

IN THE BEGINNING

A Study of the First Five Books of the Bible



A COURSE IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME OF THE NATIVE BIBLE CENTRE

IN THE BEGINNING

A STUDY OF THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Written by Mike Matthews

Student Name _____

In The Beginning

A Self-Study T.R.I.B.E. Course

Written by Mike Matthews
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IN THE BEGINNING

A STUDY OF THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

In the Beginning is a study of the first five books of the Bible. In this course you will learn much about the people and the events during the beginning of the world. This course is also designed to teach you much about God. There are sections in the workbook called, "What is God Like?" A particular characteristic of God will be discussed in each of these sections.

There are twenty lessons in this book. The book is organized so that you can do one or two lessons a week. At the end of every second lesson, there is a set of review questions. (These may be used by the Study Leader as a quiz.) There is one test for this course. It has been included at the end of the book. If you are taking this course for credit, the test should be sent, faxed or scanned and emailed to the Native Bible Centre for correction and grading. The cost for credit for any T.R.I.B.E. course is \$5.00.

****Note: There are optional assignments for advanced students at the end of every second lesson.**

It is our prayer here at the Native Bible Centre that your life will be changed as you study and apply the lessons from *In the Beginning*.

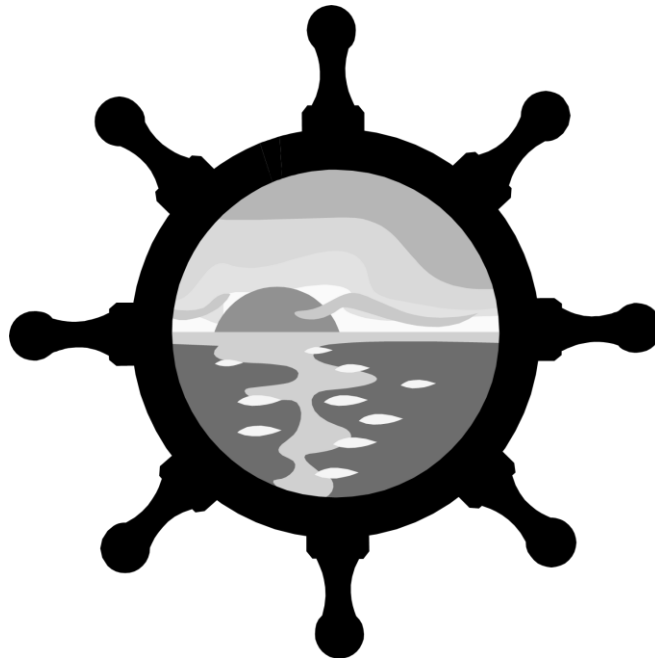


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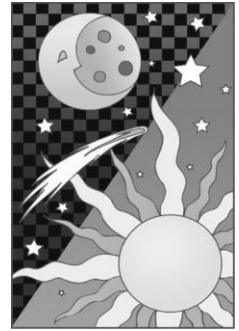
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INTRODUCTION

In the Beginning is a study of the first five books of the Bible. These are sometimes called the books of Law. They are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These five books are also called the Pentateuch (pronounced pen-ta-teuk). This word comes from two Greek words, *penta*, which means five and, *teuchos*, which means book.

In the Beginning is a study of beginnings. Listed below are some of the main beginnings about which you will learn.

1. **The Beginning of the Universe – Genesis**
2. **The Beginning of Sin – Genesis**
3. **The Beginning of Nations – Genesis**
4. **The Beginning of the Israelite Nation – Genesis**
5. **The Beginning of the Israelite Way of Worship -- Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy**



Moses is the author of the Pentateuch. Since he could not have been there in the beginning to see and record all these events, God showed him what to write.

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS

1. **Genesis** means **beginning**. This book tells about the beginning of the universe, the beginning of sin, the beginning of nations, and the beginning of the Israelite nation.
2. **Exodus** means **going out**. This book tells how the people of Israel came out of Egypt. It also tells how these people received God's laws at a mountain called Mount Sinai.
3. **Leviticus** gets its name from the tribe of **Levi**, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. All the men of this tribe were called by God to serve in the tabernacle, or temple. This book contains instructions for these men, as well as instructions for Israel's worship of God.
4. **Numbers** tells about the rebellion and wandering of the people of Israel in the desert. It is called Numbers because the people of Israel are **numbered (counted)** twice in this book.
5. **Deuteronomy** means **repetition of the law**. This book records Moses' final words to the people of Israel. He repeats much of the law that was given in the book of Exodus.



LESSON 1

GENESIS

CREATION

INTRODUCTION

There are many stories and legends about how the world began. Different cultures around the world have their ancient stories that tell about the beginning of the heavens and the earth. There are also scientific theories about the beginning of our universe. (A theory is an idea that has not been proved as true.)

1. Describe briefly a story or theory you have heard that tells how the world began.

2. Now read Genesis 1:1 and tell what you learn about how the world began.

God Created the Heavens and the Earth



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The very first verse of the Bible says God created the heavens and the earth. (Notice, the Bible does not try to prove there is a God. It simply tells us he exists.) Look at the creation around you. Look at the mountains, the rivers, the stars, the trees, and the animals. Some people believe there was a big explosion in outer space a long time ago. They believe our world came from that explosion. They also believe all nature (the land, plants, animals, and even man) evolved (slowly developed) into what we see today.

Still others believe our world came into being with the help of animals or spirits. There are many ideas, stories and theories about our beginning. But the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

3. Why do you think some people refuse to believe God created the heavens and earth?

The First Seven Days

4. Read Genesis 1:1 through Genesis 2:3 and tell what God created, or did, on each of the first seven days.

Day One _____

Day Two _____

Day Three _____

Day Four _____

Day Five _____

Day Six _____

Day Seven _____

God Created out of Nothing

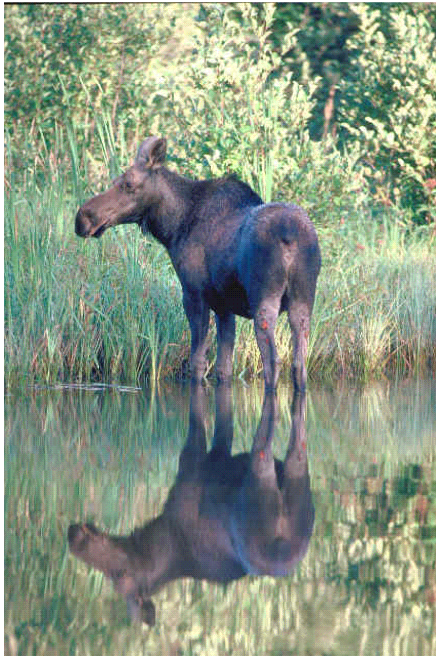
I once built a boat. I bought the plywood, glue, screws, fiberglass, and paint. Following a plan, I began to turn the pile of boards into a boat. It took many weeks, but finally the project was finished. I stood back and admired my creation. It looked good. God's creation of the world was not like my building a boat. When God created the world, he created it out of nothing. He merely spoke and the heavens and the earth came into being. That certainly was not how I built my boat!



5. From your reading of Genesis 1:1 – 2:3, how would you describe the world God created?

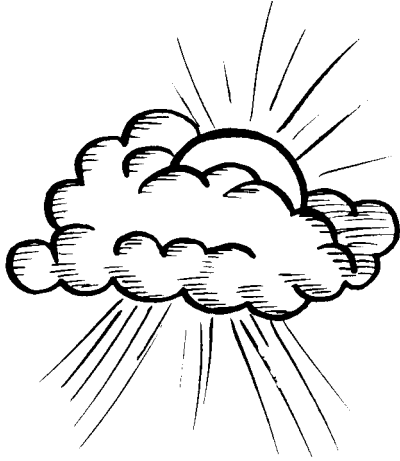
God's Order of Creation

Take a look at God's order of Creation:



- ⇒1. First, God created the physical world. He gave everything in it a form, a body. Even the sun, moon, and stars have body.
- ⇒2. Second, God created vegetation, the grass, plants, bushes, and trees. God gave them a body and life. They can reproduce through their seeds.
- ⇒3. Third, God created the animals, birds and fish. God gave them a body, life and a mind. They can think and learn.
- ⇒4. Fourth, God created man and woman. He made them the highest of all His creation. He gave them a body, life, a mind and a conscience. A conscience is the part of man that knows right from wrong. It tells us there is a God.

6. Why do you think some people choose to worship part of the creation rather than the Creator?



What is God Like?

God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. He is the only one who has that power. No plant, animal, man, or spirit has the power that God has. There are spirits with some power. There are also men and women who have some power. Only God has all power.

7. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9 and tell what powers the spirit known as *Satan* has.

8. Read Exodus 7:10-12 and tell what powers the magicians and sorcerers had.

God is all Powerful

Angels have power. Satan and evil spirits have power. Even man can have a certain amount of power. But only God has all power! God is omnipotent (omnipotent means all-powerful.) No one has more power than God has. He has power over all creation.

Read each of the following verses. Draw a line from the verse to the correct statement.

Exodus 4:11

Psalms 65:6

Ephesians 1:19,20

Romans 16:20

God has power over nature.

God has power over man.

God has power over Satan.

God had power over death.

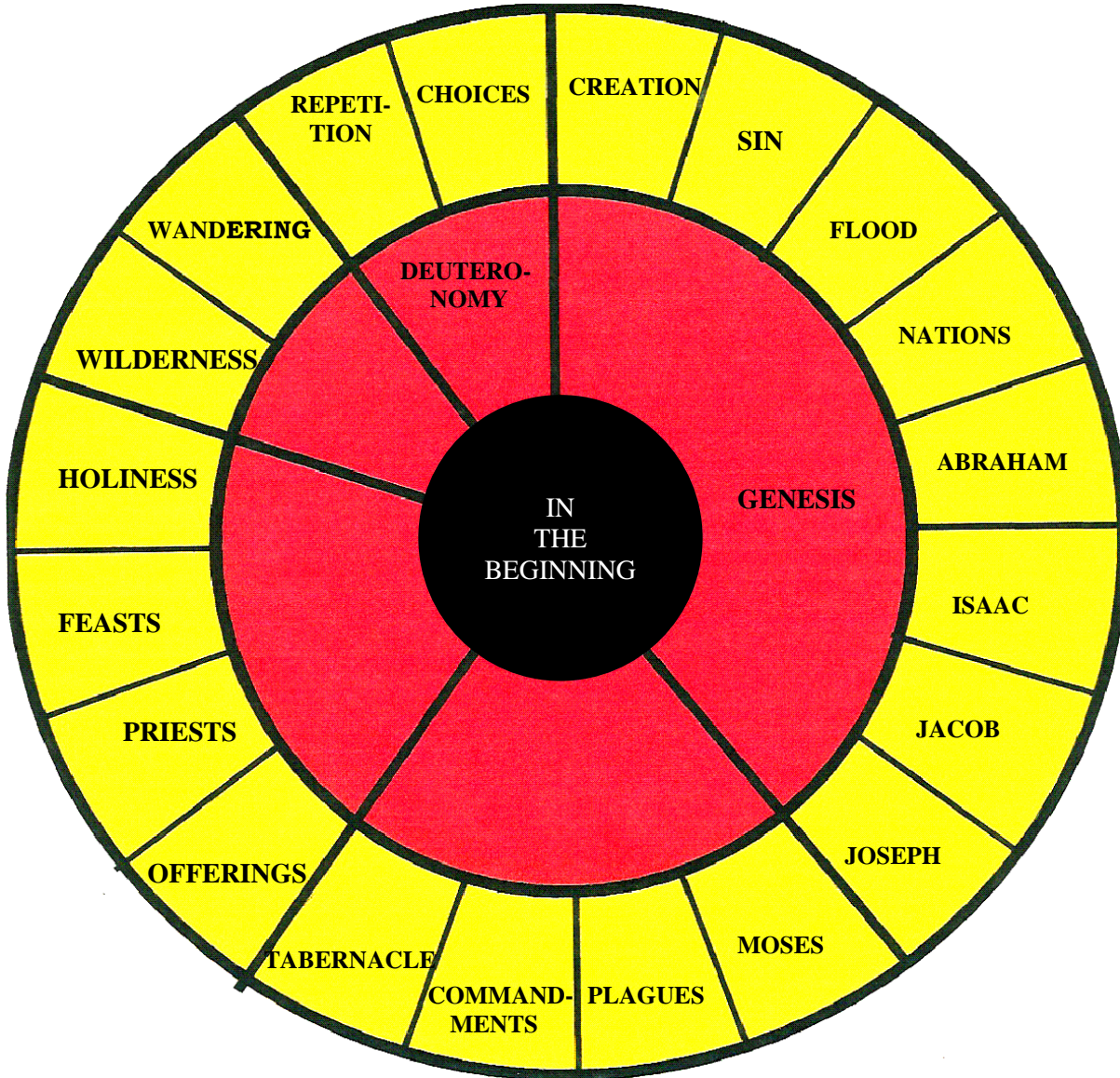
Lesson Summary and Application

God is the all-powerful creator.

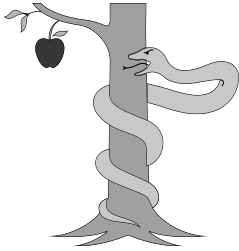
9. How should the fact that God is the all-powerful Creator affect your life today?

Course Chart

Fill in the chart with the missing books of the Pentateuch. You can find the answers on page 5.



LESSON 2



GENESIS SIN

INTRODUCTION

Remember my boat? The final touch on it was a coat of bright red paint. It looked good – very good. But it did not stay that way long. In fact, I only used the boat once. My older brother took it one day. He took it without permission from myself, or our father. While he and some friends were using it, the boat got caught between some poles in a swift part of the river. The boat broke into pieces and floated down stream.

God created a beautiful world. It was good – very good. But it did not stay that way long.

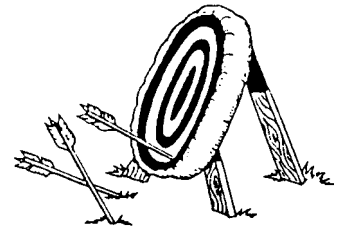
1. Read Genesis, chapters 2 and 3. In Genesis 2:15-17, what command did God give Adam?

2. Why do you think God gave Adam and Eve a choice to obey, or to disobey him?

God wanted Adam and Eve to obey Him. He wanted them to love Him and be friends with Him. He could not force Adam and Eve to love Him. Love cannot be forced. Love is a choice.

Sin is Falling Short of God's Standards

I once went elk hunting with a bow and arrow. There were several of us hunting, so we split up to have a better chance at a shot. I stood at the edge of a clearing under some pine trees. Suddenly six elk ran into the clearing. There was time for one quick shot. I put the arrow in and pulled the bow back, aimed and let go. The arrow landed about half way to the elk. I had missed the mark. The arrow fell short. This is a picture of sin. Sin is missing the mark. It is falling short of God's standard. God gave Adam and Eve a command. He required that they obey His command. But they fell short. They missed the mark. They chose to eat the fruit God had forbidden. They chose to believe the lie of Satan instead of the Word of God.



Bible Teaching on Satan

Satan took the form of a snake to trick Eve. Let's look at a few Bible passages to find out more about Satan.

3. Read Isaiah 14:12-15. Tell several things you learn about Satan from these verses. What sin caused Satan to be thrown out of heaven? (Most Bible teachers believe these verses are talking about Satan, as well as the King of Babylon.)

4. According to 1 Peter 5:8, what is Satan doing today?

5. What will happen to Satan at the end of this world, according to Revelation 20:10?

Satan is a liar. He did not want Adam and Eve to be friends with God. He lied to Adam and Eve so they would disobey God. He knew sin would separate them from God. Today there is a great-unseen war going on between God and Satan. Satan is still trying to keep man from knowing God.

6. What is one lie you think Satan would like people to believe today?

The World is Now Under a Curse

God cannot live with sin. All falling short of the mark must be punished. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, God put a curse on the world. The curse is on the whole human race. A curse is when someone puts judgment on another because that person did not please him, or because of disobedience.

7. According to Genesis 3:14-19, what curse did God put on each of the following:

Eve (and all women) _____

Adam (and all men) _____

The Serpent (3:14-15) _____



God Promises a Savior

God made a promise in Genesis 3:15. He promised that an "offspring" of Eve would "crush the head" of the serpent, which is Satan. This was a great promise for Adam and Eve (and you)! It promised that Satan would someday be defeated. It meant that a man would someday be born who would defeat Satan. This is the first promise of a Savior who would come and break the curse.

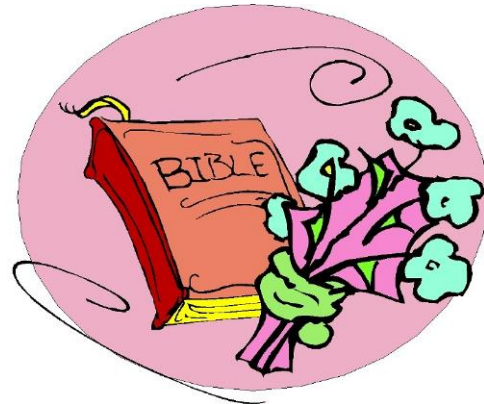
8. Read Hebrews 2:14, this verse tells of a man who destroyed Satan (the devil). Who is this man and how did he destroy the devil? (See Hebrews 2:9 also.)

9. What is the bad news found in Romans 5:12?

10. What is the Good News found in Romans 5:19?

Here are some important facts from Genesis 1 – 3.

- ⇒ God is the Creator of the world.
- ⇒ Man was created to be friends with God.
- ⇒ Satan is the enemy of God and man.
- ⇒ Adam and Eve chose to disobey God.
- ⇒ There is a curse on the world because of sin.
- ⇒ Sin separates man from God.
- ⇒ God promised to send a Savior who would defeat Satan and remove the curse.



Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before doing one, or more, of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignment with you. If you don't have a study leader, we would *like* to see your completed assignment. This is optional and you are not required to send it in.

1. Prepare a Bible study, or sermon, on the topic of "God's Order of Creation".
2. Read Genesis 4 and write a brief paper explaining why God accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's.
3. Write a paper answering this question, "How could a loving God allow sin to come into the world?" (This could also be a sermon, or a Bible study.)

Lesson Summary and Application

Adam and Eve sinned and lost fellowship with their Creator.

In what ways has the curse on the world affected your life?

Review Questions

Lesson 1

1. What does the word *Pentateuch* mean? (See introduction)

2. Give the names of the first five books of the Bible.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

3. What is the highest of God's creation?

4. Name four things over which God has power.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

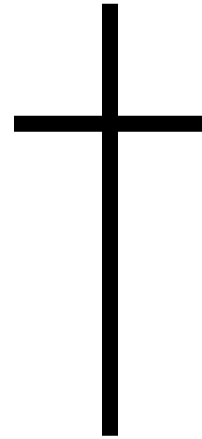
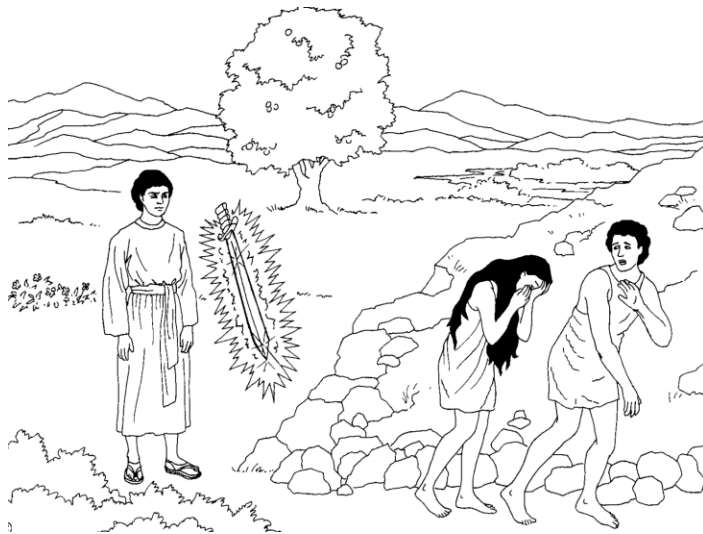
Lesson 2

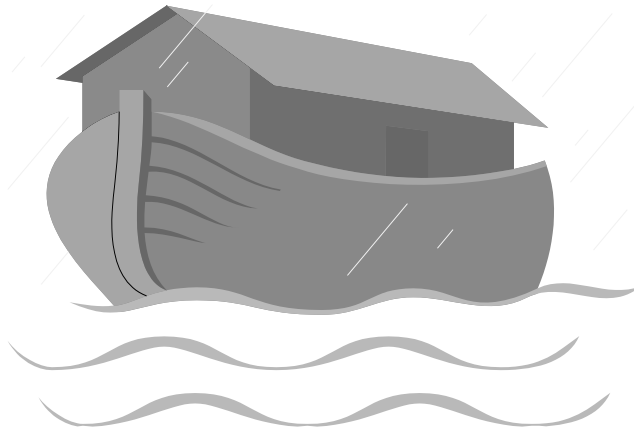
5. Why did God give Adam and Eve a choice to obey Him or to disobey Him?

6. Give a definition of sin. _____

7. Why did God put a curse on the world? _____

8. What promise did God give Adam and Eve that gave them hope?





LESSON 3

GENESIS

FLOOD

INTRODUCTION

A miner from far back in the mountains wanted to buy my trail bike. He said he did not have any money, but wondered if I would take gold instead. I agreed to take the gold. When he gave me the gold, he also showed me some fossils he got from up in the mountains. These were fossils of sea creatures. (The nearest ocean was hundreds of miles away.) I asked him where he found them and he replied, "From the very top of a mountain. The only way I figure they could have gotten there is by some terrific world-wide flood!"

