. He said, "Even if you gave me King Balak's house full of silver and gold

I will not come with

Memory Verse

How can ye, being evil,
speak good things? For out
of the abundance of the
heart the mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:34

Key Thought

Our behavior—not good-
sounding—show what is
really in our heart.

Lesson Discussion

- Who was Balak? Who was Balam? Where was Moab?
- What did Balak offer Balam to curse the children of Israel?
- Did God's words or greed mean more to Balaam? Why do you think so?
- What is the difference between true sorrow and "getting caught"?

you." A problem was brewing in Balaam's heart, however. Listen to what happened next.

Balaam did not send the princes of Moab away (Mistake!). Perhaps he thought he could convince God differently!

He told the men, "Stay here tonight. Maybe God will tell me something more." This time God said, "Go with them, but do only what I tell you."

The Donkey, Balaam, and an Angel: The next morning Balaam saddled his donkey and left for Moab. He used the flimsy excuse that he would speak only God's words.

Balaam might have tried to convince himself he was doing the right thing, but all along he coveted King Balak's reward more than he wanted to speak God's words. The story continues to prove the truth of this statement.

God was not happy so He sent a sword-wielding angel to stand in the middle of the road. The donkey saw the angel. Balaam did not. The donkey swerved to miss the angel three times, one time crushing Balaam's foot against a wall. Three times Balaam angrily beat his donkey. An incredible thing then happened—God opened the donkey's mouth and it talked, scolding Balaam for the beatings. Balaam's eyes were opened and he then saw the angel.

"I know your evil heart," the angel said. "If the donkey had not gotten out of the way, I would have killed you and let the animal live." In response, Balaam did not actually apologize, but used some *apologetic-sounding* words. He said, "I sinned. I didn't know you were standing there! If you are displeased with me, I will go back." (*Was he only sorry he got caught?*) The angel said, "Go with the men, but only speak the words I give you." Greed ultimately won the battle. Instead of turning around and going back home Balaam continued on his way toward King Balak.

What Can I Learn? Hiding behind good-sounding words to get our own way does not change what is in our heart. Looking through sheer curtains is just like seeing through a flimsy lie. A weakly-built tent will flatten with the slightest breeze. We have God-given instructions, too! Do not lie or steal—to name just a couple.

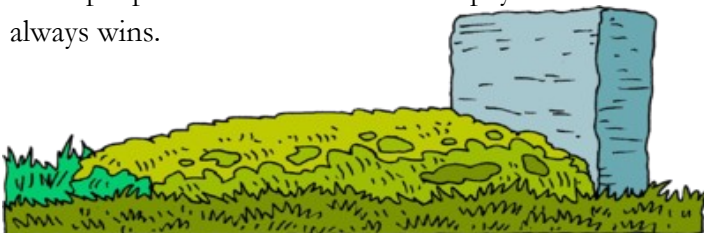
God is not happy when we make flimsy excuses to justify bad behavior. Heart-felt honesty and immediate obedience are always our safest and best courses of action!

Sister Julie Elwell

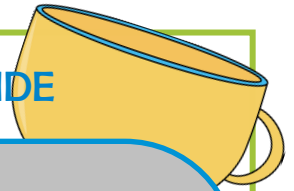
HOW MUCH LAND DOES A MAN NEED?

The story is told of a successful peasant farmer who was not satisfied with his lot. He wanted more of everything. One day he received a great offer. For 1000 rubles (Russian money), he could buy all the land he could walk around in a day. The only catch in the deal was that he had to be back at his starting point by sundown. Early the next morning he started out walking at a fast pace. By midday he was very tired, but he kept going, covering more and more ground. Well into the afternoon he realized that his greed had taken him far from the starting point. He quickened his pace and as the sun began to sink low in the sky, he began to run, knowing that if he did not make it back by sundown the opportunity to become an even bigger landholder would be lost. As the sun began to sink below the horizon, he came within sight of the finish line. Gasping for breath, his heart pounding, he called upon every bit of strength left in his body and staggered across the line just before the sun disappeared. He immediately collapsed. In a few minutes he was dead. Afterwards, his servants dug a grave. It was not much over six feet long and three feet wide.

