

God's Calling in the Old Testament

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- I. God Called Adam and Eve
 - A. Created and called by God to be responsible to care for God's creation - Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15
 - B. Called to obey God's word - Gen. 2:16-17
 - C. Disobeying God's word and then hiding when God called them - Gen. 3:1-10
 - D. Put out of the Garden for disobeying God's calling - Gen. 3:23-24
 - E. Sin and death entered the world through Adam's disobedience to God's calling - Romans 5:12
- II. God Called Cain and Abel - Gen. 4:1-16 (*Life-Study of Genesis*, Messages 22 to 24)
 - A. God calls man to live and work for Him
 - B. God calls man to worship Him according to God's revelation - Gen. 3:21
 - C. Abel obeyed God's calling and his offering was accepted by God - Hebrews 11:4
 - D. Cain disobeyed God's calling
 - 1. He lived and worked for himself
 - 2. He worshipped God according to his own concept (from Satan)
 - 3. His offering was rejected
 - 4. He killed his brother
 - 5. He went out from the presence of God - Gen. 4:14, 16
- III. God called Enosh and Enoch (*Life-Study of Genesis*, Messages 25 and 26)
 - A. Enosh called on the Lord out because of a sense of weakness and need - Gen. 4:26
 - 1. Realizing life is vanity and we are frail and mortal
 - 2. Calling on the name of the everlasting Lord
 - a. to be saved - Rom. 10:13
 - b. to be rescued from distress, trouble, sorrow and pain - Psalm 116:3-4
 - c. to participate in the Lord's mercy - Psalm 86:5
 - d. to partake of the Lord's salvation - Psalm 116:13; Isa. 12:2-4
 - e. to receive the Spirit - Acts 2:17, 21
 - f. to eat and drink spiritual food and drink - Isa. 55:1, 6
 - g. to enjoy the riches of the Lord - Rom. 10:12
 - h. to stir ourselves up to answer God's calling - Isa. 64:7
 - B. Enoch walked with God by faith - Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5-6
 - 1. Believing in God
 - 2. Believing in God's Word
 - C. Enosh and Enoch overcame the corruption of their generation
- IV. God Called Noah (*Life-Study of Genesis*, Messages 27-32)
 - A. The wickedness of man and God's judgment - Gen. 6:5-7, 11-13
 - B. God's calling and Noah's obedience in building the Ark - Gen. 6:8-9, 14, 22
 - C. Noah and his family saved from the flood in the Ark - Gen. 7:1-9:17
 - D. God made a new beginning with man because Noah obeyed God's calling

V. God called Job

- A. A righteous man - Job 1:1
- B. Tested by God - Job, chapters 1 and 2
- C. God's appearing - Job 38:1-4
- D. Job's repentance - Job 40:3-4; 42:1-6
- E. Job's latter end - Job 42:7-17

VI. God Called Abraham - Acts 7:2-3; Gen. 12:1-3

- A. Abraham obeyed God's call - Acts 7:4; Gen. 12:4-5; Heb. 11:8
- B. Abraham built an altar and called on the name of the Lord - Gen. 12:7-8; 13:4
- C. Abraham defeated the kings, rescued Lot and, was met by Melchizedek - Genesis 14
- D. God gave Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age fulfilling His promise to them - Gen. 15:1-6; 17:6, 15-16; 18:9-14; 21:1-5
- E. Abraham offered his son Isaac to God believing that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead - Gen. 22:1-14; Heb. 11:17-19
- F. Abraham is the Father of all who believe and obey God's calling - Gal 3:6-9

VII. God Called Isaac (a Type of Christ)

- A. Isaac was Abraham's only son, his beloved - Gen. 22:2; John 3:16; Matt. 3:17
- B. Isaac obeyed his father's will - Gen. 22: 5-9; Matt. 26:39;
- C. Isaac bore the wood for his sacrifice even as Christ bore the cross - Gen. 22:6; John 19:17
- D. Isaac was obedient even unto death - Gen. 22:9; Phil. 2:8
- E. Isaac was raised from the dead by God - Gen. 22:13; Acts 2:24
- F. Abraham obtained a bride for Isaac even as God obtained a bride for Christ - Genesis 24; Rev. 21:2; Eph. 5:32

VIII. God Called Jacob

- A. Jacob was chosen by God who calls - Gen. 25:22-23; (Eph. 1:4); Rom. 9:11
- B. Jacob gained the birthright and the blessing, Esau despised the birthright and lost the blessing - Gen. 25:29-34; 27:1-46
- C. God appeared to Jacob and gave him the promise - Gen. 28:10-22
- D. Jacob was dealt with by God in all his circumstances, yet the Lord was with him and his name was changed to Israel (wrestler with God, the prince of God) - Gen. 31:36-42; 32:22-32
- E. Jacob in his maturity blessed Pharaoh - Gen. 47:7, 10; Heb. 7:7
- F. Jacob also blessed Joseph, Joseph's two sons, and all his children, one by one, and prophesied through his blessing - Gen. 49:1-28

IX. God Called Joseph

- A. Joseph was loved by Jacob and hated by his brothers because of his dreams - Gen. 37:1-11
- B. Joseph's brothers sold him to be a slave in Egypt and told his father he was dead - Gen. 37:12-36
- C. The Lord was with Joseph in Egypt and blessed him - Gen. 39:1-6

- D. Joseph fled temptation in Potiphar's house and was cast into prison - Gen. 39:7-20; 2 Tim. 2:22
 - E. The Lord was with Joseph in prison and blessed him, and he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh - Gen. 39:21-23; 40:1-41:45
 - F. Joseph ruled all the land of Egypt - Gen. 41:46-57
 - G. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt for grain during the famine, Joseph dealt with them and sent for his father Jacob and his whole family - Gen. 42:1-47:31
 - H. Jacob died in Egypt but was buried in the land of Canaan - Gen. 49:28 to 50:13
 - I. Joseph forgave his brothers and supported them and their families - Gen. 50:14-21
 - J. Joseph died in Egypt when he was 110 years old, but prophesied God would bring Israel up into the land He promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Gen. 50:22-26
- X. God Called Moses**
- A. Moses life was saved because the midwives and his mother obeyed God not Pharaoh - Exo. 1:15-17, 20-22; 2:1-10
[This point can be one lesson. Cover the background of Exo. 1:1-14 first to show the situation into which Moses was born. The main point is that both the midwives and Moses' mother feared and obeyed God, this made a way for the Lord's purpose to be accomplished through Moses.]
 - B. God called Moses out of the burning bush and Moses obeyed God's call - Exo. 3:1-4
 - C. God sent Moses to deliver Israel out of slavery in Egypt - Exo. 3:5-10; 4:18-23, 29-31
[These two points can be one lesson. Stress:
 - 1. How Moses responded to God's call in Exo. 3:4, causing the Lord to make Himself known to Moses;
 - 2. How God's plan was to deliver His people from slavery so that they might serve Him in the good land flowing with milk and honey, Exo. 3:8;
 - 3. How the people believed the word of Moses, Exo. 4:31.]
 - D. The people were saved from the angel of death by the blood of the Passover Lamb because Moses obeyed God's calling - Exo. 12:1-30
[This point can be one lesson. Present the story first, then using the N.T. verses show how Jesus is the Lamb of God whose blood was shed to redeem all of us who are born into this world under Satan's slavery. Also show how God desires whole households to be saved.]
 - E. All the people were delivered from slavery in Egypt by crossing the Red Sea, because Moses obeyed God's calling - Exo. 12:31-39; 13:17-22; 14:1-22, 29
 - F. Pharaoh and all his armies perished in the sea - Exo. 14:23-31
[These two points can be one lesson. After presenting the story of the exodus from Egypt, show how God's salvation requires not only the redeeming blood but also the transfer through baptism out of Satan's kingdom the world, into God's kingdom the church. Pharaoh's perishing represents how Satan has no right to control our lives when we believe and are baptized.]
 - G. God provided manna and water in the wilderness to fill the people's hunger and quench their thirst - Exo. 16:4-6, 14-26, 31-35; 17:1, 4-6; John 6:31-35, 48-51; 4:13-14; 7:37-38
[After presenting the story, show how all men need food and water to live not only physically but spiritually. There is an inner hunger and thirst in all men that only the Lord Jesus as the bread of life and the water of life can fill. Tell them "Some day you children will experience this."]

H. God gave Moses the plan for the tabernacle, all the people gave the materials, and the tabernacle was built as a dwelling place for God on the earth - Exo. 25:1-9; 35:21-36:7; 39:42-43; 40:17-38

[After presenting the story, show how God desires a dwelling place not made with hands but in men (Isa. 66:1-2), and this dwelling place is the church today (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6).]

XI. God Called Joshua

XII. God Called Caleb

XIII. God Called Rahab

XIV. God Called Ruth

XV. God Called Deborah and Barak

XVI. God Called Gideon

XVII. God Called Samuel

A. Samuel was born because his mother Hannah prayed, and Hannah gave him to the Lord - 1 Sam. 1:2b, 8-28

B. Samuel grew up in the house of the Lord - 1 Sam. 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1

C. God called Samuel and Samuel answered God's call - 1 Sam. 3:4-10

D. The Lord was with Samuel, spoke to Him, and he became a prophet and a judge, speaking the Word of God and praying for the people - 1 Sam. 3:19-21; 7:3-17

XVIII. God called David

[There is the need to develop more of the Old Testament characters, both positive and negative, from the Kings, the recovery books (Ezra and Nehemiah), Esther, and the prophets]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION

All of these lessons on God's Calling in the Old Testament have one underlying point: God loves man, God needs man, and God desires to recover fallen man back to Himself. Although God has called so many different kinds of people throughout the ages, He is still calling us today; even little children. He is calling us to come back to Him; to enjoy Him and to be one with Him in our heart and living in order that we might join with Him in carrying out His purpose on the earth in our present age.

