

Men and Women of the Bible

Lives - Times - Events - Principles

FIRST QUARTER

ADAM - SAMUEL

Edited by

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1992

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INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST QUARTER

Men and Women of the Bible is a course designed to help the student learn more about characters in the Bible and to discover principles that are timeless in their application. Although the Old Testament describes a time different from our own, with respect to specific requirements, it is valuable for the purpose of learning about man's relationship with God.

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4

"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

It is the goal of this course that a study of these Old Testament characters and their relationship with God will provide practical lessons that will benefit the Christian in his walk of faith. It will be necessary that the lives, times, and events be thoroughly studied outside of class so that the emphasis of the class period can be a study of the principles, and practical lessons for us today.

These lessons were written by members of the Eastside Church of Christ in Columbia, Missouri, including: Craig Roberts, Kelly Hersey, Ben Holt, Bob Bassford, Bill Beasley, Ron Bassford, Mark Rochat and Karl Hennecke. Although there may be differences in style and presentation it was our desire to present the material in accordance with the expressed purpose and goals of the course. It was our sincere desire to write material that would be true to the Bible. It is the responsibility of the student to carefully compare it with the Word, to accept the things that are true and reject those things that are false.

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Lesson 1: Adam and Eve

Introduction: Adam and Eve were the first people to populate God's new creation. They were placed by God in the garden of Eden. It was a utopia unparalleled by human invention. Because of sin, they were driven from the garden and began a life that would end in physical death in a hostile environment. Their sin was the beginning of sin in God's creation, and human history from that day has felt its effects. Through the "seed" of the woman we see the first glimmer of hope for man, an answer for his sin.

I. Creation

- A. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness'" (Gen. 1:1,26).
- B. Man was formed of the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and he became a living being (Gen. 2:7).
- C. God saw that it was not good that man was alone, so he made him a helper. He caused a sleep to fall on Adam and took a rib and fashioned this helper, woman (Gen. 2:18, 21-22).

Principles:

- 1. Man is distinguished from the rest of God's creation.**
- 2. Life comes from God.**
- 3. The role of women in marriage is determined by the purpose and order of her creation (1 Tim. 2:12-15).**

II. Marriage

- A. God brought the woman to man, and Adam said, "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man" (Gen. 2:23).
- B. God's intention for this union: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).
 - 1. Later, statements concerning procreation were made.
 - 2. "Your seed" (Gen. 3:15)
 - 3. "In pain you shall bring forth children" (Gen. 3:16; John 16:21).
- C. Jesus referred to the institution of marriage when he was questioned about divorce (Mat. 19:4-6).

Principles:

- 1. Marriage establishes a close union.**

2. **Marriage creates a new home.**
3. **Marriage is permanent.**

III. Sin Enters The World.

- A. The cunning serpent tempted the woman and, "when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:1, 6).
- B. Consequences of Adam's and Eve's sin:
 1. Physical death; banishment from the tree of life (Gen. 3:19; 1 Cor. 15:22; Rev. 22:2)
 2. Woman's submission to her husband (Gen. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:11-15).
 3. Pain in childbirth (Gen. 3:16)
 4. Man will toil in order to eat (Gen. 3:17-19).
 5. Spiritual death, "for all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12-14)

Principles:

1. **Satan deceives (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Pet. 5:8).**
2. **Satan's deception: lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17).**
3. **Sin causes pain and suffering.**
4. **Women are to submit to men.**
5. **Man must work.**
6. **Spiritual death is a consequence of personal sin.**

IV. The Promise Of Forgiveness

- A. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Gen. 3:15).
- B. Fulfillment of the promise in Christ (Rom. 16:20)

Principles:

1. **God devised a plan for man's redemption (Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:28-30.)**
2. **Satan will be crushed (Rev. 20:10).**

Questions:

1. How is man different from the other forms of life in the world?

2. How is man created in the image of God?

3. In what ways is a wife to be a helper to her husband?

4. What was Jesus' answer when questioned about divorce?

5. What kind of influence should parents have on their married children?

6. What is the meaning of the statement, "Cursed is the ground for your sake" (Gen. 3:17)?

7. Is sin something we inherit? Prove your belief with scripture.

8. How was the temptation of Eve similar to the temptation of Jesus (Mat. 4)?

9. Why is there pain and suffering in the world?

10. When did God plan man's redemption? Cite scripture.

Lesson 2: Cain and Abel

Introduction: After Adam and Eve were driven from the garden, Eve conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord" (Gen. 4:1). Then she gave birth to another son and named him Abel. In the relationship between God and these two sons of Adam, and in their relationship to each other, we learn several principles.

I. The Offering Of Cain And Abel

- A. Abel was a keeper of sheep and offered the "firstlings" of his flock (Gen. 4:2, 4).
 - 1. Abel was a righteous man (Mat. 23:35).
 - 2. He offered a sacrifice that was "more excellent" than his brothers (Heb. 11:4).
 - 3. The Lord respected Abel and his offering (Gen. 4:4).
- B. Cain was a tiller of the ground and brought an offering of the fruit of the ground (Gen. 4:2,3).
 - 1. The Lord did not respect Cain and his offering (Gen. 4:5).

Principles:

- 1. God expects a sacrifice or an offering from man.**
- 2. Only that which God commanded is acceptable to Him as an offering.**
- 3. God expects the first and best.**

II. The Anger Of Cain

- A. Cain was angered when the Lord did not respect his sacrifice.
- B. The anger was evident in his countenance (Gen. 4:5).
- C. The options open to Cain were explained to him by the Lord (Gen. 4:7).
 - 1. If you do well, you will be accepted.
 - 2. If you do not do well sin lies at the door.
- D. Cain's actions were subject to his rule (Gen. 4:7).

III. Cain Murdered Abel

- A. "Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him" (Gen. 4:8).
- B. Cain was of the wicked one (1 John 3:12).
- C. God cursed Cain.
 - 1. The ground would not longer yield its strength (Gen. 4:12).
 - 2. Cain would be a fugitive and vagabond (4:12).
- D. The mark of Cain prevented him from being murdered for his deed (4:15).

Principles:

- 1. Men become angry when they are unwilling to do as God says.**

2. **Being pleasing to God is as easy as doing what God has commanded.**
3. **We have a choice between rebellion or submission; how we choose is entirely up to us.**
4. **Murder is condemned (Gen. 9:6).**
5. **Sin has its consequences.**
6. **The blood of Abel brought a curse, but the blood of Christ brings forgiveness (Heb. 12:24).**

Questions:

1. What made Abel's offering acceptable to God?
2. Why was Cain's offering unacceptable?
3. What kind of offering or sacrifice does God expect from us today?
4. Why does God not require a blood sacrifice today?
5. Give some examples of those who were angered when they were told God was not pleased with their sacrifice.
6. In what way does sin "lie at the door" for us?

7. Does man have to sin? Explain.

8. Be ready to discuss the Bible's teaching on murder.

9. Is anger sinful in all situations? Cite scripture

10. How is the example of Cain used in Jude 11?

Lesson 3: The Family of Adam

Introduction: In Genesis 5, we read of 10 generations, beginning with Adam, and ending with the sons of Noah. In Genesis 11, we also find 10 generations, beginning with Shem and ending with Abraham. These generations are also found in the genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3). These genealogies say very little of these men except that they lived, bore children, and died. Death had entered the world with the sin of Adam. Victory over death would come through the descendent of these men. In this lesson, we will consider some of the notable persons in the family of Adam.

I. Seth (Gen. 4:25,26; 5:6-8)

- A. Seth was the son of Adam and Eve.
- B. The name Seth means "set", or "appoint." Adam named him Seth because God had appointed seed from him instead of Abel, who was murdered by Cain.
- C. Seth named his son Enosh, which means "frailty."
- D. It says that in the days of Seth, "men began to call on the name of the Lord" (Gen. 4:26). It has been suggested that Seth named his son Enosh (frailty) because he recognized the frailty of man and their need for God. Therefore they began to call on the name of the Lord.

II. Enoch (Gen. 5:21-24)

- A. Enoch walked with God. He had close communion with God and directed his life in accordance with God's will.
- B. Enoch "was not, for God took him."
 - 1. This expression means that Enoch did not die like those who preceded him. Instead, God translated him.
 - 2. This is the same expression used concerning Elijah (2 Kings 2:3-5).
- C. "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Heb 11:5).
- D. Jude called Enoch a prophet (Jude 14). This prophecy deals with the judgment of God upon the ungodly.

III. Methuselah (Gen. 5:25-27) The only notable thing about Methuselah was that of all those mentioned in the Bible, he lived the longest, 969 years.

IV. Noah (Gen. 5:29)

5. How did Enoch please God?

6. Compare the length of the patriarch's lives before and after the flood.

7. What did Lamech mean when he said that Noah would bring them comfort?

8. Was Abraham the firstborn of Terah? Was there any significance in being the firstborn?

9. Where was Terah when he died (see Stephen's sermon, Acts 7)?

Lesson 4: Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)

Introduction: Genesis 6:8 says that Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord." As we examine the life of Noah, we learn valuable lessons. If we apply these principles correctly, we too can find grace in the eyes of the Lord.

I. Condition Of The World (Genesis 6:5-7)

- A. The wickedness of man was great.
 - 1. Every intent and thought of his heart was only evil continually.
 - 2. The earth was filled with violence and corruption.
- B. God was sorry that He had created man (vs. 6).
- C. God decided to destroy His creation (vs. 7).

Principles:

- 1. When men turn from God, they become more and more wicked.**
- 2. God is grieved when men sin.**
- 3. God takes no pleasure in destroying men.**
- 4. God will destroy the wicked (2 Thes. 1:6-9).**

II. Noah Found Grace (Genesis 6:8)

- A. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generation, and righteous before God in his generation (vs. 9; 7:1).
- B. Noah did all that God commanded (6:22; 7:5).
- C. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:10,19).
- D. Noah was an "heir of righteousness which is according to faith" (Heb. 11:7).

Principles:

- 1. People can be just, righteous, perfect, and do all that God commands in every generation.**
- 2. Every generation need "preachers of righteousness."**

III. The Ark

- A. Noah built it because he was "divinely warned" (Heb. 11:17).
- B. Noah was given instructions concerning the size, layout, and materials to be used in the ark (vss. 14,15).
- C. God waited while the ark was being prepared (1 Pet. 3:21).

Principles:

- 1. God warns men today.**

2. God tells men how to be saved today.
3. God is longsuffering today (2 Pet. 3:9).

IV. The Flood (Genesis 7)

- A. Noah was commanded to enter the ark (vs. 1).
- B. Beginning, extent and duration of the flood (7:10-24)

Principles:

1. God commands us today in order to save us.
2. God saves by grace, yet man is required to obey.

V. After The Flood (Genesis 8, 9)

- A. A burnt offering was made including animals saved from the flood.
- B. The Lord smelled a soothing aroma (8:21).
- C. God promised He would not destroy the earth by flood again.
- D. A sign of the covenant, a rainbow, was given (9:8-17).

Principles:

1. God makes provision for sacrifice.
2. The proper sacrifice is pleasing to God.
3. The rainbow is a sign of God's promise.

VI. Laws Concerning Life (Genesis 9:1-7)

- A. Fear and dread of man came upon every beast (vs. 2).
- B. Every animal was given as food. However, men were not to eat the blood (vss. 3,4).
- C. The punishment for murder was the life of the murderer (vs. 6).
- D. They were commanded to be fruitful and multiply (vss. 1,7).

Principles:

1. Animals were created to feed man.
2. Capital punishment was instituted by God.

Questions:

1. Using Romans 1:18-32, describe the process by which man becomes wicked.

2. What does God desire, and what is man required to do to avoid destruction (Ezek. 18:32)?

3. Make a list of the individuals in the Bible who were said to be righteous or just.

4. How can one be a "preacher of righteousness" today?

5. What is the desired effect of God's longsuffering (Rom. 2:3-6)?

6. How important was it that Noah build the ark according to God's specific instructions? What effect will it have if we deviate from His instructions to us?