1. There are many groups of people all around the world who have stories passed down from generation to generation. Why do you think so many of them have a story about some great flood that happened many years ago?

2. Why do you think some people, including some very educated scientists, refuse to believe there ever was a worldwide flood?

3. Read Genesis, chapters 6 and 7, and tell whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.

- _____ 1. There were many good people on earth during the days of Noah.
- _____ 2. God was very glad he had made man and was pleased with the way man was taking care of the world.
- _____ 3. There was one man with whom God was pleased.
- _____ 4. God decided to punish mankind because of man's great wickedness.
- _____ 5. God told Noah to build a boat made out of oak.
- _____ 6. When God sent the flood, there were ten people and two of every bird and animal inside the ark.
- _____ 7. The rain lasted forty days and forty nights.
- _____ 8. Every living thing outside the ark was killed in the flood.



Noah Stood Alone

Noah was approximately 500 years old when God told him to build the ark. You read in Genesis 7:6 that he was 600 years old when the flood began. It took 100 years for Noah to build the boat! Imagine what all the people must have thought about Noah as he worked day after day on this huge boat. Imagine what they must have said to him as they walked by Noah's place. They must have thought he was crazy. But Noah did not give up even though people all around continued to make fun of him. The evil in the world continued all during this time. Noah did not "join the crowd" in their sin. He continued to work and to warn the people about the coming flood. No one listened!

4. Why do you think Noah did not give up?

Many animals were in the ark with Noah. Sometimes people fear the power of animals and birds. These creatures that were created by God are sometimes believed to have special powers.

5. What important facts do you learn about man and the animals from Genesis 9:2-3?

Animals and Special Powers

There are times when spirits may use animals or birds to try and frighten men. Spirits may use animals to try and get man to do something. This is the same thing Satan did in the Garden of Eden when he came to Eve in a snake's body.

6. Have you ever seen or heard of animals having special powers?
(Tell about it here.)



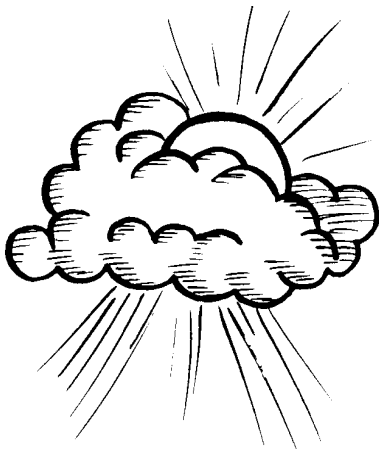
God Makes a Treaty with Noah

God promised Noah that He would establish a covenant with him. (A covenant is a treaty between two people or groups of people.) God gave this covenant in Genesis 6:18. God explains the treaty in Genesis 9:8-17.

7. Read Genesis 9:8-17. What promise did God make in his treaty with Noah?

8. What sign did God give to remind Noah, and all generations to come, of His treaty?

What is God Like?



I once saw a television program that showed how one man could memorize numbers. A train with hundreds of railroad cars went by as this man watched. Each railroad car had an identification number on it. After the train went by, this man could repeat the numbers of each car in correct order! He knew how to memorize numbers. There are many intelligent people in the world. Some of them know a lot about numbers. Some know a lot about religion. Some know a lot about outer space. Some have an extra amount of common sense. Some even know a lot about God. But no man knows everything. Only God knows everything. God is omniscient. (Omniscient means all-knowing.)

9. Read Genesis 6:5 and tell how you think God could possibly know "every inclination of the thoughts of his (man's) heart was only evil all the time."

10. God knows all your thoughts. 1 Chronicles 28:9 tells you He knows something besides your thoughts. What else does God know?

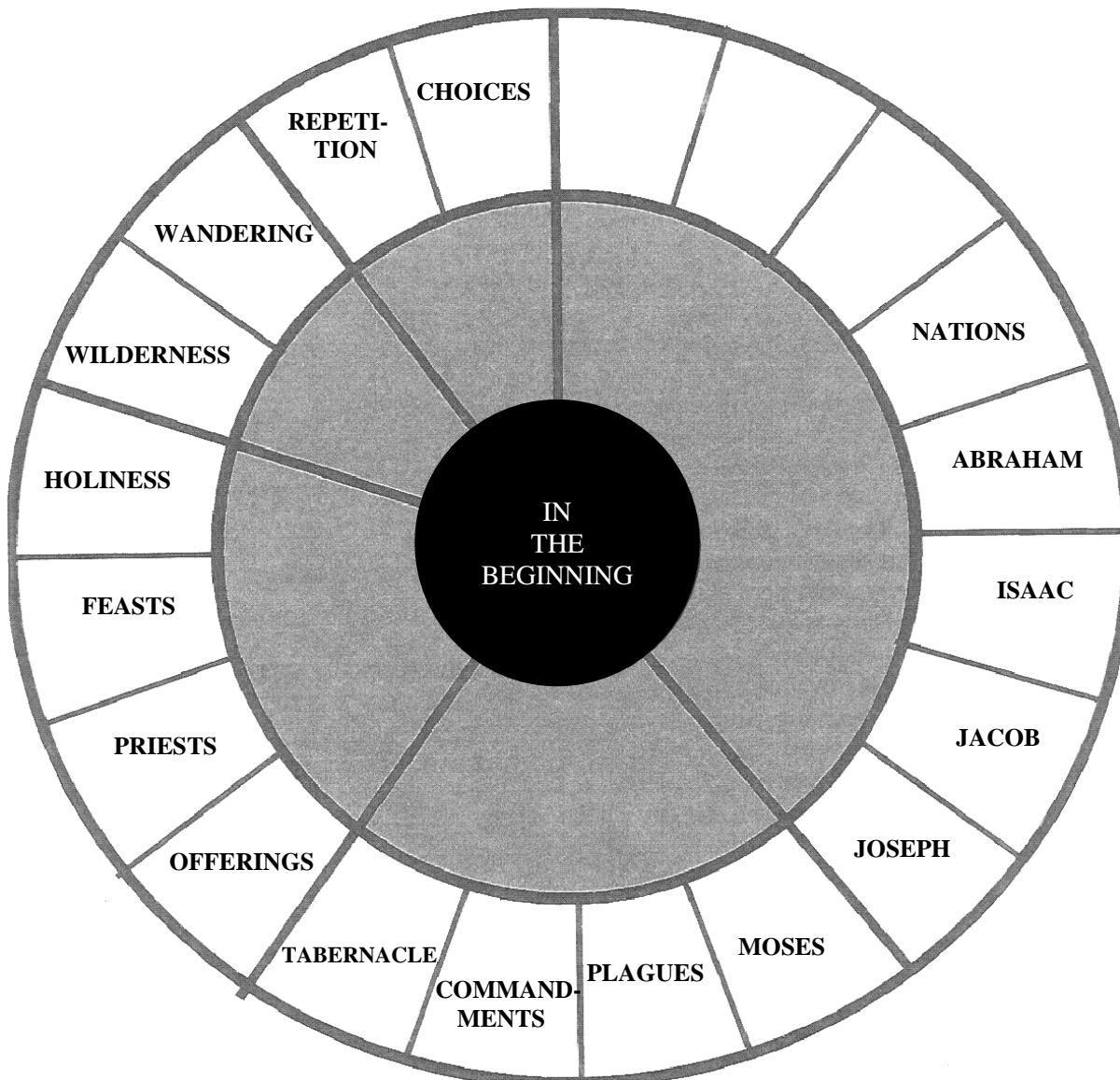
11. Read Hebrews 4:13 and tell how this verse makes you feel concerning your actions and attitudes this past week.

Lesson Summary and Application

God punished the people for their wickedness by sending a flood. He saved Noah from the flood. What should you be reminded of every time you see a rainbow? _____

Course Chart

12. Fill in the chart from page 5. Fill in the inner circle with the book names. Fill in the outer circle with the correct key words.





LESSON 4

GENESIS

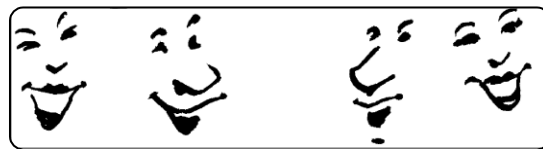
NATIONS

INTRODUCTION

My wife and I once tried to learn a different language. We found it very difficult. There were many sounds in this new language that we never make in English. After some practice, we were able to say a few words. One of the words we could say was, "Hello."

I took a trip to a nearby village to go to a funeral. During the funeral many people gathered in the community hall. They gathered there to eat, listen to speeches and sing. It was during this time I walked up to an older man sitting by himself in the corner of the hall. Some of the ladies from the area where my wife and I lived were sitting near the old man. As I approached the man, I said, "Hello" in his native language. He stared at me. He said nothing. He did nothing. But the ladies . . . they could not help themselves. They burst out laughing. They laughed for a long time. The old man never laughed. After a while I asked one of the ladies what I had said that was so funny. She said, "You told that old man you thought he was pretty!"

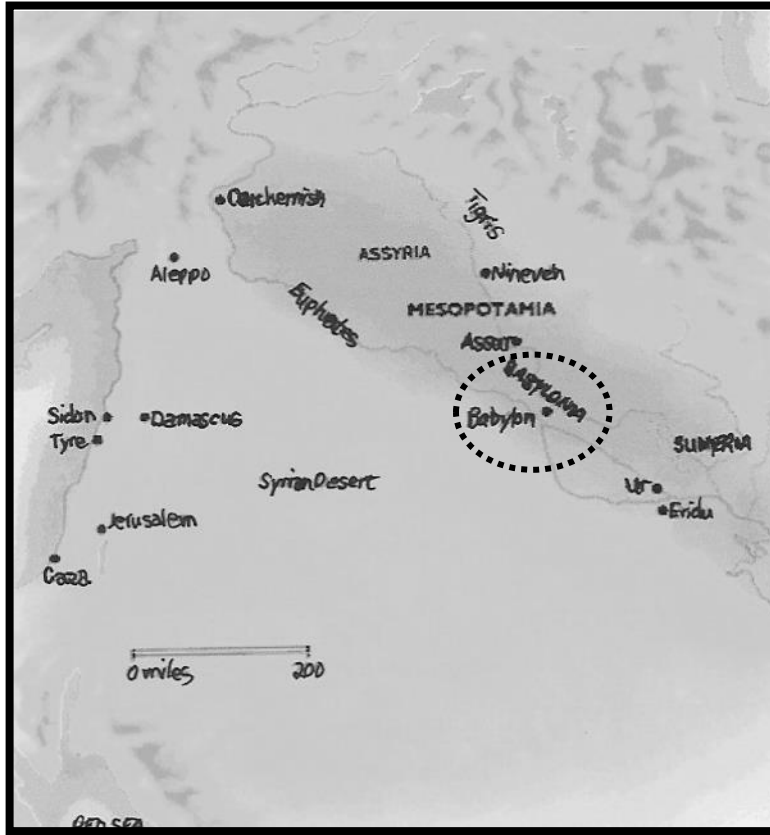
Today, there are thousands of languages in the world. One does not have to go very far to hear people speaking in a different language. Where did it all begin? How did they all get started? This is the question with which this lesson deals.



1. Read Genesis 11:1-9. What do you learn from Genesis 11:1 concerning languages?

Noah and his sons, and their descendants had spread out since the ark landed on Mount Ararat. Many had moved east to a plain in Shinar. This was in the area through which the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flowed. This was the same area in which the Garden of Eden had originally been located. You will notice that all the people spoke the same language.

Map of the Inhabited World after the Flood



During the time just after the flood, the circled area was known as Shinar.

2. What project did man want to begin according to Genesis 11:4?

It is obvious from reading further in Genesis 11 that God was not happy with man's project of building a tower. God had told Noah and his sons to "increase in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1)

3. From Genesis 11:4, what two reasons are given for the building of a tower?

Reasons for the Tower

So you can see . . . the people did not intend to obey God's command to fill the earth. They wanted to "not be scattered." You also find that the people were very proud. They wanted to make a name for themselves. Once again the people were not thinking of how they could please God. They were thinking of how they could make a big name for themselves. God is not pleased with that kind of pride.

4. What problems do you see pride causing in the world today?

5. What did God do to stop the building of the tower?

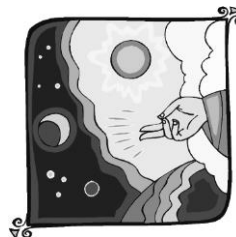
The Beginning of Languages

The city the people had begun was called Babel. Babel means confusion. God confused the people by giving them different languages. The confusion caused the project to stop. Everyone no longer spoke the same language. People naturally went into groups where they understood each other. This was the beginning of languages and nations.

Important Beginnings

This study is called "In the Beginning". It tells the story of the beginning of the world. So far you have learned about several important beginnings. You have learned about:

- ✓ The beginning of the physical world.
- ✓ The beginning of all nature.
- ✓ The beginning of man and woman.
- ✓ The beginning of sin.
- ✓ The beginning of Satan.
- ✓ The beginning of the rainbow.



All these beginnings are things man has studied, discussed and argued about for many years. The Bible explains them all in its first eleven chapters.

Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before you do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignment with you.

1. Write a brief paper answering the question, "Was God fair in sending the flood?"
2. Prepare a Bible study, or a sermon, from the story of the tower of Babel. Decide on one main point you want to emphasize from the story.
3. Explain, in a brief paper, how Genesis 9:5-6 affects your thinking on the issue of capital punishment.



Lesson Summary and Application

The people began to build a tower because of their pride. God stopped the building by giving them different languages.

What is an area of pride that you have struggled with in your life?



Review Questions (Lessons 3 and 4)

Lesson 3

1. Why did God send the flood? _____

2. Why did God save Noah? _____

3. Why did God put the rainbow in the sky? _____

4. What are some of the things that God knows about you? _____

Lesson 4

5. Why did the people want to build a tower? _____

6. How did God stop the building project? _____

7. What important beginnings have you studied so far in this course? _____

8. How would you explain the beginning of languages to someone? _____



LESSON 4

GENESIS

ABRAHAM

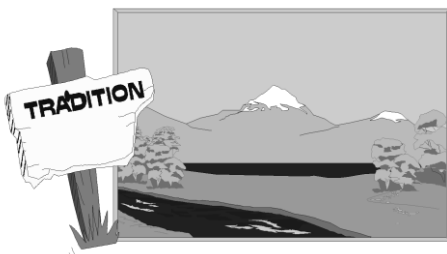
INTRODUCTION

"Once upon a time in the land of Chaldea, there were many moon worshippers." Sounds like the beginning of a fairy tale, doesn't it? But it would be a good introduction to the true story of the life of a man called Abraham. Abraham really did grow up in a land called Chaldea. In this land, the people worshiped the moon. In fact, the city of Ur was called the "Moon City". It was the very center of the Chaldean moon worship. It was also the home of Abraham. Since Abraham grew up in this city, both he and his family probably took part in this religion of worshiping the moon god.

1. Read Joshua 24:2 and tell what you learn about Abraham's family background.

2. It is often easy to follow in the religious practices of your ancestors.

Read Joshua 24:14, 15 and tell what choice Joshua put before the people.



3. Why do you think it is so hard to break away from the traditional ways of worship?

God Chooses a Man, Abraham, out of a False Religion

In the past, when the world became wicked, God sent a flood. Soon after the flood, the people became proud, so God confused them by giving them different languages. Now, once again, the people turned their backs on God. They were worshiping a false god, rather than the all-powerful Creator. This time God does not send a flood, or change the languages. This time God does not send a punishment --- He does something different. This time God chose Abraham to come out from this false religion.

4. What command does God give Abraham in Genesis 12:1? _____

5. Read Genesis 12. What promises does God make to Abraham (Genesis 12:2,3)?

One promise God made is that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham (12:3). This refers back to the promise God made Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15). He promised them a Man who would save the world from the curse: A Man who would defeat Satan. Now God promises Abraham he would be the father of a great nation. The Savior would come to the world through this nation.

Life Summary of Abraham

The following is a summary of Abraham's life:

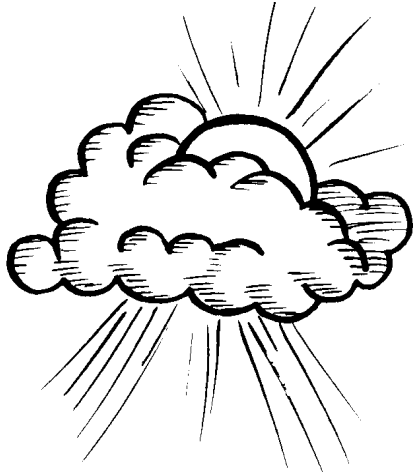
- ◆ God told Abraham to leave his country and go to a new land. Abraham obeyed God's command and took his family to Canaan. When there was a famine in this land, Abraham took his family to Egypt (Chapter 12).
- ◆ After returning to Canaan from Egypt, Abraham and his nephew, Lot separated because of a disagreement between their men (Chapters 13-14).
- ◆ God promised to bless Abraham with many children and grandchildren (Chapter 15).
- ◆ Abraham and his wife decided that since they were not having any children, Abraham should try to have children through their servant, Hagar (Chapter 16).
- ◆ God promised that Abraham and Sarah would have children. God commanded Abraham, and his sons, to be circumcised. Abraham obeyed. This was to be a sign of God's agreement with Abraham and all his descendants (Chapters 17, 18).

- ◆ Abraham prayed for Sodom and Gomorrah, but God destroyed these cities because of their wickedness. Lot and his family were saved from the destruction (Chapter 19).
- ◆ Abraham and Sarah had a son, Isaac. God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed God. God stopped Abraham from killing his own son. Abraham proved he believed God (Chapters 21, 22).
- ◆ Sarah died at the age of 127 and was buried by Abraham in a field that he bought at Machpelah. (Chapter 23)
- ◆ Before Abraham died, he sent a servant back to his home country to get a wife for Isaac (Chapters 23-25).
- ◆ Abraham died at age 175 and was buried beside Sarah at Machpelah. (Chapter 25)

A Map of Abraham's World



Possible Route of Abraham.



What is God Like?

There are people today who are running away. They are running from something or somebody. Many of them find they can run, but they cannot hide. The past always catches up to them. No matter where they go, they find something that reminds them of their past. This is what it is like when people try to run from God. Wherever they go, there He is again. This is because God is everywhere. There is no place a person can go to get away from God. He is omnipresent. (Omnipresent means present everywhere at the same time) Psalm 139:1-12

God is Everywhere

The story of Abraham takes place in many areas. God was present in all these places: Ur, Canaan, Egypt. He was present in all these places at the same time! He is everywhere.

6. Suppose you walk into a store that has a small magazine rack. No one is around. You pick up a magazine that you would normally be embarrassed to be found reading. What does Proverbs 15:3 tell you about this situation?

7. God is everywhere. This means He is nearby for those who want His help. Read Acts 17:24-27. According to Acts 17:27, how far is God from you?

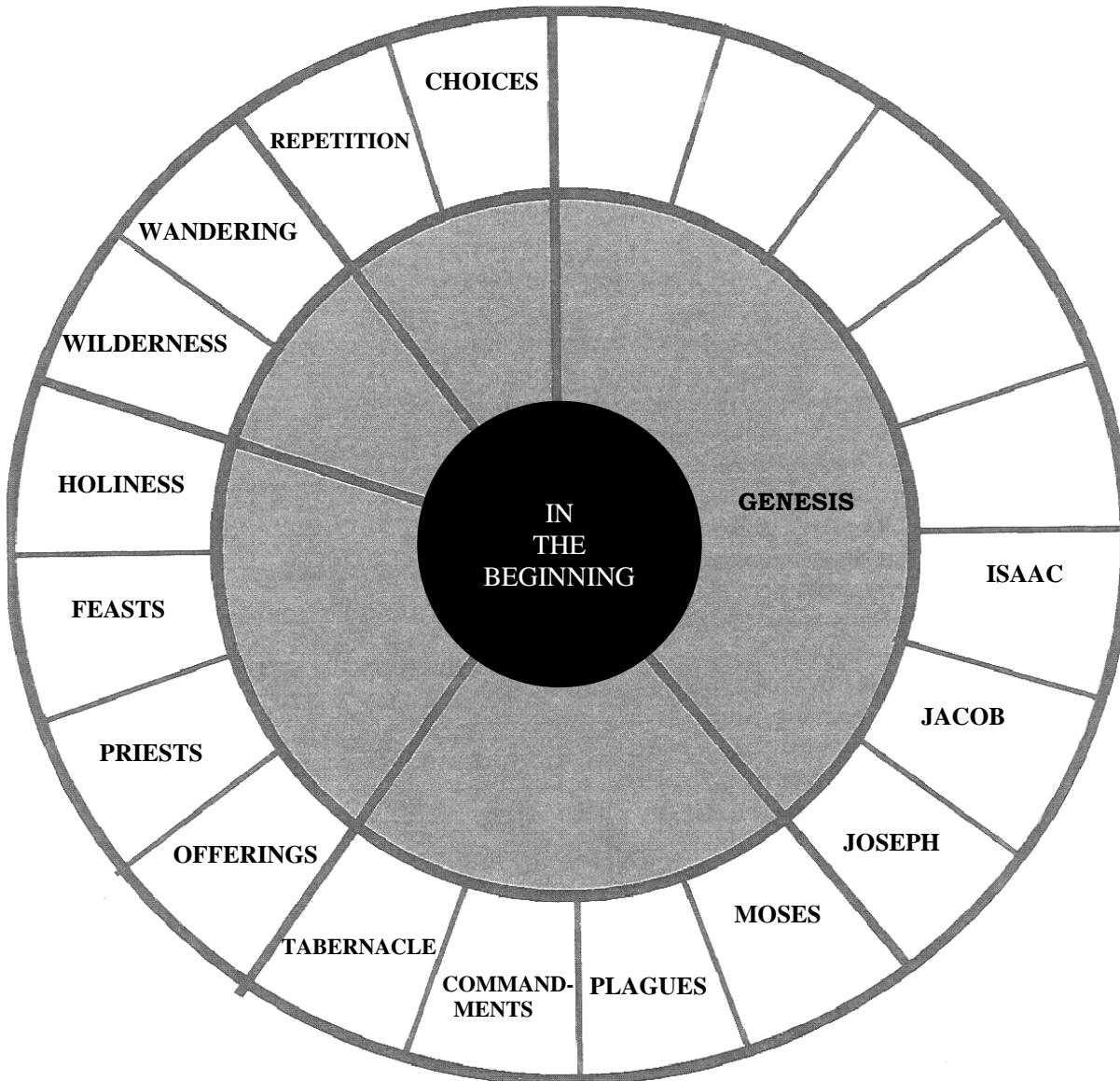
Lesson Summary and Application

God chose Abraham to be the head of a great nation. Abraham believed and obeyed God. God promised to bless “all peoples on earth” through Abraham (Genesis 12:2,3)

Abraham trusted God. Is there any area of life in which you have struggled to trust God? (Explain.)

