

A NOTE TO PARENTS



The curriculum we will be using this year is **HE ESTABLISHED A TESTIMONY: *Old Testament Stories for Young Children***. This is a chronological teaching of Old Testament stories with the aim of acquainting your child with a great, big God. Each story will be told with an attempt to answer the question, “What does this say about God?” God will be presented as the main character in each story rather than Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, or Esther.

Key doctrinal themes will be emphasized such as: God can do anything, God knows everything, God is holy, man is sinful, sin must be punished, God is merciful and loving, God is sovereign (He is over all things), man needs God, faith pleases God, God is faithful, and God is unchanging.

Each child will receive a **CHRONOLOGICAL COLORING BOOK OF OLD TESTAMENT STORIES** containing the story title, Bible reference, and key themes, which he will be able to take home at the end of this study and keep as an ongoing review of what has been taught.

In addition, your child will be encouraged to memorize simple Bible verses called **FOUNDATION VERSES**. Although these will be introduced and reviewed in class, it is imperative that parents help their children learn the memory verses. This can be done simply by stating the verse a phrase at a time and asking your child to repeat each phrase. As each phrase is learned, add the next phrase until the verse has been completed. Then use the verse in everyday life. Review the verses daily so they are not forgotten. A list of verses is attached. In addition, Foundation Verses Packs are available either through the church or through Desiring God Ministries.¹ They include a picture with each verse and can easily be tucked in a pocket or purse so review can be done while waiting in the grocery line, driving in the car, waiting for an appointment, etc.

Recognizing that parents are the primary faith nurturers of their children and that the opportunity and time to nurture your child is limited in the classroom, a **PARENT RESOURCE PAGE** is sent home each week to inform you of the story, scripture reference, and key themes of the lesson. Each page provides you with suggested discussion questions to assist you in reinforcing and building upon the truth presented in class. The purpose of the Parent Resource Pages is to help you and your child interact with the Bible story and to solicit a personal response from both you and your child to the truths in the scripture passage. This is best done if you yourself are familiar with the Bible story and have gleaned some truth from it that is meaningful to you.

The actual time with your child will probably take only a few minutes, due partly to the inability of your young child to sit still for an extended amount of time (this varies with the age of your child and his temperament). But it will be helpful to take some time to prepare for the time with your child:

1. Be familiar with the Bible story (read it for yourself).
2. Glean some truth from it that is meaningful to you and understandable to your child. It is important to both stay true to the intent of the scripture passage, and to share it from your heart.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and your child.

The “Questions and Responses” section is intended to be a guide only. All the possible questions and responses you and your child could have to these Bible stories cannot be included in this section. Usually only one aspect of the story has been highlighted. However there is a myriad of other truths that could be focused on as well. It is important to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in knowing which aspect of the story God wants you to focus on with your child. Because young children can be easily confused, it is recommended that your presentation of truth be very simple.

May God bless your efforts to guide your child in truth. May he love God and become strong in faith.

¹ Available through Desiring God Ministries: www.desiringGOD.org ; 1-888-346-4700.

May you establish a testimony to your child of the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psalm 78:2-7*
(English Standard Version Bible)

Below are the Foundation Verses that correspond to each lesson.

Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse	Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse	Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse
1		Genesis 1:1	23		Review	44		Review
2		Matthew 6:24	24		Psalm 121:8	45		Psalm 1:1
3		Proverbs 3:5	25		Psalm 86:7	46		Psalm 1:2
4		Psalm 1:6	26		Review	47		Psalm 1:3
5		Review	27		Proverbs 18:10	48		Review
6		Isaiah 30:15	28		Psalm 95:3	49		Psalm 1:4
7		Isaiah 43:5	29		James 1:17	50		Review
8		Psalm 119:105	30		Review	51		Psalm 1:5
9		Proverbs 30:5	31		Exodus 20:2-3	52		Review
10		Review	32		Review	53		Psalm 1:6
11		1 Chronicles 16:34	33		Exodus 20:4	54		Hebrews 13:16a
12		Proverbs 1:7	34		Exodus 20:7	55		Proverbs 19:20
13		Review	35		Exodus 20:8	56		Psalm 36:5
14		Review	36		Exodus 20:12	57		Review
15		Review	37		Exodus 20:13-15	58		Review
16		Review	38		Review	59		Proverbs 1:10
17		Psalm 56:3	39		Exodus 20:16	60		2 Corinthians 10:17
18		Psalm 121:1-2	40		Exodus 20:17a	61		Romans 12:21
19		Psalm 121:3-4	41		Joshua 1:9	62		Proverbs 15:1
20		Psalm 121:5-6	42		Review	63		Review
21		Review	43		Ephesians 6:1	64		Review
22		Psalm 121:7						

*"Scripture quotation is from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved."

Tell the Next Generation



God Creates the World and Man

Scripture:
Genesis 1-2

What does this say about God and man?

- God is eternal. (He has no beginning or end)
- God is the Creator and owner of all things.
- God is all-powerful. (He can do anything, nothing is too hard for God)
- God is good; everything God made is good because God is good.
- God created the world and man for his glory.
- God delights in his creation; He is a happy God.
- God is supreme. (God is greater than all creation)
- God communicates with man
- Man needs God

(There was no suitable mate for Adam; Adam could not make a mate for himself; God made him a mate.)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How could God make things out of nothing, by just speaking? Can anyone you know do that?
- * Where does life come from? Where does **everything** come from? Who gives life to man and everything else? Can we make ourselves alive? (Only God can make things alive)
- * Everything God made has a beginning—Does God? (God has **always** been; there has never been a time without God)

Tell the Next Generation



God's Promise and Curse

Scripture:
Genesis 3

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God demands obedience
- Satan hates God and fights against God; Satan is a liar and deceiver
- God knows everything; God is everywhere all the time

Adam and Eve could not hide from God; God knew where they were and what they had done

- Man is a sinner; he cannot save himself; he needs God
- God hates sin because He is holy
- Disobedience requires punishment (disobeying God is sin; sin must be punished)
- The punishment for sin is death
- God is merciful and loving
- God promised to send a Savior

Genesis 3:15

- God is sovereign (He is in control of everything; God is over all things)

He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden--He had the authority to expel them

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Why did Adam hide from God?
- * Do you ever want to hide? Do you ever want to hide from God? Can you hide from God?
- * How did God punish Adam and Eve?
- * How did God show mercy to Adam and Eve? Did Adam and Eve deserve God's kindness and mercy? Do we deserve God's mercy? (No; God's mercy is not based on what we deserve, but on His own greatness and worth.)

Tell the Next Generation



God Accepts Abel but Rejects Cain

Scripture:
Genesis 4

What does this say about God and man?

- Faith pleases God; without faith it is impossible to please God

God accepted Abel and his offering because Abel had faith in God; God rejected Cain and his offering because Cain did not have faith in God

- God knows everything
- God communicates with man
- Sin must be punished
- God is merciful and loving

God promised to protect Cain

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How did God know Abel had faith and Cain didn't? (God knows everything, even what is in our hearts, even what no one else can see.)
- * Can God see if you have faith or not?
- * Do you ever get mad when someone else is favored above you? Do you get so angry that you want to hurt them? What does God say about that?

Tell the Next Generation



God Judges the World and Sends a Flood

Scripture:
Genesis 6-9

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything
God knows man is sinful (Genesis 6:5)
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and cannot save himself
- God is holy and cannot tolerate sin
- Sin must be punished; the punishment for sin is death
- God communicates with man
- God is merciful
God spared Noah and his family; God sent Noah to preach repentance
- God is all-powerful
God sent a flood that covered the earth
- God is faithful
God remembered Noah and the beasts (Genesis 8:1)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Can you make a flood? Could you flood your yard if you had a lot of water? How about the city you live in? Could you flood the **whole earth**? Can **anybody** flood the whole earth? (Only God is powerful enough to flood the whole earth.)
- * What happened to all the people that were not on the ark? (They died.) Was it right for God to destroy all those people? (Yes, because sin deserves to be punished with death.)
- * Noah and his family trusted God to save them. Could they have saved themselves? (No, only God can save His people from His judgment.)

Tell the Next Generation



God Confuses Languages at Babel

Man Tries to Make a Name for Himself

Scripture:

Genesis 11:1-9

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything
- God is all-powerful
- Man thinks he is great, but God is greater than all

God can confuse the languages of man because God can do anything; man is limited in his abilities but God has no limits.

