



Following After God*

Bible Flash-a-Cards

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Easter

Lessons

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Teacher Instruction

Before presenting a lesson to the children, read it over three or four times until you know it well enough to recall the main points from memory. Then practice aloud several times, holding each Flash-a-Card in sequence as you tell the story with feeling and animation appropriate to the age group.

Easter Lesson A Triumphal Entry and Last Supper

Mark 11:1-11; 14:10-26; John 13:21-33

Introduction

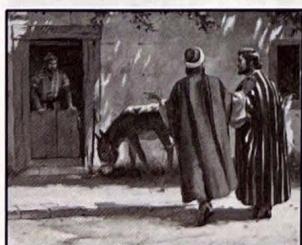
Do you remember to thank God for taking care of you? God is good, and He does wonderful things for us each day. The Jewish people had a celebration to help them remember what God had done for them. They called this special time "Passover." Jesus and His disciples were on their way to celebrate the Passover in the city of Jerusalem.

Card FG 1

Jesus Needs a Donkey

As they traveled, Jesus chose two of His disciples to go into a town to get a little donkey. His disciples may have wondered, "Do we need money to buy a donkey?" or "Who would give us a donkey?"

Jesus told them, "Just as you enter the town, you will see a young donkey—one that has never been ridden on. The donkey will be tied up. Untie him and bring him to Me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs him.'"



Away went the two disciples. Soon they found the little donkey in the street, tied at a doorway, just as Jesus had said. As they were untying the donkey, the owner called out, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?"

The disciples answered just as Jesus had told them to: "The Lord needs the donkey." The owner seemed to know exactly what the disciples were talking about, and he let them take the donkey.

Jesus wanted to use that donkey. He had a plan for that donkey. Just as Jesus had a plan for that donkey, Jesus has a plan for you each day. He wants you to obey and be kind and cheerful so people can see Jesus living in you.

Card FG 2

Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

The two disciples obeyed the Lord. They brought the donkey to where Jesus was. Then the disciples threw their coats across the donkey's back, and Jesus got on the donkey. This donkey was just a young donkey, or colt. It was so young that it had never been ridden before! When Jesus got on, did the donkey rise up and try to buck Him off? No! The little donkey behaved as if he had been ridden many times. The disciples knew that this was most unusual; it was a miracle! The donkey did not seem to think it was strange, though. After all, Jesus is God. He is the One who created donkeys, and the donkey was just obeying his Creator.

Some people spread out their coats along the road before Him. Others cut branches from palm trees and waved them in the air, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King!"

Easter Lesson A



Jesus rode the donkey into the city of Jerusalem. The streets were crowded with people who had come to celebrate the Passover. Suddenly, someone cried out,

"There's Jesus! Jesus is coming this way!" Many people had heard of the wonderful miracles Jesus had done, and they gathered in the streets to meet Him. They knew Jesus was special.

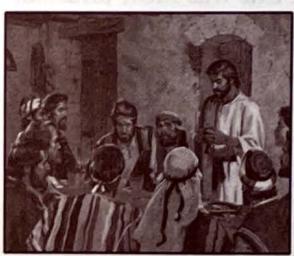
Many people thought Jesus was coming to be their new king, but that wasn't God's plan. Jesus came to be their Savior. Some people didn't realize that Jesus was the Messiah—the Son of God—who had been promised long ago to forgive them of their sins.

Card FG 3

Jesus Talks to His Disciples

After Jesus rode through the streets of Jerusalem, He and His twelve disciples went to an upstairs room, where they sat down together to eat the special Passover meal. Jesus knew that this would be His last night on earth. He told His disciples that He would soon leave them, and they felt very sad.

As Jesus sat at the table, His heart was filled with sadness, too. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, really didn't love Him, but only pretended to love Him. Jesus also knew that soon Judas would tell Jesus' enemies how they could find Him. Jesus looked at His disciples and said, "One of you will betray Me."



Great sadness swept over the disciples. They felt so sad! Which of them would do anything to hurt Jesus? One by one they asked Him, "Am I the one?"

Jesus replied, "It is one of you twelve eating with Me now."

John leaned closer to Jesus and whispered to Him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus showed him by dipping some bread into the sauce and handing it to Judas.

Judas then looked at Jesus and asked, "Master, is it I?"

Jesus answered him: "Yes, and what you are going to do, do quickly."

Jesus knew what Judas would do. He knew all about Judas. Remember, Jesus knows everything about us.

Jesus finished the Last Supper after Judas had gone. Quietly He said to His disciples, "I will soon be going away from you, and I want you to remember what I have done for you."

Jesus told His disciples many things about Himself. Do you know why God the Son, Jesus, came to earth from heaven? Why He was born as a tiny baby and grew up to be a man? God had a very special reason for Jesus to be on earth. Do you remember that God created the world and the people in it so that they would love God and serve Him? But instead of obeying God, people chose to disobey Him and do what they wanted.

God did not forget about people, though. He wanted to make a way for people to be forgiven for their sin, the bad things they do. Sin must always be punished, so God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for all the sins of the people of the world.

Jesus knew that His time on earth was nearly over. He knew that His enemies were making plans to kill Him. The disciples tried to listen carefully to all that Jesus said, but they just did not understand what was about to happen. Soon they all left the upper room. They walked with Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem and into the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus took time to pray. He knew that it was almost time for Him to do the very special work that God had sent Him to earth to do.

Review Questions:

1. What kind of animal did Jesus ride on? *a donkey*
2. What did the people shout as Jesus passed by? *Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!*

Easter Lesson B Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matt. 26:1-27:66; Mark 14:1-15:47; Luke 23:1-56; John 18:1-20:10

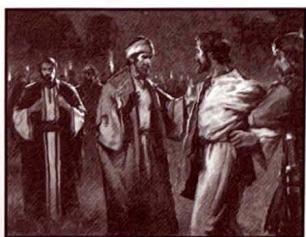
Introduction

God loves us. God made a wonderful world for us, and He made us so we could love Him, too. But people do wrong things. They disobey God and need to be punished. God made a way to forgive the bad things we do. He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for the bad things we do.