Course Chart

Fill in the chart from page 5. Fill in the inner circle with the book names. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles).





LESSON 6

GENESIS

ISAAC

INTRODUCTION

It was a beautiful spring day. The prairie grass was turning green. The ducks and geese were back. My two brothers and I decided to go down by a ditch along the road to play in the water fresh from the melted snow. When we got there we found that several pairs of ducks were swimming on the water. We decided to try and get them for supper. My older brother crawled to the other side of the ditch.

As he poked his head up over a piece of dirt, I threw a rock at the ducks. The ducks were just below my brother. The rock hit my brother square on the forehead. Needless to say, when a person has brothers, there is bound to be some fights.

Abraham had two sons – Ishmael (from Hagar, his servant) and Isaac (from Sarah, his wife). There was trouble between these two brothers from the very beginning.

It was a custom of Abraham's people to give a special inheritance to the oldest son. Sarah did not want Ishmael to get this inheritance. She wanted Isaac to get it.

1. Read Genesis 21:1-14. What did Sarah do to make sure Ishmael would not share in the inheritance with Isaac?

2. Read Genesis 17:20, 21 and tell what God had promised Abraham concerning Ishmael and Isaac.

Ishmael _____

Isaac _____

God chose Isaac as the son through whom He would continue the promises He had given Abraham. This meant the promised Savior would someday be born as a descendent of Isaac. The special nation God began with Abraham would continue through Isaac's line, not Ishmael's. This was the beginning of two very important nations that are still in existence today. Through Ishmael's line came the Arab nations. Through Isaac came the nation of Israel.

Abraham	→	Ishmael	→	Arab Nation
Abraham	→	Jacob	→	Nation of Israel

The Jews and the Arabs

3. Read Genesis 25:17-18 and tell how Ishmael's descendants got along with Isaac's descendants.

The descendants of Isaac and Ishmael have been fighting down through history. Even as I write this course, there is much concern in the world because of the threat of war in the Middle East. These two groups of people continue to threaten one another.

4. Do you believe there will be peace in the Middle East between the Arabs and Israel? (Explain your answer.)

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so **she said** to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Genesis 16:1,2

“Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah **as He had said**, and the Lord did for Sarah **what He had promised**. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Genesis 21:1,2

[[Ishmael’s] descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the border of Egypt....and they lived in hostility toward all their brothers. Genesis 25:18

Isaac Gets a Wife

Abraham did not want his son, Isaac, to marry one of the women from Canaan. Abraham knew these women worshiped false gods. So Abraham sent his servant back to his old homeland to get a wife for Isaac.

Read Genesis 24. Answer the following questions.

5. Why do you think Abraham did not want his son to marry a Canaanite woman?



Abraham's servant and Rebecca

6. How do you know it was God's working and not an accident that the servant found Rebecca as Isaac's future wife? (Explain your answer.)

Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before you do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignment with you.

- A. Read Genesis 22. Write down several main lessons you learn about Isaac, several about Abraham, and several about God from this story.
- B. Read Romans 9:6-13. Write a brief paper and explain what Paul is teaching in these verses.
- C. Read the entire book of Genesis.

Lesson Summary and Application

God gave Abraham and Sarah their promised son, Isaac. God chose Isaac to be the line through which He would continue His promises.

Is there a disagreement that has gone on a long time between you and another person? (If yes, what do you think can be done to end this disagreement?)

Abraham wanted to find a woman for Isaac who believed the same way Isaac did. Do you think it is important for a person to marry someone who has the same spiritual beliefs as their life partner? (Explain your answer.)

Review Questions (Lessons 5 and 6)

Lesson 5

1. Where did Abraham live when God first talked to him?

2. What religion was strong where Abraham grew up?

3. Did Abraham choose God first, or did God choose Abraham first?

4. What is one promise God made to Abraham?

5. God is omnipresent. What does that mean?

Lesson 6

6. Name Abraham's sons by Hagar and Sarah.

7. Who are the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac?

8. Name Isaac's wife. _____

9. Briefly tell how Isaac got his wife.

LESSON 7

GENESIS

JACOB

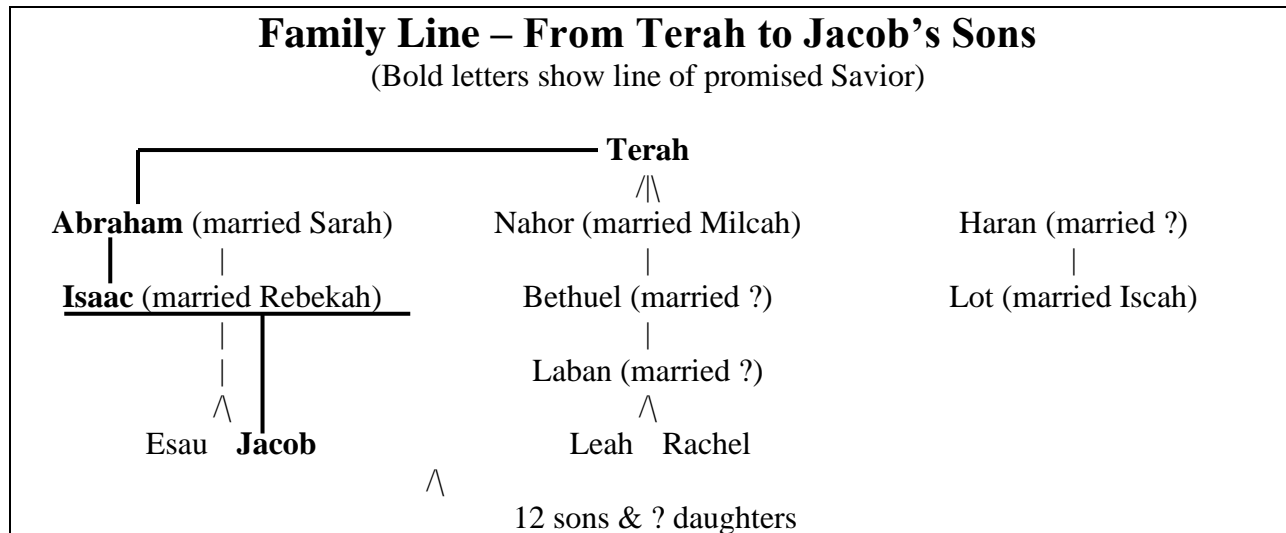


INTRODUCTION

Can you imagine . . . finding out the morning after your marriage that you have been tricked into marrying the wrong person? Now that would be a real shocker! It happened to Jacob, the man you will learn about today. In fact, the story of Jacob is filled with trickery and deceit. Deceit can be defined as trying to get someone to believe something that is not true. It is to mislead a person, or to trick them into believing a lie. In some cultures, the better a person can trick others the more he is admired and respected. Jacob would have done well in a society like that. God wanted Jacob to learn that one does not get ahead by trickery and deceit, but by obeying God.

Family Line – From Terah to Jacob’s Sons

(Bold letters show line of promised Savior)





The story of Jacob is found in Genesis 25:19-34 and chapters 27-35. The name Jacob means; "he deceives". Jacob lived up to the meaning of his name. He deceived (cheated, tricked) his brother and his father. Later, God changed Jacob's name to Israel, which means; "he struggles with God". This is where the nation of Israel got its name. This is the nation that God promised Abraham. It was a nation that struggled with God.

Read Genesis 25:19-34 and answer these questions:

1. According to Genesis 25:28, why do you think there could be trouble between Jacob and Esau?

2. Which of the sons did God choose (before birth) to be the head, or the stronger nation?

An Explanation of the Birthright

According to the culture of Jacob's day, the oldest son had a right to a larger share of the father's inheritance. This was called the birthright. Both Abraham and Isaac were very rich, so this was very important for Esau and Jacob. The birthright also meant the first born son had the right to become the head of the clan. This meant he would be the chief of many people. It also meant he would be the one through whom the promises to Abraham would be kept. So you can see, the birthright was very important. The fact that Esau sold all this to Jacob for a bowl of soup showed how foolish Esau was!

3. Since God had promised Jacob to be the head of the two sons, do you think Jacob did right when he bought the birthright from Esau for a very small price?

4. Read Genesis 27. Briefly describe how Jacob and his mother tricked Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing traditionally given to the oldest son?

Another cultural tradition in the days of Jacob was that blessings given by a dying person were like a will. These blessings were legal and could not be changed.

5. Do you believe it was necessary for Rebekah and Jacob to trick Isaac in order to keep the birthright from going to Esau? (Explain your answer.)

More Events in the Life of Jacob

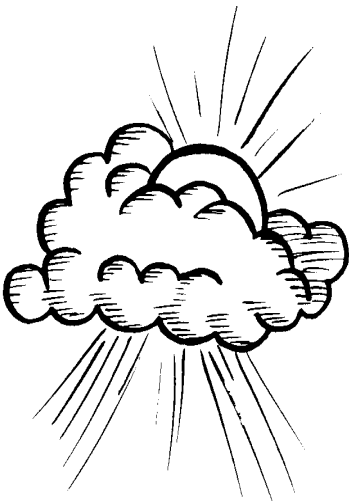


Jacob's Dream

Esau was very angry when he found out he had been tricked out of getting his father's blessing. He made plans to kill his brother, Jacob. Rebekah found out about Esau's plan and had Jacob go back to his mother's brother, Laban who lived in the country of Paddan-aram a country whose chief city was Haran (Abraham had once lived in this city). On his way to his mother's homeland, Jacob had a dream. In this dream, God told Jacob his descendants would be the great nation God had promised Abraham. After the dream, Jacob prayed to God and said that if God would be with him, then the Lord would be his God. Jacob finally arrived in his mother's homeland. He settled down with

his uncle and soon wanted to marry Rachel, who was one of Laban's daughters. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his oldest daughter, Leah, first. Jacob had children by both of his wives. He became a wealthy man working for his uncle. The Lord then told Jacob to go back to Canaan. Jacob took his herds and family and set out on the trip home. On the way, Jacob wrestled with God. God was in the form of an angel. Jacob had struggled with Esau. He struggled with Laban. God wanted to show Jacob that his biggest struggle was with God. It was here that God changed Jacob's name to Israel. When Jacob reached Canaan, Esau welcomed him.

What is God Like?



I went downhill skiing . . . once. We rented all the right gear. It was an enjoyable ride on the chairlift to the top of the mountain. We got off the lift. I looked down the mountain. It was hard to believe we were supposed to ski down a hill that steep, but other people were doing it. In fact, there were even little kids skiing down this mountain. It looked so easy. Finally, with a surge of courage, I started down the mountain. I am not sure how it happened, but I soon found myself going down the slope backwards, totally out of control! I could not stop. I could not see where I was going. I could not turn around. I only waited for the crash landing.

God is in Control

There are times in our life when we know we have no control over situations or events. There may even be times when it seems that our whole world is out of control and we are just waiting for a crash landing.

One of the things the Bible tells us about God is that He is always in control. He never loses control. Some people think because of all the horrible things that go on in the world, God must not be in control. The truth is that bad things happen because of man's sin and the curse on the world, not because God has lost control.

6. Read Psalm 135:4-7. According to these verses, over what does God have control?

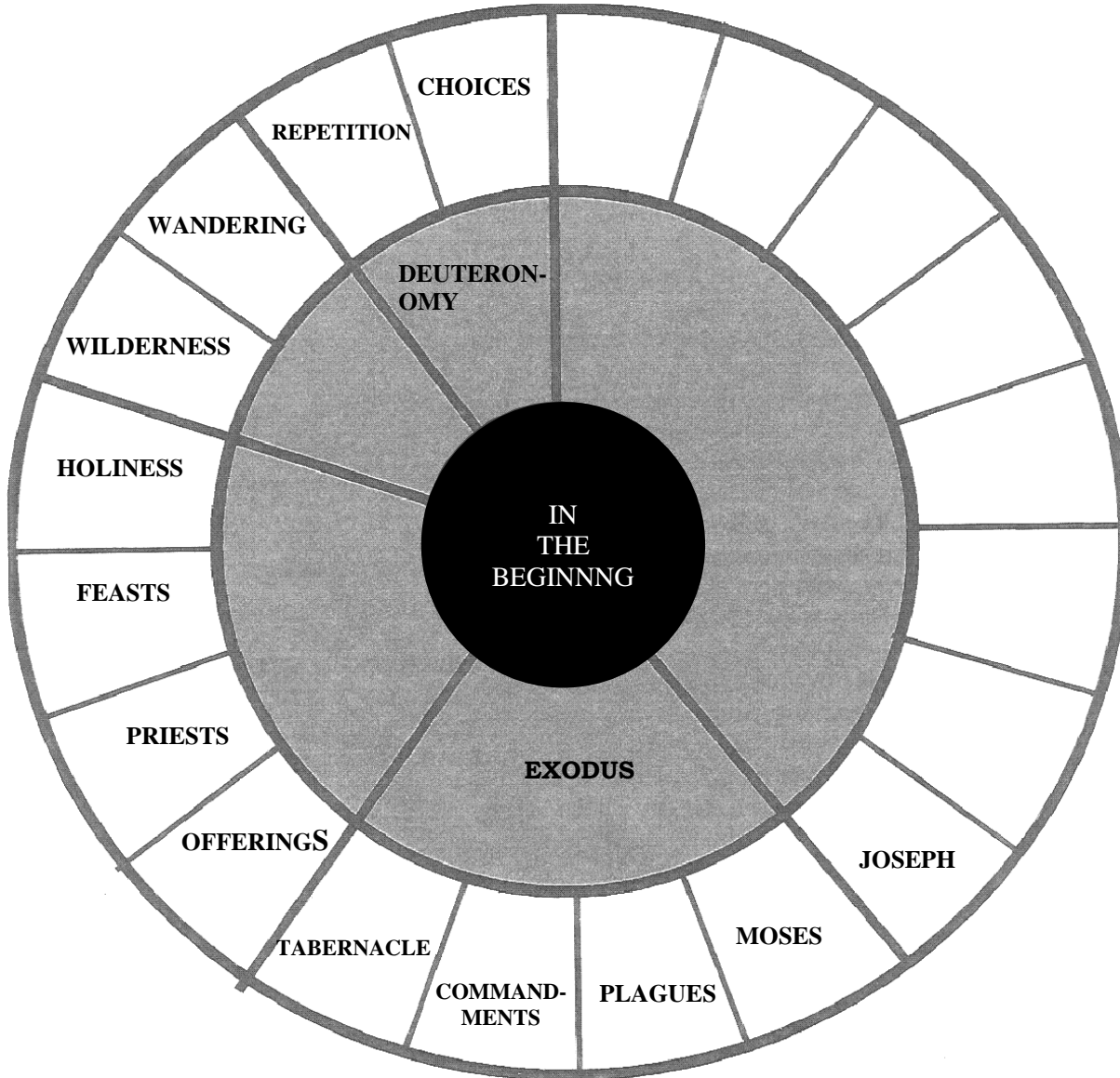
Lesson Summary and Application

Jacob tried to get the birthright and his father's blessing by deceit. Jacob eventually learned to trust in God, and not in his own trickery, to get things done.

Do you believe God is in control of your life? (Explain why, or why not)

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.



LESSON 8

GENESIS

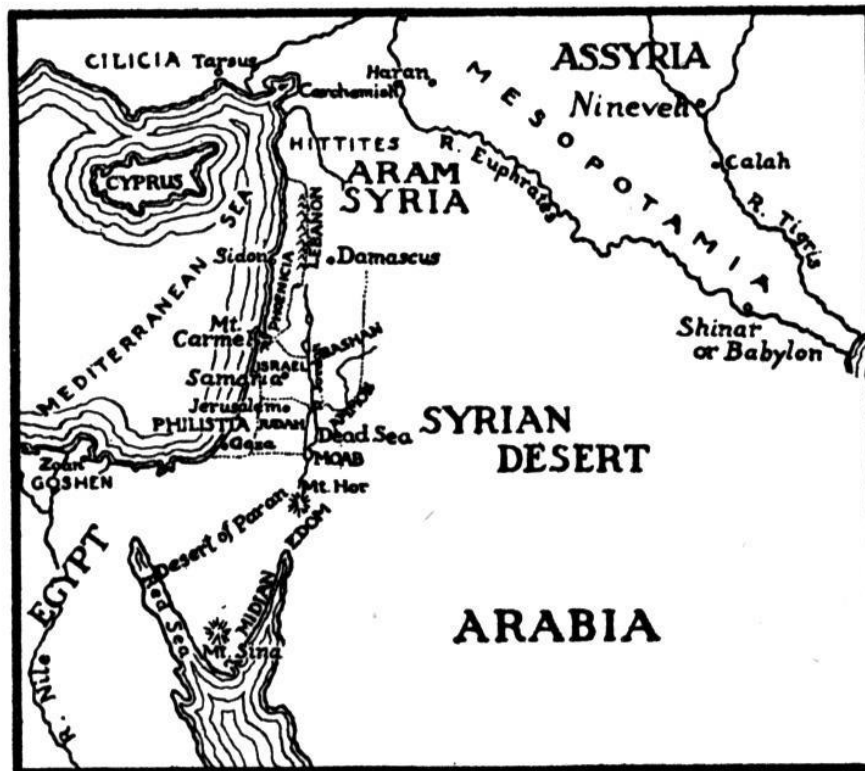
JOSEPH



INTRODUCTION

Nobody likes to go through hard times. William was no different. He did not like hard times, but he certainly had his share. He was born into an alcoholic family. His father left the family when he was young. William was sometimes beaten and abused as a young child. He left home when he was fourteen. Nothing seemed to go right for William. He worked at odd jobs but often left, or he was fired because of prejudice. Sometimes William got himself into trouble, but usually hard times just seemed to follow him. It was not until William was an older man that he learned a great lesson. As he looked back on his life, he could see how many of the difficult things he went through actually helped him become a better person. Because of what he went through, he was now able to be a real help to other people.

A MAP OF THE WORLD OF JOSEPH



The man you will read about today also went through many hard times. He, too, learned there is often a purpose behind the hard times. The purpose is often difficult to see during the hard times.

1. Read Genesis 37. Why did Joseph's brothers want to kill him?

Imagine the feelings Joseph had when he discovered his own brothers wanted to kill him. Imagine what it must have been like to be sold to a band of traders and hauled off to a country that was far away. It was a very difficult time in Joseph's life.



2. Read Genesis 39. Why did Potiphar's wife want to go to bed with Joseph?

3. Why did Joseph not give in to this woman's invitation to go to bed?

Joseph Chose Not to Sin Against God

Joseph was an unusual young man. He was a long way from his family. He was a long way from those who worshipped the true God. He could have turned his back on God. Remember, there were no Bibles, no churches, no fellowships during this time. Joseph was alone. He could have reasoned that since “no one would know”, what harm would there be in sleeping with this woman one time. But he did not do it! He knew that such a thing was wicked and a sin against God. It is no wonder that God blessed this young man.

4. Tell in your own words what happened to Joseph as a result of not sleeping with this woman?

Genesis 39:9
“.....How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

Joseph Tells the Meaning of Pharaoh's Dream

Joseph was thrown into prison. There the Lord continued to bless Joseph and give him success. Joseph stayed in prison for several years. Then the Pharaoh (the leader) of Egypt had a dream that bothered him. None of the Pharaoh's wise men or magicians could tell the meaning of the dream. Then the cupbearer told Pharaoh that Joseph had told him what his dream meant when he was in prison. Joseph was brought to Pharaoh to see if he could tell the meaning of Pharaoh's dream. Joseph told Pharaoh that God could give the meaning of the dream.



