

# Family of Promise

## Unit 2c

### OVERVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 31–33: God is all-knowing (omniscient) (Job 42:2).
- 33: God is unchanging (immutable) (James 1:17).
- 33: God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Hebrews 11:11–12
- Identify similes
- Identify godly characteristics
- Locate information in the Bible
- Read a timeline
- Use a concordance
- Develop a biblical view of jealousy
- Recall facts and details
- Complete a Bible study
- Realize that God keeps His promises
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

### LESSON 31

## God's Guidelines and Guidance

#### Materials

- Charts 2 and 28 (“Patriarchal Family Tree” and “The Ancient World”)

#### Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

#### Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:11–12

**Principle:** God keeps His promises and wants His children to trust Him. Locate and review the previous memory verses (Hebrews 11:8–10) and their discussion questions. Read aloud 11:8–12 as the students read silently. Select two volunteers to read 11:11–12.

How did Sarah demonstrate her faith in God? She believed that God was able to give her a child even though she was too old to give birth to a child.

What do these verses tell us about God? He has a plan, He keeps His promises, and He is faithful.

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 2 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

### Bible Account

#### Preview Background Information

##### Relatives

Rebekah (who married Isaac, Abraham’s son) was Abraham’s great-niece—the daughter of his brother’s son. Marriage within the same family was and still is considered acceptable and desirable in some Eastern cultures.

##### Marriage

There is no recorded marriage ceremony for Isaac and Rebekah. Few weddings are mentioned in the Old Testament (Jacob in Gen. 29:27, Samson in Judg. 14:10–12). After the marriage arrangements were made with Rebekah’s family, she simply left her father’s house to go to her future husband’s home. This seems to have been customary in the Old Testament era.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss seeking God's direction.** Each person makes thousands of decisions each week. Scripture does not provide specific instructions concerning every decision, but it gives commands, principles, and guidelines that direct us in making the wisest decisions for God's glory. Decisions that bear fruit for God's glory are often the result of wisdom gotten from spending a lot of time in God's Word (**Ps. 119:105, 130; Prov. 1:1–7; 2:2–12, 16; 8:33–35; 3:1–6; 1 Cor. 10:31; 6:12; 10:23; Gal. 5:22–23**). Bible reading and decision making should be done in tandem with prayer, by which we confess our sins and seek God's direction.

## Teach for Understanding

Read **Genesis 24** or use the following retelling of the passage.

Listening question: **How did God provide a wife for Isaac?**

**Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for Isaac among their relatives in another country. The servant prayed that God would show him the woman God had chosen. God answered that prayer. Rebekah and her family were willing for her to marry Isaac.** Display Chart 28 ("The Ancient World"), pointing out the following italicized places as you present the account.

## God's Guidelines and Guidance

Abraham's oldest servant was in charge of all that Abraham owned. Abraham was elderly, and God had blessed him in everything.

Abraham told his servant, "Go to my people in my country, and find a wife for my son Isaac." Abraham said that the Lord God would send His angel ahead of him to guide him.

The servant took ten camels and traveled from *Ca-naan* toward *Mesopotamia* to the city of Nahor, Abraham's brother. When they reached their destination, he made his camels kneel down outside the city near a well. Soon it would be evening, the time when women came to draw water from the well.

"O Lord God of my master Abraham," the servant prayed. "Show kindness to my master Abraham." The servant asked God to cause a young woman to give water to both him and his camels even though he would ask water for only himself. "Let that woman be the wife You have appointed for Your servant Isaac."

Even before the servant had finished praying, Rebekah, a beautiful, kind young woman came and drew some water.

Abraham's servant ran to meet her and asked if he could drink some water from her pitcher.

"Drink, my lord," Rebekah said. She hurried to let her jar down to give him a drink. "I'll bring water for your camels until they've had enough as well." Then she ran and made numerous trips until all of the camels were satisfied.

Abraham's servant watched in amazement and wondered whether God had already answered his prayer. When the camels had finished drinking, the servant gave Rebekah jewelry and asked about her family. She was the daughter of Bethuel, a relative of Abraham.

Abraham's servant bowed down and worshiped the Lord. "Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who has not held back His mercy and His truth from my master. The Lord has led me to the house of my master's relatives."

Rebekah ran and told her family all that had happened. Her brother Laban came out to meet Abraham's servant and invited him to the house and took care of his men and the camels. Laban offered them food, but the servant said, "I will not eat until I have told you why I am here."

He told Rebekah's family about Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac and about all that they owned. He told them about his promise to Abraham to find a wife for Isaac from their people and about his prayer for God's leading.

Both Rebekah's father and her brother agreed. "What is taking place is obviously from the Lord," they said. "Let her be your master's son's wife, as the Lord has spoken."

Again, Abraham's servant bowed down and worshiped the Lord. He brought out more gifts for Rebekah and some for her mother and brother. The servant ate and stayed the night.

The next morning, Laban and their mother asked if they could delay the trip for ten days.

"Please, allow me to go now," Abraham's servant said, "seeing how the Lord has so wonderfully answered my prayer."

They asked Rebekah what she wanted to do. "I will go," she said. So Rebekah's family blessed them and sent them back to Abraham.

The evening they were getting close to the place where Isaac lived, he had gone out to the field to meditate and he saw the camels coming.

When Rebekah saw him, she got off her camel and asked Abraham's servant, "Who is that walking in the field to meet us?" He answered that it was Isaac. When they met, he told Isaac how God had led him and answered his prayer. In God's will through His guidelines and guidance, God had provided a wife for Isaac.



- ➊ What did Abraham say that proves he had faith in God's blessing on finding a wife for Isaac? **He said God's angel would guide the servant.**
- ➋ What guidelines did Abraham give to his servant for finding a bride for Isaac? **He was to go to Abraham's country and people. He was not to take Isaac there. The woman would have to be willing to travel back to the Promised Land without having met Isaac.**
- ➌ How did the servant know which woman he was to choose? **Having been obedient to his master, the servant prayed for God to guide him.**
- ➍ What did Rebekah do that showed she was willing to help others and was submissive? **She offered water to the camels even though it was not required and it took a lot of hard work, and she agreed to go with Abraham's servant to become Isaac's wife.**

**Water for the Camels Also**

Genesis 24

Name \_\_\_\_\_

God's covenant with Abraham included a promise that he would have a multitude of descendants. The time came for Isaac to get married. To remain separate from the ungodly people and false religions around Canaan and according to tradition, Isaac's wife was to come from the family of a relative.

Complete each sentence.

1. Abraham instructed his oldest servant to return to the family's homeland to find a wife for Isaac (24:2).
2. The servant prayed for God to lead him to the right person (24:12).
3. The servant asked God to have the right woman offer a drink to him and his camels (24:14, 17).
4. When the servant asked the woman about her family, he found out that she was a relative of Abraham (24:23–24).
5. The servant prayed and blessed or praised the name of the Lord for leading him to this woman (24:27).
6. Taking Rebekah as his wife was a comfort to Isaac after the death of his mother (24:67).