7. Were Noah and his family saved by grace or works? Explain your answer.

8. What sacrifice has God provided for us? What sacrifice does He expect of us?

Lesson 5: Abraham & the Promises

Introduction: After God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden, He intervened in several other major events. He destroyed the world with water, but saved Noah and seven others (Gen.6 and 8). He also confused the common language of man at the tower of Babel (Gen.11:1-9). Finally, God spoke to Abraham (Gen.12:1-7), the son of an idol-worshipper who became the "friend of God" (Josh. 24:2; Jas. 3:23).

I. Three Promises Made To Abraham

- A. God promised Abram that He would lead him to a foreign LAND and give it to his descendents (Gen. 12:1,7).
- B. God also promised Abram that He would make a great NATION of him (Gen.12:2).
- C. God promised that He would bless all the families of the earth in his SEED (Gen.12:3).
- D. God repeated some of these promises to Abraham's son, Isaac, and to his grandson, Jacob.

II. God Fulfilled The Nation Promise

- A. We can read through Genesis and Exodus and see that the Jewish nation emerged from Abraham's seed.
- B. Abraham's grandson, Jacob (also called Israel), journeyed to Egypt during a famine.
 - 1. Israel had 12 sons whose families multiplied so rapidly that they threatened the Egyptians.
 - 2. They were enslaved by the Egyptians.
 - 3. According to inspired Jewish writers, their nation was formed during this bondage (Ex. 19:6; Deut. 4:34; 2 Sam. 7:23).
 - 4. This was just as God promised Abraham (Gen.15:12-14).
- C. The Israelites continued to be regarded as a unique nation, even throughout the New Testament period (Acts 10:22).
- D. Although other nations emerged from Abraham (Gen. 17:20; 19:37-38), the nation of Israel was considered as God's chosen.

III. God Fulfilled The Land Promise

- A. As we continue reading through the Old Testament, we see that Abraham's descendents received the land promised to them.
 - 1. After the children of Israel were delivered from Egyptian bondage, they

- wandered through the wilderness for 40 years.
2. When they reach Mt. Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb), God gave them the 10 commandments and the rest of the Law (Ex. 19, 20).
 3. At Sinai, God made a unique covenant with them, one not made with their fathers (Deut. 5:3).
 4. The Israelites continued to wander and were eventually led into the promised land, beginning with Joshua's conquest of Jericho (Josh. 1:1-6; 6:1-21).
- B. Throughout the Old Testament, we can read about the land inheritance being anticipated and fulfilled (Deut.6:3; 9:28; 19:8; 27:3; 31:20; Lev. 26:42; Josh. 21:43-45).

Principles:

- 1. Abraham believed God, and this was counted as righteousness (Gen.15:6).**
- 2. Abraham's faith led him to obey; it was not a substitute for obedience.**
- 3. Abraham was patient.**
- 4. Abraham was faithful, even though his father worshipped idols.**

IV. God Fulfilled The Seed Promise

- A. As we continue reading through the Old Testament, we fail to see the seed promise being fulfilled, even though Abraham's seed produced many notable leaders (Mat. 1; 2 Cor.11:22).
- B. As we read the New Testament, however, we see that Jesus was of Abraham's seed. However, we read that He was not merely a seed of Abraham, but was the seed -- the seed of promise (Gal. 3:16).
- C. Jesus became the blessing of Abraham for the Gentiles (vs. 14); all who would belong to Him would be considered also as Abraham's seed, eligible to inherit the promise (vs. 29).
 1. Jesus is described in this way by Paul in a sermon in Antioch (Acts. 13:16-39).
 2. Paul stated that the Savior, Jesus, was the offspring of David (who was a descendant of Abraham -- Mat. 1), according to promise (Acts 13:23).
 3. Paul stated this again in his letter to the Romans (Rom. 4).

Principles:

- 1. God is faithful. He will fulfill His promises.**
- 2. God worked His plan over 1000's of years.**

Questions:

1. Upon hearing the promises, Abraham believed God and it was reckoned as righteousness (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-5). This means that:
 - a. His belief was counted as righteousness.

- b. Since he believed God, he could now disobey.
- c. He deserved the promise God made to him; he earned it.

2. How does the writer of Hebrews describe the land of Canaan (Heb. 3:7-11; 16-19)?

Who did not inherit the land?

What is the land of Canaan under the new covenant (Heb. 4:1-3)? Is it a physical land of rest, or a spiritual one?

Who will inherit the rest?

3. Did Joshua believe that the land promise was fulfilled? How do you know?

4. Nehemiah lived hundreds of years after Abraham. Did he believe that the land promise had been fulfilled (Neh. 9:7-8)?

5. Abraham is described as a father of different people. In the passages below, identify the people who claimed Abraham as a father, and tell why Abraham was their father.

a. Gen. 17:5

b. Gen. 22:7

c. Ex. 3:6

d. Mt. 3:9; Jn. 8:39

e. Rom. 4:11-13

6. How is Abraham's faith described in Rom. 4:19-21?

Lesson 6: Abraham, Lot & Sodom (Genesis 13, 14, 19)

Introduction: Lot was the son of Haran, Abraham's brother (Gen. 11:27-12:5). His father died in Ur, and he traveled with his uncle, Abraham, who had no son. Lot accompanied Abraham to the city of Haran, where his grandfather died. He then traveled with Abraham to the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:4-5, 8), possibly to Egypt during the famine, and back to the the Negev (south country) (Gen. 12:10; 13:1-5).

I. Lot's Choices (Gen. 13)

- A. Lot and Abraham had so many possessions that the land could not support both of them without strife (13:5-6).
 - 1. In order to eliminate this strife, Abraham asked Lot to settle in the land of his choice, leaving the other land for Abraham's flocks (13:5-9).
 - 2. Lot chose the fertile land in the valley of Jordan (13:12; 14:12), even though its inhabitants were extremely wicked.
 - 3. He settled in Sodom, a city with less than 10 righteous people (18:17-32).
- B. In accordance with their arrangement, Abraham moved west (13:10-12).

II. Abraham Rescued Lot (Gen. 14)

- A. Lot was captured while living in Sodom during the battle of the kings, but was rescued by Abraham (14:1-16).
- B. Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek (14:18-24).
 - 1. Melchizedek was the king of Salem and the priest of God.
 - 2. Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe (14:20).
 - 3. In the book of Hebrews, Christ is said to be a priest "after the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 5:7; 7:1-28; Ps. 110:4).

Principles:

- 1. Abraham's attitude was commendable. He was unselfish and concerned about the needs of others.**
- 2. Physical separation may be necessary to avoid strife.**
- 3. Abraham was a great man, but he recognized the greatness of Melchizedek.**

III. Lot Escaped From Sodom (Gen. 19:1-29)

- A. God told Abraham of Sodom's impending doom (Gen. 18:16-33).
- B. The men of Sodom were wicked (19:1-11). This caused Lot much grief (2 Pet. 2:7,8).
- C. Angels of the Lord came to rescue Lot and his family.
- D. Lot and his family treated the angels' warning lightly.

1. Lot's sons-in-law thought he was joking (19:14).
2. When it was time to flee, Lot hesitated. It was necessary for the angels to seize Lot and his family and bring them out of the city (19:15-20).
- E. When the angels brought them out of the city, they told them, "Escape for your life."
- F. Lot did not want to flee to the mountains, so he was allowed to go to the city of Zoar.
- G. Lot's wife disobeyed in looking back and became a pillar of salt.

IV. Lot Sinned (Gen. 19:30-38)

- A. Lot and his daughters moved into the mountains.
- B. Lot became drunk with wine. In his drunkenness, he unknowingly fathered two children by his daughters. These two children became the fathers of the Moabites and the Ammonites.

Principles:

1. **God's judgment is sure.**
2. **People do not always take God's warnings seriously.**
3. **Living in an evil environment is not pleasant.**
4. **Good men can fall into sin.**

Questions:

1. Discuss Lot's decision to live in Sodom. Was it self-centered? Was it wise?
2. Even though Lot sinned, it appears that he tried to live a righteous life. How did the sinfulness of Sodom affect him? Did he speak out against sin (Gen. 19:7)?
3. How did Lot and his family respond to the warning to leave Sodom?
4. How does obedience or sin affect a nation (Prov. 14:34)? Had God destroyed evil cultures in the past? If so, give an example. Can He destroy evil nations today?

5. As Abraham pleaded on behalf of the immoral cities, how did he show humility and reverence to God (Gen. 18:27, 30, 32)?

6. Many times, evil cities are identified with the legacy of Sodom. In the verses below, identify the evil city or nation, and list reasons why it is compared to Sodom.

Deut. 32:32 (Hint: Deut. 31:14-29; 32:5-9, 20-21, 28)

Jer. 23:14 (See also Jer. 23:2, 11, 13, 15, 17)

Ezek. 16:48-49 (Hint: Ezek. 16:1-3, 15-22, 31, 51)

Rev. 11:8 (Hint: Mk. 10:33; Lk. 13:33-34; Acts 2:14, 36; 13:27; 8:1; 21:13)

7. Why is the priesthood of Melchizedek superior to the priesthood of the tribe of Levi (Heb. 7:1-10)?

Lesson 7: Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 16, 17, 21, 22)

Introduction: When Abraham was 75 years old, he left the city of Haran and traveled to the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:4-7). While in Canaan, God promised Abraham that his descendents would inherit the land. Although he believed God, Abraham did not understand how the promise would be fulfilled. He considered a servant named Eliezer as the heir of his house (Gen. 15:2), possibly because he did not expect to father a child since Sarah was barren (Gen. 11:30). Later, God told Abraham that he would have a child, and repeated the land promise (Gen. 15:1-7).

I. Isaac, Son Of Promise

- A. Abraham was not told at first that his future heir would be a child from Sarah.
 - 1. Upon the insistence of Sarah, Abraham attempted to father a child with Hagar, the Egyptian handmaid (16:1-2).
 - 2. When Hagar conceived, Sarah despised her (16:4), complained to Abraham, and eventually received permission to deal with Hagar as she saw fit.
 - 3. Sarah treated her so harshly that Hagar fled (16:6).
 - 4. An angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness and instructed her to return (16:10-12).
 - 5. The angel promised to multiply the descendents of her son, whose name would be "Ishmael" (*God hears*).
 - 6. Hagar bore Ishmael when Abraham was 86 years old (16:16).
- B. Thirteen years later, God established the covenant with Abraham (17:1-14, 23-24). The sign of the covenant was circumcision.
- C. God changed Abram's name to Abraham (*Father of a multitude*) and Sarai's name to Sarah (Princess) (17:5, 15).
- D. God revealed that Sarah would be given a son, Isaac (*he laughs*), as the son of promise (17:15-21).
 - 1. Apparently, Abraham had believed all these years that the heir would be Ismael, and even suggested such to God (17:18).
 - 2. God repeated the name of Isaac to Abraham, and later to Sarah.
 - 3. Because both were advanced in years, Abraham and Sarah laughed to themselves (17:17; 18:12).

Principles:

- 1. **God tells us that He will do many things, but does not always tell us how.**
- 2. **God fulfills promises in ways we cannot always predict (Gen. 17:17; 18:12).**
- 3. **We can feel certain that we are right, even if we are wrong (Gen. 17:17).**

II. Abraham Sacrifice Of Isaac (Gen. 21, 22)

- A. When Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him on the 8th day as God had commanded (21:1-5).

