



CREATION
THROUGH
EXODUS

Term One
Oral Bible Study Curriculum

Second Edition



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1. Creation

Genesis 1, 2:1-3, 7, 18, 21-25

Genesis 1

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” ²¹ So God created

the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground---everything that has the breath of life in it---I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 2

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, ' for she was taken out of man.” ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Study Questions: Creation

Genesis 1; 2:1-3, 7, 18, 21-25

Introduction:

God, the only Supreme Being, is the One who created the universe and the world, about 6,000 years ago. Everything around us (animals, plants, people, planets) were made from nothing by God Himself, and by the Word of His mouth they were created. John 1:14 says that Word was Jesus. After designing our world and everything in it in six days, God declared that it was good and pleasing in His sight. We were formed as part of His creation for the purpose of bringing glory to God and having a relationship with Him.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand our place in creation. To understand the greatness of God and see how His creation shows us His power. To realize that the Almighty God cares about His creation and planned every detail for good.

Attitude – To believe that we have been made in the image of God and to allow that to affect and change the way we live. To believe that God is all powerful and does as He pleases.

Actions – God charged us to protect and oversee all that He created, especially human life since we are made in the image of God. To make known the majesty and glory of our Almighty God.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 33:6 “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.”

John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Exodus 20:8-11; Job 38:1-7; Psalm 8:3-9; 19:1-6; 33:6; 90:1-4; 104:14-21; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3

Questions about the Story:

1. What do the first words of the Bible tell us? (Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.)

2. Who do we find as the only being at the beginning of creation? (Genesis 1:1-2. God was the only being that existed, as the earth was formless and empty.)
3. Who was hovering over the waters of the formless, empty earth? (Genesis 1:2. The Spirit of God.)
4. What does God create on the first day? (Genesis 1:3-5. God created light and separated it from the darkness.)
5. How did God create each thing? (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24. And God said, “Let there be...” and it was so. God just spoke and it was created.)
6. How do we know that God created in days, not long periods of time? (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31. There was an evening and there was a morning that passed for each day.)
7. What did God create on each of the days of creation? (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26. Day 1: The light. Day 2: The sky. Day 3: Vegetation and plants with seeds. Day 4: Sun, moon, and stars. Day 5: Fish in the sea and birds in the air. Day 6: Every other kind of land animal and made man.)
8. What is the difference between mankind and the other things that God brought into existence? (Genesis 1:26. God made mankind in His own image with the special responsibility of ruling over all of God’s creation, of subduing it, and being its caretaker.)
9. What is significant when God says, “Let US make man in OUR image”? (Genesis 1:26 points to the Father, Son and Spirit of God involved in Creation. See also John 1:1-3)
10. How did God see His creation after He had completed each day’s work? (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31. God said that it was good.)
11. What instructions did God give to man after He created them? (Genesis 1:28. To be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it.)
12. What did God do on the seventh day, after He created everything? (Genesis 2:2. He rested from all His work.)
13. What did God say about the seventh day? (Genesis 2:3. He blessed it and made it holy.)
14. How did God create man? (Genesis 2:7. The Lord formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living being.)
15. Who brought the woman into Adam’s life? (Genesis 2:21-22. God saw Adam’s need and brought the woman into his life to help him.)

16. What was Eve's role toward her husband? (Genesis 2:18. She was to be his helper.)
17. What is the command given regarding a man and woman coming together physically? (Genesis 2:24. A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, becoming one flesh.)
18. How do we know that Adam and Even were innocent when God created them? (Genesis 2:25. They were naked and felt no shame.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn about the character of God from His creation of mankind at the beginning of time? (Genesis 1:1) [We can know that we serve a God who has always existed, and there was nothing existent that could have created Him. We learn that He is a God of order and detail. He is precise in what He does and how He does it.]
2. What do we see about the power of God, since He spoke everything into existence? (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24) [We see that we serve a powerful God, more awesome than we could ever imagine or comprehend. He has the power to do whatever He wants with just a word.]
3. What does it mean that we or Adam and Eve were created in the image of God? (Genesis 1:26) [For us to be created in the image of God does not mean that we are a duplicate of God. Rather, we were created in righteousness and holiness.] (Ephesians 4:22-24)
4. What difference does it make that Jesus was involved in creation and He is the image that we bear? (Genesis 1:26) [He is God and His sacrifice could restore the image of God corrupted in the fall.]
5. Knowing that people are made in the image of God, what should our belief be about the value of human life? (Genesis 1:26) [We should consider human life to have great value, caring for all people and their needs.]
6. What personal lessons do we learn when we realize that God created everything and called it good? (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31) [Knowing that we are created good, we should not think of ourselves as worthless or meaningless. This would be treating God as a liar, since God has already declared His creation to be good.]
7. What encouragement can we find in the character of God when He calls His creation good? (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21,

- 25, 31) [We can find encouragement that God is a loving God who values us and our lives.]
8. What does it mean for us to subdue the earth and the creation of God? (Genesis 1:28) [God calls people to watch over His creation and take care of it. (See Psalm 8:6-8)]
 9. Why did God set apart the seventh day as holy? (Genesis 2:2-3) [God created the seventh day to be a holy day, a day of rest and he blessed it. It is also a holy day for us to worship, to rest and to honor God.]
 10. How can we properly and biblically obey the command of God to be fruitful and multiply? (Genesis 1:28) [We need to follow the commands of God regarding marriage. First, a union is to be “male and female” as God created it to be; husbands are to be united with their wives and wives with their husbands; sexual immorality of any kind is against God’s design for marriage. We are to leave our former relationship with our parents and be united with our spouse, becoming a new family.]
 11. What role should a wife play in her husband’s life? (Genesis 2:18) [A wife is to serve as a helpmate in fulfilling the work that the Lord has given her husband to do. See Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12.]
 12. When we consider the innocence of Adam and Eve when they were created, what do we learn about the condition of God’s creation? (Genesis 2:25) [We see that God’s creation was in sinless perfection, as Adam and Eve were living a life without shame.]

2. The Fall into Sin

Genesis 2:8-10, 16-17 & 3:1-23

Genesis 2

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 3

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me-- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman He said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam He said, “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

Study Questions: The Fall into Sin

Genesis 2:8-10, 16-17 & 3:1-23

Introduction:

God created a special tree in the middle of the garden called the “Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” This was the only tree in the entire garden whose fruit was not to be eaten. In contrast, any of the fruit from all the other trees in the garden could have been eaten. God gave clear warnings to the man that he would die if he ate from this tree. Although Adam and Eve were created without sin, they now had to decide whether they would obey God’s command about the tree or if they would explore the sinful unknown. Choosing to disobey God would mean punishment and ultimately death. Yet God promised them an offspring that would crush the serpent’s head and would be the one sacrificed for them to give them cloths of righteousness.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand the punishment for sin and the price of disobedience to God. To understand the ways of the devil in his fight against the followers of God. To know that God gives us His commands for our good.

Attitude – To realize that the results of sin are long-lasting. To repent of the sin in our lives. To trust in the Messiah who came to offer forgiveness for our inherent sin.

Actions – To turn from sin to God and His Word or Promise. To stand against Satan in all of His works and all of His ways in the power of Jesus’ victory over Satan.

Memory Verse:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Exodus 34:6-7; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 3:10-12, 22-23; 5:12-21; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:15-17

Questions about the Story:

1. Who created the garden where Adam and Eve were living? (Genesis 2:8. The Lord God.)
2. What things in the garden did God give Adam and Eve access to? (Genesis 2:9, 16. All kinds of trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.)
3. What was the only limitation that God had set for Adam and Eve in the garden? (Genesis 2:16-17. They were commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
4. What was God's promised punishment for Adam and Eve if they chose to disobey and eat from this tree? (Genesis 2:17. They would die.)
5. What characteristic is different about the serpent in comparison to any of the other animals God created? (Genesis 3:1. The serpent was craftier than any of them.)
6. What is uncommon about the serpent as he comes in contact with the woman? (Genesis 3:1. He speaks to the woman.)
7. What is the first thing that the serpent says to the woman? (Genesis 3:1. "Did God really say...?")
8. According to her recollection, what does the woman add to God's commandment to her? (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:3. The woman adds the notion that they were not to touch the tree in the middle of the garden.)
9. What does the woman correctly remember about the consequence for eating the fruit of this tree? (Genesis 3:3. She remembered that if they ate from it, they would die.)
10. What is the serpent's immediate response in reaction to the woman's caution? (Genesis 3:4. He dismisses the warning from God by saying that Word of God is not so.)
11. How does the serpent tempt the woman into eating the fruit? (Genesis 3:5. The serpent tells her that if she would eat the fruit, her eyes would be opened and she would be "like God.")
12. What does the woman finally do in response to the pressures of the serpent? (Genesis 3:6. She takes some of the fruit and eats it and gives some to her husband.)
13. Where was her husband during this whole process and what was his response to the temptation? (Genesis 3:6. He was with her and also ate the fruit.)
14. What were the immediate results of the actions of Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:7-10. Their eyes were opened, they realized they were naked and were afraid of the presence of the Lord.)

15. What was the response of God to Adam and Eve's fear and hiding? (Genesis 3:9. He calls out to them asking, "Where are you?")
16. What was Adam and Eve's response to God's question regarding their disobedience? (Genesis 3:11-13. Adam first passed the blame to Eve, Eve continued by passing the blame to the serpent.)
17. What is the punishment God gave to each of them in response to their sin? (Genesis 3:14-17. The serpent was to crawl on his belly for the rest of his days and forever be the enemy of mankind. The woman was to experience pain in childbirth and she was to submit to her husband. The man would have hard labor in working the ground to produce food.)
18. What is the hope we find in the prophecy that is given with God's proclamation of punishment? (Genesis 3:15. That the offspring of man will crush the head of the serpent, but that the serpent would strike the heel of the man.)
19. What does God make for Adam and Eve in response to their nakedness? (Genesis 3:21. He made them garments of skin.)
20. What was God's response to Adam and Eve's presence in the garden, now that they had sinned? (Genesis 3:22-23. God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." He then banished them from the garden.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we learn about God by His creation of the trees in the garden for Adam and Eve? (Genesis 2:8-9) [God provides for the needs of His creation.]
2. What does this story teach us about God setting restrictions in our lives? (Genesis 2:16-17) [God's rules display His love. He tests us to see if we will obey. Although God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, it was His only restriction and He had provided plenty for all their needs. God gives us so much! He wants us to live happily with what He has provided. However, we often focus on the ONE thing that God doesn't allow us.]
3. Who is "the serpent?" (Genesis 3:1) [The serpent is the Devil, or Satan. See Revelation 12:9; 20:2.]
4. How should we view the nature and identity of Satan? (Genesis 3:1-4) [Satan is a great deceiver (See John 8:44). He

- lies about God's Word. The serpent tempts people and leads them to sin, and he is crafty.]
5. How does Satan's temptation today compare to how he tempted Adam and Eve? (Genesis 3:1,4) [He causes us to doubt God and His Word; "Did God really say...?" He also accuses God and blame others.]
 6. What type of temptations do people face? (Genesis 3:1, 4-6) [The temptations that we face today are similar to those Adam and Eve were facing 6,000 years ago: temptations to doubt and question God's authority and His Word. The temptation of Adam and Eve teaches us three kinds of selfish desires that lead us to be tempted. Lusts of the flesh - what feels good; the lusts of the eyes - what looks good to us; and the pride of life - what makes us look good to others. 1 John 2:16]
 7. What does temptation reveal about us? (Genesis 3:6) [Every single person is tempted and we also fail like Adam and Eve. Romans 3:10-12 We need a savior.]
 8. What response does the Lord look for when a person falls into temptation? (Genesis 3:8-13) [He looks for repentance, turning from sin to the Lord and asking for mercy.]
 9. What did Adam and Eve have that we also have to fight temptation? (Genesis 2:16) [God's Word is the primary defense. Jesus responded to Satan using the Word of God as well in Matthew 4:1-11. Since Jesus is the Word and he beat Satan, then he is our defense as well. Another defense is prayer; they could have talked to God.
We can either respond to temptations with the Word of God, holding it as the truth we believe, or we can give in to our own desires and allow them to control our actions. The Lord will provide a way out and He is the way out of temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9.]]
 10. Why did Adam and Eve run away and hide from God? (Genesis 3:7) [They realized their shame and nakedness.]
 11. When we see God calling for Adam and Eve, what do we learn about His character? (Genesis 3:9) [Even though God knows about our sin, He still cares for us. He wants a relationship with us and seeks us out.]
 12. What is the significance of God clothing Adam and Eve with clothes of skin? How does this remind us of what Christ has done for us? (Genesis 3:21) [This was the first time an animal had been killed. This provision showed Adam and Eve that a sacrifice was necessary because of their sin. This is a great

picture of Christ as He covered our sin with His sacrifice on the cross and He gives us His robe of righteousness!]