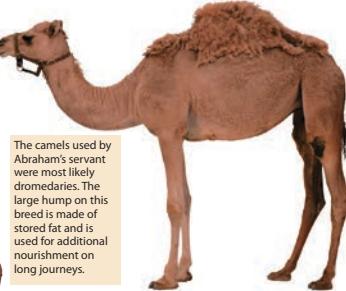
List some of the godly characteristics of the servant and Rebekah. Answers will vary.

Abraham's Servant

7. obedient
8. loved God
9. prayed

Rebekah

10. hard worker
11. generous
12. obedient

**Did You Know?** God has created camels with a unique design. Since camels do not sweat much, the water in their bodies lasts longer than most other animals. Still, a hot, thirsty camel can drink more than fifty gallons of water at one time.

The camels used by Abraham's servant were most likely dromedaries. The large hump on this breed is made of stored fat and is used for additional nourishment on long journeys.

Camels can comfortably carry about four hundred pounds. Their large padded feet prevent them from sinking into sand.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 31 47

**Faithful to His Word**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 11:11–12 and answer the questions.

1. Did Sarah and Abraham have the ability in themselves to have a child? no
2. Who gave them the ability to have a son? God
3. Who was born to Abraham and Sarah in fulfillment of God's promise? Isaac
4. What attributes of God are you reminded of in verse 11?  
God's truth, faithfulness, and power

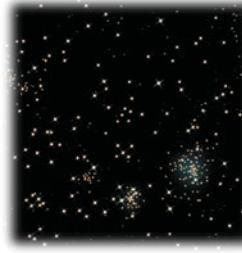


Truthfulness and faithfulness are attributes of God that Christians should also display in their lives. Have you been truthful and faithful to your word this week?

Remember that a **simile** is a comparison between unlike things using *like* or *as*. The author of Hebrews uses similes to help you understand his description of Abraham's descendants.

Read Hebrews 11:12. Write the two similes and explain their meaning.

as the stars; as the sand  
Abraham would have more descendants than could ever be counted.



**Did You Know?** Christ used many similes when teaching the disciples. Write the simile Christ used in each passage.

Matthew 17:20 faith as a grain of mustard seed  
Matthew 18:3 as or like little children  
Luke 12:27 like one of these (lilies)

Redemption: God's Grand Design

48 Lesson 31

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**Discuss relatives.** Display Chart 2 ("Patriarchal Family Tree"). Share the background information about relatives.

- Who did the servant talk with to make arrangements for the marriage of Rebekah and Isaac? **Rebekah's father, Bethuel, and her brother, Laban**
- How did God provide a wife for Isaac? **Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for Isaac among their relatives in another country. The servant prayed that God would show him the right one. God answered that prayer. Rebekah and her family were willing for her to marry Isaac.**
- ❶ How does this account fit in with God's big picture of redeeming the world? **God promised that the Redeemer of the world would be born through Abraham's family. For that to happen, Isaac needed a wife.**

Show how Abraham's line through Isaac, Jacob, and Judah leads to Jesus.

## English Connection (optional)

**Identify and write similes.** Remind the students that a *simile* is a figure of speech that compares two things by using the word *like* or *as*. God used similes when He promised Abraham that He would make his descendants "as the dust of the earth," "as the stars of the heavens," and "as the sand upon the seashore." God showed how numerous Abraham's descendants would be by comparing them to things that are too numerous to be counted.

Display the following words, encouraging the students to think of a comparison to make with each object and then to write appropriate similes. It will help for the students to describe a particular feature of the object, such as the sweetness of the scent of a rose or the loudness of thunder. Remind them that they can use either *like* or *as* as the connecting word.

rose—any colorful flower with an appealing aroma  
thunder—clap, bang, thud, rolling noise  
puppy—playful, cuddly, soft, bundle of fun  
chocolate—sweet, good feeling, smooth

## Worktext page 47

Recall details from the Bible account and identify godly character qualities.

## Worktext page 48

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

# Faithful Followers: Dick and Margaret Hillis

## Materials

- Chart 27 (“World Map”) or a wall map of the world

## Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

## Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:11–12

Practice the memory verses.

- How are Sarah and Abraham described? **Sarah was so old that she could not give birth to children, and Abraham was getting close to death. (Sarah was ninety, and Abraham was a hundred years old [Gen. 17:17].)**
- Since they were both past the age of having children, how did they have children? **God promised that they would, and they both had faith that God would fulfill His promises in spite of the circumstances. God can do the improbable and the impossible.**

Choose two students to read aloud **Hebrews 11:11–12** as the other students read silently.

## Biographical Account

### Preview Background Information

#### No Man’s Land

This stretch of land was between the front lines of enemy trench systems. It was a difficult area to cross during an attack since it was often littered with dead bodies, barbed wire, and muddy shell holes.

#### Introduce the Account

**Discuss China in 1941.** Display Chart 27 (“World Map”) or a wall map of the world. Point out China. Explain that as World War II was just beginning in 1941, it was dangerous for missionaries to stay in China because Japan had invaded. Dick and Margaret Hillis were missionaries in China at that time, and though the situation was dangerous, the Hillises decided to remain in the country to serve Christ.

#### Teach for Understanding

**Read the following account** based on the ministry of Dick and Margaret Hillis. Listening question: **What did the Hillises learn about God? No matter what the circumstances are, God is always in control.**

## To Guide and Provide

One day Dick Hillis found out that he needed surgery soon, or his appendix would burst. The nearest city was Shanghai, but because of the war, there were no trains running; they would have to go through the battle lines.

Dick decided to take his wife, Margaret, and their two young children with him to Shanghai. He trusted that God would get them there safely. Before they left, Margaret prayed for protection and guidance: “Lord, take us safely through the Chinese lines, no man’s land in between, and through the Japanese forces. We claim the promise that Your angel encamps around those who fear You to deliver them. Father, please give us an angel—we need miracles.”

The Hillises’ first stop was at the Chinese headquarters. Dick approached the commanding officer and requested permission to cross the battle lines.

“Cross the battle lines?” the officer asked in surprise. “You’re insane! The Japanese might attack at any moment.”

“But I must get to a hospital in Shanghai,” Dick said. “I have appendicitis and need to have surgery.”

The officer shook his head. “Even if you got across the battle lines, there are more dangers in no man’s land. There are bandits, and it would be almost impossible to go across.”

Firmly Dick replied, “God will take care of us. He promised that angels will guard those who belong to Him.”

Finally, the officer permitted the Hillis family to enter the battle zone, but once there, they needed a place to stay. Soldiers filled all the houses, and it was too cold outside to sleep in the open.

Dick was surprised to see a Chinese friend approaching them. “Do you remember me?” the friend asked.

“Of course, Chung,” Dick said, “but I thought you were in Shanghai.”

“I live here now. What are you doing here?”

Dick explained the situation and said that they were looking for a place to stay. Chung found a place for them to stay and promised to take them to the border of no man’s land the next day.

The next morning Chung took the Hillises as far as he could. “Be careful; there are robbers and murderers inside those abandoned houses. It will be a miracle if you make it through alive.”