Many of the Old Testament heroes are covered in this series of lessons. In this way the children will get introduced to the contents of the Old Testament in a very inspiring way. They will be taught the highlights of the most important persons in the history of the earth; men whose lives and service fulfilled God's purpose in their age. Thus, we want to place the example of these great men of God before the children to inspire them to follow and imitate their faith.

The Scripture reading beside each lesson title are provided to adequately cover the contents of every lesson. Those sharing with the children should read all the scripture readings before teaching the lesson. During the calls time a small portion of the Scriptures may be read with the children. It is hoped that the children's parents would cooperate with the Children's Meeting by some kind of daily Bible reading with their children from the Scriptures. In this way the children can in a gentle pace get into the key portions of the Scriptures concerning these heroes of the faith. The Children's Meeting is not intended to replace the parent's home-teaching of the children, but to complement and supplement their labor, so that the children and their families will be built up together in the Word of God.

These lessons were prepared with the help of the outlines by Gene Gruhler and the Life Study messages on Genesis and Exodus by Witness Lee; published by the Living Stream Ministry in Anaheim, California.

GOD'S CALLING - THIRD AND FOURTH GRADES

OVERVIEW

We cover God's calling in the Bible. First we cover how God called Adam but Adam went away and hid. Then we tell them, "Some day God's going to call you. Do not run away and hide. You will know when God will call you. You will know when the time comes. If you are wrong, just admit to God you are wrong." This is a very practical application of God's calling of Adam.

Then we go through all the major Bible characters in the Old and New Testament. We like cover this matter in 2 years: One year on the Old Testament characters and one year on the New Testament characters of God's calling. By the time you get done with these 2 years. The children have a view of the Bible.

In the Old Testament God called Noah and he rose up to serve God. Some day you will be serving God. God called Abraham and he obeyed God. God called Moses. God called David.

God called Peter and James and John. He saw Nathaniel under the big tree. That was God's calling. Then we cover His calling of Paul and Timothy.

We do not tell them why we are teaching them Bible history. We are putting this into them unconsciously. By the time we get done, they have hit the peaks of all the major Bible characters in their chronological order. They begin to realize that Adam comes before Moses and Peter comes after Moses.

SOMEDAY GOD WILL CALL YOU

You would be amazed at our young people today. They do not know who is first or who is last. They do not know the facts of the Bible. We give them the facts. We plant the seed: that you are going to be called by God.

The first year we did this the brothers gave a test to the boys. The boys were to write down the answers to some questions. The brothers asked the third graders what impressed them the most this year. Most of them put down that some day God will call me. What a success! The whole year was worth that. They heard this phrase forty times. I told the serving ones that every week they had to repeat the phrase, "Someday God will call you." The boys got it! The naughty boys got it! Then the serving ones asked them some other questions. By their response they realized they really got it. That was the first time that we did it and the serving ones were not that good at that time either. Year after year we got better results.

The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

CONTENTS

Lesson One	God Called Adam and Eve
Lesson Two	God Called Abel
Lesson Three	God Called Enosh and Enoch
Lesson Four	God Called Noah (1)
Lesson Five	God Called Noah (2)
Lesson Six	God Called Job
Lesson Seven	God Called Abraham (1)
Lesson Eight	God Called Abraham (2)
Lesson Nine	God Called Isaac
Lesson Ten	God Called Jacob (1)
Lesson Eleven	God Called Jacob (2)
Lesson Twelve	God Called Joseph (1)
Lesson Thirteen	God Called Joseph (2)
Lesson Fourteen	God Called Moses (1)
Lesson Fifteen	God Called Moses (2)
Lesson Sixteen	God Called Israel (1)
Lesson Seventeen	God Called Israel (2)
Lesson Eighteen	God Called Joshua and Caleb
Lesson Nineteen	God Called Rahab the Harlot
Lesson Twenty	God Called Ruth the Moabite
Lesson Twenty-one	God Called Samuel
Lesson Twenty-two	God Called David
Lesson Twenty-three	God Called Solomon

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson One

GOD CALLED ADAM AND EVE (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:8, 15-17; 3:1-10, 21)

Burden to Impart:

God's creation and calling to man was to be responsible for all of His creation, to rule over it and take care of it. Also, man was called to obey God's word and not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but to eat of the tree of life. We also see that although Adam and Eve failed and disobeyed God's commandment, God covered their shame and forgave their sins.

Memory Verse: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion... over all the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

Facts to Teach:

1. God created Adam in a very special way; with His very own image and likeness. No other creature has this, only man. God made man in this way because man was made just for God. God wanted man to share His life, His love, and His friendship. God created man to live together with Him, and to enjoy His presence forever.

2. We can see God's calling for man in His creation of man. Man was given the highest place in God's creation. He was given "dominion" over all the creatures on the earth and over all the earth. Man was created and called by God to represent Him and rule over all the earth. In children's language you could say that man was called to be responsible to take care of God's creation (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15).

3. After placing Adam in the garden of Eden (paradise), God gave him one simple commandment: not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Hence, Adam was called to obey God's word.

4. Man was told that he could eat of every tree of the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He especially should have eaten of the special tree God had placed in the midst of the garden: the tree of life. This shows us that Adam and Eve were called to eat of the tree of life, that is, to receive God Himself, the source of life, into them.

5. Adam and Eve, however, failed God's purpose by disobeying His word and eating from the forbidden tree (Gen. 3:1-10). While they were hiding God came to call them.

6. God now came to call the disobedient and ashamed Adam and Eve back to Himself. He Himself killed some animals (probably lambs) and made coats of skins to cover them. (These were much better than Adam's covering made of fig leaves.) Adam and Eve received God's gracious provision and were forgiven.

7. However, because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were put out of the garden and were not permitted to take of the tree of life. Through Adam's disobedience to God's word and calling (God's plan), sin and death entered into the world (Rom. 5:12).

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Two

GOD CALLED ABEL (Gen. 4:1-16; see Life-study of Gen. 22-24)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that God is calling man to live and work for Him; to worship Him according to His way and not according to man's own ideas and concepts.

Memory Verse: "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (Hebrews 11:4).

Facts to Teach:

1. Although Adam and Eve failed God's calling by disobeying God's commandment and sinning, God was merciful to them and covered their nakedness and shame by killing two lambs to make lambskin coats for them. God taught them a most important lesson: because they were sinners, now they could draw near to God and be accepted by Him only if an offering was sacrificed and its blood was shed.

2. We know from Hebrews 11:4 that God's way (of salvation and worship) had been clearly made known to both of Adam's children, Cain and Abel, by their parents. God's call to Cain and Abel was firstly for them to live and work for Him. God's call was also for them to worship God in the way He had revealed and made known (to Adam and Eve).

3. Abel obeyed God's calling:

- a. He raised sheep. Sheep were not for eating in those days but were used to offer to God in worship, and their skin was used for clothing.
- b. When Abel presented his offering to God, God was happy and accepted it. Abel had followed the pattern God had shown to his parents.

4. Cain refused God's calling:

- a. He lived and worked only for himself: he "served the ground."
- b. He worshipped God according to his own concept (which was from Satan). He brought plants to God instead of an animal sacrifice. Because of man's sin God required that the blood of an animal be shed in order for man's offering to be acceptable to God.
- c. His offering was rejected by God.
- d. He became jealous of his brother (1 John 3:12). Then, being filled with the devil and anger, he killed his own brother.
- e. When God afterward came to him and asked him where his brother Abel was, he did not confess his sins. Rather, he lied to God. He did not feel sorry for what he had done, nor would he repent. Instead, full of stubbornness and hardened in his heart, he left God's presence.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Three (Continued)

5. Enoch, however, believed in God. He realized that God would one day judge all men and all wickedness (Jude 14). Also, He believed that God would reward all those who loved Him and sought Him out.

6. Enoch answered God's call to not participate in the corruption and ungodliness of his generation by doing three things: believing in God, seeking God out, and walking with God.

7. Enoch lived lovingly in God's presence and faithfully walked with God, step by step, day by day, for three hundred years. To walk with a person you must watch them very closely, follow where they go, move at their pace, and stay close to them. To do this one must deny their self.

8. One day Enoch did not come home. They looked for him but did not find him. He walked with God until one day God simply took him away to be with Himself. Enoch is one of the only two men on this earth who never saw death. He saw God.

[This lesson may be divided into two lessons: one lesson on Enosh and one lesson on Enoch.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Three

GOD CALLED ENOSH AND ENOCH

(Gen. 4:26; 5:21-24; see Life-study of Gen. 25-26)

Burden to Impart:

Enosh, due to his weakness and need, responded to God's calling by being the first man to call upon the Lord. Enoch overcame the ungodly generation around him and even overcame death by believing in God, seeking God, and walking with God.

Memory Verse: "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found because God had taken him" (Hebrews 11:5).

Facts to Teach:

1. After Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. Seth grew up and had a son whom he named Enosh. The name Enosh means "frail, weak, mortal man."

2. This name, Enosh, shows us that by that time Seth and his family realized that man was a weak and frail creature, and would one day die.