The Rest of Balaam's Story: Balaam did meet with King Balak. Three different times Balak tried to get Balaam to curse the children of Israel. Three different times God controlled Balaam's mouth and all that came out was a blessing rather than a curse. God loves and protects His children. No matter what! But Balaam was still greedy and figured out a way to receive the reward anyway. He told King Balak, "If you will cause the people to serve idols and sin, then God will not bless them." A scheme was devised to lure the children of Israel to sin—and indeed God was displeased. However, later on, Balaam was killed by the children of Israel, along with King Balak and the sinful people of Moab. Greed never pays. God's will always wins.



CLEAN INSIDE



Materials:

- Nice looking cup or glass (something opaque works the best)
 - Plain or Styrofoam cup
 - Mud

Teacher Directions:

- Smear some mud on the outside of the plain looking cup. Put mud inside the "nice" cup.
- Show everyone the cups and ask which they would rather drink from. (Suggested: *I have two cups here. One of them is really nice and the other one is not so nice looking. Which cup would you rather drink out of? This really nice-looking cup that looks clean? Or this plain-looking cup that looks like it has something on it?*)
- The children will respond that they want to drink from the nice cup. Pour the mud out of it and ask if they would still like to drink from it. (Suggested: *Now which one looks better to you? Although this nice one looks better on the outside the other one is better on the inside. If we had to drink water from one of these cups we would choose the one that is clean inside.*)

Balaam tried to look good on the outside by saying the right words—"Even if you gave me King Balak's house full of silver and gold I will not come with you," and "I sinned. I didn't know you were standing there! If you are displeased with me, I will go back."

However, his heart was filled with mud.

What do you think God prefers? Someone who says the right things but has sin in their heart? Or someone who maybe doesn't look the best or even say all the right things, but is clean inside? Jesus wants us to be clean inside!

It is important for us to make sure that we have a clean heart before God rather than just speaking "clean-sounding" words.

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 30, 2018



A Most Memorable Day Egypt Behind—Canaan Before

Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:14-17; 5:1, 9-5

Egypt and the Wilderness Journey is Over: Joshua is now the new, approximately 80-year-old leader of the children of Israel. Remember—Moses was also 80 years old when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt! *Don't underestimate how God might use the elderly people in your life! Reverence them. Respect them. Listen to them.*

Joshua told the people: "Get yourselves spiritually ready, (*sanctify yourselves*). Tomorrow God is going to do amazing things for us." Anticipation was no doubt high in the camp as the people doused their fires and settled down to sleep.

Day of Salvation: When the Israelites opened their eyes the next morning, it was not just any morning.

It was *THE DAY* they had been waiting for! The day of their salvation. Freedom. Safety. Rescue. Victory. No longer slaves.

The Lord told Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all the people. They will know that I am with you just like I was with Moses." The people packed up their belongings. It was time.

Lesson Discussion

- How old was Joshua when he led the children of Israel into Canaan? Discuss why the elderly are so valuable to us.
- What does Salvation mean? What were the children of Israel saved from? When is a good time to get saved?
- Why was it so important the priests take the Ark of the Covenant with them when they stepped into the waters of Jordan? How do we take the presence of God with us and why is it important?
- Could Joshua have defeated the inhabitants of the land without the Commander of the Army of the Lord? Talk about how He fights for you.

An incredible miracle at the Jordan River was about to take place. Do you remember the Ark of

Memory Verse

Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2

Key Thought

Salvation is rescue, deliverance, and freedom. It is when the bondage (of Egypt) and disgrace of sins rolls away.

the Covenant? It contained the Ten Commandments, a golden jar of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded—all symbols of God's presence. As Joshua instructed, the priests took the sacred ark, carrying it on poles. (*They were not supposed to actually touch it!*) They definitely didn't want to start this new journey without taking the presence of God with them. We should also be careful to take God with us wherever we go—we need His presence!

The *very* moment the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing. God made the water pile up in a heap further up the river at a town called Adam. While the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant in the middle of the river, the people crossed over on dry ground. There were 600,000 fighting men who crossed. When you add in women, children, priests and the elderly, there were approximately

2.5 million people! If we assume one person crossed every second both day and night, it would have taken 29 days for all the people to cross. A miracle!

When the kings of Canaan saw how God had dried up the waters of Jordan for the children of Israel, their heart melted and there was no more spirit in them.