Card FG 4

Jesus Is Betrayed

Some bad people who did not love God wanted to get rid of Jesus. They paid money to Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, so Judas would show them where they could find Jesus. Judas knew that Jesus had never done anything wrong, but Judas loved money more than he loved Jesus. Judas helped the wicked men who wanted to hurt Jesus. He showed the soldiers where to find Jesus.



Do you think a few soldiers with swords could take Jesus if He did not want to go? No! Jesus is God the Son. He has all power. No one could arrest

Jesus if He wanted to stop them. Jesus let the soldiers take Him, because He knew it was God's plan for Him to take the punishment for our sin.

Card FG 5

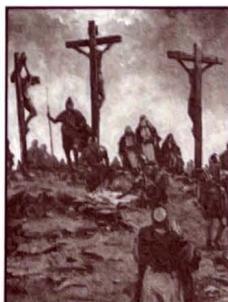
Rulers Judge Jesus

The soldiers took Jesus to the leaders who hated Him. The leaders tried to make Jesus say wrong things. They said that Jesus lied and that He was not God. Jesus told the men the truth—that He is God—but they did not believe Him. They were so angry that they took Jesus to Pilate, the man in charge of all the Jews. The angry leaders made Pilate agree to let them punish Jesus.

"Crucify Jesus!" the wicked people shouted. "Away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate gave the order for Jesus to be put to death on a cross.

Card FG 6

Jesus Is Crucified



Soldiers took Jesus outside the city of Jerusalem to a hill called Calvary. Then they put Jesus on a cross. They nailed His hands and feet to two pieces of wood crossed together.

People came by and looked at Jesus and two other men who were also on crosses. Some of the people made fun of Jesus. They said, "You helped other people. Why can't You help Yourself?"

Easter Lesson B

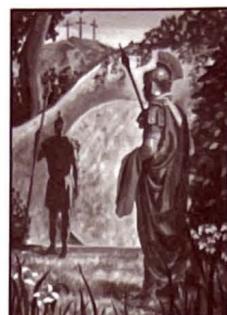
Could Jesus have helped Himself? Yes, He could have! He could have called for angels to come and punish all those bad people. He could have lifted Himself right off the cross, but that is not what He did. Jesus let Himself hang there because it was the way He could take the punishment for all our sins, all our bad things. Jesus never did anything wrong. That's why He is the *only* one who could take the punishment for other people's sin.

While Jesus hung on the cross, He took our punishment for the bad things we do. During that time God made the sky very dark. Although it was the middle of the day, the sun didn't shine! It was dark for a long time. Then Jesus said, "It is finished," and He died. He finished taking the punishment for our sin. He gave His life for us because He loves us and wants us to be forgiven.

One of the soldiers watching Jesus that day cried out, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" He believed Jesus was God the Son.

Card FG 7 Soldiers Guard the Tomb

After Jesus died, some friends who loved Him very much wanted to bury His body. A friend, Joseph, laid Jesus' body inside his own tomb. Then they closed the tomb. Strong men rolled a big, heavy stone in front of the doorway to the tomb.



Because enemies of Jesus had heard Jesus say, "After three days, I will rise again," they asked Pilate to have soldiers guard the tomb.

On the third day after Jesus' body had been put in the tomb, something wonderful happened!

Card FG 8 The Tomb Is Empty



Inside the tomb, Jesus rose from the dead; He came back to life just as He said He would! Early that morning, on the third day after Jesus' body had been put in the tomb, the ground started to shake. The soldiers guarding the tomb fell to the ground. Then a bright, shining light appeared as an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away from the tomb. The body of Jesus was not there! Jesus had risen from the dead! He was alive again! He died to take away our sins and then He came back to life. God did all these things to show us how much He loves us. He wants us to believe that He died for us.

Invitation

Let's bow our heads and close our eyes for prayer. If you believe that Jesus died for you and you want to trust the Lord Jesus right now, will you raise your hand. Those who raised your hand, please come forward and face me.

(Now speak only to those who are facing you.)

I am going to ask you **3 questions:**

Are you willing to tell God that you have done bad things?

Get a response—either "Yes" or nod of head.

Do you believe that Jesus is God and that He died on Calvary's cross for you?

Get response.

Do you want to ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart?

Get response.

If the responses are positive, then say

You need to tell God what you've told me.

So **pray** after me. Say—

(Wait for them to repeat each part of the prayer after you.)

Dear God, (they repeat)

Please forgive me for all the bad things I've done. (they repeat)

I believe Jesus is God. (they repeat)

I believe He took my eternal punishment in my place. (they repeat)

Please come into my heart and save me. (they repeat)

Thank you, God. (they repeat)

You pray similar to this:

Thank you, God, that You heard their prayer, and that You have forgiven their sins and have come to live in their heart. Now help them to live for you. Amen.

Give them an assurance verse.

If you meant your prayer to God, then the Lord Jesus has saved you. God says in His Word—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"—Acts 16:31.

Or you could quote John 3:16 or John 1:12.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"—John 3:16.

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"—John 1:12.

Note: If you give an invitation, do not ask review questions after this lesson. If no invitation is given, use these questions.

Review Questions:

1. Why did Jesus die on the cross? *to take the punishment for our sins*
2. Why was Jesus the only One who could take our punishment? *because He had never done anything wrong*
3. What happened on the third day after Jesus' body was put in the tomb? *He rose from the dead.*

Easter Lesson C Jesus Appears Alive and Returns to Heaven

Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-48; John 20:1-20; Acts 1:8-11

Introduction

Jesus was dead. He died on the cross for all the wrong things we do. But did He stay dead? No, after three days, He rose again.

Card FG 9

Women Go to the Tomb

That same morning, just as the sun was rising, several women who had been Jesus' friends went to the tomb. The women wanted



to put sweet-smelling perfumes and spices on His body, for they loved Jesus very much. As they walked along, the women wondered how they could roll the big stone away from the door to the tomb so they could get inside.

They knew the stone was very big; it would be too heavy for them to move.

Card FG 10

Angels Appear to Tell the News

When the women arrived at the tomb, they saw a very strange sight. The stone already had been rolled away from the entrance! One



of the ladies, Mary Magdalene saw that the stone was rolled away and the tomb was open. She did not know an angel had rolled the stone away.

