Bible Expedition

“Journey to the Promised Land”

Manual

Provided at no charge as a ministry of

MACEDONIA
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Bible Expedition

"Journey to the Promised Land"

"Journey to the Promised Land" is a Bible-centered, Gospel-oriented, 3-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) program designed to teach children truths found in Scripture. This event allows children to journey to the ancient Promised Land of Israel. On Day 1, kids learn about creation and the fall of man into sin. They see a glimpse of God's Rescue Plan as they learn about the promises given to Abraham and his "seed." On Day 2, kids see the mighty power of God as He delivers the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh. On Day 3, kids see the fulfilment of God's promises as the Israelites defeat Jericho and enter the Promised Land. Ultimately, "Journey to the Promised Land" points children to Jesus Christ as the "Promised Messiah" who conquers sin and death and allows all who believe in Him to enter an eternal "Promised Land" called heaven.

This manual is designed to make "Journey to the Promised Land" simple for churches to set up and have a quality, Scripturally-based VBS program. This manual includes an outline of events, skits, detailed teaching lessons and ideas for games, activities, crafts and decorations.

A suggested schedule of events is shown below. Prior to starting the event, we recommend having registration, at which time each child is assigned to their grade level and group leader. Following registration, all children partake in group worship and watch the included video skits. Children then go with their groups on the rotation shown below. Each group will rotate and spend time listening to a Bible lesson, participating in games and making a craft while enjoying snack time. Lastly, all groups come together for worship at the closing.

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	----------Registration----------		
6:30-6:45	----------Opening Group Worship----------		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	----------Closing Group Worship----------		
8:15-8:30	----------Checkout----------		

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Bible Expedition: "Journey To The Promised Land" Outline and Skits

Day 1

Characters:

- Cletus T. Barfield III: Hillbilly wannabe racecar driver, shade tree mechanic, and best friend of Francisco
- Francisco Luis Rubio: Hispanic physicist and electrical expert, best friend of Cletus
- Cain
- Karen: Observer to Noah's ark
- Carl "Boss man" Bossman: Foreman to Babel Tower construction

Setting: Francisco's lab/shop with a series of flashbacks showing the progression of and results of continual sin (Cain before Abel is killed, Noah before the flood, and the tower of Babel)

"The Curse of Sin and the Promise Given to Abraham"

Registration 6:15pm

Opening Group Worship: 6:30 - 6:45pm

BEGIN VIDEO

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) Woooeee! A big hey howdy hey to all y'all at Vacation Bible School. Cletus T. Barfield the Third, at your service!

I betcha all wonderin' why and how Ima her talkin' atcha at VBS…well, I gotta tell ya, it's nuthin' short of amazin'

Well, my best friend, Francisco, see, he's a real smart dude and he's been a helpin' me fix up my car. I'm a bit of a race car driver and I'm pretty good at turnin' wrenches, but I needed some help to how ya say…take it to the next level.

See, Ima trying to get into NASCAR, but Ima strugglin' sumthin' fierce trying to keep up with the big boys. Even blew up my beloved Juanita on the back stretch at Darlington…<PLACES HAND OVER HEART AND LOOKS DOWN IN MOURNING>…Rest in peace Juanita.

Well, I guess that's what happens when you're trying to go 180 in a 1974 AMC Gremlin.

Anyway, so I turned to my best friend Francisco…<LONG PAUSE>…I just like sayin' his name…Francisco.

Well, we was just gonna work on some minor modifications on ole' Juanita II…put in a supercharger, electronics and such, but he dun somthin' else that took us both on a fandangled adventure…through time and space, into the past!

Well, listen to me, Ima gettin' all kind of ahead of myself, I haven't even introduced you to my best buddy, Francisco.

<CLETUS INTRODUCES FRANCISO>

(Francisco) <LONG PAUSE AND THEN WAVE SLOWLY> Hola everyone.

(Cletus) Awww man, Francisco is just being modest! He really is a crazy smart dude, but he's just excited 'bout me atellin' y'all 'bout our experience. To tell ya the truth, we're not sure if it was real or just our 'magEnation, so good thing we had this here dash cam arunnin'. Let's see what it picked up.

<DASH CAM VIDEO SHOWS CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN CAR TRAVELING BACK IN TIME>

(Cletus) Awww man Francisco, I dunno whatcha dun dun to Juanita II, but looks like we're aheadin' off the track!

(Francisco) Si.

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Wooooo!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN BLACK/BLANK BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Hey Francisco, canya grab this here camera?

(Francisco) Si.

<CLETUS TALKING TO CAIN JUST OUTSIDE OF GARDEN>

(Cletus) ‘scuse me mister, my name is Cletus…I’m kinda new to these here parts…canya tell me where we are? And what’s your name?

(Cain) <SPEAKING SLOWLY WITH DEEP VOICE, LIKE A STEREOTYPICAL COWBOY BAD GUY FROM AN OLD WESTERN> East of Eden…..the name is Cain.

(Cletus) Wait…did you say Cain? As in…son of Adam and Eve and brother of Abel…That Cain?

(Cain) Yeah, and I’d appreciate it if you don’t mention my little brother’s name around me…that little sheep keeper has been making my life miserable lately.

(Cletus) How so Cain?

(Cain) Let’s just say I’m not the Lord’s favorite these days…He don’t like my offering. But boy does he like my brothers! <WITH INCREASED INTENSITY> It just makes me so mad I could…I could…let’s just say it makes me want to do bad things.

(Francisco) Señor, you must not let your anger get the best of you. You must speak to the Lord immediately and ask for forgiveness before this becomes sin and you do something you really regret.

(Cain) Sounds like somebody’s been eavesdropping on what God has been telling me…I didn’t want to hear it from Him, and I don’t want to hear it from you. Why don’t you two head out before I do something I regret … TO YOU!

(Cletus) Alright Francisco, I reckon we need to be aheadin’ back home.

(Fransisco) Si.

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Yeeeee haaawww!

<CLETUS TALKING TO KAREN WITH ARK IN BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Well, we ain't in the garden no more…but we sure ain't home neither. And what is that over there…a boat?

(Francisco) It sure looks like it Cletus.

<PAUSE TO GET KAREN'S ATTENTION>

(Cletus) Uhhh…'scuse me ma'am, my friend and I are new here and were wondering…is that a boat over there?

(Karen) Awww, hey fellas. Yeah, that is a boat. See, this guy Noah says that God has told him there's gonna be a huge <AIR QUOTES> "flood."

(Cletus) Oh man, so that's Noah's ark?

(Karen) Oh yeah, that's what he calls it…an ark! Anyways, he's been preaching righteousness and building that monstrosity when all we wanna do is live our life and do our own thing, you know?

(Francisco) No, what do you mean Karen?

(Karen) See, it's like when my boyfriend Diego sees something that he likes, like our neighbor's donkey, he just takes it.

(Francisco) Well what happens when your neighbor finds out?

(Karen) Well, that's easy, Diego will just "take care of him" too.

(Francisco) Oh my Karen, you're not referring to physical violence, are you?

(Karen) Well aren't you sounding just like that do-gooder Noah? Maybe I should call Diego over here to take care of youse two!

(Francisco) No Senorita, I do not believe that will be necessary. Cletus, let us, how do you say, skeedattle out of here.

(Cletus) Couldna said it better mysef Francisco! Back to Juanita II! Maybe we can make it all the way home this time!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Wooooooeee!

<CLETUS TALKING TO BOSSMAN WITH TOWER IN BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Awww man Francisco, we aint got home this time neither! Well, let's see where Juanita's done brought us to this time…

(Francisco) Look Cletus, here comes someone that looks important.

(Cletus) Howdy sir…my friend and I are new to town so to speak and we were wonderin' just where this here is?

(Bossman) <LOOKING OFF IN THE DISTANCE YELLING AGGRESSIVELY TO SOMEONE OFF CAMERA> Well tell Jimmy if he doesn't deliver the next order of brick and bitumen by tomorrow, I'm going with someone else.

<FOCUSES BACK ON CLETUS AND FRANCISCO> Oh hello, sorry, you were saying?

(Francisco) Hola Senor, my friend and I were wondering as to the name of this city?

(Bossman) Hola Senor? You must be from out of town, everyone here speaks the one language with the same words….weird.

Anyway, you are standing in the soon to be famous <MAKES GRAND GESTURE> City of Babel.

(Cletus) As in…the Tower of Babel?

(Bossman) Ah, you've already heard about my project then have you?

(Cletus) You're project?

(Bossman) Yes, my name is Carl Bossman, but my friends call me…<LOWERS VOICE AND TRIES TO SPEAK DRAMATICALLY> "Boss Man"… Anyway, my crew and I have been hired to build this tower with a top that reaches to the heavens.

(Cletus) That seems a mighty tall order for y'all. You up fur it! And say, is that a cell phone?

(Bossman) What's a cell phone?...No, this is my hand tablet.

(Franciso) Pardon me Senor, before my friend distracted you….you were speaking of the city?

(Bossman) Yes… See, we've already been hard at work making bricks and building this city you see around you. I personally thought they should have built a series of towers and called them, <DRAMATIC PAUSE AND MAKES GRAND GESTURE> "Babel Towers." You know, with maybe a casino, a lookout tower, a couple of restaurants, a theme park maybe…but the townsfolk just wanted a city with one REALLY big tower.

The people say they will make a name for themselves…well, all I know is its good work, better than you can normally get in the land of Shinar.

(Cletus) Well, good luck with that "Boss Man." Francisco, whatta ya say we get outa here! I sure hope we can make it all the way back to our time this trip.

(Franciso) Si.

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooooeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) Well kids, I'd like to say we made it all the way back on that last trip, but Francisco and I made a few more stops along the way before making it back here.

Y'all will just have to come back tomorra to see where else we stopped, 'cause they're a couple of doosies for sure!

(Francisco) Cletus, do you think it would be good to talk about some of the things we observed tonight?

(Cletus) That's a great idea Francisco, would you like to start us off?

(Francisco) I would be honored. See kids, I do not know if you noticed it, but in our three adventures today you were able to see at least three different types of sin. These are sins that still affects people today. Those sins are anger, jealousy and pride, and there are many others.

With Cain outside the garden, you could clearly see that he was overcome with anger, anger and jealousy against his brother and anger against God. And that anger overcame Cain so much that he killed his brother Abel.

(Cletus) With Karen near Noah's ark, her and her boyfriend Diego didn't have a problem seein' other folks' stuff, wantin' other folks stuff, and even takin' other folks stuff.

(Francisco) That's not to mention how Karen said Diego would "take care" of others who stood in their way.

And lastly with Bossman in the city of Babel, both he and the townspeople were so very prideful, trying to make a name for themselves by building the city and the tower, instead of obeying God.

(Cletus) That's right Francisco! See kids, sin can take a lotta shapes and look a lotta differnt ways, but the Bible tells us that we are all guilty of it and this sin separates us from God and if it's not taken care of, the penalty for sin is death.

(Francisco) Si Cletus, and what you'll learn today in your lesson is that Jesus is the only way sin can truly be taken care of and we can be reconciled to God.

(Cletus) Wooooee! I don't know about you, but talkin' 'bout Jesus gets me and Francisco wound up, but y'all gotta whole mess of VBS ahead of y'all.

(Francisco) Si, you will have a chance today to hear more about how Jesus is the only cure for sin and the only way for those who believe in Him to be reconciled with God forever!

(Cletus) And then y'all will have to come back tomorrow to see what kinda mess Francisco and I get into. Well, see y'all later!

(Francisco) Adios!

END OF VIDEO

Bible Expedition: "Journey To The Promised Land" Outline and Skits

Day 2

Characters:

- Cletus T. Barfield III: Hillbilly wannabe racecar driver, shade tree mechanic, and best friend of Francisco
- Francisco Luis Rubio: Hispanic physicist and electrical expert, best friend of Cletus
- Pharaoh: Syrupy thick, ostentatious British accent, sometimes angry (think fat Thor in Avengers End Game)

Setting: Francisco's lab/shop with a flashback to an interview with Pharaoh

"Moses and the Exodus"

Scripture: Exodus chapters 1-15

Registration 6:15pm

Opening Group Worship: 6:30 - 6:45pm

BEGIN VIDEO

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) Woooeee! Welcome back to day two of "Journey to the Promised Land." We're happier than a tick on a fat dog's ear that youins ur back. In our last adventure, Francisco and I were tryin' to work our way back to now…

(Francisco) <SARCASTICALY, BUT HAPPILY > Spoiler Alert…we made it back.