Dick and Margaret Hillis with their two little children began their journey through no man’s land. Before too long, a group of bandits surrounded them.

The leader ordered his men to seize the family’s suitcases and demanded Dick’s money. Dick gave the man his wallet and name card. The bandit looked at Dick’s Chinese name card. “Your name is the same as mine!” he said. “That means we are brothers; we are now united.” He turned to his men. “Give them their suitcases back; then unroll our blankets. We will stay with our brother tonight.”

He turned to Dick. “My men and I will accompany you tomorrow to the Japanese lines to make sure that no one will harm you.”

The next day the bandits took Dick and Margaret Hillis and their children to the Japanese lines, but the Japanese soldiers did not understand English. They took Dick and Margaret at gunpoint to the general.

“Where in the world did you come from?” the general asked in English.

Dick explained, and as they talked, they realized that some years earlier the general and Margaret had attended the same university at the same time.

"My former classmate, I am delighted to meet you," he said. "What would you like? What can I give to you?"

Margaret asked for a place to rest and for milk for the children.

The general granted the requests. "And tomorrow morning I will give you a permit to pass through the Japanese lines," he said.

The general gave Dick and Margaret an escort to take them to the next city. Within a few days they arrived in Shanghai, and Dick had the operation that he needed.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him" (**Ps. 34:7**). These words from the Bible comforted them during their difficult journey. Time after time, the Lord showed His faithfulness by providing them with escorts, protection, and shelter. Dick firmly believed that unseen angels guided them throughout their journey. The unsaved, wicked men who helped them were used by the Lord to care for His children. Dick and Margaret Hillis learned that no matter what the circumstances are, God is in control.



- **Read aloud Psalm 34:7. How did God fulfill His promise to the Hillises? He protected them and guided them throughout their entire journey.**
- ❖ **What was unusual about the people God used to help the Hillis family? Possible answers include that some of the men were bandits, and most if not all the men were unsaved.**
- ❖ **How has God protected you in the past? Accept any answer.** Explain that God protects and guides His children many times when they are not aware of His care for them.
- ❖ **Read 2 Timothy 3:12. Will God always shield His children from harm? No. Because Christians live in a wicked world, their righteousness will many times meet resistance from the unsaved.**
- ❖ **What about when our prayers are not answered or something "bad" happens, is God not being faithful then? God is always faithful. He cannot be anything but faithful.**

Sometimes we assume God's will is this or that; and then when that does not happen, we get discouraged, thinking that somehow God has failed us. But the mistake is ours because we were expecting God to do something that He was not committed to doing. We must understand what is included in His promises. God always knows His will perfectly, but we must study His Word to try to understand it and His ways as best as we can (**Prov. 2:1–11; 8:34–35**). No matter what happens, a Christian should rejoice in God and praise His name (**Ps. 103:1–2, 20–22**).

## Worktext page 49

Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life by using a concordance to find promises.

### Finding Promises in the Word

Concordance

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Gino's family was planning to go on a mission trip with a group from church. To prepare, they had attended team meetings and special Bible studies and had read missionary biographies. The family prayed that all the details would be worked out, especially that they would get enough money for the trip.

As each request was answered, it was clear to them that God was blessing. Before the trip was planned, Gino could not find any neighbors willing to hire him to mow their lawns. But in the last two months, three neighbors had asked him to come cut their grass. Gino and his parents kept praying for money to pay for the trip, and they believed God would provide.

#### Answer the questions.

What request was Gino's family waiting for God to answer?

**that they would get enough money for the trip**

Gino used his concordance to find some verses to help his family claim the promise that God would supply the needed money.

#### Use the concordance entry to answer the questions.

Some entries list a short description of the main subject followed by the reference(s) where that topic is found.

1. Look at the entry word, *prayer*. Write one reference that encourages you to pray often.

**Answers will vary.**

2. Write other entries that Gino could use to find verses to help encourage his family.

**pray**  
**praying**  
**prayers**

3. Write the reference for one verse and explain how Gino could use that verse to claim the promise that God supplies our needs and answers prayer.

**Answers will vary.**

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 32

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#### PRAY

Ps 55:17 morning and noon will I *p*  
Mt 5:44 *p* for them which despitefully  
watch and *p* that ye enter  
Mk 11:24 things ye desire when ye *p*  
Lk 11: 1 teach us to *p* as John also  
21:36 watch ye and *p* always  
Jn 17: 26 I *p* for them. I *p* not  
Ro 10: 13 *p* for whom the spirit *p* should *p* for  
I Co 14:15 I will *p* with the spirit  
Col 1: 9 do not cease to *p* for you  
I Th 5: 17 *p* without ceasing  
I Ti 2: 8 men *p* every where lifting  
Jas 5:13 any afflicted? let him *p*

#### PRAYING (PRAYED)

Lk 22:44 agony he p more earnestly  
Eph 6:18 *p* always with all prayer  
Jas 5:17 he *p* earnestly that it

#### PRAYER

Ps 102: 17 will regard the *p* of the destitute  
Pr 15: 8 *p* of the upright is his delight  
Isa 56: 7 an house of *p* for all people  
Mt 17:21 this kind goeth not out but by *p*  
23:14 continued all night in *p* to God  
Ac 1:14 continued with one accord in *p* and  
1 Th 5: 13 may give yourselves to *p*  
I Co 7: 5 every thing by *p* and supplication  
Phi 4: 6 effectual fervent *p* of a righteous  
Jas 5:16 therefore sober and watch unto *p*  
I Pe 4: 7

#### PRAYERS

I Pe 3: 7 that your *p* be not hindered  
Rev 5: 8 which are the *p* of saints

#### PREACH

Inh 10: 2 *p* unto it the preaching that I bid  
Mt 10: 2 ye hear in thine ear that *p* ye  
Mk 1: 4 and *p* the baptism of repentance  
Lk 4:18 to *p* deliverance to the captives  
Ro 10:15 how shall they *p* except they  
I Co 1:23 we *p* Christ crucified, unto the  
Phi 1:15 indeed *p* Christ even of envy  
2Ti 4: 2 *p* the word; be instant in season

LESSON  
33

## Bible Study: The Life of Jacob

### Materials

- Timeline and picture of Jacob

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:11–12

#### Practice the memory verses.

Review the discussion questions about Abraham and Sarah's ages from Lesson 32.

- ❖ **What did Bob Jones Sr. mean when he said, "Don't judge what you see by what you see, but judge what you see by what God's Word says about what you see"? Things are not always as they appear, and God's Word is the final right judge about all things.**

For instance, unsaved people may seem to be happy and very prosperous but actually be very empty and sad on the inside. The condition of their hearts and minds cannot be discerned based on their riches, laughter, and ease in life. **Psalm 73:1–15** describes what the psalmist saw, but in **73:16–28** he is judging what he saw by what God says about what he saw.