13. Why did God banish Adam and Eve out of the garden? (See Exodus 34:6-7)
14. What is God's response towards us when we sin? Why does God discipline us for our sins? (See Hebrews 12:5-11)
15. What was God's plan to redeem us from this sin problem? (See Romans 5:18-19; John 3:16-18.)
16. What is meant by the prophecy "crush your head" and "strike his heel" in this passage? (Genesis 3:15) [We see that while the crushing of the head is deadly, the striking of the heel is only painful. Thus, we are encouraged in reading this promise from God that Satan will be crushed by the Offspring of the woman (Christ) even though He will suffer in the process. (Jesus' Crucifixion).]

3. Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 4

¹Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” ²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let's go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don't know,” he replied. “Am I my brother's keeper?”

¹⁰The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear.

¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, “Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Study Questions: Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

Introduction:

Cain and Abel, two sons of Adam and Eve, displayed different heart attitudes as they brought offerings to the Lord. Cain brought an offering to the Lord from his crops. His brother, Abel, brought the fat portions from some of the firstborn lambs from his flocks. God honored Abel's offering, but did not approve of Cain's. Cain became angry because God honored Abel's sacrifice. God then warned Cain that sin was trying to destroy him, and God invited him to do what was right so he could be accepted, too. Cain did not listen to God and did not value his brother's life, so he murdered Abel. Cain then discovered that, though he has freedom to choose his actions, there is a high price to pay for sin. In the future, God would allow His first and only Son to die in exchange for the eternal price for Cain's sin and ours as well. In joyful response we honor God as Abel did.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that we are under a curse because of our sin and that the Lord brings punishment upon a sinful and unrepentant heart. To know that the Lord does give mercy even though there are consequences for sin. To realize Jesus is the firstborn who took the sin that was too much for us to bear.
Attitude – To believe that God is worthy of all we have to give and He is worthy of all honor and glory. To respect all people because they are made in the image of God.
Actions – To repent when the Holy Spirit convicts us of a sin, rather than hardening our hearts and continuing to sin. To honor the Lord with all that He has given to us.

Memory Verse:

1 Samuel 15:22 “But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; Malachi 1:6-9; 3:8-10; Luke 21:1-4; Galatians 5:16-17; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12

Questions about the Story:

1. Who did Eve give credit to for the birth of her son Cain? (Genesis 4:1. She gives credit to God, saying, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”)
2. What were the different work responsibilities of Abel and Cain? (Genesis 4:2. Abel kept the flocks and Cain worked the soil.)
3. What is significant about Abel’s offering in contrast to Cain’s offering? (Genesis 4:3-4. Abel brought his very best: the fat portions from the firstborn of his flock, whereas Cain merely brought some of the produce of the soil.)
4. How did the Lord look at the offering that Abel brought? (Genesis 4:4. With favor.)
5. How did Cain respond when the Lord looked unfavorably on his offering? (Genesis 4:5. Cain was very angry and his face was downcast.)
6. What was the call the Lord gave to Cain? (Genesis 4:7. The call was to do what is right so he would be accepted, too.)
7. How is sin described by the Lord? (Genesis 4:7. Sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you.)
8. What did the Lord warn Cain he needed to do about the sin that wanted to destroy him? (Genesis 4:7. He must master it.)
9. What was Cain’s plan when he took Abel out to the field with him? (Genesis 4:8. To attack Abel and kill him.)
10. How did Cain sin when the Lord came to ask him about his brother Abel? (Genesis 4:9. Cain lied by saying he didn’t know where Abel was. Cain also displayed a hateful, unloving heart, and disrespect for God by saying that he wasn’t responsible for his brother Abel.)
11. What consequences did Cain suffer because he had murdered his brother? (Genesis 4:11-12, 14. Cain was put under a curse and driven from the ground, which would no longer yield crops for him. Cain would forever be a restless wanderer, and hidden from the presence of the Lord.)
12. What did Cain say about his punishment? (Genesis 4:13. The punishment is more than I can bear.)
13. Although God punished Cain for his sin, how did He also protect him? (Genesis 4:15. The Lord put a mark on Cain so that anyone who found him would not kill him. He also declared that anyone who killed Cain would face judgment seven times worse than Cain’s.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is God's role in the creation of each of us? (Genesis 4:1) [Just as Eve credits the Lord for the birth of her first son, the Lord is our great Giver of Life. Without Him we would not exist.]
2. What is important about an offering given to the Lord? (Genesis 4:3-4) [Our offering is to be from our very best, our first fruits because the Lord provided the first fruit of His Son on our behalf. The best that we give is only a small response compared to the best that He gave. 2 Corinthians 8]
3. What do we learn about God's character when we hear His words to Cain in response to Cain's anger over his unacceptable offering? (Genesis 4:7) [God is forgiving when we repent.]
4. What do we learn about sin from the warning that the Lord gives to Cain? (Genesis 4:7) [We learn that sin is waiting for us, desiring to have and own us.]
5. What does it mean to "master" our sin? (Genesis 4:7) [Mastering our sin means we must die to our desires allowing the Spirit of God to control our thoughts, desires and actions. That death happens through God's Word, in prayer, and in accountability with other believers. The control of the Spirit comes by surrendering our will to the Lord.]
6. Why is it important that sin is immediately dealt with and repented of? (Genesis 4:6-10) [If we don't deal with our sin, it becomes our master and then we stand guilty before God. The secret sin also will soon become outward actions and sinful behavior will also affect those around us.]
7. When the Lord convicts us of our sin, why is it important to repent? (1 John 1:5-9) [It is important to repent so that we can be forgiven and return to fellowship with the Lord.]
8. Why did Cain ask the Lord, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9) Should we be our brother's keeper? [Cain did not think it was his concern to look out for his brother's well being, but God expected him to be his brother's keeper. So for us, we should desire the best for those around us (Matthew 7:12).]
9. What is the Lord's response to sin in our lives? (Genesis 4:11-13) [God sees our sin and punishes it because He is holy and cannot tolerate sin. It is His holy nature to judge sin.]
10. What is the ultimate punishment for our sin? (Genesis 4:11-14) [The ultimate punishment is separation from God and His presence.]

11. What do we learn about the gracious character of God from this story of Cain and Abel? (Genesis 4:15) [We learn that God is forgiving and although He must discipline us, He does it in love. This is shown when God gave Cain a mark so that his life would not be taken by other men.]
12. What “firstborn of His flock” did God give to make atonement for our sin? [Jesus Christ was the firstborn Son of God who took the punishment that was too much to bear on Cain’s behalf and ours as well.]

4. Noah

Genesis 6-9

Genesis 6

⁵The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become and that the thoughts of his heart were only evil all the time. ⁶The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will destroy mankind from the face of the earth for I am grieved that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

⁹ Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹³ God said to Noah, "I am going to destroy the people of the earth because the earth is filled with violence because of them. ¹⁵So make an ark out of wood 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ^{16b}It should be three levels high with a door in the side and a roof. ¹⁷ I am going to bring a great flood on the earth that will destroy every living thing on the earth. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you. You will enter the ark with your wife, your sons and their wives and a male and female of every animal to keep them alive with you. ²¹You are to take every kind of food and store it for you and the animals to eat." Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Genesis 7

¹Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ⁴Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy every living creature I have made." ⁵And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

⁷ Noah and his family entered the ark and pairs of every animal and bird came to Noah and entered the ark. After the seven days the Lord shut the door of the ark and the rain began to fall and the springs of the earth opened up. ¹² The rain fell for forty days and forty nights.

¹⁷ As the flood waters began to rise they lifted the ark high above the earth as it floated on the surface of the water. ²¹ Every living thing on earth that had the breath of life died, ^{23b} but Noah and his family and the animals with them in the ark were saved.

Genesis 8

³⁻⁴After the rains stopped, the waters began to recede steadily from the earth and at the end of 150 days the ark came to rest on top of a mountain called Ararat.

⁶ After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the top of the ark and ⁸ sent out a dove. The dove found no place to land because the water was still receding. ¹⁰ After another seven days Noah sent the dove out again and it came back with a fresh leaf in its beak. ¹²He waited another seven days and sent it out again, but this time it did not come back. Then Noah knew that the waters had receded.

¹⁴After the earth had dried, ¹⁵ God said to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you, your family, and all the animals so they can ¹⁷ multiply on the earth.” ²⁰Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered sacrifices. ²¹The Lord said, “Never again will I destroy all living creatures with a flood.”

Genesis 9

¹³The Lord set a rainbow in the sky as a reminder of the promise He had made not to destroy the earth again by a flood. ⁷Then God blessed Noah and his sons saying, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

Study Questions: Noah

Genesis 6-9

Introduction:

Many generations had passed since the creation of the world and the hearts of people had turned from God to love wickedness. God was patient and allowed time for the people to repent. However, they continued in their wicked ways. Only Noah and his family still loved and obeyed God, a total of eight people. As a result, God sent a worldwide flood to completely destroy all mankind except for those eight people who were faithful to Him. In faith, based on God's Word, Noah and his sons built an ark and he became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. God kept them safe in the ark because of His grace and mercy. After the flood, Noah and his family were the only ones left on the earth.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that the righteousness that comes by faith in the Word of God, Jesus, is the only thing that can save you. To know that God has patience and desires to show us grace and mercy by providing a time to repent of our sins. To recognize that there is severe punishment for sin and that God is a just judge who must not leave sin unpunished.

Attitude – To be convicted by sin and conscious of our need for grace. To believe that God is faithful and is able to preserve us in a world that is evil. To trust that God has a bigger plan than what we might be able to see.

Actions – To live by faith and obey the Lord's Word by faith.

Memory Verses:

Ezekiel 18:32 "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!"