- God will not share His glory with another; God exalts His name as the name above all names
- God is supreme; He is sovereign

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How could God make everyone speak different languages? Could you do that? (God is so powerful He even controls the languages of men.)
- * Can we ever make something that is as high as God is? Can we get to where God is by working extra-hard?
- * Do you ever think that if you try really hard you could be as great as God is? Can you **ever** be as great as God is? Why?

Tell the Next Generation



God Calls Abram and Makes him a Promise

Scripture:

Genesis 12-13

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Faith pleases God (without faith, man cannot please God)
Abram believed God and obeyed Him
- God is sovereign (over all)
God chose Abram; God promised to give Abram the land of Canaan (God could give Canaan to Abram because it belonged to Him); God is over all
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and cannot save himself

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God could give Canaan to Abram because Canaan belonged to God. Does everything belong to God? Does God have the right to control everything?
- * God told Abram to leave his home and go far away. Do you think that was easy or hard to do? Abram trusted God. Can you trust God even when life is hard - - or scary -- or when it hurts?
- * Pray together about trusting God in a specific situation.

Tell the Next Generation



- I. God Makes a Covenant with Abram and Gives Him a New Name
- II. Ishmael, Although Not the Promised Son, is Still the Seed of Abraham

Scripture:

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Faith pleases God; man must have faith in order to please God and be declared righteous (to be saved)
- God knows everything
God saw Hagar in the wilderness; God knew she would have a son
- God is everywhere all the time
- God is merciful and loving
God had compassion on Hagar
- God is faithful
God promised to multiply Ishmael's descendants because he was the seed of Abram; God renewed His promise to Abram
- God is sovereign (He is supreme and over all)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God made a promise to Abram (Abraham) that seemed impossible to keep -- to give a son to Abraham and Sarah when they were too old to have children. Was Abraham right to trust God to fulfill that promise even if it looked impossible? Can you trust God like Abraham did?
- * What is faith? Do you have faith? Do you want to have faith in God?
- * Pray with your child that God will give both of you faith and trust in God and His promises.

Tell the Next Generation



I. The Lord Appears to Abraham II. God's Judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah

Scripture:

Genesis 18, 19: 1-29

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
 - God knows everything
 - God is all powerful
- "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)*
- God rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah*
- Man is a sinner and cannot save himself; man needs God
 - God is holy and cannot tolerate sin
 - God punishes sin; the punishment for sin is death
 - God is sovereign
 - God is merciful and loving
- God was willing to spare Sodom and Gomorrah for the sake of ten righteous; God spared Lot and his family*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If God cannot tolerate sin, how can we be saved from God's punishment? Can we save ourselves? If we try really hard to be good and kind and sharing, will that protect us from God's punishment? (No; without God, we can never make ourselves good enough. Only God can save us from His punishment.)
- * Pray with your child to trust God to save both of you from His punishment of sin.

Tell the Next Generation



I. God Sends the Promised Son, Isaac II. God Sees Ishmael and Hagar in the Wilderness

Scripture:
Genesis 21: 1-21

What does this say about God and man?

- God is faithful
"The Lord did to Sarah as He had promised." (Genesis 21:1); God promised to make a nation from Ishmael because he was the offspring of Abraham (Genesis 21:13); God promised His blessing on Isaac
- God is merciful and loving
God gave Sarah laughter in her old age; He gave Sarah and Abraham a son; God saw Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness and provided for their needs
- God can do anything; nothing is too hard for God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God did what seemed impossible -- gave a son to Abraham and Sarah even when they were too old to have children. Is anything too hard for God to do?
- * If God can keep a promise that looks so hard to do, are there any promises He cannot keep? (No; God keeps each and every promise. He never fails!)
- * Look up some promises in the Bible that are for you. Read them to your child. Ask God to keep His promises to you.

Tell the Next Generation



God Tests Abraham

Scripture:

Genesis 22

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
 - Man must have faith in order to please God
 - God is holy and just
 - Man is a sinner and cannot save himself; man needs God
 - Sin must be punished; the punishment for sin is death
 - God is faithful
- God provided a ram for the sacrifice; God spared Isaac, and promised His blessing on Isaac and his descendants*
- God is merciful and loving

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Discuss the word *sacrifice*. Make sure the child understands that a sacrifice is **killed**.
- * Is God to be obeyed all the time? Or only when it is easy to obey? Do you think it was easy for Abraham to obey when God commanded him to sacrifice his son? Imagine if God told you to (Example: sacrifice your dog, get rid of ____ [choose something your child loves dearly]). Is God able to make you happy without that?
- * Ask God to cause both of you to want to obey Him in everything and to be willing to give up anything He tells you to give up.
- * Thank God that He provides a sacrifice for sins.

Tell the Next Generation



God Chooses a Wife for Isaac

Scripture:

Genesis 24

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything
- God is merciful and loving
- God is faithful
- God is sovereign (He is over all)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Did the Lord know ahead of time who would be Isaac's wife? (Yes; He chose her to be Isaac's wife.)
- * Does God know ahead of time what your life will be: who your wife/husband will be, where you will live, whether you will be a missionary? (Yes! God knows everything.)
- * Abraham's servant trusted God to lead him to the wife He had chosen for Isaac. Can you trust God to lead you in the way He has chosen for you?
- * Pray about something in your child's future, telling God you trust Him for that thing.

Tell the Next Generation



Esau Sells his Birthright

Scripture:

Genesis 25:19-34

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner and needs God; man cannot save himself
Esau did not value God's promises
- God is all-knowing

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- What is more important, something to eat when you are very hungry, or God? Is God more valuable than **anything** else?
- Why was it wrong for Esau to sell his birthright? Is it so bad to want a bowl of stew when you are so hungry you feel like you might die? (God is always more important than food, even if that food will save your life. To value something more than God is sin.)
- Do you have anything that you love more than you love God?

Tell the Next Generation



Jacob Deceives his Father

Scripture:

Genesis 27-28:5

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner and cannot save himself
- Sin must be punished; the punishment for sin is death
- God is faithful

Even though Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother's blessing, God would still fulfill His promise and His purposes for Jacob

- God is merciful, loving and gracious

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- God fulfilled His promises and purposes for Jacob, even though Jacob deceived his father and stole his brother's blessing. Can God keep His promises to you, even when you do wrong things?
- Do you ever do things that you want to cover up?
- Is it hard to admit when you've done wrong?
- Do you want to tell God right now about something wrong that you've done?

Tell the Next Generation



God Gives Jacob a Dream

Scripture:

Genesis 28:10-22

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God is faithful (He keeps His promises--He always does what He says He will do); God never changes
- God is merciful, loving and gracious

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God spoke to Jacob in a dream. Can God speak to you?
- * God made promises to Jacob (verses 13-15). Has God made any promises to you? Read some Bible promises such as Isaiah 43:5, John 3:16, I Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 1:6, Hebrews 13:5, and Psalm 1.
- * Pray together; ask God to speak to you.

Tell the Next Generation



God Leads Jacob to Rachel and Causes him to Prosper in Laban's Household

Scripture:

Genesis 29-30

What does this say about God and man?

- God is merciful, loving and gracious
- Man is a sinner and unable to save himself; man needs God
- God is faithful (He keeps His promises)

God had promised to make of Abraham and his descendants (Jacob) a great nation; God was prospering Jacob in spite of Laban's dishonesty; God was fulfilling His promise by prospering Jacob

- God is almighty (God is all-powerful, He can do anything)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God is so powerful that He fulfilled His promise by doing good to Jacob despite Laban's trying to hurt Jacob. Can you trust God to be that powerful for you--to fulfill His promises to you even if other people do bad things to you?
- * Do you ever want to hurt people so things will be better for you? Should you do that? Isn't it better to trust God to work for you?

Tell the Next Generation



Jacob Flees from Laban

Scripture:

Genesis 31

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all powerful and sovereign (greater than all)
God protected Jacob; God did not allow Laban to harm Jacob; God came to Laban in a dream and warned him
- God communicates with man
- God is gracious, loving, kind and merciful
God protected Jacob and cared for him and his family
- Man is a sinner and deserves punishment; man is unable to save himself and needs God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you ever want to run away (like Jacob) from somebody so they can't hurt you? Can anybody hurt you without God knowing about it? Is God able to protect His children? (God is able to and does protect those who trust in Him. He is sovereign even over those who hurt us. He also sometimes causes pain for our ultimate good.)
- * Can you trust God to protect you and take care of you even when someone tries to hurt you?
- * Pray with your child about trusting God even when things are painful and hard.