3. Because Enosh realized his own weakness and mortality, he sensed his need for God; the Mighty One, the Eternal One, the All-Sufficient One. He was the first man that called upon the name of the Lord. The Lord will help us in all of our weaknesses and will meet our every need, if we will only call upon Him. By calling upon Him we may:

- a. Be saved (Rom. 10:13).
- b. Be rescued from distress, trouble, sorrow, and pain (Psa. 116:3-4).
- c. Participate in the Lord's mercy (Psa. 86:5).
- d. Partake of the Lord's salvation (Psa. 116:13; Isa. 12:2-4).
- e. Receive the Spirit (Acts 2:17, 21).
- f. Eat and drink the spiritual food and drink (Isa. 55:1, 6).
- g. Enjoy the riches of the Lord (Rom. 10:12).
- h. Stir ourselves up to answer God's calling (Isa. 64:7).

4. Another great man whom God called long ago was Enoch (Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5-6). At Enoch's time the people all around him were living as though there was no God. They were all living in ungodliness and wickedness, both in the things they would do and say (Jude 15).

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Four

GOD CALLED NOAH (1)

(Gen. 6:5-14a, 17-18, 22; see Life-study of Gen. 27-32)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called Noah out from the wicked and corrupt generation around him. We also see how Noah obeyed God's calling and built an ark for the saving of his family.

Memory Verse: "By faith Noah, having been warned concerning things not yet seen, being devout, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house" (Hebrews 11:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. As the years passed on, man went farther and farther away from God. Accordingly, man became more and more sinful (Gen. 6:5-7, 11-13). Man's heart, thoughts, and imaginations were evil continually. Man was corrupt and the earth was filled with violence.

2. God's spirit was striving with men's hearts (Gen. 6:3) and was trying to cause them to forsake their wickedness and return to Him. While everyone hardened their hearts and rejected God's calling, God was looking over the earth to see if anyone would respond to the Spirit's working and answer His calling (Gen. 6:8).

3. Only Noah responded to God's calling. He drew near to God and found grace instead of hardening his heart. Noah was righteous and did what was right instead of living in wickedness, corruption, and violence. Also, Noah walked with God and lived each day in His presence. Because Noah was such a man, loving God and walking with God, God opened His heart to him and told him two very important matters which no one else knew:

a. He would no longer tolerate man's wickedness, but He would judge the earth with a great flood and destroy everyone and everything (Gen. 6:13, 17).

b. He showed Noah a way of salvation for he and his family to escape the flood by building a large ark (Gen. 6:14).

4. Noah was obedient to God's calling and did everything God had commanded him (Gen. 6:22).

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Five

GOD CALLED NOAH (2)

(Gen. 7:1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-13, 17-23; 8:1-3, 13-16, 18, 20;
9:11-13; see Life-study of Gen. 27-32)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how Noah and his family were saved from the terrible judgment of God that came upon the earth, as He had warned. We also see God's righteousness (judging the wicked people with the flood), God's mercy, love, and care (saving Noah's family), and God's faithfulness (setting the rainbow as a promise to never flood the earth again).

Memory Verse: "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household"
(Acts 16:31).

Facts to Teach:

1. Noah and his family labored for 120 years (Gen. 6:3) to build the ark for their salvation. During this time Noah preached to all those around him, telling them of their sinfulness, warning them of God's judgment which would one day come (2 Pet. 2:5). None listened to him or believed him.

2. Once the ark was completed, God gave a warning to Noah that in seven days the rain would begin, so he should take seven of every clean animal and two of all the unclean animals into the ark.

3. Noah again obeyed God. After bringing all the animals into the ark, Noah, his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives all got into the ark!

4. Just as God had said, on the seventh day the windows of heaven were opened and the waters poured down. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Also, the waters were released from under the earth.

5. The water rose and covered all the earth, even the mountains. All the living creatures and wicked people died. Only Noah was left and those who were with him in the ark.

6. Finally, after about one year in the ark, the waters had all decreased. Noah, his family, and all the animals with them went forth from the ark onto the dry ground.

7. Because of Noah's obedience to God's calling, he and all his family were saved from God's judgment. Instead of completely destroying mankind from off the earth, God was able to have a new beginning with man.

8. The first thing Noah did was to build an altar and offer an offering to God in thanksgiving for his salvation.

9. God promised Noah and his family that He would never again flood the earth in such a way. God declared the rainbow to be a sign of his promise to Noah.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Six

GOD CALLED JOB - A RIGHTEOUS MAN (Job 1:1)
TESTED BY GOD (chapters 1-2)
GOD'S APPEARING (38:1-4)
JOB'S REPENTANCE (40:3-4; 42:1-6)
JOB'S LATTER END (42:7-17)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God allowed even the dearest servant He had on the earth to be sorely tested and afflicted by Satan. His afflictions were not because he had sinned against God and was being punished. Rather, they were allowed to purify Job as gold is purified and refined through fire (Job 23:10) so that Job could know himself, know God in a deeper way, and be more blessed by God than he had ever been before.

Memory Verse: "When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10b).

Facts to Teach:

1. Job as a righteous man who feared God, abstained from evil, and loved God's Word (Job 23:12).
2. He was very precious in God's eyes. God Himself even boasted to Satan that there was none like His servant Job in the whole earth.
3. Satan mocked God's boast by telling God that Job only feared God because God blessed him, or bribed him. Satan declared to God that if all of Job's blessings were removed, he would curse God to His face.
4. God tested Job by allowing Satan to cause him sufferings in two stages:
 - a. First, all of Job's riches and cattle were taken away. Also, the most dear things to Job were destroyed; his 7 sons and 3 daughters died when the house fell on top of them. Job passed the test and did not curse God (as Satan said he would). Rather, he worshipped God and said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:20-21).
 - b. Second, Job was tested more sorely when his own body was smitten with boils, from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (2:7). When tempted by his wife to curse God and die to end his misery, Job again passed the test and answered, "What? Shall we receive the good at the hand of God and not the evil? In all this Job did not sin with his lips" (2:10).
5. However, as time passed by and Job's sufferings continued, he began to weaken and to complain to God that he

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Six (Continued)

was suffering unfairly. His friends told him that he must have sinned, for which cause God was punishing him. Job protested by declaring that he had not sinned (27:5-6) and then boasted of all of his goodness and greatness.

6. Eventually, God appeared to His dear servant Job. The long "night" was over. The test had done its perfect work. God did not test Job because he had sinned, but so that Job would know God and also know himself. In God's presence Job felt very regretful and sorry for the self-righteous, self-justifying attitude he expressed toward God during the test he was suffering; an attitude full of reasonings, arguments, pride, self-righteousness, and self-vindication.

7. Job sincerely repented before the Lord and hated his self.

8. God had purified and refined his dear servant, Job. He came forth as gold (23:10). God blessed Job even more now than in the beginning. He had twice the riches, a new family and four generations of descendants besides, and a long life. He also now knew himself more truly, and he knew His God as never before.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seven

GOD CALLED ABRAHAM (1) **(Josh. 24:2; Gen. 12:1-4)**

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that although all mankind once again turned its back on God and insulted Him by worshipping false gods, idols, God had mercy on one man, Abraham, and his wife, Sarah. God appeared to Abraham (who also was an idol-worshipper, the same as all the others around him) and called him to leave his idols, family, and country and follow Him, the true God, to a new country and begin a new family. Abraham believed in God and followed God's calling.

Memory Verse: "By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out to a place which he was about to receive for an inheritance; and he went out without knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8).

Facts to Teach:

1. After the great flood that destroyed all the living things on the earth, Noah's sons and daughters-in-law began to have children and filled the land. After many, many years and generations passed, mankind again became very sinful and rebellious in the eyes of God. The people were filled with pride and were building a great city out of bricks and a tower that would reach up into heaven. It was as if they were saying to God, "We don't need you!" Man was totally rebellious.

2. Everybody had turned away from the true God and they all worshipped false gods; gods they had made with their own hands, idols.

3. Instead of destroying all the wicked human race again, this time God called out just one man, Abraham, and his wife, Sarah.

4. No one in Abraham's family knew the true God; just like all the rest of their relatives and friends, they also worshipped idols (Josh. 24:2).

5. One day, however, the "God of glory" appeared to Abraham and called him (Acts 7:2-3; Gen. 12:1). God told Abraham to leave everything behind, to leave his old, sinful, idol-worshipping country and family. God made some wonderful promises to Abraham, if he would obey his call and follow Him to a new land, a new country, that He had prepared for him and his descendants.

a. God promised that He would make of Abraham a very great nation. That meant that Abraham and Sarah would have many, many children, descendants. This "great nation" includes all of the many millions and millions of the Jews and the Christians also.

(Continued)

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seven (Continued)

b. God also promised Abraham that He would bless him, that He would make his name great, and that through him all the families on the earth would one day again be under God's blessing.

6. Although Abraham was seventy-five years old, He answered God's call. He, his wife, and his nephew, Lot, left their country and all their family and obeyed God to go to a land they had never seen before. They neither had a map, nor did they know the way to go. They only had the real and living "God of glory" who had appeared to Abraham and had called him to follow Him. They followed His invisible presence and safely arrived in the land of Canaan, far, far away. They hoped to soon have children and begin that "great nation" that would only love and serve the living and true God.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eight

GOD CALLED ABRAHAM (2)

(Gen. 12:4-8; 22:1-3, 12; Heb. 11:17-19)

Burden to Impart:

After obeying God's calling to go to Canaan, Abraham lived a simple life as a called one, loving the Lord and calling upon Him. He lived with an altar and a tent. He trusted in God and defeated kings in battle. He believed in God's promise and had a son, Isaac, in his old age. He was called a "friend of God."