Quickly Mary Magdalene left and went to tell the disciples that the stone

was rolled away! The other ladies came closer and saw a wonderful sight—an angel! The angel told them, "Don't be afraid. I know that you're looking for Jesus, but He isn't here. He is alive—just as He said. Come and see."

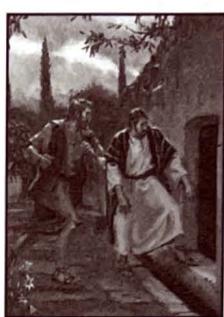
The women looked inside the tomb. The body of Jesus was gone! Suddenly, they saw two angels as bright as lightning.

The angels said, "Jesus is not here. He is risen from the dead. Go tell His disciples that Jesus is alive!"

Quickly the women ran to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.

Card FG 11

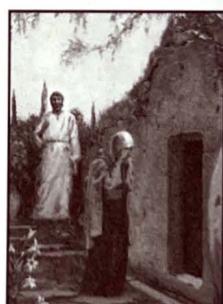
Disciples See the Empty Tomb



When Peter and John, two of Jesus' special friends, heard that Jesus' tomb was empty, they ran to see for themselves. They looked inside the empty tomb. What do you suppose they saw? Jesus' body was gone! The empty grave clothes were there and the napkin that had been about Jesus' head was there, but Jesus' body was gone.

Card FG 12

Mary Sees Jesus



Mary Magdalene had not stayed at the tomb long enough to hear the angel's message. She did not understand that Jesus was alive. She was so sad that she came back to the tomb and cried.

While she was crying, a voice spoke to her. "Woman, why are you crying?"

Mary turned and saw a man standing near her. She thought he must be the gardener who took care of the garden.

"Oh, Sir," Mary cried, "if you have taken Jesus' body away, please tell me where you put Him so that I can go get His body and bring it back."

The man spoke again. "Mary."

Mary looked more closely. Only one Person said her name like that. Could it be?—Yes! It was Jesus! How excited Mary was!

Jesus talked with Mary. How happy Mary was to see Jesus! When she reached the place where the disciples were gathered, she told the disciples that she had seen Jesus—alive!

Card FG 13

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

That morning Jesus had risen from the dead. That evening, the disciples were talking together about the exciting things that had happened. Suddenly Jesus was right there in the room with them. Though the doors were all locked, Jesus came right into their midst!



Jesus showed His disciples the places in His hands where the nails had been. They saw that Jesus was not dead anymore. He was truly alive! Jesus talked to many people in the next days, proving that He was alive, and He helped them to understand what it all meant.

After a while, Jesus told His disciples that it was time for Him to return to heaven to be with God the Father. Jesus had finished the work He had come to earth to do. That work was to die on the cross to take the punishment for all the bad things we do. And He came back to life to show that everyone who trusts Jesus as Savior will also live forever with God in heaven.

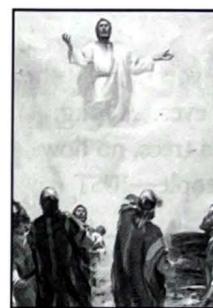
Card FG 14

Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

It was forty days after Jesus arose from the dead that He took His eleven disciples to the Mount of Olives. There Jesus said to them, "My dear friends, I'm going away—I'm going home—back to my heavenly Father. Don't be sad; I will come back. While I am gone, I have a big job for you to do for Me."

The disciples asked, "What do You want us to do? We will try to do whatever You ask."

Jesus told them, "You know how much I love you, and that I died and rose again so that you can have your sins forgiven. I did this so that you will be able to come and live with Me in heaven forever. But there are many, many people who don't know Me. They have never heard about Me. I want you to go and tell them. Start right here in Jerusalem; then go to Judaea and into Samaria; and then go to the rest of the world and tell them about Me." Jesus told His disciples He wanted everyone to come to heaven and live with Him!



The Lord Jesus finished talking. Suddenly His body began to go up, up, up into the sky, until His disciples could not see Him anymore. Jesus disappeared from their sight and went back to heaven!

The disciples stood there looking up into heaven.

Suddenly two angels appeared and said, "You men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into heaven? This same Jesus who has gone back to heaven will come back the very same way."

The disciples obeyed Jesus and began to tell others about Him. We are to tell others about Jesus, too, because Jesus wants everyone to go to heaven and live with Him.

Jesus is now in heaven preparing a place for us, that is, for everyone who trusts Jesus as his Savior. Those who love Jesus will live with Him forever!

Optional: You may want to give an invitation after this lesson. (See p. 4 for details.) If no invitation is given, use questions on next page.

Review Questions:

1. What did the women see at Jesus' tomb? *an angel*
2. Where is Jesus today? *in heaven*
3. What must a person do so that he can go to heaven? *believe on Jesus and trust Him to forgive his sins*

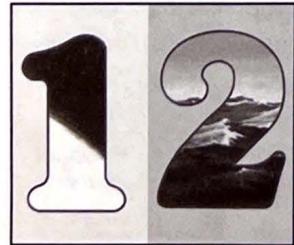
Lesson 1**Creation—Part 1***Gen. 1:1-13***Introduction**

Close your eyes. What do you see? Nothing, just darkness. Open your eyes. A long, l-o-n-g time ago there were no trees, no flowers, no stars, no animals, no people—JUST GOD. God has always lived.

God looked down from His home in heaven and said, “I’m going to create a world.” *Create* means to make out of nothing. Only God can make something out of nothing. God created the heavens and earth and all the things that we see, touch, hear, taste, and smell.

Card FG 15**First Day God Makes Light**

At first, there was darkness everywhere. It was very, very dark. Then God said, “Let there be light.” Suddenly, there was bright light everywhere!



God didn’t use anything to make the light; He just spoke. (*Turn off the lights in the room. Ask the children, “Can I make the lights come on just by speaking?” Say, “Lights, come on.” Pause. “What happened? Nothing! But when God spoke, light appeared. God can create things just with His word.” Turn the classroom lights back on.)*

God called the light Day. He called the darkness Night.