(Cletus) Awww man Francisco, you ruined, how do they say it…the drama of the moment.

(Francisco) Cletus my friend, I think the kids will have figured it out since we're back here now safe in your lab.

(Cletus) I guess yur right Francisco…this time travel stuff is yur thang <shakes head in confusion> …anyway kids, like we was sayin', we're as happy as a possum sittin' on a stump eatin' a sweet potato to be showin' you the rest of our adventure…

(Francisco) Possum on a stump eating a sweet potato???? What does that even mean Cletus?!?

(Cletus) <DISMISSING HAND GESTURE > Never mind Francisco, <POINTS TO AUDIENCE> back to our story….

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooeeeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN PHARAOH'S EMPTY THRONE ROOM>

(Cletus) Awww man Francisco, where are we now? 'Cause it sure aint yur lab!

(Francisco) We appear to be in a throne room of some type.

(Cletus) …I wonder whose it is?

(Pharaoh) It is MY throne room! Pharaoh, ruler of all of Egypt! And just who may I ask are you?!?

(Francisco) <BOWING> Pharaoh, we are honored to meet you and please don't be angry with us. My name is Francisco Luis Rubio and my friend here is Cletus T. Barfield the Third.

(Cletus) …at your service Mr. Pharaoh sir <TIPS CAP OR BOWS AWKWARDLY >. Sorry fer us bustin' inta yur house…it sure is nice. But it's kinda quiet…

(Pharaoh) <QUIET AND SOLEMN> It is indeed quiet, as we have recently endured great loss at the hands of the Hebrew God.

(Cletus) What there loss are ya talkin' about, your Pharaohness?

(Pharaoh) The first born of every household, throughout the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of every livestock, to the firstborn of every captive in the dungeon, to the firstborn in my very household was struck down at midnight by the Hebrew God.

(Francisco) Oh Pharaoh, we did not realize that is to what you were referring. We are very sorry for your loss.

(Pharaoh) Not to mention the nine plagues that preceded this! It all began when I refused to allow the Hebrews to go and serve their God in the wilderness and the water of the mighty Nile was turned completely to blood.

When I continued to refuse, there was the plague of frogs, the plague of gnats, the plague of flies, the plague when all our livestock died…

(Cletus) <LOOKING AT THE CAMERA> …you'd think he'd get the point…

(Pharaoh) …the plague of boils, the plague of hail, the plague of locusts and the plague of darkness. All because I refused to allow the people of Moses to go and serve their God in the wilderness.

(Cletus) …Hey Pharaoh, where are the Hebrews now?

(Pharaoh)…I let them go serve their God in the wilderness.

(Francisco) That appears to have been the correct decision.

(Pharaoh)…but I am reappraising the situation.

(Cletus) Yur re-a what yur what?

(Pharaoh) <FRUSTRATED> Grrrr… I'm changing my mind! My very servants asked me, "What is this that we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" And now, those Hebrews who left for the wilderness have turned back to encamp by the sea. It's as if they are wandering in the land and it just makes me so angry that I now regret my actions of letting them go.

(Francisco) If you do not mind me saying Pharaoh, I would not recommend pursuing the Israelites in this situation. They clearly seem to have been delivered by the God of Moses and to pursue them would be to invite further pain and death on you and your people.

(Pharaoh) Francisco, you seem like a wise man with a curiously odd taste in friends.

(Cletus) <HAT TIPPING GESTURE, NOT UNDERSTANDING HE'S JUST BEEN INSULTED> Why thank you your Pharaohness!

(Pharaoh) But I am simply TOO angry to let this slight on my kingdom and my authority go unpunished. Mark my words…those Hebrews will feel the wrath of Pharaoh's army of chariots and horses! In those I can truly place my trust!

<YELLING OFF SCREEN> Servants, ready my horse and my chariot and my army…It's time we teach those Hebrews a lesson!

(Francisco) Cletus, I think that's our sign that it's our time to leave.

(Cletus) Sounds good, I'll fire ole' Juanita up and we'll be outta here faster than you can burp the national anthem.

(Pharaoh) You truly are a strange man.

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooeeeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) And that kids was day two! What a hoot!

(Francisco) Indeed Cletus. Kids, I hope you saw how Pharaoh's heart was being hardened. And what you didn't see in today's adventure but will hear about in your lesson, is how Pharaoh's anger caused the destruction of him and his army.

(Cletus) Sure shootin' Francisco, and another thing's fur certain is that if we're not careful, our hearts can be hardened just like Pharaoh's.

(Francisco) Si.

(Cletus) Well kids, that's all we have time fur today but we have more adventures to show y'all tomorrow on our final day, so bring yur friends…<proudly> even if they're curiously odd like me!

(Francisco) Adios!

END OF VIDEO

Bible Expedition: "Journey To The Promised Land" Outline and Skits

Day 3

Scripture: Joshua chapters 6 & 9

Characters and Scenes:

- Cletus T. Barfield III: Hillbilly wannabe racecar driver, shade tree mechanic, and best friend of Francisco
- Francisco Luis Rubio: Hispanic physicist and electrical expert, best friend of Cletus

Jericho (Joshua chapters 6)

- Tomas: Tomas is a talker and is frustrated that he can't talk while marching around the walls of Jericho
- Rahab: Rahab is a prostitute and has been saved during the battle of Jericho because she protected the spies
    - She feels the Lord has saved her for something big

Gibeonites (Joshua chapter 9)

- Guido the Gibeonite: Italian "wise guy" (key phrase is "yous guys") but dressed in rags and worn-out clothes as to look like someone who has traveled a far distance

Setting: Francisco's lab/shop with a flashback to an interview with Pharaoh

"Joshua Leads Israel Into the Promised Land"

Verse: Joshua chapters 6 & 9

Registration: 6:15pm

Opening Group Worship: 6:30 - 6:45pm

BEGIN VIDEO

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) Woooeee! Welcome back to day three of "Journey to the Promised Land." We're happier than a tornado in a trailer park that you're here but Francisco and I are havin' mixed emotions about this being our last day.

(Francisco) Si. We are sad to see "Journey to the Promised Land" come to an end but very excited to explain our final day of travels as we see the Israelites make their way to the

Promised Land. <BEGINS TO LIST THINGS OFF QUICKLY AND EXCITEDLY > Among other things, we'll find out about Joshua and the spies, and Rahab, and the battle of Jericho, and the battle of Ai, and the Gibeonites, and…

(Cletus) Woah there Francisco, you don't wantem' to eat the biscuits before we dun baked 'em now, do ya?

(Francisco) Que?

(Cletus) Let's show 'em the videos!

(Francisco) Ah yes! Ahem…ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, day three of the Journey to the Promised Land!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooeeeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF JERICHO>

(Cletus) Whew! Aww man, we still aint back to the lab Francisco. I'ma startin' to get worried!

(Francisco) Fear not Cletus, it appears we're slowly making our way back to our time but that the Lord has appointed a few stops in our return.

(Cletus) Well that's good. That last jump was as smooth as owl snot, but a little shaky, and I don't know how much longer 'ole Juanita II can keep it together! Say, where do you think we are this time?

(Francisco) Hmmm, let's see. A large city in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by tremendous walls and what appears to be a group of people marching silently around it…Cletus, that very well could be the Canaanite city of Jericho.

(Cletus) Wooeee, well here comes a fella from the group now…let's ask 'em and find out.

(Francisco) Hello kind sir, my name is Francisco and this is my friend Cletus and we are new to this area and wondered if you'd be willing to speak with two inquisitive travelers?

(Tomas) <SPEAKING VERY QUICKLY AND FRUSTRATEDLY> Can I ever! You said your names are Fransisco and Cletus?….great to meet you, my name is Tomas and let me tell you, after six straight days of walking around those stupid walls, getting roasted in this scorching heat, carrying weapons, eating the dust kicked up by all the marching, listening to the priests blowing continually on their trumpets, all while not being able to say a word, not a peep… you better believe I'm ready to talk! I'm just glad we only had to walk around the city once each day. Man, that city is HUGE!

(Francisco) And that city is Jericho, correct?

(Tomas) Yeah, what else would it be? Let me tell you, I sure hope Joshua knows what he's doing. He told us <AIR QUOTES AND SARCASTIC MIMICKING TONE> "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." Well, I sure hope that day comes soon. Let me tell you, I know the Lord has given us this land, but I don't know if I would have signed up for this if I would have known there was going to be all this walking. Walk, walk, walk…I feel that's all we do! And the not talking is the worst! Have you ever had to walk and not talk for days on end? Let me tell you, it's no picknick. I can't think of another time I've had to not talk while walking…

(Francisco) <ANXIOUS TO END THE CONVERSATION> ….Uhhh Well Tomas, you've been a great help but we must be going!

(Cletus) Yeah, I think we hear our time machine calling!

(Tomas) <SPEAKING QUICKLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION> What's a time machine? I'd love to see one as long as I can talk in it. Otherwise, it would be like walking around the walks of Jericho for six straight days, not getting to say anything….can you believe that?

(Francisco) <CUTTING TOMAS OFF> Ahhhh yes…… wellllllll we'll have to leave that for another time. If you have indeed been doing this for six days as you say, we feel that tomorrow will be quite a bit different. Farewell and Godspeed in your endeavor Tomas! Cletus, let's roll!

(Cletus) Right behind you brother! Let's put the chairs in the wagon and hit the trail!

(Francisco) What?

(Cletus) Let's get outta here brother while he's takin' a breath… this guy can talk the hooves offa mule!

(Francisco) Ahh yes, here we go!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooeeeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO OUTSIDE WHAT USED TO BE THE WALLS OF JERICHO>

(Cletus) Okay Francisco, I know I can flap my gums with the best of 'em but that guy talked like his life depends on it. I didn't much care where we was goin' as long as we was getting' away from Mr. Walky Talky over there. <PAUSES AND LOOKS AROUND> …but I gotta tell ya brother, it don't seem like we went that far. This looks like we're back in Jericho…just like where we was before!

(Franscisco) Cletus, it is indeed Jericho, but look over there at the walls…they appear to have recently fallen! We must have traveled in time to just after when Joshua and his men completed the final step in God's instructions to conquer the city.

(Cletus) Oh yeah! I can see it now….woowee, all that marchin' the Israelites dun sure did tha trick on them there walls…or I should say the Lord sure did tha trick on them there walls!

Francisco, don't look now but we're about to get another visitor. Let's hope he ain't a yapper like Tomas

(Franscisco) Amen to that!

<GUIDO WALKS UP AND INTRODUCES HIMSELF…SPEAKING VERY MECHANICALLY AND STIFF TO MAKE IT OBVIOUS THAT HE IS LYING>

(Guido) AAOO, how you two doin? My name is Guido and I am a traveler from far away, ehhh…from a distant country if you will, yeah, a land far away. We are here to make a covenant with you because of the name of the Lord your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that He did in Egypt.

(Franscisco) Greetings Senior, we too are travelers from afar and we are here to hopefully speak with someone from Israel because we see the walls of the great city of Jericho have recently fallen. Do you happen to know anything about that?

<SPEAKING LESS MECHANICALLY BUT STILL IN A THICK STEREOTYPICAL MOB-LIKE ACCENT>

(Guido) Fuh-ged-da-boud-it, everybody who's anybody knows about Jericho…<PAUSES OUT OF BEING SURPRISED> OOAA, so yous telling me that yous guys is not from Israel? So yous is saying I can drop the bit about being from a distant country?

(Cletus) Mr. Guido, I can assure you we ain't from Israel…we ain't from a land down under…me and Franscisco's from what you'd call the future.

<INTERUPTING> (Francisco) Guido, I do not think I understand…So if you are not from far away, why were you acting as if you were?

(Guido) AAOO, check this out…see, the Israelites have been going through the land, kickin' butt, whackin' all the cities, clearin' out the territory on because their God has given them this land….and Jericho and Ai are just the beginning. See, me and my goombahs figured we'd be wiseguys to have a sit down with Israel… to make a covenant if you will….instead of throwing down with them because of their God.

(Cletus) Well that just ain't right Mr. Guido. That's lying!

(Guido) OOAA, lying shmiling….I'm just lookin' out for my crew. Shame on Israel for makin' a treaty with somebody they shouldn't….the way I see things, you're either trickin' somebody or you're gonna GET tricked by somebody.

<FLASH TO CLETUS AND OR FRANSICO WHO HAVE A LOOK OF AMAZEMENT ON THEIR FACE>

<FLASH BACK TO GUIDO WHO IS SPEAKING TO CLETUS AND FRANSCICO INTIMIDATINGLY>

(Guido) And us Gibeonites ain't about to get tricked…or killed by no Israelites….Capisce?