Memory Verse: "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness, and he was called a friend of God" (James 2:23).

Facts to Teach:

1. God's invisible presence safely brought Abraham, his wife, and Lot through the long desert journey to the promised land. When they arrived, God again appeared to his believing and obedient called one. This was to encourage him and let him know that he had arrived, God was still with him, and God was happy with him.

2. Abraham lived a simple life in his new country. Although God blessed him and he became very rich, he never built a house for himself. He chose to live in a tent instead. In this way he could more easily follow the Lord. He lived like a pilgrim. Also, he built an altar nearby his tent and there he would pray and call upon the Lord. This tells us that Abraham loved the Lord and worshipped the Lord. He no longer worshipped idols in silence; Abraham called upon the name of the Lord (Gen. 12:8).

3. One day Abraham's nephew, Lot, was taken away as a captive by the armies of four neighboring kings. Abraham prayed to the Lord (indicated by the raising up of his hand before going out to battle) and with his trained household servants defeated the kings and their armies and delivered Lot (Gen. 14). Abraham believed in God's power.

4. Although Abraham was ninety-nine years old he believed that the Lord would fulfill His promise to give him a son by Sarah. God fulfilled His promise and at nearly one hundred years of age Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son, Isaac. Abraham believed in God's promises.

6. So today, Abraham is the father of all the Jews, who were born through him physically. Also, he is the father of all those who believe and obey God's calling (Rom. 4:16-17).

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Nine

GOD CALLED ISAAC (Gen. 21:1-8; 22:1-18)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see the marvelous obedience of Isaac who, like Christ, was offered up as a sacrifice by his own father. This record of Isaac shows us a picture of how God the Father offered up His only begotten Son as a Sacrifice, and how Christ, being obedient unto death, was raised up again in resurrection.

Memory Verse: "By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac;...counting that God was able to raise him even from among the dead"
(Hebrews 11:17a, 19a).

Facts to Teach:

1. Abraham was one hundred years old when his wife Sarah gave birth to their son, Isaac. The birth of Isaac was a miracle from God. God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants when He first called him. Now, twenty-five years later, God began the fulfillment of His promise by the birth of Isaac.

2. Although Abraham grew up as an idol-worshipper and was later called when the God of glory appeared to him, his son, Isaac, grew up in a family that believed in and loved the true and living God. In this same way the children of those who believe in the Lord are blessed to also believe in Him at an early age.

3. Isaac, being Abraham's only son born through Sarah, was especially precious to him. Perhaps even more precious to him than God Himself, the One who had given Isaac to Abraham.

4. One day God tested Abraham in a way no other human being has ever been tested. God tested Abraham's love and obedience to Him by telling Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, back to Him as a burnt offering. God's gift to Abraham, Isaac, must not be more dear to him than the Giver, God.

5. Because of Abraham's completely unselfish love toward God and Isaac's absolute obedience to his father, we can see a beautiful picture of how God also would one day give up His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for the whole world.

a. Isaac was Abraham's only son, his beloved (Gen. 22:2; John 3:16).

b. Isaac obeyed his father (Gen. 22:5-9; Matt. 26:39).

c. Isaac bore the wood for his sacrifice even as Christ bore the cross (Gen. 22:6; John 19:17).

d. Isaac was obedient "even unto death," although he did not literally die (Gen. 22:9; Phil. 2:8).

e. Isaac was "raised from the dead" by God (in a figure) (Gen. 22:13; Acts 2:24).

6. Because of Abraham's absolute faith in God's promise that Isaac would one day have children (Gen. 17:19), he was able to offer up Isaac back to God. Abraham believed that if God required Isaac to die as a sacrifice, then He would also raise him up from the dead in order to fulfill His promise.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Ten

GOD CALLED JACOB (1)

(Rom. 9:11; Gen. 25:21-34; 27:41--28:2; 28:11-17)

Burden to Impart:

With Jacob we see that God chooses His called ones even before they are born. Although Jacob was born second (not first), he subtly bought the birthright from his brother, Esau. He later stole his father's dying blessing from Esau. Still, God had chosen him, regardless of his works. One day while this naughty boy was running for his life to another country, God appeared to him in a dream. The God of his fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac, was now his God, the God of Jacob.

Memory Verse: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.
(Genesis 28:15).

Facts to Teach:

1. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, gave birth to twins. Even before they were born they were already fighting within her belly. It seems they were struggling to see who would be the firstborn, for when the first child was delivered, the second was holding on to the heel of the first (Gen. 25:21-26). The firstborn was reddish in color and very hairy. He was named Esau. The second-born was smooth-skinned. He was named Jacob, which means "heel-holder." Even from his birth Jacob, the younger twin, was struggling to take the place of his older twin, Esau.

2. Jacob, however, did not need to struggle. It was not a question of who was born first or who was born second, of who was good or who was bad. The question of God's choosing was answered before their birth. God had chosen Jacob. Why? Because He is God, He has the right to make that choice.

3. One day after the boys grew up, Jacob craftily got Esau to give his birthright to him. (The firstborn son always had the birthright.) Esau came home one day famished with hunger after hunting. Jacob offered him some of the delicious stew he had made, on one condition: he must trade his birthright for the stew. Esau was so starving that he sold his precious birthright to his crafty brother for one bowl of stew (Gen. 25:27-34)!

4. Some years later when Isaac could no longer see, he wanted to bless his eldest son, Esau, before he would die.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Ten

When Jacob's mother found out about this, she invented a crafty plan so that Jacob could get his father's dying blessing instead of Esau. Jacob came in to his old, blind father, Isaac, wearing Esau's clothing and with lambskin coverings on his hands and around his neck, to receive his blessing. His father asked, "Who are you?" Jacob said, "I am Esau, your firstborn" (Gen. 27:19). This was a lie. He then told him "come near, I pray you, that I may feel you, my son, whether you be my son Esau or not." Jacob went near unto Isaac his father, and Isaac felt him, saying, "The voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau." He discerned him not because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands, so he blessed him (Gen. 27:15-23).

5. When Esau found out that his crafty brother had stolen his father's blessing from him by lying and deceiving his father, he was so angry that he planned to kill Jacob after his father died. Jacob's mother, however, found out about Esau's plot and made up an excuse to send Jacob away to his uncle Laban's house in their former country to find a wife (Gen. 27:41--28:2). So Jacob fled his brother and country to save his life.

6. Although Jacob was a naughty, cheating, "heel-holder," he was chosen by God. He did not yet know God but he met God in a dream one night on his journey. He dreamed and saw a ladder that reached from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending upon it. God was at the top of the ladder and revealed himself to Jacob saying, "I am the God of Abraham, your father, and the God of Isaac...the land whereon you lie, to you will I give it and to your seed" (Gen. 28:11-13). The Lord promised that He would go with Jacob wherever he journeyed, and would safely bring him back one day to his homeland (28:15). Jacob awoke from his dream and said, "Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." He called the name of that place "Bethel," which means "the house of God" (28:16-17).

[This lesson may be divided into two parts as follows: points 1-3 as one lesson and points 4-6 as another.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eleven

GOD CALLED JACOB (2)

(Gen. 29:1-29; 31:1-7; 32:24--33:4; 35:1, 6-7; 47:7, 10)

Burden to Impart:

Through Jacob's life we see how God changes and transforms His called ones through their many trials, sufferings, and dealings. As a youth, he was a crafty "heel-holder" who cheated his father and brother and had to flee for his life. After he was dealt with by God his name was changed from Jacob (meaning "heel-holder") to Israel (meaning "prince of God"). As a youth, Jacob cheated people and had to run away from them. As a transformed and mature man, even a prince of God, Israel was welcomed by a foreign country and even blessed the king of Egypt.

Memory Verse: "And He said, Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel" (Genesis 32:28).

Facts to Teach:

1. After God appeared to Jacob at Bethel, he continued on his journey until he arrived at his uncle Laban's house. This time the cheating heel-holder, Jacob, met his match, Laban. Laban was older and craftier than Jacob. He tricked and cheated Jacob over and over again during the twenty years Jacob stayed there and worked for him. He tricked Jacob by giving him his oldest daughter to be his wife, after Jacob had already worked seven years to marry the younger one, Rachel. Also, Laban changed Jacob's wages ten times (Gen. 31:7).

2. After twenty hard years of work, sufferings, and dealings from his uncle Laban, Jacob gathered his large family and herds of cattle and fled away secretly from Laban's house. Twenty years earlier Jacob fled from his father's house, from his brother, Esau. This time he was fleeing from his terrible uncle, Laban.

3. Jacob was going back home. However, he was very frightened that his twin brother, Esau, would still be angry with him and might kill him for the things he had done to him as a youth.

4. One night while Jacob was alone and fearing what his brother Esau would do when he met him, God appeared to Jacob again. God did not appear to him in a dream this time, He appeared to him in the form of a man. Because Jacob did not know who the man was, he was afraid of him. He thought he might be sent from his brother, Esau, to kill him. So Jacob wrestled with that man all night long. Eventually he realized that the man who he was wrestling with was not an enemy at

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eleven (Continued)

all, it was his God! He then wrestled harder! He told God that he would not let Him go until He had blessed him (Gen. 32:26). God blessed him. He also touched his hip and dislocated it. Jacob had to limp and use a cane for the rest of his life. The greatest blessing to Jacob that day was that God gave him a new name. He changed his name from Jacob ("heel-holder") to Israel ("prince of God").