“And the evening and the morning were the first day.” This was the beginning of the world.

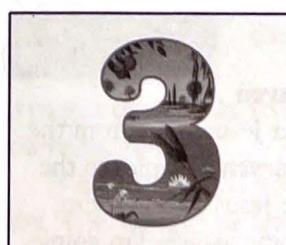
The Second Day

On the second day of Creation, God spoke and made the beautiful blue sky. He made air for us to breathe. He separated the sky from the water. He knew we would need air and water. That was the end of the second day of Creation.

God was not finished yet.

Card FG 16**Dry Land and Plants**

On day three, God spoke and said, “Let dry land appear.” The dry land pushed up through the water. We call the land earth, or dirt. There were no trees, flowers, or grass yet, just the dirt. Then God spoke again and said,



“Let the earth bring forth grass and trees and other plants.” Suddenly grass grew and covered over the dirt. Apple trees, pine trees, oak trees, and many other trees stood on hills and in forests. Tulips, roses, daisies, sunflowers, and many other flowers appeared and bloomed. Strawberries, carrots, corn, peanuts, and other fruits and vegetables grew out of the ground. Every

tree, plant, and flower you can think of was created on the third day of Creation.

"And God saw that it was good" (*Gen. 1:12*).

What a wonderful God we have! He just spoke and created all the beautiful world around us. He made it out of nothing.

Review Questions:

1. Who made the world? *God did.*
2. How did God create the world? *He just spoke.*
3. What did God create on the first day? *He created light.*
4. What did God do on the second day? *He separated the sky from the water.*
5. What did God do on the third day? *He created the earth (dirt) and plants.*

Lesson 2

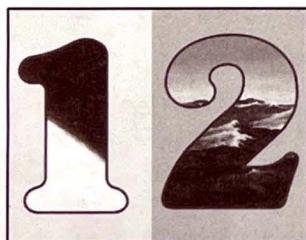
Creation—Part 2

Gen. 1:1-27; 2:1-3, 7, 21-23

Cards FG 15, 16 (*show again*)

Introduction

Who made our wonderful world? Yes, God made our beautiful world, long, long ago.



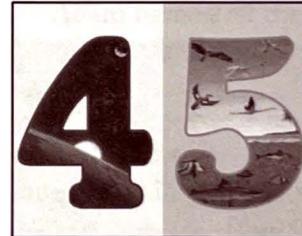
Do you remember what God made on the first day? On day one, God said, "Let there be light." Then there was light!

What did God make on the second day of Creation? Yes, God made the water and the sky. And on day three, God made the dry land and all the plants that grow.



Card FG 17 The Fourth Day

On day number four, God said, "Let the sun, the moon, and the stars appear in the sky."



The Fifth Day

On day five, God said, "Let the waters be filled with fish and all the creatures that live in the water." All the fish and creatures that swim suddenly appeared in the water. There were whales, dolphins, sharks, crabs, many different fish, and all the little creatures that live in shells in the water.

Then God looked at the sky and said, "Let birds fly in the sky." Suddenly there were birds flying everywhere—blue jays, owls, red cardinals, white sea gulls, big eagles, tiny hummingbirds, pretty parrots, quacking ducks, and many other birds all flying in the sky. Every animal in the water and every bird of the air, God created on day five.

The sun gives light in the daytime, and the moon and stars shine at night. God just spoke, and these things appeared in just the right places. And God knew that it was good.

Lesson 3

Card FG 18

The Sixth Day

On day six, God made animals that live on the ground. He made the tall giraffe and the tiny mouse. He made dogs, cats, lions, bears, monkeys, dinosaurs, horses, and more. All the little creeping animals, like ants and worms, were created on day six, too. (*Note: You might wish to show plastic animals or other toy animals as you talk about God's creation.*)



On day six, God also created someone very special. God made the first man, Adam. God made man different from the animals. God made man able to choose between right and wrong.

How did God make the first man? God took some dust from the ground and shaped it like a man. Then God breathed into the man the breath of life, and man began to breathe.

God also made a wife for Adam. Her name was Eve. She would be Adam's helper, friend, and wife. God made people so they can learn about God and please Him.

In six days, God created all the world. He created all the growing things and all the animals, and He created man. Everything God made was good, so He ended His work.

The Seventh Day

On day seven, God rested. Was God tired? No, He rested to show that His work was finished. He also gave us an example to follow. We need to rest from our work, too.

Could anyone else have made the things God made? No, only God could make something out of nothing at all. God is greater than any person or anything could ever be. Everything God created was perfect. God created the world and everything in it. What a wonderful, powerful God we have! Let's thank Him for the world He made.

Review Questions:

1. What light shines in the daytime? *the sun*
2. What animals did God put in the water? *fish and creatures that live in the water* In the air? *birds*
3. Who were the first man and woman? *Adam and Eve*

Lesson 3

Adam and Eve

Gen. 1:26-2:23

Introduction

Who made the beautiful world we live in? God did! How did He do it? God spoke and created all that we see. Day and night, the sky and water, the sun and moon and stars, and the dry land and plants were all created by God. How beautiful our world was! But did God stop then? No, God created birds, fish, and

other animals. God looked at all He had made and said, "Behold this is very good."

Card FG 19 God Makes Adam

None of the things that God had made could talk to Him or love Him. Then God made a man. This time, however, God did not



just speak. God molded man out of the dust of the earth, and then God breathed into him the breath of life, “and man became a living soul” (*Gen. 2:7*). This man’s name was Adam. Adam could talk to God, love God, and obey God. This made Adam different from all the animals and other things that God made.

When God looked at the animals and other creatures that He made, He said it was good. But God knew Adam was lonely. He needed a wife.

Card FG 20

God Makes Eve

So God made Adam go to sleep. Then from Adam’s side, God took a rib bone and used it to create Eve, the first woman. Then God breathed into her and she became Adam’s helper. Eve was someone else who could love God, talk to Him, and obey Him.

God made a beautiful place for Adam and Eve to live. It was not a big house or beautiful castle. It was a lovely garden home, a beautiful paradise. This home was called the Garden of Eden.