- Read Nehemiah 8:10. What does it mean that the joy that a Christian experiences in his relationship with God is his strength? **The Christian's strength and fulfilment in life is not dependent on outward things, but on the joy he has in fellowshiping with the Lord. God is our life and abiding satisfaction. The Christian can persevere because He knows God and trusts God's Word.**
- How do Christians grow in faith? **by believing what they read in God's Word and learn about Him (Rom. 10:17; 2 Pet. 1:2; Ps. 119:105, 130)**

## Bible Study: The Life of Jacob

### Preview Background Information

#### Birthright Privileges and Responsibilities

In Bible times, the firstborn son normally received as his inheritance a double portion (twice as much as each of the other sons) of the father's property and goods, the right to be the head of the family, and the obligation to look after the mother and unmarried sisters.

#### The Father's Blessing

In Bible times, there was no such thing as a written will. The father's blessing was given as an acknowledgement that the birthright had been given. Once the blessing had been given, the birthright went with it and could not be taken back. Up until that time, an elder son could sell, trade, or give away the promise of his coming birthright.

#### Introduce the Bible Study

**Discuss God's plans and our choices.** Point out that God has a plan (specific direction in life) for each of His children which is different from His plan for any other Christian. For instance God will lead some people to be carpenters, IT managers, or truck drivers and others to be teachers, missionaries, or science lab professionals. However, God's overall general will (regarding character, behavior, devotion, and holiness) is the same for every Christian. We are all to love God and others, be kind and honest, pray, read the Bible, and stay away from sin. At the same time, God has given each person a will. Every individual may choose whether or not to obey God, but God will accomplish His purpose.

#### Teach for Understanding

**Guide a Bible study about the life of Jacob (Genesis 25–32).** Refer to specific passages on Worktext pages 50–51. Page 50 covers parts of Genesis 25 and 27. Page 51 covers parts of Genesis 27–28 and 31–32. Read aloud the passages or choose volunteers to read them aloud. Allow students time to answer the questions on the Worktext pages.

Discuss the following questions after completing the Bible study.

- What did God tell Rebekah about her unborn children? **The older child would serve the younger child.**
- Did Jacob have to deceive in order for God's Word to be fulfilled? Explain. **No. God had stated that Esau would**

**serve Jacob. God would have made this happen without Jacob telling lies to get his father's blessing. God can do what He has said He will do.**

Remind the students that God expects us to serve Him through obedience. He does not need our sinful help to accomplish His will. His command for us is to be holy. God's commandments dictate what we are to believe and how we are to act no matter what the circumstances seem to be.

Point out that many times we desire things, not because they would glorify God, but because we are jealous and proud. We want things that others have, or we want them because we think we deserve them or they will make us happy.

- How did Esau react when Jacob lied and got Isaac's blessing? **He was very angry and promised that he would kill Jacob.**
- Describe what Jacob was like when he returned after twenty years. **He had four wives and eleven children, many flocks and herds (great wealth), a new name, and a limp.**
- What was the significance of God's changing Jacob's name to Israel? **It signified that Jacob had power with God, that God was confirming the blessing on him, and that his character and destiny were indeed changed.**

### Timeline

Place Jacob on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Jacob (2005–1858 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Jacob picture to his individual timeline.

LESSON

34

## God Provides

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:11–12

Practice the memory verses.

- Read Isaiah 66:2. What attitude toward God's Word pleases Him? **humility and trembling at God's Word**

Lead the students in saying Hebrews 11:11–12 together. Ask for volunteers (individuals or groups) to recite the passage.

## Application Story

### Background Information

#### Needs and Wants

A need is something that is required for us to accomplish God's will for His glory. A want is anything you might desire in addition to that. Because we are sinful, we are not born naturally wanting what we need (wisdom, teaching, self-discipline, correction, work, etc.). Instead we often convince ourselves that we truly need what we merely want (more stuff, privileges, desires,

first place in line, etc.). God has promised to meet our needs (**Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:8**). But He has not promised to give us all of our wants—because many of our wants are selfish.

God is, of course, the perfect Father. He is good and He loves to give, so that many times His children end up having far more than they need. But a Christian's focus should be the same as Christ's was when He lived in this world. Christ's "wants" were to do His Father's will (**John 4:34**) and to please God (**John 8:29**). **John 15:7** indicates that God will give us what we ask for, but with conditions.

Some of those conditions are mentioned in **John 15:1–8**: The Christian must be abiding in Christ and Christ in the Christian. Christ's words must abide in the Christian. The request must be for the purpose of bearing fruit in the Christian life. Other basic conditions are that our "wants" be for God's glory (**1 Cor. 10:31**); that they not be something that will control the Christian (**1 Cor. 6:12**); that they will cause Christians to be stronger (**1 Cor. 10:23**); that they will not keep us from serving God (**Heb. 12:1**) or ministering to other Christians (**Heb. 10:24–25**); that they will not cause another Christian to stumble (**1 Cor. 8:13**); that they not be something we intend to spend only on our pleasures (**James. 4:3**). If you seek the kingdom of God first, all the things you need will be added to you (**Matt. 6:33**).

### Introduce the Application Story

**Discuss worry and God's provision.** Read aloud Matthew 6:26–34.

• **Do you worry about how tall you are or about what you are going to wear?**

Point out that many people in countries outside of the United States worry about whether or not they will have enough food for the next meal.

• **How does God tell you to view food, your height, and your clothes? Christians should not worry; Christians are to love and obey God and trust that He will provide for everything they need.**

Point out that God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, and He considers His people to be infinitely more important than birds and flowers. He created us along with the birds and flowers, but He created us in His image. How can Christians ever doubt His power to provide for them?

### Teach for Understanding

**Read or tell the following story.** Listening question: What did the woman at the door want? **all of the cookies and gospel tracts for the moms she had talked with at school**

## All of Them

Luana looked out the window at their sprawling farm-land. She saw her father in the field as he was preparing the soil for planting. Birds were enjoying the worms overturned by the plow. She took the last batch of cookies out of the oven and looked over at her mom. "Mom, do you really think people will buy these?"

Her mother carefully wrapped three cookies in the clear wrapping and tied it with a bow. "I would," she said and added the cookies to the row of neatly wrapped packages.

"Yes, but that's different," Luana said.

Mom smiled. "Well, God has promised to give you everything you need. Our part is to love, trust, and obey Him. Is your band uniform really a need?"

"I can't be in band without it," Luana said. "I suppose I could survive without being in band, but . . ." Luana sat down with a pencil and paper.

"God can give you the outfit if He truly wants you to stay in band," Mom said.

Luana nodded. "God does command us to work, though. I have some money I got for babysitting and some I received for my birthday," she said. Luana started writing. "Three cookies in each package, twenty-eight packages . . . hmm. Mom, do you think that even if I do sell all of these, I would have a third of the money I need for the outfit?"

Mom leaned over Luana's shoulder and inspected her calculations. "That looks just about right."

"Can I go to sell them right now and eat lunch on the way?" Luana asked.

"If your father wants to go now," her Mom said. "He should be in any minute."

Luana ran out to find her father. "Dad, can we go to sell the cookies? Mom said we could eat our sandwiches on the way to town."

"Can we have cookies for dessert?" he asked.

Luana grinned. "Yep. I saved some just for you!" she said.

"Well, it looks like we can go right now," he said.