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Psalm 34:15; 45:7; Jeremiah 11:11; 32:19; Amos 3:7; Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:6-7

Questions about the Story:

1. What did God see in the people on the earth, and what did He feel? (Genesis 6:5-8. The Lord saw the thoughts of the heart of men were only evil all the time. He was sorry that He had made people on earth and His heart was filled with pain.)
2. What was God's judgment against the people's sinfulness? (Genesis 6:5-8. The Lord's plan was to destroy mankind from the face of the earth.)
3. Why was Noah the only one who found favor in God's eyes? (Genesis 6:9-10. He was a righteous man who was blameless among the people and he walked with God.)
4. What did God reveal to Noah? Why? (Genesis 6:13-19. God told Noah that He was going to destroy all the people and animals on the earth with a giant flood. He told His plans to Noah so Noah could prepare a way to escape the flood with his family.)
5. What did God tell Noah to do so that he and his family would be safe during the flood? (Genesis 6:13-19. God told him to build an ark (a boat). This would be a safe place for Noah, his family and the animals God sent to him.)
6. How large was the boat to be constructed? (Genesis 6:14-16. The boat was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high, and to have three levels with a door and a roof.)
7. Did Noah do what God commanded him to do? (Genesis 6:19. Yes, he did everything just as God commanded him.)
8. How many sons did Noah have? (Genesis 6:9-10. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.)
9. Why do you think God brought a pair (male and female) of all animals--to Noah? (Genesis 6:18. A male and female of each kind would replenish the earth after the flood.)
10. How long did God say it would rain? (Genesis 7:4. God caused it to rain for forty days and nights.)
11. Who closed the door of the ark? (Genesis 7:7. The Lord shut the door of the ark once everyone was on board.)
12. What happened after the rains stopped? (Genesis 7. The water began to recede and at the end of 150 days the ark came to rest on top of Mount Ararat.)
13. How did Noah know when the water had gone down? (Genesis 8. Through a window he had made when he built the ark, Noah sent out a dove to search the land. However, the first time the dove found no place to land because the water still covered everything. The second time the dove was sent out, it came back with a leaf in its beak, so they knew plants were growing. The final time the

- dove was sent out, it did not come back, which told to Noah that the waters had gone down.)
14. What did Noah do when he came out of the ark? (Genesis 8:20. When Noah came out of the ark, he built an altar and offered a sacrifice to the Lord.)
 15. How did God relate to Noah and his sons after the flood? (Genesis 9:7. God blessed them and told them to be fruitful and increase in number on the earth.)
 16. What promise and proclamation did God tell Noah and his sons? (Genesis 9:7, 11. (1) God promised He would never destroy the earth again by water, (2) He told them to have many children in order to fill the earth with people.)
 17. What sign did God give to show that He would keep His promise to never destroy the earth by water again? (Genesis 9:13. The rainbow was a sign of God's promise.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God see when He looks at our sinful hearts? (Genesis 6:5-6) [He sees great wickedness in us. He sees a heart that loves evil and sinful behavior in thought, word, and action. This grieves Him.]
2. What do we learn from this story about how God must respond to wickedness? (Genesis 6:5-8) [We learn that God must take action against the sin in people. He judges the evil because He is holy and cannot tolerate sin. 2 Peter 3:3-7]
3. What makes us righteous in the eyes of God when He looks upon us? (Genesis 6:9-10) [God sees us as righteous when we believe by faith in His Word, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 11:7]
4. What does it mean to walk with God? (Genesis 6:9) [It means to abide with him in everything, His Word, His will and His promises]
5. What do we learn about the character of God by His saving Noah and his family from the flood? (Genesis 6:13-19) [We see that God is gracious to those who trust in Him. He keeps for Himself faithful people to receive His promised inheritance.]
6. What are some examples from your own life where God has shown His faithfulness to you?
7. How can Jesus be seen as a type of “ark” for believers? [Just as Noah and his family went into the ark to be saved and be delivered from the surrounding storm/flood, Jesus saved us from the destruction of sin and eternal death. 1 Peter 3:20-21]

8. What ark has God given the church to build? (Matthew 28:19-20) [Christ's Great Commission was to tell the whole world about Him, baptizing the believers and teaching them to obey His commands so they might be saved from the coming judgment.]
9. What parallel does Noah's altar to the Lord have? (Genesis 8:20) [The altar is where the sacrifice for sin is made. It is on the altar of the cross that our sin was paid for.]
10. What does the rainbow mean for us? (Genesis 9:13) [God keeps his promises. He will never destroy the earth by a flood again.]
11. What response can we have when the Lord protects us from life's floods? [Just like Noah, we can have a response of praise and honor to the Lord for His mercy.]

5. The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6

Genesis 12

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran.

⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ After traveling through the land

⁷ the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”

So Abram built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him ...

⁸ and called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 15

¹ After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.”

⁵ God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ *Abram believed that what the Lord had promised would come true, and because of his faith the Lord saw him as righteous.*

Study Questions: The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6

Introduction:

Many years after the worldwide flood of Noah's time, there was a man whose name was Abram. He had moved from Ur to stay in Haran. Abram and his wife Sarai were both very old, but they had no children of their own because Sarai was barren. One day, the Lord called Abram to leave his homeland and go to a place that God would show him. That call would forever change the life of Abram and his family. Through that call the Lord began to reveal more clearly His plan for a coming Messiah.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that the Lord promised that all of the people of the earth would be blessed through Abram's seed, Jesus. To recognize that the blessing of the Lord carries a privilege and a responsibility. The privilege is the Lord's promised offspring; the responsibility is to carry that Blessing to the whole earth.

Attitude – To believe that the Lord alone, through His promise, is the only thing that qualifies you for anything. To trust the Lord's plan even when you cannot see all of it.

Actions – To obey the Lord and worship Him without questioning His reasons for what He asks. To go where the Lord tells us to go without hesitation. To pass on the blessing that we have been given.

Memory Verses:

Exodus 4:12 "Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith, Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Genesis 15:13-15; 17:1-22; Job 42:1-2; Hebrews 11:8-13;

Romans 4:1-25

Questions about the Story:

1. Who gave the call to Abram? (Genesis 12:1. The Lord called Abram.)

2. What were the Lord's instructions to Abram? (Genesis 12:1. The Lord God commanded Abram to leave his country and to go to a place that He would show him.)
3. What did the Lord command Abram to leave? (Genesis 12:1. His country, his people, and his father's household.)
4. Where was Abram to go to after leaving all that he knew so well? (Genesis 12:1. Abram was to go to a land that the Lord would show him.)
5. What did the Lord promise Abram? (Genesis 12:2-3. God promised to make Abram a great nation and bless him, making his name great and making him a blessing. All the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him.)
6. How old was Abram when he set out from Haran? (Genesis 12:4. Abram was seventy-five years old.)
7. Who were Abram's traveling companions? (Genesis 12:4-5. His wife Sarai, nephew Lot, and all the people (servants) he had gotten while living in Haran.)
8. When did the Lord appear to Abram again? (Genesis 12:6-7. and refer to verse 5: The Lord appeared after Abram had been traveling through the land of Canaan.)
9. What did the Lord promise Abram about the land that they are traveling through? (Genesis 12:7. That it would be the inheritance for his offspring.)
10. What did Abram do after God promised to give this land to his descendants? (Genesis 12:7-8. Abram built an altar at Shechem, and another near Bethel, and he called on the name of the Lord.)
11. What did the Lord promise Abram in a vision? (Genesis 15:1. The Lord promised to be his shield and his great reward.)
12. What was Abram's concern? (Genesis 15:2-3. Abram's concern was that he and Sarai had no children and so they would not have any child to inherit all that the Lord had promised.)
13. Who did Abram believe was responsible for his lack of children? (Genesis 15:3. He accused the Lord: Abram said to the Lord, "You have given me no children.")
14. To remove Abram's doubts and seal His promise, what did God tell Abram? (Genesis 15:4. God confirmed to Abram that a son would come from Abram's own body to be his heir.)
15. God took Abram outside to look up at the sky. What did He compare Abram's future descendants to? (Genesis 15:5. The Lord said that the descendants of Abram would someday be as many as the stars in the sky.)

16. Why did God consider Abram to be a righteous man? (Genesis 15:6. Abraham believed the promise of God would come true and God called that righteousness.)

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way does the Lord call to us today? (Genesis 12:1) [The Lord calls us through the preaching, teaching, reading of His Word, and through the Holy Spirit.]
2. How must we respond when the Lord calls us to do something? (Genesis 12:1-4) [We must go where He tells us to go and do what He commands us to do.]
3. The Lord commanded Abram to leave the comforts of Haran. What does He ask us to leave behind in order to follow Him? (Genesis 12:1) [The Lord asks us to leave everything behind including our sinful way of living.]
4. What is the blessing that we have been given? What responsibility goes with that blessing? (Genesis 12:1-3) [The blessing is Abraham's future offspring, Jesus. The responsibility is the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20.]
5. When God calls us, do we always know where God will be leading us? (Genesis 12:1) [No, but we can trust that He will show us when the time is right for us to know.]
6. What does this story teach us about God's provision when He calls us? (Genesis 12:2-3, 7) [We can be sure that when the Lord calls us and we obey Him, He will bless us and provide for us.]
7. Abram was seventy-five years old when God called him to leave his home. What qualifies us, like Abram, to be God's chosen one. (Genesis 12:1-8) [Nothing in ourselves, only the Promise of God. The new land and the altar point to the only sacrifice that would qualify Abram.]
8. What does this show us about who God is able to call and use for His glory? (Genesis 12:4) [God is able to call anyone He desires. When God uses someone who is not strong to do great things, this gives Him much glory, because it is clear to everyone that God is the One who is doing the great things.]
9. How should we respond to the Lord when He is leading us? (Genesis 12:7-8) [We should always worship God and give Him glory. We must ask Him to lead us in every decision.]
10. What does it mean that God said He would be Abram's "shield and very great reward?" (Genesis 15:1) [God is like a shield that surrounds us and protects us from the devil, the world, and our flesh. God is our reward because Jesus makes it

possible to know Him and having fellowship with Him. He also provides for all that we need for life and godliness through the glorious riches in Jesus Christ our Lord. See 2 Peter 1:3 and Philippians 4:19.]

11. What makes God look upon us as righteous? (Genesis 15:6) [God looks at us as righteous when we have faith in His Word and we trust in His promises. If we believe Him, we will obey what He tells us to do. Romans 4:1-5, 18-25; 5:1]
12. What is faith? (Genesis 15:6) [Faith is trusting God at His Word. It is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1, 8-10]

6. The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 16-21

Genesis 16

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; ²so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave him the name Ishmael.

¹⁶Abram was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.

Genesis 17

¹When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. ²I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³Abram fell face down and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram, but Abraham (which means "Father of Many"), for I have made you a father of many nations... ⁸The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you: Every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised."

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her."

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of 90?" ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendents after him.”

Genesis 18

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ²Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. ⁶⁻⁸*Abraham welcomed the men and hurried to prepare them a meal.*

⁹ “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There in the tent,” Abraham replied. ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

¹¹ Now Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent. ¹² She laughed to herself and thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too difficult for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁵Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Genesis 21

¹Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave him the name Isaac. ⁴ When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. ⁷ Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Study Questions: The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 16-21

Introduction:

Twenty-four years had passed since the Lord had first appeared to Abram and called him to go out of the land of Haran. Now, the Lord changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations," confirming the promise God had given that Abraham's descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky. Abraham, at 86 years old, had gotten restless in his wait for God to fulfill the promise of a child. His wife Sarah was still barren. So, 11 years after God had promised Him a child, Abraham slept with his wife's handmaiden, hoping that through her he might be able to assist God in giving him an heir. However, God planned to fulfill His promise to Abraham through Sarah and that promise would also be filled later through the coming Messiah who would be born of the free woman rather than the slave.