In the Garden of Eden were all the beautiful things God created. It was a perfect place to live. There were pretty flowers and trees to enjoy. There were delicious vegetables, fruits, and other things to eat. All the animals were



friendly to Adam and Eve. This first man and woman enjoyed talking to God. They loved God and obeyed Him. Everything in their garden home was perfect.

God gave Adam some special jobs to do in his beautiful garden home. One of those jobs was to name the animals God had created. Because Adam loved God, He did what God asked him to do.

Adam obeys God

Birds flew across the sky and down from the trees. Giraffes, elephants, turtles, raccoons, and dogs walked on the ground—and Adam named them all. “You are a hummingbird. . . . You’re a tiger. . . . You’re a rabbit. . . . You’re a butterfly,” Adam decided.

Adam gave names to all the land animals and birds. Adam also went down to the water and named all the creatures that lived in the rivers and seas. Every bright, shiny fish, every creature that lives in a shell, and every kind of shark and whale received a name from Adam.

Adam named all the animals. What fun Adam must have had doing this job for God!

We Must Obey

God knew that Adam could be trusted to do this special job. When God looks down from heaven, will He be able to choose you to do a special job for Him? God looks for boys and girls who know how to obey. When your mother gives you a job, do you obey quickly and happily? If you do, then God will be able to trust you with a big job someday. Doing little jobs shows God you are getting ready for bigger jobs.

Review Questions:

1. Who were the first man and woman? *Adam and Eve*
2. Where did Adam and Eve live? *in the Garden of Eden*
3. Who gave the animals their names? *Adam*

Lesson 4

Heaven

John 14:2–3; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; Rev. 21:1–22:5

Introduction

Do you like to go places? Do you like to go to the park or to the beach? Maybe to see tall mountains or big cities? Maybe you'd like to go to the country to visit a farm and see cows, and maybe even ride a horse? Maybe you would like to go to the zoo to see all the animals God made—the lions, the monkeys, the bears. The world is full of wonderful places to go and visit.

But the most wonderful place of all we can't even visit! It is where God lives—the place we call heaven. The Bible tells us that heaven is a large, beautiful, and wonderful city. There are twelve big gates that go into the city. Each gate has a great big, beautiful pearl.

Card FG 21

Heaven Is a Beautiful Place

What is heaven like? Heaven is a wonderful city where the streets are made out of gold! We don't have a lot of gold on earth; rings, necklaces, and watches made out of gold are very expensive. But in heaven, even the streets are paved with gold. In God's wonderful city called heaven, there are precious jewels—jewels are very expensive stones that glitter and shine.



Heaven has a beautiful river; on each side of the river is a tree with different kinds of fruit growing on it. Can you imagine different kinds of fruit growing on the same tree? On earth, we get only oranges from orange trees, and apples from apple trees, and pears from pear trees; on earth we do not get different kinds of fruit from the same tree! But in heaven, even the trees are very special!

In heaven, it will never be dark; there will never be any night in God's wonderful city. The city of heaven will always be filled with light, because God is there. Sunshine, or flash-

lights, or candles will not be needed in God's beautiful city.

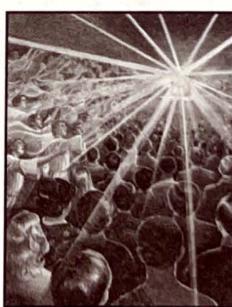
I'm glad there won't be any sadness or any crying in heaven. No one will ever be sick or get hurt in heaven, so there won't be any need for hospitals or doctors in God's great city. Those in heaven never get old, and they will never die. Everyone in heaven is happy and healthy.

I'm glad that bad things (called sin) will never enter into God's beautiful city. There will be no thieves to steal anything there, and no one will ever do bad things or hurt anyone in heaven. And best of all, God lives in heaven. We'll talk with Him and live with Him forever. We will be able to see His Son, Jesus, and talk to Him forever and ever.

Card FG 22

Those Who Live in Heaven

Angels will also be in that wonderful city. (Point to angels.) Angels are not people; angels have always lived in heaven. Angels are God's



special servants. All kinds of people will be in heaven: big people, little people, people of every color and from every country, people who are really important and just ordinary people like you and me will be in heaven.

Of course, Jesus, the Son of God, lives in heaven. It is His city. He is the most wonderful Person in all of heaven. All the people and all the angels will worship Jesus.

God wants everybody to come to live in His wonderful home with Him. He made the city for all of us to enjoy, but not everyone will go there when they die. Only those who trust Jesus to be their Savior will get to go to live in heaven forever and ever.

Card FG 23

Jesus Is the Way to Heaven

Why will heaven be such a special place? Because Jesus will be there! Jesus is so good and kind that He will not allow any bad thing to enter into His city. Though we all do bad things, like not obeying our parents, or not being kind to others, Jesus still loves us. Jesus



loves us so much He died to take the punishment for all the bad things we do. If we trust and believe on Jesus, then one day we can go live with Him in the wonderful city of heaven forever and ever.

Review Questions:

1. Name some things that will be in heaven. *Jesus, God, gates of pearl, streets of gold, angels, a tree that grows different kinds of fruit, etc.*
2. Name some things that will not be in heaven. *There will be no sin, no darkness, no crying, no sickness, etc., in heaven.*

Lesson 5 **Naaman and the Servant Girl—Part 1**

2 Kings 5:1–4

Introduction

Our Bible story today is about obedience. What is obedience? Obedience is doing what someone tells you to do. Sometimes obedience is doing what God says to do; it is doing right even when no one is watching to make sure we do right.

Card FG 24

The Servant Girl Is Obedient

A young girl was once taken away from her home, in the country of Israel, and made to be a servant in the home of a man named Naaman, who lived in another land. Naaman was an important man. He commanded his king's armies.

The young girl became a servant to Naaman's wife. Every day the girl did the jobs she should do. She was very obedient. She worked hard and was a cheerful worker. When she was younger, the little servant girl had learned about God and about how powerful He is. She knew that God can do wonderful things that no one else can do.



The little servant girl also knew about a man of God who lived in Israel. Do you remember learning about Elisha, who helped the woman from

Shunem when her little boy died? Well, Elisha lived in Israel during this time. The little servant girl had heard of Elisha, and she knew that he was God's special servant. She knew that God gave Elisha power to do many things other people could not do.