(Cletus) Ohhh, we capisce Giudo …And that's our signal…what do ya say we skedaddle on outta here Francisco before Guido decides to fit us with concrete sandals and make us swim with the fishes!

(Francisco) Cletus, I couldn't agree with you more! See you later Guido….Cletus, let's vamoose!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN SWIRLY BACKGROUND>

(Cletus) Woooeeeee!

<CLETUS AND FRANCISCO IN FRANCISCO'S LAB>

(Cletus) And that kids is day three and the end of our adventure!

(Francisco) What a ride! It was amazing that we were able to see not only the before and after at the battle of Jericho, but also before the battle at Ai. You kids will enjoy learning about what happens with that one and why the outcome was so different with each battle.

(Cletus) I gotta say Francisco, I'm kinda sad to see this come to an end but I'm as happy as a mule eatin' briars through a "bob" wire fence to be back at home. And I'm purdy sure you feel the same because you're grinnin' like a possum eatin' fire ants.

(Francisco) Cletus, I don't know exactly what you just said, but I think I agree.

<CLETUS SMILES AND GIVES A THUMBS UP>

(Francisco) That reminds me of something I wanted us to mention to the kids and those watching before we officially sign off.

(Cletus) What's that Francisco?

(Francisco) The fact that we are so different, yet are best friends.

(Cletus) Ohh yeah, I 'spose we do seem a bit of a unlikely duo.

(Francisco) See kids, I'm sure you can tell that Cletus and I are a bit different. We have different backgrounds…

(Cletus) …differn't ways of talkin'…some of us might have whatcha call a funny accent…

(Francisco) …we come from different cultures…

(Cletus)….we even got differn't school learnin'.

(Francisco) But what we do have in common, what truly gives us unity is the most important thing, or rather the most important person.

(Cletus) That's right Francisco, we got unity in Jesus Christ!

(Francisco) Although there are many references to the importance of Christian unity, one of my favorites is from the first part of the book of Ephesians, in chapter four. See, while in prison, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus about many things, many of which are related to how we as believers should be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

(Cletus) Sure did! And chapter four talks about how there's one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Francisco) And that means that we can be friends, even best friends, with another believer who is totally different.

(Cletus) Couldna said it better myself pardna and glad ya did such a great job because we're outta time.

(Cletus) <WAVING GOODBYE> Later tators!

(Francisco) <WAVING GOODBYE> Adios!

END OF VIDEO

Journey to the Promised Land K-6th Grade: Teaching for Day 1

Lesson 1 (K-6th grade): The Curse of Sin and the Promise Given to Abraham

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)
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.

Introduction

Welcome to Journey to the Promised Land.

Today, we will look at how everything began when God created the world.

Things started out great, but because of Adam and Eve's sin against God, sin came into the world.

But God already knew that would happen and He already had a Rescue Plan prepared.

We'll see how God started that Rescue Plan when he chose one man – Abraham.

But God ultimately completed that Rescue Plan by sending His own Son – Jesus – to break the curse of sin.

Creation

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)
[1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1 and 2 tell us that God created everything in the beginning.

God spoke everything into existence.

And out of all the wonderful things God created, His ultimate and most valuable creation was us - people.

Genesis 1:26 (NIV)
[26] Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

We are created in the image of God.

That doesn't mean we look like God, but we have some of God's characteristics:

- God is Relational – He wants to have a relationship with us – And we are relational.
- God is Personal – He is a personal being with personality – And we are personal beings too with a mind and soul.
- God is Creative – When we look around us, we can see how intricate and detailed His creation is – And we are creative as well: artists, engineers, musicians, writers, etc.

Sin

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, they were free to eat anything they wanted, except from one tree:

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)
[16] And 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 from it you will certainly die."

Genesis 3 says Satan approached the woman and tempted her to distrust God's command and motive.

Genesis 3:4-5 (NIV)
[4] "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. [5] "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan wanted her to believe God was being selfish and was trying to hold back something good from her.

Genesis 3:6-7 (NIV)
[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. [7] Then 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.

Broken Relationship

Immediately after disobeying God's command, Adam and Eve's "eyes were opened" meaning they saw themselves for what they were – sinners who had disobeyed God's command.

Genesis 3:8 (NIV)
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.

Sin always causes shame and fear of being caught. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God, they tried to blame others for their sin, and they tried to make excuses for their sin.

Curse and Death

God knew what Adam and Eve had done, so He told them what would happen because they had disobeyed.

Genesis 3:16-19 (NIV)
16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from 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. 19 By 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."

Because Adam and Eve sinned, and because they represented all of mankind who would be born from them, every human being ever born has a sin nature and automatically disobeys God.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Separation

Because we all sin and disobey God, the punishment we deserve is death – separation from God forever.

Romans 6:23a (NIV)
23 For the wages of sin is death,

Adam and Eve were separated from God too.

Genesis 3:23-24 (NIV)
[23] So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. [24] After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

God's Rescue Plan – Why We Need a Deliverer

But even though God punished Adam and Eve and sent them out of the Garden of Eden, He promised them that one day He would make things right again.

He told Satan:

Genesis 3:15 (NIV)
[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.

God would ultimately destroy what Satan had done and would restore things to the perfect state God had intended.

Sin Gets Worse - Cain and Abel

But the Book of Genesis shows how sin continued to grow and get worse.

The next big sin that is revealed in Genesis 4 is when Adam and Eve's oldest son Cain killed his younger brother Abel because he was jealous.

Both Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God, but God accepted only Abel's sacrifice. He did not accept Cain's sacrifice.

This made Cain so angry that he killed his own brother.

Sin Gets Really Bad – Noah and the Flood

Sin continued to get worse and worse, to the point that God decided to destroy all that He had created on the earth.

Genesis 6:5-8 (NIV)
5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

So, God intended to destroy all the wicked people, but He chose one man and his family – Noah – to rescue and to start all over again.

The Call of Abram – The Start of God's Rescue Plan

Many years later, the human population had grown again, and God chose another man – Abram – to start His Rescue Plan.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)
1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household 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."

Notice the things God promised to Abram:
1. He would have his own Land
2. He would be the father of a great Nation
3. All the world would be Blessed through Abram

But there was a Problem:
1. Abram had no children.
2. He was 75 years old (Genesis 12:4)

But God was serious about this promise.

God repeats the Promise in Genesis 13:14-17 and again in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)
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, "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 who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” [5] He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” [6] Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

God repeats the Promise again in Genesis 17.

God even changed Abram’s name to Abraham because he would be the Father of many nations.

At the age of 99, God reaffirmed His promise and said Abraham’s wife Sarah who was 90 would have a child.

God’s promise seemed impossible. But what is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

Promise Through Isaac

Abraham couldn’t understand how God’s promise would work. So, he and his wife decided to try and have a son by another woman named Hagar. They did and his name was Ishmael. So Abraham asked God to bless Ishmael.

Genesis 17:15-21 (NIV)
[15] God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. [16] I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from 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 ninety?” [18] And 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 descendants after him. [20] And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. [21] But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”

So God did promise to bless Ishmael, but the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham would come through another son to be born through Sarah.

Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21:1-3 (NIV)
[1] Now 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 the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

After many years of waiting, Abraham and Sarah finally had this promised son. God's promise was fulfilled.

God Tests Abraham

After a few years, God tested Abraham to see how much he trusted God.

Genesis 22:1-2 (NIV)
[1] Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. [2] Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Can you imagine how confused Abraham must have been?

First, in his mind, killing his son would be a sin.

Second, Isaac was the son God said all His promises would come through. If Abraham killed Isaac, how would God's promises come true?

Genesis 22:9-12 (NIV)
[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 slay 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."

Abraham passed the test! Even though he didn't understand everything, he trusted that God was even able to raise his son from the dead if needed. Abraham had learned to trust God no matter what and to obey what God told him to do.

The Blessing for the World (JESUS)

Remember part of God's promise to Abraham was that all the earth would be blessed through one of his descendants.

Genesis 22:17-18 (NIV)
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.

The Bible shows us who Abraham's descendants were, and guess who ultimately came through the line of Abraham – JESUS!

God's own Son Jesus was born as a descendant of Abraham.

The Bible teaches that there is only one God, but He exists in three separate yet equal Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the earthly name given to the Second Person of the Trinity – God's Son.

Jesus, although He was God, became an actual human being and came to this earth to live among us, to show us what God is really like, and ultimately to take the punishment we deserve for our sins by dying on the cross for us.

But because Jesus was God, when He died, He did not remain dead.

Three days later He arose from the grave.

Jesus broke the curse that was given to Adam in the garden.

The Bible says, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Abraham was saved through his faith (belief in God).

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)
6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

We are also saved by God's grace through faith, not by anything we can do to earn it.

Titus 3:4-7 (NIV)
4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)
8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from eternal punishment.

Through Jesus we have access to the "Promised Land" of heaven.

As we saw before, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God.

But God forgives us of all our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross, when we confess to God that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Then, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don't become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.

Journey to the Promised Land K-6th Grade: Teaching for Day 2

Lesson 2: Moses and the Exodus

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NIV)
By Faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

This lesson will examine the 10 plagues in Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea. We will examine the Passover and its relation to Jesus Christ as our Passover lamb.

Visuals: For this lesson it may be helpful to provide pictures or visuals of the following: Pharaoh, Baby Moses, Adult Moses, a river, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock, boils, hailstorm, a swarm of locusts, darkness, death such as a picture of a coffin, a lamb, a large rock or bolder to illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart, and a cross to represent Jesus' sacrifice.

It's great to see everyone again today.

Today we are going to learn how God rescued the Israelites from evil Pharaoh in Egypt *(show picture of Pharaoh).*

The nation of Israel was in trouble. They were slaves in Egypt and were treated very badly by Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. So, God raised up a man named Moses. Through Moses, God would save the nation of Israel from their slavery and bring them to the Promised land *(show a picture of Moses).*

Moses was also an Israelite. When Moses was a baby *(show a picture of baby Moses)*, God saved him from Pharaoh who was trying to kill all the Israelite boys. Moses was then raised by Pharaoh's daughter. But as a younger man, Moses defended an Israelite slave and killed an Egyptian. Evil Pharaoh found out and Moses had to flee Egypt.

Years passed. When Moses was an old man, God appeared to him through a burning bush and told him to go back to Egypt. He was told to confront Pharaoh and lead God's people out of Egypt.

Let's pick up this story in Exodus Chapter 5:

Exodus 5:1-2 (NIV)

[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 wilderness.'" [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."

So, there was a big problem. God commanded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh told God, No. Pharaoh admitted he didn't know the Lord. He would not obey the God of the Hebrews.

Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh again.

Exodus 5:4-5 (NIV)

[4] But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" [5] Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

After speaking with Moses, Pharaoh made the Israelite slaves work even harder. Instead of letting the people go, he gave them extra work. Pharaoh *(show a picture of Pharaoh)* would not listen to God.

We will learn that Pharaoh had a hard heart towards God. We can illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart with this rock *(show a picture of a large rock)*. Rocks are hard. They are difficult to penetrate. Pharaoh's heart was hard like this rock. He would not listen to God or let God's words enter His heart.

So, in response to Pharaoh's hard heart, God sent plagues and disasters upon Egypt in order to free His people. Through these plagues the whole world would hear about the power of God and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt.

Today we are going to examine each of these plagues. We are going to see who is more powerful: God, the creator of the universe, or Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Let's examine Exodus chapter 7, which tells us about the <u>first plague</u>.

(First Plague)

Exodus 7:14-18 (NIV)

[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 river… [16] Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. [17] This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will

strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

So, God did an amazing thing in Egypt. He turned the entire Nile river into blood. The fish died and the river stank, just as God said it would. Blood was everywhere. The Nile, being over 4,000 miles long, is the longest river in the world. Imagine the entire river turning into blood *(show a picture of a river)*.

What was Pharaoh's response? His heart became harder. He would not listen to God *(show a picture of large rock).*

Let's read about the second plague in Exodus chapter 8.

(Second Plague)

Exodus 8:1-4 (NIV)
1 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 send a plague of frogs on your whole country. 3 The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. 4 The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.'"

So, God told Pharaoh, if he didn't obey, frogs would be sent throughout Egypt, into their houses and into their beds. Frogs would be in their kitchens and where they make their food *(show a picture of frogs)*. Imagine having frogs in your breakfast. Yuck!

Do you think Pharaoh obeyed this time? *(Answer, No)*. *(Show a picture of a large rock)*

Pharaoh hardened his heart again and frogs invaded the land.