Luana grabbed the bag of sandwiches while her father put the box of cookies in the van.

"Our heavenly Father," he prayed before they left, "we thank You that You keep Your promises and that You provide for our needs and many of our wants as well. Would You cause our neighbors to buy these cookies? Please give us safety and help us be successful so Luana can buy her uniform. And help us to take advantage of the opportunities we'll have to witness for You. You are so good to us, and we thank You in Jesus' name."

"Amen!" Luana said.

They drove past the first few houses in town. "Let's go all the way down this road and start at the farthest house and head back toward home," her father said.

"Sounds good to me," Luana said.

They passed a large, dark house. "Have you met the family that moved into that house?" asked Dad.

Luana answered, "No. My friends think it looks haunted."

"I guess we'll find out in a little bit," her father said. They had stopped at two houses and almost finished their lunch when he pulled into the driveway of the big house.

Luana added a few more packages of cookies to her basket. "Only three less than when we started," she said.

"Do you need any more tracts?" her father asked.

"Thanks, Dad. At least the other people took a tract even if they didn't buy very many cookies." Luana walked up to the huge house and rang the doorbell.

## Decided Before Birth

Bible Study: Genesis 25–27

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### 1 Read Genesis 25:19–23.

1. What did Isaac pray for?  
***that Rebekah would have a baby***

2. When the babies seemed to be fighting inside her, what did Rebekah do?  
***She prayed.***

3. The Lord answered that the babies would become the leaders of two nations. Write the two prophecies that God made about these nations.

- a. ***One nation would be stronger than the other.***  
b. ***The older would serve the younger.***



Jacob's holding Esau's heel in birth was a sign that Jacob's descendants would later rule over Esau's descendants.

### 3 Read Genesis 25:29–34.

7. What had Jacob made?  
***pottage, lentils, stew***

8. Esau was so tired and hungry he thought he would die. What was he willing to give up in order to have food immediately?  
***his birthright***

9. Write about a time you chose to give in to your immediate desires instead of waiting for what was right.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Read Genesis 25:24–28.

4. How is the newborn Esau described?  
***born first, red, hairy***

5. What is said about the newborn Jacob?  
***He held on to Esau's heel as they were born.***

6. Summarize their traits as the boys got older.  
Esau ***skilled hunter, outdoorsman***  
Jacob ***liked peace and quiet, lived in tents***

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### 4 Read Genesis 27:6–17, 27–29, 41.

10. What was Isaac planning to give Esau?  
***the blessing***

11. Who gave Jacob the idea of deceiving his father?  
***Rebekah, his mother***

12. Isaac gave Jacob the blessing for the first-born of the family. Who did he say would be bowing down to Jacob?  
***his mother's sons (brothers)***

13. How did Esau react to Jacob's receiving the blessing?  
***He threatened to kill him.***

50 Lesson 33

Redemption: God's Grand Design

## Departure and Return

Bible Study: Genesis 27–32

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### 1 Read Genesis 27:42–28:5.

1. What did Rebekah hear?  
***Esau's threat to kill Jacob***

2. When Rebekah went to Isaac, she  wanted Isaac to handle the situation, so she told him that Esau wanted to kill Jacob.

- told Isaac that since she didn't like the women in the area, she wanted Jacob to go to Laban's family to find a wife.

3. What did Isaac do before Jacob left that indicates that Isaac was no longer angry with Jacob?  
***He advised him and gave him another blessing.***

4. After Jacob awoke, what promise did he make?  
***that if God would do all that He promised, then the Lord would be his God***

### 3 Read Genesis 32:6–12, 24–30.

8. How did Jacob react when he received the report that Esau was coming with four hundred men?  
***He was afraid and worried.***

9. In addition to taking action to prevent harm to his family, what did Jacob do?  
***He prayed.***

10. What were two permanent results from the night God came to Jacob?  
***Jacob's walked with a limp; Jacob's name was changed to Israel.***

Remember that Jacob's God is your God. He loves you and wants to guide you in your walk with Him. Study God's Word to know Him.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 33 51

A young woman opened the door.

"Hi, I'm selling some freshly baked homemade cookies. Would you like to buy some? They're only a dollar for a package of three."

The woman glanced at Luana's basket and then at the truck. "Do you have any more with you?" she asked.

"I sure do! Twenty-five to be exact!"

"Oh my. That is so wonderful!" the young lady said. "You are an answer to my prayers! I'll take all of them!"

Luana's jaw dropped. "All of them?" she asked.

The young woman nodded. "I work as a nanny here, and I have to take birthday treats for the twins' party at school. I just don't have enough time to bake something. This will be great!"

"Did you really pray for God to do something?" Luana asked.

"I sure did."

"You're a Christian?" Luana asked.

"Yes, but the people I'm working for—well, they know about Christ, but they haven't trusted Him as their Savior."

Luana handed her a tract. "I was going to give this to you, but maybe you could give it to the people you work for."

"I sure will!" the woman said. "Do you happen to have any more tracts with you?"

"Yes, my dad has a pile of them out in the van," Luana answered.

"What a blessing! I've been talking to some of the moms, and this will be a good time to give them something to read!"

Luana ran as fast as she could to get the tracts and the cookies—all of them!



What is the difference between a need and a want? A need is something that is required for us to accomplish God's will for His glory. A want is something beyond that.

Read Philippians 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 9:8. What has God promised to provide? our needs and all the grace we need to do good works

Has God ever promised to meet our wants? See Background Information.

Was Luana's band uniform a need? no

Was it selfish of Luana to pray for a "want"? No. God tells us that whatever we do, we should do for His glory. Many times this involves things and activities we want.

What needs had God met for Luana's family? a house, food, clothing, and warmth

What things did Luana's family have that were not needs? extra ingredients for baking cookies, a big farm, a van, an oven, and so on

**What Does God Say About Jealousy?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Selfishness is a deadly trap. When you focus on pleasing yourself, you will become **envious** or **jealous**. Both words mean about the same thing. **Jealousy**, or **envy**, is simply wanting what someone else has. This temptation comes from dissatisfaction with God (Ps. 16:11).

**Read 2 Corinthians 10:12 and answer the questions.**

- What does this verse say about people who compare themselves to others?  
**They are not wise.**
- Why do you think it is not wise to compare yourself with others?  
**Answers will vary. It will cause my focus to be on my desires rather than God's goodness and greatness.**

When you choose to compare yourself to others, you will either start thinking that you are better than others or you will grow discontent with your lot in life. When you think that you are better than others, you are guilty of the sin of pride. When you become discontent

**Read Titus 3:3–7 and answer the questions.**

What makes the difference between an unbelieving person and a Christian?

- God's mercy, love, and kindness**
- washing of regeneration and renewing of Holy Spirit given by Jesus our Savior**

Satan loves to deceive you. He likes to make it seem like people who live sinful lifestyles are having all the fun. When you become discontent with God's provisions for you, you may become envious and jealous of other people—even of people who appear to be successful in this life, but do not choose to know and love God. God warns you against this temptation by reminding you of His coming judgment on the wicked. Remember, if you have trusted Christ as Savior, you used to be one of these people. Remembering this should cause gratitude for God's work in your heart and give you a desire to tell the lost about Christ.