5. Read Genesis 41. Give the meaning of Pharaoh's dream.

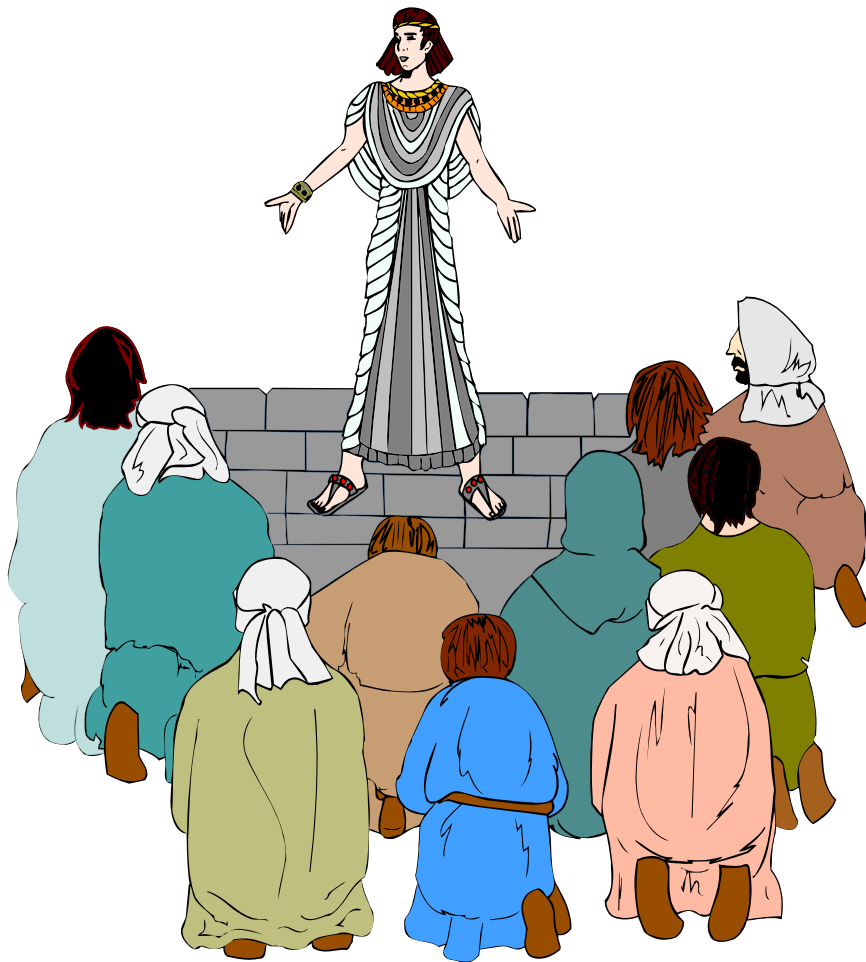
6. Joseph had been sold by his brothers and then thrown in prison for years. Why do you think he continued to believe in God so strongly?

Joseph and His Brothers

Joseph became the second most powerful man in Egypt. Only the Pharaoh had more power than Joseph. During the seven good years, Joseph had lots of grain stored to prepare for the coming years of famine. When the bad years finally came, people from Egypt and other lands came to Joseph to buy grain. The famine was in Canaan, also. Joseph's brothers decided to make a trip to Egypt to get food. Although Joseph knew who they were, they did not recognize him. Joseph wanted to see how much they had changed before he let them know who he was.

7. Read Genesis 45. Joseph could have gotten even with his brothers. Why didn't he?

Joseph recognized that the hard times he went through had a purpose. He could have been very bitter. He could have refused to forgive his brothers. He had the power to make them pay for what they had done to him, but Joseph saw that God had a greater purpose for allowing all this to happen.



Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before you choose to do one or more of the following. Your study leader will go over assignments with you.

1. Read Romans 9 and Malachi 1:2, 3. Write a brief paper explaining the meaning of "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."
2. Read the book of Genesis.
3. Prepare a list of the main points that you could use for Bible studies or sermons from the life of Joseph. (For example: 1. Jealousy leads to problems (Genesis 37). 2. Say "No" to temptation. (Genesis 39).

Lesson Summary and Application

Joseph trusted in God. God was in control of Joseph's life. God worked all things out for good.

Below, on the left side write some of the difficult things you have gone through in life. On the right side write how you think God could use these experiences for good, or lessons that you learned from the experience.

DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES	LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH DIFFICULT EXPERINCES
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	

Review Questions (Lesson 7 & 8)

Lesson 7

1. What does the name "Jacob" mean?

2. Explain what a birthright was.

3. What new name did God give Jacob?

4. Do you believe God is in control of all that is going on in the world today?

Lesson 8

5. Why did Joseph's brothers want to kill him?

6. Why did Joseph not go to bed with Potiphar's wife?

7. What purpose did God have in allowing Joseph to be sold as a slave and then spend several years in prison?

8. What characteristic of Joseph do you admire the most?

9. What does the word, "Genesis" mean?

SUMMARY OF GENESIS

The first part of Genesis covers four main events:

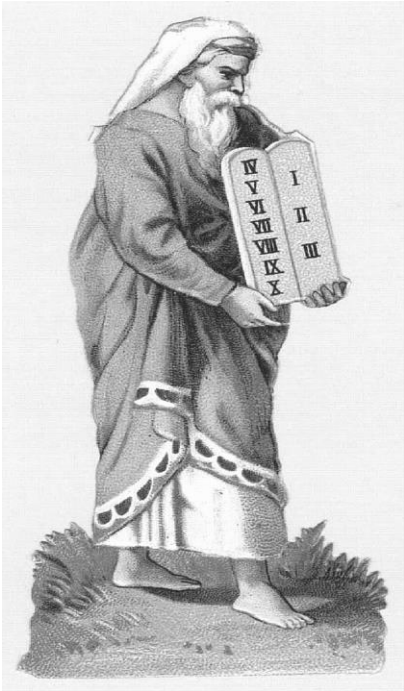
CREATION SIN FLOOD NATIONS

The second part of Genesis covers four main people:

ABRAHAM ISAAC JACOB JOSEPH

All of Genesis covers four main beginnings:

WORLD SIN NATIONS ISRAEL



LESSON 9

EXODUS

MOSES

INTRODUCTION

The book of Genesis tells about four main beginnings:

1. The beginning of the world
2. The beginning of sin
3. The beginning of nations
4. The beginning of the Israelite nation and the beginning of the Israelite way of worship.

The next book, Exodus, tells about how the people of Israel go out of Egypt. The word *exodus* means "going out". Exodus also tells how this nation received God's commands for their

Imagine this . . . a young boy is born into a family which is part of a minority culture. They live in the land of a dominant culture. When the boy is young, a family of the dominant culture adopts him. He grows up in the ways of these other people. When this boy becomes a young man he faces a conflict between choosing to go the way of his own people, or to go the way of his adopted culture.

1. How do you think the young man would feel when faced with such a conflict?

Moses was faced with such a conflict when he was a young man. In this lesson you will learn how God chose a man such as this to lead the Israelites out of slavery and back to the land of Canaan.

2. According to Exodus 1, briefly describe the situation of the nation of Israel.

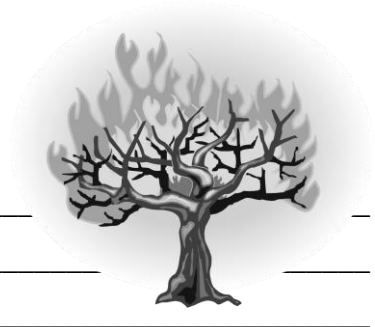
3. Read Exodus 2. Why did Moses run away to live in the land of Midian?

Moses may have felt that he did not belong in either culture. He knew he was an Israelite, but did not feel like "one of the boys" because he grew up in an Egyptian home. When faced with this conflict, Moses had to run away. He knew that once Pharaoh found out he had killed an Egyptian, his own life would be in danger.

4. Read Exodus 3 through 4:17. How does God get Moses' attention?

Moses Gives Excuses

5. Moses tries to get out of going to the Pharaoh. What are his excuses? (See Exodus 3:11, 4:1, 4:10)



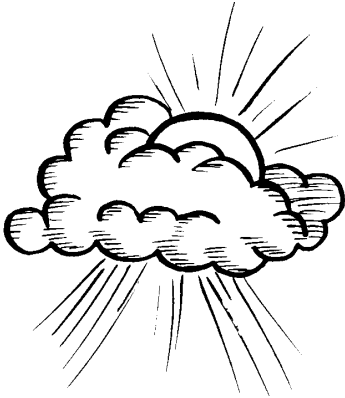
6. In Exodus 4:13, Moses asks God to send someone else to talk to Pharaoh. What do you think was the real reason why he did not want to go?

Moses was forty years old when he killed the Egyptian. Now he was about eighty years old. He was married and was living a quiet life as a shepherd. God was calling him to be a shepherd of the Israelite people. Moses felt he was not good enough for the job. He felt the Israelite people would not accept him. He felt insecure.

7. What excuses might you give if God asked you to be a spiritual leader for your people?

Moses Goes to Egypt

Moses finally agreed to help his people. He took his family and went to Egypt. There Moses and his brother, Aaron, met with all the elders of Israel. When these people heard that God was concerned about them and knew their misery, they worshiped Him.



What is God Like?

Remember the first verse of the Bible? It says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God was already there in the beginning. This is because God has no beginning. He always was and always will be. He is eternal. When someone is eternal, it means he was always alive, is always alive, and will always be alive. He had no beginning and has no end.

Moses wanted to know whom he should say sent him to the Israelites.

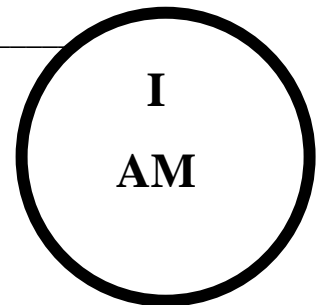
8. What name did God give Himself? (See Exodus 3:14) _____

God is Eternal

The name, I AM, means "I am the God who is with you." When the Israelites heard this name they would be reminded that God was with them and that He was ready to help them. There never was a time when God was not present. You have already learned that God is everywhere (omnipresent). Now you learn that He is, and was, and will be present everywhere all the time! He is eternal.

8. Read Psalm 90:2. What do you learn about God from this verse?

One way to picture the meaning of eternal is to see it as a circle. A circle has no start anywhere. It does not end anywhere. God is Eternal. God never had a beginning. He has no ending.

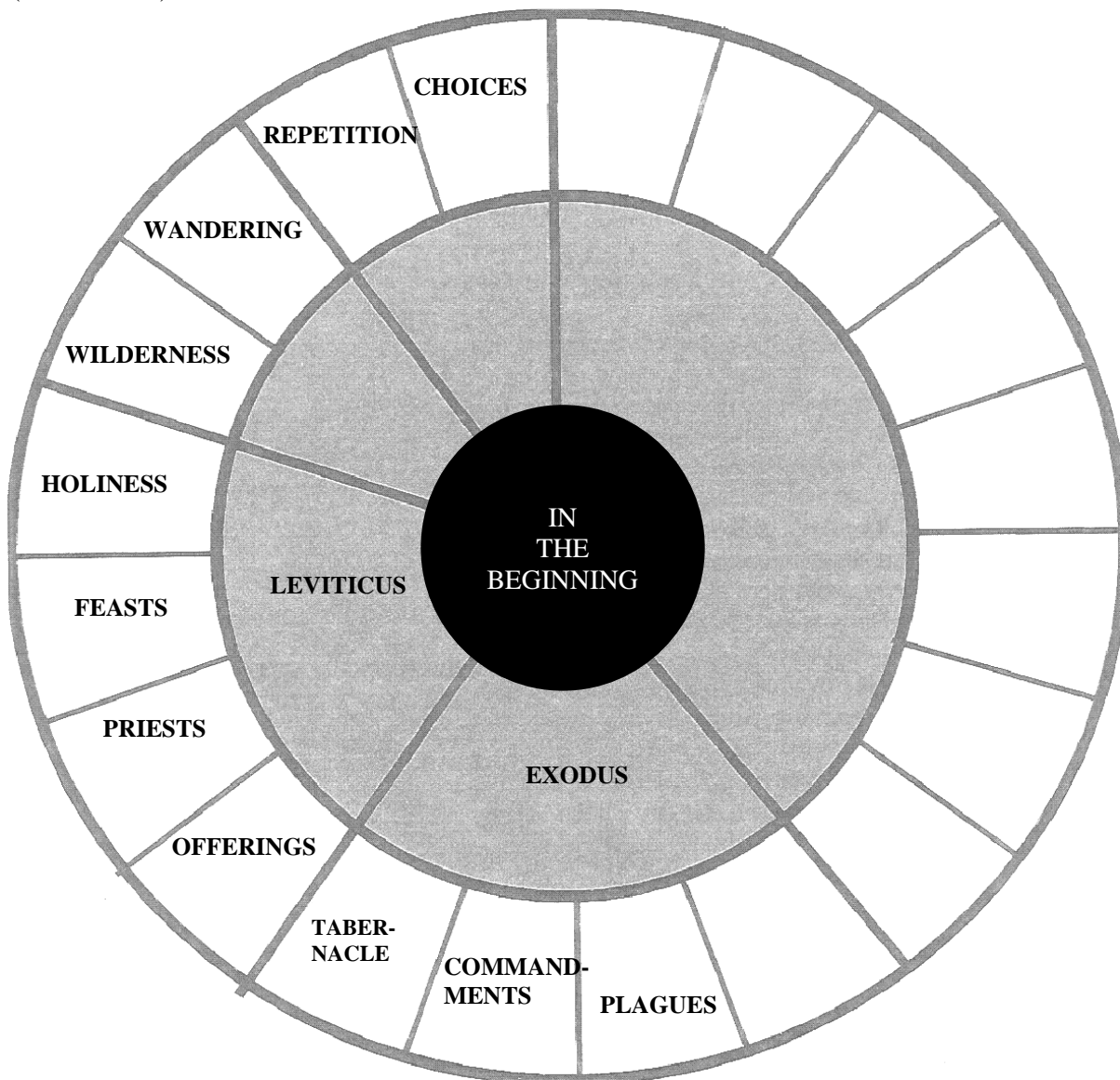


Lesson Summary and Application

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. In what ways can you identify with Moses?

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the names of the first five books of the Bible. Fill in the key words (lesson titles) in the outer circle.





LESSON 10

EXODUS

PLAGUES

INTRODUCTION

The Egyptians worshipped many false gods during this time in history. They believed their gods lived in idols and statues made of wood, clay and stone. They also worshiped some animals. Cattle, as well as frogs, were thought to have special powers. There were special men who knew the secrets of using the powers

of these gods. The Israelites had lived in this land for many years. God was about to show His power and deliver the Israelites from Egypt.

1. Read Joshua 24:14. According to this verse, did the Israelites remain true to God while they were living in Egypt?

2. Why do you think the Israelites chose to worship the gods of Egypt?

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They asked him to let the Israelites go into the desert to worship their God. Pharaoh said, "No!" He made the Israelite slaves work even harder. God sent ten plagues to show Pharaoh, the people of Egypt and the Israelites His great power. A plague is something bad that happens. It can be a sickness, or some sort of natural disaster. It generally came as a punishment because of sin.



The Ten Plagues

3. Read Exodus 7-10. List the ten plagues God sent to Egypt.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



The Purpose of the Plagues

The ten plagues had several purposes . . .

1. To judge Egypt and her gods.
 2. To convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.
 3. To prove God had power over all things.
4. Read Exodus 7:8-13 again. The magicians, wise men, and sorcerers could turn their sticks into snakes in the same way Moses did. Where do you think they got the power to do this?

5. What happened to the magicians' snakes that showed God's power was stronger than their power?

6. Do you believe there is power to do these kinds of "tricks" in different religions today? (Explain)

The Beginning of Passover

Exodus 12 tells about the beginning of a special day of celebration for Israelites. This special day is known as Passover.

7. Read Exodus 12 and answer the following questions concerning the Passover. What were the people to do on this special day? (12:5-11)
-
-

8. Why were the people to celebrate in this way? (12:26, 27)
-

God's angel was to "pass over" each home that had the lamb's blood on the door on that first Passover night. Each year after that, the Israelites were to celebrate the Passover to remember how God helped them out of Egypt. The Passover was also given to picture something God would do in the future. The Passover pictures the coming Saviour who would free the world from the curse.

9. Read Luke 22:1-16. What special occasion caused Jesus and the disciples to gather together?
-

The Israelites had been having the Passover meal in the spring of the year for hundreds of years. Now, on this night, they had it one more time. This Passover meal with Jesus and his disciples is sometimes called the Last Supper. The next day Jesus was killed on the cross.

10. Read 1 Corinthians 5:7. Why do you think Jesus is called "Our Passover Lamb"?
-
-



Optional Assignments

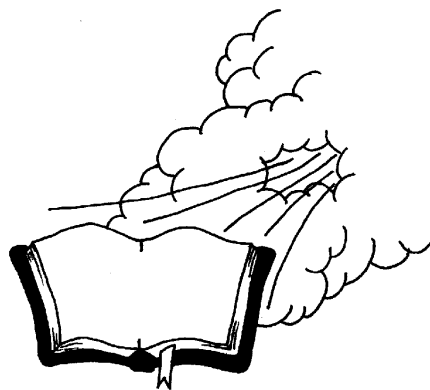
These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader before you choose to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will help you with this assignment.

1. Several times it is mentioned in Exodus 7-11 that Pharaoh had a hard heart. Explain how Pharaoh's heart became hard.
2. Write out an explanation of the Passover. Write it so the average person could understand it.
3. Prepare a Bible study or sermon on Exodus 7:8-13. Be sure to include specific application for your audience.

LESSON SUMMARY AND APPLICATION

Pharaoh would not let the Israelites out of Egypt. God sent ten plagues to show Pharaoh he should let the Israelites go. After the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally gave in and let them go.

The ten plagues showed God's power. Have you ever seen God's power in any way? (Explain your answer.)



Review Questions

(For Lessons 9 and 10)

Lesson 9

1. What does the word "exodus" mean? _____
2. Who is the main Israelite in the first chapters of Exodus? _____
3. What is one excuse Moses gave God to try getting out of going back to Egypt?

4. What does "eternal" mean? _____

Lesson 10

5. What is a "plague"?

6. List five of the ten plagues God sent to Egypt. _____

7. What was one purpose of the plagues? _____
8. Explain how the Passover celebration got its name. _____

LESSON 11

EXODUS

COMMANDMENTS

INTRODUCTION



When I was in grade school, we had rules. There were rules for the classroom, rules for the hallways and rules for the playground. One day the teacher decided she would give us a new rule. It was a cold, winter day. Just before we went out for recess she gave us a new rule. She announced to the class, "Today, I do not want anyone to put their tongues on the metal poles of the swing!"

"This is a strange rule," I thought to myself. "Why would anyone give such a strange rule?" I decided to find out why. As soon as the bell rang, I ran outside to the swing set. Opening my mouth, I put my tongue right on the cold metal of the pole to find out why. It then became evident why the teacher had given the rule. My tongue was stuck to the metal pole! It would not come off. The teacher had to come out with warm water and pour it over my tongue.

Rules and laws are given for a purpose. They tell us things we are supposed to do. This lesson tells how God gave His laws (rules and commandments) to the Israelite people.

1. What do you believe is a reason for laws in our land? _____

After the plague that killed the oldest son in every Egyptian family, Pharaoh let the Israelites go. With a great miracle, God let the Israelites cross the Red Sea on dry ground. Once on the other side of the water, Moses led the people to the mountain where he had seen the burning bush. This was Mount Sinai. God told Moses to come up to the top of this mountain. It was there that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses for the Israelite people. He also gave many other laws to guide them in their lives.



The Ten Commandments

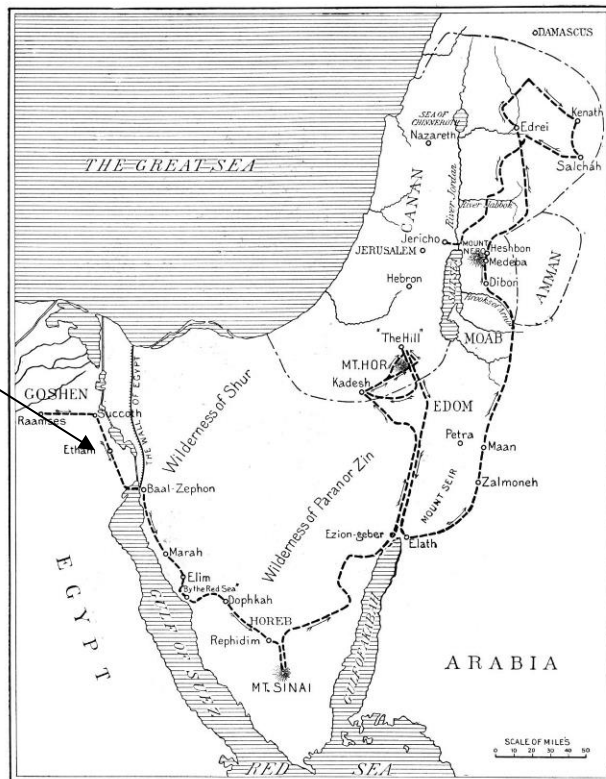
1. Read Exodus 19 and 20. List the Ten Commandments from chapter 20:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. According to Exodus 20:20, how should the fear of God affect a person's life?

Map of the Exodus and Mt. Sinai

Possible route of the Exodus



When the Bible talks about *the Law* it refers to the rules, or law of God, that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. This law was the foundation for the whole Israelite way of worship. The law included the Ten Commandments as well as many other rules. Since most of the Old Testament deals with this way of worship, sometimes the whole Old Testament is also called the Law.

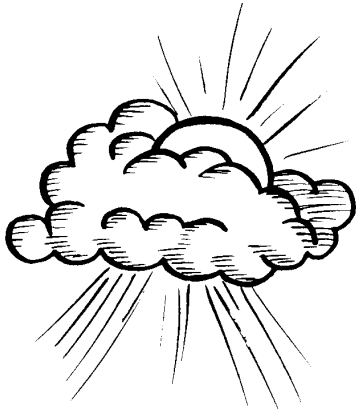
3. Read Romans 3:20 and fill in these blanks:

The law cannot make a person _____

Through the law we become _____

The Purpose of the Law

4. Read Galatians 3:23-25. According to these verses, what is the purpose of the law?



What is God Like?

When Moses went up on the mountain he talked with God, but he did not actually see God. You may have wondered what God looks like. Does He have a body like us? Is He like a ghost? Some places in the Bible talk about God as though He had a body. It mentions the hand of God and the eyes of God. The Bible describes God like this to help us understand Him, but He does not really have a body.