(Third Plague)

Exodus 8:16, 18b-19 (NIV)
16 Then 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." 18b Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, 19 the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God."

So, God sent trillions of gnats, swarms of tiny flying bugs, into Egypt *(show picture of gnats)*.

Even Pharaoh's magicians admitted that God caused this. But Pharaoh did not listen *(show a picture of a large rock)*.

(Fourth Plague)

Exodus 8:20-21 (NIV)
[20] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. [21] If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

Exodus 8:32 (NIV)
[32] But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go *(show a pictures of flies).*

(Fifth Plague)

Exodus 9:1-4 (NIV)
[1] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me." [2] If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, [3] the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. [4] But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.'"

So, God killed the livestock of Egypt. Egypt's supply of meat and milk for food was destroyed *(show a picture of livestock)*. Even after this the Bible says Pharaoh's heart was unyielding. He was stubborn. He would not let the people go *(show a picture of a large rock).*

But we also see that God protected His people. None of the Israelites lost livestock. God is a good God who protects His people.

(Sixth Plague)

Exodus 9:8-9 (NIV)
[8] Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. [9] It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land."

So, God then caused painful infections called boils to break out on the people *(show a picture of boils)*. The Egyptians were infected so badly that the magicians couldn't even stand before Moses.

Exodus 9:12 (NIV)
[12] But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

Prior to this, Pharaoh had hardened his own heart. Now we see the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart. Let's hope none of us here are ever that stubborn and disobedient, that the Lord hardens our hearts *(show a picture of a large rock).*

(Seventh Plague)

Next, God sent a hailstorm on Egypt. It was the worst hailstorm that had ever fallen on Egypt. Large hail destroyed food crops and killed animals and people *(show a picture of hail)*.

Do you think Pharaoh listened?

Exodus 9:34-35 (NIV)
34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts. 35 So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

Pharaoh would not listen to God. He had a hard heart. He sinned against God *(show a picture of a large rock)*. All of Pharaoh's officials also hardened their hearts.

(Eighth Plague)

Next, God sent a swarm of locust. The locust ate all the plants in Egypt.

Exodus 10:15 (NIV)
15 "They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt."
(Show a picture of locusts)

Again, Pharaoh would not listen *(S]show a picture of Pharaoh and then of a large rock).*

(Ninth Plague)

Exodus 10:21-23 (NIV)
21 "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23 No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived."

Imagine complete darkness for three days. For three days the Egyptians couldn't see anything. But God's people had light. Today we know that God's people have the light of life. Jesus said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NIV)**

(Tenth Plague)

Exodus 11:1 (NIV)
[1] Now 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."

So, God told each Israelite family to kill a spotless lamb. They were to take some the lamb's blood and put it on the sides and tops of their door frames. They were instructed to cook and eat the lamb. They were told if they obeyed, the Lord would protect their family from death. But if they did not obey, God would kill the firstborn in their household.

These are the worst consequences yet. Those who obeyed and trusted God would live. Those who disobeyed and did not believe God would face death either for themselves or for their families.

We know from the story, God's people obeyed. But Pharaoh *(show a picture of Pharaoh)* and the Egyptians did not.

So, let's read what happens:

Exodus 12:29-30 (NIV)
[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.

(Show a picture of death such as a black coffin)

This picture represents what happened to the Egyptians. Someone had died in every house of Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians were now dead. Sin and rejection of God always leads to death *(show a picture of a coffin again).* The Bible teaches us **"For the wages of sin is death..."** (Romans 6:23a NIV)

However, none of the Israelites died *(show a picture of a lamb)*. The lamb was killed instead of them. The blood of the lamb covered and protected them from certain death.

So, after all this, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go and the Israelites left Egypt. But it wasn't long before Pharaoh changed his mind again. When Moses and the Israelites were toward the Red Sea, Pharaoh and all his army pursued them. He was planning to force them to go back to Egypt. However, God had a different plan. As Pharaoh approached, God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. Moses did so and the Red Sea split in two and became dry land. The Israelites passed through the Red Sea *(show a picture of the divided Red Sea).*

We read what happened to Pharaoh in Exodus 14.

Exodus 14:23, 26-28 (NIV)
23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.
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.

That night Pharaoh and the entire Egyptian Army were destroyed. All this happened because of Pharaoh's hard heart and his unwillingness to listen to God *(show a picture of a large rock)*. As we see with Pharaoh, sinful rejection of God always leads to death *(show a picture of a coffin)*.

Israel was now freed from Pharaoh, and free to travel to the Promised Land.

This story should cause us to examine our own hearts. Are we more like Pharaoh, who had a hard heart towards God *(show a picture of a large rock)*? Or do we listen to and obey God? Do we know God, like Moses knew God? Or do we reject God and do things our own way?

So, I ask each of you a question. Who are you more like? How is your heart toward God today? The Bible teaches us that all of us are born sinners.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV). We are all born with a hard heart towards God *(show a picture of a large rock).* When we are born, we are all like evil Pharaoh.

Because we have hard hearts, we all deserve eternal death in a place called hell. Hell is worse than any of the plagues of Egypt.

"For the wages of sin is death…" (Romans 6:23a NIV) *(Show a picture of a coffin)*

However, God did not leave us without hope. God made a way for us to be made right with Him. In our story today, the sacrifice of the lamb *(show a picture of a lamb)* saved the Israelites from death. Well, we also have a Lamb that died for us and saves us from eternal death.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV)

In the New testament, when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."** (John 1:29 ESV)

Jesus is like the lamb for us. Just as the lamb's blood saved the Israelites from the plague of death in Egypt, the blood of Jesus covers our sin and saves us from the punishment of hell. Forgiveness comes when we believe in Jesus. When we do that, God forgives all of our sins and save us from eternal death.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved…" (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Three days after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was raised from the dead. He is alive, ruling and reigning in heaven today. Once we place our trust in Jesus, God does an amazing thing He takes away our hard heart and gives us a new heart that desires to please him. He gives us new life. We can then know God personally.

"**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."** (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

" Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

So, if you have never trusted in God to save you from the penalty of your sins, trust in God today. **"Believe in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved."** (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Close in prayer.

Journey to the Promised Land K-6th Grade: Teaching for Day 3

Lesson 3: Joshua and the Big Battle

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)
By Faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Introduction/Review

Welcome back to our final day of Journey to the Promised Land.

Let's review what we have learned so far.

On **Day 1**, we talked about how God created everything in the beginning.

God's ultimate and greatest creation was mankind.

God loved mankind and wanted to have a relationship with us.

But Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and brought the curse of sin into the world.

But God already knew what was going to happen and already had a Rescue Plan in place.

We saw how sin grew worse and worse, from Cain killing his brother Abel to the whole world being so wicked that God decided to destroy every living thing and to start over with Noah and his family.

Then, many years later, God chose a man named Abram and promised to bless him with his own land, his own nation, and that all the world would be blessed through him.

Abraham had faith in God, so God counted his faith as righteousness.

This was the start of God's Rescue Plan.

On **Day 2**, we learned that Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, ended up moving to Egypt, and they became so numerous that the Egyptians put them into slavery to keep them under control.

But God raised up a man named Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt.

Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, was stubborn and would not let them go. So God sent 10 plagues to get Pharaoh's attention.

Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave, but once they left, Pharaoh changed his mind and went after them.

But God rescued them at the Red Sea by dividing the waters and allowing the Israelites to cross over to the other side.

When the Egyptian army tried to follow them, God sent the waters crashing back down over them and they drowned.

Joshua's Rise to Leadership

Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years until it was time for them to enter the Promised Land, the land God had promised to Abraham and to his descendants.

However, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

He had not honored God's commandment and took matters into his own hands, so God told Moses he would not enter the Promised Land.

So God chose Joshua, one of Moses' helpers, to take over and lead the people into the land.

Deuteronomy 31:14 (NIV)
14 The LORD said to Moses, "Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him." So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.

Deuteronomy 31:23 (NIV)
23 The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

Death of Moses

Moses was allowed to go up on a mountain and look into the Promised Land.

So Moses went up on the mountain and saw the Promised Land from a distance, and then he died.

God Himself buried Moses on the mountain.

Deuteronomy 34:1 (NIV)
1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land...

Deuteronomy 34:4-6 (NIV)
4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." 5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. 6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

Joshua Commissioned to Lead Israel

After Moses' death, God again confirms that Joshua is now to be the leader.

Joshua 1:1-2 (NIV)
1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them — to the Israelites.

Joshua 1:5-6 (NIV)
5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

Jesus – Captain of the LORD's Army

Joshua prepared the people to cross over the Jordan River into the Promised Land to take it.

But before they went, God actually came and met with Joshua.

Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV)
13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" 14 "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" 15 The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

We believe this person was actually Jesus Himself, before He came to earth as a human born in Bethlehem.

Jesus appeared to people at various times in the Old Testament. These appearances are called Christophanies.

Some other possible examples:

- The angel who met Hagar in the wilderness and told her to go back to Abraham and Sarah
- One of the 3 strangers who came to Abraham and told him Sarah would have a child within the next year
- The angel who intervened and stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac
- The angel Jacob wrestled with before meeting back up with his brother Esau
- The voice that spoke to Moses from the burning bush
- The angel who told Sampson's mother she would have a child
- The fourth person in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Jericho

Joshua had courage because he knew God would be with him.

Even when God gave what seemed like strange instructions for conquering the first city, Jericho, Joshua obeyed.

Joshua 6:1-5 (NIV)
1 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

Joshua and the people obeyed God.

Joshua 6:15-16 (NIV)
15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!

Joshua 6:20 (NIV)
20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:27 (NIV)
27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

Disobedience and Defeat at Ai

Even though God had given the Israelites a great victory over Jericho, one man named Achan disobeyed God's commandments.

The people were not supposed to take certain things as spoil from Jericho.

But Achan decided to take a beautiful cloak from Shinar, 200 shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels.

Because Achan disobeyed, God allowed the Israelites to be defeated at their next battle over a much smaller city named Ai.

Joshua did not know what Achan had done, so he assumed he would have victory at the next battle.

Joshua sent spies to check Ai out.

They came back and told Joshua it wouldn't take the entire army, just two or three thousand men should be enough.

But the men of Ai defeated the Israelites and Joshua was heartbroken.

He fell on his face before God and asked why they had been defeated.

He was afraid word would get out and the rest of the cities of Canaan would attack them.

Joshua 7:10-11 (NIV)
10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions."

God instructed Joshua to have the people appear before him, and God would narrow down the identity of the one who sinned by tribe, then by clan, then by household and then by man.

So when the Israelites came before Joshua, the tribe of Judah was chosen, then the clan of the Zerahites, then the household of Zabdi, then Achan himself.

Joshua confronted Achan and asked what he had done.

Joshua 7:19-21 (NIV)
19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." 20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

So God punished and destroyed Achan and all he had for his disobedience.

Then God's anger was satisfied and He gave Israel success against their enemies again.

Failure to Seek God (Gibeonites)

But Joshua was not a perfect leader.

He made other mistakes.

Several of the kings in the area banded together to fight against the Israelites.

But the people of Gibeon decided to trick them instead.

Joshua 9:3-6 (NIV)
3 However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. 5 They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. 6 Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."

The Israelites asked them, “How do we know you aren’t our neighbors?”

They said, “Just look at our provisions and how worn out they are. They were new when we started out on our journey to come to you.”

So the Israelites made the mistake of taking them at their word instead of asking God what they should do.

Joshua 9:14-15 (NIV)
14 The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. 15 Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

Three days later they learned who these people really were, but they could not attack them because they had promised not to.

Flashback – Abraham and Sarah’s Failures; Moses Killing an Egyptian; Moses Cannot Enter

Abram and Sarai in Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)

But Joshua was not the only one to make mistakes.

Abram failed to trust God when he went down to Egypt because of a famine.

Sarai, his wife, was so beautiful that Abram was afraid the Egyptians would kill him so they could take her. So he asked her to say she was his sister. This was a half-truth because she was his half-sister, but he was being dishonest, which is sin.

The Egyptians found out that Abram had not been honest with them, which was embarrassing, and it hurt his reputation. They asked him to leave.

Sarai and Hagar (Genesis 16: 1-4)

Sarai also got impatient with God when she was getting older and still had not given birth to a child. So she convinced Abram to marry her servant Hagar and have a son through her. Abram gave in, but this was not God’s plan.

Because they jumped ahead of God’s plan, there was fighting and contention within the family, between Sarai and Hagar. And that fighting and disunity have continued to this day between the descendants of Hagar’s son, Ishmael, and the descendants of Sarai’s son, Isaac.