Naaman, the girl's master, was an important man, but something very terrible happened to him. He got the terrible sickness called leprosy. His skin had sores on it, and he knew that the sores would keep getting worse and worse. Everyone in the family was very sad because they knew that nothing could make Naaman well.

When the little servant girl learned that Naaman had leprosy, she thought right away

Lesson 6

about God's servant Elisha. She knew that God could give Elisha the power to make Naaman's leprosy go away.

But what would she do? If someone had been unkind to you, would you do something nice for them in return? It would be very hard, wouldn't it? The little girl could have said to herself, "It serves Naaman right that he has

leprosy! He makes me do hard work!" But that is not what she said. Instead, she went to Naaman's wife and told her, "If Naaman would go see the prophet Elisha, he could cure Naaman of his leprosy."

The servant girl chose to do what was right, even though no one told her to. Her obedience pleased God.

Review Questions:

1. What important man had the disease called leprosy? *Naaman*
2. What prophet did the servant girl tell Naaman to go see? *Elisha*

Lesson 6 **Naaman and the Servant Girl—Part 2**

2 Kings 5:1–5, 9–15

Card FG 24 (show again)

Introduction

Is it always easy to obey? No, sometimes it is very hard. It may have been hard for the servant girl to tell Naaman's wife about God's prophet Elisha. Sometimes obedience is hard because we do not want to do what we are told.

Naaman had trouble obeying, too.

After the servant girl told Naaman's wife about God's prophet Elisha, Naaman's wife told her husband. Naaman must have been very excited to hear that someone could cure him of leprosy.

Card FG 25

A Cure for Naaman

Quickly Naaman prepared for his journey to Israel. He got his horses and chariot ready. He took many gifts with him to make sure the prophet would help him. Naaman rode his chariot to Elisha's house.



When Naaman arrived, Elisha sent a servant out to talk to him. "Go wash yourself seven times in the Jordan River, and your leprosy will be gone," the servant told Naaman.

Naaman did not like having a servant tell him to do something. Naaman wanted Elisha to see him and heal his skin from leprosy. Naaman was so angry that he turned his horses and chariot around to go home. Naaman did not want to obey.

"We have better rivers near my house," said Naaman. "Why can't I go home and wash in one of them to be made well?"

Naaman's servants knew that Naaman was wrong to leave. They wanted Naaman to obey Elisha's servant and be made well from leprosy.

"Sir," they asked him, "if the man of God had told you to do something very hard to get well from leprosy, wouldn't you do it? Why won't you do something that is easy?"

Card FG 26**Naaman Decides to Obey**

Naaman realized they were right. He drove his chariot to the Jordan River. Naaman went down to the river and got into the water. Naaman dipped under the water one time.



(Count on your fingers each time Naaman goes into the water.)
As he came up out of the water, he probably looked at his skin to see if there had been any

change. No, not yet. But Elisha had told him to dip into the river seven times. He dipped down into the water again. Still there was no change. He went down a third time, but the leprosy still was there. Four times, five times, six times, but each time he still had leprosy. Finally, Naaman went under the water for the seventh time, the number of times Elisha had said to go under the water.

Card FG 27**Naaman Is Healed**

This time when Naaman came up out of the water, the leprosy was gone! His skin was



as soft and clear as a baby's skin. His leprosy was gone!

How thankful Naaman was! He drove his chariot back to Elisha's house and said to the prophet,

"Now I know that there is no god in the whole world except the God of Israel. I will never again give my sacrifices and offerings to any other god except the true God."

Naaman was not cured from his leprosy until he obeyed. Even though he was told to do something he did not want to do, Naaman learned that when he obeyed, God blessed him.

God is pleased when we obey our parents, and our teachers, too. It isn't enough to obey part of the way. God wants complete obedience. When your mother says to pick up your toys, you should pick up *all* of your toys. If you pick up only a few toys, you haven't really obeyed. Let's ask God to help us be obedient today.

Review Questions:

1. Did Naaman want to go to the Jordan River? *no*
2. How many times did Naaman dip into the water? *seven*
3. What happened when Naaman came up out of the water the seventh time? *His leprosy was gone.*

Lesson 7**Lost Lamb**

Matt. 18:12–14; Luke 15:4–6

Introduction

When Jesus lived here on earth He often told stories. He told these stories to help the people understand a lesson He was trying to

teach them. Here is a story He told a long time ago to mothers and fathers and boys and girls just like you.

Lesson 7

Card FG 28

The Good Shepherd Takes Care of His Sheep

Once there was a shepherd who took care of one hundred sheep. Each sheep had a name, and when the shepherd talked to them, he would call them by their name. Every morning, the good shepherd took his sheep to the pasture to find fresh, green grass to eat and cool, still water to drink. As the shepherd led his sheep to the fields, he would look around to make sure there weren't any holes in the path that the sheep would step into and hurt their legs. He would make sure the path was wide enough for the sheep to walk on, so they wouldn't fall down a mountainside.

Sheep cannot see very far ahead of them, and so the good shepherd would show them just where to go. He made sure that no lions, bears, or other wild animals were hiding in the bushes or behind trees, waiting for a little lamb who might be lost. He used his rod and staff to protect his sheep against wild animals. He always kept his eyes and ears open for any sign of danger. He loved his sheep very much.

Sometimes a lamb would not obey the good shepherd. The lamb would go off wherever it wanted to go. Each time the shepherd would call him back; if the lamb did not come back, the shepherd would go and look for him.

A Lamb Disobeys

One day a little lamb did not want to obey the good shepherd. He wanted to go off by himself. So little by little, he moved away from his mother, and little by little, he moved away from the good shepherd. Pretty soon he was running around having the best time when, all of a sudden, he could not see his mother and he could not see the shepherd. He looked here; he looked there! He could not find the shepherd. What would he do? He was scared! HE WAS LOST!