5. Read John 4:24 and tell what you learn about God from this verse. _____

God is Spirit

Sometimes God is referred to as "The Big Man in the Sky".

6. Do you think this is a good way to describe God? (Explain your answer.)

God is Spirit. He is a living, active, real person. He is not a man like us. He has no body. Because of who He is and how He works, He does not need a body like human beings.

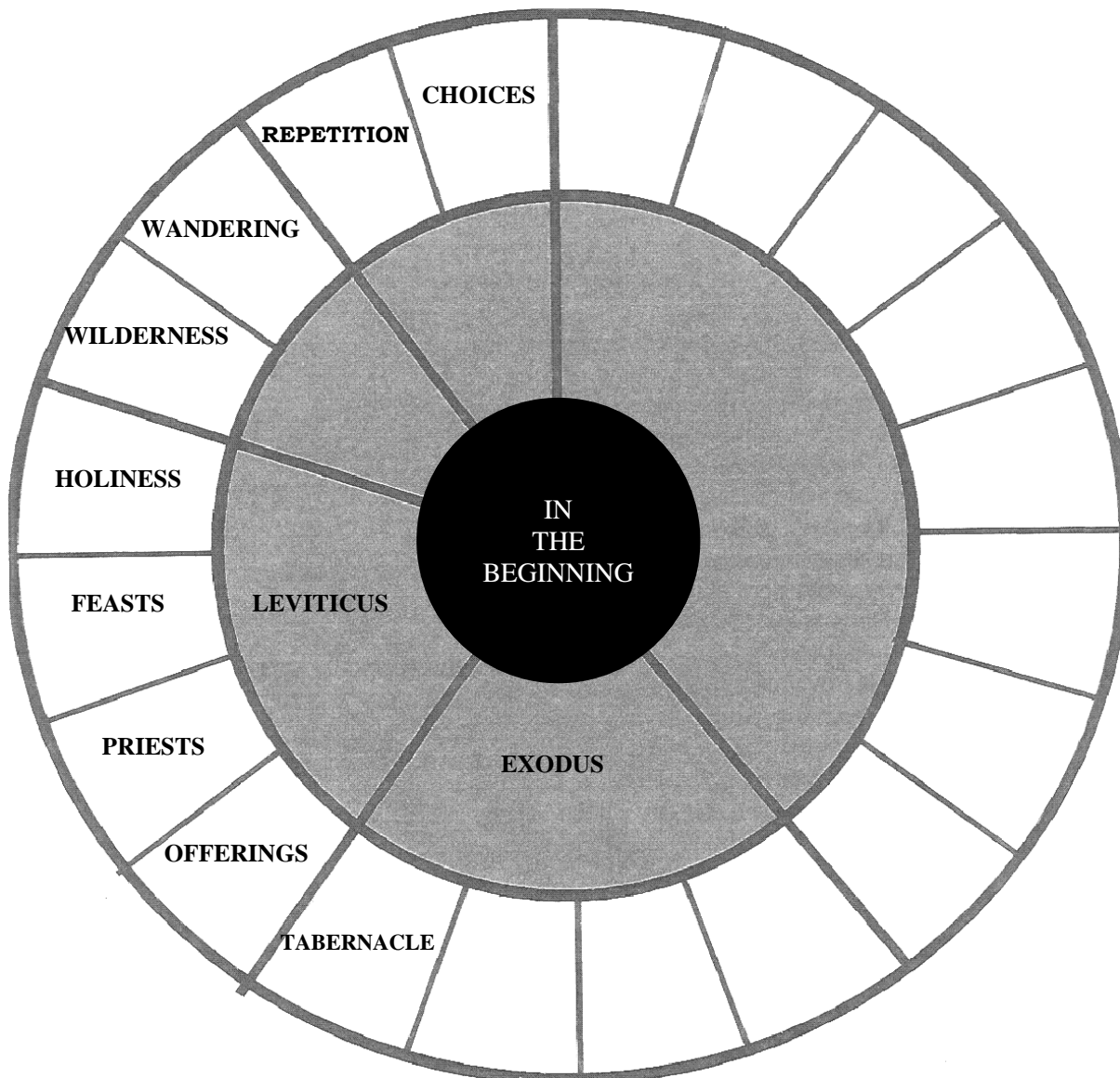
Lesson Summary and Application

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and other laws for the Israelite people to follow. He gave these laws to Moses on Mount Sinai.

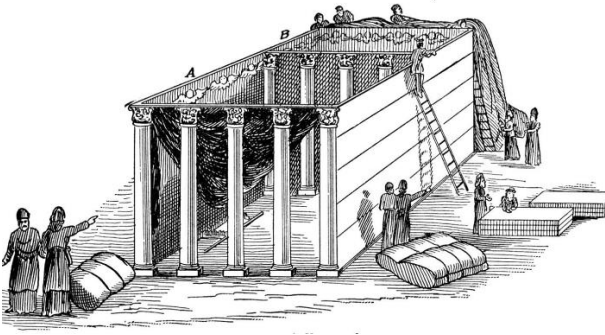
7. Do you try to obey the Ten Commandments most of the time? (Explain why or why not.)

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.



LESSON 12



EXODUS

TABERNACLE

INTRODUCTION

The Israelites were a **tribal people**. They were divided into twelve tribes. Each tribe was named after one of Jacob's sons or grandsons. The extended family unit was very important to them.

The Israelites were also now a **nomadic people**. They traveled about rather than living in one location. As they traveled, they lived in tents.

These Israelite people were also a **religious people**. They believed in spiritual powers. They had lived for hundreds of years in the land of Egypt. Many had begun to worship the gods of that land. In the worship of these gods there was much fear. The people had to try and keep the different gods, or spirits, happy.

The Israelites were a **people who had seen the power of God**. They saw God's power in the ten plagues. They saw His power in making a way for them to cross the Red Sea. He had led them out of Egypt and then to a special mountain. When Moses came down from this mountain, he brought with him the rules God wanted His people to follow.

God wanted the Israelites to be a **people with a sacred meeting place**. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he also brought plans from God for a sacred tent, a place where God would meet with His people. God wanted them to build this tent and carry it with them as they traveled through the wilderness. This tent was to be a very special part of the Israelite way of worship. The special tent was called the Tabernacle. The word "tabernacle" simply means tent or dwelling place.

Put an "X" beside **the bold print phrases** above that describe your people and culture.

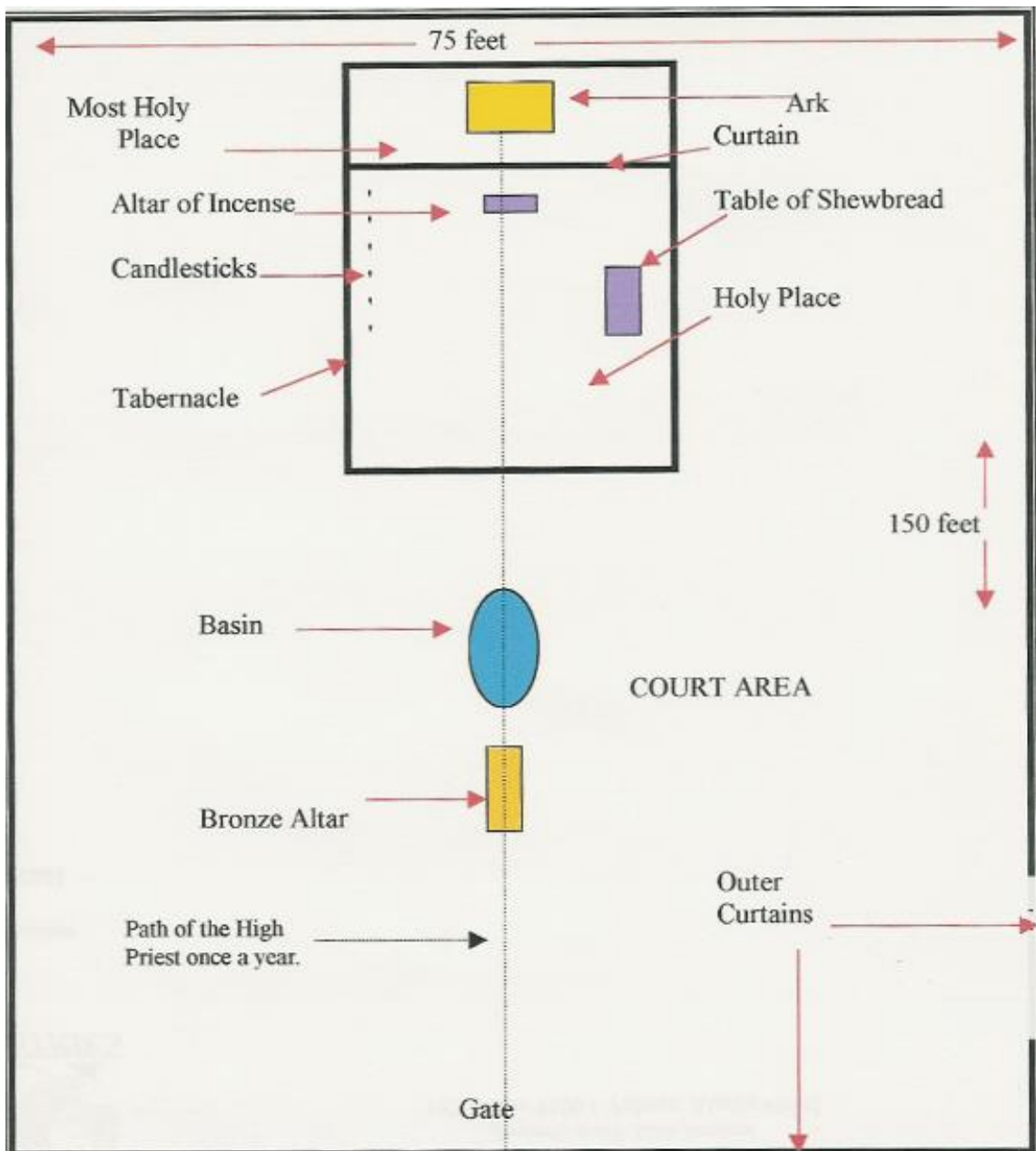
The Purpose of the Tabernacle

1. From Exodus 25:8, what was the purpose for the tabernacle? _____

2. Read Exodus 26 and 38:21-31. In just a few words, how would you describe this tabernacle?

The Tabernacle

Read Exodus 40 and study the tabernacle and the furnishings in the picture of the tabernacle below.



The Tabernacle was the place where God met with the Israelite people. It was given to the people to teach a great lesson. The great lesson the Tabernacle was to teach was this:

Man cannot come to God unless he comes through the proper sacrifice.

The Tabernacle's Great Lesson

The Holy of Holies was a special place and could not be entered by just any Israelite. No one could rush in and talk with God there. Only the high priest could enter that special place in the sacred tent. Even he went in only once a year and then only with the proper sacrifice. All the sacrifices required in the Israelite way of worship showed that man could not come to God unless he came through the proper sacrifice.

3. Read Hebrews 9:1-10. According to Hebrews 9:9, what could the sacrifices of the tabernacle not do? _____

4. Read Hebrews 9:22. What does God require in order to forgive sins, or clear the conscience?

Help from Hebrews to Understand the Tabernacle

Hebrews 9:9 says that the Tabernacle was an *illustration*. It was a picture of something God wanted to teach His people. He wanted to show them they could not come to Him except through the proper sacrifice. All the sacrifices of the Tabernacle were illustrations pointing to some great sacrifice that was yet to come. This coming sacrifice was the only way that any man could be made right with God.

5. According to Hebrews 9:28, what was the great sacrifice that made it possible for man to come to God? _____

The people gave of their own gold, silver, yarn and cloth to have the Tabernacle built. It was beautiful when it was finished. Many years later, after the Israelites had settled down, a permanent temple was built. It replaced the tent (tabernacle) the Israelites had used for so long. Several times during the Israelites' history the temple was destroyed and rebuilt. The last time it was destroyed was about seventy years after Christ was born. Today the Israelite people do not have a temple or a tabernacle.

6. The Israelite people are now talking about rebuilding their temple and starting to offer sacrifices again. Do you think it is a good idea for them to do this? (Explain your answer)

Optional Assignments

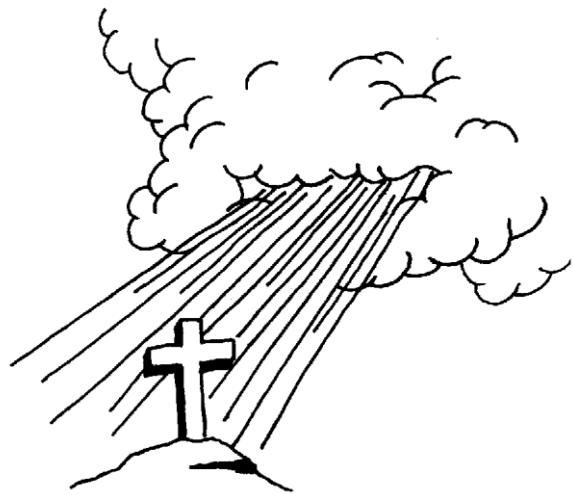
These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader before choosing to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignments with you.

1. Make a replica of the Tabernacle. (You could set it up in your church or fellowship building.)
2. Write a paper that tells how the Tabernacle and its parts pointed to Jesus Christ.
3. Read the book of Exodus.

Lesson Summary and Application

The Tabernacle was to teach the Israelites they could only come to God through the proper sacrifice.

7. Do you think you need to have a sacrifice in order to go to God today? (Explain your answer)



Review Questions **(For Lessons 11 and 12)**

Lesson 11

1. Write any two of the Ten Commandments.

2. What is the main purpose of the Ten Commandments and the Law?

3. Explain what is meant by the statement, "God is spirit."

Lesson 12

4. According to Exodus 25:8, what was the purpose of the Tabernacle?

5. God used the Tabernacle as a picture of something He wanted to teach the people. What was it?

6. What event and person did the Tabernacle illustrate or point forward to?



LESSON 13

LEVITICUS

OFFERINGS

INTRODUCTION

In different countries and cultures around the world people give offerings to “god”. In some places chickens and pigs are given as a sacrifice to the gods. In other areas special plants are prepared as an offering. An offering is a gift to God, or gods. People give offerings as an act of worship. They also give offerings to show they are sorry for doing something wrong. Sometimes offerings are given as a way of saying thanks.

1. Are you aware of some offerings people offer to God, or gods? If yes, explain your answer.

Summary of Leviticus

The book of Leviticus contains instructions on how things are to be done in the Tabernacle. These instructions were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This book is named after the tribe of Levi, known as Levites. They are given a special job in this book. Aaron, Moses' brother, and his sons were to be the priests. The Levites were to help Aaron and his sons in their work in the Tabernacle.

Leviticus is like a picture book. It pictured for the Israelites what God required of them. In this book God tells what offerings He requires. He tells what feasts they are to celebrate. He tells what the priests are to do. He tells the Israelites everything they need to know in order to be right with Him. Each picture points forward to the person and work of the coming Savior.

Instructions on Offerings

People all around the world try to find ways to get to God. They think they should offer Him something to make up for the wrong things they have done. In the book of Leviticus, God gave the Israelites instructions on the kind of offerings He would accept.

The Five Offerings

2. Offering Number One (Leviticus 1:10-13) _____
3. Offering Number Two (Leviticus 2:1-3) _____
4. Offering Number Three (Leviticus 3:1-5) _____
5. Offering Number Four (Leviticus 4:13-21) _____
6. Offering Number Five (Leviticus 5:14-19) _____

The Offerings Are Only a Picture

It is very important to know that God gave these offerings to His people as a picture. He did not mean that if they just brought these offerings, then everything would be right between them and Himself. Remember that God wanted to show His people the only way for people to come to Himself was through the proper sacrifice. These offerings were pictures of the proper and perfect sacrifice that was yet to come.

7. Read 1 Samuel 15:22 and tell what God wanted from His people. _____

8. Read Hebrews 9:9, 10 and tell what the offerings were meant to be. _____

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

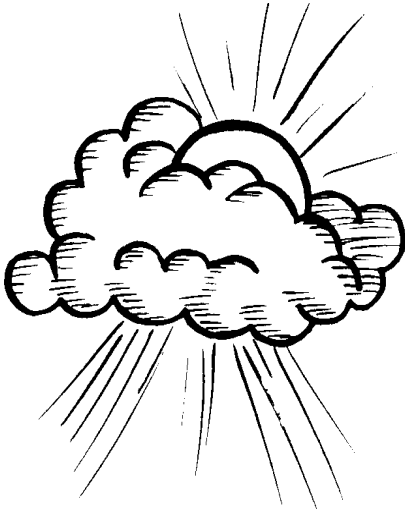
The Offerings

Finish the chart below by reading the verses given and filling in the blanks where they appear. (The verses are from Leviticus, unless otherwise noted.)

OFFERING	HOW OFFERING WAS MADE	MEANING OF OFFERING	OFFERING PICTURED CHRIST
Burnt	The whole animal was _____ (1:13)	God desires complete obedience.	Christ obeyed completely and offered Himself as a total sacrifice.
Grain	Flour, oil and incense offered. One handful burned.	God requires perfection.	Christ was perfect. He never _____. (1 Peter 2:22)
Fellowship	Fat of animal burned along with the _____ offering. (3:5)	Fellowship with God possible through proper sacrifice.	Through Christ's perfect sacrifice, man can have fellowship (peace) with God.
Sin	Part of the animal is burned in camp. Part of the animal is burned _____ the camp. (4:12)	All sin must be punished. The sacrifice takes the punishment for sins by giving his life (blood).	Christ took the punishment for man's sins when He was sacrificed on the Cross.
Guilt	An animal was offered as sacrifice. A person also had to _____ (6:5)	Sin against God requires payment to God.	When Christ died on the Cross, He paid God back for the sin people had committed against God.

These were the offerings the Israelites were to offer God. The offerings themselves did not please God. The offerings did not make the people right before God. The offerings pictured the perfect sacrifice that was to come. God did not want His people to go through these sacrifices just for ritual. The offerings had meaning. They pointed forward to the coming Savior.

What is God Like?



Knowing what God is like is not easy. In fact, some things about God are impossible to understand. Today we will study one more thing about God that man cannot fully understand. Go back to some verses you have already read in Genesis. Notice in Genesis 11:7 it says “Come, let us go down...” God refers to Himself as more than one (plural). This is not the first time God has done this. Remember the very first verse of the Bible, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”? The word for God in this verse is plural, not singular. Then in Genesis 1:26 God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Then again in the book of Genesis (3:22) God said; “The man has become like one of us.” These verses tell us that God is made up of more than one person. Other verses in the Bible tell us there is only one God.

9. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4, 5. Tell how many "so called gods" and how many true gods there are.

"So called gods" _____

True gods _____

The Bible teaches there is only one God. It also teaches He is one God in three persons. This “three-in-one” God is often called the Trinity. The word *trinity* means a union of three in one. The three persons of God are:

1. God, the Father (Romans 1:7)
2. God, the Son (Hebrews 1:8)
3. God, the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3, 4)

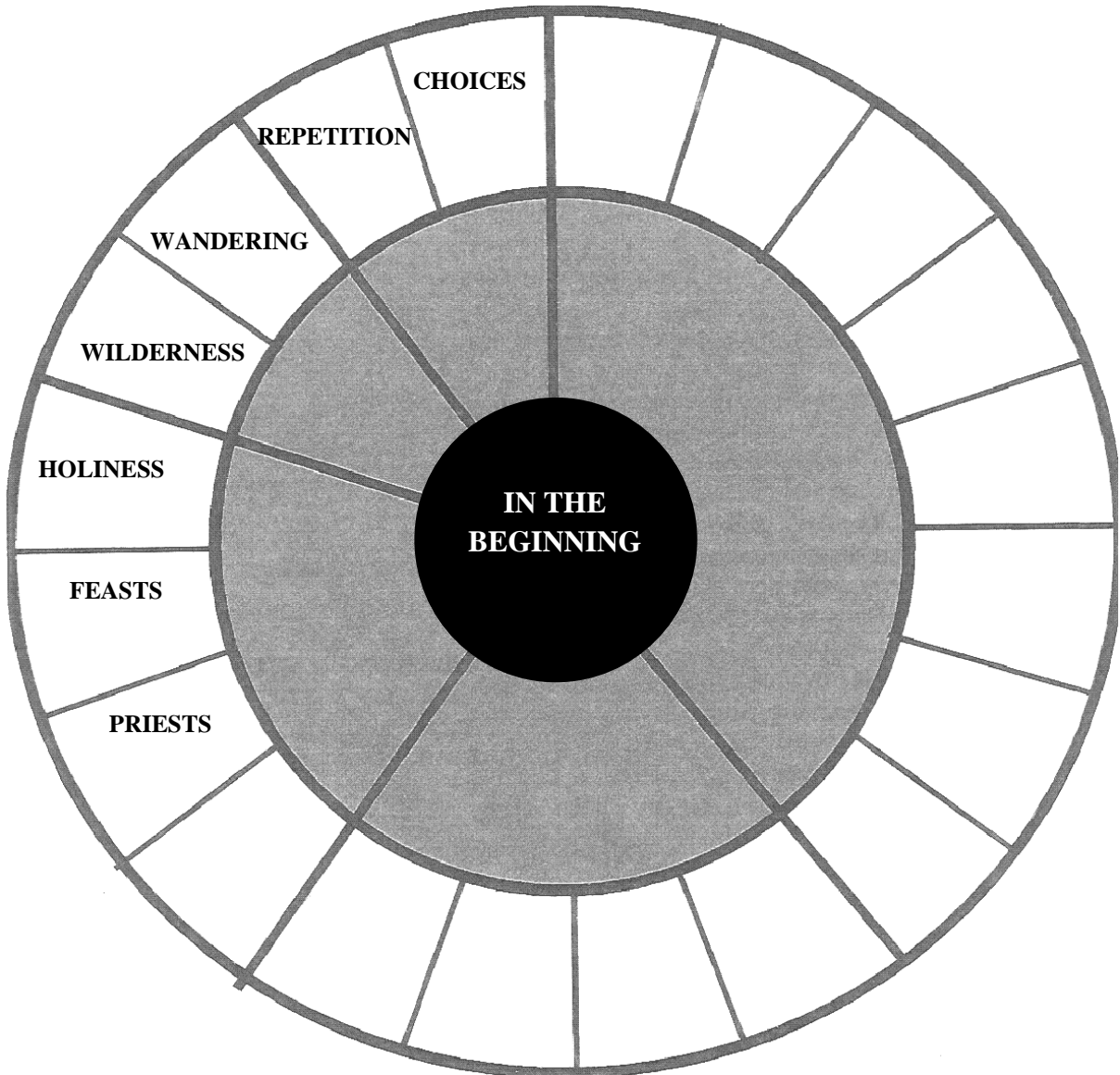
Lesson Summary and Application

God told the Israelites the kind of offerings to give Him. These offerings were to show the Israelites they could only come to God through the perfect sacrifice. The coming Savior, Christ, was that sacrifice.