Gilgal—A Special Place:

The Lord told Joshua, "It was a disgrace for my people to be slaves in Egypt. Today I have rolled away the disgrace of Egypt from off you."

Gilgal means "rolling" and it was where:

- The Israelites rested the first night after entering into Canaan.
- Joshua and his army returned after each of their battles against the inhabitants of the land.
- They celebrated the first Passover in the Promised Land.
- The manna ceased to fall.
- The tabernacle stayed for seven years.

The Commander of the Army of the Lord: As Joshua stood near Jericho, he looked up. A man stood some distance from him with a sword in his hand. Joshua asked, "Are you on our side or on the side of our enemies?" "Neither," the man answered.

"I have come as the commander of the army of the Lord."

Joshua fell on his face and said, "I am your servant. Tell me what to do." The commander of the Lord's army said, "Take off the shoes from your feet; for the place you are standing is holy." So Joshua took off his shoes. It was time to conquer Canaan. Jericho was in sight and soon the high walls would fall. The commander of the army of the Lord would fight for them.

Sister Julie Elwell

Today!

Find a calendar with all of the holidays and important dates listed. Flip through the months. Find New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Easter, Veteran's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas. All the important days are listed on this calendar, right? Maybe you get out of school on some of the holidays. Families get together. Presents are exchanged. Food is eaten. Important days are remembered. What date is your birthday?

There is one very important day not marked on the calendar. Do you know what day it is? TODAY. Why is it important? Yesterday is gone. We are not promised tomorrow. Today is a GIFT from God. It might also be important because if you have not given your heart to Jesus to be saved, TODAY is the most important time to do that!

Did You Know? The name Joshua (yesh-oo'-aw) means salvation?! Jesus (Jehoshua) is the same name as Joshua and also means salvation. Joshua and Jesus—two men who were the means of saving the people from bondage! Joshua (of the Old Testament) could not save the people from their sins, but he *represented* what Jesus (of the New Testament) would later do at the cross on Mount Calvary. Joshua led the children of Israel OUT of Egypt and their wilderness wanderings INTO the land of Canaan, the promised land of plenty. Salvation by the blood Jesus releases us from the bondage of sin and through His Holy Spirit brings us into a spiritual land of love, peace, joy, and victory.

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Study and learn the map of the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan! If you wish, draw lines from the written descriptions to the appropriate numbers on the map.

- Rameses** Israel left Egypt
- Succoth** After the Hebrews left this first campsite, the Lord attended them in a cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night
- Pi-hahiroth** Israel passed through the Red Sea
- Marah** The Lord healed the waters of Marah
- Elim** Israel camped by 12 springs
- Wilderness of Sin** The Lord sent manna and quail to feed Israel
- Rephidim** Israel fought with Amalek
- Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb)** The Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments
- Sinai Wilderness** Israel constructed the tabernacle
- Wilderness Camps** Seventy elders were called to help Moses govern the people
- Ezion-geber** Israel passed through the lands of Esau and Ammon in peace
- Kadesh-barnea** Moses sent spies into the promised land; Israel rebelled and failed to enter the land; Kadesh served as the main camp of Israel for many years
- Eastern Wilderness** Israel avoided conflict with Edom and Moab
- Arnon River** Israel destroyed the Amorites who fought against them



- Mount Nebo** Moses viewed the promised land. Moses delivered his last three sermons
- Plains of Moab** The Lord told Israel to divide the land and dispossess the inhabitants.
- Jordan River** Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. Near Gilgal, stones from the bottom of the Jordan River were placed as a monument of Jordan's waters being divided.
- Jericho** The children of Israel captured and destroyed the city.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 23, 2018

Leadership

From Moses to Joshua—But Always God



Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Numbers 27:15-23

Godly leadership is important and provides us great blessing. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, pastors, and teachers who love God and influence you *toward* Him are people you should look to. Rather than resent their authority, which is sometimes a temptation, recognize and appreciate the direction they give!

Moses provided that godly leadership for the children of Israel for 40 years. God was the captain, but Moses served as second-in-command.

If the people had problems, they came to Moses. When the people were hungry or thirsty, they turned to Moses. When they needed prayer, Moses prayed for them. Moses loved the people—they were *his* people. He *chose* the Hebrew slaves over the rich palace and honor of Egypt.

Remember back. Moses grew up as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Because he belonged to the Royal Family, if he rode out on a chariot the people on the street bowed.