Moses Flees to Midian (Exodus 2:11-22)

Even Moses made his mistakes.

He had been raised in Egypt by Pharaoh's daughter, so he was a ruler in Egypt.

He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, so he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

When Pharaoh found out what Moses had done, he wanted to kill Moses, so Moses had to run away to Midian.

Moses Strikes the Rock (Numbers 20:2-13)

Years later, after Moses had led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, they needed water to drink, so they complained to Moses and accused him of bringing them into the wilderness to die.

Moses and Aaron went to God, and God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would come out for the people.

But Moses was angry with the people. Listen to what he did:

Numbers 20:10-12 (NIV)
10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. 12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

Moses took matters into his own hands and said "We will give you water" instead of giving glory to God. So God would not let Moses be the one to lead them into the Promised Land.

God's Faithfulness

Despite Joshua's failures, and the failures of Abraham and Moses before him, God continued to help the Israelites conquer and take over the Promised Land.

Joshua gathered the Israelites together and summarized all that God had done for them.

Joshua 24:1-13 (NIV)

[1] Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. [2] Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. [3] But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, [4] and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt. [5] Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out. [6] When I brought your people out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea. [7] But they cried to the LORD for help, and he put darkness between you and the Egyptians; he brought the sea over them and covered them. You saw with your own eyes what I did to the Egyptians. Then you lived in the wilderness for a long time. [8] I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands. I destroyed them from before you, and you took possession of their land. [9] When Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, prepared to fight against Israel, he sent for Balaam son of Beor to put a curse on you. [10] But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand. [11] Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands. [12] I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you — also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. [13] So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.'"

Then Joshua challenged the Israelites to continue to serve and obey God.

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV)

[14] "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. [15] But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

The New Heaven and the New Earth (Our Future Promised Land)

Just as the Israelites were promised a land for their very own, we have been promised that we can live with God forever, our own Promised Land.

Let's see what the last book of the Bible says about this future Promised Land.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

[1] Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. [2] I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. [4] 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:22-27 (NIV)

[22] I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [23] The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. [24] The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. [25] On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. [26] The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. [27] Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

At the end, God will judge the world by the things written in a book where God is recording what people do.

And there is another book, the Book of Life, and anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life cannot be with God.

As we have seen in other lessons, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God. Sin separates us from God.

Romans 6:23 says that what we deserve for our sin is death. But that verse goes on to say that God offers us a free gift of eternal life through Jesus.

God offers to forgive our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross, when we confess to God that we are sinners, and when we ask Him to forgive us.

Then, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don't become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.

Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 1

Lesson 1: The Curse of Sin and the Promise Given to Abraham

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)
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.

- **Introduction**

Welcome to Journey to the Promised Land.

Today, we are going to take a quick look at how everything began when God created the world.

Everything started out great, but then the first two people, Adam and Eve, sinned. Sin entered the world, and everything changed for the worse.

God already knew that Adam and Eve would sin, and He already had a Rescue Plan ready.

Today we are going to look at how God started His Rescue Plan when He chose one man – Abraham – to be the father of many.

God ultimately completed His Rescue Plan by sending His own Son – Jesus – to break the curse of sin.

- **Creation**

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)
[1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1 and 2 tell us that God created everything.

God spoke EVERYTHING into existence!

Out of all the wonderful things God created, His ultimate and most valuable creation was us, people.

- **Use a children's Bible and show them where in the Bible Genesis is and read with them.**

Genesis 1:26 (NIV)
[26] Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

We are created in the image of God.

That doesn't mean we look like God, but we have some of God's characteristics:

- God is Relational – He wants to have a relationship with us – And we are relational.
- God is Personal – He is a personal being with personality – And we are personal beings too with a mind and soul.
- God is Creative – When we look around us, we can see how intricate and detailed His creation is – And we are creative as well: artists, engineers, musicians, writers, etc.

Sin (Explain in terms preschoolers can understand. The wrong things we do that go against God's perfect plan.)

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, they were free to eat anything they wanted, except from one tree:

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)
[16] And 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 from it you will certainly die."

Adam and Eve disobeyed. They ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Since then, every human being is born with a sin nature. Everyone is a sinner.

God's Rescue Plan – Why we need a Deliverer

But even though God punished Adam and Eve and sent them out of the Garden of Eden, He promised them that one day He would make things right again.

The Call of Abram – The Start of God's Rescue Plan

Many years later, the human population had grown. God chose to work out His rescue man through a man named Abram.

- **Read this portion with preschoolers from a children's Bible (briefly).**
- **If available, flannel graph or other visuals would be extremely beneficial in helping preschoolers understand and engage with the story.**

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)
[1] The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household 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."

Notice the things God promised to Abram:
1. He would have his own Land
2. He would be the father of a great Nation
3. All the world would be Blessed through Abram

But there was a problem:
1. Abram had no children.
2. He was 75 years old (Genesis 12:4)

<u>But God always keeps His promises.</u>

- **You can read this portion with preschoolers from a children's Bible, again, keeping it brief. Be sure to reiterate that when God makes a promise, He keeps it.**

God repeats the Promise in Genesis 13:14-17 and again in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)
[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, "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 who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." [5] He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." [6] Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

God repeats the Promise again in Genesis 17.

God even changed Abram's name to Abraham because he would be the Father of many nations.

At the age of 99, God reaffirmed His promise and said Abraham's wife Sarah, who was 90 years old, would have a child.

God's promise seemed impossible. But what is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

Promise Through Isaac

Genesis 17:15-21 (NIV)
15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from 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 ninety?"

Birth of Isaac

- **Flannel graph or other visuals such as a baby doll.**

Genesis 21:1-3 (NIV)
1 Now 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 the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

After many years of waiting, Abraham and Sarah finally had this promised son. God's promise was fulfilled.

God Tests Abraham
(Remind preschoolers frequently that God was testing Abraham)

- **Flannel graph or visuals/activity**
- **Visuals = bundled up popsicle or actual sticks bundled. A small toy ram tangled in some sticks or vines.**
- **Activity = Pretend hike up the mountain (around the room) as you tell the story. The children could end at an altar. You could "stop" there and continue into the portion of the story about Jesus being our sacrifice.**

After a few years, God tested Abraham to see how much he trusted God.

Genesis 22:1-2 (NIV)
[1] Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. [2] Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Can you imagine how confused Abraham must have been?

First, in his mind, killing his son would be a sin.

Second, Isaac was the son God said all His promises would come through. If Abraham killed Isaac, how would God's promises come true?

Genesis 22:9-12 (NIV)
[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 slay 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."

Abraham passed the test! **Hooray! (Adding excitement and/or a big expression here will help bring to a close a very tense moment.)** Even though he didn't understand everything, Abraham trusted that God was even able to raise his son from the dead if needed. Abraham had learned to trust God no matter what and to obey what God told him to do.

The Blessing for the World (JESUS)

- **Flannel graph or visuals/activity**
- **Activity = At the altar, describe how Jesus was the sacrifice for us, but didn't stay dead etc.**

Remember part of God's promise to Abraham was that all the earth would be blessed through one of his descendants.

Genesis 22:17-18 (NIV)
[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.

The Bible shows us who Abraham's descendants were, and guess who ultimately came through the line of Abraham – JESUS!

God's own Son Jesus was born as a descendant of Abraham.

The Bible teaches that there is only one God, but He exists in three separate yet equal Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the earthly name given to the Second Person of the Trinity – God's Son.

Jesus, although He was God, became an actual human being and came to this earth to live among us, to show us what God is really like, and ultimately to take the punishment we deserve for our sins by dying on the cross for us.

But because Jesus was God, when He died, He did not remain dead. Three days later He arose from the grave.

Jesus broke the curse that was given to Adam in the garden.

The Bible says, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Abraham was saved through his faith (belief in God).

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)
6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

We are also saved by God's grace through faith, not by anything we can do to earn it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)
8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from eternal punishment.

As we saw before, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God.

But God forgives us of all our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Then, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don't become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.

Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 2

PRESCHOOL Lesson 2: Moses and the Exodus

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NIV)
By Faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

- **You can use flannel graph or pictures of the plagues to tell the story.**

- **You can do a craft as you go through the lesson, using most of the visual aids as part of the craft. Substitute perishable items (jello/water beads/ice).**

This lesson will examine the 10 plagues in Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea. We will examine the Passover and its relation to Jesus Christ as our Passover lamb.

Visuals: For this lesson it may be helpful to provide pictures or visuals of the following: a river, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock, boils, hailstorm, a swarm of locusts, darkness, death such as a picture of a coffin, a lamb and a large rock or bolder to illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart.

It's great to see everyone again today.

So yesterday, we looked at the life of Abraham. Abraham had a child named Isaac. Isaac had a child named Jacob. Jacob had many children and grandchildren. Over time, his descendants became a nation of people known as the Israelites.

However, after many years, the Israelites became slaves in Egypt. The Egyptians mistreated the Israelites. Pharaoh, the Egyptian King, was evil and killed many of the Israelites' babies. In response, the Israelites were crying out to God for help.

So, God raised up a man named Moses. Through Moses, God would save the nation of Israel from their slavery and bring them to the Promised land.

Moses was also an Israelite. He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. But when he was a younger man, he killed an Egyptian who was hurting an Israelite slave. Pharaoh found out and Moses had to flee for his life.

Moses became a shepherd in Midian. When Moses was an old man, God appeared to him through a burning bush and told him to go back to Egypt, confront Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God allowed Aaron, Moses brother, to speak for him and confront evil Pharaoh.

Let's pick up this story in Exodus Chapter 5:

Exodus 5:1-2 (NIV)

[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 wilderness.'"
[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."

So, there was a big problem. God commanded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh told God, No. Pharaoh admitted he didn't know the Lord. He would not obey the God of the Hebrews.

Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh again.

Exodus 5:4-5 (NIV)

[4] But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" [5] Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

After speaking with Moses, Pharaoh made the Israelite slaves work even harder. Instead of letting the people go, he gave them extra work. Pharaoh would not listen to God.

We will learn that Pharaoh had a hard heart towards God. We can illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart with this rock *(show a picture of a large rock)*. Rocks are hard. They are difficult to penetrate. Pharaoh's heart was hard like this rock. He would not listen to God or let God's words enter His heart.

So, in response to Pharaoh's hard heart, God sent plagues and disasters upon Egypt in order to free His people. Through these plagues the whole world would hear about the power of God and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt.

Today we are going to examine each of these plagues. We are going to see who is more powerful: God, the creator of the universe, or Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Let's examine Exodus chapter 7, which tells us about the <u>first plague</u>.

(First Plague)

Exodus 7:14-18 (NIV)
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 river… 16 Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. 17 This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

- **Illustration: Use a clear bin (bin size dependent on class size) filled with either red Jello or red water beads. Put a toy fish in it and add a sign to signify it's stinky (i.e. a picture with a dead fish and a nose crossed out).**

So, God did an amazing thing in Egypt. He turned the entire Nile river into blood. The fish died and the river stank, just as God said it would. Blood was everywhere. The Nile, being over 4,000 miles long, is the longest river in the world. Imagine the entire river turning into blood *(show a picture of a river)*.

What was Pharaoh's response? His heart became harder. He would not listen to God *(show a picture of large rock)*.

Let's read about the second plague in Exodus chapter 8.

(Second Plague)

Exodus 8:1-4 (NIV)
1 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 send a plague of frogs on your whole country. 3 The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. 4 The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.'"

- **Illustration: Any kind of frogs - paper cutout, plastic, rubber toy ones (preferably small in size because you will need many of them).**

So, God told Pharaoh, if he didn't obey, frogs would be sent throughout Egypt, into their houses and into their beds. Frogs would be in their kitchens and where they make their food *(show a picture of frogs)*. Imagine having frogs in your breakfast. Yuck!

Do you think Pharaoh obeyed this time? (Answer, No.) *(Show a picture of a large rock.)*

Pharaoh hardened his heart again as frogs invaded the land.

(Third Plague)

Exodus 8:16, 18b-19 (NIV)
16 Then 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." 18b Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, 19 the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God."

- **Illustration: Pictures of swarms of gnats. Paper hole punch dots or plain confetti (will need a vacuum handy).**

So, God sent trillions of gnats, swarms of tiny flying bugs, into Egypt.

Even Pharaoh's magicians admitted that God caused this. But Pharaoh did not listen *(show a picture of a large rock)*.