10. Have you ever offered a sacrifice to God, or to any spirit, or to any other being? (Explain)

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.



LESSON 14



LEVITICUS

PRIESTS

INTRODUCTION

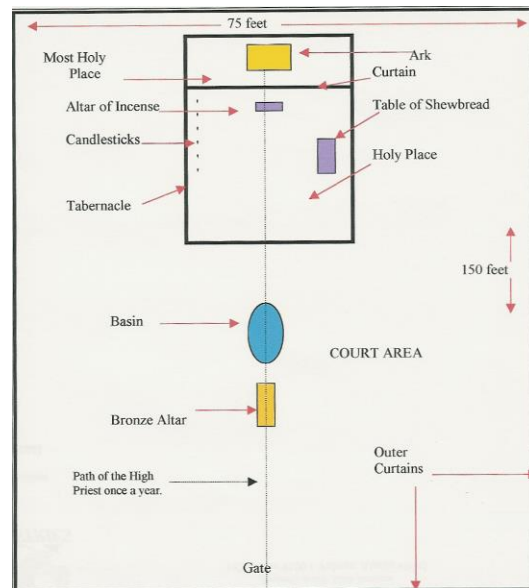
A priest is a person who represents man to God. This means that instead of man going directly to God by himself, he goes to a priest. The priest then takes the man's request on to God. The priest is a “go-between” – a person between man and God.

1. Have you ever gone to a priest to confess your sins, or to someone whom you thought could talk to God for you? (Explain, if your answer is yes.)

In the past few lessons you have learned about sacrifices. Remember the lesson of the Tabernacle was to show the only way for a person to come to God was through the proper sacrifice. All the sacrifices of the Tabernacle pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

Now comes another very important lesson. The people of Israel did not bring their own sacrifices to God. They had to bring their sacrifices to a priest. The priest would then offer the sacrifice to God.

God chose one tribe out of the twelve tribes of Israel to care for the Tabernacle. This was the tribe of Levi. Then God chose one family from among this tribe to be the priests. The priests were responsible for the sacrifices.





The Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle.

If you were an ordinary Israelite citizen, this is the way your offering to God would be handled. First, you would bring your offering to the Court Area of the tabernacle. At the Bronze Altar you would lay your hand on the animal's head. This would show you were sorry for the sin you had committed and for the wrong you had done, or that you were committing your life to God. The animal would then be killed. Its blood would be sprinkled on the Bronze Altar. A priest would then go in your place to the Basin. There he would wash his hands. This showed a clean life should follow the forgiveness of sins. The priest would then enter the Holy Place. He would pass by the candlestick and the Altar of Incense. There he would offer a prayer for you.

2. Read Leviticus 7:35, 36. Which family of the Levites was chosen to be the priests?

God had commanded Moses to set up the Tabernacle. Moses was then to appoint the priests and offer the sacrifices. When all this had been done, God sent fire down from the sky to burn the sacrifices on the altar.

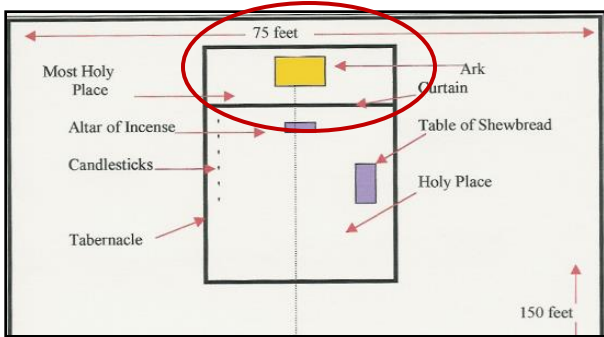
The Story of Nadab and Abihu

3. Read the story in Leviticus 10:1-11. What did Aaron's two sons do wrong?

Nadab and Abihu were sons of Aaron. They thought they could use their own fire to burn the sacrifices. This is not what God had commanded. The death of Nadab and Abihu showed the people that man could only come to God one way. Man should not try to make his own way to give sacrifices to God.

4. What are some of the ways you see people try to get to God? _____

The High Priests and Hints from Hebrews



Among the priests, there was to be a special head priest. He was called the High Priest. One day a year this high priest would go into the Most Holy Place. There he would stand before the ark. He took the blood of a sacrifice in with him. He would pray for all the people at this time.

5. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 10:1-14. What do you learn about Jesus and priests from these verses?

The Priests Were a Picture

The priests and all their duties were to be a picture for the Israelite people. God wanted to show them they could not go directly to God. They had to go through the priests. This was a picture of the coming Savior. He was the Great High Priest. He was the one that all people of all races would have to go through in order to get to God.

Read Mark 15:22-38. The curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place in the temple was torn in two when Christ died. What do you think God was trying to show the people by causing this to happen?

5. Put a check beside what you believe is the correct statement.

___ God was showing the way was now open for anyone to come to Him through Jesus Christ. People no longer had to come through the earthly priest.

___ God was showing He was pleased with the priest.

Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before choosing to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignments with you.

1. Write a brief paper that answers this question, “Why is Jesus Christ a priest from the line of Melchizedek instead of from the line of Aaron?” (Hint: See Hebrews 7)
2. Read Leviticus.
3. Prepare a Bible study or sermon that explains who the Old Testament priests were, what they did, and what they were to teach us.

Lesson Summary and Application

God commanded the Israelites to have priests. This was to show them they could not come directly to God on their own. This pointed forward to Christ. Christ is the priest all people must come through in order to get to God. He is the priest that offered the perfect sacrifice.

Do you think it is ever necessary to go to another person and give him a gift or an offering to give to God for you? (Explain your answer.)

Review Questions **(Lessons 13 and 14)**

Lesson 13

1. List the five offerings God required of the Israelite people.

2. Which offerings picture Christ as the perfect sacrifice?

3. Explain briefly why God required the Israelites to give offerings.

4. What three persons make up the one true God?

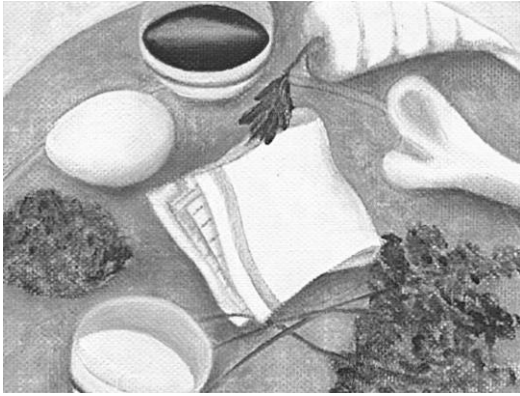
Lesson 14

5. What is a simple definition of a priest?

6. What family of Levites did God choose to be priests?

7. What big lesson did God want to teach his people by giving them priests?

8. Who is our Great High Priest according to Hebrews?



LESSON 15

LEVITICUS

FEASTS

INTRODUCTION

I can still remember those days well. In fact, I can almost smell the meat cooking. Several times a year we would all gather at Grandma's house. There we would celebrate and have a feast. Turkey, ham, wild meat, potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, cherry pie – all this was a part of the celebration feasts. It was a great time. The extended family was all together. There was lots of talking and laughing. Sometimes we would stay all night. Sometimes we would all go home at the end of the day. Three or four times a year we would gather for these feasts.

There were some times when the whole community would meet together for special celebrations as well. These were very special times – times everyone remembers.

1. Do you have a tradition of feasts, or celebrations, in your family history? (If yes, what are they?)

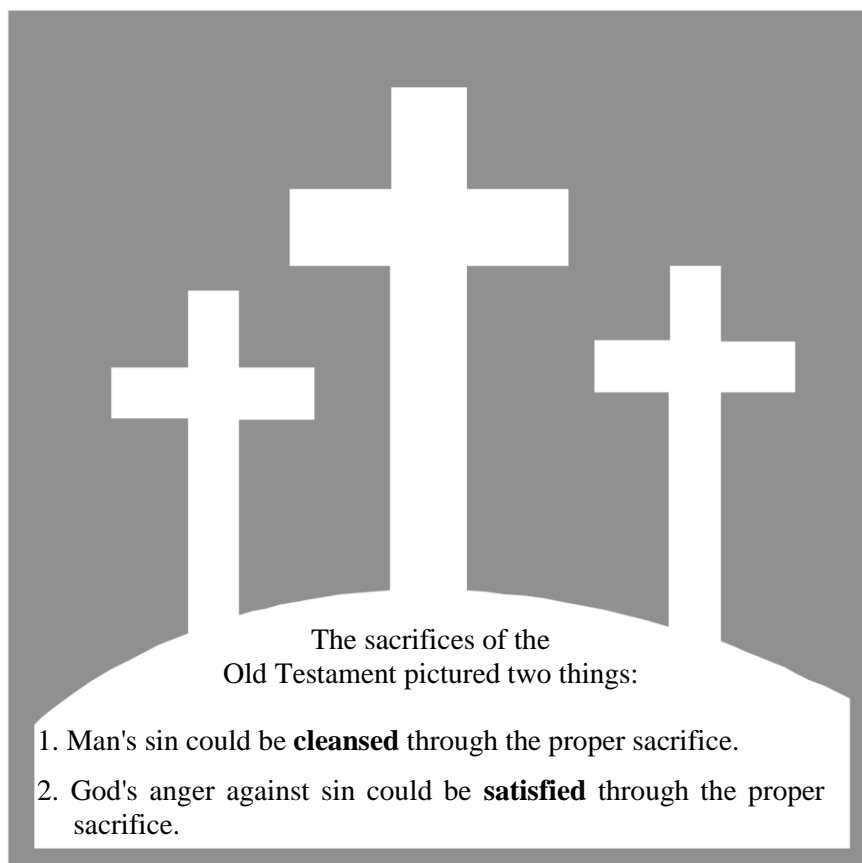
This lesson tells of the special feasts of the Israelite people. These were feasts God commanded the people to have. The word “feast” in the Old Testament means a special time of getting together. Unlike our idea of a feast, theirs did not have to include a time of eating. These were times when the whole community got together to celebrate. Each feast was given to celebrate something different.

The Israelites had seven feasts that were held once a year. One feast was weekly. These feasts were given by God to be a picture, just as the offerings were. The offerings pictured the way to God. The way to God is through sacrifice – the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

2. Read Leviticus 23. According to 23:37,38, what were the Israelites to do on these days of feasts?

The Feasts Were a Time of Offerings and Sacrifices

The Israelites did not just sit around, talk, eat, and watch hockey or football games on these feast days. These were the special days when they offered the sacrifices mentioned in the first part of Leviticus. These were special days of worship and thanksgiving to God.



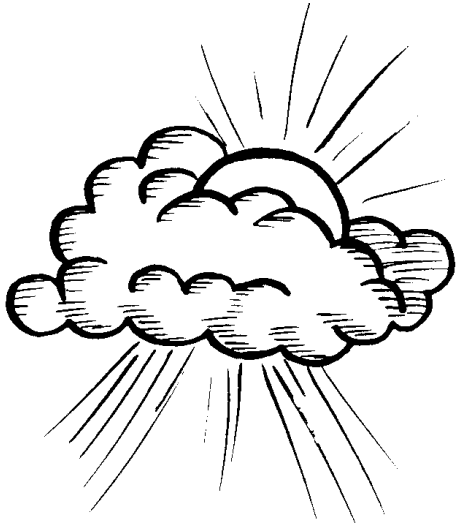
The Day of Atonement

Let us take a closer look at the Feast of Atonement, or the Day of Atonement, as it was also called. On this day the high priest would select two goats. One, he would kill. He would take the blood of this goat into the most holy place and sprinkle its blood on the mercy seat. The priest would then place his hands on the head of the live goat. The priest then confessed all the sins of Israel. This was to picture all the sins of Israel being placed on the goat. After this, the goat was sent off into the wilderness. This pictured the goat carrying away the sins. With the sins taken care of, God and Israel could be friends. Atonement is the process by which God and man can once again become friends.

THE FEASTS

The following chart shows each feast, when it was held, how long it lasted and the reason, or meaning, of the feast.

FEAST	WHEN HELD	HOW LONG	REASON FOR THE FEAST
SABBATH	WEEKLY	ONE DAY	It was a day of worship and rest. It celebrated the finished work of God in creation.
PASSOVER	SPRING/ MARCH-APRIL	ONE DAY	It was to remind the Israelites of how they were delivered from Egypt.
UNLEAVENED BREAD	SPRING/ MARCH-APRIL	7 DAYS	This feast began the day after the Passover Feast. It was to remind the people how they had to leave Egypt quickly.
FIRST FRUITS	SPRING/ MARCH-APRIL	ONE DAY	It was held during the time when the first of the harvest was being gathered. It was a time of thanksgiving.
PENTECOST OF WEEKS	SPRING/ MAY- JUNE	ONE DAY	Held 50 days after the Passover. It was a thanksgiving feast, during the wheat harvest.
TRUMPETS	FALL/SEPT.- OCTOBER	ONE DAY	Trumpets were blown on this day to signal the end of the old harvest season and the beginning of a new season. It was like a New Year celebration.
ATONEMENT	FALL/SEPT.- OCTOBER	ONE DAY	This is the day the High Priest took the blood into the Most Holy Place. This pictured the cleansing of the people from their sins.
TABERNACLE	FALL/ SEPT. - OCTOBER	7 DAYS	During these seven days the Israelites lived in tents or huts made from branches. This was to remind them of their wandering in the wilderness. It was a time to give thanks for their homeland.



What is God Like?

There is one place I love to go for water. It is in the Rocky Mountains. The ice-cold water comes out of the rocks and forms a small stream. The water is pure. It has no chlorine, no chemicals, no bacteria, no dirt, and no additives. It is just plain water – ice cold, pure water. How good it is to kneel down and drink of this delicious, good tasting, good-for-you water. The Bible says that God is holy. What does this mean? The word holy means pure. It means God has absolutely no sin in Him. He is pure – sinless.

God is Holy

Where did sin come from? It did not come from God. God has never sinned. He cannot sin. He did not create sin. God created Adam and Eve. He created them with a free will. They chose to sin. Sin has been passed down from generation to generation from this first couple. There are those today who teach that people are basically good. The Bible teaches people are sinful. God alone is good. He alone is pure. He is holy.

3. According to Deuteronomy 32:4, what wrong can God do? _____

God is holy. No sin can be near him. In order to go to God, man must go through the proper sacrifice. He must go through the proper priest. The promised coming Savior is the proper sacrifice and the proper priest.



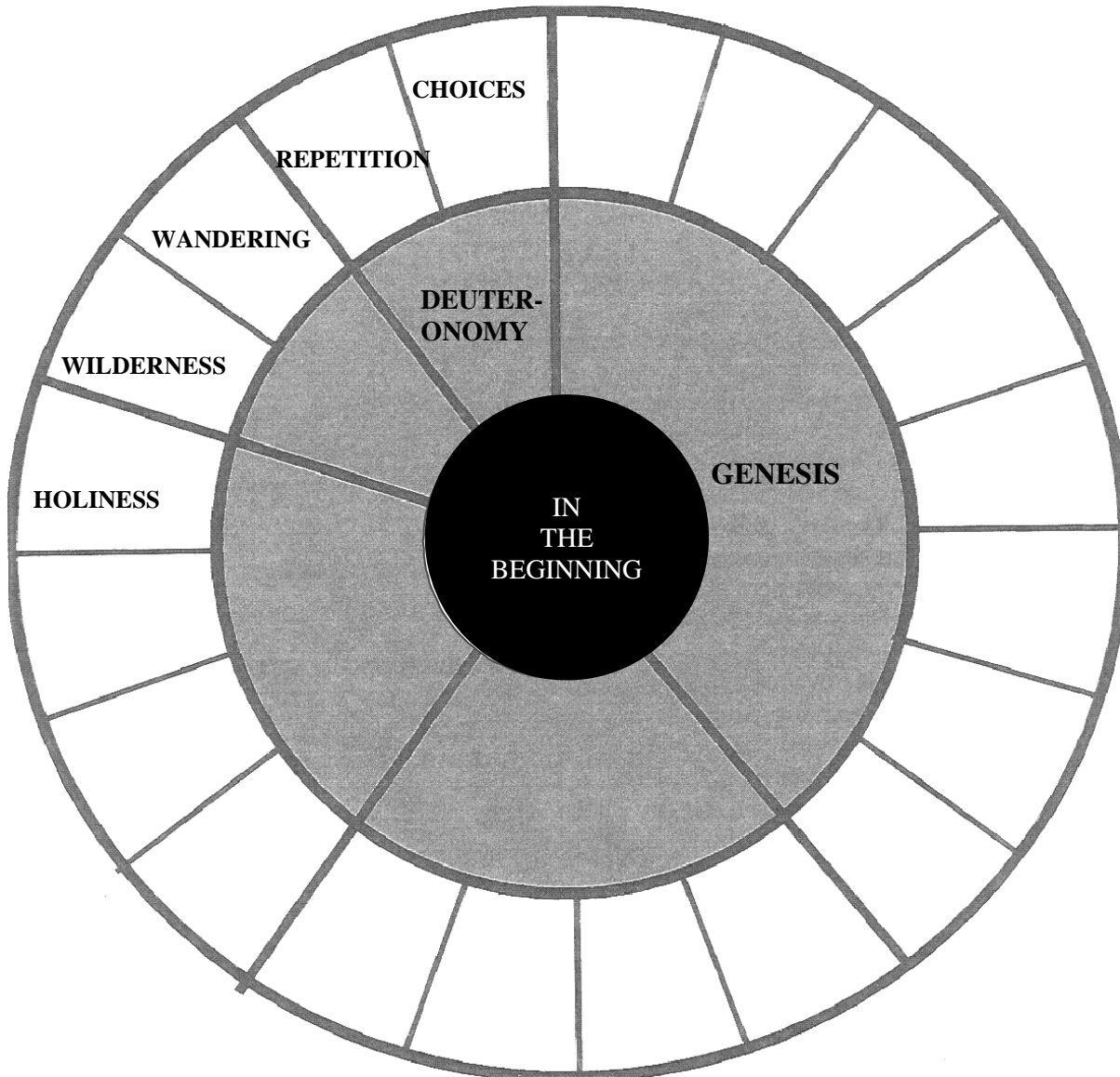
Lesson Summary and Application

The feasts were given by God to remind the people what God had done for them. The feasts were a time when sacrifices were offered. They pictured the coming Savior and the power He gave to help His people walk with God.

4. Are there any religious reasons for you to have special celebrations during the year?

Course Chart

5. Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.





LESSON 16

LEVITICUS

HOLINESS

INTRODUCTION

A friend of mine wanted to be an RCMP officer because he really enjoyed the idea of helping others. He longed to wear the uniform and be able to go on patrol. My friend was thirty years old when he applied with this challenging law enforcement branch. He found out there was a lot of paper work to fill out in order to apply. There were meetings he had to attend. There were interviews. There were tests. Finally he was accepted to go to the RCMP training school. He was there for several months. He did not finish the course. He did not meet the requirements. The requirements were very high and very strict. They have to be. The responsibility of enforcing the law is a big job.

The book of Leviticus is one book of the Bible that shows us in picture language just what God requires of anyone who desires to come to him. He has very strict requirements. His standards are very high. They have to be. He is a Holy God.

Read Leviticus 11:44,45 and tell what it is that God requires of His people.

1. _____

God commands His people to be holy. Remember, to be holy means to be pure. God knows the only way a sinful human can be pure is to have his sins forgiven. The only way this can be done is to come to God through the proper sacrifice. Because the sacrifice pays for the sins, God sees the sinner as clean – pure, holy.

The offerings, the priests, the feasts of Leviticus all show the holiness of God. He is absolutely sinless. They also show the strict requirement of God. Man cannot make up his own way to get to God. God's way is narrow. God's way is strict. God's way is to come through the proper sacrifice and through the right priest. Jesus Christ is that right sacrifice and priest. Any other way to God will not work.

2. Read Leviticus 19:2; 20:7,26. What do these verses tell you about God? What do they tell you about God's requirement?

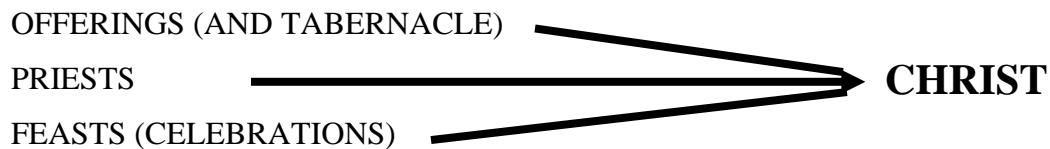
About God:

About God's requirement:

The Key Word for Leviticus is Holiness

The key word for the book of Leviticus is “holiness”. The word *holy* is found more times in the book of Leviticus than in any other book of the Bible. It is very clear that God wanted His people to be holy. He wanted them to give their lives fully to Him.