**Match the verses to the correct reason for not being envious of wicked people.**

<b>B</b> 5. Psalm 37:1–2	A. God detests a perverse or froward person but loves righteousness.
<b>D</b> 6. Proverbs 24:1–2	B. Wicked people will soon wither away like the grass and herbs.
<b>A</b> 7. Proverbs 3:31–32	C. Wicked people have no future. Their candle will be put out.
<b>C</b> 8. Proverbs 24:19–20	D. The wicked plot violence and talk about mischief.
	E. Wicked people will have more money than godly people.

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52      Lesson 34      Redemption: God's Grand Design

**Something to Think About**

Jealousy

Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Read each scenario below and answer the questions. **Answers will vary.**

Scenario	Why did this person feel sorry for himself?	Why did this person feel jealous?
Kiana and her family recently moved. Kiana's sister, Alana, immediately became friends with girls down the street, but Kiana couldn't seem to make any friends. When Alana's friends came over, they invited Kiana to play a game with them. Kiana refused, went to her room, and slammed the door.	<b>because she did not have any friends</b>	<b>Her sister was able to make new friends more easily.</b>
Jonas studied diligently for his exam. Sabrina, a classmate, commented that she had not even studied. When they received their grades, Jonas had received a C. He was happy with his grade until he heard Sabrina say that she had received a B.	<b>because he had to study so hard to make a C</b>	<b>It was easier for Sabrina to make good grades.</b>
Kurt found out that Eric's dad had purchased tickets for their family to go to the state championship game. Kurt had always wanted to go to that game, but his family could not afford extra expenses like that.	<b>because his family could not afford game tickets</b>	<b>Eric was going to the game.</b>
Caaren noticed that Aimee was wearing a new dress today at church. Caaren did not get new dresses. Her clothes were passed down to her when her older sister outgrew them.	<b>because she was not able to buy new clothes</b>	<b>Aimee got new clothes.</b>

The opposite of jealousy is **unselfishness**, the sincere happiness you choose to have for the blessings or success of someone else, no matter what has happened to you. Ask God to change your jealousy to love.

Choose two of the above scenarios and write about how the person could have been happy for someone else.

- Answers will vary.**
- \_\_\_\_\_

**What About Me?**

Take time at home to think about some of your feelings. Carefully complete the statements.



I feel discontented and sorry for myself when \_\_\_\_\_.  
Instead of feeling sorry for myself, I should \_\_\_\_\_.  
I feel jealous when \_\_\_\_\_.  
The next time I am tempted to be jealous, I will \_\_\_\_\_.  
I know that God is pleased when I trust Him to \_\_\_\_\_.

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- How did God answer Luana and her father's prayer? **He led them to a woman who bought the rest of the cookies. By giving her tracts, they had a part in explaining the gospel to each mom who received one.**
- How did Luana and her father seek to love and obey God? **by giving out tracts that explain the gospel**
- What if Luana had not sold any cookies? Would you still say that God was faithful to His promise? **Answers may include that God is always faithful to His character and promises. He never specifically promised that He would sell all of Luana's cookies or that He would provide a band uniform for her. But in His gracious goodness and pleasure, He answered her prayer.**
- How has God fulfilled His promise to meet your needs? **Answers may include that He sent Christ the Savior to meet our greatest need: salvation. He also provides food, shelter, and clothes.**
- What wants has God provided for you in addition to your needs? **Answers may include lots of clothes, electronic devices, extra money, roomy houses, family, friends, health, an education, and so on.**

## Math Connection (optional)

**Calculate the cost.** Direct the students to calculate the cost of the uniform that Luana needs for band. Write the following for display:

- Twenty-eight packages of cookies selling at \$1.00 a package, equals one-third the cost of the band uniform. How much does the uniform cost? **\$84.00**

Show how to solve for  $n$  as the price of the uniform.

$$28 \times \$1 = \$28.00$$

$$1/3 \times n = \$28.00$$

$$3 \times \$28.00 = \$84.00$$

## Worktext pages 52–53

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 35 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop a biblical view of jealousy.** Read page 52 and discuss what God says about envy and jealousy. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages. (Note: Beware of the trap of trying to lead students to have high self-esteem. Instead, teach them to value the abilities that God has given them individually and to acknowledge the differences between people.) Emphasize that each person has everything he needs to accomplish God's will for his life.

**Personal evaluation of jealousy and envy.** Evaluate the scenarios on page 53 together. Encourage each student to read the "What About Me?" section at home and think about his attitude toward himself and toward others. Remind the students that they may want to keep all of their Walking with God pages together to review during their personal devotions.

### Materials

- Chart 2 (“Patriarchal Family Tree”)
- Some Bible dictionaries or Bible software [O]
- Baby name books [O]

**Discuss birth order.** Direct the students to read **Genesis 29:31–30:24; 35:16–19** silently to determine the likely birth order of Jacob’s twelve sons.

#### Born to Leah:

- Reuben (29:32) “Behold a son” (1)  
Simeon (29:33) “Hearing” (2)  
Levi (29:34) “Joined” (3)  
Judah (29:35) “Praise” (4)  
Issachar (30:18) “Reward” (9)  
Zebulun (30:20) “A dwelling” (10)

#### Born to Zilpah:

- Gad (30:11) “Good fortune” (7)  
Asher (30:13) “Happy” (8)

#### Born to Bilhah:

- Dan (30:6) “Vindication” (5)  
Naphtali (30:8) “My wrestling” (6)

#### Born to Rachel:

- Joseph (30:24) “Adding” (11)  
Benjamin (35:18) “Son of my right hand” (12)

Discuss the meanings of the names (optional). Use a Bible dictionary to find out the meaning of each of Jacob’s sons’ names. Allow students to find the meanings of their own names in the baby name books.

# God's Framework

## Unit 2d

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 37: God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).
- 37: God is righteous (Ps. 116:5).
- 37–39: God is everywhere (omnipresent) (Ps. 139:7–10).
- 38: God is merciful (Ps. 86:15).
- 39: God created humans for His glory (Isa. 43:7).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Hebrews 11:13–14
- Interpret the meaning of Scripture
- Realize that God can and will keep His promises
- Realize that Christians should live for God and seek heavenly joy rather than earthly happiness
- Develop a biblical view of honesty
- Choose to tell the whole truth
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Read a map
- Recall facts and details
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON  
36

## Faithful Follower: J. C. Penney

### 🎵 Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

### ♡ Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:13–14

**Principle:** Those who place their faith in God seek eternal things. Locate Hebrews 11:13–14 and read the verses aloud as the students read silently.

⌚ What are some of the promises that Abraham's immediate descendants (Isaac and Jacob) did not receive? Possible answers include that they did not see Christ—the promised Messiah—His birth, death, or resurrection. They did not see Abraham's seed become as numerous as the sand. They did not see the eternal city with their physical eyes.