Goals:

Knowledge – To remember that God is never slow to keep His promises, but He fulfills them in His perfect time, according to His will. To recognize that although we are slaves to the Law, which is like Ishmael, we are free under the Promise, which is like Isaac.

Attitude – To believe on the Lord's Promise which comes through His Word; which is Jesus. To trust that God is in control and that His thoughts and ways are better than ours. Humbly accept God's promise for you.

Actions – To wait on the Lord for His provision and not try to make things happen our own way. To carefully listen to the Word of the Lord and follow it with our whole heart.

Memory Verses:

Galatians 4:31 "Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman."

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him."

Micah 7:7 "But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Galatians 4:22-31; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 40:28-31; Romans 4:18-21; Galatians 3:6-9 Hebrews 11:11-13; James 1:2-4

Questions about the Story:

1. Did God immediately fulfill His promise to Abram that Sarai would bear a son for him? (Genesis 16:1. No, many years passed before God was ready to fulfill the promise that they would have a son.)
2. Who did Sarai blame for not having children? (Genesis 16:2. Sarai says that the Lord had kept her from having children.)
3. What action did Abram and his wife Sarai do to try to receive the promised heir? (Genesis 16:1-15. Sarai gave Abram her maidservant Hagar to sleep with so he would have a child with her.)
4. How long did Abram and Sarai wait before trying to help God this way? (Genesis 16:3. Abram had already been living in the land of Canaan for eleven years.)
5. What was the result of the plan of Abram and Sarai's actions? (Genesis 16:4, 15. Hagar, Sarai's maidservant bore Abram a son, and Abram gave him the name Ishmael.)
6. What happened to Abram when he was 99 years old? [This was 13 years after the birth of Ishmael.] (Genesis 17:1-10. The Lord God appeared to Abram and commanded him to walk blameless before the Lord. He also confirmed the covenant that He had made with Abram, telling Abram that He still planned to fulfill it.)
7. How did God confirm the covenant that He had made with Abram? (Genesis 17:5, 10. To confirm the covenant, the Lord gave Abram the new name Abraham [meaning "Father of Many"]. God also establishes the covenant of circumcision as a sign between Him and Abraham to show that His presence would continue to be with Abraham even to the multitudes of generations.)
8. What did God command Abraham to do to all the males in his household? (Genesis 17:10; 21:4. God commanded that they be circumcised as a sign of God's covenant with Abraham.)
9. What did the Lord promise Abraham about his wife Sarah? (Genesis 17:16. The Lord promised that His blessing would be on Sarah and that she would have a son.)
10. What did Abraham and Sarah do when they heard the words of the Lord? Why? (Genesis 17:17-19; 18:1-12. Both Abraham and Sarah laughed about the words of the Lord and wondered if it was possible to have a son in their old age. Abraham suggested that the Lord's blessing would fall on Ishmael, who was now 13 years old.)
11. What did the Lord say in response to Abraham and Sarah's disbelief? (Genesis 17:19; 18:13-14. The Lord confirmed His

promise that Sarah would give birth to a son and the boy would be called Isaac. God added: “Is anything too difficult for the Lord to do?”)

12. Did God keep His promise to Abraham and Sarah about giving them a son? (Genesis 21:1-2. Yes, soon Sarah conceived and at the appointed time gave birth to a son just as the Lord had promised.)
13. How old were Abraham and Sarah when their son was born? (Genesis 17:17. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90.)
14. What did Abraham and Sarah name their son? (Genesis 21:3, 6. Isaac, which means “laughter.”)

Discussion Questions:

1. Was it right or wrong for Abram and Sarai to have Abram sleep with Sarai’s maidservant? Why? (Genesis 16:1-4. See also Proverbs 3:5-6) [Abram and Sarai were wrong for allowing Abram to sleep with Sarai’s maidservant, for two reasons. First she was not Abram’s wife. Second, it was wrong because they were not trusting in the covenant promise that God had made with them or in God’s power to provide for them.]
2. What does it mean to be a child of the slave woman verses the free woman? [It means that we are trying to do things our own way instead of trusting in the Promise of God. (Galatians 4:22-31)]
3. What is involved in the Promise of God that is beyond the promise of a child? [The Promise is a covenant from God. It is the promise of many nations and an everlasting possession. It means the impossible is possible. (Genesis 17:3-5, 8)]
4. What does this story of Abram and Sarai teach us about the importance of waiting on God’s timing? [We learn that patience and waiting on God’s timing are very important. The descendants of Ishmael (the son of Hagar) later became the worst enemy of Abram’s descendants, the Israelites. If Abram and Sarai had waited on the Lord, they could have potentially prevented the suffering of their own offspring.]
5. What does God develop in us through times of waiting? (James 1:2, 4, 12) [God develops faith in His promise as well as perseverance and maturity in our lives.]
6. How does God respond toward us when we fail to wait on Him? (Genesis 17:1-10; 18:13-15) [He reminds us of His Word and His promises to us. He also graciously corrects us, rebukes us, and helps us return to following Him and doing His will.]

7. What covenant has God made with us as Christians? [God has given us the covenant promise of grace through faith in His Son Jesus Christ and the privilege of entering into the family of God through the means of grace in baptism. (Galatians 3: 26-29; Colossians 2:11-12)]
8. In what ways do we, like Abraham and Sarah, laugh or show unbelief, hesitancy and mockery of the Word of the Lord in our lives?
9. Is anything impossible with the Lord? [Nothing. (Genesis 18:14)]
10. What does this story teach us about the promises of God and His faithfulness? [We should believe the promises of God for He is faithful to keep His promises. See Jeremiah 17:7.]

7. Abraham's Faith Tested

Genesis 22

Genesis 22

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

² Then God said, "Take your son, you only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵ Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

¹⁹ Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba.

Study Questions: Abraham's Faith Tested

Genesis 22

Introduction:

After finally providing a son for Abraham at the age of 100, God now asked Abraham to do something amazing. God told Abraham to make a holy sacrifice to Him by offering his son Isaac. This came as shocking news because Isaac was the son who the Lord had promised to bless and who was to receive the inheritance. Abraham was now faced with a difficult choice: obey the Lord, or hold on to the son whom he loved. This was another picture of the coming Messiah who would die in our place.

Goals:

Knowledge – To realize that Abraham was asked to sacrifice his one and only son but was stopped, instead God sacrificed His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ. To understand that Jesus is our sacrificial lamb who died in our place. God is our provider in every situation.

Attitude – To trust in the Lord even when it does not make sense, and to follow Him not only in our heart, but in action. To be confident that the Lord is truly the great Jehovah-Jireh (The God who provides) and that He provides all we need in Christ. To rest in the knowledge that God is able and willing to give to the extent of His own Son.

Actions – To follow the Lord God immediately when He gives us a command because He is the one who will provide. To listen carefully to the Word of the Lord so we can know His voice and recognize His leading.

Memory Verses:

Job 1:21 "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Isaiah 53:6 "We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Hebrews 11:17-19; Job 1:21; Romans 4:17-18; Galatians 3:6-9; James 2:21-23

Questions about the Story:

1. Who was the one who tested Abraham? (Genesis 22:1. God was the one who tested him.)

2. What was the command that the Lord God was giving to Abraham? (Genesis 22:2. To take his only son Isaac, whom he loved, and to sacrifice him as a burnt offering.)
3. What did Abraham do when God told him to offer his son as a sacrifice? (Genesis 22:3. He began to obey immediately, in fact Abraham got up early the very next morning to obey what God had told him to do.)
4. What did Abraham tell his servants that he and Isaac were going to do at the mountain? (Genesis 22:5. Abraham said “We will worship and then we will come back to you.”)
5. What was needed for the sacrifice on Mount Moriah? (Genesis 22:6-8. Fire, wood, the knife, and a lamb.)
6. Did Abraham take a lamb along as they climbed up the mountain? (Genesis 22:8. No.)
7. Who did Abraham say would provide the lamb for the burnt offering? (Genesis 22:8. God Himself would provide.)
8. What happened when Abraham and Isaac reached the place for the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:9. Abraham built an altar, placed the wood on it, and then tied his own son and placed him on the altar.)
9. What was Abraham doing when the angel of the Lord called out to him? (Genesis 22:10-11. He reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.)
10. What did the angel of the Lord say to Abraham? (Genesis 22:12. “Don’t harm your son. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”)
11. What did Abraham see nearby? (Genesis 22:13. A ram caught by its horns in a bush.)
12. What did Abraham call Mount Moriah after the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:14. Abraham called that place, “The Lord will provide.”)
13. What did the angel of the Lord say to Abraham the second time? (Genesis 22:15-18. The Lord promised that, because of Abraham’s obedience, the Lord would surely bless him and give him many descendants. He also promised that through the descendants of Abraham all nations on earth would be blessed.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God choose to test us? (Genesis 22:1) [Testing forces us to trust in Him alone and it is when we see that He

- alone provides. God also tests us to show us what is in our hearts and to make our faith in Him grow. (James 1:2-3)]
2. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, in what different ways could Abraham have responded? (Genesis 22:1) [Abraham could have either responded with faith and trust which resulted in obedience, or in doubt and unbelief, resulting in disobedience.]
 3. What are our possible responses when God asks us to do something for Him? [Like Abraham, we can trust God and obey Him, or we can choose doubt, fear and disobedience.]
 4. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham think God was going to do? [He thought if God would have him sacrifice his son, then God would bring Isaac to life again so that God could fulfill His promises.]
 5. What does God's test of Abraham teach us about the character of God? (Genesis 22:2) [God is the provider. The tests reveal His strengths and our weaknesses. The tests of life are opportunities for us to see that and grow in faith.]
 6. How do we as Christians need to respond when God commands us to do something difficult? (Genesis 22:3) [Like Abraham, trust God and obey His commands.]
 7. How does the sacrifice of Isaac remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus? [There are three ways this story reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. First, just like Abraham, God sacrificed His One and Only Son whom He deeply loved. Second, Jesus was like Isaac in that he willingly obeyed his father. Third, Jesus is represented in this story by the ram that was killed in place of Isaac, just like Jesus died in our place and paid the price for our sin.]
 8. What do we learn about God's character when we consider His provision of the substitute for the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:13) [We see that God loves His followers and provides for us in our greatest need, which is for salvation. He saved Isaac by providing the ram; he saves us by providing Jesus. This provision meant so much to Abraham that he named the place, "The Lord Will Provide."]
 9. Does God want us to sacrifice our children? [No, most certainly not. God only asked this in the case of Abraham in order to test his faith. God was not pleased when parents killed their children as sacrifices in their worship. (Jeremiah 19:4-5).]

8. Jacob and Esau: Promise and Covenant

Genesis 25:19-34

Genesis 25

¹⁹This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents.

²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

Study Questions: **Jacob and Esau: Promise and Covenant** **Genesis 25:19-34**

Introduction:

Abraham had now died and his inheritance had been passed on to his son Isaac who had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau was the firstborn of the boys, which usually meant that the inheritance of physical and spiritual blessings would be his. However, God had decided before the boys were even born that the inheritance should go to Jacob. Instead of leaving things in God's control, Jacob decided to use sinful trickery to receive what the Lord had promised for him. For us, the privilege of God's birthright and blessing come through the firstborn of all creation, Jesus.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that God gives us the privilege of His blessing, His inheritance and His name through Jesus. To recognize the ability to reject the birthright and the blessing is still ours as it was Esau's.