From the book of Leviticus, you have learned about offerings, priests and feasts. The ordinary Israelite could not just run into the presence of God. There were very specific rules to follow if one wanted to be right with God. All of these things point forward to one person – Christ. They also show the holiness of God.



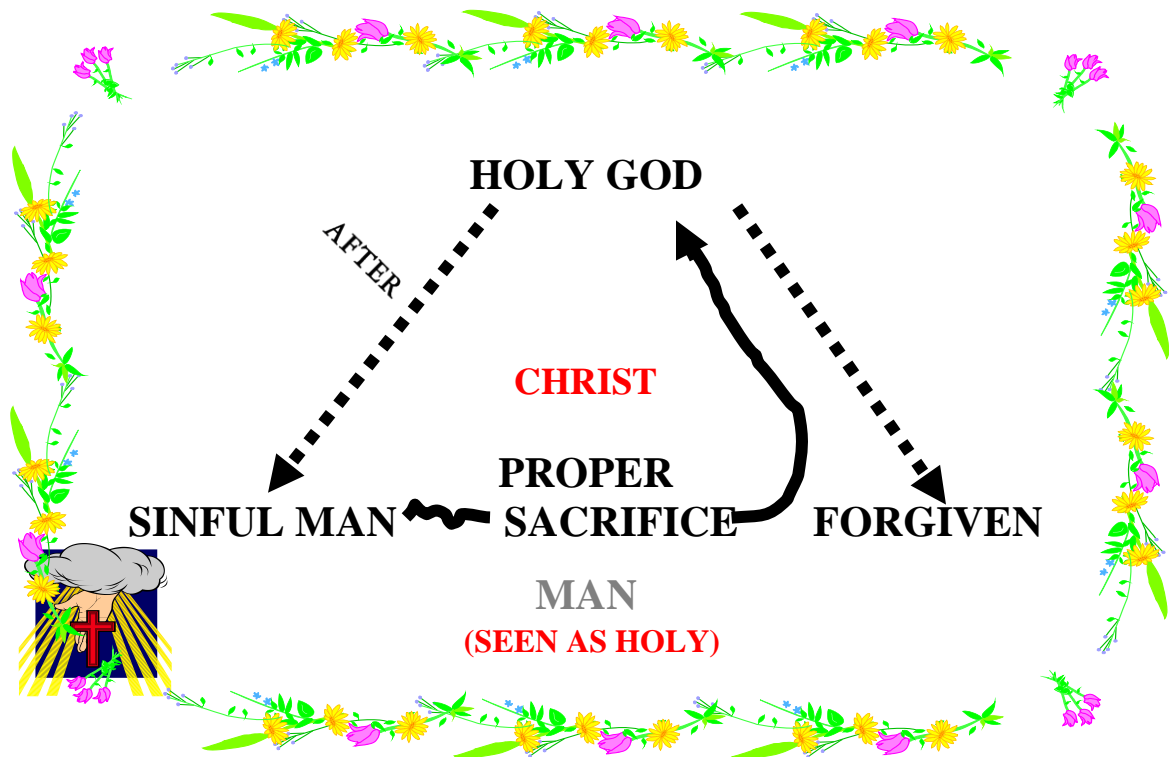
Today, people who believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him are called Christians. It is important to know that it is not a different belief from the Israelite way of worship. The Israelites were looking forward to what Christ was going to do. Christians look back on what Christ has done. It is the same belief, but the way of worship has changed.



People before Christ and people after Christ come to God in the same way. They both must come through the proper sacrifice. They both must come through Jesus Christ. The one looked forward by faith and trusted in the sacrifice of Christ. The other looks back by faith and trusts in the sacrifice of Christ. The Israelite way of worship looked forward to Christ. The Christians worship differently, because Christ has already come.

3. According to Hebrews 12:14, what must all people have in order to see God?

God is holy. He has no sin. Man is sinful. Man is separated from God because of sin. God made a way for man to come to Him. The only way for man to come to God is through the proper sacrifice, provided by God. Through this sacrifice God cleanses man from his sin. God then sees man as holy and pure. God and man can then be friends.



Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before choosing to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignments with you.

1. Some religions today have ways of worship that are similar to the Israelite way of worship. Compare a religion with which you are familiar to the Israelite way of worship. Tell how they are alike and how they are different.
2. Prepare a sermon, or Bible study, that explains the Israelite way of worship. Include in the study the purpose of this way of worship. Tell why it is not necessary to worship in this same way today.



Lesson Summary and Application

God is holy. Man must be holy in order to come to God. Man can only be made holy through the proper sacrifice that God offers. Christ is the proper sacrifice. The Israelite way of worship points forward to Christ as the only proper sacrifice.

Do you believe you can be good enough by yourself to please God? (Explain your answer.)

Review Questions

(Lessons 15 and 16)

Lesson 15

1. True or False. _____ The feasts were a time of offerings and sacrifices.

2. Name two of the feasts and tell the meaning, or reason, for the feasts.

3. God is holy. What does this mean?

Lesson 16

4. What is the key word for the book of Leviticus?

5. What does God require of His people?

6. To what did the Israelite way of worship point? (This includes all the offerings, the Tabernacle, the priests and the feasts.)

7. How can a person be made holy and become a friend with God?



LESSON 17

NUMBERS

WILDERNESS

INTRODUCTION

The book of Numbers takes place in the wilderness. This was the desert area between Mount Sinai and the land God had promised the Israelites. It was a very hot, dry land. There was little food or water. It was not a very comfortable place to travel.

The book is called Numbers because the people of Israel are numbered (counted) twice in this book. Can you imagine the sight of the nation of Israel traveling through the wilderness? It must have been some sight. There were over two million of them! Imagine all the food and water it must have taken to keep this many people alive! And remember they are in a desert where food and water are not easy to find.

During this time in the wilderness the Israelites rebelled. They complained about God's provisions for them. They refused to believe He would take care of them. They openly challenged the authority of God.

1. How would you define the word *rebellion*?

Rebellion in the Wilderness

Rebellion is an open challenge, or resistance to authority. The Israelites had agreed to obey all the laws God had given them at Mount Sinai. They agreed to say “Yes” to the authority of God in their lives. But as they traveled into the wilderness from Mount Sinai, they rebelled against God.

2. Read Numbers 11:1-9. Tell what the Lord provided for the people. Tell also what their attitude was toward God's provision.

Aaron and Miriam Oppose Moses

Moses' brother was Aaron. His sister was named Miriam. Both Aaron and Miriam became jealous of Moses. They were jealous of Moses' special relationship with God and the fact that he was a prophet of God. A prophet is one who hears a message from God and gives the message to the people.

3. Read Numbers 12. Why did Aaron and Miriam begin to talk against their brother?

4. What do you learn about Moses from this chapter?

Map of the Wilderness

The Israelites had stayed at Mount Sinai for one year. After this they traveled through the wilderness to a place called Kadesh. This was on the border of the land God had promised them.



The Twelve Spies

5. Read Numbers 13. Twelve spies were sent into the Promised Land. When they came back, they had two very different ideas about what to do. What were the two ideas?

The Great Rebellion

Read Numbers 14. This chapter tells about the Great Rebellion of the Israelites.

6. What do you learn about the following people from these verses of Chapter 14?

The Israelites (14:1-4) _____

Moses (14:10-19) _____

God (14:36-45) _____

Most of the Israelites did not believe God could help them defeat the enemies living in Canaan. Because they did not believe, God punished them.

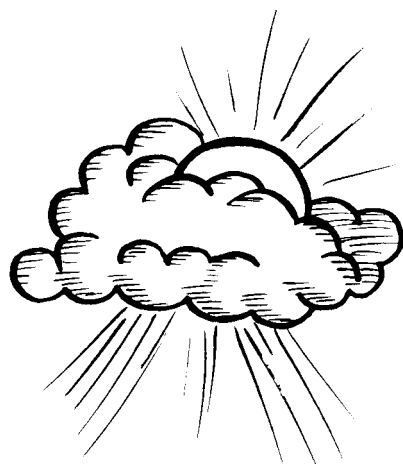
7. Read Numbers 14:26-35. What was the punishment for the people of Israel?

8. Do you think God was fair in giving this punishment? _____

Numbers 14:34

“For forty years – one year for each of the forty days you explored the land – you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have Me against you.”

What is God Like?



The story is told about a young boy who threw a rock at a street light by the hockey arena. The boy's father had caught him throwing rocks at the light before. The father told the boy to never do it again. The boy did it again. This time he broke the light. The young boy knew he would get spanked if his dad ever found out. Finally the boy felt so guilty, he went to tell his father the truth. Father looked so big – so threatening, so hard. Bursting into tears, the boy confessed what he had done. The father walked over to the boy and the boy prepared himself for the spanking. The dad knelt down beside the boy and hugged him. The boy knew he was forgiven. He cried again. This time it was because he was happy.

God is Love

The love of a father causes him to discipline his children when they do wrong. He does this because he wants them to learn to do right. The love of a father also causes him to forgive his children. A good father knows when it is the right time to discipline.

8. Read Numbers 14:18. What do you learn about God from this verse?

9. Read 1 John 4:7-12. What do you believe is the main point of these verses?

Lesson Summary and Application

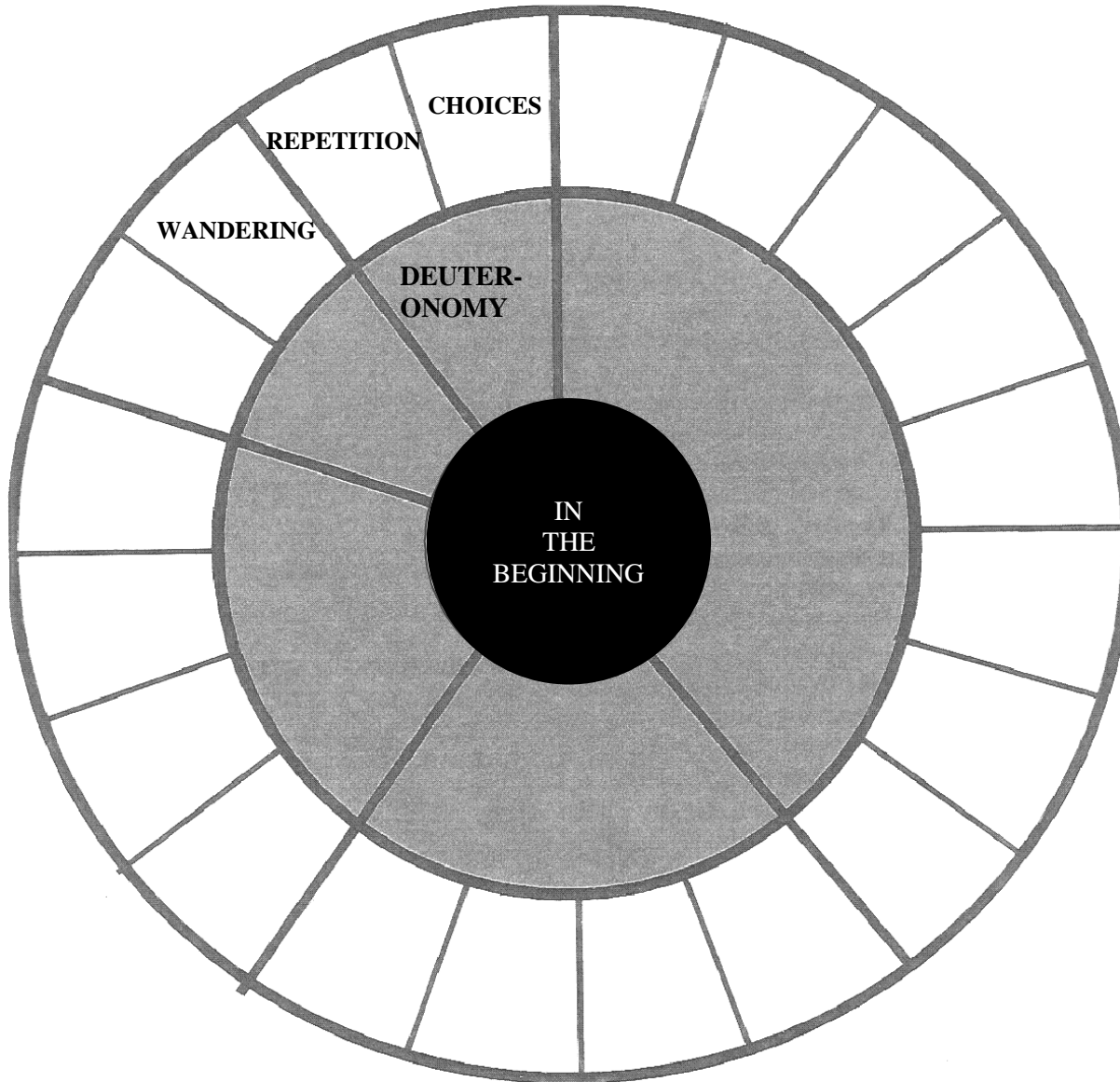
The Israelites rebelled against God. God punished them for their rebellion. God also showed His love for them by forgiving them and giving them another chance as a nation.

10. Have you ever rebelled against God? _____

11. Do you think He could love you anyway? _____

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.





LESSON 18

NUMBERS

WANDERING

INTRODUCTION

I know a middle-aged Christian man who, when he heard the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, said; “Hey, that's just what I did!” He went on to tell how he had become a Christian as a teen-ager. Soon after he became a Christian, he stopped living for God.

He started doing the things his unsaved friends were doing. For more than twenty years he lived that way. Finally, he came to the place in his life where he turned to God once again. Today this man is living for God. He says those twenty years of his life were like wandering in the wilderness – just like the Israelites.

The first key word you learned for the book of Numbers was *wilderness*. In this lesson, the key word is *wandering*. These two words together give the picture of the book of Numbers. It is the story of Israel and their wilderness wandering.

1. As a review from the last lesson, why were the Israelites wandering in the wilderness?

2. Read Numbers 14:26-35. According to these verses, what had to happen before the nation of Israel could go into the Promised Land?

Can you imagine being given the assignment of wandering around in the desert for forty years – just waiting for everyone over twenty years old to die?



3. Read Numbers 33. This chapter gives the summary of all the travels of Israel during their years in the wilderness. How do you think those who were under twenty years old at the beginning of the wandering felt as they began to see the older people die?

Forty Years of Wandering

Numbers 20 takes place near the end of the forty years of wandering. Miriam dies in the beginning of the chapter. Aaron dies at the end of the chapter. One by one, those who had been over twenty at the time of the rebellion are gone. Only two people over twenty at the time of the rebellion would go into the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb would be the only two. Even Moses did not go into Canaan.

4. Read Numbers 20:1-13. Tell why Moses did not get to go into the Promised Land.

Moses Strikes the Rock

5. Do you think God was fair in not letting Moses go into the Promised Land because of this one sin? (Explain your answer.)



When Moses struck the rock, he showed a lack of trust in God. In his anger, Moses also disobeyed. He was to only speak to the rock, not hit it. This story shows the great responsibility and accountability spiritual leaders have before the holy God.

Moses and the Poisonous Snakes

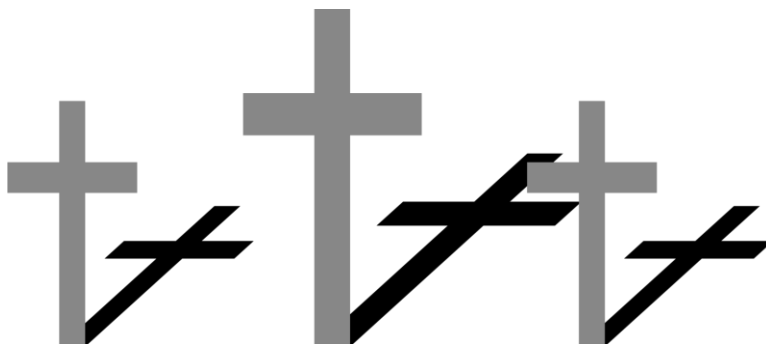
Read Numbers 21:4-9 and answer the following questions:

6. What great sin of the people led God to send the poisonous snakes to bite the Israelites?

7. What cure did God provide for the snakebites?

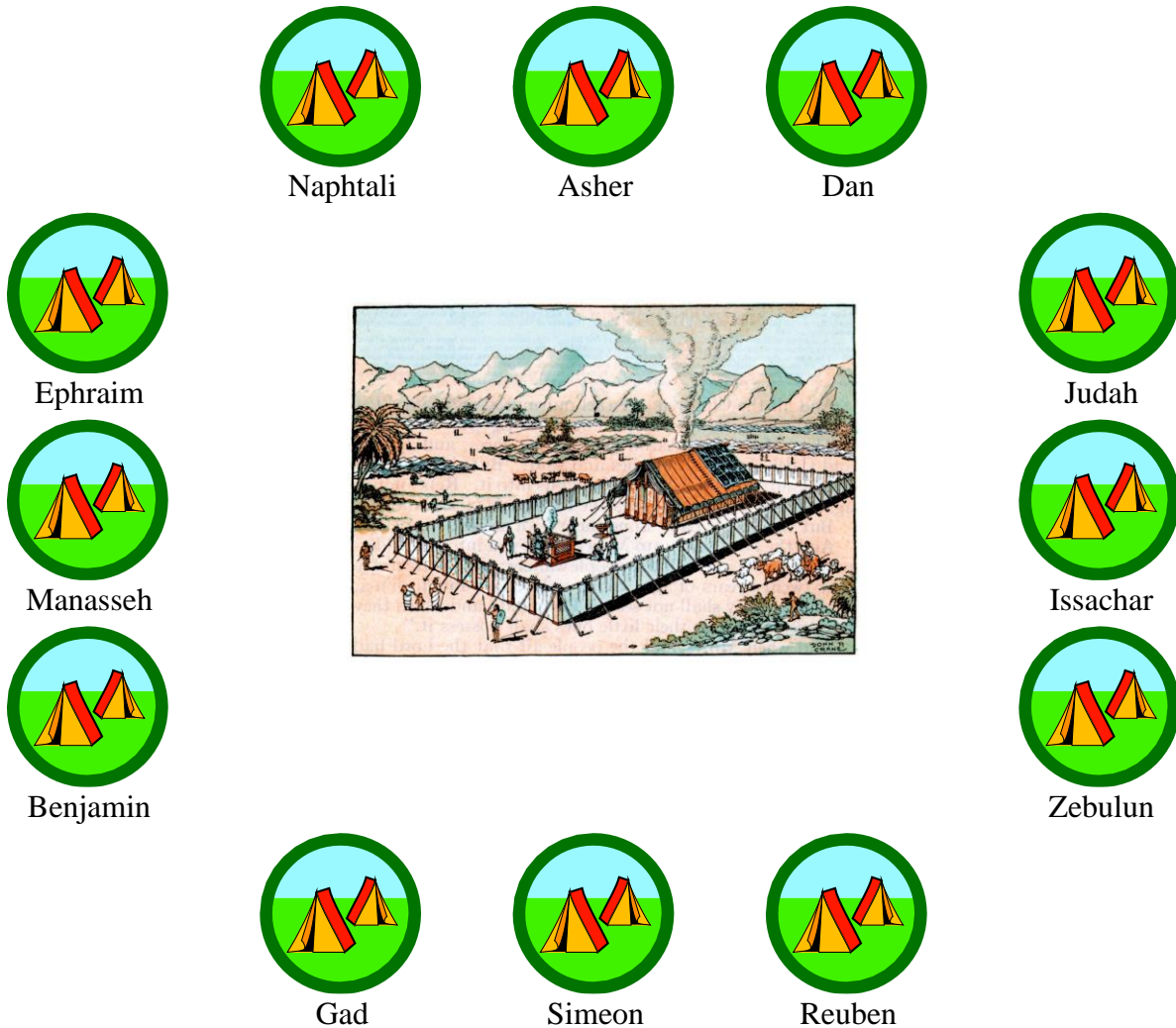
8. Read John 3:14, 15. These verses refer to the story of the snakes from Numbers. What do you think John means when he says that the "Son of Man" must be lifted up like the snake?

Those who looked at the snake were healed. This was a picture of the coming Savior. Those who look to the "Son of Man" (this is Jesus Christ) and have faith in His sacrifice on the Cross will be forgiven of their sins.



The Israelite Camp

During the forty years of wilderness wandering, the Israelites always set up camp in the same way. Each tribe had its place in the camp.



At the end of the book of Numbers, the Israelites once again found themselves at the border of the Promised Land. They had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. All the older people had died except for Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. Moses was soon going to die. Before he died he would have a last word with his people. His final words are found in the book of Deuteronomy. You will look at these final words of Moses in the next two lessons.

Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before choosing to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignments with you.

1. Read the book of Numbers.
2. Prepare a Bible study or sermon on Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14, 15.
3. Write a brief paper that explains how a loving God could punish His chosen people the way God did the Israelites. (You may want to use Hebrews 12 as you write your paper.)

Lesson Summary and Application

The Israelites did not obey God. Because of their disobedience they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years.

9. Have you ever felt like you were just wandering around in life, not accomplishing anything that really matters?

10. What do you think are some things a person can do to keep from wandering away from God?

We may experience hard times in our lives, but God assures us of His presence. *“I am with you,”* He told the prophet, Jeremiah (Jer. 1:8), and Jesus assured His followers, *“I am with you always”* (Matt. 28:20).

Whatever struggles we face as we try to live for the Lord,
we can trust in the Lord's presence.