(Fourth Plague)

Exodus 8:20-21 (NIV)
20 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 21 If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

Exodus 8:32 (NIV)
32 But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go *(show a pictures of flies).*

- **Illustration: Inexpensive plastic flies from Amazon or other retail site, or cutouts of flies.**

(Show a picture of flies)

(Fifth Plague)

Exodus 9:1-4 (NIV)
1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me." 2 If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, 3 the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and

goats. [4] But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.'"

- **Illustration: A good variety of toy animals and a toy fence if available (can be made with blocks) to show the contrast of Egypt's animals dying and the Israelites' animals being spared.**

So, God killed the livestock of Egypt. Egypt's supply of meat and milk for food was destroyed *(show a picture of livestock)*. Even after this the Bible says Pharaoh's heart was unyielding. He was stubborn. He would not let the people go *(show a picture of a large rock)*.

But we also see that God protected His people. None of the Israelites lost livestock. God is a good God who protects His people.

(Sixth Plague)

Exodus 9:8-9 (NIV)
[8] Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. [9] It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land."

- **Illustration: Red dot stickers**

So, God then caused painful infections called boils to break out on the people *(show a picture of boils)*. The Egyptians were infected so badly that the magicians couldn't even stand before Moses.

Exodus 9:12 (NIV)
[12] But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

Prior to this, Pharaoh had hardened his own heart. Now we see the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart. Let's hope none of us here are ever that stubborn and disobedient, that the Lord hardens our hearts (s*how a picture of a large rock).*

(Seventh Plague)

Next, God sent a hailstorm on Egypt. It was the worst hailstorm that had ever fallen on Egypt. Large hail destroyed food crops and killed animals and people *(show a picture of hail)*.

Do you think Pharaoh listened?

Exodus 9:34-35 (NIV)
34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts. 35 So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

- **Illustration: A clear bin (bin size dependent on class size) filled with ice and scoops or spoons. Also use pictures of hail damage to show the true destruction that can be caused by hail.**

Pharaoh would not listen to God. He had a hard heart. He sinned against God *(show a picture of a large rock).* All of Pharaoh's officials also hardened their hearts.

(Eighth Plague)

Next, God sent a swarm of locusts. The locusts ate all the plants in Egypt.

Exodus 10:15 (NIV)
15 "They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt."
(Show a visual of locust)

- **Illustration: Cutouts of locusts or clothespin locusts (will need to make ahead of time).**

Again, Pharaoh would not listen *(show a picture of a large rock).*

(Ninth Plague)

Exodus 10:21-23 (NIV)
21 "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt." 22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23 No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived."

- **Illustration: Turn off lights and/or blindfold children (make sure to do this in an open area of the classroom to avoid injury)**

Imagine complete darkness for three days. For three days the Egyptians couldn't see anything. But God's people had light. Today we know that God's people have the light of life. Jesus said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NIV)**

(Tenth Plague)

Exodus 11:1 (NIV)
[1] Now 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."

So, God told each Israelite family to kill a spotless lamb. They were to take some the lamb's blood and put it on the sides and tops of their door frames. They were instructed to cook and eat the lamb. They were told if they obeyed, the Lord would protect their family from death. But if they did not obey, God would kill the firstborn in their household.

These are the worst consequences yet. Those who obeyed and trusted God would live. Those who disobeyed and did not believe God would face death either for themselves or for their families.

We know from the story, God's people obeyed. But Pharaoh and the Egyptians did not.

So, let's read what happened:

Exodus 12:29-30 (NIV)
[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.

Illustration: Show pictures of sad faces or a coffin

- **This is a difficult thing for most kids this age to grasp. Do your best to convey sadness when discussing the death of the firstborn.**

This picture represents what happened to the Egyptians. Someone had died in every house of Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians were now dead. Sin and rejection of God always leads to death *(show a picture of a coffin again).* The Bible teaches us ,**"For the wages of sin is death..."** (Romans 6:23a NIV)

However, none of the Israelites died *(show a picture of a lamb)*. The lamb was killed instead of them. The blood of the lamb covered and protected them from certain death.

So, after all this, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go and the Israelites left Egypt.

The Israelites also needed a new heart towards God. Through all this God showed kindness and grace towards Israel. God didn't punish the Israelites like they deserved. God was patient and loving toward His people.

This story should cause us to examine our own hearts. Are we more like Pharaoh, who had a hard heart towards God *(show a picture of a large rock)*? Or do we listen to and obey God? Do we know God, like Moses knew God? Or do we reject God and do things our own way?

- **Preschoolers may not be able to follow along with all the following verses due to quantity. Just do your best to have verses printed out or marked ahead of the lesson and use visual cues to keep them engaged, such as a rock for our hard hearts that God exchanges in turn for a moldable heart like playdoh, clay, etc.**

So, I ask each of you a question. Who are you more like? How is your heart toward God today?

The bible teaches us that all of us are born sinners.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV) We are all born with a hard heart toward God *(show a picture of a large rock)*. When we are born, we are all like evil Pharaoh.

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a NIV) *(Show a picture of a coffin)*

However, God did not leave us without hope. God made a way for us to be made right with Him. In our story today, the sacrifice of the lamb *(show a picture of a lamb)* saved the Israelites from death. Well, we also have a Lamb that died for us and saves us from eternal death.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV)

In the New testament, when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."** (John 1:29 ESV)

Jesus is like the lamb for us. Just as the lamb's blood saved the Israelites from the plague of death in Egypt, the blood of Jesus covers our sin and saves us from the punishment of hell. Forgiveness comes when we believe in Jesus. When we do that, God forgives all of our sins and save us from eternal death.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved…" (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Three days after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was raised from the dead. He is alive, ruling and reigning in heaven today. Once we place our trust in Jesus, God does an amazing thing. He takes away our hard heart and gives us a new heart that desires to please him. He gives us new life. We can then know God personally.

"**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."** (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

So, if you have never trusted in God to save you from the penalty of your sins, trust in God today. **“Believe in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved.”** (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Close in prayer.

Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 3

Lesson 3: Joshua and the Big Battle

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)
By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Introduction/Recap

Welcome back to our final day of Journey to the Promised Land.

Let's review what we have learned so far.

On **Day 1**, we talked about how God created everything in the beginning.

God's ultimate and greatest creation was mankind.

God loved mankind and wanted to have a relationship with us.

But Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and brought the curse of sin into the world.

But God already knew what was going to happen and already had a Rescue Plan in place.

Then, many years later, God chose a man named Abram and promised to bless him with his own land, his own nation, and that all the world would be blessed through him.

(Reminder that God changed his name from Abram to Abraham.)

Abraham had faith in God, so God counted his faith as righteousness.

This was the start of God's Rescue Plan.

On **Day 2**, we learned that Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, ended up moving to Egypt, and they became so numerous that the Egyptians put them into slavery to keep them under control.

But God raised up a man named Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt.

Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, was stubborn and would not let them go, so God sent 10 plagues to get Pharaoh's attention. **Finally, Pharaoh let the Israelites go.**

Joshua's Rise to Leadership

Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years until it was time for them to enter the Promised Land, the land God had promised to Abraham and to his descendants.

However, Moses was not going to be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

(Remind them <u>how</u> Moses disobeyed God.)
Moses had not honored God's commandment and took matters into his own hands, so God told Moses he would not enter the Promised Land.

God chose Joshua, one of Moses' helpers, to take over and lead the people into the land.

Death of Moses

Moses was allowed to go up on a mountain and view the Promised Land.

So, Moses went up on the mountain and saw the Promised Land from a distance, and then he died.

God Himself buried Moses on the mountain.

(You can read this verse with the children briefly from a children's Bible but remember to keep it short as it's not the main point of today's lesson.)
Deuteronomy 34:1 (NIV)
[1] Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land...

Deuteronomy 34:4-6 (NIV)
[4] Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." [5] And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. [6] He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

Joshua Commissioned to Lead Israel

After Moses' death, God again confirms that Joshua is now to be the leader.

Joshua 1:1-2 (NIV)
[1] After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: [2] "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them — to the Israelites.

Joshua 1:5-6 (NIV)
[5] No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. [6] Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

Jesus – Captain of the LORD's Army

Joshua prepared the people to cross over the Jordan River into the Promised Land to take it.

But before they went, God came and met with Joshua.

Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV)
[13] Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" [14] "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" [15] The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

We believe this person was Jesus Himself, before He came to earth as a human born in Bethlehem.

Jesus appeared to people at various times in the Old Testament. These appearances are called Christophanies. **(Inform or remind children that Jesus was not seen on earth in human form until over 1000 years later)**

Some other possible examples:
- The angel who met Hagar in the wilderness and told her to go back to Abraham and Sarah
- One of the 3 strangers who came to Abraham and told him Sarah would have a child within the next year
- The angel who intervened and stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac
- The angel Jacob wrestled with before meeting back up with his brother Esau
- The voice that spoke to Moses from the burning bush

- The angel who told Sampson's mother she would have a child
- The fourth person in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Jericho

Joshua had courage because he knew God would be with him.

Even when God gave what seemed like strange instructions for conquering the first city, Jericho, Joshua obeyed.

(Read these verses with preschoolers from a children's bible. Use expression when reading.)

- **Use flannel graph if available. Use flannel graph during the Bible reading to tell the story and/or**
- **Use boxes to build a wall for the children to march around/ Make trumpets out of paper and let them decorate.**

Joshua 6:1-5 (NIV)
[1] Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. [2] Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. [3] March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. [4] Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. [5] When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

Joshua and the people obeyed God.

Joshua 6:15-16 (NIV)
[15] On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. [16] The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!

Joshua 6:20 (NIV)
[20] When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:27 (NIV)
[27] So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

(If time permits, you can briefly explain/recap some of Joshua's failures as a leader. Going into detail would just be too much for this age group on top of all the other information.)

Failure to Seek God (Gibeonites)

But Joshua was not a perfect leader.

He made other mistakes.

(Give a brief overview of Joshua's failures as a leader. Just enough to show that he was still imperfect and in need of a Rescuer.)

Flashback – Abraham and Sarah's Failures; Moses Killing an Egyptian; Moses Cannot Enter

Sarai and Hagar (Genesis 16: 1-4)

Sarai also got impatient with God when she was getting older and still had not given birth to a child. So, she convinced Abram to marry her servant Hagar and have a son through her. Abram gave in, but this was not God's plan.

Because they jumped ahead of God's plan, there was fighting and contention within the family, between Sarai and Hagar. And that fighting and disunity have continued to this day between the descendants of Hagar's son, Ishmael, and the descendants of Sarai's son, Isaac.

Moses Flees to Midian (Exodus 2:11-22)

Even Moses made his mistakes.

He had been raised in Egypt by Pharaoh's daughter, so he was a ruler in Egypt.

He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, so he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

When Pharaoh found out what Moses had done, he wanted to kill Moses, so Moses had to run away to Midian.

Moses Strikes the Rock (Numbers 20:2-13)

Years later, after Moses had led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, they needed water to drink, so they complained to Moses and accused him of bringing them into the wilderness to die.

Moses and Aaron went to God, and God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would come out for the people.

But Moses was angry with the people. Listen to what he did:

Numbers 20:10-12 (NIV)
10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. 12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

Moses took matters into his own hands and said "We will give you water" instead of giving glory to God. So God would not let Moses be the one to lead them into the Promised Land.

God's Faithfulness

Despite Joshua's failures, and the failures of Abraham and Moses before him, God continued to help the Israelites conquer and take over the Promised Land.

(Still review, perhaps just use flannel graph or previously completed crafts to review lesson content from days 1 through 3)

Joshua gathered the Israelites together and summarized all that God had done for them.

The New Heaven and the New Earth (Our Future Promised Land)

Just as the Israelites were promised a land for their very own, we have been promised that we can live with God forever, our own Promised Land.

Let's see what the last book of the Bible says about this future Promised Land.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

As we have seen in other lessons, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God.

Sin separates us from God.

Romans 6:23 says that what we deserve for our sin is death.

But that verse goes on to say that God offers us a free gift of eternal life through Jesus.

God offers to forgive our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

When we trust in Jesus Christ, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don't become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.

Bible Expedition: "Journey To The Promised Land" Decorations

Preface:

This document is meant as a loose guideline in giving ideas for what decorations might be used to fit the themes. Obviously changes and additions can be made, but this is meant as a starting point. Each section will be divided by what type of room/space each decoration is used in, as well as by the three options of: **original**, **fast** and **cheap**. The first, **original**, is just the general "original" idea for that given area. The **fast** option is for when time set aside to decorate might be a larger constraint. And the **cheap** option is for when cost is a larger constraint. There will, of course, be some overlap between the last two options, but they are there for idea's sake.

Original:

Room Decorations: This is meant primarily for the different classrooms or other smaller, possibly lesson-focused rooms.