5. To Jacob's surprise, Esau had no anger toward him, but happily welcomed him and his large family (12 sons and 1 daughter) back home. When Jacob was safely in his homeland God told him to go back to Bethel and make an altar to worship Him. This was the very spot where God had first revealed Himself to Jacob twenty years earlier, when he was just a young heel-holding cheat. God had kept the promise He had given him then: He was always with him, kept him safe wherever he went, and had brought him back to his homeland. He was truly the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!

6. In his old age Jacob moved to Egypt due to famine in the land of Canaan. He was now truly a "prince of God." When he met the king of Egypt he did not bow down to him and thank him for his kindness. No! Through the many years of his sufferings and God's working on him, he stood before Pharaoh as the man his name signified, a prince of God. What did the prince of God do when he met the king of Egypt? He blessed him (Gen. 47:7, 10). He also blessed his own son Joseph, Joseph's two sons, and his eleven other sons.

7. Summary: so Jacob, a naughty cheater, who firstly ran away from his brother and later from his uncle, was met by God, dealt with by God, and transformed by God to such a degree that he became Israel, a prince of God. Once he was chased away by his own relatives, now he was welcomed by strangers, even the king of Egypt. Once he seemed to be a curse to people, now he was a blessing. When God first appeared to him his name was Jacob, a heel-holder, a cheater. When God finished His work on him his name was Israel, a prince of God.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twelve

GOD CALLED JOSEPH (1) (Gen. 37, 39, 40 and 41)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, while he was a young shepherd, and through two dreams showed him that one day he would reign over his older brothers. After receiving the dreams, Joseph passed through many injustices, temptations, and sufferings. All of these trained and prepared young Joseph so that at 30 years of age he would be able to rule over all of Egypt.

Memory Verse: "Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"
(1 Peter 5:6)

Facts to Teach:

1. Joseph was loved by Jacob (Gen. 37:1-11).
 - a. He was born in Jacob's old age.
 - b. He was Rachel's son. (Rachel was Jacob's most loved wife.)
 - c. He was well-behaved, and reported his brother's evil doings to Jacob.
 - d. Jacob gave him a beautiful coat of many colors.
2. Joseph was hated by his brothers.
 - a. They were jealous of him because their father loved him more.
 - b. They were envious of his receiving the coat of many colors.
3. Joseph's dreams.
 - a. At seventeen years of age Joseph was a shepherd-boy.
 - b. He had two dreams from God which would one day be fulfilled.
 - 1) The sheaves bowing down to Joseph's sheaf.
 - 2) The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to Joseph.
4. Joseph's brothers sold Joseph as a slave into Egypt (Gen. 37:12-36).
 - a. Joseph's brothers plot to kill Joseph.
 - b. Ruben attempts to deliver Joseph.
 - c. Judah attempts to save Joseph's life by selling him.
 - d. Joseph's brothers tell Jacob that he was dead.
5. The Lord was with Joseph in Egypt and blessed him (Gen. 39:1- 6).
 - a. Joseph was sold to an officer in Egypt.
 - b. Joseph's master saw that the Lord was with Joseph; that he prospered in everything he did.
 - c. Joseph was made overseer of all of Potiphar's house and possessions.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twelve (Continued)

6. Joseph's overcoming and fleeing from temptation and being unjustly cast into prison (Gen. 39:7-20; 2 Tim. 2:22).
 - a. Joseph daily tempted by Potiphar's wife to lie with her.
 - b. Joseph's continual refusal to listen to her or even be near her.
 - c. Joseph's fleeing from her and leaving his outer garment.
 - d. Potiphar's wife's false accusation to the other servants and to her husband.
 - e. Joseph cast into prison.
7. The Lord was with Joseph in prison and blessed him (39:21-23). Eventually, he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh (40:1-36).
 - a. The Lord was with Joseph in prison.
 - b. The keeper of the prison put all things under Joseph's charge.
 - c. After ten years in prison Joseph accurately interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and Pharaoh's baker.
 - d. Joseph was forgotten in prison two years longer.
 - e. Joseph accurately telling and interpreting Pharaoh's two dreams.
8. Joseph ruled over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:36-57).
 - a. Pharaoh set Joseph over all Egypt when he was thirty years old.
 - b. Joseph stored up much grain during the seven years of plenty.
 - c. People from all countries came to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was bad in all the earth.

[This lesson may be divided into two parts as follows: points 1-5 as one lesson and points 6-8 as another lesson.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Thirteen

GOD CALLED JOSEPH (2) (Gen. 42-47; 50:14-26)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God fulfills the dreams He had given to Joseph 22 years earlier. His brothers came to Egypt to buy grain because of the famine and unknowingly bowed down to Joseph, as he foresaw in his dreams. We also see how Joseph wisely deals with his brothers in order to bring them to repentance before he revealed himself to them and blessed them. By his patient and forgiving treatment toward his cruel brothers we can see that Joseph's heart was full of love for them, not bitterness, anger, or hatred.

Memory Verse: "This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you"
(John 15:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy grain (Gen. 42).
 - a. Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain because of famine in the land.
 - b. Joseph recognizes his brothers but does not reveal himself to them. (Their bowing down to him was the fulfillment of the dream Joseph had twenty-two years before.)
 - c. Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies and puts them in jail for three days.
 - d. Joseph's brothers remember and feel sorry for their unjust, evil treatment of Joseph.
 - e. Joseph allows his brothers to go home with grain but leaves Simeon (the one who probably wanted to kill Joseph when he was young) in prison, until their youngest brother, Benjamin, would be brought back to Egypt to Joseph.
 - f. Joseph's brothers were bewildered when they arrived back in Canaan and found their money in every man's sack.
2. Joseph's brothers return to Egypt the second time to buy grain (Gen. 43-45).
 - a. Jacob sends all of his sons, including Benjamin, to Egypt again to buy more grain because of the sore famine in the land.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Thirteen (Continued)

- b. Joseph brings them to his house for a feast and gives them many hints that he is their brother Joseph, but they don't recognize him.
 - 1) He asks them about their father's health.
 - 2) He prepares a feast for them.
 - 3) He set them at the table in the exact order according to their birth.
 - 4) He had five times as much food served to his little brother, Benjamin.
 - c. Joseph sends them back to Canaan with grain but hides his silver cup in Benjamin's sack.
 - d. The servant stops them on the way, blames them for stealing from Joseph, and brings them back to Egypt.
 - e. Judah begs to be made a slave instead of Benjamin, for the sake of their father.
 - f. Once Joseph saw that at least one of his brothers' hardened, selfish hearts had been dealt with and softened, he revealed himself to them as their younger brother, whom they had sold off as a slave twenty-two years before.
 - g. They all wept and embraced each other.
 - h. Joseph sent wagons and supplies to safely bring all of his brothers' families and his old father, Jacob, back to Egypt so they could be fed and live through the remaining five years of famine.
3. Joseph's father and relatives move to Egypt (Gen. 46).
4. Joseph died in Egypt (Gen. 50:22-26). He prophesied that God would one day bring the people of Israel into the land of Canaan again as He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

[This lesson may be divided into two parts as follows: point 1 as one lesson and points 2-4 as another.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fourteen

GOD CALLED MOSES (1)

(Exo. 1:1--2:10)

Burden to Impart:

Through the cooperation of those who fear and love God (like the midwives and Moses' parents), God's called ones (like Moses) will be preserved from Satan's schemes and will be raised up by God to fulfill His calling.

In this lesson we see how the children of Israel multiplied in Egypt and became the slaves of Pharaoh. Because the Hebrew midwives feared God they did not obey Pharaoh's cruel command to kill all the baby boys born to the Hebrews. Also, because Moses' parents feared God, they kept their baby boy alive. Through God's sovereignty, a Hebrew boy who should have been killed was raised up as a prince of the king of Egypt.

Memory Verse: "By faith Moses, having been born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw that he was a handsome child, and they did not fear the king's decree" (Hebrews 11:23).

Facts to Teach:

1. Jacob's family, the children of Israel, multiplied exceedingly in Egypt.
2. After Joseph's death there arose a new king who did not know Joseph. Neither did he love the children of Israel.
3. Being afraid that one day the Israelites would take over Egypt, the king (Pharaoh) made all of them slaves and forced them to do hard outdoor work and build him treasure cities.
4. The Egyptians became increasingly harsh, strict, and cruel to God's people so they could control them. Yet the children of Israel multiplied more and more, and grew stronger and stronger.
5. Finally, Pharaoh gave the most horrible order; he commanded the midwives to kill all the male babies born to the Israelites.
6. The midwives would not obey Pharaoh's cruel command, for they believed in God and feared God more than Pharaoh.
7. Pharaoh then commanded all the people of his nation to be on the watch. If any Israelite woman was found with a male baby, it should be thrown in the river and drowned.
8. One Israelite woman had a beautiful baby boy and hid him three months. (That must have been a hard thing to do!)

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fourteen (Continued)

9. This baby's mother believed in God and feared God more than Pharaoh. No doubt, she prayed a lot to the Lord asking Him what she should do. The Lord gave her wisdom and she thought of a marvelous idea.

10. Being able to hide her baby no longer, she made a small basket-boat out of reeds and waterproofed it with tar. She placed the basket with her baby inside into the river among the reeds, near where Pharaoh's daughter would go to bathe each day.