⌚ How are Christians today like those who were not eye-witnesses of Christ's ministry? They believe promises that have been fulfilled concerning Christ even though they have not physically seen Him. Jesus said those people are blessed (John 20:29).

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 2 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

### Biographical Account

#### Introduce the Account

Discuss the Golden Rule.

⌚ Have you ever heard of the Golden Rule? What do you think it says? Answers will vary.

The Golden Rule can be stated many different ways; one popular version is: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Those words do not come from the Bible, but they are based on a scriptural principle. Read aloud Matthew 7:12.

Direct the students to listen to find out how J. C. Penney lived out this principle.

## Teach for Understanding

**Read or tell the following account based on the life of James Cash Penney.** Listening question: Where did J. C. Penney like to speak, and what did he do everywhere he went? **He spoke in churches in the towns he visited and he served others everywhere he went.**

### Good, Golden, and Finally Forgiven

James Cash Penney was born on a Missouri farm in 1875. He was the seventh of twelve children. Though his father was a Baptist preacher, he supported his family by farming. Both parents taught God's Word to their children from early childhood. James was eight years old when his father told him that he would have to buy his own clothing. That wasn't because they were so poor but because his father wanted to teach him responsibility.

James was careful with his money. When he needed shoes and had only \$2.50 saved, he invested his money in pigs and later sold them for a higher price.

James held several jobs after graduating from high school. He invested some money in a butcher shop. When his biggest-paying customer demanded that J. C. Penney provide alcohol for him every week, Penney refused, so the business failed. When he was twenty-three years old, Penney worked for two men who owned a chain of stores (called the Golden Rule Stores) that sold dry goods. A few years later, his employers asked him to join them as a partner and open a new store.

Penney opened this Golden Rule Store in 1902 in a one-room building. He used packing crates as shelves and counters, and he and his family lived in the attic above the store. A cash-only basis was not common in those days—especially in a mining town. Local businessmen said that he would fail, but J. C. Penney held strictly to his ethical practices and worked long hard hours. Penney knew that little things mattered when serving people. He remembered his customers' names and clothing sizes. People trusted him, and his business grew, but James was not at peace inside.

Over the next two years, Penney and his wife Berta opened two more stores. In 1907, the two men who had initially given him a job offered him full ownership of their stores. Penney imagined that this beginning would lead to a chain of Golden Rule Stores throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Within a few years, however, his wife died. He now had two young sons to raise alone. Penney believed that a man's career rested on the condition of his home. He felt that his ambitions were gone without his wife, but the following year, in memory of the wife he had loved so much, he began donating funds to churches and to organizations that helped the needy. But he still didn't have the forgiveness of his sins through Christ.

By 1912, there were thirty-four Golden Rule stores, and in 1913, the stores were officially renamed the J. C. Penney Company, Inc. Their motto was "Honor, Confidence, Service, and Cooperation." Later James Cash Penney handed over his position as president of the company to a close friend and partner. Penney became the chairman of the board and focused more on the future rather than the daily management of the company. This also gave his associates an opportunity to grow in their skills while he gave advice. Penney knew that many of his employees shared his limited education, so Penney hired educators to start a correspondence course on salesmanship, merchandising, and business management.

Mr. Penney married a second time. But Mary died suddenly five years later, and he was left with another small son to raise. Several years later, Penney married a third time. His new wife's faith encouraged J. C. Penney to seek God in a way he had not known before.

The stock market crash began in 1929, and by 1932, J. C. Penney had lost forty million dollars. He knew that the meaning of life was not in having money because he had lots of it and still was not satisfied, so he began searching. He had relied on his parents' good example and teaching and his good life to be enough to have a relationship with God; yet J. C. Penney was still dissatisfied, empty, and restless. At night he took long walks, and one evening he wandered into a rescue mission, later realizing that God had led him there. A former drunk gave a testimony about how God had saved him through faith in Jesus Christ. Hearing this testimony stirred something in Penney. The Holy Spirit was working in his heart, and he trusted Christ as his Savior.

Mr. Penney built his business back up and began traveling to visit his many stores. He often spoke in local churches in the towns he visited. For almost fifty years, J. C. Penney had kept a rigorous traveling schedule. When he was in his eighties, he visited sixty-seven stores and traveled over eighty thousand miles in one and a half years. In those same months, he spoke on the radio and television many times and made over one hundred speeches.

Everywhere Penney went, he served others. When he visited his stores, he was known to sweep the floors if they needed it. If a customer walked in, he would personally assist him. Penney owned valuable livestock and sold some of his most valuable bulls for low prices to struggling farmers. When questioned about the wisdom of his actions, he replied that the livestock would serve the purchasers well. Penney used thousands of acres of his land to form a farming community for hard-working farmers who were struggling financially. In memory of his parents, he built a sixty-acre community for retired pastors, church workers, and missionaries.

Penney continued his demanding schedule of traveling and speaking into his nineties, dying of a heart attack at age ninety-five. He was buried in New York at the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. In Plano, Texas, a nine-foot tall bronze statue of him stands at the J. C. Penney home office.



- At first, what did J. C. Penney rely on to be acceptable to God? **his parents' teaching and spirituality; his moral life**
  - ❖ What brought Penney to realize his need for something other than a successful business? **the failure of his business; the stock market crash; his wife's deep faith in God**
  - ❖ Are you relying on anything other than Jesus Christ's work on the cross and resurrection for your salvation?
  - ❖ How do you think Mr. Penney's business grew into such a large organization? **He worked long, hard hours; he would not compromise fairness and good service.**
  - Where did J. C. Penney like to speak and what did he do everywhere he went? **He spoke in churches in the towns he visited, and he served others everywhere he went.**
- Assign four groups to each answer the following question after reading one of these passages: **What does God say about work?**
- **Proverbs 6:6–11, 18:9: We should learn wisdom about work from ants; they work diligently without supervision, and we should do the same.**
  - **1 Corinthians 15:58: We should work hard and consistently in God's work.**
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:11–12: We should work, mind our own affairs, and not get tired of doing good.**
  - **2 Thessalonians 3:10–13: People who do not work usually meddle in other people's business.**
  - ❖ When Mr. Penney died, do you think he was more thankful for his riches or for his relationship with God? **his relationship with God**
  - Read Proverbs 28:20, 22, and 1 Timothy 6:9. What warning is given about wanting to be rich? **The desire to be rich can ruin your life.**
  - Read Proverbs 22:2. What advantage does the rich person have over the poor person? **None; both are responsible to God.**
  - ❖ Who is ultimately responsible for our getting any money? **God (Deut. 8:18)**
  - ❖ What is the right thing to do with any amount of riches we have? **to use them for God's glory**
  - ❖ What promises did God keep in Mr. Penney's life? **Answers may include the gift of eternal life when he trusted Christ as Savior.**

## Worktext page 54

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

LESSON

37

## Despised but Faithful

### Materials

- Timeline and picture of Joseph
- Chart 8 ("Masterwork: *Jacob Shown the Coat of Joseph*")

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

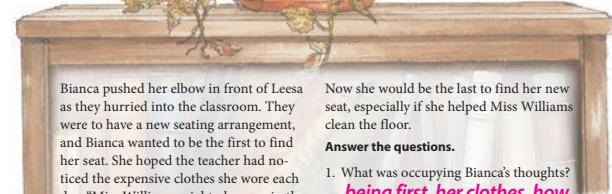
### Seeking Heavenly Things

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Hebrews 11:8–14, the author shows how Abraham followed God's leading to the land of promise. Once he arrived, Abraham lived as a stranger. Although Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob each lived in the Promised Land of Canaan, they looked forward to the promise of an

eternal home. They never built houses, but lived in tents. The Israelites did not live in houses and cities until after they came out of Egypt.