Tell the Next Generation



Jacob Wrestles with an Angel and Reconciles with Esau

Scripture:

Genesis 32-33

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Man is a sinner and deserves punishment; he is unable to save himself and needs God
- God is merciful, gracious, and loving
- God is faithful; God always keeps His promises (what He says He will do, He will do); God is unchanging
- God is all-powerful
- God is all-knowing

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Are you ever afraid, like Jacob was afraid of Esau? (See Genesis 32:7.) When you are afraid, what should you do? (Jacob prayed to the LORD.)
- * Did God keep His promises to Jacob?
- * If your child is afraid of something specific, pray with him about it.

Tell the Next Generation



I. God Gives Joseph Dreams II. Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery

Scripture:

Genesis 37

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Man is a sinner and deserves punishment; he is unable to save himself and needs God
- God is all-powerful
God spared Joseph's life; God sent a caravan at just the right time
- God is everywhere all the time
- God is all-knowing
- God is merciful, gracious, and loving

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Joseph's brothers wanted to hurt him. Do you ever want to hurt someone when you don't like them?
- * When you do something wrong, do you ever try to cover it up, like Joseph's brothers did? Do you think you can hide the wrong things you do? (Maybe you can hide what you do from people, but God always sees and knows everything you do.)
- * Do you want to tell God about something you've tried to hide from Him? (Pray with your child.)

Tell the Next Generation



The LORD is with Joseph in Egypt

Scripture:
Genesis 39-41

What does this say about God and man?

- God is everywhere all the time
God was with Joseph far away from home in Egypt; God was with Joseph in jail
- God is merciful, gracious, and loving
- God is almighty (all-powerful); He is sovereign (greater than all)
"The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man...the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands (Genesis 39:2-3)
"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Genesis 39:21)
- Man is sinful
Potipher's wife wanted Joseph to do a bad thing
- God is pleased by faith
Genesis 39:8-9; 41:16
- God is faithful; He never changes
"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison...the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper." (Genesis 39:21-23)
Joseph was "set over all the land" (Genesis 41:41; see also Genesis 41:51-52)
- God is all-knowing (omniscient)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Did the Lord desert (go away from) Joseph when he was a slave in Egypt? When he was in jail? (No; Genesis 39:2, 21. God is always with His people -- those who trust Him.)
- * What should you do when someone wants you to do something wrong? (Like Joseph: refuse -- go away fast!)
- * If you are trusting God, can you ever be anywhere that God is not with you? (No, even in places that are difficult or scary, God is with you.)
- * Thank God for always being with you; sing a worship song; pray.

Tell the Next Generation



God Preserves His People in Famine

Scripture:

Genesis 42,43:1-15

What does this say about God and man?

- God is faithful
- Man is a sinner and deserves punishment; he is unable to save himself and needs God
- God is merciful, gracious, and loving
- God is almighty

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Did Joseph's dreams come true? (Yes, because they were from God. See Genesis 42:9. God's words and promises never fail.) Contrast God's words and promises to the words and promises of people which sometimes fail.
- * Thank God for being faithful to His people.
- * Sing a worship song or hymn that praises God for His faithfulness.

Tell the Next Generation



I. God Reunites Joseph and his Brothers and Moves Jacob to Egypt

II. God Repeats His Promise to Jacob

Scripture:

Genesis 43:16-46:7

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-knowing
- God is all-powerful
- God is merciful, loving and gracious
- God is faithful and trustworthy (what He promises, He will do)

"God sent me before you to preserve life... to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God..."

(Genesis 45:5-8; see also Genesis 46:3-5)

- God is pleased by faith
"God sent me before you" (Genesis 45:5); "God has made me lord of all Egypt" (Genesis 45:9)
- God communicates with man

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God kept His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by sending Joseph to Egypt to keep Jacob's family alive during the famine. When God makes a promise, can you trust Him to keep that promise?
- * Tell your child some promises that God makes to those who trust in Him. Thank God for those promises and ask Him to cause both of you to trust Him.
- * Joseph's brothers deserved punishment for their wrongdoings, but God mercifully allowed them to buy food during the famine and preserved them. Tell your child some other examples of God's mercy in not treating sinners as they deserve and thank Him for His mercy toward us.

Tell the Next Generation



God Preserves Moses

Scripture:

Exodus 1:8-2:10

What does this say about God and man?

- Satan fights against God and God's will; Satan deceives man and lies to man
Satan was working through Pharaoh to destroy the people of God (and attempting ultimately to destroy the Savior)
- Faith pleases God
The midwives feared God and would not sin by killing the baby boys; "God dealt well with the midwives...because the midwives feared God He gave them families" (Exodus 1:20-21)
- God is faithful
Exodus 1:20
- God is merciful, loving and gracious
Exodus 1:20
- God is all-knowing
- God is almighty (He is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him); God is sovereign (greater than all)
God preserved His people in spite of Satan's evil plan; Satan cannot stop God's will; God is greater than Satan; God caused Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses and take pity on him
- God is faithful and His promises are true
God made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and He was fulfilling that promise through the midwives and through Moses

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * The king of Egypt tried to make life really hard for the Israelites by forcing them to do hard labor and even having their baby boys killed (see Exodus 1:11ff). Did that stop God from keeping His promises to the Israelites? Can **anything** stop God from keeping His promises? (No, nothing.)
- * Why can you **always** trust God, even if bad things happen? (Because of who God is -- He keeps all His promises, He knows everything, He is greater than all, etc.)
- * Share a specific example of when you or someone else trusted God in a hard time and how God showed His character during that time.

Tell the Next Generation



Moses Flees Egypt

Scripture:

Exodus 2:11-25

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner and needs God
Moses tried to help the Hebrews but failed; only God could deliver His people
- God is faithful and His promises are true
Exodus 2:24
- God is almighty and sovereign

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's say I made a promise to you a year ago. Maybe my promise would be something like this: "In one year, I will give you 6 cookies." Do you think I might forget it, because one year is such a long time to remember something? (Maybe; probably.)
- * God had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob **a long time ago** (Jacob had died 400 years before this story). Do you think maybe God could **forget** His promises? Even when they were made a long, long time ago? (No; God never forgets His promises. Not like mom or dad, or anybody you know. We try to keep promises; but sometimes we forget; or something happens to prevent us from keeping our promises. **Nothing** can prevent God from keeping His promise.)
- * Thank God that He never forgets His promises and always keeps them.

Tell the Next Generation



God Calls Moses to Deliver Israel

Scripture:

Exodus 3, 4

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful; there is nothing God cannot do
Exodus 3:2, 8, 20-21; Exodus 4:1-9
- God is holy; man is unworthy to approach the holy God
- God is merciful, gracious and loving
Exodus 3:7-10
- God is faithful
Exodus 3:7-10
- God is everywhere all the time and God knows everything
Exodus 3:16
- God communicates with man

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you know what a staff is? (Talk about what a staff looks like and what it is made of, etc.) If you had a staff and threw it on the ground, do you think you could make it turn into a big, live, wriggling **snake**? Could I do that? Did **Moses** make his staff turn into a great, big snake? Who did that? (God did.)
- * If God can make a staff turn into a big snake, is there anything God cannot do?
- * What are some things that would be hard for you to do, or hard for your mom or dad to do, but God could do?
- * What about setting the Israelites free? Could Moses do that? Could anybody but God do that?

Tell the Next Generation



God Sends Moses to Pharaoh

Scripture:

Exodus 5-6:13, 7:1-13

What does this say about God and man?

- Satan hates God and fights against God's plans
- God communicates with man
- God is all-powerful; He is greater than all (sovereign)
Exodus 6:1
- God controls people's hearts
Exodus 7:3, 13
- God is gracious, loving and merciful
- God is faithful and His promises are true; God never changes
- God is all-knowing (omniscient)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * When Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh, it became a serpent. The magicians of Egypt did the same thing. Does that mean they were as powerful as God is?
- * How did God show that He has power stronger than the magicians' power? (See Exodus 7:12; Aaron's staff ate up their staffs.)
- * Ask God to show you that His power is always stronger than the strongest power of people, and even of Satan.
- * Sing a song about God's power.

Tell the Next Generation



God Sends Plagues on Egypt

Scripture:

Exodus 7:14-Exodus 11

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-knowing
- God is all-powerful; God is sovereign (over all)
- God communicates with man
- God is jealous for His glory (God wants people to know that He is a great God)

Exodus 11:9

- God is self-sufficient; He doesn't need anything

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Why didn't God stop the plagues after the first one? Why did He keep sending plague after plague? (God wants people to know that He is a great God.)
- * When we see God's power, how should we act toward God? (fear Him; realize how weak we are compared to God, etc.)
- * Pray; ask God to cause you to fear Him and to keep you from being hardhearted like Pharaoh.