- B. He was told by Sarah and later by God to drive out Hagar and Ishmael (21:10-13).
- C. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son.
 - 1. Abraham gathered wood and fire, then traveled 3 days to Mt. Moriah (22:3-5).
 - 2. He had Isaac carry the wood, while he carried the fire and the knife up the mountain.
 - 3. As they walked, Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "God will provide" (22:6-8).
 - 4. Abraham bound Isaac, laid him on the altar, and drew the knife.
 - 5. He intended to kill his son, knowing that God could raise him from the dead (Heb. 11:17-19).
 - 6. An angel of the Lord stopped the sacrifice.

Principles:

- 1. Man can trust in God's providence without knowing His methods.**
- 2. We must be willing to give everything to God.**

III. Paul's Allegory (Gal. 4:21-31)

- A. Paul contrasted Hagar and Ishmael with Sarah and Isaac.
 - 1. The son born to the bondwoman was according to the flesh, relating Hagar to Mt. Sinai.
 - 2. The son of the free woman was according to promise, relating Sarah to Jerusalem.
- B. As he contrasted these two families, Paul addressed a principle stated in Gal. 5:1, i.e. if we are free in Christ, we should not again submit to the yoke of slavery. If we submit to the Law, we have fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4).

Questions

- 1. After God spoke to him (Gen. 12:1-3), Abraham still thought that his heir would be Eliezer. Later, he was sure that his heir would be Ishmael (Gen. 17:17). Finally, he learned that it would be Isaac. What does his example teach us?

- 2. When God suggested that Isaac would be born, who laughed at the suggestion? Why did it seem funny?

3. Walking up Mt. Moriah, what did Isaac ask his father? How did Abraham reply?

4. Why would this sacrifice be so difficult for Abraham to accomplish (Gen. 22:2)? Why was it difficult to understand (Gen. 17:19)?

5. What did Abraham's act prove to God (Gen. 22:12)?

6. Would Abraham have been justified if he had withheld Isaac?

7. Explain how Paul's allegory contrasts the old and new covenants.

Lesson 8: Isaac (Genesis 24, 25)

Introduction: The Bible regards Isaac as a key figure in the scheme of redemption - a child of promise and a father of the Jewish nation. Genesis describes his life in great detail (Gen. 17-35), but the other books rarely mention him without referring to Abraham and Jacob in the same context.

I. Fathers Of The Israelite Nation

- A. Abraham was regarded as the father of the nation of Israel, so also were Isaac and Jacob (Ex. 4:4; Acts 3:13; 7:32).
- B. It is easy to understand why these three men were thought of as "our fathers." Abraham received the initial promise, Isaac became the son of promise, and Jacob produced "the 12 sons (tribes) of Israel."
- C. In addition, all three were faithful to God, and described as being in God's kingdom (Lk. 13:28; Mt. 8:11).

II. Isaac And Rebekah (Gen. 24)

- A. Isaac did not choose his wife; Abraham did it for him.
 - 1. Abraham summoned an old, responsible servant (24:2) and made him swear to find a woman for Isaac.
 - 2. The woman was to be a relative, not someone from the land of Canaan (24:3,4).
 - 3. Abraham also made the servant promise not to lead Isaac back to the land of his relatives, knowing that "this land" had been promised to his descendants (24:5-10).
 - 4. Abraham was doing his best to fulfill God's revealed will.
- B. The old servant traveled to Mesopotamia in search of the right woman. He and Abraham believed that God would provide in this endeavor (24:7, 12, 26-27, 48).
 - 1. The servant asked God to help him identify the right woman by her response to his request for water.
 - 2. When he saw Rebekah, he requested water.
 - 3. Rebekah answered by offering water to both him and his camels.
 - 4. This was the specific response the old servant wanted. He bowed low and worshipped God.
 - 5. Later, he related the story to Rebekah's family and convinced them that this turn of events was the result of God's providence (24:50,51).

Principles:

- 1. **Parents have the right, even the responsibility, to be concerned about their children's spouses.**

2. **A child of God should do his best to fulfill God's will (Gen. 24:7).**
3. **God will provide.**

III. Isaac's Family (Gen. 25)

- A. Isaac married Rebekah when he was 40 years old (25:20).
 1. There is not the slightest indication that Isaac was displeased with Abraham for arranging the marriage.
 2. Isaac loved Rebekah (24:67).
 3. They did not have children for another 20 years (25:26).
- B. Rebekah was barren (25:21-26). God answered Isaac's prayer (25:21), and Rebekah conceived.
 1. The Lord told her she was carrying two nations.
 2. He told her that one would be stronger, and that the older would serve the younger.
- C. When Isaac was 60 years old, the two children were born.
 1. The older was named Esau (*red*), and the younger was named Jacob (*one who takes by the heel*).
 2. After Esau was born, Jacob "came forth holding on to Esau's heel."
 3. Esau became a skilled hunter and "man of the field."
 4. Both children received biased treatment from their parents. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- D. Isaac remained faithful and lived to be 180 years old (Gen. 35:29).

Principles:

1. **God answers prayers in times of trouble.**
2. **Praying for others is effective.**
3. **Problems arise in families when the treatment of children is not equal.**

Questions:

1. Describe the events surrounding Abraham's driving out of the handmaiden and her son (Gen. 21:8-21).

Who wanted Hagar and Ishmael to go (Gen. 21:9-10)? Why?

How did Abraham feel (vs. 11)? Why?

2. "Like father, like son" -- From the verses below, show how the life of Isaac was similar to that of Abraham.

| <u>Abraham</u> | <u>Isaac</u> | <u>Similarity?</u> |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Gen. 17:4 | Gen. 17:21 | |
| Gen. 24:1 | Gen. 25:11 | |
| Gen. 11:30 | Gen. 25:21 | |
| Gen. 12:10 | Gen. 26:1 | |
| Gen. 20:1-2 | Gen. 26:1,9 | |
| Gen. 25:8-9 | Gen. 35:29 | |

3. Did Isaac trust in his wealth or in God?

4. How old was Isaac when he got married (Gen. 25:20)?

5. Did Abraham care who Isaac married (Gen. 24:2-3)?

Did he care where Isaac settled (Gen. 24:4-8)? Why?

6. Is it selfish to pray for a good spouse?

7. When Abraham chose a wife for Isaac, how did Isaac feel (Gen. 24)?

- a) He was fed up, claiming that his father was manipulating him.
- b) He was content with his father's choice.
- c) He felt that his father had waited too long.
- d) He felt that his choice of women was none of Abraham's business.
- e) He was cautious, making sure that Rebekah was the right one.

8. The paragraph below is a politically correct version of the birth of Esau and Jacob (distorted from Gen. 25:21-26). Identify and correct erroneous statements.

Rebekah was barren. Since Isaac showed no interest in the matter, Rebekah conferenced with a local psychologist in Beer-lahai-roi who taught her to feel good about herself. His insight eventually produced advice that helped her conceive. After she conceived, however, Rebekah felt Esau and Jacob struggling within her and became worried. She battled depression, and began contemplating abortion. (She wanted to pray about it, but could not do so because she was a woman in subjection.) Finally, she conveyed her feelings about an abortion to Isaac, who was a very understanding husband. Isaac told her that since her body was her own, he had no right to interfere; if she decide on and abortion, he would respect her decision. He would be there for her, standing behind her 100%. After all, it would not really involve taking the life of a child, would it?

9. Both Abraham and Isaac married beautiful wives, accumulated material wealth, and traveled extensively (Gen. 12:4,10,11,14; 24:1,16,62; 25:11; 26:1,7). Is this an indication that they were worldly people?

Is it an indication that they had bad priorities?

What does Paul say about living in wealth (Phil. 4:12)?

What does James say about God's blessings (Js. 1:17)?

How should we receive God's blessings (1 Tim. 4:3-4)?

What did Jesus warn could happen with wealth (Mk. 4:19)?

What does Paul warn about riches (1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19)?

Lesson 9: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28)

Introduction: Genesis 25 tells us of the birth of these two men. From the beginning they were to become two nations; Esau's descendants became the Edomites, and Jacob's descendants became the nation of Israel, as promised to Abraham. Their birth was characterized by conflict and their lives were no different. Even their descendants warred against each other (Num. 20:14-21; 2 Sam. 8:13-14; 2 Kgs. 8:20-22). God eventually destroyed Edom as prophesied (Is. 34:5,6; 63:1; Obadiah 1-21; Mal. 1:3). Edom stands as a symbol of the earthly, non-spiritual people of the world.

I. The Birthright (Gen. 25:27-34)

- A. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob.
 - 1. Esau was weary and hungry.
 - 2. Jacob had a pot of red stew.
 - 3. Jacob sold Esau the stew for the birthright.
- B. Jacob deceived his father and received the birthright and Isaac's blessing (Gen. 27:21-29).
 - 1. Prompted by his mother, Jacob deceived his father, masquerading as his brother Esau.
 - 2. Parental favoritism was at the root of this deception (Gen. 25:27, 28).
 - 3. The promise of God to Abraham made this birthright important.
 - 4. God knew from the beginning that the birthright would go to Jacob.
- C. Esau begged his father for a blessing, but it was too late (Gen. 25:39-4).
- D. The writer of Hebrews calls Esau a profane person, "who for one mess of meat sold his birthright" (Heb. 12:16,17). Esau despised his birthright. He threw away a priceless treasure for the immediate gratification of a pot of stew.

Principles:

- 1. **God will accomplish His purpose in spite of human frailty and deceit.**
- 2. **We should value our inheritance (Heb. 2:1-4; Rom. 8:16-17).**
- 3. **If we treat our inheritance with contempt, God will judge accordingly (Heb. 10:26-29).**

II. Jacob Went To Haran (Gen. 27:41-28:5).

- A. Esau was outraged and planned to murder Jacob (27:41).
- B. Rebekah warned Jacob and sent him to live with his uncle Laban in Haran (27:42-45).
- C. She told Isaac that it was only so that Jacob could find a wife (27:46-28:5).

Principles:

- 1. **Deceit breeds hatred, even among brothers (Prov. 29:22; 30:33; 1 Cor. 3:3; Phil. 2:3).**

2. Parental favoritism leads to strife (Eph. 6:4).

III. The Wives Of Jacob And Esau

- A. Esau took a wife from the surrounding immoral nations (Gen. 26:34). His wives caused grief for Isaac and Rebekah (Gen. 26:34-35).
- B. Jacob worked seven years for Rachel. When he was deceived into marrying Leah, he was willing to work another seven years for Rachel (Gen. 29:15-30).
- C. When Esau saw that a wife of Canaan did not please Isaac, he married one of Abraham's son's daughters (Gen. 28:6-9). He saw what pleased his parents but did not understand the real issue.

Principles;

- 1. Your mate will influence your service to God, for better or for worse.**
- 2. It is foolish to marry someone simply because they are attractive, rich, or popular. It is foolish to marry one who is not a Christian.**
- 3. It is foolish to marry just to please your parents or friends.**

IV. Jacob's Vision (Gen. 28)

- A. On his journey to Padan Aram, Jacob slept and had a vision (28:10-15).
- B. The promise God made to Abraham and Isaac was repeated.
 1. The promise would be fulfilled through Jacob.
 2. God would bring Jacob back to this place. It would be 20 years before he was brought back (28:16-22).
- C. Jacob called the place "Bethel" (*House of God*) and vowed to serve God.