11. The baby's older sister, Miriam, stayed nearby to observe what would happen.

12. Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket and asked one of her maids to bring it to her. Just when she opened the basket God caused the babe to cry. This caused her to have compassion for the babe and want to keep it. She named him "Moses."

13. Moses' sister then asked her if she wanted a Hebrew mother to nurse the baby for her. She did. She called Moses' own mother and presented her to Pharaoh's daughter.

14. In this way Moses was safely raised in Pharaoh's palace, as a son of the king of Egypt, with the highest education and training the world could offer him. Yet, he was raised by his own Hebrew mother during the first few years of his life. She was able to teach him about the true God, the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She also taught him that he was a Hebrew, not an Egyptian, and that he should love the Hebrews, for they were God's people and they were also his people.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fifteen

GOD CALLED MOSES (2)

(Exo. 2:11-15, 23-25; 3:1-8; 4:29-31)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how after 40 years of training in Pharaoh's palace Moses, the prince of Egypt, intended to deliver the Hebrews from bondage and failed. Then, after 40 more years of "training" in the wilderness as a simple shepherd, disappointed and rejected, God appeared to Moses and called him. God appeared to Moses in a flame of fire in the midst of a worthless thorn bush. The bush burned yet it was not consumed (burned up entirely). So also, God wanted to express His glory and power in Moses' life. In himself, Moses was nothing, an ordinary "thorn bush." But God called him so that He could shine out of Moses and use him to accomplish a great task: to deliver His people from the Egyptian slavery and bring them into the good land of Canaan.

Memory Verse: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. When Moses was grown up, at forty years of age, he felt sympathetic toward his brothers, the Hebrews, who were being abused as slaves by the Egyptians.

2. One day Moses saw an Egyptian mistreating a Hebrew. Infuriated, Moses came to the Hebrew's rescue and killed the Egyptian. Although Moses hid the dead body in the sand, the news spread to all around, even to Pharaoh.

3. So after forty years in Pharaoh's luxurious palace, now Moses had to flee from Pharaoh to the barren wilderness to save his life. Almost overnight the powerful Egyptian prince had become a terrified fugitive. It seemed as if Moses' highest dream, to deliver his Hebrew brothers from the cruel Egyptian slavery, had turned into a nightmare.

4. Although God had chosen Moses to deliver His two million people, the Hebrews, from Egyptian slavery, and had arranged for him to "learn all the wisdom of the Egyptians," even becoming "mighty in word and deed" (Acts 7:22), God could not yet use him to carry out the great task that was ahead. Moses still needed more preparation.

5. Moses spent the next forty years of his disappointed life as a simple shepherd in the wilderness. He did not even have a flock to call his own; he shepherded his father-in-law's flock. From a palace to a wilderness, from a scepter to a staff. All of Moses' power, pride, and natural strength withered away.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Fifteen (Continued)

6. God's calling, however, never changes. When the right time came, when God's people cried to Him for relief, He appeared to Moses for the first time in his life and called him.

7. One day Moses saw a worthless thorn bush aflame in the desert; not an uncommon sight. But the bush burned with fire and yet was not consumed! When the Lord saw Moses turn aside to see, out of that glorious burning bush God called Moses by name.

8. Now that Moses' self-confidence and natural strength had withered away, God appeared to Him in His bright glory to call Him, infuse him with Himself, and use him for His great purpose.

9. God then revealed His two-fold intention to Moses concerning the children of Israel:

- a. to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians.
- b. to bring them into the good land of Canaan that flows with milk and honey so that they could serve the Lord.

10. When Moses and his brother Aaron gathered the elders of Israel together and told them all the words the Lord had spoken to them and did signs in their midst, the people believed, bowed their heads, and worshipped (Exo. 4:29-31).

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Sixteen

GOD CALLED ISRAEL (1) (Exo. 12:3-13; 14:1-31)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called the children of Israel by using two means: He saved them from His judgment upon all the firstborn sons by the atoning blood of the Passover lamb, and He saved them from the Egyptian slavery by bringing them safely through the great Red Sea. In the same way, we are saved by believing in Christ and His redeeming death for us, and by baptism we are transferred out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God.

Memory Verses: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Facts to Teach:

1. The children of Israel were a special treasure to God. God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would bring their descendants into the promised land of Canaan and make a great nation out of them.

2. God was with Moses when he demanded that the king of Egypt let the Israelites go so they could serve the Lord. Moses' word was God's word. Pharaoh, however, would not believe or obey. Even after God caused nine dreadful plagues to fall upon Egypt, Pharaoh still refused to obey God. Rather, he hardened his stubborn heart again and again after each plague and would not let the Israelites go.

3. Finally, God had no choice but to righteously judge the whole land. All the firstborn must die. However, God provided a way of salvation for all who would believe and obey His commandment. Every house that killed a lamb and sprinkled its blood on the door post and sides of the door would be spared from God's judgment.

4. Just as God had warned, it happened. At midnight the Angel of Death passed through Egypt and killed all the firstborn sons. But, all the children of Israel were saved because they believed and obeyed God's word, sprinkling the blood of the killed lamb on their door posts. Because the lamb died, they did not need to die. The Angel of Death passed over every house of the children of Israel and all were saved.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Sixteen (Continued)

[Present points 5 and 6 as the gospel to the children as you teach.]

5. Just as the children of Israel were saved from God's judgment on the whole land of Egypt by sprinkling the blood of the killed Passover lamb upon their door posts, we too can be saved from God's terrible judgment that will come upon the whole world because it has hardened its evil heart against God, refuses to believe in God or obey His word, and rejects His provision for salvation.

6. Although we were all born into the world under Satan's slavery of sin, God has provided a way to escape His judgment upon the world. He gave His dearly beloved Son as a sacrifice for our sins to die upon the cross. When we believe in Him, the true Passover Lamb, all of our sins are washed away and God's judgment passes over us.

7. At midnight a great cry was heard in Egypt. All the firstborn sons were slain. The children of Israel were finally commanded to leave Egypt by Pharaoh. As they were fleeing Egypt Pharaoh again hardened his heart and pursued after them. Escape seemed impossible! On the right and on the left there were mountains, before them was the great Red Sea, and coming angrily from behind were the armies of Pharaoh.

8. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord for help. He parted the Red Sea and they walked through on dry ground to safety in the wilderness. Pharaoh foolishly tried to pursue the children of Israel and cross the Red Sea also. But, after the last Israelite had crossed over, God closed up the sea upon Pharaoh and his armies and all were drowned. The children of Israel sang, shouted, and rejoiced in their marvelous God and Savior.

9. God saved Israel from judgment through the redeeming blood of the Passover lamb and delivered them from the slavery of Egypt by bringing them through the Red Sea. In the same way, we are saved by the precious blood of Christ and by baptism we are transferred out of Satan's kingdom, the world, into the kingdom of God, the church.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seventeen

GOD CALLED ISRAEL (2)

(Exo. 16:1-15; 17:1-6; 20:1-17; 25:1-9)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God lovingly took care of His called ones, the children of Israel. As the best Husband, He faithfully provided manna for them to eat and water to drink during the 40 years they spent in the desert. Also, He gave them His law, the Ten Commandments, as a written photograph of Himself which clearly told them what kind of God He is and how He wants His loving called ones to be. Greatest of all, He allowed everyone whose heart was willing, to build a special house for Him, the tabernacle, so that He could dwell with them and they could meet with Him and talk with Him.

Memory Verse: "If you will indeed obey my voice and keep by covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people, for all the earth is mine" (Exodus 19:5).

Facts to Teach:

1. God had saved Israel from judgment and delivered them from slavery. Now, in the barren wilderness He would reveal Himself to them in many marvelous ways and thus practically make them into His people, His house, His bride.

2. After a very short time in the wilderness the Israelites complained and murmured because of hunger and thirst. (Of course, in the desert there is no food or water.) God used this as an opportunity to show them that He was watching over them, that He was their Provider, their Husband, and their God. He gave them fresh manna to eat from heaven every morning. It tasted sweet like a wafer with honey. It never failed for the forty years they spent in the wilderness. Also, He told Moses to strike a large rock with his staff. And when he did, water flowed out and quenched all their thirst.

3. Also, God brought them to Mt. Sinai and there revealed Himself in a much clearer way than by just doing miracles for them, like parting the Red Sea, raining manna from heaven, giving water from the rock, etc. He gave them His law, the Ten Commandments. He wrote it with his own finger (How precious!) in two tablets of stone. It commanded them in two simple ways: what they must do and what they must not do. It showed them two things: how God is and what He likes, and how God is not and what He does not like. It was as though He showed them a photograph of Himself in words! Through the law God's people came to know Him. Also through the law they came to know themselves, that they were sinners.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seventeen (Continued)

4. God even revealed Himself more to His dear called ones; He revealed to them the plan in His heart for them to build a special house for Him, the tabernacle, which was a large tent. In this house they and He could meet together and talk together as a husband and wife. He gave Moses the exact plans of how to build it, but He would only allow those to help or to give something who would "give it willingly with his heart" (Exo. 25:2). That is, they must give and help with love, because their God is the God of love.

5. Today God's dwelling place is not a tabernacle or temple made with men's hands (Isa. 66:1-2). He dwells in our spirit (Eph. 2:22) and our heart (Eph. 3:17). His dwelling place is the church (Eph. 2:10-22).