Tell the Next Generation



God Passes Over Israel and Leads Israel Out of Egypt

Scripture:
Exodus 12-13

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
 - Man is a sinner and deserves punishment; man cannot save himself; man needs God
 - God is merciful, gracious and loving
 - God is pleased by faith and obedience
- Exodus 12:50, 51*
- God is all-powerful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you think it was scary to know that the Lord was going to kill all the first-born in Egypt? A little scary? Very scary?
- * Did God leave a way for the Israelites to escape His punishment? (Discuss the blood of the Passover lamb and how God would pass over the houses with that blood on the doorposts, and spare them.) When God tells you the way to escape His punishment, do you think you should do it? (Emphasize that we are totally dependent on God's mercy to save us from His punishment.)
- * Discuss some specific ways that God has shown mercy to you and your family. Thank Him for His mercy to you.

Tell the Next Generation



God Opens the Red Sea for Israel

Scripture:
Exodus 14-15:21

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God is all-powerful; God is sovereign and in control at all times; Satan cannot stop God because God is greater than Satan

*God is jealous for His glory,
14:4 (God wants people to
know that He is a great God)*

- Satan fights against God and His plans
- God is faithful and His promises are true
- God is unchanging
- God is steadfast in His love for His people

*"The Lord will reign forever
and ever" (Exodus 15:18)*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Put some water in the sink or a container. Have your child try to push the water apart with his hands, or by blowing on it. Ask your child to make a dry path in the water. Have him try harder. Show that you can't do it either. Ask: Do you think that (someone your child admires) could make a dry path through this water? How about through a river or lake? The Red Sea is much bigger than this pan of water, bigger than a river or lake. Do you think we could make a dry path through the Red Sea?
- * Discuss how great God is; He can do such great and wonderful things.
- * What would you do if God rescued you like He rescued the Israelites? Would you feel like singing and dancing?
- * Sing a rousing song of praise to God.

Tell the Next Generation



God Provides Food and Water for Israel in the Desert

Scripture:
Exodus 16-17:7

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful; man cannot save himself
- God is all-powerful; man is limited but God is unlimited

Man could not provide for himself, but God was able to provide for Israel; God works miracles

- God is faithful
- God is gracious, loving and merciful; God provides for His people
- God communicates with man

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Where do your parents get food for your family? Were there any grocery stores or gardens in the desert? When the Israelites got hungry and thirsty, could they go to the store to buy groceries, or go to the sink to get a glass of water? (Describe a desert; show a picture if you have one; explain that very little food grows there.)
- * If you were somewhere with no grocery stores, no gardens, and no place to get water -- where would you get some food and water? Who provides food?
- * God provides food -- but can He provide food and water out of NOTHING? (He did; manna came from heaven; water came from a rock.)
- * If God can provide food and water for the Israelites out of nothing, can you trust Him to provide for you when it looks as if it is impossible for what you need to come to you? Can you trust God to provide anything besides food and water? (God provides all we need, and spiritual help besides.)
- * Thank God for what He has provided for you (be specific) and ask Him to cause you to trust Him for **all things**.

Tell the Next Generation



God Delivers Israel from the Amalekites

Scripture:

Exodus 17:8-16

What does this say about God and man?

- God delivers His people from evil; victory for God's people comes from the hand of God
Deliverance from Amalek came from God not from the hand of Israel; God responds to cries for help from His people; God is able to deliver because He is all-powerful; God can do what man cannot do (See Exodus 17:15--Jehovah-Nissi means "the Lord my banner" or "the Lord my victory")
- God is sovereign (He is in complete control at all times); God is almighty (all-powerful)
- God is faithful
- God will not share His glory with another; He is jealous for His name
As long as Moses' arms were lifted up beseeching God for victory, Israel prevailed; God showed that He was Israel's victory; it was not Israel's strength that brought deliverance from the Amalekites, but God's strength.

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Who gave Israel victory over the Amalekites?
- * Did you ever fight a real battle with swords or guns? We're not fighting a war like that, but we do have an enemy who fights against the children of God - Satan. (Describe some ways Satan can fight against us, such as trying to get us to not believe in God, etc.)
- * If God can give His people victory over the Amalekite nation, who can give us victory over Satan? Can you defeat Satan by yourself? Are you strong enough to beat him up? (We cannot have victory over Satan on our own; only God can give us victory; believing and trusting in Jesus is what gives us victory over Satan.)

Tell the Next Generation



God Gives Israel the Ten Commandments

Scripture:
Exodus 19, 20

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Obedience brings blessing from God

Exodus 19:5-6

- God is holy; man is unworthy to approach the holy God

Exodus 19:10-13

- God is glorious

Exodus 19:16-22

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Can you keep these laws? Can you keep them perfectly: never make a mistake and break one of the laws?
- * How about mom and dad, or the pastor at church? (use examples of people your child admires, or thinks of as a "good" person.) Can they keep these laws perfectly -- all the time? You know, nobody can keep these laws perfectly. We are all sinners. Where do we go to be saved from our sin? (We go to God; only God can save us from our sin, help us in our need; we need God's mercy.)
- * Do you want to go to God now, to save you?
- * Pray together.

NOTES ON THE LAW

In this lesson, you may want to point out a few things about the law:

- ⇒ God established the law because He is the ultimate authority
Why can God make the law or the rules? Because God is in charge of everything. God is greater than anyone else.
- ⇒ God's law is holy, just and good (Romans 7:7-12); the law is perfect and is for our protection (Psalm 19:7-11)
The law is good because God is good and what flows out of God's heart is goodness; the law is just because God is just; the law reveals God's heart and His character
- ⇒ The law shows us what sin is; it defines sin for us (Romans 3:20)
- ⇒ God gave the law to Israel knowing that Israel would break the law
- ⇒ Breaking the law in one point condemns a person (James 2:10)
Can you do everything right all the time? If your mom said that if you did ten things right you would get a piece of candy and you only did nine things right, would you get a piece of candy?
- ⇒ The law shows us we are sinful because we cannot keep the law all the time; everyone has broken the law; the law shows us we need a Savior and that we need God's mercy

Tell the Next Generation



God Commands Israel to Make a House For Him

Scripture:

Exodus 25-28

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God is greater than all; He is the highest authority
God gave specific instructions about building the tabernacle; His instructions were to be obeyed down to the smallest detail; God can make these specific demands because He is the highest authority
- God is holy
- Sin separates man from God
The veil divided the two rooms of the tabernacle; the people were separated from the ark of the covenant (the presence of God); man's sin separates man from God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Wow! God sure had a lot of things to tell Moses to do, didn't He? Should Moses do what God told him to do?
- * Do people tell you what to do (your mom, dad, brother or sister)? Do you have to do what they say? (Discuss whom you should obey and whom you shouldn't obey; e.g. you obey your parents, but not a stranger.) Who is the **most important** person to obey? Not your mother, not your father, not your Sunday School teacher, but GOD.
- * Should God **always** be obeyed? Can we decide that we don't feel like doing what God says or that maybe we'll do it some other time? (No, because God is God. He has the right to tell us what to do.)

NOTE: Don't get into all the specifics of the tabernacle; just emphasize that only certain materials could be used, that God gave specific sizes for things, that the priests had to wear certain clothes made from certain material in certain colors, and that God arranged the furniture and furnishings in the tabernacle.

Tell the Next Generation



I. Israel Makes an Idol II. God is Merciful and Faithful to Israel

Scripture:

Exodus 32-34

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner and unable to save himself; man is unable to keep the law
Israel had just promised to do "all that the Lord has spoken" (Exodus 19:8) and then broke the second commandment and made an idol
- God is all-knowing
- God is holy and cannot tolerate sin
- God is faithful and honors His promises
- God is merciful, gracious, steadfast in His love, and forgiving
Exodus 34:6
- God is just
Exodus 34:6
- God is all-powerful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (If you have any rings or jewelry, show one to your child. Explain how the gold will melt if it is put into a fire, and it can be shaped into various shapes.) This is what Aaron did: he took lots and lots of rings, and put them into a fire and made them into the shape of a calf.
- * If I made a calf-shape out of my ring, would that calf be real? Would it be alive? Could it run, jump, make calf noises? How about the calf that Aaron made: was it real; was it alive?
- * Let's say Aaron had a real, live calf. Could a calf do all the things the Lord had done for Israel? (Review plagues, parting of Red Sea, manna, etc. briefly.) Who made calves? Who made gold? Who is greater: a calf, or God?
- * We don't make things out of gold and then say it is our God, like Aaron and the Israelites did. But sometimes we act as if some things are more important than God-- maybe we like to watch TV or play with (certain toy) more than we enjoy being with God (use examples your child can relate to). Is that **right**? Is there anything in the whole world more important than God?
- * Pray; ask God to show you that He is the greatest thing in the whole world and to give you hearts that love Him most of all.