The other sheep were tired; they had been out in the fields all day. The shepherd gathered them together to go back to the sheepfold. As they went into the fold, the shepherd always counted the sheep. "One, two, three, four,

five, six, seven, . . ." until he got to one hundred. "One hundred sheep; yes, that's how many I have," the shepherd would say to himself. But when he counted his sheep this time, do you know what? There were only ninety-nine. Ninety-nine sheep! What happened? Something is wrong! One little lamb is gone. One little lamb is lost. "Oh," said the shepherd, "I MUST find my little lost lamb."

Up the path he went, back to the fields, calling the little lost lamb. "Little lamb! Little lamb!" But the lamb was not there. The shepherd's feet slipped and slid over the rocks along the path. Sharp thorns stuck him as he brushed against the bushes. "Little lamb! Little lamb!" Suddenly the shepherd heard something. "Baaa-a-a."

"Little lamb!" he called out again.

"BAAA-A-A! Here I am, good shepherd. Here I am!"

"Oh! Little lamb, I have found you," said the good shepherd. "Don't cry," he said as he bent over a huge rock and saw his lost sheep on a rocky ledge. "I am here. You are safe now." How happy

the little lamb was. He had been lost but now he was found.

Card FG 29

The Good Shepherd Finds His Lamb

The little lamb was shivering as the good shepherd picked him up and held him close. How safe and warm the little lamb felt. How



happy he was that he had a shepherd who loved him so very much.

"Home we go," said the good shepherd, as he patted the little lamb.

When they got home, the good shepherd checked the little lamb that had been lost. The

little lamb had scratches all over him. The good shepherd put oil on the little lamb's sores; he cleaned the thorns and sticks out of his wool. He gave him a drink of water and held him close until he went to sleep. As the little lamb lay in the shepherd's arms, he said to himself, "I will obey my good shepherd from now on."

Card FG 30**Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd**

Have you guessed who the Good Shepherd is in Jesus' story? Yes, it is Jesus! He was talk-



ing about Himself. Jesus told the boys and girls, "I am the Good Shepherd." He wants boys and girls to be His little lambs. He wants you to follow and

obey Him, so one day you can work for Him and tell others about His love and how they too can go to heaven.

Review Questions:

1. Who took care of the sheep and kept them from danger? *the shepherd*
2. What happened to the little lamb that did not obey the shepherd? *He got lost and was hurt.*

Lesson 8**Joseph**

Genesis 37:1–4, 18–28; 39:1–6, 20–23; 41:38–41, 42–45; 46:1–7

Introduction

Joseph came from a very large family. He had an older sister named Dinah, ten older brothers, and one little brother named Benjamin. Joseph's father was Jacob, and Jacob wanted all his many children to love God. Young Joseph loved to hear his father Jacob tell about the promises that God had made to Joseph's great-grandfather Abraham, his grandfather Isaac, and his father Jacob. Joseph believed these promises that God made. He learned to trust God with all his heart, and he wanted to obey God. Joseph's ten older brothers were all grown men. They did not always please their father Jacob; sometimes they made him very sad.

Card FG 31**Joseph Pleases His Father**

Joseph's job was to help his ten older brothers take care of his father's sheep. He was a good helper. He worked hard. As Joseph worked with his brothers, he sometimes saw them do things they should not do. He heard them say things they should not say. It made Joseph sad. Joseph went to his father and told him the things his brothers did. Jacob was disappointed with his older sons.

Joseph's brothers began to dislike Joseph, because Joseph would not join in their wrongdoing. They made fun of him for wanting to please God. It probably hurt Joseph's feelings when his brothers laughed at him, but he knew that God is pleased when we do right, and Joseph wanted to please God.

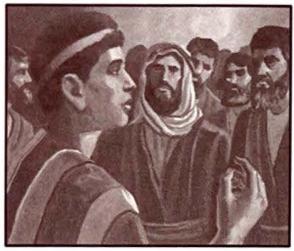
Lesson 8



One day Jacob gave Joseph a very special gift—a beautiful coat. This coat was brightly colored, with lots of different colors. When the older brothers saw

this special coat, they were jealous, and they hated Joseph. They called Joseph names and angrily accused him: “You’re Father’s pet; he’s never given us a fine coat like that. You just wait; we’ll fix you!”

Card FG 32 Joseph’s Brothers Are Jealous



Joseph’s brothers were furious. This made Joseph sad, but he knew that the reason his father had given him the special coat was because Joseph loved God

and wanted to serve Him.

Was it right for the brothers to call Joseph names and make fun of him? Of course not! We are not doing right at all when we act like that, are we? When your mommy and daddy give your sister or brother something, do you become jealous? I hope not. Just because you don’t get something doesn’t mean Mommy and Daddy don’t love you. We need to be happy for others when they get special things. God knows what we need, and He will give us what we need exactly when we need it.

Joseph didn’t want his brothers to hate him. He loved his brothers. He wanted them to love God. As time passed, though, his brothers did

more and more mean things to him. Finally, one day when he was taking them some food to eat, they grabbed him and sold him to some slave traders from Egypt. These men carried Joseph far away to the land of Egypt, where he became a slave, and then a prisoner, and finally a very important ruler in Egypt. No matter what happened to him, Joseph loved God and obeyed Him. He wanted to do right, no matter what.

Card FG 33 Joseph Rules in Egypt

Years passed, and Joseph’s older brothers traveled to Egypt to get food for themselves and their father and little brother Benjamin. They did not know that the important ruler they talked to in Egypt was their brother Joseph. But Joseph recognized his brothers!

Do you suppose that now Joseph tried to get back at his brothers for treating him so cruelly? No. He was very kind to them.

He gave them all they needed, and he forgave them. He arranged for all the brothers and their children and Benjamin and his father Jacob to come and live in Egypt with him for the rest of their lives.

When the brothers told Joseph how sorry they were for their meanness, Joseph said, “Don’t feel bad. You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. Let’s all just be happy together now.”

What a kind, forgiving heart Joseph had! Let’s pray and ask God to help us today to be kind as Joseph was.