Questions:

1. Why was Esau called a profane man? What was it about his character that prompted such a strong judgment from God?

2. How are we heirs of the promise given to Abraham?

3. How may we despise our inheritance?

4. What can we expect in the day of judgment if we treat God's gifts with contempt?

5. How can we prevent strife between children and brethren?

6. Parents are troubled by strife between children. How does God feel about strife between brethren?

7. How do husbands and wives influence each other?

8. Is it wrong to marry one who is not a Christian?

9. What are the best reasons to marry a Christian?

Lesson 10: Jacob - His Family (Genesis 29-35)

Introduction: The family of Jacob would become the nation of Israel and inherit the land of Canaan. They were the family through which Jesus Christ would come into the world. In this lesson, we will study the beginning of this family. In spite of all the deceit, trickery, and mistakes of this family, God's plan would proceed. We can see divine control in these events, and we can see the sovereignty of God. The twenty years that Jacob spent in Padan Aram taught him to trust in God instead of his own cunning. Jacob, who had himself been deceitful, was deceived by Laban when given Leah as a wife. Laban would continue in his treachery. But in every case, God caused Jacob to prosper. Jacob would later return to Canaan with his family at the command of God.

I. The Children Of Jacob (Gen. 29:31-30:24)

- A. When God saw that Leah was not loved, He gave her children and left Rachel barren.
- B. The strife between these two women led them to persuade Jacob to have children by their handmaids. The names of these sons had important meanings in relation to the circumstances surrounding their births.
- C. Polygamy is not spoken of as wrong in these passages, but it was not God's original intent. We see problems associated with this practice: hatred, envy, and favoritism.

II. The Flocks Of Jacob And Laban (Gen.30:25-43)

- A. Shortly after Joseph was born, Jacob asked for permission to leave. Laban had prospered by the presence of Jacob, so he persuaded him to stay.
- B. Jacob refused any pay except the ownership of all the discolored sheep.
 - 1. Since these were relatively rare, Laban agreed.
 - 2. Jacob showed his faith in this request and put his future in God's hands.
 - 3. God caused all of the newborn sheep to be speckled or discolored.
 - 4. Laban tried to change the agreement, but every time he did so, God caused Jacob to prosper anyway.

Principles:

- 1. Children are a gift of God.**
- 2. God is able to provide for all of our needs (Ps. 37:25).**

III. Jacob Returned Home (Gen. 31)

- A. God commanded Jacob to return to his home.
- B. Rachel and Leah agreed, since their inheritance had been spent.

- C. Rachel stole her father's terephim.
- D. Three days later, Laban found out that they had left and he pursued them. He was not to speak good or evil to Jacob.
- E. Whoever possessed the household idols was to be put to death, but Rachel deceived her father.
- F. Jacob then seemed to vent 20 years of frustration with the treachery of Laban.

IV. Jacob Prepared To Meet Esau (Gen. 32)

- A. Jacob met angels of God.
- B. Jacob prayed to God for deliverance from Esau. He reminded God of the promises He had made.
- C. He sent gifts ahead to Esau, and divided the camp into two parts in case of attack.
- D. The night before they met, Jacob wrestled all night with "a Man" (See also Hosea 12:3-5.). He refused to end the fight until he received a blessing from his opponent. His name was changed to Israel.

Principles:

- 1. God will take care of those who obey His commands. He has promised to help us.**
- 2. Prayer is a great help and should start with thoughts of the promises that God has made and fulfilled.**
- 3. We should be just as determined as Jacob to obtain the blessings of God.**

V. Jacob And Esau Met (Gen. 33)

- A. God had prepared the heart of Esau, and the reunion was a happy one.
- B. Jacob was more humble than before.

VI. Jacob Returned To Bethel (Gen. 35)

- A. Jacob remembered the events of 20 years before when God promised that all these things would come to pass (vss. 2,3). He acknowledged that God was true to His word. All had turned out in Jacob's favor, even though he had to deal with men like Laban.
- B. Jacob removed all the idols from his household (vs. 4). They had been living among idolatrous people. Before renewing his promises with God, he removed all false gods from his house. Remember the vow he made in Gen. 28:20-22?
- C. The surrounding nations feared Jacob (vs. 5).
- D. God spoke to Jacob and reaffirmed His promises (vss. 9-15).

Principles:

- 1. God keeps His promises.**
- 2. We must remove all false gods from our lives before we can enjoy the promises of God.**

Questions:

1. How has God blessed you?
2. How has prayer helped you?
3. What do we have to fear if we disobey the commands of God?
4. Some blessings of God are distributed to all men equally. Are there some blessings that we must strive to obtain?
5. Are zeal and determination necessary to achieve the blessings of God? Explain.
6. What kind of idols do we have today?
7. Is polygamy condemned in the Bible? What can be seen in Jacob's life that would suggest problems in polygamous marriages?
8. What promises of God have not yet been fulfilled? What assurance do we have that they will be fulfilled?
9. Does God use trickery to accomplish His plans? Was the trickery of Jacob, Rebekah, and Rachel a necessary part of God's plans being accomplished?

Lesson 11: Joseph And His Brothers (Genesis 34,35,37,38)

Introduction: We have seen how the nation promise to Abraham was to be fulfilled in Jacob. This violated the human tradition of the firstborn inheriting the birthright. In this lesson, we see a similar event unfolding in Joseph. Although Joseph was initially sold into slavery, God was in control and His plan was accomplished.

I. The Dinah Incident (Gen. 34)

- A. Dinah was one of the daughters of Leah. As she wandered through the land she was taken and violated by Shechem.
- B. Shechem wanted to marry her, so the men of his family, the Hivite nation, approached the sons of Jacob to arrange an agreement. They saw an opportunity to join in the prosperity of Jacob's family.
- C. The sons of Jacob deceived these men into being circumcised. Then, Simeon and Levi killed all the males and looted the rest of the nation. They acted out of revenge, not justice.
- D. The consequences of Simeon's and Levi's actions are stated in Genesis 49:5-7.

Principles:

- 1. We need to be careful where we go and the company we keep.**
- 2. We should never act out of revenge.**

II. Judah And Tamar (Gen. 38)

- A. Judah married a Canaanite.
- B. He had three sons. Two were killed by God because they were wicked.
- C. Judah promised Tamar, his firstborn's wife, that his third son would marry her when he was grown.
- D. Judah had sexual relations with Tamar, his daughter-in-law, when she concealed her identity to him.
- E. When Tamar conceived, Judah was informed that she had played the harlot. He commanded her to be burned for her sin.
- F. Tamar revealed to Judah that he was the father of the child. Judah said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son" (Gen. 38:26).

III. The Sin Of Reuben (Gen. 35)

- A. Reuben committed adultery with Bilhah, his father's concubine.
- B. There was no immediate punishment, even though Jacob knew of the sin.
- C. The consequence of this sin is recorded in Genesis 49:1-4. Although Reuben was the firstborn, the seed promise made to Abraham would come through Judah.

Principles:

- 1. Sin cannot inherit the promises.**
- 2. Only the faithful will be heirs of the promises (Rom. 8:12-17).**

IV. Joseph's Dream (Gen. 37:1-11)

- A. Joseph was the favored son. Jacob gave him a coat of many colors.
- B. When Joseph was 17, he had two dreams. The first prophetic dream was of the sheaves, and the second of the stars.
- C. Joseph explained the meaning of the dreams and his brothers were furious. Jacob rebuked Joseph for telling the dreams.

V. Joseph Sold Into Slavery (Gen. 37:12-38)

- A. Because his brothers were angry with Joseph, they conspired to kill him. Reuben convince them to cast him into a pit instead.
- B. When Reuben returned, the other brothers had sold Joseph to the Midianite traders.
- C. The brothers acted out a lie by dipping Joseph's coat in the blood of a goat and allowed Jacob to believe that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.
- D. Jacob was grieved and could not be comforted.

Principles:

- 1. God is in control. His plans will be accomplished even if it looks hopeless.**
- 2. Feelings are deceptive. Jacob believed a lie. Later, he refused to believe the truth when told of Joseph's presence in Egypt.**

Questions:

1. We hear people say that they can join gatherings where sin is practiced as long as they don't participate. What does the example of Dinah teach us about this?
2. How should God's people act when they are wronged?
3. Where can God's people go for justice?
4. What effect did the sins of Reuben, Levi, Simeon, and Judah have on their lives?

5. What effect does a non-Christian mate have on a marriage relationship?

6. What consequences did Joseph suffer when he revealed his dreams to his brothers?

7. Joseph's brothers never told Jacob that Joseph was eaten by wild animals. How did they still manage to lie in this situation?

8. Does it ever seem that God's plan is defeated by human intervention?

9. Can we trust our feelings when comes to the truth? How can feelings deceive when it comes to our faith in God?

10. What effect did human deceit, frailty, and sin have on the plan of God? How did God control events?

11. Think about the history of Israel. Did they have a different moral standard than the surrounding nations?

Lesson 12: Joseph In Prison (Genesis 39-41)

Introduction: Joseph had been sold into slavery by his own brothers for 20 shekels of silver. How would the prophetic dream of Joseph be fulfilled? It would seem impossible, now that Joseph would become a slave in Egypt and soon would be a prisoner as well. We should have already learned, however, that God is in control, and no human weakness can prevent His plan from being fulfilled.

I. Joseph As A Slave (Gen. 39:1-20)

- A. Joseph was sold to Potiphar, captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph was seventeen years old when he was sold into slavery.
- B. It is obvious to Potiphar that the Lord was with Joseph and that God caused him to prosper.
- C. Joseph became so trusted that Potiphar did not keep track of his possessions. He did not know what he had except for the bread he ate.
- D. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph. The tempting apparently went on for quite some time, but Joseph refused to even be near her.
- E. Potiphar's wife was persistent. She found an opportunity when the house was empty to catch Joseph alone. Joseph ran away, and his garment was left in her hand. She then lied to her husband about Joseph's intentions.
- F. Potiphar was irate and had Joseph thrown into prison.

Principles:

- 1. **Joseph was a young man, was without parental supervision, and had been given a great deal of authority. He could have done as he pleased, yet he refused to sin. He understood his relationship to God, and understood that he would not be alive if not for the providence of God.**
- 2. **A child of God should be trustworthy. Joseph did the best job he could even though he had been mistreated by his brothers.**
- 3. **Sin is against God.**
- 4. **We should flee temptation.**

II. Joseph In Prison (Gen. 39:21-40:23)

- A. Joseph was trusted implicitly. The jailer did not even bother to look in Joseph's area.
- B. Joseph met the butler and baker for Pharaoh.
- C. These men had dreams that Joseph was able to interpret by the power of God.
- D. The butler was restored to his position, and the baker was executed. Joseph asked the butler to remember his case before Pharaoh.
- E. The butler forgot about Joseph.

III. Joseph Released From Prison (Gen. 41)

- A. Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream that troubled him greatly. None of the wisemen of Egypt could interpret the dream.
- B. The butler remembered Joseph, and told Pharaoh.
- C. Pharaoh asked Joseph if he could interpret the dream. Joseph told him that it was God who could interpret his dream.
- D. The dream, promised seven plentiful years followed by seven years of famine.
- E. Joseph was placed in charge of gathering the grain during the seven years of plenty. He was made second in command.
- F. God made the land prosper so that the amount of grain collected could not be counted.
- G. Joseph married and had two sons. Manasseh was named because God had "made me forget all of my toil and all my father's house." Ephraim was named because God had "caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Principles:

1. **Joseph knew that God was in control.**
2. **Ill fortune should not make us forget God.**
3. **When we suffer in this life, it does not mean that God is not there (Gen. 39:21).**
4. **We must trust in the providence of God. His will is going to be accomplished in spite of the evils surrounding us. He will keep His promises.**

Questions:

1. How is Joseph an example to young people today? How is he an example to older Christians?
2. In Genesis 39:9, Joseph said that this wickedness would be a sin against whom? Why did he say that? Why did he say he would not sin?
3. How do we know that God did not desert Joseph while he was in prison? How can we know that He will not desert us?
4. What does the example of Joseph teach us about our secular jobs?