Tell the Next Generation



I. Israel Complains II. God Proves Himself Powerful and Faithful

Pow-

Scripture:

Numbers 11-12

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful and unable to save himself
The people were ungrateful and complained; they lacked faith in God
- God is gracious and loving
God relieved Moses from some of the burden of leadership; God gave the people meat in spite of their ungrateful spirits and lack of faith
- God is just
God gave the people meat until they were sick of meat to teach them a lesson; God sent a plague to punish Israel and to cause repentance; God caused Miriam to become leprous
- God is all-powerful
Numbers 11:23
- God is jealous for His glory; He will protect His reputation and make a name for Himself
Numbers 11:23
- God is sovereign; He is over all and greater than all; He is the highest authority
To murmur against Moses was to murmur against God's choice; God is supreme and He can put whomever He chooses in authority
- God is faithful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * The Israelites wanted something besides manna to eat. They wanted meat. Was manna bad to eat? Did it taste icky? No, it tasted good, but they wanted something else to eat.
- * Where did the manna come from? God gave it to the Israelites. He chose to provide manna for them to eat. If God gives something to you, is it right to want something else instead?
- * Are there some things that God has given you (or us) that you (we) don't like? Do you want something else?
- * Ask God together to make you happy with what He has given you.

Tell the Next Generation



God's Word about Canaan Proves True, but Israel Fails to Trust God

Scripture:
Numbers 13, 14

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man; God is involved with mankind (He is not aloof and disinterested in man)
- The promises of God prove true; God's word can be trusted
Numbers 13:27
- Man is a sinner; man is unable to keep from sin
The people of Israel continued to struggle with unbelief and ingratitude
- God is pleased when His people have faith in Him
Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9,24,38
- God is jealous for His name; God will protect His reputation
Numbers 14:11-21
- God is forgiving and just
Numbers 14:13-38

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Did the Israelites obey the Lord? Did they believe His words to them? (Except for Joshua and Caleb, no.)
- * What had the Lord promised to do for Israel in this story? (Give them the land of Canaan.)
- * Is it okay to disobey the Lord? Did God think it didn't matter if the Israelites obeyed Him or not? (No, God said because of their unbelief and disobedience these people would not see the land He had promised them; they would wander for 40 years until they had died, and the land would go to their children.)
- * Is it OK for us to disobey the Lord? (Discuss how there is always a consequence for unbelief and disobedience; sometimes the consequence is immediate and sometimes delayed, and sometimes it is obvious and sometimes less obvious; but it always happens.)

Tell the Next Generation



I. Moses Disobeys God II. God Heals with a Bronze Snake

Scripture:

Numbers 20:1-13, 21:4-9

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner
- God is all-powerful; He can do anything
- God is just and will punish sin
- God is merciful
- God provided a way for a repentant people to be saved

Numbers 21:6-9

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's say Dad told you that you must eat all your peas to get a dessert after supper. And you ate every single pea. Would you deserve to get dessert? And if you didn't eat any peas at all, would you deserve to get dessert? (Discuss what it means to deserve something, whether reward or punishment)
- * Did the Israelites deserve the serpents? Did God have the right to punish them? (Discuss how it is right for God to punish sin.)
- * Did the Israelites deserve God's mercy? (Discuss how God showed His mercy by providing a means of healing through the bronze serpent. Mercy is undeserved.)
- * Give an example of a specific time God showed mercy to you.
- * Thank God for His mercy shown to you.

Tell the Next Generation



God Brings His People into the Promised Land

Scripture:
Joshua 1-3

What does this say about God and man?

- God always fulfills His promises; He is trustworthy and His word always proves true
- God will not fail or forsake His people
- God requires obedience; obedience brings blessing
- The living God never fails; He is all-powerful

Joshua 3:10

- God communicates with man; He is involved with His creation

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you ever get scared? (Discuss briefly some things or places that can be scary.) When you're scared, does it help if someone is with you - especially if that person is big and strong?
- * In this story, God commands Israel to go into the land He had promised them. Do you think it may have been a little scary to think about going to fight the people that lived there?
- * Read Joshua 1:9. Discuss God's promise to Joshua to always be with him, emphasizing how powerful and mighty and great God is, and the effect that would have on Joshua.
- * Has God promised to be with you and me? Read Hebrews 13:5 (or another promise of God's presence with believers). Is God strong? Is He stronger than anyone else? Does He always keep His promises?
- * Thank God that He is always with you and never leaves you.

Tell the Next Generation



God Gives Israel Victory in Jericho

Scripture:
Joshua 5,6

What does this say about God and man?

- God is jealous for His name
- God is holy
- God communicates with man
- God is faithful; He does what He says He will do
- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for God
- God is all-knowing

*God knew how to cause the
walls of Jericho to fall down*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Build a small structure with blocks.) Let's pretend we want to knock this down. Do what I do. (Walk around the structure, being careful not to touch it, then shout loudly.) What's the matter? Why doesn't this fall down? What do we have to do to knock this down? (Let your child knock the structure down.)
- * Jericho was a city with big, strong walls around it; the walls were lots bigger and lots stronger than anything we can make with these blocks. Read Joshua 6: 16, 20. Wow! How did they knock down those big, strong walls just by walking around the city and shouting and blowing trumpets?
- * God did that. God is so strong and mighty that He can knock down city walls just by telling them to fall down.

Tell the Next Generation



Disobeying God Causes Defeat for Israel

Scripture:
Joshua 7, 8

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything; nothing is hidden from Him
 - Man is sinful; God is holy and cannot tolerate sin; God will punish sin
- Joshua 7:10-12*
- God punishes sin because He is just; He punishes sin to lead man to repentance
 - God is rich in mercy
 - God is all-powerful
 - God is sovereign and He demands obedience
 - God never changes and His word stands forever

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If you hid a toy under your bed and nobody saw you put it there, would anybody but you know where it is? (No, it would be your secret.)
- * Achan had a secret. He took some things from the city of Jericho and buried them in his tent. But the Lord had told the people not to take anything for themselves from Jericho. Did the Lord know what Achan had done? (Yes, the Lord knows everything; nothing is hidden from Him.)
- * Do you have any secrets? Some secrets are good, such as a present or surprise for someone; but some secrets are bad, like Achan's secret. God already knows all your secrets, and my secrets, too.
- * Read I John 1:9. Discuss.

Tell the Next Generation



God Calls Gideon and Destroys the Altar of Baal

Scripture:
Judges 6

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful; he is unable to keep from sinning
- God punishes sin
- God hears His people when they cry to Him
- God will not share His glory with another; He is a jealous God

Judges 6:10

- God communicates with man
- God is supreme; He is sovereign and in control of everything

It is God who brings deliverance to His people, not man (Judges 6:15-16)

- Man is limited but God is unlimited (He is all-powerful)

Judges 6:15-16

- God will not share His glory with another; He alone is to be worshipped

Joshua 6:25-27

- God is the one true God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Look at a doll or toy animal with your child.) Wow! I like this (doll, animal) a lot -- in fact, I like it better than anything else, so I'll call this "god." That's kind of silly, isn't it?
- * A lot of people used to make things out of wood or metal and act toward it as if it were God. They would bow down to it, pray to it, even offer sacrifices to it (briefly describe sacrifices, if needed). This is called worshipping idols.
- * God's people Israel didn't worship idols. They knew the one, true God, and knew that idols were just wood or metal. God had forbidden them to worship idols (review second Commandment). But, in this story, at least some Israelites did worship idols (Baal, Asherah). Was that right?
- * When God's people turn away from the all-powerful God, and worship idols, the Lord will not stand for it. He is the only One in all the world that is worthy to be worshipped.

Tell the Next Generation



God Delivers Israel through Gideon

Scripture:
Judges 7

What does this say about God and man?