Review Questions:

1. What did Jacob give to Joseph? *a beautiful coat*
2. Who did Joseph’s brother sell him to? *slave traders*
3. How did Joseph treat his brothers when they came to Egypt? *with kindness*

Lesson 9

Jonah—Part 1

Jonah 1:1-17

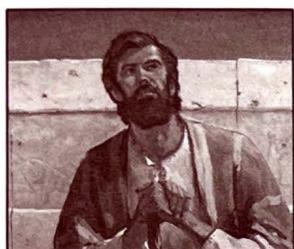
Introduction

Has your mother ever said, "Tell Daddy it's time to eat," or "Tell your teacher I'll pick you up early today." When you tell Daddy or your teacher what your mother has said, you are being a messenger.

Card FG 34

Jonah, God's Messenger

God had special messengers called prophets. He gave them messages to give His people.



Jonah was a prophet or messenger of God who lived a long time ago. One day God told Jonah, "I want you to go to Nineveh, that great city, and tell the

people that I know how disobedient they are." In spite of their sin, God loved the people of Nineveh, and He wanted Jonah to tell them to obey, to stop doing bad things, and to ask God to forgive them.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. He did not want to give the people of Nineveh God's message, because he didn't like those people.

Jonah Does the Opposite

Jonah did the opposite of what God wanted him to do. God said to go one way. Jonah said no, and went the other. He would not give God's message to the people of Nineveh.

Jonah went down to the nearest seaport town. There he got on a ship that was going to the city of Tarshish. When he got on the ship Jonah felt very sad, for he knew he was not doing what was right. He knew he was not obeying God. When we disobey, we know it, too. We know that it is important to always obey. God still loved Jonah, just as He loved

the people of Nineveh. He wanted Jonah to learn that disobedience gets us into trouble. He wanted him to know that the only way to be safe and happy is to obey God.

Card FG 35

Sailors Find Jonah

Jonah lay down to sleep. While he was asleep, God sent a terrible storm. The storm was so terrible that the sailors on the ship were afraid. The sailors in the ship had never been in such a terrible storm. They dumped their cargo into the sea to make the ship lighter and able to float. They tried and tried to keep the ship from sinking. Up and down the ship went in the water. Harder and harder the wind blew. The storm kept getting worse and they saw that there was nothing they could do. They called on their gods to help them, but the storm did not stop. Their gods could not help. There is only one true God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth. Only God could stop such a terrible storm.



The sailors saw Jonah asleep. How could anyone sleep in such a terrible storm? They went to Jonah. "Wake up, wake up," they said. "The ship is sinking!"

Wake up and ask your God to help us."

Jonah felt he could not ask God. He knew in his heart that the terrible storm was all his fault because he did not do what God asked.

The sailors said, "Someone on this ship is causing the terrible storm." They decided to cast lots. (Casting lots is like drawing straws to see who goes first in a game.) Jonah picked the short straw, and the sailors knew the storm was all Jonah's fault.

"Who are you?" they asked him. "Why

Lesson 9

have you done this? Don't you know we could all drown?"

"I did not obey God," Jonah said. "I did not go and give a message to the people in Nineveh as He told me to do."

The sailors looked at each other. "Why didn't you obey?" they cried. "Look what you did!"

Jonah said, "Throw me into the water and the storm will stop."

Card FG 36 Jonah Cast into the Sea

The sailors did not want to do that, but they knew nothing else would help them. They picked up Jonah and threw him over the rail of

the ship and into the water. The sailors thought for sure that Jonah would drown. But they were afraid of Jonah's God, and so they obeyed.

Suddenly, as quickly as the storm started, it stopped, and the sea became calm. The sailors then knew that



Jonah's God had sent the storm and Jonah's God had stopped the storm. They knew that Jonah's God had power to do great miracles. The sailors promised to serve God.

God loved Jonah, and He had something else planned for him, even in the middle of the sea. God made a very special big fish. As soon as Jonah fell into the water, the big fish opened its mouth and swallowed Jonah. Instead of drowning in the sea, Jonah found himself alive in the belly of a big fish. This was not a comfortable place to be, but at least Jonah was still alive.

Sometimes we do things that we know are wrong. We know God has said we are to obey our parents and be kind, but we do not do it. Then our parents have to punish us. Does that mean they do not love us? No; that means they love us and want us to grow up knowing how to be obedient. God punished Jonah too, because He wanted him to learn how important it is to obey God. And because God still loved Jonah, He kept him safe in the belly of the fish.

Review Questions:

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go? *Nineveh*
2. Did Jonah obey God? *no*
3. What animal swallowed Jonah? *a big fish*

Lesson 10

Jonah—Part 2

Jonah 2:1–3:10

Card FG 36 (*show again*)

Jonah Tells God He'll Obey

Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, and a great fish God made swallowed him. Jonah thought he would surely die in the fish's belly, but he did not. He was alive!



God had asked him to do. He said to himself, "I wish I had obeyed God! I wish I had gone to Nineveh when God told me to!"

Jonah prayed. That is the smart thing to do when you're in trouble. No one but God could help Jonah. For three days and three nights Jonah stayed in the fish's belly. He had a lot of time to think about how important it is to obey God.

Jonah prayed and asked God to forgive him. He told God he would obey Him.

Card FG 37

God Gives Jonah Another Chance

God heard Jonah's prayer and forgave him. He hears and forgives us when we ask Him,

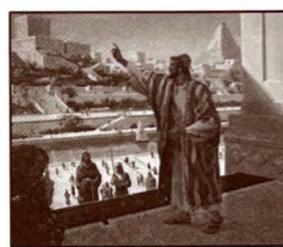


too. God caused the fish to spit Jonah out on the beach. Again God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed.

Card FG 38

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

When Jonah got there, it took him three days to walk through the city. Jonah told the people God's message. The people listened



to Jonah; they were not angry with him. They did not treat him cruelly. They listened very carefully and stopped doing the mean, wicked things that

did not make God happy. Even the king of Nineveh believed God.

For 40 days the people prayed. God heard their prayers and forgave them and saved the people and city of Nineveh. Just as God forgave Jonah and the people in Nineveh for the bad things they did, God will forgive anyone who says he is sorry. What a wonderful God we have!

Review Questions:

- What did Jonah do in the belly of the fish? *He prayed and asked God to forgive him.*
- What did Jonah do after the fish spit him out? *He obeyed God and went to Nineveh.*