5. Was the plan of God almost defeated by the selling of Joseph into slavery?

6. Who gave the interpretation of the dreams? Why did Joseph not claim the power for himself?

7. How did imprisonment affect Joseph's faith that God would fulfill His promise?

8. How did the Egyptians prosper from the presence of Joseph?

9. Do the wicked prosper from the presence of the righteous today?

Lesson 13: Joseph, The Reunion (Genesis 42-45)

Introduction: With God's help, Joseph foretold the seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph was then elevated to ruler in Egypt second only to Pharaoh. He set up storehouses. He gathered and stored food throughout the seven years of plenty. Then, the seven years of famine began. The famine was widespread, and people from all countries came to Egypt to buy food. In that setting we see the reunion of Joseph and his brothers.

I. Joseph's Brothers First Trip To Egypt For Food (Genesis 42)

- A. All the brothers, except for Benjamin, were sent to Egypt (42:1-5).
- B. Fulfillment of Joseph's dreams (42:6-9; cf 37:5-11)
- C. Joseph recognized his brothers; they didn't recognize him (42:8).
 - 1. Years had passed since they had seen each other.
 - 2. Joseph was in a position of power, not a slave.
 - 3. Joseph used an interpreter.
- D. Brothers accused of being spies and treated roughly (42:7-17)
- E. Joseph requested that Benjamin be brought to Egypt (42:18-23).
- F. Simeon was kept as a prisoner (42:24).
- G. Brothers returned to Jacob with corn and with their money (42:25-35).
- H. Jacob had spent many unhappy years since Joseph was sold (42:36-38).

II. The Brothers' Second Trip To Egypt (Genesis 43)

- A. Dilemma of Jacob (vss. 1-7).
 - 1. His family was out of food.
 - 2. He did not want to send Benjamin.
- B. Judah took responsibility for Benjamin (vss. 8-10).
- C. Human action plus faith (vss. 11-14).
 - 1. He sent gifts.
 - 2. He put his trust in God.
- D. Brothers given royal treatment (vss. 15-33)
 - 1. Given water for feet and food for animals
 - 2. Given a feast at Joseph's house
- F. Favored treatment of Benjamin (vs. 34)

III. Brothers Recalled To Egypt (Genesis 44)

- A. Their sacks were filled with food and money (vs.1).
- B. Joseph's silver cup was placed in Benjamin's sack (vs. 2).
- C. Brothers accused of stealing (vss. 3-15)
- D. Test of brother's loyalty to Benjamin (vs. 16-17)
- E. The brothers have changed (vss. 18-34).
 - 1. Benjamin is still Jacob's favorite.

2. The brothers will not abandon Benjamin.
3. The brothers would not treat Jacob heartlessly.

IV. Joseph Revealed Himself To His Brothers (Genesis 45).

- A. Joseph wept and revealed himself (vss. 1-4).
- B. Joseph explained God's providence and forgave them (vss. 5-8).
- C. Joseph and Pharaoh asked brothers to bring Jacob to Egypt (vss.9-24).
- D. Jacob did not believe Joseph was alive (vss. 25-26; 44:28).
- E. Jacob was convinced of the truth (vss. 27-28).

Principles:

- 1. "Recompense to no man evil for evil" (Rom. 12:17). Joseph did not try to take revenge on his brothers.**
- 2. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep" Romans 12:15. We must not be jealous of our brethren.**
- 3. Feelings and emotions are not reliable guides to truth.**
- 4. God is on the throne, and His overruling providence works in our lives just as it did in Joseph's life.**
- 5. God brings about His purposes in His time.**

Questions:

1. How many years had passed from the time Joseph was sold into slavery until he was reunited with his brothers? (Gen. 37:2; 41:46;41:53; 45:6)

2. What things contributed to Joseph's brothers not recognizing him?

3. What is the significance of Jacob calling God "God Almighty" in Gen. 43:14?

4. God is called "God Almighty" in Gen. 17:1 and Gen. 28:3. What is the significance in these passages?

5. What things (attitudes, actions, people, conditions, etc.) did God use in Joseph's life to accomplish His purposes?

6. How does Romans 8:28 relate to Joseph's life and ours?

7. How did God use adversity in Acts 8:1-4 to accomplish good?

8. How did God use adversity in Phil. 1:12-14 to accomplish good?

9. Why are feelings and emotions not reliable guides to truth? How is truth determined today?

10. Had the land, seed, or nation promise been fulfilled at the time of Joseph?

Lesson 14: Jacob and Joseph's Last Years (Genesis 46-50)

Introduction: Jacob prepared to move his family to Egypt, where he would be reunited with Joseph. Both Jacob and Joseph would spend their last years in Egypt. There are several principles we can learn from this time in their lives.

I. Jacob Moved His Family To Egypt (Genesis 46).

- A. Jacob (Israel) worshiped God at Beersheba (vs.1).
- B. God reassured Jacob (vss. 2-4).
- C. Nation promised to be fulfilled in Egypt (vs. 3)
- D. Jacob's family (70 people) came to Egypt (vss. 5-27).
- E. Jacob was reunited with Joseph (vss. 28-34).

II. Jacob Before Pharaoh (Genesis 47:1-12)

- A. Israelites dwelt in the land of Goshen (vs. 6).
- B. Jacob described the years of his life as "few and evil" (vs. 9).

Principles:

- 1. We must turn to God when faced with decisions.**
- 2. We must make decisions based on what is best for our spiritual welfare.**
- 3. We will reap what we sow (Gal.6:7).**

III. Jacob's Last Days (Genesis 47:27-31; 48; 49; 50:1-14)

- A. He requested to be buried in Canaan (47:29-31).
- B. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons (Gen. 48).
 - 1. He adopted Ephraim and Manasseh (48:5).
 - 2. Therefore, Joseph received a double portion.
 - 3. Ephraim (younger) was blessed more than Manasseh (older).
- C. Jacob prophesied regarding his own sons (Gen. 49:1-28).
 - 1. Reuben would not excel (vss. 3-4).
 - 2. Simeon and Levi would be scattered in Israel (vss. 5-7).
 - 3. Judah would be praised (vss. 8-12).
 - 4. Remaining brothers mentioned (vss. 12-28)
 - 5. Repeated request to be buried in Canaan (vss. 29-32)
- D. Jacob died (49:33-50:14).
 - 1. Joseph wept and the people mourned (50:1-4).
 - 2. Jacob was buried in Canaan (50:4-14).

IV. Joseph's Last Days (Genesis 50:15-26)

- A. Joseph's brothers feared he would take revenge (vss. 15-17).
- B. Joseph reassured his brothers (vss. 18-21).
 - 1. Joseph not the judge (vs. 19)
 - 2. Joseph viewed his adversity as God's providence (vss. 20-21).
- C. Joseph's faith
 - 1. He trusted God's promise (vs. 24).
 - 2. Request concerning his bones (vs. 25; Heb. 11:22)
- D. Joseph died.

Principles:

- 1. Although our sins can be forgiven, we will still suffer their consequences.**
- 2. God's promises are so sure. We should plan our lives around them.**
- 3. Our adversities may be part of God's providence.**
- 4. The passage of time does not change the validity of God's promises.**

Questions:

- 1. Why would Jacob need God's reassurance about moving to Egypt?

- 2. How can we include God in our decisions today?

- 3. How might our service to God affect the following decisions?
 - a. choosing where to go to college.
 - b. choosing a marriage partner.
 - c. choosing an occupation.
 - d. choosing between different job locations.

- 4. While in Egypt, what things served to separate the Israelites from the Egyptians (Gen. 43:32; 46:34)?

5. Jacob described his days as "few and evil" (i.e., filled with trouble) in Gen. 47:9. Name at least four things that happened in Jacob's life that led him to make such a statement.

6. How did Jacob reap what he had sown?

7. What is important about Judah (Gen. 46:12; 49:10; Ruth 4:18-22; Mat. 1:1-16; Rev.5:5)?

8. How many times can you recall Joseph weeping (Gen. 42:24; 43:30; 45:1-2; 45:14; 46:29; 50:1; 50:17)? Does that mean he was weak? What place does emotion have in our service to God today? Had you been in his shoes, would you have done the same thing (Gen. 45:1-8)?

9. About how many years passed between God's promise to Abraham and Joseph's death (Gen. 12:4; 17:1,21; 25:7,20; 31:38,41; 35:28; 37:2; 50:22)?

10. Almost 2000 years have passed since Jesus was on the earth and since it was promised that He would return (Acts 1:11). Does the passage of so much time affect the validity of that promise (2 Pet. 3:3-14)?

Lesson 15: Moses - The First Forty Years (Exodus 1,2)

Introduction: God told Abraham (Gen.15:13-16) that his descendents would be afflicted for 400 years in a strange land before being brought into the promised land. He told Jacob (Gen.46:3-4) that his descendants would become a great nation in Egypt. As the book of Exodus begins, we see the fulfillment of both of these promises unfolding. In that setting, God brings forth Moses as a deliverer of His people.

I. Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 1)

- A. The Israelites multiplied (vs. 7).
 - 1. 70 people came to Egypt with Jacob (Gen.46:27; Ex. 1:5).
 - 2. The nation promise to be fulfilled in Egypt (Gen. 46:3-4).
 - 3. 600,000 men left Egypt (Ex. 12:37).
- B. The new Egyptian king did not know Joseph (vs. 8).
- C. The Egyptians were concerned about Israelites growth (vss. 9-10).
- D. The Egyptians tried to suppress the Israelites.
 - 1. The Israelites were enslaved (vss. 11-12).
 - a. built treasure cities of Pharaoh
 - b. fulfillment of promise to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-16)
 - 2. The Israelites' work was made more rigorous (vss. 13-14).
 - 3. Decree to midwives to kill Israelites' sons (vss. 15-21)
 - 4. Decree to cast sons into the river (vs. 22)
 - 5. The Israelites multiplied, despite Pharaoh's efforts (vs. 20).

II. Birth of Moses (Exodus 2:1-10)

- A. Faith of Moses' parents (vss. 1-2; Heb. 11:23)
 - 1. Parents, Amram and Jochabed (Ex. 6:20)
 - 2. Son born and hidden three months
- B. Son placed in a basket in the river (vss. 3-4)
- C. Pharaoh's daughter found the child (vss. 5-10).
 - 1. Jochabed became nurse to the child (vss. 7-8).
 - 2. The child was named Moses (vs. 10).
- D. Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter (Acts 7:21).
- E. Moses learned all the Egyptian ways (Acts 7:22).

Principles:

- 1. There is nothing more sure than the promise of God.**
- 2. We must obey God rather than men.**
- 3. God's purposes will be carried out. Men cannot frustrate God's plans.**
- 4. God can even use His enemies to bring about His plans.**

III. Moses And The Egyptian (Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:18-29; Heb. 11:23-26)

- A. Moses (age 40; Acts 7:23) faced a choice (Heb. 11:24-26).
 - 1. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 - 2. He chose affliction with God's people over temporary pleasures of sin.
 - 3. He considered the reproach of Christ greater riches than Egyptian treasures.
- B. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew (Ex. 2:11-12).
- C. He thought he could deliver Israel (Acts 7:25).
 - 1. This self-started rebellion wasn't part of God's plan.
 - 2. The Israelites did not yet understand that Moses would be their deliverer.
- D. Flight to Midian, Ex. 2:15-22
 - 1. Moses married Zipporah.
 - 2. Moses had a son named Gershom.

Principles:

- 1. Choosing to serve God is the most important choice we can make.**
- 2. Nothing is more important than serving God.**
- 3. Even the reproaches of Christ are greater riches than any earthly treasure.**
- 4. We must be patient and wait on God.**

Questions:

- 1. How did the children of Israel come to be in Egypt?

- 2. What promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Egypt (Gen. 15:13-16)?

- 3. What promise to Jacob was fulfilled in Egypt (Gen.46:3)?

- 4. Name some promises of God to us today. Can we trust that they will be fulfilled?

- 5. Were Moses' parents right in not obeying Pharaoh's decree to throw their child into the river?