1. Classrooms (for lessons)
   For the various days, it will have the same back drop (blue sky and clouds) but will have different decorations that are moved in for each respective day.
   a. Backdrop
      i. Sky
         1. Blue paper taped to walls
      ii. Clouds
         1. Poster board cloud cutouts
         2. Cotton balls glued on
   b. Day 1: Mountain and altar
      i. Mountain
         1. Cutout section of brown paper attached to the wall with removeable adhesive strips or leaned against the wall
         2. Painted with dark and light grey paint
      ii. Altar
         1. Fake rocks stacked in a semi rectangular fashion
            a. Inside-out crumpled paper bags painted with grey spray paint
         2. Sticks stacked on top
   c. Day 2: Mountain and burning bush
      i. Burning Bush

1. Use either a real or a fake bush. (Preferably fake if possible)
    a. If you use a real bush, cut/prep as close to the day it will be used as possible to avoid wilting
    b. Use wooden supports to hold it
    c. Set bush in the middle of the room
2. Use prepped Christmas lights for "flames"
    a. Two strands of green wired warm colored lights
    b. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
    c. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
    d. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
    e. Wrap the prepped lights around the bush to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord

d. <u>Day 3: Outside Jericho</u>
    i. Jericho
        1. Cardboard cutout of a city wall (think castle-like)
        2. Painted to look like stone bricks
    ii. Arc of the Covenant
        1. Cardboard in several layers attached by concealed tape up against the wall.
            a. The box itself should be 3.75 ft. long and 2.25 ft. tall
            b. As simple or as complex as you are able/willing to go
        2. Cardboard cutouts of two kneeling angels with wings facing each other
        3. Cut cardboard rings attached to both of the feet that are showing
            a. A larger diameter wooden dowel set through the rings
        4. Every part spray painted gold

2. Classroom (for nursery)
   This room will be a separate room and will maintain the same decorations throughout the three-day VBS. It will also have a blue sky and clouds theme but will instead be decorated to look like the camp of the Israelites.
    a. Backdrop
        i. Sky
            1. Blue paper taped to walls
        ii. Clouds
            1. Poster board cloud cutouts
            2. Cotton balls glued on
    b. Mountain
        i. Similar to the mountain in the upstairs classroom during Day 1&2
        ii. Cutout section of brown paper attached to the wall with removeable adhesive strips or leaned up against the wall
        iii. Painted with dark and light grey paint

c. Campfire
    i. Fake rocks
        1. Brown paper bags crumpled, turned inside out, and painted grey
    ii. Sticks
        1. Placed in a “tent” shape
    iii. Flames
        1. Use prepped Christmas lights for “flames”
            a. One strand of warm colored lights
            b. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
            c. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
            d. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
            e. Wrap the prepped lights around the sticks to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord
d. Tents
    i. Small pup tents covered in blankets
    ii. Camp pop-up shelters with plastic tablecloths attached
    iii. Try to aim for more brightly colored tablecloths/blankets
e. Tent opening door decorations
    i. Plastic tablecloths draped over strings attached to the wall surrounding the door and the ceiling
    ii. Once again, aim for more brightly colored varieties
f. Kneeling tables
    i. Take child-sized tables and lower them further
    ii. Cover them in wood patterned material
    iii. Place carpet sections and pillows around the tables

Wide Open Area Decorations: This is meant primarily for a larger, more central area. For this example, we will be using our Fellowship Hall. We will be using this space for snacks, crafts, sign-in/out, photos and the lesson.

Decoration Theme: Because it is such a large area and there are so many stations needed, we are using an Egyptian theme for this space.

1. Wall decorations
    a. Light sconces
        i. Crumple orange, yellow and red tissue paper to look like flames
        ii. Insert them between the metal housing and the glass lampshades to imitate the appearance of torches on the walls/ceiling if this design of lighting is present
    b. Hieroglyphic panels
        i. Cut rounded rectangular panels out of cardboard

ii. Use gold paint to make a border
iii. Use fat-tipped permanent marker to draw hieroglyphics on the panels
1. Note: For simplicity's sake, we are using a Hieroglyphic ABC code. The patterns that we have illustrated reads "Jesus" and "Saves" respectively.
iv. Attach the panels along the wall using removeable adhesive strips
1. Note: If the paint on the wall is not durable enough or if it is a concern, place painters' tape on the wall prior to attaching the adhesive strips.

c. Mountain (attached to/leaning up against the wall behind the stage [or main lesson area if not available])
i. Similar to the mountain for day 1&2 in the classroom
ii. Cut cardboard into the shape of a mountain with the tip going past the ceiling
iii. Paint using brown, light and dark grey paint to be similar to a mountain
iv. Cut poster board into the shape of a long cloud
v. Glue cotton balls onto the poster board
vi. Glue cloud to the top of the mountain so as to have the cloud touching the ceiling
vii. Attach mountain to wall using removable adhesive strips or simply lean it up against the wall

d. "Door opening" (window between the fellowship hall and the kitchen)
i. Cut three strips of cardboard according to the dimensions of the opening that you are making it for
1. Two strips for the vertical sides
a. 2 in. less than the height of your opening x 8 in. wide
2. One strip for across the top
a. 1.5 ft. longer than the horizontal measurement of your opening x 8 in. wide
ii. Cover each of them with wood log patterned paper
iii. Attach them to the wall around your opening using removable adhesive strips
iv. Loosely paint a stripe across the posts using dark red paint
1. Reminiscent of when the Israelites painted blood on the door posts

2. Stand-alone decorations
a. Pyramid (for pictures if parents want)
i. Cut four equal triangles out of cardboard
1. The approximate dimensions should be:
a. Height: 5-6 ft.
b. Base width: 5-6 ft.
2. Cut a rectangular hole in one of them. (This will be the opening)
a. Approximate dimensions:
i. Width: 3ft.

ii. Height: 4ft.
3. Cover in sandstone patterned paper
4. Place gold colored foil on the top 1ft of each of the sections
5. Opening side
    a. Cut strips of cardboard to be used as the "opening supports"
    b. 3 strips: 3 ft. 11 in. x 0.5 ft.
    c. Cover in wood log patterned paper
    d. Attach with high temp hot glue gun
        i. One on each side of the opening (overlap 1 in.)
        ii. One centered on the top
    e. "Torches"
        i. Take two toilet paper rolls and cut a slit down one side on each
        ii. Curl them back together at an angle as to make a cone and tape it.
        iii. Crumple orange and yellow tissue paper to imitate flames
        iv. Place them inside the cones
        v. Use hot glue to attach the "torches" to the sides on the "support pillars"

ii. Assembly
1. Tape the four sides together using strong tape along the inside of each of the sections
2. Set it down with the opening facing out
3. Place a red blanket down on the floor on the inside

b. Sign-in booth
i. Frame
1. Set up a table first (the one that will be used for registration)
2. Using several large panels of cardboard, form a wall that will be used on the sides and the front of the sign-in area
    a. The panels will be mounted to the front and side of the table, so keep that in mind when determining the dimensions
3. Cut a window out of the front side of the cardboard
    a. The dimensions should roughly match those of the table
    b. This means that the window should be roughly the length of the table and should start at the top of the table. It should be tall enough so as to allow plenty of space to work within.
4. Cover the panels in wood plank patterned paper

ii. "Supporting beams"
1. Cut strips out of cardboard similar to the kind specified with the "Door Opening"
    a. Dimensions:

i. Two vertical strips each roughly 8 in. wide and 1 in. short of the maximum height of the window
ii. One horizontal middle beam 8 in. wide and 2 in. short of the width of the window
iii. One horizontal top beam 8 in. wide and 1.5 ft. wider than the width of the window

2. Cover each strip in sandstone patterned paper
    a. Attach each strip to its corresponding spot around the window using adhesive strips. Each piece is centered on the side, but overlapping the window by 1 in.

iii. Sign
1. Cut out a panel of cardboard to be used as a sign
2. Paint "Sign-In" across it
3. Attach twine to the back with tape
4. Hang the sign under the window using the other end of the twine

Hallway Decorations: This section is meant to describe various decorations that are either covering an extended section of hallway or are free-standing. Each of these sections are independent of the room themes in other places.

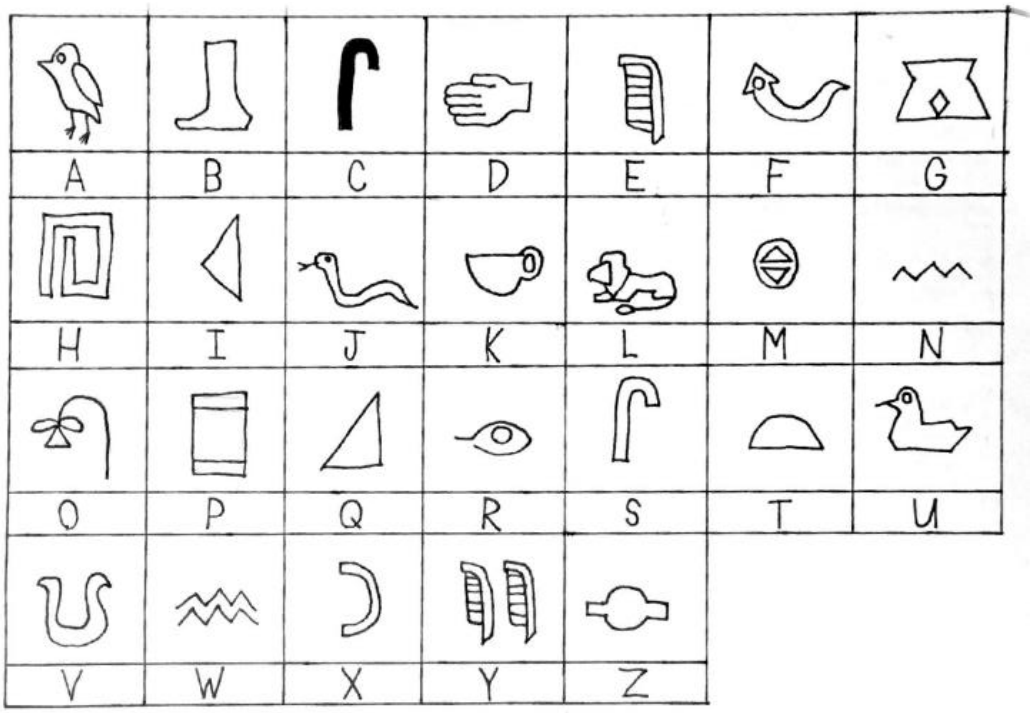
Extended Hallway Themes

1. Parted sea
    a. Prep work:
        i. Set out 2ft. wide sections of blue paper on a covered surface
        ii. Paint top sections loosely with white spray paint to imitate water cresting/waves
        iii. Cut out paper plate fish
    b. Cover bottom 2/3 of the hallway in question with blue paper
        i. Use painter's tape to attach it to the wall
    c. Attach "waves" (made in the previous step) to the top of the blue paper
    d. Attach paper fish to the walls as looks good
    e. Cut out and attach green steamer "seaweed" to the walls along the bottom as looks good
2. Night in the wilderness (and pillar of fire)
    a. Place removable adhesive hooks along the ceiling in a zig-zag pattern
    b. Cover walls in black paper just under the hooks
    c. Place glow-in-the-dark stars along the walls
    d. String Christmas lights along the hooks and plug them in.
    e. Pillar of fire
        i. Place 2 removable adhesive hooks along a vertical line over an outlet with the bottoms facing each other (the bottom one should be placed upside-down)

ii. String several lines of Christmas lights between them
iii. Cover it with a layer of clear sheeting and tape it to the wall
    1. Note: this will be a mounting surface for later
iv. Starting from the top down, cover it in orange, yellow and red tissue paper
    1. Cut and crinkle the top to look like flames
    2. Tape only the bottom to the sheet
    3. Cover the previous layer with the next
    4. Repeat steps 1-3 until the entire column is covered.

Stand Alone Decoration Artifacts

1. Burning bush
    a. Copy the method used in the upstairs classroom
    b. Use either a real or a fake bush (Preferably fake if possible)
        i. If you use a real bush, cut/prep as close to the day it will be used as possible to avoid wilting
        ii. Use wooden supports to hold it up
    c. Use prepped Christmas lights for "flames"
        i. 2 strands of green wired warm colored lights
        ii. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
        iii. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
        iv. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
        v. Wrap the prepped lights around the bush to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord
2. Water from rock
    a. Cut off a section of brown paper a foot more that the height of the wall that you will lean it up against
        i. Crumple the paper so there are plenty of creases throughout
        ii. Lightly dust with grey spray paint
        iii. Tape it to the wall so it sticks out a bit
    b. Tape tufts of green easter grass in spots across the "rock"
    c. Attach a blue plastic tablecloth to the center of the "rock" to replicate the look of a stream of water coming from it
    d. Lean a walking stick up against or next to the rock


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Bible Expedition: “Journey To The Promised Land” Music

➢ Music

- Bible-Expedition.com has worship songs available on our website that can be used freely. The music files can be downloaded on our website at Bible-Expedition.org.