Attitude – To honor the privilege of being called children of God and to be called His heirs. To desire our heavenly Father's blessing and family name.

Actions – To bear the name of Christian as one who has truly been made an heir to the King. To live as “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.”
“To declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Memory Verses:

John 1:12-13 “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Malachi 1:2-5; Romans 9:10-16; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 12:16-17; 1 Peter 2:9

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did the Isaac pray to the Lord on behalf of his wife? (Genesis 25:21. Because she was barren, she could not have children.)

2. How old was Isaac when his sons were born? (Genesis 25:26. Isaac was sixty years old.)
3. How did the Lord respond to Isaac's prayers? (Genesis 25:21. The Lord answered and Rebekah became pregnant with twin boys.)
4. What did the Lord tell Rebekah when she asked about the babies in her womb? (Genesis 25:23. The Lord told her that two nations were in her womb. One would be stronger and the older would serve the younger.)
5. Who was the firstborn of Isaac? Who was the second born? (Genesis 25:25-26. Esau came out first and Jacob was born second, grasping Esau's heel.)
6. What were the differences between the twin boys? (Genesis 25:27-28. Esau was a hunter and a man of the open country. Jacob was a quiet man, and stayed among the tents. Esau had the favor of his father while Jacob had the favor of his mother.)
7. What condition was Esau in when he came in from the open country? (Genesis 25:29-32. He was famished (very hungry) and felt as if he was about to die.)
8. What did he ask his brother Jacob for? (Genesis 25:30. A bowl of red lentil stew that Jacob had been making.)
9. What did Jacob require before he would give Esau the stew? (Genesis 25:31. Jacob demanded the birthright from Esau in exchange for the soup.)
10. What is the birthright? (Genesis 25:31. A birthright is the privilege of carrying on the family name, the inheritance and the blessing.)
11. Which brother did God promise the birthright to? (Genesis 25:23 God promised the birthright to Jacob before the twins were born. He promised that the older would serve the younger.)
12. What rights did Esau have because he was born first? (The special blessing of his father, most of the family's belongings, and the family name.)
13. What was Esau's attitude toward his birthright? (Genesis 25:32, 34. He despised his birthright thinking it wouldn't do him any good.)
14. Which of the two brothers ended up with the birthright? How? (Genesis 25:31-34. Jacob ended up with the birthright, because Esau swore an oath to him in exchange for a bowl of lentil soup.)

Discussion Questions:

1. When we are faced with difficulties, like Rebekah being barren or Esau with extreme hunger, what should be our first response? (Genesis 25:21-22) [We should pray to God to help us, because He is all-powerful and can do more than we could ever ask or imagine. He knows our need and answers prayer. (1 John 5:14-15)]
2. How do we know that we can go to God and ask for the impossible? (Genesis 25:21, 26) [As Isaac, who was almost 60, asked God for a son from his barren wife, we can go to God with any need and know that He is able to help us.]
3. How do we use deceit to get what we want, instead of waiting for the Lord to provide it for Him? (Genesis 25:31)
4. Is it right or wrong to use trickery or bribing? Why? [This was wrong, because he was taking into his own control what God had already promised him. Jacob should have waited on the Lord to provide for Him, and not try to get things for himself through sinful means.]
5. What birthright do we have as Christians? [Because of Jesus, we have the right to be called children of God (See John 1:12). We will also receive an inheritance from the Lord that is everlasting in heaven.]
6. What does it mean to sell your birthright? (Genesis 25:33) [To give up the honored position, blessing, and inheritance in exchange for something else.]
7. How can we sell our spiritual birthright that we have as Christians? [Many Christians choose to give up their privileges as God's children by choosing to enjoy the passions of this life that last for only a moment. In doing this, they forsake the long-term blessing of eternal life with God. It is easy to become short-sighted and miss that which is promised ahead. (Hebrews 11:24-26)]
8. How does one despise his birthright? [By considering it to be meaningless. For Esau, he considered his birthright to be worth less than a bowl of soup. (Hebrews 12:16-17)]

9. Joseph sold into Egypt Genesis 37:3-11, 18-34; 39:1-6

Genesis 37

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.

⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:

⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

One day Israel sent Joseph to check on his brothers who were grazing the sheep.

¹⁸ When they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other.

²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said.

²² "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe

²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes.

³⁰ He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?"

³¹ Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

³² They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe."

³³ He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

Genesis 39

¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

² The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

³ When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,

⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

⁵ From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

⁶ So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Study Questions: Joseph Sold into Egypt Genesis 37:3-11, 18-34; 39:1-6

Introduction:

Jacob (also called Israel) left the land of Canaan to look for a wife among his relatives in the land of Haran, where his grandfather Abraham had once lived. Jacob worked seven years for his Uncle Laban to get Laban's daughter Rachel as his wife. Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Rachel's sister Leah to marry instead. Jacob then worked another seven years for the privilege of marrying Rachel. The two sisters both gave their maidservants to be Jacob's wives as well, so Jacob had four wives. Each maidservant gave birth to 2 children and Leah gave birth to six, but Rachel was barren. Then God remembered Rachel and she gave birth to Joseph, and later Benjamin. Joseph and Benjamin were the youngest of the twelve sons of Jacob, and were considered his favorites, because they were the sons of Rachel. As a result of this favoritism, the older brothers became jealous of Joseph and sold him into slavery in Egypt. As Joseph was sold into slavery, his life began to point to the coming Messiah who would also be rejected by his own and sold for the price of a slave.

Goals:

Knowledge – To see the destructive results of sins that are common to every man. To understand that sometimes evil things happen to good people. To remember that the Lord never leaves us or forsakes us. To remember that even as Joseph was rejected by his own, Jesus was as well.

Attitude – To repent of sins that are passed on from one generation to the next. To trust God even when it doesn't make sense. To be encouraged by the promise of the Lord's presence and the fact that Jesus understands our pain.

Actions – To turn from the sins of favoritism, deceit, jealousy, anger and hatred. To show compassion upon those who are being mistreated as if they were Jesus.

Memory Verse:

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Joshua 1:6-9, Psalm 18:1-3; 34:18; 46:1-3; Galatians 6:7-8

Questions about the Story:

1. Who was Israel? (Genesis 37:3. Israel was the new name that God gave to Jacob as a result of the promise. See Genesis 35:10.)
2. How did Joseph's brothers know that that their father loved Joseph more than them? (Genesis 37:3-4. Their father had made a richly ornamented robe for Joseph. It was very costly and beautiful.)
3. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? (Genesis 37:2-4. The brothers hated Joseph for several reasons: (1) he told their father about their poor work while tending the flocks, (2) they were jealous because their father loved Joseph more (3) Jacob had given Joseph the special robe. Their hatred showed because they could not speak a kind word to him.)
4. What was Joseph's first dream that he told to his brothers? (Genesis 37:5-7. While they were binding sheaves of grain in the field, Joseph's sheaf of grain stood upright, while everyone else's sheaves bowed down before his.)
5. Why did the brothers hate Joseph even more after hearing his dream? How did they understand the meaning of the dream? (Genesis 37:5, 8. The meaning of the dream was that Joseph would become their leader and they would be subject to him. They hated him even more after he told them the dream, because he was younger than they were, and it seemed like he wanted to be their ruler. He seemed to be bragging to them.)
6. What was Joseph's second dream and its interpretation? (Genesis 37:9-11. He dreamed that the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to him, and interpreted it that his parents and brothers would bow down to him.)
7. Did Jacob believe Joseph's dream? (Genesis 37:10-11. Jacob scolded his son, but he also wondered what it might mean.)
8. What did Joseph's brothers plan to do when they saw him coming in the distance? (Genesis 37:18. They plotted to kill him and throw his body into a cistern, then claim that a wild animal had devoured him.)
9. How did Rueben save Joseph from being killed by his brothers? Why did he do this? (Genesis 37:21-22. Rueben suggested that instead of killing Joseph they could just throw him into the cistern. Rueben did this so that he could later rescue Joseph and take him back to their father Jacob.)
10. What did the brothers see when they sat down to eat their food? (Genesis 37:25. They looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants coming their way.)

11. What was Judah's suggestion to the brothers? (Genesis 37:26-27. To sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites as a slave, so they would not be guilty of killing him and they would get some money.)
12. What was the price that the Ishmaelites paid for Joseph? (Genesis 37:28. The price was 20 shekels of silver. A shekel was equal to one day's wage.)
13. What did Rueben say when he came back to the brothers? What was his concern? (Genesis 37:29-30, 34. He said, "Oh no! The boy isn't there any more! Now what can I do?" He was concerned about his father who loved Joseph so much.)
14. What did the brothers do to deceive their father and cover up what they had done? (Genesis 37:31. They killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood to make it look like Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.)
15. Why did the brothers deceive their father? Had Jacob ever deceived anyone before? (Genesis 37:32. The brothers deceived their father in order to hide their sinful behavior. Jacob had also deceived his father, Isaac, by pretending to be Esau to take Esau's blessing.)
16. How was Jacob reaping what he had sown? (See Galatians 6:7-8. Jacob had earlier deceived his father, now he was the father experiencing deceit from his sons.)
17. Did Jacob believe that his son was dead? (Genesis 37:33-34. Yes, he said, "Surely Joseph has been torn to pieces," and Jacob tore his clothes and mourned many days for his son.)
18. In what ways did God save Joseph's life? (Genesis 37:18-22. God saved Joseph's life in three ways: He put in Reuben the desire to convince his brothers not to kill Joseph, He sent the Ishmaelite merchants at just the right time, and He gave Judah the idea of selling Joseph instead of killing him.)
19. Where was Joseph taken? Who purchased him? (Genesis 39:1. Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold as a slave to Potiphar, who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.)
20. Did the Lord forsake Joseph in Egypt? (Genesis 39:2-3. No. The Lord was with him and blessed Joseph in everything he did. See also Psalm 34:17-18, 46:1-3; Joshua 1:9)
21. What did Potiphar do after recognizing that the Lord was giving Joseph success in everything he did? (Genesis 39:3-6. Potiphar looked on Joseph with favor, put him in charge of his own household and entrusted Joseph with everything he owned.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does favoritism cause problems within the family, friends or community? (Genesis 37:3-4) [It causes hatred and jealousy between people because someone will feel they have been mistreated. See James 2:1-4]
2. What response could eliminate the problems that develop with favoritism? [Humility, serving others and considering others better than yourself. Consider Jesus attitude in Philippians 2:5-11.]
3. What happens when the sin of hatred comes into our life? [Hatred grows and the person who hates becomes captive to hatred. If he does not repent, he finds himself doing things that he never imagined he would do. Hate can destroy a person's life. Instead see Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:26-27]
4. Why is deceit such a dangerous sin? (Genesis 37:31-32) [Deceit erodes the trust and faith that relationships are based on. It exchanges truth for a lie and it grows out of control.]
5. What should our response be when we see others being mistreated? (Genesis 37:21-22) [We should do everything we can to stop those who are mistreating others. We should defend those who can't defend themselves. This promotes justice and peace.]
6. Joseph passed through a very difficult time, yet Genesis 39:2 says that the Lord was with Joseph. How is the Lord with us during hard times in our life? (See Psalm 34:18)
7. What is noticeable about those who are following after the Lord with their lives? (Genesis 39:3-6) [The blessing of the Lord God is on them and they are a blessing to those around them.]
8. What ways does Joseph's life parallel the life of Jesus? Joseph's family rejected him, he was sold for the price of a slave and he was stripped of his robe. Yet, through Joseph the whole family would be saved.]
9. How does God save our lives? [He saves us through Jesus, who was sold for the price of a slave. He was beaten and killed instead of us. He was then raised to life and gives those who trust in him new life. (Ephesians 2:8-9)]

10. Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers Genesis 42-45

Genesis 42

¹When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” ²“I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.”

³Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

⁴But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

⁶Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

⁷As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” he asked. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.”

⁸Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

⁹Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.” ¹⁰“No, my lord,” they answered. “Your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.”

¹²“No!” he said to them. “You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”

¹³But they replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.” ¹⁴Joseph said to them, “It is just as I told you: You are spies!” ¹⁷And he put them all in custody for three days.

¹⁸On the third day, Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. ²⁰But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.”

So Simeon remained in Egypt and the brothers returned home to bring grain to their starving families and they reported everything to their father Jacob.

Genesis 43

Now the famine was still severe in the land. ²So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go back and buy us a little more food.” ³But Judah said to him, “The man warned us solemnly, ‘You will not see my face again unless your

brother is with you.’⁴ If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you.⁹ I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him.”

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift.¹³ Take your brother also and go back to the man at once.¹⁴ And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.”

¹⁵ So the men took the gifts and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon.”¹⁷ The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph’s house. Then he brought Simeon out to them.²⁴ The steward took the men into Joseph’s house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys.²⁶ When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground.³⁴ When portions were served to them from Joseph’s table, Benjamin’s portion was five times as much as anyone else’s. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Genesis 44

Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: “Fill the men’s sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man’s silver in the mouth of his sack.² Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one’s sack, along with the silver for his grain.” And he did as Joseph said. *When the brothers had gone a short distance from the city, Joseph sent his steward to stop them. After finding the cup in Benjamin’s sack, the brothers returned to Joseph in great sorrow. Joseph demanded that the one who had stolen the cup remain in Egypt as his servant and that the rest of the brothers could return home.*

¹⁸ Then Judah went up to him and said: “Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.³⁰ If the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy’s life,³¹ sees that the boy isn’t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow.³² Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’³³ “Now then, please let your

servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.”

Genesis 45

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.’” ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.

Study Questions: **Joseph Reveals Himself to his Brothers** **Genesis 42-45**

Introduction:

After Joseph successfully interpreted Pharaoh's dream which said there was going to be a severe famine in the land for seven years, Pharaoh made Joseph the second in command of all Egypt to oversee the work of storing grain for the famine. When the famine came to Egypt, the land of Canaan, where Jacob and his family lived, was also affected. Remarkably, even in the middle of a famine, Egypt still had food to spare, because under Joseph's leadership they had stored food in advance for the coming tragedy. So it happened that, because of the possibility of getting food there, Joseph's brothers made the journey down to Egypt. Joseph's life continued to point to the coming Messiah because he was sent ahead of the family to Egypt to save their lives.

Goals:

Knowledge – To realize that although the brothers had sinned by selling Joseph into slavery, God had used even that to save many lives. To know that no problem is greater than God, even the trials can bring Him glory. To see the parallels between the life of Joseph and Jesus.

Attitude – To trust that God can bring unity and restore broken relationships. To look at all people, even enemies, through the eyes of God and see them as gifts.

Actions – Because we have been forgiven for our many sins, we can in turn forgive others their sins. Because we have been reconciled in our relationship with God, we can be reconciled to others.

Memory Verses:

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2 Timothy 3:12 “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Jeremiah 20:11; Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did Jacob send ten of his sons to Egypt? (Genesis 42:1-2. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt because he had heard there was food in Egypt. There was no food in Canaan, where Jacob and his sons lived, because of the famine in the land.)
2. Why didn't Joseph's brothers recognize him? (Genesis 42:8. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him because Joseph looked and spoke like an Egyptian.)
3. What did Joseph command them before sending them back home? (Genesis 42:20. To bring their youngest brother back with them as proof that they were telling the truth about who they were.)
4. Did Jacob agree to send Benjamin with the brothers on their second journey? What guarantee did Judah give his father? (Genesis 43:1-9. Jacob did not agree at first, but after Judah promised to keep Benjamin safe, Jacob agreed to send him on the second journey with the brothers to purchase grain.)
5. When Joseph's brothers were taken to his house, how did Benjamin receive special treatment? (Genesis 43:34. He received five times more than the other brothers during their time of feasting and drinking at Joseph's house.)
6. What happened as the brothers began their journey back home? (Genesis 43:2; 44:1-17. They were stopped by Joseph's steward and Joseph's silver cup, which had been put there by the servants, was found in Benjamin's sack. Then the brothers returned to Egypt.)
7. What response did the brothers have toward Benjamin? What does this reveal? (Genesis 44:18-33. Judah pleaded that he would be taken as the slave instead of Benjamin so that he could return to their father safely.)
8. What was it in Judah's words that caused Joseph to weep so loudly? (Genesis 44:18-33. Joseph saw a real change in his brothers. The same Judah who had the idea of selling Joseph as a slave was now volunteering to be a slave in the place of Benjamin.)
9. How did the brothers respond after Joseph told them who he was? (Genesis 45:3. They were terrified and could not give any reply.)
10. After telling his brothers who he was, why did Joseph tell his brothers not to fear or blame themselves? (Genesis 45:5-7. Joseph knew that they would expect him to punish them for what they had done to him, but Joseph told them that God had

sent him there to save lives and to preserve a remnant on earth by the Lord's great deliverance.)

11. What was God's purpose in allowing Joseph to be sold as a slave in Egypt? (Genesis 45:5-7. Through Joseph Egypt had become prepared for the famine and the lives of many had been saved, including Jacob and all his family.)
12. What message did Joseph send to his father? (Genesis 45:9. Joseph told his father that the Lord had made him lord over all of Egypt and that he should come down at once, without delay.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What effect do trials such as the famine, Joseph's slavery or the hidden cup have in our lives? (Genesis 44:18-33) [They reveal our heart. They show what is important to us and what we are trusting in. They humble us before God.]
2. What can we learn from Joseph's response as he was face to face with the ones that had sold him? (Genesis 45:3) [Joseph was the only one who knew that they had sold him as a slave and now he had the power to punish them since he was the lord of Egypt, instead he tested them, forgave them, gave them food and welcomed them to come to Egypt.]
3. How does Judah standing before Joseph parallel us standing before God? (Genesis 44:18-33) [We can only beg for mercy, because we are guilty without excuse before a Holy God.]
4. How does Joseph's response to his brothers point to Jesus and his response to us? (Genesis 45:5-8) [He forgave them and saw that this was God's plan to save His people.]
5. How can God use the trials of our lives for His glory? [He can show His strength to stand up through the trial. He can use them to show his power of deliverance from the trial. He can show his justice or holiness in judgment. He can show his mercy and grace when the judgment is put on Christ.]
6. What do we learn about forgiveness from this story? [We learn that it is important to love and forgive those who have hurt us. It is possible to forgive, because Jesus first forgave us. We can let God be the one who judges right and wrong rather than taking our own revenge. We can trust that the Lord is able to keep His promises as He did for Joseph.]
7. Joseph invited his brothers, "Come close to me." How does this remind us of God? (Genesis 45:4) [God welcomes us and forgives us and invites us to come close to Him. (Matthew 11:28-30)]

8. How can the Lord restore our relationships that have been broken? (Genesis 45:4-8) [He has restored our relationship with Himself through Christ; which gives us the ability to do the same. In His power He is able to take broken pieces and make something for His glory. The Holy Spirit is able unite people and change hearts. See Romans 8:28.]
9. What makes it possible to see people from God's perspective rather than our own? (Genesis 45:7-8) [When we can see that the Lord is in control and that He is greater than our problems, we can leave it in His hands.]
10. Which relationships do we need to be restored again? How can we rebuild the broken trust? What steps do you need to take to show forgiveness, love and grace?

11. The Call of Moses

Exodus 3:1-14, 19-20; 4:1-5, 10-17

Exodus 3

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go."

Exodus 4

¹ Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

² Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied.

³ The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

⁵ “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

¹³ But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you.

¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

Study Questions: The Call of Moses

Exodus 3:1-14, 19-20; 4:1-5, 10-17

Introduction:

After Joseph's generation passed away, a new king came to the throne of Egypt who did not know about Joseph. The descendants of Jacob, who had moved to Egypt at the time of the famine, had multiplied and were nearly as many as the Egyptians themselves. The new Pharaoh saw this growing number of people as a threat and forced the Israelites into slavery. After 430 years in slavery, “the Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God.” (Exodus 2:23) God heard the cry of His people and brought them a leader to rescue them from their desperate situation. His name was Moses and Moses life also pointed to Jesus who came to earth to free us from the slavery of our sin.

Goals:

Knowledge – To be reminded that God never forgets His promises. To be aware that He hears our cries and sees our need, He rescues us from our slavery and He calls us to be a part of His work. To know that any success in the work or any ability that we have comes from God.

Attitude – To be confident that the Lord is at work even when we cannot see what He is doing. To be encouraged because the Lord is the answer to our doubts regarding ourselves and or our situations. He alone qualifies us to serve.

Actions – To marvel at His Work. To remember His promises. To listen to His call and respond without argument, gripe, or complaint.

Memory Verses:

1 Timothy 4:12 “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Psalms 18:28-31; 23:1-6; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 6:25-32; Luke 12:22-29; Acts 4:13; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 11:23-29

Questions about the Story:

1. What was Moses doing in the land of Midian? (Exodus 3:1. Moses was tending the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro.)
2. What did Moses see while he was near Horeb, the mountain of God? (Exodus 3:2. The angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire in a bush.)
3. What made Moses decide to investigate the fire? (Exodus 3:2-3. A bush was burning, but it did not burn up.)
4. Who called to Moses from within the bush? (Exodus 3:4. God called to him.)
5. What did the Lord say to Moses as he came near the bush? (Exodus 3:5. Do not come any closer, take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.)
6. How did the Lord identify Himself? (Exodus 3:6. The Lord said that He was the God of Moses' ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)
7. What did Moses do when he learned who was talking to him from the bush? Why? (Exodus 3:6. Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.)
8. What did the Lord promise to do as a result of hearing the cries of His people in slavery? (Exodus 3:7-8. The Lord promised to rescue them from the Egyptians and bring them to a good land that would be their very own.)
9. What did God say about the cries of the people of Israel? (Exodus 3:7-9. God said that the cries of the people had reached Him and He had heard their misery.)
10. In response to the people's cries, what was God commanding Moses to do? (Exodus 3:10. Go to Pharaoh to lead the people out of Egypt.)
11. What was Moses' first objection to going to Egypt? (Exodus 3:11. "Who am I to go before Pharaoh?")
12. What was God's answer to Moses' objection? (Exodus 3:12. "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.")
13. What did God give Moses as His name to proclaim to the people? (Exodus 3:14. I am who I am.)
14. What did God promise to do about the problems with the Egyptians? (Exodus 3:19-20. God promised to stretch out His hand and strike the Egyptians with wonders that would convince them to let the people go.)
15. What sign did God give to Moses to convince the people that God had appeared to him? (Exodus 4:3-4. He threw his staff

down and it became a snake, then picked it up by the tail and it became a staff again. In verses 6-7, God gave Moses a second sign. Moses put his hand into his cloak and it became leprous. When he put it into his cloak a second time, it was healthy again.)