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eighteen

GOD CALLED JOSHUA AND CALEB

(Num. 13:1-3, 17; 14:10, 22-24, 29-30, 36-38; Josh. 1:1-9)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how Joshua and Caleb wholly followed the Lord and finally brought God's people Israel into the promised land of Canaan. Ten of the twelve spies who searched out the rich promised land returned with an evil report of disbelief and discouraged the people so much that they no longer believed the Lord's promise that they could take the land as their inheritance. The other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, believed the Lord's word and told them to "go up at once" to possess the land. Thus, through the leadership of Joshua and Caleb, God's people entered into the long-promised land of Canaan, destroyed the enemies, and possessed the land.

Memory Verse: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Facts to Teach:

1. After two years of living in the desert under God's care and provision, the children of Israel came to the border of the promised land.
2. Moses chose twelve men of the twelve tribes of Israel and sent them as spies into the land of Canaan to search it out; to see whether the people were weak or strong, few or many; whether the land was good or bad.
3. They searched out the land for forty days and then returned to their camp. They brought a sample of the rich fruit of the land with them. It took two men to carry one bunch of grapes on a pole back to the camp. What a rich land!
4. Ten of the spies gave an evil report and discouraged the hearts of the children of Israel. They told them that the land did flow with milk and honey, BUT:
 - a. The people of the land were too strong for them to war against and win.
 - b. The cities were very strong and fortified with great, high walls.
 - c. There were many enemies dwelling in all the land.
 - d. There were giants in the land, and the Israelites were like grasshoppers in their sight.
5. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, gave a very good report of the land, saying, "The land we passed through to

(Continued)

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eighteen (Continued)

search it, is an exceeding good land...flowing with milk and honey" (Num. 14:7-8). Furthermore, they believed in the Lord's promise to give them the land so they spoke to the people very boldly to encourage their hearts.

a. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30).

b. Joshua told the people, "If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us...Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land...the Lord is with us: fear them not" (Num. 14:8-9).

6. Because the people believed the evil report of the ten spies, they were about to stone Joshua and Caleb to death.

7. The Lord saved their lives. But He would not tolerate the people's evil, hardened heart of unbelief and provocation. Unbelief insults God to the uttermost. God told them that none of them would enter into the land; they would wander in the wilderness forty years until they died. Only the children, those under twenty years of age, and faithful Joshua and Caleb, could enter into the land promised to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

8. The Lord was pleased with Joshua and Caleb because they wholly followed Him (Num. 32:12) and had another spirit (Num. 14:24); that is, a believing, obedient, and exercised spirit. The ten spies that brought up the evil report died from a plague before the Lord, but Joshua and Caleb lived (Num. 14:37-38).

9. Forty long, testing years passed and all those over twenty years of age died in the desert, never entering into the promised land. After Moses also died, the Lord called Joshua (Moses' young attendant) and told him to rise up and lead all the children of Israel over the Jordan River into the land that the Lord would give them as their inheritance (Josh. 1:1, 2, 6).

10. Through Joshua's leadership God's people Israel finally reached the goal He had intended for them over forty years earlier when they were delivered from the slavery of Egypt through Moses. "Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war" (Josh. 11:23).

[If the children should ask why Moses died in the wilderness and did not inherit the promised land since he did not rebel or believe the ten evil spies, it can be explained to them that Moses disobeyed the Lord in a very serious matter one time in the wilderness and was thus disallowed to enter the promised land. This point should be avoided at this time, if possible, for there is not enough time to cover it adequately.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Nineteen

GOD CALLED RAHAB THE HARLOT

(Josh. 2; 6:17-25)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called Rahab, the sinful harlot, and saved all of her family from destruction because she turned her heart to God and joined herself to His people, risking her life by hiding the two men of Israel on her rooftop when they came to spy on Jericho. Because of her kindness to them they answered her request to save her and all her family alive when the army of Israel destroyed Jericho and burned it with fire. After that, Rahab dwelt in Israel (John. 6:25) and married a leader of God's people, Salmon (Matt. 1:5), and even became an ancestor to Christ!

Memory Verse: "By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace" (Hebrews 11:31)

Facts to Teach:

1. Joshua sent out two spies into the land of Canaan to spy on Jericho, the first city that was to be destroyed of the enemies who dwelt in the land.

2. They spied on Jericho and even stayed in the house of one of its people, Rahab the harlot. She was probably one of the most sinful persons in the city. But she realized that the Lord had given the whole land to the Israelites so she received the two spies into her house. That was the wisest decision she made in her whole life.

3. The king heard that the two spies were in her house and commanded her to bring them out. At the risk of her own life she lied to the king and told him that they had already left the city. Actually, she hid them on her rooftop under stalks of flax.

4. Before the spies went on their way, Rahab made them swear by the Lord that because she had saved their lives, when they destroyed the city, they would save all her family alive; her father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all their children.

5. The spies agree. She then lowered them down by a scarlet rope from her house (which was built upon the great wall of the city) to safety outside the city.

6. The day of battle soon arrived. After circling Jericho each day for six days with the priests blowing their trumpets followed by the marching army of Israel, Jericho was frightened.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Nineteen (Continued)

7. On the seventh day they circled the city seven times. On the seventh time around the priests blasted their trumpets and all the people shouted with a great shout, and the walls of Jericho fell down flat!

8. Rahab's house, however, was safe. As she had agreed with the spies, she hung her red rope out of the window of her house. That was the sign agreed upon so that the armies of Israel would know which house was hers and would not destroy the people in that house.

9. That scarlet red rope must have appeared like a stream of blood flowing down from the wall to the ground. This is a picture of how Christ would redeem his sinful people and bring them to safety and salvation through faith in him and His precious sin-cleansing blood.

10. Joshua had the soldiers bring Rahab and her entire family out of the condemned city. They were kept safe and sound, just as the spies had sworn. This was her reward for safely hiding the two spies from the king of Jericho and saving their lives.

11. The city was then burned with fire and all that were in it died. Only Rahab and her family were saved alive.

12. Rahab dwelt in Israel (Josh. 6:25) and married a leader of God's people, Salmon (Matt. 1:5), and even became an ancestor to Christ.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty

GOD CALLED RUTH THE MOABITESS

(Ruth 1-4)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called Ruth, a foreigner of the Gentile, idol-worshipping country of Moab. Although Ruth had no place among God's people by birth because she was not a Jew, yet because she had a heart that sought after God and cleaved unto God's people, she was not only accepted into the congregation of God's people, she was blessed by God. She married a compassionate, wealthy, and honorable kinsman named Boaz and had a son who was later the grandfather of the great king of Israel, David. Eventually, she even became an ancestor of Christ.

Memory Verse: "But Ruth said, wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Facts to Teach:

1. Joshua and Caleb led the Israelites into the good land which God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They destroyed the enemies and settled down. But after a while the Israelites no longer followed the Lord or obeyed His commandments. Instead, they did whatever they wanted to, whatever seemed "right in their own eyes."

2. When God's people obeyed His commandments and followed Him He blessed them (Deut. 28:1-8); when they forsook Him He sometimes held back the rain, which then resulted in famine. This was so they would turn back to Him and repent of their sins.

3. During a famine in the good land, a certain man (Elimelech) took his family (his wife Naomi and two sons) and left to the country of the Moabites. This was a wrong thing to do. He should have remained in the land of Israel and returned to the Lord, along with all the people, in order to regain the Lord's blessing. Instead, he took his family to a country that didn't believe in the Lord, but rather worshipped idols.

4. Once in Moab, Elimelech died. His two sons soon disobeyed God's commandment and married two women who were not children of Israel; they were idol-worshippers. They stayed in Moab for about ten years, then both sons died also.

5. By this time Israel had repented and returned to the Lord, so the famine was over. Naomi decided to return to the land of Israel. Her two daughters-in-law cried and wanted to

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty (Continued)

go with her. She said that they should not; they should stay in their own land with their own people. The one wept, kissed her good-bye, and stayed in Moab. The other, Ruth, would not leave her; she was determined to stay with Naomi, Naomi's people, and Naomi's God for the rest of her life. When Naomi saw that Ruth would not be persuaded, she allowed her to return with her to the land of God's people.

6. Naomi and Ruth were very poor when they returned to the good land, and neither one had a husband to work, for they were both widows. When the harvest time came Ruth gleaned in the fields after the reapers, picking up the grain that fell to the ground. She worked very long and hard hours. She was a diligent and virtuous woman. All of the people around learned how she had left her father, mother, and homeland to come to the country of God's people, had put her trust in the Lord, loved Naomi, and took care of her (Ruth 2:11-12; 3:11).

7. One day while gleaning in the field, Ruth met the owner of the field. He was a very honorable and wealthy man named Boaz. Ruth found out that night from Naomi that Boaz was a relative of her deceased husband, Elimelech.

8. According to God's law the nearest relative of the widow's husband should marry her, take care of her, and raise up children to her so that she would not lose the family's inheritance, the land of her husband.

9. Naomi's nearest relative (kinsman) refused to get involved with helping Naomi to keep her land of inheritance, because he would have to marry Naomi's widowed daughter-in-law, Ruth, who was a Moabitess.

10. Boaz, however, was more honorable. He not only paid the price to redeem Naomi's land of inheritance so she would not lose it, he married Ruth, a woman who was a foreigner, from the despised country of Moab.

11. God blessed this dear couple, unselfish, compassionate Boaz and virtuous Ruth, and they had a son. Their son was the grandfather of the greatest king Israel ever had until the birth of Christ, King David. The very greatest King, Christ, was born many years later and was a descendant of David and also of Ruth.

[This lesson may be divided into two parts as follows: points 1-5 as one lesson and points 6-11 as another.]