- Music Lyrics are below:

➢ Song 1 lyrics: **“Are we there yet?”** Theme Song

(Chorus)

Are we there yet? (kids yell “No”)

Are we there yet? (kids yell “No”)

Are we there yet? (kids yell “No”)

Are we there yet? (kids yell “No”)

There was a man named Abraham, going to the Promised Land

(Repeat Chorus)

Everybody Clap your hands, going to the Promised Land

(Repeat Chorus)

Everybody Stomp your feet, going to the Promised Land

(Repeat Chorus)

Everybody Turn around, going to the Promised Land

(Repeat Chorus)

Everybody Clap your hands, going to the Promised Land

- Song 2 lyrics: **"Salvation"**

Salvation comes from the Lord
Not from anything I do, or anything I am
Salvation comes from the Lord
Apart from His grace, we're like a lost lamb

He is our only hope
Something we did not deserve
He sent His Son to die
That through His death, He might preserve us

Salvation comes from the Lord
When He had mercy on us, He made a way
Salvation comes from the Lord,
It is the gift of His grace we must accept today

He is our only hope
He calls His chosen unto Him
He sent His Son to die
And with His love each one can enter in

Salvation comes from the Lord
Salvation comes from the Lord

- For additional music, we encourage VBS servants to work with your church's worship leader who can select children's music based on your own church's worship style and preferences. "Seeds of Faith" is not affiliated with Bible Expedition but may be a good option for those seeking Scripturally-based children's worship music and lyrics.

https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/

Bible Expedition: “Journey To The Promised Land” Crafts

Day 1: The Descendants of Abraham “Star” Craft

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” Genesis 26:4-5 (NIV)

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16 (NIV)



God promised Abraham his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Through Abraham’s offspring, all the nations of the world would be blessed. We know that Jesus Christ was the offspring of Abraham, through whom the nations of the world are blessed.



Supplies:

1 Canvas per student (pictured is 8x8)

Silhouette of man cutout (optional)

Black craft paint

Glow in the dark stars and/or foil gold stars

Glue dots

Instructions:

Prior to craft time pre-paint canvases with black craft paint.

Give students an allotted amount of glow and/or foil stars to attach to canvas with glue dots.

Day 2 Craft: The Plagues of Egypt

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Exodus 9:13-16 NIV



God delivered Israel from Pharoah by sending 10 plagues on the land of Egypt. In this craft kids make an “eye spy” bottle demonstrating each of the plagues of Egypt.



Supplies:

*All supplies were purchased from either Amazon online or a local craft store.

Plastic sensory bottles

Rice

Red glass stones (river into blood)

Plastic frogs (frogs)

Small craft balls (gnats)

Plastic flies (flies)

Plastic horses or farm animals (livestock)

Ribbon with red dots (boils)

Glass stones (hail)

Plastic grasshoppers (locust) We used shrinky dink paper to make ours.

Black puffy craft ball (darkness)

Plastic babies (death of firstborn)

String and “I-Spy” card

Instructions:

Fill bottles halfway with rice and let students add plagues in order.

Tie “I-spy” card to bottle with string.

Glue the lids on with a hot glue gun and give the bottles a good shake.

Day 3 Craft: Shofar Trumpets

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." Joshua 6:2-5 (NIV)



God instructed the Israelites to march around Jericho for 6 days. On the seventh day, Israel was instructed to march around the city 7 times. At the sound of the rams' horn trumpets, otherwise known as Shofars, the Israelites shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell.

For this craft, children will make "Shofar" trumpets.



Supplies:

Cardboard tubes and or paper towel rolls/ toilet paper rolls.

Masking tape

Party blowers (noise makers)

Instructions:

Take any décor off party blower.

Cut two cardboard tubes lengthwise. Attach first tube to the end of party blower with masking tape. Gently squish second tube into first and tape to attach. Connect a third tube (no need to cut) using tape. Once all cardboard tubes are connected tape entire “trumpet” using strips of masking tape.

Bible Expedition: “Journey to the Promised Land” Snacks

Day 1: Creation Snack Mix

Make a snack mix where each ingredient represents one day of creation. Provide the ingredients in separate bowls. Each child can start at Day 1 and get a spoonful of each ingredient to make their snack mix bowl.

Days of Creation:

Day 1: Light: white chocolate chips

Day 2: Sky: marshmallow clouds

Day 3: Plants and Trees: dried fruit and nuts

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars: cheese balls for the sun

Day 5: Birds and Sea Creatures: goldfish crackers

Day 6: Land Animals/Humans: animal crackers

Genesis 1:31 “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

Day 2 Snacks: The 10 plagues of Egypt Ice Cream Sunday

This snack represents the 10 plagues of Egypt. Each participant will start with a bowl of ice cream. There will be 10 bowls of toppings to choose from. Each topping represents one of the 10 plagues of Egypt. Feel free to substitute with food items based on availability.

Plague 1: Nile to Blood: cherry syrup representing blood

Plague 2: Frogs: gummy frog candies

Plague 3: Gnats: sprinkles

Plague 4: Flies: gummy bugs

Plague 5: Killed Livestock: crushed animal crackers

Plague 6: Boils: red cinnamon candies

Plague 7: Hailstorm: white chocolate chips

Plague 8: Locusts Killing Plants: fruit topping strawberries

Plague 9: Darkness: chocolate fudge topping

Plague 10: Death of Firstborn: black licorice candy

Day 3 Snacks: Battle of Jericho

Make edible walls of Jericho using graham crackers as the walls and frosting to hold the walls together. Jellybeans can represent the Israelites surrounding Jericho. Bugle chips can represent the trumpets the Israelites used the day of their final march.

Make a trumpet sound and let kids tear down the walls and enjoy with some chocolate milk.

Or

An alternate option is to make a Jericho sheet cake. Kids can each eat a slice of a wall of Jericho.

Bible Expedition: "Journey to the Promised Land" Activities and Games

DAY 1 Activities: Trust Me

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- **Blindfolds for each child (personal bandanas that can be used as blindfolds for the children).**
- **A maze is to be built which can consist of obstacles like boxes, rope, tires and other objects. These materials could also be used in the Day 3 activity.**
- **Building Blocks (signifies building material for altar at the end of the maze).**

HOW TO PLAY: Set up maze outside or in a large room. It should combine physical barriers like boxes or ropes with imaginary hazards such as mats that are meant to designate a river, etc.

Outside of the room, divide group into two teams. On each team, the children will need to pair up with a buddy. Before the game begins, explain each part of the maze and its meaning. Ask the children if they think they could do it blindfolded without any help? How will that go? A pair from each team lines up at the starting point in order to begin. One of the children in each of the pair will need to be blindfolded and the other child will be a guide who only speaks verbal commands to their teammate. The blindfolded child is to make his/her way through the maze with the guidance of his partner to completion.

The last obstacle of the maze is for each pair of children to build an "altar" using a pile of large building blocks provided (maybe 6?). When the blindfolded player gets to the blocks, they alone have to stack the blocks up in a pyramid shape (symbolizing the altar). This signifies the altar that Abraham built in order to sacrifice his son Isaac, God's test for Abraham. Once the blocks are stacked up, the blindfold can be removed, and the pair runs back to the beginning of the line, tagging the next pair. The next pair of children will complete the maze and so on. The team that completes the maze first wins!

After-game discussion: In today's lesson, we discussed how God made a promise to Abraham. In order for God's promise to be fulfilled, Abraham would have to have a child. Abraham was 100 years old when he and Sarah had their son, Isaac. As you will learn in your lesson today, when Isaac was a little older, God tested Abraham. You will also learn that Abraham trusted God that He would provide a sacrifice, which He indeed did.

In this game, you all were presented with a test - one of you was presented with the test of completing the obstacle course while blindfolded and one of you was presented with the test of verbally leading your teammate through the obstacle course. As with Abraham, you trusted your teammate as Abraham trusted God. Is it always easy to trust? No! We know, though, that anyone who believes in Christ will be saved from eternal punishment. We trust that through Christ, we can have access to the Promised Land of heaven.

Day 2 Activities: Dodge the Plague

SUPPLIES NEEDED: 10 foam (medium-sized) balls of different colors,
Flagging tape, rope or spray paint to mark off boundary line

HOW TO PLAY: This activity is the game of Dodge Ball. Each colored ball will represent a plague that was discussed in today's lesson. There will be two children standing outside of the boundary line who represent Moses and Aaron, God's messengers, who are "sending" the plagues (i.e., throwing the balls). The rest of the children will be the Egyptians in the middle. The last two children who have dodged the "plagues" will be the new "Moses and Aaron." The game will then reset.

After-game discussion: In Lesson 2, we have discussed Moses and the Exodus. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush. The Lord sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh in order to bring His people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. Moses reluctantly obeyed and confronted Pharaoh. Did Pharaoh listen? NO! He did not listen and made it harder on the people. Pharaoh questioned God's power but would soon see just how powerful God was! God then sent the ten plagues on Egypt. Who can name the 10 plagues in order?

- Turning the water into blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
- Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)
- Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)
- Flies (Exodus 8:20-32)
- Disease of livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)
- Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)
- Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)
- Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)
- Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)
- Death of first-born (Exodus 11:1-10)

What lesson can we learn? Don't resist God - have a heart that listens to and obeys God. God can take our heart of stone and give us a new heart. He then puts His Spirit within us. We can be saved by placing our trust in Him.

DAY 3 Activities: Be Strong and Courageous Obstacle Course

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Small cup
- Bucket of water
- Pitcher with fill line marked
- Large building blocks (Legos or wood)
- Card table
- 2 X 4 boards (2) for balance beam
- Hula hoops (6)
- 2 wood pallets to be able to climb over
- 25 pool noodles
- 5-gallon buckets (2)
- Smaller buckets (2)

HOW TO PLAY: The obstacle course can be set up based on the number and ages of the children attending VBS. The children can be timed as they go through the course. The following are suggestions for the course, but this is certainly not a limited list.

STATION #1: MERIBAH WATER RELAY - Take a small cup. Run to the bucket of water several feet away. Fill the cup with water. Run back to the starting line with the cup of water on their head. Pour the water into a pitcher. Repeat until the pitcher is filled with water to the fill line.

STATION #2: BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE – Take large building blocks (Legos or wood). Build some sort of tabernacle on the card table.

STATION #3: CROSS THE RIVER JORDAN – Cross the two balance beams without falling in!

STATION #4: HIT THE MARK – Toss the “noodle darts” through the “noodle targets.”

STATION #5: PATH TO THE PROMISED LAND – Use your fancy footwork to make your way through the hula hoops arranged on the ground.

STATION #6: CLIMBING TO HEAVEN – Climb over the pallets from one side to the other.

STATION #7: HURDLES TO OVERCOME – Jump over the noodles placed at three different heights.

STATION #8: FROM DESERT TO LEBANON – Weave your way through the standing noodles.





After-game discussion: Joshua was a courageous leader and was able to lead the Israelites. The people enter into the Promised Land. You have been strong and courageous to conquer this obstacle course. When we trust God, we have a future Promised Land that is awaiting us. What is this Promised Land?? Heaven! He has prepared a place for us who know Him.

"JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND" ACTIVITIES AND GAMES
INDOOR ACTIVITY OPTIONS

OPTION #1: ROCK AND WATER – Form two even lines of children. Have 10 water bottles placed in a row for each line of children. Place a tennis ball inside to the end of a stocking. Place the open end of the stocking on the head of the first child in each line. The children will then bend over and try to knock over the water bottles on the floor. The first one who knocks over all 10 water bottles wins. Set the water bottles back up and repeat for each child in line.

OPTION #2: MANNA CRACKER WHISTLING RELAY – Form two even lines of children. Each child will receive 3 saltine crackers. The first child in line will eat the three saltine crackers and try to whistle. Once they successfully whistle, the next child will eat his/her 3 saltine crackers and try to whistle. The first line to have all the children eat the crackers and whistle wins.

OPTION #3: The **TRUST ME** game for Day #1 can also be played indoors.