16. What excuse did Moses give for being unable to do what God was asking him? (Exodus 4:10. He was not able to speak well.)
17. How did God reply to Moses' whining? (Exodus 4:11-12. I am the maker of all mouths, ears and eyes, and I will help you speak and teach you what to say. 1 Corinthians 1:27)
18. What was Moses' final request to the Lord in attempt to escape this responsibility? (Exodus 4:13. Moses asked the Lord, "Please send someone else.")
19. What was the Lord's response to Moses' lack of faith and obedience? (Exodus 4:14 The Lord's anger burned against Moses.)
20. Did God still show His grace to Moses? (Exodus 4:14-16. Yes, God sent Aaron to go with Moses and speak for him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What Moses teach us about who God is able to use to proclaim His message and do His work? [God is able to the use the simplest of men and those who feel the most inadequate or weak to do His work. See also 1 Corinthians 1:27-29.]
2. What should be our natural response as we draw near to the presence of God Almighty? (Exodus 3:6) [We should have an attitude of extreme reverence and submission, realizing that we are in the presence of the Holy God Almighty.]
3. Is God concerned when people are suffering? (Exodus 3:7-9) [Yes, He hears the cries of His people and replies with action.]
4. What was God's immediate and His ultimate plan to rescue his people from their slavery? (Exodus 3:10) [God's immediate plan was to send Moses to deliver them from the Egyptians and lead them to a new land. His ultimate plan was to rescue us from sin through Jesus and take us to heaven.]
5. What causes us to ask the question that Moses asked, "Who am I?" Why do have doubts about ourselves or God? (Exodus 3:11) [Sometimes we ask this because we feel inadequate for a job, and we focus on ourselves or our past failures instead of focusing on God's ability. Sometimes we don't consider how great the Lord is.]

6. What is the result of rejecting God's call by having "someone else do it" or repeatedly telling Him no? (Exodus 4:13) [We will miss the opportunity to be part of God's plan. We will be in rebellion of His will and we will not experience the greatness of walking with the Lord. (Psalm 18:28-35; Isaiah 41:10)]
7. What difference does God's name make for us? (Exodus 3:14) [It means that God has always been; He was never created. He was in the past, is now, and will always be in the future. It means that His presence is always with us. See Revelation 1:4, 8]
8. What was the meaning of the question that God asked Moses, "Who gave man his mouth?" (Exodus 4:11) [God was saying that he created Moses' mouth and could enable the mouth he created to say what He wanted. All of our abilities come from Him. See also Psalm 20:7]
9. Why did God's anger burn against Moses? (Exodus 4:14) [God became angry because Moses kept refusing to trust God, even though God promised to be with him and give him the words to say.]
10. What do we learn about God from this story? [He cares about people in their suffering. He uses simple men to carry out His great tasks. He keeps His promises]

12. Exodus from Egypt

Exodus 5; 7-12

Exodus 5

¹ Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.’” ² Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

Exodus 7

¹⁰ So Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: ¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. ²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. ²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. ²² But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ² If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs.’” ⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. ⁷ But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt. ⁸ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.” ¹² After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. ¹³ And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. ¹⁴ They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. ¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw

that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” ¹⁷They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. ¹⁸But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. ¹⁹The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

Next the Lord sent a plague of flies upon Egypt and a plague that killed their livestock. Painful boils came on all the people and God sent a terrible hail storm that destroyed their fields. Next a plague of locusts ate every green thing in Egypt. After the locusts, darkness fell over Egypt for three days. With each of these plagues Pharaoh promised Moses that the people could go, but when each plague was ended, Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let them go.

Exodus 11

¹Now the LORD had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.” ⁴So Moses said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. ⁵Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.

⁶There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. ⁷But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.’ Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. ⁸All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

Exodus 12

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. ²³When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe

and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.”

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. ³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.” ³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!” ³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. ³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Study Questions: Exodus from Egypt

Exodus 5; 7-12

Introduction:

430 years had passed since Jacob had gone to Egypt with his whole family to live near Joseph (Exodus 12:40-41). The Egyptians had forced them into slavery, causing them much suffering. The people cried out to the Lord because of their suffering and He sent Moses to deliver them from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. However, Pharaoh had come to enjoy the privilege of having slaves to do his hard labor and he refused to let the people of God leave. God showed His faithfulness by rescuing His people from their slavery to the ungodly Egyptians and He did it by pointing to Jesus through the Passover lamb. As the Passover Lamb protected the Israelites from the plague of death, so also Jesus is our Passover Lamb who saves us from the plague of death of sin.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that God is all powerful and nothing can stand against Him. To realize that God keeps his promises of judgment and of deliverance. To grasp that He, through Jesus, provides the blood that covers our lives.

Attitude – To have a hard heart toward God brings extreme punishment and pain, sometimes in the present but always in the future. To repent of the hard heart that opposes God. To trust in the Passover Lamb for salvation and that God will provide a way of escape from trials and temptations.

Actions – To humble ourselves before the will of God. To be patient in difficulties, waiting to see what the Lord will do. To obey the Lord in whatever He asks us to do.

Memory Verse:

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Psalm 22:4-5; Jeremiah 18:1-10; John 1:29; Romans 9:14-21; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17-19; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5-6

Questions about the Story:

1. What did Pharaoh say after Moses and Aaron told him to let the people leave Egypt? (Exodus 5:2. “Who is the LORD, that I

- should obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”)
2. What happened after Aaron threw his staff on the ground and it became a snake? (Exodus 7:11-12. The palace magicians did the same thing. They threw their staffs on the ground and they became snakes, like Aaron’s did. However, Aaron’s snake devoured those of the magicians.)
 3. Did the snake incident cause Pharaoh to let the people go? (Exodus 7:13. No, Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them.)
 4. What were the first two plagues that God brought upon the land of Egypt? (Exodus 7-8. The Lord caused the water of Egypt to turn to blood and then He sent frogs to cover the land.)
 5. Were Pharaoh’s magicians able to copy Moses and Aaron by making blood and frogs by their secret arts? (Exodus 7-8. Yes.)
 6. How did this impact Pharaoh? (Exodus 7:22; 8:15. Seeing his magicians do the same signs made him not respect God, because his “gods” also had the same power, and so his heart was hardened.)
 7. How did Pharaoh’s magicians respond to the third plague of gnats? (Exodus 8:16-19. They were unable to copy the creation of gnats and confessed to Pharaoh that this was the finger of God at work.)
 8. What were the next six plagues that came on Egypt? (Exodus 8-11. Flies, an illness that killed their farm animals (their horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats), boils that formed on all the people, hail, locusts, and darkness.)
 9. How did Pharaoh respond after each of these plagues? (Exodus 8-11. Each time his heart was hardened and he refused to let God’s people go.)
 10. What was the last plague on Egypt, after which Pharaoh let the people go? (Exodus 11. The killing of the firstborn sons.)
 11. What were the Israelites commanded to do so that the angel of death would not enter their homes to kill their firstborn sons? (Exodus 12:1-11, 21-23. They were commanded to sacrifice a year-old lamb without blemish and cover their door posts with its blood so that the destroyer would pass over their homes.)
 12. What was Pharaoh’s response to this final plague of God upon the firstborn sons of the land? (Exodus 12:31-33. He called Moses and Aaron immediately and commanded them to leave.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God punish the Egyptians so severely? [There are several reasons. First, He was defending His people who had suffered as slaves under Pharaoh and who had cried out to Him for deliverance. Second, God wanted to show Pharaoh His mighty power and that He is greater than all the false gods of Egypt. He wanted the Egyptians to fear Him. (See Exodus 9:30.) Third, God wanted the Egyptian people to know that He is the only God. The people of Egypt did not understand this message, so God brought it to them in a forceful way.]
2. How do we experience the judgment of God when we resist him? [We can experience the pain of doing things that have bad consequences. Our hearts can become hard and unresponsive to God's Word. Thankfully God sends us these warnings before we face the future judgment.]
3. What do we learn about the power of God over other "gods?" [The magicians were able to do some miracles by their secret arts, but their power was not as great as God's and they were not able to copy many of the plagues. We see the weakness of their power when the snake that came from Aaron's staff ate up the magicians' snakes. Even the magicians recognized that this showed that God's power was greater than their gods. Also, the fact that the plagues happened to the Egyptians but did not affect God's people shows that God knows who calls out to Him. God is able to do all things because He is the creator of all things.]
4. What response causes us to go back and forth having a hard heart? (Exodus 8:8, 15) [Our heart can become hard or proud when we see things done in our own strength, in our own way or when we want to be in control.]
5. When do we harden our heart and when does God harden our heart? (Exodus 8:15; 10:2) [We harden our heart when we know God's will and do not do it. He hardens our heart to show us the consequences of our sin.]
6. How is the life of an unbeliever similar to slavery? [The slave is controlled by its master as the Israelites were controlled by Pharaoh. The master of the unbeliever, like Pharaoh, is subject to the control of sin, unbelief and self. The believer is set free from those controls and the Spirit of God takes over.]
7. How does the Passover lamb of Exodus 12:21 represent the salvation that comes through Jesus? How is Jesus like our Passover Lamb? (1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 1:7) [Jesus was offered as a sacrifice so that we could live, just as the

Passover lamb was killed so that the firstborns of the believing households could live. The Israelites were to choose a lamb without blemish, just like Jesus is the pure and spotless Lamb of God who takes our sin. (I Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 1:5-6)]

8. God delivered His people from the cruel oppression of the Egyptians. In what way has God delivered us from the cruel oppression in our lives as believers? [Jesus has set us free from the control of our sin in our life. We no longer have to obey our sinful nature as slaves (See Galatians 5:1) and are able to fight off the devil and his temptations with the Lord's power.]

13. Red Sea Deliverance

Exodus 14-15

Exodus 14

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!”

⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Exodus 15

¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea."

Study Questions: The Red Sea Deliverance

Exodus 14-15

Introduction:

After losing the slaves that had been subject to the land of Egypt for 430 years, Pharaoh decided that he had made a mistake. He had just allowed the departure of all of his workers who provided Egypt's hard labor. Now Egyptians were going to have to start replacing the jobs that the Israelites were doing, which simply wasn't permissible. Therefore, Pharaoh, now enraged at the thought of such a great loss, decided to pursue the Israelites with full force until all of them were once again brought under his control. The same Lord that provided the means to Passover His people in the plague, would now protect His people and deliver them.

Goals:

Knowledge – To understand that God is all powerful and can rescue his people from impossible situations. To remember that He protects His people and fights for them, He is our salvation.

Attitude – To fear man leads nowhere. To trust in God means standing firm, being still and going through the sea with a wall of water on the right and on the left. To have confidence in the Lord as the all-powerful one.

Actions – To follow the Lord even when he leads you to the end of that which is humanly possible. To praise the Lord for His greatness and His salvation.

Memory Verses:

Psalms 118:6-8 “The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.”

Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Ezra 8:31; Psalm 91; 118; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 43:1-4

Questions about the Story:

1. What caused Pharaoh and his officials to change their minds and pursue the Israelites? (Exodus 14:5. Pharaoh and his officials realized that they had lost the services of the Israelites as their slaves.)
2. Who did Pharaoh take with him in his pursuit of the Israelites? (Exodus 14:6-7. Pharaoh took his army with him which included six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots in the land of Egypt.)
3. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians chasing after them with chariots? Why? (Exodus 14:10-12. As the Israelites saw the Egyptians approaching, they were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They also began to complain to Moses that their death is imminent in the wilderness with the chariots upon them.)
4. How did Moses answer the frightened crowd of Israelites? (Exodus 14:13-14. Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring for you today. The Egyptians that you see, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.)
5. What did God tell Moses to do? (Exodus 14:15. To tell the people to move on and to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea to divide the water for the people to cross over on dry ground.)
6. How did God keep the army of Egypt from coming near the Israelites during the night? (Exodus 14:19-20. The angel of God went behind the Israelite army and the pillar of cloud also moved behind the people to protect them by coming between the Egyptians and the Israelites.)
7. How did the Israelites cross over the sea? (Exodus 14:21-22. The Lord God drove the sea back with a strong east wind and divided the waters so that there was dry ground to walk on. The Israelites walked across, with a wall of water on each side of them and dry ground beneath their feet.)
8. How did the Lord protect the Israelites and fight against the Egyptians? (Exodus 14:24-25. When the Egyptians followed the Israelites into the path through the sea, the Lord threw them into a state of confusion. He caused the wheels to come off their chariots so that they had difficulty driving.)
9. What did the Egyptians say when they realized that God was fighting against them? (Exodus 14:25. Let's get away from the Israelites; the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.)

10. How did the Egyptians die? (Exodus 14:26-28. God told Moses to stretch his hand out toward the sea again, and God made the water flow back to its normal position. It covered the army of Egypt, and the Lord swept them into the sea so that not one of them survived.)
11. How did the Israelites respond to this mighty deliverance? (Exodus 14:31 & 15:1-3. The Israelites responded in fear when they saw the power of the Lord and they put their trust in Him and in Moses His servant. They also sang a song of praise to God.)
12. What was the song about? (Exodus 15:1-3. It was a song of praise to the Lord, telling how the Egyptians had chased after them, and how God had rescued them at the Red Sea. It told of how mighty God is, and that there is no other god like Him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Lord fight battles for us? (Exodus 14:14) [He can use a cloud of fire and a pillar of smoke. He can use the forces of nature like dividing the sea. He can use individual people or leaders like Moses and He can use people who walk by faith into the sea. He can use the Angel of the Lord to lead us and protect us.]
2. When do we rely on our own understanding or strength versus when do we trust in the Lord? [We are like the armies of Egypt when we rely on our own strength and power. We are like the people of Israel when we trust the Lord God and His strength.]
3. Do we fear like the Israelites when problems come? (Exodus 14:10-13) [It is easy to fear when we face large problems. The Egyptian army was very large and strong, with all its chariots, horses and soldiers. It is important to remember how much larger the Lord is than the problems that we face. Psalm 118:6-8]
4. Do we forget how the Lord has led us and how He has saved us? (Exodus 14:11-12) [It seems we forget quickly, because we like the Israelites start complaining saying it would have been better if we were back like before.]
5. In what ways do we find ourselves as Christians forgetting the powerful miracles that God has done in our lives?
6. Describe how we could have faith like Moses in this story. (Exodus 14:13) [Moses had faith in the Lord. The Lord had called Moses, done miracles, brought the Israelites out and

would continue to be faithful to His promises. He believed that God would do everything He said He would do.]

7. There are many like the Egyptians who do not know the Lord. How can they know Him? (Exodus 14:18). [They can see the power of God displayed all around them. They can experience His power when they truly follow Him. They can learn from the history that is recorded for us.]
8. “Not one of them survived” (Exodus 14:28). Why does the Lord deal harshly with us sometimes? [The Lord God wants all nations to know that He is God Almighty and that He alone is God. He rescues those who cry out to Him from their slavery. He brings judgment on those who stubbornly harden their hearts against Him.]
9. The Israelites put their trust in the Lord after seeing how He saved them from the Egyptian army. Have you also seen God do things in your life that caused you to put your faith in Him?
10. Why is God worthy of our praise? (Exodus 15:1-3) [It is right to praise the Lord and to give Him glory for His great deeds, thanking Him for His protection, and praising Him for His salvation.]
11. How does this story teach us that God is a warrior (Exodus 15:3)? [God defeated the 600 best chariots of Egypt and their whole army by His own power, with no help. The Israelites needed only to be still and watch.]
12. Since we can see that God was able to protect the people of Israel, do you think He is able to protect you?

14. The Ten Commandments/Golden Calf

Exodus 24, 32

Exodus 24

¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.” ¹⁵When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. ¹⁷To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸Then Moses entered the cloud as he went up on the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 32

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.” ²Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ ⁹‘I have seen these people,’ the LORD said to Moses, ‘and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.’”

¹¹But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “O LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the

Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’”¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. ¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. ²¹ He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

²² “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ ²⁴ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.” And all the Levites rallied to him. ²⁷ Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’”

²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” ³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.” ³³ The LORD replied to Moses,

“Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.

³⁴ However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.” ³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

Study Questions: **The Ten Commandments /Golden Calf** **Exodus 24, 32**

Introduction:

After helping the Israelites cross the Red Sea and escape from the Egyptian army, the Lord continued to lead them daily through the wilderness by a huge pillar of cloud during the day that became a pillar of fire at night. It was very clear to the Israelite people and to every nation around them that the Lord God was with His people. When they reached Mount Sinai, where Moses had seen the burning bush, Moses went up the mountain to be with God, and he was gone 40 days. During that time, the Lord gave Moses His commands for the Israelite people. But the people became restless waiting for Moses to return and they had to taken worship into their own hands and create their own god. Moses goes up on the mountain to make atonement for their sins and pleads for their lives. On the cross, Jesus prayed, “Father forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Goals:

Knowledge – To acknowledge that there is one God and He is Holy. To understand that He is jealous for His people and will not let them go. To realize that we are prone to sin, we quickly turn from God and worship things made by man. To know that God gave us His law to show us our sin, point us to Jesus and show us how to live.

Attitude – To repent of letting our freedoms become an open door to pursue man-made gods and pleasure. To have a passion for the Lord’s righteousness and a desire to pursue justice.

Actions – To be a servant leader who carries God’s Word to the people, pleads for them and when they have sinned and brings justice where it is needed.

Memory Verse:

Exodus 20:2-3 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Exodus 20:2-6; 34:14; Psalm 106:19-23; Isaiah 44:13-19; Jeremiah 10:1-6; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did the Lord call Moses to come up on the mountain? (Exodus 24:12. The Lord called for Moses in order to give him the laws and commands for the instruction of the people.)
2. Who wrote down and issued these commands? (Exodus 24:12. God Himself. [See also Exodus 31:18; 32:16])
3. What did the Israelites see on top of Mount Sinai as the Lord's presence made itself evident? (Exodus 24:15-17. A cloud covered the mountain and the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire.)
4. How long was Moses on the mountain with the Lord? (Exodus 24:18. 40 days and nights.)
5. What did the people say to Aaron when they saw that Moses was delaying to come down? (Exodus 32:1. 'Come, make us gods who will go before us.')
6. What did Aaron do for the people at their request? (Exodus 32:3-4. He made them an idol in the form of a calf from the gold earrings that were worn by the people.)
7. How did the people view the calf? (Exodus 32:4. They worshipped it as the god who had rescued them from Egypt.)
8. What did Aaron attribute to the calf after the worshipful response of the people? (Exodus 32:5. He built an altar in front of the calf for sacrifices and called the calf by the most sacred name of the Lord, 'Yahweh.')
9. What response did God have to the worship of the calf? (Exodus 32:7-10. The idol worship of the people made God extremely angry to the point of wanting to destroy them and start over with Moses as the head of His chosen people, as the people had so quickly turned away from the Lord.)
10. How does Moses respond when God tells him that the Israelites are his people? (Exodus 32:11. Moses says to God that they are His people and describes them as the patriarchs of the promise.)
11. What did Moses say to God that caused Him to relent from the punishment he was going to bring on the people? (Exodus 32:11-13. Moses called to God and urged Him to remember His servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob) who God had made a covenant promise to and to not wipe out the people for the sake of the name of the Lord.)
12. What did Moses do when he saw the people and the calf they had made? (Exodus 32:19-20. Moses was so angered that he threw down and broke the tablets of God and took the calf and

- burned it in the fire. He then made the people drink water mixed with powder that had been ground up from the idol.)
13. Who is the one accredited for leading to the people into such a great sin? (Exodus 32:21. Aaron.)
 14. What answer did Aaron give for why he had made the calf? (Exodus 32:22-24. Aaron tries to push the blame to the people by saying how they are so prone to evil and pushed it on him to build for them an idol. Aaron says that he threw the gold they handed him into the fire and out came the calf, as if he had no influence at all.)
 15. How were the people acting during this time? (Exodus 32:25. The people were running wild and out of control, so they had become a laughingstock to their enemies.)
 16. How did 3,000 of the people die that day? (Exodus 32:25-28. Moses called for those who were for the Lord to come to him, and he told them each one of them should take a sword and go through the camp killing the sinful people.)
 17. What did Moses attempt to do for the people after the great purge of the people and destruction of their idol? (Exodus 32:30. He attempted to make atonement for the sin of the people by going back to the Lord.)
 18. How did God answer Moses when he requested God to forgive the people or else blot his name out of God's book? (Exodus 32:33-34. God responds by saying that whoever sins against Him will be blotted out of His book and that when the time comes for punishment, He will punish sin. Therefore, the Lord struck the people with a plague because of their sin.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God give us the 10 commandments? (Exodus 24:12) [He gave us the commandments to teach us who He is and who we are. First, the commandments show us the Lord's holiness and our sinfulness. Second, when we see our failure to keep the commandments, we see our need of someone who will "make atonement" for our sins. Third, the commandments can teach us how to live a godly life.]
2. In what ways do we create and worship idols we have made and stir up the Lord's anger? (Exodus 32:10) [Anytime we worship or adore something that is not God and give it a priority before God we are committing idolatry.]
3. What are some of the ways in which we completely disobey the ways of God and instead choose to live our own way?

4. What does it mean when God says that He is a jealous God? (Exodus 20:5) [It means that He wants His children to love and worship Him alone. This is not wrong, because God alone is worthy of the worship of his created people.]
5. The people were slaves in Egypt and now they were free, yet they made themselves slaves to a man-made god. What things do we make ourselves slaves to? (Exodus 32:7-9) [The slavery of work like in Egypt. The slavery of man-made gods like the calf. The slavery of pleasure which is like the wildness of their party. The slavery to other peoples demands like Aaron.]
6. How are we like Aaron in this story? [He was a very weak leader and he feared to tell the people what was right. While personally living in sin, he allowed the people to get out of control and behave disrespectfully toward the Lord and what He had done for them.]
7. When are we like Moses in this story? [If not for Moses, God might have destroyed the entire people of Israel. He loved the people and prayed for them even though they were rebellious and disobedient.]
8. What was the book Moses was talking about when he said, “Blot my name out of the book you have written”? (Exodus 32:32) [The book of life – Revelation 20:11-15. He was requesting God to allow himself to die so that the people could have eternal life. (See also Romans 9:3 and 10:1)]