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-One

GOD CALLED SAMUEL

1 Sam. 1:2b, 8-28; 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1, 4-10, 19-21; 7:3-17)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called a young child named Samuel to serve Him. It all began with Samuel's mother who asked God for a son, and promised to give him back to the Lord all the days of his life. God answered her prayer. Thus, as a child, Samuel was brought to the Lord's house and raised up and trained as a priest to minister to the Lord. When he was still a child the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel and called him in a personal way. Samuel treasured up the Word of the Lord within him. Later he spoke forth God's Word as a prophet. Finally, he was a judge of God's people, expressing God's authority and decisions to them. Likewise, God has called all of those children who are born in His house. He wants all of us to learn to minister to Him, to receive His Word, to know Him, and to speak for Him.

Memory Verse: "And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Facts to Teach:

1. Samuel was born because his mother Hannah prayed to God to have a son. After his birth Hannah gave him to the Lord to serve Him (1 Sam. 1:2b, 8-28).
 - a. Hannah had no children.
 - b. While in Shiloh at the Lord's house she prayed to God for a son and vowed to give him to the Lord all the days of his life.
 - c. The Lord answered her prayer and she had a son. She kept Samuel at home until he was able to eat and take care of himself as a "child."
 - d. She brought the child Samuel to the Lord's house to the priest in charge (Eli) and told him that she had "loaned her child to the Lord; as long as he liveth, he shall be loaned to the Lord." So Samuel stayed in the house of the Lord in Shiloh under the care and training of the priest Eli.
2. Samuel grew up in the house of the Lord (1 Sam. 2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1).
 - a. Samuel did not wait until he was an adult to serve the Lord; even as a child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. This means that Samuel listened to Eli and learned from Eli how to minister to the Lord.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-One (Continued)

- b. Samuel grew before the Lord. The Lord was always beholding this young child-priest whose heart was so pure and loving toward the Lord. The Lord knew how important Samuel would be for Him and for God's people when he grew older.
- c. Samuel was in favor both with God and with men. He was so proper as a boy that not only God watched him growing up, all those around realized that this was a very special child and respected him.
- 3. God called Samuel and he answered God's call (1 Sam. 3:4-10).
 - a. Although Samuel had been serving and growing up in the Lord's house for some time, the Lord had not yet been revealed to him in a personal way.
 - b. One night when the Lord called Samuel, although he awoke from sleep, he did not know who had called him. He thought it was Eli so he asked Eli what he called him for.
 - c. After this happened three times, Eli perceived that the Lord was calling Samuel. So he gave him the proper instructions, "It shall be, if He call thee that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."
 - d. The Lord called Samuel and awoke him the fourth time. This time Samuel did not run to Eli. He asked the Lord to speak to him and told the Lord that he was listening to him, that he was the Lord's servant.
- 4. The Lord was with Samuel, spoke to him, and he became a prophet and a judge, speaking the word of God and praying for God's people (1 Sam. 3:19-21; 7:3-17).
 - a. Samuel listened to the Lord's words very carefully. He did not allow any to "fall to the ground." He treasured them all up in his heart.
 - b. Samuel spoke God's word to the people. All of the people recognized that Samuel was a prophet, one who spoke for God.
 - c. Samuel also prayed for God's people and judged them for forsaking Him. He told them to turn back to the Lord or God would not deliver them from their enemies. Samuel was a judge of the children of Israel. He expressed God's authority and judgment to them.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-Two

GOD CALLED DAVID

(1 Sam. 15:26-28; 16:1-13)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called David, a young shepherd-boy who worked in the field, to be the king over His people Israel. Although King Saul was a mighty man of war, he was disobedient to the Lord's word so he was rejected by the Lord from being the king of Israel. God had searched the land and had found one whose heart was perfect toward Him in faithfulness, fearlessness, love, and obedience. It was David. He became the greatest king ever to reign in Israel, destroying all the enemies, establishing the kingdom of God, and preparing all the materials for the building of the temple.

Memory Verse: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will" (Acts 13:22).

Facts to Teach:

1. When Samuel the prophet was old the people of Israel demanded that he appoint them a king, so they could be like all the nations around them. Although the Lord was displeased with their request, because they were actually rejecting Him from being their only King, he gave them a man as they desired, Saul, to be their king (1 Sam. 8--10).

2. However, King Saul did not obey the Lord's command completely, but rather did what he wanted. Therefore, the Lord rejected Saul from being king (1 Sam. 15:16).

3. The Lord knew that there was a much better person than Saul nearby, a young neighboring shepherd-boy (1 Sam. 15:28) named David.

4. The Lord's eyes searched over the whole earth to find anyone whose heart was perfect toward him, so He could raise up that person for His own glory (1 Chron. 16:9). He found such a one with such a heart, David.

5. The Lord sent Samuel to the house of David's father (Jesse) to anoint him.

a. When Samuel saw the oldest son he thought that he was the one the Lord had chosen to anoint as king of Israel. The Lord stopped Samuel from anointing him and told him, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-Two (Continued)

- b. Seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, but the Lord was silent and did not have Samuel anoint any of them. Samuel found out that there was one son left, the smallest and youngest, apparently so insignificant to Jesse that he didn't even bother to bring him in before the great prophet, Samuel. This young one was out in the field taking care of the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to have this youngest one, David, brought before him.
 - c. When this young shepherd-boy passed before Samuel the Lord suddenly spoke to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (1 Sam. 16:11).
 - d. Suddenly, in front of Jesse and his seven sons, the great, aged prophet Samuel anointed the young shepherd-boy, David, to be the king of Israel.
6. David did not immediately become the king. He needed to wait until many years later, when King Saul died in battle. He needed to grow up and to learn many hard lessons through much suffering. He became the greatest king who ever reigned in Israel (except for the Lord Jesus). Some of the great things about him were:
- a. David loved the Lord and desired to do God's will above all else.
 - b. He wrote many of the psalms to the Lord (like Psalm 23) which became the hymns of the people of God.
 - c. He fought and slew Goliath.
 - d. He defeated all of the enemies of Israel in the land.
 - e. He established the kingdom of God on this earth in Israel.
 - f. He prepared most of the materials that were used to build the great temple for the Lord by his son Solomon.
 - g. He received the plans for the building of the temple from the Lord and passed them on to his son, Solomon.

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-Three

GOD CALLED SOLOMON

(1 Chron. 28:1-5; 29:1, 20; 1 Kings 3:3-14; 4:29-34; 10:1-9)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God called King David's son, Solomon, as a young and tender boy to inherit his father's throne and to become one of the greatest kings of Israel. When God asked him what was his desire, he requested an "understanding heart." Because of his unselfish request God gave him wisdom and also riches and honor besides. With this wisdom he built the greatest temple ever constructed on the earth for God's habitation and glory.

Memory Verse: "Now, O Lord my God...I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in...therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge your people" (1 Kings 3:7, 9).

Facts to Teach:

1. When the great King David became very old and knew that he would soon die he gathered together all of the princes and rulers of Israel, the captains, mighty men of war, and officers. He told them that God had chosen his son Solomon to rule over Israel and to build the Lord's house (1 Chron. 28:1-5).

2. Before King David died, he gave Solomon his throne, the plans and pattern for the temple, and enormous amounts of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone to build the temple with. He charged him to build the Lord's house, saying, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not nor be dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord" (1 Chron. 29:20).

3. Solomon, however, was still "young and tender" and "the work was a very great task, for the palace was not for man, but for the Lord God" (1 Chron. 29:1) and "must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all countries" (1 Chron. 22:5).

4. When Solomon became king, he loved the Lord and right away worshipped the Lord by offering burnt offerings to Him. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask whatever he desired the Lord to give him (1 Kings 3:3-5).

a. Solomon prayed for an understanding heart saying, "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty-Three (Continued)

counted. Therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:7-9).

b. The Lord was very pleased with Solomon's request. Because he did not ask selfishly for a long life or for riches, the Lord gave him even more than what he asked. He gave him a wise and an understanding heart like no one has ever had before him or after him. He also gave him riches and honor and promised him a long life if he would walk in the Lord's ways (1 Kings 3:10-14).

c. We are told that "God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. This Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt...and his fame was in all the surrounding nations" (1 Kings 4:29-34).

1) He spoke three thousand proverbs and one thousand and five songs. (He wrote three books of the Bible: Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and most of the book of Proverbs.)

2) He spoke of every kind of tree and plant, of birds, animals, creeping things, and fish.

d. "Men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon" (1 Kings 4:34). One person who came to see Solomon was the Queen of Sheba. She came to test Solomon with many hard questions. After every question in her heart was answered and she saw all of Solomon's wisdom she was overwhelmed with awe and said, "It was the true report I heard in my own land of thy acts and thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and thy prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard" (1 Kings 10:1-9).

5. During his reign the greatest achievement King Solomon accomplished was the construction of the Lord's house, which was later called "Solomon's temple." He supervised over 183,000 men in this great task (1 Kings 5:13-18) over a period of seven years (1 Kings 6:38).

6. When the temple was completed and all the furnishings were brought in, the Lord was so pleased that He came in all of His glory and filled it; to such an extent that the priests could not even stand to minister (1 Kings 8:10-11).

7. The dwelling place that God had longed for and had spoken of to Moses 500 years earlier (Deut. 12:5), had finally been built. God could now live among His people and speak to them from the oracle in His house.

[Note to the teachers: Although Solomon's heart later turned away from the Lord and he sinned, we hope his positive points will serve as an inspiration to the children for this time. The negative points may serve as a warning in later years.]