- God will not share His glory with another; He alone is to be worshipped

Joshua 7:2

- God is supreme; He is sovereign and in control of everything

God delivers His people, not man (Judges 7:9)

- God is all-powerful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If you were the general (leader) of an army and you had to fight a battle against a powerful enemy, would you get together an army with lots and lots of soldiers, or just a few soldiers?
- * Gideon had an army to fight against Midian; he had a big army. But who was in charge of the army? Gideon? No, God was in charge, and He was telling Gideon what to do.
- * God told Gideon- what? That he needed to get more soldiers to fight in the army so they could defeat the enemy? No, He told him that there were too many soldiers! Gideon had 32,000 soldiers - then most of them left, and 10,000 stayed. God said that was still too many, and told Gideon to keep only 300. Now 300 is a lot of people, but it's a very small army. And the Midianites' army was so big they couldn't even count them all (see verse 12)! What could a small army of 300 do against such a big army? (Read or paraphrase Judges 7:14-25.)
- * God is so powerful that He can give victory to His people even when it seems impossible.

Tell the Next Generation



God Chooses Ruth to Be a Part of His Family

Scripture:
Ruth 1-4

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign and supreme
God sovereignly chooses those who follow Him
- God is pleased when man trusts in Him; faith pleases God
- God is kind, gracious and loving
- God is faithful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Read Ruth 2:12. Then look at a picture of an eagle, or other bird, if you have one.) If this eagle had something under its wings, what would it be? Why would the baby eagles need to be under the eagle's wings? (To be safe, for protection from danger.) Would the eagle put anything but its own baby eagles under its wings for protection, like a snake or a fox?
- * Does the Lord have wings? (Refer to Ruth 2:12 again.) The Lord doesn't have wings like a bird, but He does cover His people with His love and mercy.
- * Who are the Lord's people? Whom does He cover with His wings? Ruth was not an Israelite, but God covered her with His mercy and love, just as an eagle covers its own baby eagles with its wings. **Anyone** who comes to the Lord for refuge, who asks to be taken under God's wings, will be shown mercy by God, just like Ruth.
- * Do you want to be under God's wings?

Tell the Next Generation



I. God Grants Hannah's Request II. God Calls Samuel

Scripture:
I Samuel 1-3

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign and in control of all things

God opens and closes wombs; He calls whom He wills

- The Lord is gracious, kind and loving
- God hears His children when they cry to Him

God is always attentive to His children (Note: Do not give the impression that God always answers petitions with a "yes" answer)

- God is faithful; He always remembers His promises
- God is the one true God

I Samuel 2:2

- God will honor those who honor Him and despise those who despise Him

I Samuel 2:27-30

- God communicates with man
- God's word is true; He will do what He says He will do

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If I were in the kitchen, and you were in the living room, would I hear you if you called me? What if I were across the street? Or if I were at the library and you were home-- would I hear you if you talked to me? (Discuss how you can't always hear your child; sometimes you are too far away to hear, etc.)
- * Can God always hear you? Is He ever too far away to hear? (Discuss how God always hears His children when they cry to Him; He is not a far-off God; Hannah is an example of the Lord hearing His children.)
- * God can not only hear His people; He can also speak to His people. Do you think He only speaks to grown-ups, or just "important" grown-ups like our pastor or your Sunday School teacher? No, He speaks to all His people, even little children like Samuel. Samuel was a little boy when he heard the Lord speaking to him. (Discuss various ways God speaks to us; indicate that we do not always hear an audible voice when God speaks to us, but do not rule that out.)
- * Pray; ask God to speak to you and your child, and to enable you to hear His voice.

Tell the Next Generation



God Shows He is Greater than the Idol Dagon

Scripture:
I Samuel 4-7:2

What does this say about God and man?

- God's word always proves true
- God is the one true God
- God reigns supremely; He is sovereign
- God will not share His glory with another; He is jealous for His name
- God is all-powerful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you remember what an idol is? (Discuss.) Dagon was an idol. The Philistines even had a special house for Dagon, where they would go to worship him.
- * What was the Ark of God? (Discuss how the Ark was in the house of the Lord; it was not God, it was not to be worshipped, but God chose to be present in the Ark in a special way; see Exodus 25: 10-22.)
- * Take a real apple, and a picture (or carving) of an apple (or other fruit). Set them side by side. Which of these is real? Which tastes good to eat? If you were hungry, which would you rather have? (This picture may look nice, but it can't fill up your tummy when you're hungry.)
- * What if I threw away the apple and kept the picture of an apple? And if I told this picture how good it looks and how yummy it tastes -- that would not be very smart, would it?
- * Well, here is Dagon, and here is the Ark- where the Lord is present. Which is better? Which is stronger? The Lord who made the earth and everything on it, or Dagon? God showed He was more powerful than Dagon. Read I Samuel 6:20.

Tell the Next Generation



Israel Rejects God as their King and Asks for a Man to be their King

Scripture:
I Samuel 8-10:25

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- Man is sinful and rejects God's rule
- Rejecting God's rule and God's ways brings consequences
- God is merciful, gracious and loving

God warned Israel of the folly of wanting a king's rule; He had compassion on them because of the affliction of the Philistines

- God is sovereign and controls all things

I Samuel 9:15-16; I Samuel 10:1

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * There was one thing that made Israel different from all the other nations. Do you know what it was? Who was Israel's king? Every other nation had a man for a king, but the **Lord** was Israel's king.
- * Remember how much stronger and better God is than idols? (Show the apple and the picture of an apple.) How about people? Who is better-- God or people? (Describe some ways God is superior to people; e.g. God always hears you when you call on Him, God always keeps His promises, etc.)
- * In this story, Israel told Samuel that they wanted a king (see I Samuel 8:6, 19-20: "*a king to judge us,*" "*a king over us that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.*") If the Lord was their king, why would they want a man to be king? Did not God fight their battles?
- * It's like throwing away the real apple and keeping just the picture of an apples (see I Samuel 8:8), sort of like having an idol.
- * Ask God to be your king and cause you to never forsake Him for idols, and to trust Him, not people.

Tell the Next Generation



God Rejects Saul because of Saul's Disobedience and Chooses David as King of Israel

Scripture:

I Samuel 13:5-14; 15-16:13

What does this say about God and man?

- God demands obedience; His commands are to be heeded; God delights in obedience

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)

- Disobedience brings consequences
- Man is sinful
- God is all-knowing
- God delights in a heart of faith and love for Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Have ready a book that shows the inner workings of something or draw 2 pictures of an object, one of just its outside and one that shows its insides. Look first at a picture that just shows the "outside" of an object.) Look at this (name object). What color is it? What shape is it? (Discuss its appearance.)
- * What do you think is inside this (object)? How do you know? Can you tell just by looking at it? (Look at the picture that shows the "insides" of the object. Discuss how you know what is inside something -- for instance, you know what the inside of an apple looks like, because you've seen many apples cut open before, but you don't know what's inside an apple seed if you've never looked inside one. Discuss how something's insides can surprise us, be something we don't expect, perhaps an apple looks great on the outside and when we cut it open, it's rotten on the inside.)
- * Can you see inside people? We know that everybody has bones and muscles and things like that inside them -- but what about what people think and feel and how they act towards God? Can you see that? Can **anybody** see that, inside somebody else?
- * Sometimes we can see a little bit of what people think and feel and act towards God, but only God can see inside us perfectly. Read or paraphrase I Samuel 16:7 and discuss how this relates to Saul, to David, and to you and your child.

Tell the Next Generation



The Lord Delivers Israel from the Philistines

Scripture:
I Samuel 17:1-54

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign; He is greater than all and over all
- Deliverance for God's people comes from God
- God will exalt His name; He will protect His reputation
- God is all-powerful
- God is the one true God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How tall was Goliath? (Compare Goliath's height of 9 or 10 feet to something your child can see.) Do you think he was really strong? Stronger than any of the Israelites?
- * The Israelites were all afraid of Goliath. He was bigger and stronger than they were; he had big, powerful weapons. The Israelites knew that they had no chance to win in a fight against Goliath.
- * But David was not afraid. Why not? (Discuss how knowing the all-powerful God can give you courage to fight against foes much stronger than you. David had already experienced the Lord giving him victory over the lion and bear when he was caring for the sheep, and he knew the same could happen with Goliath.)
- * Thank God that He is stronger than any foe that can come against us; ask Him to cause you to always trust in Him as David did.

Tell the Next Generation



The Ark of God is Holy

Scripture:

II Samuel 6-7

What does this say about God and man?

- God is holy
- God's commands are to be obeyed; disobedience brings punishment
- The presence of God causes much rejoicing
- God is faithful; He keeps His promises and His words prove true
- God is good and gracious

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you remember what the Ark of God was? God chose to be present in the Ark in a special way. That meant that the Ark was very special - or holy - set apart from other things. It was so special that the Lord gave rules about who was allowed to touch it (see Numbers 4).
- * Discuss the holiness of God and our fear of God. (We do not come into the presence of God lightly or casually. God is so big and so powerful and so special that we do not come to Him like He is one of us, or a common object.)