Review Questions

(Lessons 17 and 18)

Lesson 17

1. Why is the book of Numbers called *Numbers*?

2. How would you define *rebellion*?

3. Which two spies said Israel should go into the Promised Land?

4. How do you know God loves you?

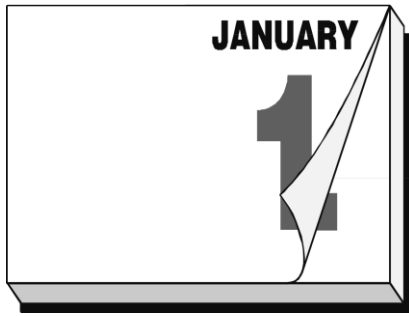
Lesson 18

5. What are the two key words for the book of Numbers?

6. Why did the Israelites have to spend forty years wandering in the wilderness?

7. God did not allow Moses to go into the Promised Land. Why?

8. What lesson did the snakes teach concerning the coming Saviour?



LESSON 19

DEUTERONOMY

REPETITION

INTRODUCTION

Repetition means to go over something again and again. I can still hear my father saying, “O.K., let's go over this one more time.” When he said this we knew it was important to listen. Repetition is a good way of learning. Many times stories are told over and over again in order to teach a lesson.

The stories may even be passed from one generation to another. The Israelites used stories and repetition to teach spiritual lessons. The book of Deuteronomy is an example of this kind of teaching. The word *Deuteronomy* means “repetition of the law”. In this book, Moses is saying to the Israelites, “O.K., let's go over this one more time.” God had Moses write this final book of the Pentateuch to go over the law once again.

1. What does the word *Deuteronomy* mean? _____

The book of Deuteronomy is like a sermon. It is the last words of Moses to his people. The Israelites were once again on the border of the Promised Land. They were ready to go into the new land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Moses knew he was not going into the land with his people. Deuteronomy is his final word to the Israelites.

2. Why do you think Moses chose to talk about the law in his final words to the people of Israel?

Deuteronomy — Moses' Final Words

In chapter one, Moses begins his last words to his people. Moses is an old man now – about one hundred twenty years old. He is probably the oldest Israelite He is an elder with much respect. For many years he has faithfully led these people. Now he begins his final address to this younger generation. He knew the people he was speaking to were just children or young adults when the law was given at Mount Sinai. The law is all the commands given by God on that mountain. This had happened forty years ago.

Deuteronomy 1: 10-11

Moses speaking to the people: “*The Lord has increased your numbers so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky.. May the Lord, the God of our ancestors, increase you a thousand times and bless you as He has promised!*”

Read Deuteronomy Chapter One. Imagine this younger generation listening to this old man speak. They knew they were about to lose Moses as their leader. They knew they were about to enter Canaan where they may have to fight for the land.

3. How do you think they felt as they sat there listening to this final message from Moses?

Passing on Spiritual Truth

Moses not only wanted to remind the Israelites of all the commands of God. He also wanted them to pass this on to their children and grandchildren. Moses was looking far ahead. He did not want the Israelite people to turn from God – not in this present generation, nor in the generations to come.

4. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. What lessons about passing on spiritual truth to children do you find in these verses?

Moses gave some very strong warnings in his last words to the people. He had seen them make some terrible choices in the past. He did not want them to make the same mistakes when they were in the Promised Land.

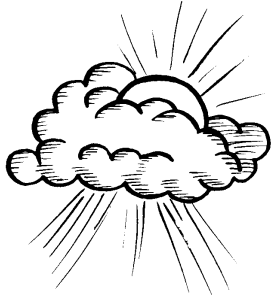
5. Read Deuteronomy 4:9-24. In **verses 4:15-19**, what did Moses tell the people they should never do?

Idol Worship Forbidden

Even while Moses was on Mount Sinai, the Israelites had turned to the worship of idols. They wanted a god they could see. They had Aaron build them a statue of gold in the shape of a calf. This, they declared, was to be their god. Now, forty years later, Moses warns this younger generation to never do this again.

6. Why do you think people, including the Israelites, would ever want to worship an idol, or an animal or the sun?

7. Do you see any worship of idols, animals, the stars, or the sun today? (Explain your answer.)



What is God Like?

You have learned many truths about God in these sections.

8. Look back over all the "What is God like?" sections. For review, write the nine things you have learned about what God is like.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

God Never Changes

Now here is one more thing to remember about God. He never changes. God, who created the world, who called Abraham, who led Israel out of Egypt, who gave the Ten Commandments, who led Israel through the desert, who sent the Savior, is the same God who watches over you today!

9. Read James 1:17. How is God the Father compared with shadows in this verse?

10. Read Hebrews 13:8. What do you learn about Jesus Christ from this verse?

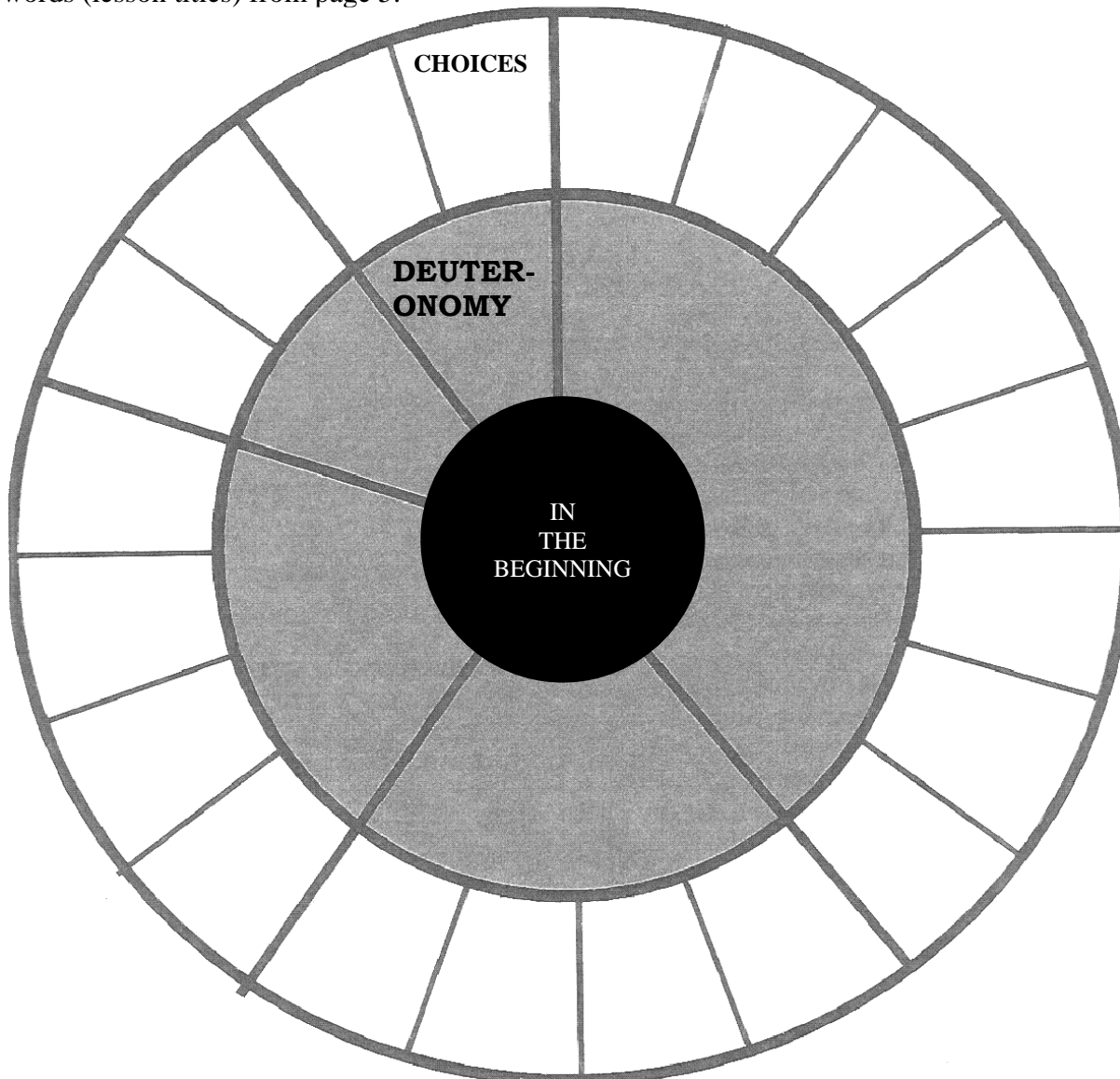
Lesson Summary and Application

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the Israelites once again of the laws God gave them at Mount Sinai.

Have you ever been involved in idol worship, spirit worship, or any worship of somebody or something other than God? (Explain your answer.)

Course Chart

Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles) from page 5.





LESSON 20

DEUTERONOMY

CHOICES

INTRODUCTION

Should I stay in school, or should I quit? Should I get married, or should I wait? Should I get a job or not go to work? Should I exercise, or wait until next week? Should I buy a new car, or wait for the old one to die? Should I discipline the kids, or let them learn the hard way? Should I stay with my family, or leave? Should I spend this money now, or save some? Should I . . . should I . . . should I? Life is full of choices. Every time you turn around it seems you have to make another choice.

1. What are some of the more important choices you have made in the last year?

2. What makes these choices so important? _____

In the beginning of this study, you learned that God gave Adam and Eve a choice. The choice was to obey God, or not. They could choose to not eat of the tree, or to eat of it. They chose to disobey.

Now at the end of this study, God is still giving a choice. Moses, in his last message to the Israelites, gives them a choice. They could choose to obey God or to disobey Him.

3. Explain why you believe God gives us choices. (See page 13 for a review of why God gave Adam and Eve a choice.)

The Choices

4. Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20. In these verses, Moses gives the people their two choices. According to 30:16 – 18, what was the right choice for Israel?

5. What was the wrong choice? _____

The choice God gave Adam and Eve was not very complicated. It was a simple choice. They could obey or disobey. The choice God gives Israel here, through Moses, was not complicated. It was a simple choice. Israel could choose to worship God or they could choose to worship other gods. It was that simple.

The Results

6. According to Deuteronomy 30:19, what would happen to them if they made the right choice?

7. What would happen to them if they made the wrong choice?

THE CHOICES		THE RESULTS
Worship God	→	LIFE
Worship other gods	→	DEATH

Advice on False Prophets

Moses knew his people well. He was a very wise old man. He knew the future generations would face these same choices. This is why he told the Israelites to be careful to pass on all they knew about God to their children and their grandchildren. Moses also gives his people advice concerning the false prophets he knew would come.

8. Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5. What advice did Moses give in these verses?

9. What do you think these verses mean for you today? _____

A Man Greater than Moses

Moses was truly a great man of God. It is easy to see why the Israelite people honor this man even today. He is the one who brought them the instructions concerning the Tabernacle, the offerings, the priests, and the feasts. As great a man as Moses was, the Bible tells us that there is a man much greater than Moses.

10. **Read Hebrews 3:1-6.** What man is worthy of even greater honor than Moses?

Moses was a servant of God. Jesus is the Son of God. Moses brought the law with all its pictures of the coming Savior. Jesus is the Savior. He is the one God promised would come and would defeat Satan and would take away the curse on the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is the perfect sacrifice that can take away sins. He is the right choice.

Also read:
John 3:16.

Moses gave his people two choices. They could love God or they could go after other gods. It was a simple choice. They could obey or disobey. This was a choice that each generation of Israelites would have to make.

11. Read 1 Kings 8:54-61. This is King Solomon's prayer when the temple was built. The temple took the place of the Tabernacle. According to 1 Kings 8:60, what was the great purpose of the Israelite way of worship in the Old Testament?

One Way for All People

The pictures God gave in the Israelite way of worship were for all nations. God was not only interested in Israel. He wanted to show all the nations that Jesus Christ was the only way to God. God has not changed. He still wants all people, of all nations, in all generations, to know the only way to God. Jesus is the only way, the perfect sacrifice – for all people.



**People today face the same choice
these Israelites faced many years ago.**

Optional Assignments

These assignments are optional. Check with your study leader (if you have one) before choosing to do one or more of the following assignments. Your study leader will go over the assignments with you.

1. Read Deuteronomy
2. Read Hebrews and write a brief paper giving the main purpose of the book of Hebrews and tell how it relates to the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Lesson Summary and Application

In his final message to the people, Moses gives the Israelites a choice. They could choose to follow God, or they could choose to follow false gods.

Explain why you would, or would not, choose to follow the God of the Bible and accept His perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

(Lessons 19 and 20)

Lesson 19

1. What does the word *deuteronomy* mean?

2. What lessons about passing on the spiritual truth did you learn from Deuteronomy 6:1-9?

3. What characteristic of God did you learn about in this lesson?

4. How does the fact that God never changes affect your life?

Lesson 20

5. Why does God give you choices? _____

6. What choices did Moses give the Israelites? _____

7. Do you believe there are false prophets today? (Explain your answer.)

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1. Write the names of the first five books of the Bible.

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	

2. Who wrote the first five books of the Bible? _____

3. What was one of the greatest lessons you learned from your study of *In the Beginning*?

4. What do the following words mean?

Genesis _____

Exodus _____

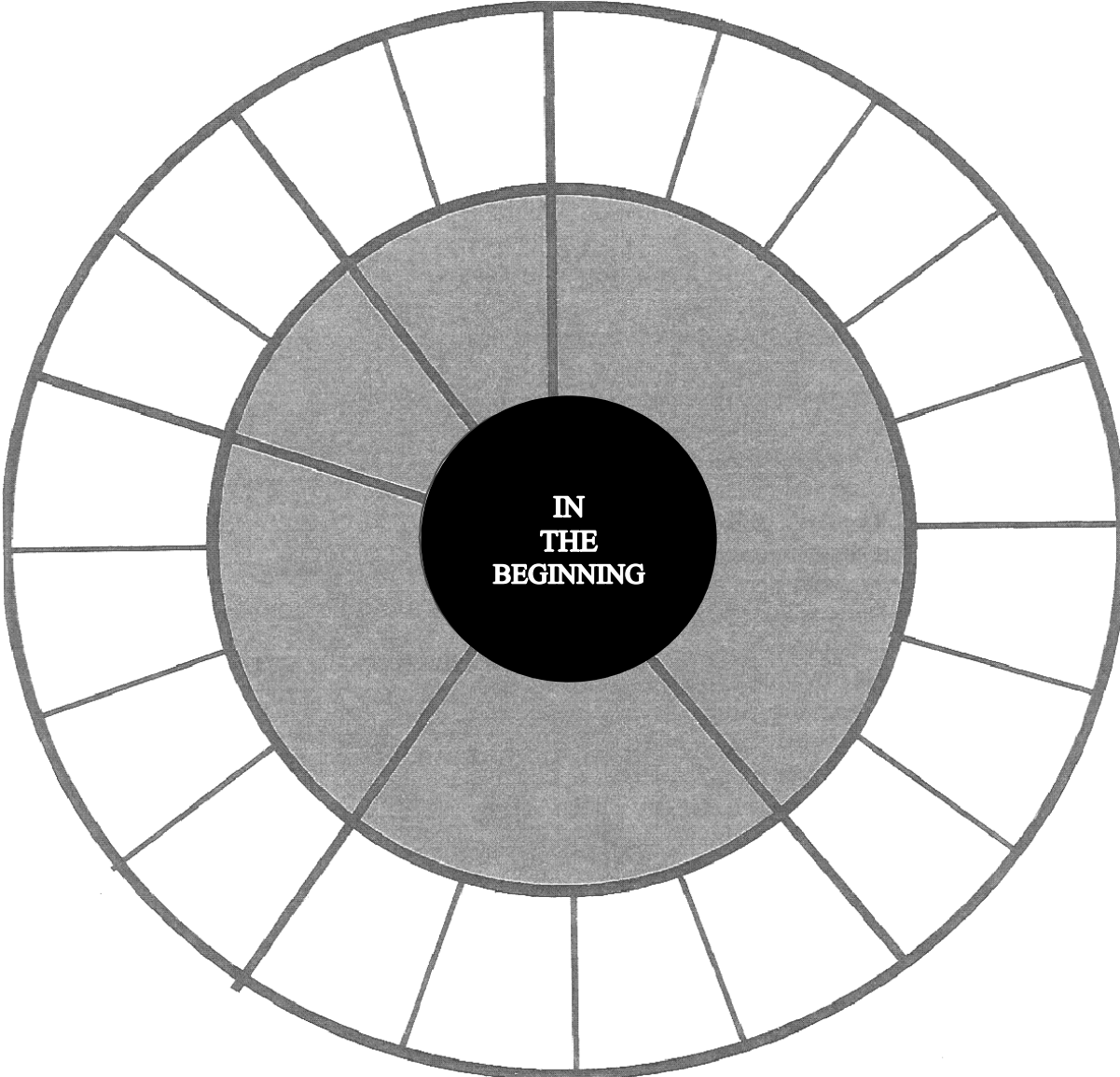
Deuteronomy _____

Pentateuch _____

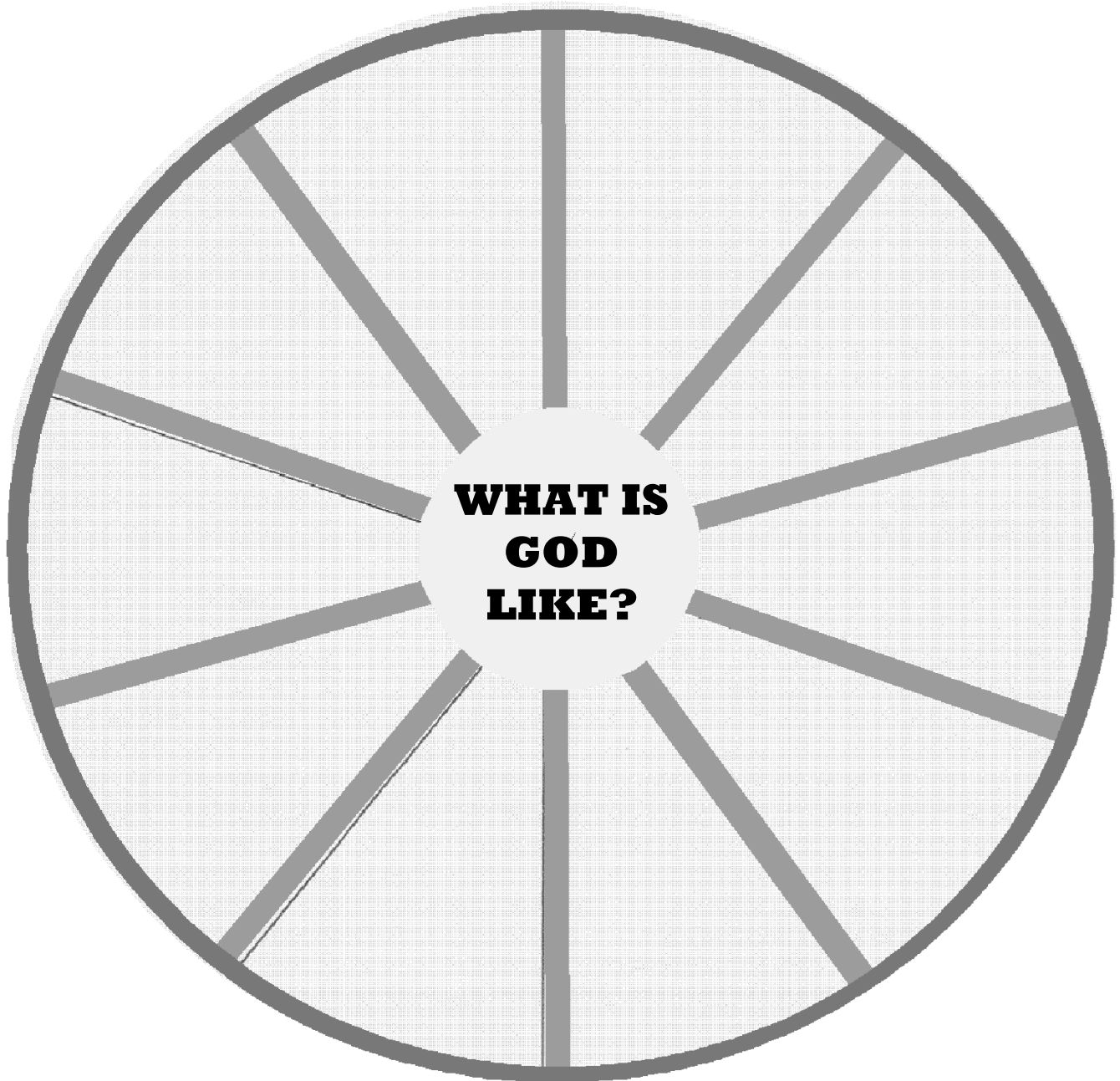
Sin _____

5. What do you believe is the one main point of the Pentateuch?

6. Fill in the inner circle with the book names of the Pentateuch. Fill in the outer circle with the key words (lesson titles).



7. This course had ten "WHAT IS GOD LIKE?" sections.
Fill in the circle with the ten things you learned about God.



8. Name four beginnings you learn about in Genesis.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

9. Who was the father of the Israelite nation? _____

10. Tell one thing you learned from the life of Moses that was a help to you personally.

11. What was God's purpose in giving the Ten Commandments?

12. What do you believe was the main point God wanted the Israelites to see by requiring the offerings, priests and feasts?

13. What would you say to a person who thought Jesus was only for the Jew, or the white man, or some other particular race? From your study on *In the Beginning* why is Jesus the only way for all the people of the world?

14. What do you believe is the main thing God wants you to know after studying about the Israelite way of worship?

15. What do you believe is the main thing God wants you to do as a result of studying about the Israelite way of worship?

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