

Topic: God is Encouragement (Lesson 22)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: "Be strong, and let your heart be encouraged, All you who hope in Jehovah" (Psalm 31:24).

Focus: Our heart is encouraged when we hope in God. Sometimes when things are difficult we become discouraged and we want to give up. Our God encourages us to never give up.

Practical Application: It is not easy to learn new things. For some it is hard learning to tie shoelaces or to hit a baseball. When we find things difficult to do, we want to give up, but our parents or coach will encourage us to keep trying and not give up. God is the same; He encourages us to trust in Him and not give up.

Intermediate:

Verse: "On the day that I called out, You answered me; You encouraged me with strength in my soul" (Psalm 138:3).

Focus: God is a God of encouragement. We should learn to call out (pray) to God when things discourage us. Over the centuries God's people have called out to Him in difficult times and God has given them hope.

Practical Application: Consider telling the story from Joshua 1:1-9 when the Lord encouraged Joshua to bring the children of Israel into the good land. Additionally, consider telling the story from 1 Kings 19:1-18 of how Jehovah encouraged Elijah when he was being threatened for being a prophet of God. The angel of Jehovah came and fed him and Jehovah spoke to him in a gentle, quiet voice. When we call out to God, He is able to encourage us or give us hope even when things seem very difficult.

Advanced:

Verse: "Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus" (Romans 15:5).

Focus: God is a God of encouragement for His people. He is able to give us hope even when it appears that there is no hope. God has encouraged many people through the promises He made toward us in His Word.

Practical Application: Consider telling the story of Daniel, that when he was in captivity he knew God's Word, so he knew that God had promised that after 70 years the children of Israel would return to the good land from their captivity. This promise encouraged Daniel to pray three times a day. Another example is in Acts 27:13-26 concerning Paul and God's encouraging him that he would be safe in the storm and there would be no loss of life. When we read the Bible today we get encouraged. The Bible declares to us a God who cares for His people and who is faithful concerning His promises to them. How encouraging God is!