6. What did God use (attitudes, actions, people, emotions, circumstances, etc.) to bring forth a deliverer for the Israelites?

7. According to Mat. 6:33, where should seeking God's kingdom fall in our order of priorities?

8. According to Mk. 9:43-48, what should we be willing to give up for eternal life?

9. According to Mat. 13: 44-46, what is the value of the kingdom of heaven?

10. If the reproaches of Christ (Heb. 11:26) are considered greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, what can be said about the blessings of Christ?

Lesson 16: Moses, The Second 40 Years (Exodus 2-4)

Introduction: We have seen Moses' failure to deliver Israel by himself, because it was not God's time yet. Moses has been humbled by these experiences. Soon God was ready to deliver Israel from Egypt, and He called Moses. This time Moses would be successful, because God would be with him.

I. Call Of Moses

- A. God heard the Israelites' cry (Ex.2:23-25).
- B. God called Moses through the burning bush (Ex. 3:1-10).
 - 1. Moses was now 80 years old (Acts 7:30-34).
 - 2. The bush burned, but it was not consumed (Ex. 3:2).
- C. God said He had seen the Israelites' affliction (vs. 7).
- D. God said He would deliver the Israelites through Moses (vss. 8-10).

Principles:

- 1. God's glory is impressive. His presence is awe-inspiring.**
- 2. God sees us. He knows what happens to us.**
- 3. God intervenes in history to accomplish His purposes.**
- 4. The Bible is the record of the steps God has taken to bring redemption to the world.**

II. The Excuses Of Moses (Ex. 3:11-4:17)

- A. "Who am I?" (Ex.3:11)
 - 1. Moses had been humbled.
 - 2. Moses was no longer trying a self-started rebellion (Acts 7:23-25).
 - 3. God assured Moses, "I will be with you" (vs. 12).
- B. Moses asked, "What is your name?"
 - 1. "I Am That I Am" (vs. 14).
 - 2. Moses to be the deliverer (vss. 15-18)
 - 3. Prophecy (vss. 19-22)
 - a. Pharaoh would not let the people go.
 - b. God showed wonders in Egypt.
 - c. The Israelites spoiled the Egyptians.
- C. "They will not believe me" (Ex.4:1).
 - 1. Three signs
 - a. Rod turned to serpent and back to rod (vss. 2-5)
 - b. Moses' hand turned leprous and then became clean again (vss. 6-8).
 - c. Water would be turned to blood (vs. 9).

2. The purpose of these signs was to confirm that Moses was from God (vs. 5).
- D. "I am not a good speaker" (4:13).
 1. "Who hath made man's mouth" (vs. 11)?
 2. God said He would tell Moses what to say (vs. 12).
- E. Send someone else (4:13).
 1. Moses didn't want to go.
 2. God became angry (vs. 14).
 3. Aaron was Moses' spokesman (vss. 14-16).

III. Moses' Return To Egypt (Ex. 4:18-31)

- A. Moses and family returned to Egypt (vs. 20).
- B. God's prophecy
 1. Pharaoh would not let them go (vs. 21).
 2. God considered Israel His firstborn son.
 3. Pharaoh's firstborn son would die if he refused to let the people go.
- C. Incident regarding circumcision (vss. 24-26)
- D. Moses and Aaron met with elders of Israel (vss. 27-30).
- E. Israelites were ready for deliverance (vs. 31).

Principles:

1. **Miracles in the Bible were used to confirm a person's word (Mk. 16:17-20; Heb. 2:3-4).**
2. **We must submit to God's will, no matter how difficult.**
3. **"If God is for us, who can be against us" (Rom. 8:31)?**
4. **Time does not affect the validity of God's promises.**

Questions:

1. What is the significance of God being called "I AM" (Ex.3:14)?
2. What was the purpose of the signs God gave Moses to perform?
3. What was the purpose of miracles used in the New Testament?
4. Is there a need for miracles today? Why or why not?

5. Why was the ground near the burning bush "holy ground" (Ex.3:5)?

6. How is God's presence described in other passages (Is. 6; Rev. 5)?

7. Approximately how many years had passed from the time of God's promise to Abraham until the deliverance from Egypt? Did that passage of time change the truthfulness of those promises?

8. Had any of the promises to Abraham (land, seed, nation) been fulfilled at the time of Moses' return to Egypt?

9. God became angry when Moses was reluctant to submit to His will. What will God's attitude be toward us today if we do not submit to his will?

10. Why did the Israelites readily accept Moses as their deliverer the second time after rejecting him the first time?

Lesson 17: Moses - 3rd 40 Years

Introduction: Moses spent the previous forty years separated from his people as a shepherd in the land of Midian. God called Moses miraculously through the burning bush to lead his people out of Egypt and into the promised land. Despite many trials, Moses endured to lead God's people out of Egypt, bring down God's law for the Israelites from Mount Sinai, and guide them through the wilderness. In the end, we see that even a great servant such as Moses is subject to the righteous judgment of God.

I. Exodus From Egypt

- A. Moses appeared before Pharaoh (Ex. 7:1-13).
- B. Plagues (Ex. 7:14-12:30)
- C. Institution of the passover feast (Ex. 12:3-11)
- D. The pillar of cloud and fire for guidance (Ex. 13:21)
- E. Crossing the Red Sea and the drowning of the Egyptians (Ex. 14:21, 28)

Principles:

- 1. God is all-powerful.**
- 2. God cares for His children.**
- 3. God establishes ways for us to remember our deliverance (1 Cor. 11:26).**
- 4. God guides us.**
- 5. God will destroy those who oppose Him (2 Thes. 1:8,9).**
- 6. Some people give up at the first sign of resistance (Ex. 14).**

II. Law Of God Established

- A. Moses went up on the mount.
- B. Civil, judicial, and ceremonial laws were given.
 - 1. Ten commandments (Ex. 20:1-17)
 - 3. Other laws (Ex. 21; Lev. 27; Num. 34-36; Deut. 12-28)
- C. Establishment of the tabernacle (Ex. 25-27)

Principles:

- 1. God has given a lawgiver (Heb. 10:9).**
- 2. God has established a law for us to follow.**

III. The Rebellion

- A. Aaron submitted to the people's desire (Ex. 32:1-6).
- B. God's anger and Moses intercession (Ex. 32:7-14)
- C. Moses' reaction to the people's idolatry (Ex. 32:19-35)

Principles:

- 1. We can be tempted to forsake God (1 Pet. 5:8).**
- 2. We will be punished for disobedience.**
- 3. We always have a way to escape temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).**

IV. Wandering In The Wilderness

- A. The twelve spies were sent to search the land (Num. 13:1-25).
 1. Their report (Num. 13:26-33)
 2. Faith of Joshua and Caleb (Num. 14:6-10)
- B. God's anger at the Israelites' lack of faith (Num. 14:11,12)
- C. Moses' intercession and God's punishment (Num. 14:13-39)

Principles:

- 1. God has reserved a great promised land for us (Jn. 14:2).**
- 2. We must have faith to follow (Mt. 21:21).**
- 3. We will miss the joy of heaven if we are not faithful (2 Tim. 4:7,8).**

V. Moses' Disobedience

- A. Moses rebuked the people and struck the rock (Num. 20:11).
- B. God punished Moses (Num. 20:12; Deut. 34:1-5).

Principles:

- 1. We must do things God's way (2 Tim. 2:5).**
- 2. God is not a respecter of persons.**
- 3. God is just.**

Questions:

1. Name the plagues.
2. What is a New Testament antitype of the lamb's blood applied to the doorframe during the passover?
3. What serves as our "pillar of cloud and fire" today?

4. Are Christians to follow the Law of Moses? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Who is our lawgiver?
6. Do we have a tabernacle today?
7. Moses was angry at the idolatry of the people. Was His anger wrong? Give other examples of righteous anger.
8. What was the basic problem the Israelites had upon hearing of the giants in the land of Canaan?
9. Do we have giants in our land today (spiritually speaking)? How do we overcome them?
10. Why would God punish Moses, a great man, for such a seemingly small indiscretion? Does this mean that God is unfair?

Lesson 18: Aaron

Introduction: We first read of Aaron when God enlisted him to accompany Moses to Egypt (Ex. 4:27). Aaron continued as a leader when God appointed him as high priest. Aaron succumbed to the will of the people and became involved in idolatry. Later, he sinned with his brother and was not allowed to enter the promised land. He was referred to as "the saint of the Lord" (Ps. 106:16) because of his priestly duties.

I. Historical Background

- A. Aaron's name means "enlightened" or "bright".
- B. He was the son of Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi (Ex. 6:16-27).
- C. Miriam was his older sister. He was three years older than Moses (Ex. 7:7).
- D. He married Elisheba of the tribe of Judah and had four sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar (Ex. 6:23).

II. Aaron's Leadership Role

- A. The prophet of Moses (Ex. 7:1-2)
- B. Leader of the people while Moses was receiving the law on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 24:14)
- C. Appointed High Priest by God and given leadership role in things pertaining to the tabernacle (Ex. 28-30; Num. 18:1-7; 1 Chron. 6:41)

III. Aaron And The Golden Calf (Ex. 32)

- A. Moses delayed coming down from the mountain (32:1).
- B. The people gathered together and asked Aaron to "make us gods."
- C. Aaron collected gold from the people and fashioned a calf (vss 2-4).
- D. Aaron built an altar to the calf and proclaimed a feast "to the Lord" (vs. 5).
- E. God informed Moses that the people were sinning. Moses interceded for them (vss. 7-14).
- F. Moses returned, broke the tablets of stone containing the law, and destroyed the calf (vss. 15-20).
- G. Moses confronted Aaron. Aaron tried to put the blame on the people (vss. 21-24).
- H. 3000 were slain (vs. 28).
- I. Moses interceded again for the people (vss. 30-34) and Aaron (Dt. 9:20).

Principles:

1. Leaders of God's people can succumb to temptation.
2. God demands obedience.
3. Idolatry can be a problem for God's people today.
4. We have one who makes intercession for us today (Heb. 7:25).

IV. Aaron Spoke Against Moses (Num. 12).

- A. Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses because he married an Ethiopian woman (vs. 1).
 - 1. They questioned the authority of Moses. They said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also" (vs. 2)?
- B. The Lord called for Moses, Miriam and Aaron.
 - 1. The Lord spoke to Moses "face to face", not in visions or dreams like other prophets (vss. 6-7).
 - 2. "Why were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"
- C. Miriam became leprous (vs. 10).
- D. Aaron confessed foolishness of his actions and pleaded on behalf of his sister (vss. 11-12).
- E. Moses asked the Lord to heal his sister, and He did (vss. 13-15).

Principles:

- 1. We should be afraid to question the authority of God.**
- 2. We must obey those who rule over us (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:19).**
- 3. When we sin we must confess and repent.**

V. Aaron And The Water Of Meribah (Num. 20)

- A. The Israelites murmured and contended with Moses because they had no water (vss. 1-4).
- B. Moses and Aaron commanded to speak to the rock (vs. 8).
- C. Moses harshly rebuked the people and struck the rock (vs. 11).
- D. Moses and Aaron were not allowed to lead the Israelites into the promised land because of this sin (vs. 12, 24).

Principle: God is impartial, demanding obedience of all.

VI. The Death Of Aaron (Num. 20:22-29; 33:38,39; Dt. 10:6; 32:50)

Questions:

- 1. Why was Aaron selected to go with Moses to Egypt? What did God mean when He told Moses that Aaron would be His "prophet?"