If he traveled down the Nile by barge, it was among the finest in

Lesson Discussion

- What made Moses leave the palace of Egypt? Discuss what he left and whether it was worth it.
- Did the Hebrew people always appreciate Moses' leadership? Why or why not?
 - Is it hard to respect someone you don't agree with? How should you act if you don't agree?
 - Who is our ultimate leader? Do you believe as you follow Him He will use you? In what ways?

Memory Verse

And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

Deuteronomy 34:10

Key Thought

Respect and be thankful for godly leadership rather than rebel against its authority.

Egypt. He was no doubt educated in astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and art. Stephen, in the book of Acts, tells us Moses was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." History also tells us Moses was an "Egyptian prince leading an army into battle against the Ethiopians."

And yet. A voice in Moses' heart spoke to him, whispering that true *life* would be found in following the leadership of the God of his Hebrew slave-family rather than pursuing the throne of Egypt. Ultimately, Moses chose God—and God responded to his choice. In one place we are told Moses entered the tabernacle and the cloudy pillar which surrounded God came down right at the door of the tabernacle. Here, God talked to Moses "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." Do you think Moses was thinking of Egypt at that moment? Another young man had also entered the tabernacle at the same time. Do you know who it was? Joshua.

When Moses finished speaking with God and had gone, Joshua stayed behind. His heart was still hungry for God.

The time came that Moses' work on earth was finished. He lived in Egypt for 40 years. He was a shepherd in the hills with Jethro, his father-in-law, for 40 years. (*He answered the call of God at the burning bush when he was 80 years old!*) For 40 additional years he led the Hebrew children. When he was 120 years old (40+40+40) God took him to the top of Mount Nebo, overlooking the land of Canaan, and showed him the Promised Land.

Moses then died and God buried him. His eyesight was good and his body was still vigorous and strong at 120 years old.

Truly, God rewarded Moses for choosing to follow Him—and then being willing to lead His people. The people wept for Moses for thirty days.

God did not want his people to be like sheep without a shepherd. Before Moses died God told him, "Set a man over the congregation of Israel which may lead them." He said, "Take Joshua, the son of Nun, in whom is the spirit of wisdom, and lay your hands on him. Put some of your honor on him that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient." The children of Israel had a new leader.

From a young age, Joshua developed a pattern of obedience and belief in God. God would now use him. What a journey it had been for the people! Under the leadership of Joshua, additional adventures awaited them, and it was finally almost time to leave the wilderness and enter the Promised Land.

Sister Julie Elwell



LET'S LISTEN! LET'S MOVE!

Teachers: Write each of the following directions on a slip of paper. Have the children sit in a circle. The direction each child receives can only be executed *after* the direction before theirs is completed, so the children must be paying close attention. If you have more fewer children than directions, you can double up; if you have more children than directions, you can add more. You will begin with the first direction.

(Teacher or parent begin)

Run in place.

After someone runs in place, stand up and jump three times.

After someone jumps three times, stand up and spin around twice.

After someone spins around twice, stand up and stomp your feet.

After someone stomps their feet, stand up and shout your name.

After someone shouts their name, stand up and flap like a chicken.

After someone flaps like a chicken, stand up and bark like a dog.

After someone barks like a dog, stand up and whip your hair back and forth.

After someone whips their hair back and forth, stand up and clap your hands.

After someone claps their hands, stand up and take a bow.

After someone takes a bow, stand up and say "THE END!"

TRUST YOUR LEADER

Place several pieces of paper on the floor with big, bold words on them like: Sin, anger, disrespectfulness, danger, hurt, pain, bad influences, time wasters, complaining; bullies, etc. Show the children the pieces of paper and then blindfold them. Ask them to walk across the room avoiding stepping on any of the pieces of paper. Offer NO assistance. After they have unsuccessfully tried to accomplish this, take their arm and guide them through the pieces of paper slowly, helping them avoid stepping on the papers.

Materials:

- An open space
- Several pieces of paper to write on
 - Sharpie pen
 - Blindfold



When safely to the other side of the room, remove the blindfold and explain that God has placed people in their lives to help navigate through the hard places of life. It is their job to listen and follow. When they do this life will be much easier. Every person needs to listen to God's voice and lean on Him for guidance.