Tell the Next Generation



David Breaks God's Commandments and Repents

Scripture:

II Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful and unable to keep God's commands
- Sin displeases God and God will punish sin
- God is rich in mercy and His forgiveness is great

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (After telling the story from II Samuel 11-12, discuss what sin is, emphasizing that sin begins in the heart; it is not just an outward act.) Is there anybody that never sins? David was called "a man after God's heart" -- yet he sinned.
- * Sin makes our souls dirty, just like playing in mud makes your skin dirty. You can make your skin clean by taking a bath with soap and
- * water, but how do we make our souls clean?
- * Read Psalm 51. Discuss how God makes our souls clean.
- * Pray together.

Tell the Next Generation



God Chooses Solomon to Build a Temple

Scripture:

I Chronicles 28; 29:1-19; II Chronicles 6:12-18

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign; He is over all; He is the greatest authority
God determines who will build a house for Himself
- God is all-knowing
I Chronicles 28:9b
- God will not forsake or fail His elect
- God is supreme
I Chronicles 29:11-12
- Man is totally dependent on God and everything man has comes from God's hand
I Chronicles 29:14-16
- God is the one true God
- God is covenant-keeping and steadfast in love

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If I make something, like some cookies, can I do what I want with those cookies? I made them, so they are mine. So I can eat all of them - or give them all away - or put them in the freezer -- whatever I choose to do.
- * Look outside. What do you see that God made? (trees, grass, snow, sky, flowers, people, etc.) God made the whole earth and everything on it.
- * So, can God do what He chooses with what He has made? (Yes, He can choose whom He wants to build His house.) Is there anything we have that doesn't come from God? Can we do anything apart from God? (See II Chronicle 29: 11-16. We cannot even keep breathing without God; our very life is dependent upon Him.)
- * Tell God that you are totally dependent on Him for everything; ask Him to supply any (specific) needs you have.

Tell the Next Generation



God withholds Dew and Rain

Scripture:

I Kings 16:29-17:7

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful
- God will protect His name; He will not share His glory with another
- God is supreme and all-powerful
- God is faithful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Review what idols are; discuss how wrong it is to worship idols instead of the one, true God.
- * What do we need water for? (to drink, to wash with, to grow food.) Can we live without water?
- * If we can't live without water, water must be very important! Is there anything more important than water?
- * God was showing King Ahab and the
- * people of Israel that He controlled even the rain and dew, that He was their source of water, and He alone gives life. What would you do if there was no rain and there was no more water in the land? What should they have done? (Believed in the Lord, turned away from idols who cannot give or take away life.)

Tell the Next Generation



The Lord, He is God! *God Defeats the Prophets of Baal*

Scripture:
I Kings 18

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign
God withholds and sends the rain
- God will not share His glory with another; He is the one true God
- God is all-powerful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Watch this. (Have a bowl filled with water. Light a match.) This is fire. (Immerse the match in the water.) What happened? Why did the fire go out? (Explain how water puts out fire.)
- * Could Baal make a fire for those who worshipped him? (Discuss how powerless idols and mere humans are.)
- * Elijah put water on the offering and the wood. He put **lots and lots** of water on it (see verse 35). Now if I put this bowl of water on one little stick that was on fire, what would happen? (The fire would go out.) But what if a **great, big tree** was on fire? Would this little bowl of water put out a **great, big fire**? (It would put out part of the fire, but the fire would be so big and strong that it would keep burning. You need lots and lots of water to stop a great, big fire.)
- * Now, with all that water that Elijah put on and around the alter, would a little, tiny fire be able to burn? (No, only a very big fire could burn with all that water around.) God sent fire to the alter that Elijah built. All that water couldn't stop it, in fact the fire burned up not only the offering and the wood, but even the stones and the water! And Elijah never lit a match or started the fire himself -- he prayed to the Lord, and the Lord showed that He alone is the one, true God.
- * Pray; tell the Lord that He alone is God and ask Him to cause you to believe in Him as Elijah did.

Tell the Next Generation



God Takes Elijah to Heaven

Scripture:

II Kings 2: 1-14

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign
- God is all-powerful
- God is merciful, gracious and loving

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you like to get presents? When you know you will get a present (on your birthday or Christmas), do you wonder what the present will be? (Discuss the fun of opening presents.)
- * Do you think God ever gives presents to us? (Name some.) What do think is the best present God has for us? Do we have it yet? (It's called heaven, and we don't have it yet.)
- * What is heaven like? We don't know a lot about it, but we know that we will be **with God** and it will be wonderful beyond anything we can even imagine (see I Corinthians 1:9).
- * Who will go to heaven? (Discuss the conditions of going to heaven: trusting God, believing in Jesus, knowing God personally). Do you want to go to heaven?

Tell the Next Generation



God Performs Miracles through Elisha

Scripture:

II Kings 4:1-17

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful; there is nothing He cannot do
- God is gracious, kind and loving
- God is sovereign
- God is faithful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * This woman (the widow) needed money to pay some people. She had no money, and the **only thing** she had was one jar of oil (emphasize how hopeless the woman's situation was, and discuss how the creditors were even going to take her children away if she couldn't pay them the money.) What could she do? What would you do?
- * Can God help someone when it seems that there is nothing that can be done to help them? When you don't see a way out and everything around you looks bad, can God help you?
- * God can -- and He did. He took that one jar of oil that this woman had, and when she poured it out into other jars, it filled all of them (note that there were many jars; see verse 3) so she could sell the oil, pay her debts, keep her children, and have enough to live on.
- * Thank God for being so great and taking such good care of His people.

Tell the Next Generation



"There is No God in All the Earth
but in Israel"

Scripture:

II Kings 5: 1-16

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful
- God is merciful, gracious, and loving
- God is the one true God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * When you play with a friend, does your friend sometimes have different ideas than you? Maybe he wants to play in the sandbox when you want to play with blocks. (Give other examples.)
- * And do you ever want to do something different than what Mom or Dad want you to do? Maybe we want you to go to bed, but you want to stay up and play. But we know what's best for you (rest), and so you do what we want you to do.
- * Do you know what leprosy is? (Explain.) Naaman had leprosy. He went to Elisha in hopes that the Lord would heal him, but Naaman had certain ideas of how this healing should happen (Read or paraphrase 2 Kings 5:11).
- * Elisha was a prophet for the Lord. That meant that what he told Naaman to do was what the **Lord** told Naaman to do. Can you argue with the Lord? Whose ideas are better: people like Naaman's ideas, or the Lord's? (See Isaiah 55:8-9. Discuss how God's ways are always superior to our ways and we are not capable of judging the Lord's ways as right or wrong.)
- * Pray. Ask God to make you humble and able to submit to His ways.

Tell the Next Generation



God has Mercy on Ninevah

Scripture:

Jonah

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is a sinner and unable to save Himself
- God is merciful; He is great in compassion and loves His creation
- God is sovereign and supreme

God has compassion on whom He will; God's purposes will not be thwarted; God always wins against Satan; no one can escape from God

- Satan is God's enemy and fights against God
- God demands obedience

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * When the Lord first spoke to Jonah, Jonah tried to run away from Him (see Jonah 1:3). Did he get away from God? Did God lose track of where Jonah was?
- * Can **anyone** escape from God? Is there any place you can go that God won't be there?
- * Do you want to run away **from** God, or run **to** Him? Read Jonah 4:2b: "*You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.*" (Discuss "gracious," "compassionate," "slow to anger," "abounding in love.") God is merciful to all who repent and come to Him.

Tell the Next Generation



God's Word Is Found

Scripture:

II Kings 22-23:25 (II Chronicles 34)

What does this say about God and man?