2. What duties did Aaron have as High Priest?
3. Who is our High Priest today? Give scriptures.
4. How is the priesthood today superior to the priesthood of the Law of Moses (Heb. 7)?
5. What kind of a leader did Aaron turn out to be when Moses was receiving the law on Mt. Sinai?
6. Who intercedes for us today? How?
7. How can idolatry be a problem for Christians? How can we avoid idolatry?
8. Why did Aaron and Miriam find fault with Moses (Num. 12)? What was wrong with this?
10. What was Miriam's punishment for her sin?
11. Why was Aaron not allowed to enter the promised land?
12. How old was Aaron when he died?
13. Summarize the life and character of Aaron.

Lesson 19: Joshua

Introduction: Joshua is a shining example of a true follower of God. Throughout his life, Joshua chose to obey God regardless of the people or circumstances around him. Joshua's attitude can best be summed up by his own words, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:14,15). By his example, he caused the children of Israel to serve the Lord (Josh. 24:31, Judg. 2:7-9).

I. Historical Background

- A. Also known as "Oshea" (KJV) or "Hoshea" (NKJV) (Num. 13:8, 16). He was given the name Joshua by Moses (Num. 13:16).
- B. The son of Nun
- C. He was of the tribe of Ephraim.

II. Joshua The Soldier (Ex. 17)

- A. Moses commanded him to choose men to fight with Amalek (vs. 8, 9).
- B. Joshua fought with Amalek while Moses, Aaron, and Hur were on the top of a hill (vs. 10). Joshua prevailed as long as Moses kept his hands raised (vs. 11-12).
- C. Joshua defeated the Amalekites (vs. 13).

III. Joshua The Servant

- A. Joshua was referred to as Moses' assistant when they went up to the mountain of God to receive the law (Ex. 24:13).
- B. An assistant and choice man (Num. 11:28)
- C. Loyal to Moses and his leadership (Num. 11:28, 29)
- D. Did not depart from the tabernacle (Ex. 33:11)

Principles:

1. **There is a great need for leaders among God's people.**
2. **Those who lead must be willing to serve.**
3. **We need to be loyal to Christ and make our service to Him our highest priority.**

IV. Joshua The Spy (Num. 13, 14)

- A. 12 spies went into Canaan (13:1-20)
- B. 10 of the spies gave a bad report (13:31-33).
- C. Joshua and Caleb were the spies who were confident that with God's help, they could conquer the land (14:6-9).

1. "Do not rebel against the Lord."
 2. "Nor fear the people of the land"
 3. "The Lord is with us."
- D. The congregation wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb (14:10).
- E. Because of their faithfulness, Joshua and Caleb were the only original adults that were allowed to enter the promised land (Num. 26:65). They "wholly followed the Lord" (Num. 32:12).

Principles:

- 1. We must have confidence in the promises of God.**
- 2. We should not be afraid to speak the truth, even in the face of persecution.**
- 3. We must wholly follow the Lord.**

V. Inauguration Of Joshua (Num. 27:18-23; Dt. 31)

- A. Joshua was chosen to be the next leader of Israel
- B. The Lord told Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him" (Num. 27:18; Dt. 34:9). At this time, Joshua was given some of Moses' authority (Num. 27:20).
- C. The people were told to encourage Joshua (Dt. 1:38).
- D. Moses was told to encourage and strengthen Joshua (Dt. 3:28).

VI. God Spoke To Joshua (Josh. 1)

- A. God commanded Joshua to "arise, go over Jordan" (vs. 2).
- B. God told Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage" (vs. 6, 9).
- C. God instructed Joshua to "observe to do according to all the law...do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go" (vs. 7).
- D. Joshua was to meditate on the Law "day and night" (vs. 8).
- E. Joshua ordered the people to cross the Jordan (vss. 10-18).

Principles:

- 1. It is important that we encourage our leaders in the church.**
- 2. We must be strong and of good courage when it comes to doing the Lord's will.**
- 3. We must do exactly as the Lord commands, not turning to the right or the left.**

VII. Joshua's Conquest (Josh. 21:43-45)

VIII. Joshua's Farewell Address And Death (Josh. 23, 24)

- A. "You have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations" (23:3).
- B. The possession of the land is "as the Lord your God has promised you" (23:5).

- C. "Be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law" (23:6).
- D. "The Lord your God is He who fights for you" (23:10).
- E. "Take diligent heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God" (23:11).
- F. Joshua's warning (23:12, 13)
- G. "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord" (24:15).
- H. The people said, "The Lord our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey" (24:24).
- I. Joshua died, being 110 years old (24:29).
- J. Joshua's legacy: "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua" (24:31).

Principles:

- 1. God's promises do not fail. He overthrows His enemies.**
- 2. We must choose who we will serve.**
- 3. Our faithfulness encourages others.**
- 4. We must allow the Lord to fight for us.**

Questions:

1. What experience did Joshua have that qualified him to lead the Israelites?
2. How did Joshua show his loyalty toward Moses?
3. What experience is necessary for men who lead God's people today?
4. Explain Jesus' statement, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." Compare this with 1 Peter 5:3 and comment.
5. How were Joshua and Caleb different from the other spies?
6. What responsibilities do we have to our leaders (Dt. 1:38; Heb. 13:17)?

7. List the things God commanded Joshua to do in Joshua chapter 1. How do these things apply to us?

8. What promise of God was fulfilled according to Joshua 21:43-45? When was this promise first made?

9. What choice did Joshua tell the people they had to make (Josh. 24)?

10. How would you summarize the life and character of Joshua?

Lesson 20: Gideon (Judges 6-8)

Introduction: Gideon was the fifth judge of Israel. He played a small but important role in the history of God's people. He was a reluctant leader who was finally convinced of the power of God. He led the children of Israel in victory over their enemies, the Midianites.

I. The Call Of Gideon (Jud. 6)

- A. The oppression of Israel by the Midianites (vss. 1-10)
 - 1. The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.
 - 2. Israel cried out to the Lord.
 - 3. A prophet was sent to the people with God's message.
 - a. "I have delivered you" in the past.
 - b. "Do not fear the gods of the Amorites."
 - c. "You have not obeyed my voice."
- B. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon (vss. 11-27).
 - 1. He appeared to Gideon in Ophrah.
 - 2. Gideon was threshing his wheat.
 - 3. He was called a "mighty man of valor."
 - 4. Gideon asked why things had gone so badly if God was with them.
 - 5. The Lord promised to be with Gideon and that he would defeat the Midianites.
 - 6. Gideon asked for a sign. Gideon prepared a meal and brought it to the Lord. The Lord touched the meat with His staff, and it was consumed with fire.
 - 7. Gideon commanded to tear down the altar of Baal and build one to God.
- C. Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal (vss. 28-35).
 - 1. The people were angry and demanded Gideon's life.
 - 2. Gideon's father, Joash, said, "If he (Baal) is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down" (vs. 33).
 - 3. Gideon was called Jerubbaal ("*let Baal plead*").
 - 4. The Midianites and the Amalekites assembled at Jezreel and Gideon called for help from neighboring tribes.
- D. The sign of the fleece (vss. 36-40)
 - 1. Gideon's question for God: "If you will save Israel by my hand" (vs. 36)
 - 2. First sign: dew on fleece, ground dry
 - 3. Second sign: dew on ground, fleece dry

Principles:

- 1. **Even the least in the kingdom of God are of use to the Father (1 Cor. 12:14-26).**
- 2. **God blesses those who obey Him, but withholds the blessing for those who sin.**
- 3. **Idolatry is a bankrupt system of belief. False gods can do nothing.**

II. Gideon Defeated The Midianites (Jud. 7:1-8:21)

- A. Gideon's army of 32,000 was reduced in size (vss. 1-8).
 - 1. "...lest Israel claim glory for itself...saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"
 - 2. The fearful departed - 22,000.
 - 3. Those who went down on their knees to drink water departed - 9,700.
 - 4. 300 men remained.
- B. Gideon attacked the Midianites (vss. 9-23).
 - 1. 300 men took torches, pitchers, swords, and trumpets.
 - 2. They surrounded the Midianites.
 - 3. When signaled, they broke the pitchers revealing the torches. They shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon" (vs. 20).
 - 4. The Midianites were routed.
 - 5. The assistance of Ephraim was requested to cut off the fleeing Midianites as they crossed the Jordan.
 - 6. The people of Succoth and Peniel refused to give bread to Gideon's army. Later he destroyed them (8:5,8,16,17).
 - 7. Final battle at Jogbehah
 - 8. The Midianite army was routed again, and the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna were killed.

Principles:

- 1. **God does not depend on large numbers of people to accomplish His goals.**
- 2. **All spiritual victories occur because of God's power, not our power.**
- 3. **We should always be ready to provide assistance to those who are fighting the Lord's battles.**

III. The People's Desire To Crown Gideon (Jud. 8:22-28)

- A. Gideon refused to become their king. He said, "The Lord shall rule over you."
- B. Gideon took up a collection of gold in order to make an ephod. Later, the people "played the harlot" with the ephod, becoming a snare to Gideon and his house.
- C. Israel had peace for 40 years during the days of Gideon.
- D. Gideon died at a "good old age."
- E. As soon as he died, the children of Israel "played the harlot" with the Baals (8:33).

Principles:

- 1. **God rules over us.**
- 2. **Men have a tendency to worship "religious objects."**
- 3. **People often forget God when things are going well.**

Questions:

1. Why did God allow the Midianites to oppress the children of Israel?
2. Who is the "Angel of the Lord" that appeared to Gideon?
3. How many times did Gideon request a sign? Describe the signs that were given to him.
4. List some scriptures that deal with the futility of idolatry.
5. When we obey God, can we say that we have saved ourselves?
6. What weapons did Gideon and his men use against the Midianites? What weapons do we have for our spiritual battles today (Eph. 6:10-20)?
7. How is our fight against the Devil much like Gideon's fight against the Midianites?
8. What is an ephod? How did Gideon's ephod become a snare for him?
9. Why did the children of Israel return to Baal worship after Gideon died?

Lesson 21 : Samson (Judges 13-16)

Introduction: Time and again during the period of the Judges, Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. "Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years" (Judges 13:1). "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25). God chose Samson to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

I. Deliverer

- A. Samson's parents were to take special care prior to and after his birth. He was to be a Nazarite (consecrated unto God) from the womb until his death (Jud. 13:7,13,14).
- B. "So the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the child grew and the Lord blessed him" (Jud. 13:24).
- C. Samson was set apart as an instrument of the Lord to "begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (Jud. 13:5).

Principles:

- 1. Parents are to take special care in rearing their children.**
- 2. The Lord has blessed us (Eph. 1:3).**
- 3. From the beginning, men have been chosen and separated to serve the Lord. It is so with Christians today.**

II. Character

- A. Samson rejected the advice of his parents. "Then his father and mother said to him, 'Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?' And Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me, for she pleases me well.'" (Jud. 14:3).
- B. Yielding to the flesh, Samson went unto a harlot (Jud. 16:1).
- C. Samson's uncontrolled desire for women resulted in his downfall (Jud. 16:4-21). He loved Delilah, and she betrayed him for money.
- D. Lacking in character as evidenced above, Samson did not respond favorably to the honor of being chosen by the Lord.

Principles:

- 1. We should heed sound advice especially that received from God-fearing parents.**
- 2. God's children are to hear and obey Him.**
- 3. Christians are to exercise self control (Gal. 5:23).**
- 4. God hates a lying tongue (Prov. 6:17).**

III. Limited Success

- A. Samson was a man of unbridled passion, lacking self control and as a result failed miserably in responding to the honor of being chosen by the Lord to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Principle: Putting our own interests before those of the Lord will result in our failing to respond faithfully to the honor of being chosen by the Lord.

Questions:

1. What can we do to ensure our children are set apart for God's service?
2. Define consecration, sanctification, saint, holy, and hallowed.
3. How does God bless us?
4. Does God bless men through men? Explain.
5. Are Christians sanctified? Cite scripture.
6. Was God responsible for Samson's tricks? For the selection of his Philistine wife? Explain.
7. Will we accomplish more if we remain holy, fit, sanctified? Explain.

8. How might we compare Samson with Esau?

9. The life of a Christian is one of separation. Explain.

Lesson 22: Ruth and Naomi

Introduction: During the period of the judges Israel, was steeped in sin (degraded, immoral). "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). The characters in the book of Ruth are not like most of the people we find in the book of Judges. Ruth and Naomi displayed the characteristics of love, industry, generosity, chastity, and the desire to worship the God of Israel. Both women were blessed in God.

I. Self Sacrificing Love

- A. Naomi- Surely her life would have been dark and solitary without Ruth, yet her concern for Ruth's happiness caused her to earnestly request she return to her mother's house (Ruth 1:8-13).
- B. Ruth's concern for Naomi and her desire to worship her God caused her to turn from known comforts to embrace the uncertainty of the unknown (Ruth 1:16-17).

Principles:

- 1. God expects us to have concern and love for others (Gal. 6:2,10).**
- 2. God expects us to care for family members (1 Tim. 5:16).**
- 3. We are expected to forsake known comforts, if necessary, to provide for the welfare of others.**
- 4. We are expected to serve God before all else.**

II. Industry & Generosity

- A. Ruth requested she be allowed to go to the field and glean heads of grain (Ruth 2:2).
- B. Ruth shared the grain with Naomi (Ruth 2:18).

Principles:

- 1. We are to be industrious and provide for our own needs.**
- 2. We are to share our blessings with others.**

III. Blessings

- A. "So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son" (Ruth 4:13).
- B. "Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day

- without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." (Ruth 4:14,15).
- C. The child's name was Obed. "Obed begot Jesse and Jesse begot David" (Ruth 4:22).
- D. Naomi was at last comforted. From Ruth and her union with Boaz came Jesus the Christ.

Principles:

- 1. Unselfishness is rewarded.**
- 2. Those pleasing in the sight of God are a source of blessing to others.**

Questions:

1. Ruth and Naomi were women of good character. Explain.
2. Considering Boaz's wealth and Ruth's poverty, circumstances neither make or destroy believers. Explain.
3. What do you consider to be the theme of the book of Ruth?
4. List New Testament scriptures dealing with the subjects of generosity, industry, love and chastity.
5. What does the name *Naomi* mean? What does *Mara* mean?
6. Ruth and Naomi were rewarded by God. Explain.
7. How are the faithful rewarded today?
8. Give New Testament references to Ruth.

Lesson 23: Eli (1 Samuel 1-4)

Introduction: Eli was a priest and judge during the time of Samuel's birth. He served in the tabernacle at Shiloh. The sons of Eli were corrupt; they "did not know the Lord" (1 Sam. 2:12). Eli spoke to his sons but took no other action. As a result, God was not pleased and said, "...those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Sam. 2:30).

I. Profane Sacrifice

- A. The tabernacle of the Lord was in Shiloh. Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord there (1 Sam. 1:3,9).
- B. The sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord (1 Sam. 2:12).
 - 1. Eli's sons profaned the sacrifices. And if the man said to him, (the priests servant) "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force" (1 Sam. 2:16).
- C. Men abhorred the offering of the Lord (1 Sam. 2:17).

Principles:

- 1. **Christians are holy priests, offering spiritual sacrifices to the Lord (1 Pet. 2:5).**
- 2. **Our sacrifices must be acceptable to God.**
- 3. **Irreverent priests cause people to despise God's service.**

II. Mild Reproof

- A. "Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting" (1 Sam. 2:22).
- B. So he said to them, "Why do you do such things: for I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress "(1 Sam. 2:23-24).
- C. "'If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?' Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father because the Lord desired to kill them" (1 Sam. 2:25).

Principles:

- 1. **Parents must discipline their children.**
- 2. **The Bible teaches the church should discipline also.**
- 3. **There are times when more than a mild reproof is required.**

III. God's Response

- A. A man of God came to Eli. Eli's father and his descendants were blessed and honored by God (1 Sam. 2:27-30).
- B. "Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My habitation, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?" (1 Sam. 2:29).
- C. "Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me; I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Sam. 2:30).
- D. "Behold the days are coming when I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house" (1 Sam. 2:31).
- E. "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them" (1 Sam. 3:13).
- F. The deaths of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas (1 Sam. 4:11,18)

Principles:

- 1. We as priests in the Lord's kingdom are blessed.**
- 2. We are expected to honor God.**
- 3. We must love our Lord more than earthly relatives.**
- 4. The disobedient will be punished.**

Questions:

1. How did Eli's sons profane the sacrifices?
2. What is meant by "Men abhorred the offering of the Lord"?
3. Christians (a holy priesthood) are to offer spiritual sacrifices. Cite New Testament scripture and explain.
4. Cite scriptures that instruct parents to discipline their children.
5. Read 1 Sam. 4:13,17-18. During the battle, what was Eli's primary concern? What caused him to react, the death of his sons or loss of the ark? Comment on this.

6. Cite scriptures that command church discipline. Be ready to discuss church discipline.
7. We as priests in the Lord's kingdom are blessed. Explain.
8. How do we honor God?
9. Explain 1 Sam. 2:29.
- 10.. Cite scripture that teaches we must love the Lord more than earthly relatives.
10. Be prepared to discuss the priesthood under the Law of Moses and the priesthood under Christ.

Lesson 24: Samuel

Introduction: Samuel was born to God-fearing parents, Elhanah and Hannah. Hannah vowed to God that if she were blessed with a son, she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord. True to her promise, she brought Samuel to Eli to serve God in the tabernacle all the days of his life. Samuel was a prophet and judge. He grew in stature and favor both with the Lord and men. He was honorable and faithful until death.

I. Birth and Dedication

- A. The Lord had closed Hannah's womb. She was bitter and prayed to the Lord, weeping in anguish. She promised the Lord that if she were blessed with a son, she would dedicate him to the service of the Lord. The Lord answered Hannah's prayer. She bore a son and called him Samuel (1 Sam. 1:1-20).
- B. When Hannah weaned Samuel, she took him to Eli, and Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest (1 Sam. 1:24; 2:11).

Principles:

1. When troubled we should turn to the Lord.
2. God answers prayer.
3. God's blessings should be received with appreciation.
4. We can sometimes judge others unfairly (1 Sam. 1:14).

II. God's Servant

- A. "Samuel grew in stature and in favor both with the Lord and men"(1 Sam. 2:26).
- B. Samuel had courage to tell Eli that Hophni and Phinehas would be killed (1 Sam. 3:11-18; 4:17).
- C. "Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground"(1 Sam. 3:19).
- D. "All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord" (1 Sam. 3:20).
- E. "The word of Samuel came to all Israel" (1 Sam. 4:1).
- F. "Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel saying, 'If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines'" (1 Sam. 7:3).
- G. Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel (1 Sam. 8:1).
- H. And it was said of Samuel, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass"(1 Sam. 9:6).
- I. Samuel, a faithful man (Heb. 11:32)
- J. Samuel warned the people that having a king would have consequences(1 Sam. 8:9-10).

Principles:

- 1. We should grow in favor both with the Lord and men (1 Sam. 2:26).**
- 2. God's word is truth and will not fail.**
- 3. We should be faithful and speak only those things revealed to us by the Lord.**
- 4. Faithful servants of God are recognized by others.**
- 5. We must warn others when they sin, regardless of the consequences.**

Questions:

1. What vow did Hannah make?
2. Describe the sincerity of Hannah's prayer (1 Sam. 1:12-18). Did Eli regard her prayer as sincere? What does this teach us about judging others?
3. Samuel grew in stature and favor both with the Lord and men. Find similar statements in the New Testament. Explain.
4. Of what tribe was Samuel?
5. How did Hannah seek a solution to her problems? What can we learn from this?
6. How did Samuel show his courage and dedication?
7. Were Samuel's sons any better than Eli's?
8. Did Samuel ever prophecy concerning Christ?

9. In what great group does God place Samuel?

10. Explain 1 Sam. 3:19.

11. How faithful was Samuel's service to the people (1 Sam. 12:1-5)?

Lesson 25: Review - 1

Lesson 1: Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-3)

What is the source of pain and suffering in the world (Gen. 3; Job)?

Lesson 2: Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)

Discuss the acceptability of Cain's and Abel's sacrifice to God. What principles learned here apply to our sacrifices today?

Lesson 3: The Family of Adam (Genesis 5)

Discuss the difference between inheriting the sin of Adam, and inherited consequences for sin (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:20-23).

Lesson 4: Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)

How does God feel about destroying the wicked (Gen. 6; Ezek. 18:30-32; 2 Pet. 2:5; 3:9)?

Lesson 5: Abraham and the Promises (Genesis 12, 15)

List the promises God made to Abraham, and explain when they were fulfilled. Did Abraham see the fulfillment of any of these promises?

Lesson 6: Abraham, Lot and Sodom (Genesis 13,14,19)

After Abraham rescued Lot, he paid tithes to the priest of Salem (Gen. 14:18-24). What was the significance of this event (Heb. 7:1-10)?

Lesson 7: Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 16,17,21,22)

God does not always reveal the hows or whys of the things He promises and commands. How does this principle relate to the account of the sacrifice of Isaac? How does it apply to us?

Lesson 8: Isaac (Genesis 24,25)

Abraham and Isaac were richly blessed by God both materially and spiritually. How should we view that in light of today's so called gospel of "health and wealth?"

Lesson 9: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28)

The relationship between Jacob and Esau is characterized by deceit and hatred. Did this cause any problems? Did it affect the accomplishment of God's purpose? Explain.

Lesson 10: Jacob - His Family (Genesis 29-35)

What can we learn from the reunion of Jacob and Esau that would be helpful when dealing with division and strife between brethren, today?

Lesson 11: Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 34,35,37,38)

What were the consequences of the sins of Reuben, Levi, Simeon, and Judah (Gen. 49:1-7; Gen. 38:26)?

Lesson 12: Joseph In Prison (Genesis 39-41)

Was Joseph tempted to sin with the wife of Potiphar? Why was he unwilling to sin? Can we overcome temptation?

Lesson 26: Review - 2

Lesson 13: Joseph, The Reunion (Genesis 42-45)

How was Joseph able to forgive his brothers?

Lesson 14: Jacob's and Joseph's Last Years (Genesis 46-50)

Jacob described his days as "few and evil" (Gen. 47:9). How did Jacob reap what he had sown?

Lesson 15: Moses - The First Forty Years (Exodus 1,2)

What important decisions did Moses have to make during the first forty years of his life? What were the determining factors? What helps us make tough decisions?

Lesson 16: Moses - The Second Forty Years (Exodus 2-4)

Why was Moses reluctant to go to Pharaoh and demand the release of the children of Israel? How did God respond to his excuses for not going? How does God view excuses made today?

Lesson 17: Moses - The Third Forty Years (Exodus 7-40; Numbers)

Why did the children of Israel refuse to enter the promised land? Discuss how we use the same logic when it comes to doing God's will.

Lesson 18: Aaron

Considering the sin of Aaron in making the golden calf for the children of Israel, discuss how leaders in the church can be swayed by the congregation's desires. How can this be avoided?

Lesson 19: Joshua

What made Joshua a good leader?

Lesson 20: Gideon (Judges 6-8)

What important principle do we learn from the defeat of the Midianites (Jud. 7)?

Lesson 21: Samson (Judges 13-16)

What was the reason for Samson's downfall?

Lesson 22: Ruth and Naomi (Ruth)

We learned about self-sacrifice in our study of Ruth and Naomi. How can self-sacrifice be manifested in our various relationships?

Lesson 23: Eli (1 Samuel 1-4)

Was Eli responsible for the sins of his sons? To what extent are we as parents responsible for our children?

Lesson 24: Samuel

How did Hannah handle her inability to have children?