- God's commands are to be obeyed
- God is merciful
- God honors a repentant heart
- God is supreme
- God is God alone; He will not share His glory nor allow any gods before Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If you buried an apple in your yard, and dug it up after a year, would it still look like an apple? (No, it would have rotted until nothing was left.— If you have a fresh apple and a partially rotted apple, compare them and discuss how it changes.)
- * If you buried a big rock (show a rock, if you have one) in your yard and dug it up after a year, would it have rotted away like the apple? No, it stays a rock. (If your child asks, you may explain that eventually even the rock will wear away, but it takes a long, long time.)
- * What was found in God's temple in this story? A book that had been lost (compare to items that are buried). What sort of book? A book like one of these? (Show your child some of his picture books— NOT the Bible or a Bible storybook.) No, it was God's Word, "the book of the law", what we call the Bible (show Bible). Is the Bible like these books (indicate other books)? What makes it different? The cover looks different, but even if we put a cover on the Bible to make it look like these other books, it would still be different. How? The words in these books are different people's words, and they are nice stories, but the words in **the Bible** are **GOD'S WORDS**. (That's why we call the Bible "God's Word" or "The Word of God".) **GOD'S WORDS** are powerful— they are alive— they can change people. God's Word had been lost in God's house for a long time, sort of like the rock we had talked of burying. But just like the rock stays a rock, so God's Word stayed God's Word, and it lost none of its power. It still had the power to cause Josiah to obey God. (See Hebrews 4:12.)
- * If God's Word is like that, what should we do with it? (Read it, treasure it as something valuable, obey it.)

Tell the Next Generation



"Wisdom and Might Belong to God"

God Reveals Mysteries to Daniel

Scripture:

Daniel 1-2

What does this say about God and man?

- God honors those who trust in Him
- God is faithful
- God is sovereign; He is over all and in control of all things
- God knows all things
- God is the one true God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Have you ever had a dream while you're sleeping? (Discuss briefly.) Sometimes we remember our dreams when we wake up, and sometimes we can't remember them.
- * If I had a dream last night and couldn't remember it, could you tell me what my dream was? Could Grandma tell the dream to me? Or could a really smart person tell the dream to me?
- * King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. The dream bothered him (see Daniel 2:1). He wanted to know what the dream meant, but he couldn't even remember the dream! He needed someone to tell him what the dream was, **and** its meaning.
- * He was told that **NOBODY** on earth could do this thing (Dan. 2:10). Could you do it? Could I do it? Could anybody do it? Nobody could do it! It was impossible.
- * But Daniel and his friends knew someone who could do it. Who was that? Someone that knows everything -- even secrets that nobody else knows.
- * The Lord knows everything -- even dreams that we've forgotten. And He told Daniel what the dream was and what he dream meant.
- * Discuss how this secret was made known to Daniel, not because he was smarter than anyone else (see Dan. 2:30), but because the Lord wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know the dream and its meaning and because Daniel knew the Lord and asked Him to reveal the secret. God communicates with His people -- not because we are better or smarter than other people, but because He chooses to communicate with us.

Tell the Next Generation



God Delivers Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from a Fiery Furnace

Scripture:
Daniel 3

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him
- God is faithful
- God is supreme and sovereign
- God is the one true God
- Faith pleases God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Have you ever touched anything hot? Did it hurt? Hot things and fire can hurt very badly. Fire can even kill people.
- * Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego get thrown in the fiery furnace? They would not bow down and worship the golden statue that Nebuchadnezzar made. They would only worship the Lord.
- * The fire in the furnace was so hot that the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace were killed. Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego get killed by the fire? What kept them from being killed? (Discuss.)
- * Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the furnace because they would not worship anyone but the Lord. Sometimes people try to hurt, or even kill, people that worship the Lord. Does God keep everyone who believes in Him from being hurt or killed? (No. Discuss how our bodies may be hurt or killed, but God keeps our souls safe.)
- * Pray; ask God to give you the courage of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to worship Him even when threatened with pain or death (see Daniel 3:16-1).

Tell the Next Generation



"The Most High Rules the Kingdom of Men"

God will not Share His Glory with Nebuchadnezzar

Scripture:

Daniel 4

What does this say about God and man?

- God is supreme and sovereign; He is completely and solely in control
- God is eternal and His kingdom is everlasting
- God is all-knowing
- Man is a sinner and needs God
- God will not share His glory with another; God is jealous for His name
- God is righteous and just

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you like little, tiny babies? (Talk about a newborn baby you know.) What can (baby's name) do? Can she walk? Can she talk? Can she feed herself? Can she bounce a ball, run, do a puzzle?
- * What if this baby said to her mommy: "*I am such a great baby that I don't need you, Mommy. I can do everything for myself!*" Would that be true? If this baby didn't have her mommy and daddy, she couldn't eat, she couldn't get her diapers changed; she needs her mommy and daddy for **everything!**
- * Now you and I can do a lot more than this baby can. We can walk, run, do puzzles, feed ourselves... But where does everything we have come from? Where does our food come from? Where do our bodies come from? Where does our life come from? (God.)
- * Nebuchadnezzar said he was a great person (Daniel 4:30) and he thought he was great without God! That's sort of like a little, tiny, helpless baby telling his mommy that he doesn't need her! God showed Nebuchadnezzar that God alone is great and in control of things.

Tell the Next Generation



God Delivers Daniel from the Lions' Den

Scripture:
Daniel 6

What does this say about God and man?

- Faith pleases God
- God is all-powerful
- God is supreme and sovereign over all
- God is eternal

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's say somebody told you to do something your mom and dad had told you not to do (give an example, such as not play in the street). Would you do it?
- * If the president of the country (explain what a president is) told you to do something (give an example of something OK to do), you would obey, because the president is important, and what he says is like a law. But if the president tells you to do something that GOD has told you not to do, should you obey the President, or God? (God; God is more important to obey than any other person, no matter how important that person is.)
- * King Darius made a law. The law said that anyone making a petition to any god or person besides the king shall be thrown to the lions (see Daniel 6:7). Daniel knew what the law was. But he also knew that the Lord had a law, that the Lord alone was to be worshipped. Daniel knew that he must obey God, even when men would hurt or kill him for obeying God
- * Pray; ask God to give you the courage of Daniel to obey God no matter what.

Tell the Next Generation



God Places Esther in the King's Palace

Scripture:

Esther 1-3

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign and rules over all; His purposes will be established
- Satan is God's enemy and fights against God
- God is merciful, gracious and loving

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If you were building something with blocks and someone came along and kept knocking your blocks down or pushed you around so you couldn't build, would you like what that person was doing? That person would be acting like your enemy.
- * God does many things, but He has an enemy who tries to stop God from doing what He has planned. That enemy is called Satan, or the devil.
- * In this story, Satan uses Haman to try to destroy the Jews -- God's people. What are some ways Satan tries to stop God's work today? (Example: God works in families so they love each other, but Satan tries to stop God's work by getting people so mad at each other that they hurt each other. There are many other examples.)
- * Someone bigger or stronger than you can stop you from building with blocks. Is there anyone bigger or stronger than God?
- * Read I Peter 5:8. Pray; ask God to give you His strength to resist the devil.

Tell the Next Generation



God Delivers His People

Scripture:
Esther 4-8

What does this say about God and man?

- God is self-sufficient; He does not need anything or anybody
- God is faithful and His word is true
- God is sovereign
*His plans cannot be thwarted;
He is always in control and
Satan has no power over Him*
- God is gracious and merciful

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Who is God's enemy, and what does he try to do? (Satan; he tries to stop God from doing what He has planned.) Is there anyone bigger or stronger than God? Can Satan stop God from doing what He has planned to do? (No.)
- * In this story, the devil tried to destroy the Jews. Did he succeed? What happened to Haman?
- * When the decree to destroy the Jews went out from the king, Mordecai knew that
- * unless God helped them, it would be
- * hopeless. But God was always in control. It looked bad, but God had determined that His people would not be destroyed. (Discuss how God worked out the details and made Esther queen for the purpose of working out His plan; see Esther 4:14.)

Tell the Next Generation



God's Hand is Upon Nehemiah

Scripture:

Nehemiah 1, 2, 4, 6:15-16

What does this say about God and man?

- God keeps His covenant; His promises are true; God is faithful
- God is sovereign
God granted favor to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:8b)
- Satan is God's enemy; he works against God and His plans
- God's purposes will be established; Satan cannot prevail against God
- God is awesome and is worthy of reverence
Nehemiah 6:15,16

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you know what a promise is? Let's say I promise you that tomorrow I'll bake cookies and give you 3 cookies. If I do it, then I have **kept my promise**. But if tomorrow I get sick and can't bake the cookies, then I've **broken my promise**.
- * Does God ever make promises? (Read a few promises from the Bible.) Does God ever get sick so He can't keep His promises? Does He ever **forget** the promises He made? No, God always keeps **all** of His promises.
- * God made a promise to Moses a long time before Nehemiah lived. (Read or paraphrase Deut. 30: 1-5. Then summarize the downfall of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jews.)
- * Nehemiah remembered the promises that God made to Moses, so he prayed hard that God would keep His promise.
- * Discuss how God showed His greatness by keeping this promise.