God has promised all Christians a home in heaven. Believers' words and actions should display that they are looking forward to their eternal home.

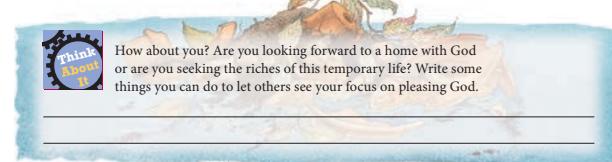


Bianca pushed her elbow in front of Leesa as they hurried into the classroom. They were to have a new seating arrangement, and Bianca wanted to be the first to find her seat. She hoped the teacher had noticed the expensive clothes she wore each day. "Miss Williams might place me in the front to see my clothes instead of some of the boring, plain clothes those other girls wear," Bianca thought to herself. She was also certain that she would be seated in the front since she usually knew the answers during discussion times. As Bianca hurried to beat Leesa and Meredith to see the seating chart, her new jacket caught the vine of a plant on the bookcase. Bang! Crash! What a mess! Bianca turned to look at the broken pottery and soil as Miss Williams walked toward her.

Now she would be the last to find her new seat, especially if she helped Miss Williams clean the floor.

#### Answer the questions.

1. What was occupying Bianca's thoughts? ***being first, her clothes, how smart she thought she was***
2. What are some things Bianca should have cared about? **Possible answers include talking with others, taking turns in the doorway and aisles, and desiring to help the teacher clean up the mess.**
3. What did Bianca's actions show she was living for: earth or heaven? **earth**



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Lesson 36

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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## Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:13–14

Practice the memory verses. Choose two students to read Hebrews 11:13–14 aloud—one student per verse.

- ❖ Read aloud Colossians 3:1–2. How can you show that you seek heavenly things? **Possible answers include by believing that what God says is true even though you may not see His promise fulfilled in your lifetime; by fighting against sin; and by loving others more than yourself.**

Choose students to read aloud one verse each of the passage Hebrews 11:8–14. Prepare the students to quote these verses by the end of Lesson 39.

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Joseph's Life in the Biblical Record

We know little about Joseph before he was seventeen. We have more details of his life from then until Jacob's death. Very little is recorded about the rest of his life. It had been at least twenty years from the time of Joseph's telling his family his dreams until his brothers bowed before him in Egypt (on their first visit) (**Gen. 37:2; 41:46, 53–54**). Two more years passed before the brothers' second trip to Egypt when Joseph told them who he was (**Gen. 45:6**).

## Joseph's Faith

Joseph's faith is evident through his continual acknowledgement of God's presence. Joseph patiently endured the "bad" as from God's hand and humbly accepted the "good." Joseph's life exemplifies faith in and obedience to the heavenly Father.

## Events in Joseph's Early Life

Joseph was born toward the end of Jacob's fourteen years of work for Laban (**Gen. 30:22–26**). He was probably around six years old when Jacob took his family and left to go back to Palestine (**Gen. 31:17–18, 38**). Joseph saw God's leading through a dream (**Gen. 31:24–29**). He was probably also told why his father walked with a limp (**Gen. 32:24–28**).

## Reactions

When God allows difficult circumstances, Christians cannot always choose to change their situations. However, they will choose how to react. They can rebel against or submit to what God is doing in their lives. God's Word never mentions or even hints at a rebellious spirit in Joseph.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss a Christian's testimony in heaven and on earth.** Discuss the testimonies of Job, Dorcas, and Christians today. Point out that Job had a good testimony before God. God displayed Job's blamelessness to Satan (**Job 1:6–12**). Dorcas was a good testimony to her community. She did good deeds for others (**Acts 9:36–42**). Godly actions and words come from godly thoughts. Point out that to be like Christ, Christians must know Him and God's Word and die to self (**2 Pet. 1:2–3; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:22–24; 2 Cor. 3:18**).

- How can Christians be a good testimony of Christ to those around them?

## Teach for Understanding

- Read **Genesis 37, 39–40** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **Why was Joseph put in prison? Potiphar's wife lied about him.** Direct the students' attention to Chart 8 ("Masterwork: *Jacob Shown the Coat of Joseph*").

## Despised but Faithful

When Joseph was seventeen years old he had a dream that he and his eleven brothers were binding sheaves (stalks of grain) and that his brothers' sheaves bowed down to *his* sheaf. Then in another dream the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him. When he told his brothers, they hated him more. Even his father rebuked him for suggesting that his parents would bow to him.

Then one day when Joseph's brothers had taken their father's flock to graze in Shechem, their father sent Joseph to see how they were doing. His brothers hated him because he was their father's favorite son, so when they saw Joseph coming, they quickly made a plan to kill him. But Judah persuaded them to instead sell him into slavery to some Ishmaelites who were headed toward Egypt.

To make an excuse for Joseph's disappearance, the brothers put goat's blood on Joseph's special coat and showed it to their father. Jacob assumed that a wild animal had killed him, and he mourned over his death. Meanwhile, down in Egypt Joseph was sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.

Potiphar soon saw that the Lord was with Joseph and that God caused whatever Joseph did to prosper. Joseph served Potiphar so well that he put Joseph in charge of everything that he owned. The Lord blessed Potiphar, his house, and his fields because of Joseph.

Joseph was a handsome man, and Potiphar's wife was attracted to him. She tempted him with immorality, but Joseph refused. "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (**Gen. 39:9**) Joseph asked. Day after day, Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to sin, but he just did his work and avoided her as much as possible.

One day when Potiphar came home, his wife lied about Joseph. She said that Joseph had sinned against her. Potiphar was very angry and put Joseph in jail. But the Lord was with Joseph.

Eventually the jailer put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners, and the Lord caused Joseph to prosper. One morning two of the prisoners looked sad, and Joseph asked them why they were sad. Each of them had had a dream, but they didn't know the meaning of their dreams. "Don't interpretations belong to God?" Joseph asked. God used Joseph to tell them what their dreams meant.

When the first man told Joseph his dream, Joseph told him that in three days Pharaoh would give him back his position as butler, or cupbearer. Joseph asked the man to mention him to Pharaoh, hoping that he might be released because he was innocent.

When the second man, who was Pharaoh's baker, heard the good interpretation of the cupbearer's dream, he told Joseph his dream. Joseph told the baker that within three days Pharaoh would execute him. Three days passed, and both the dreams were fulfilled just as Joseph had said.



- Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? **They were jealous of their father's favoritism. They resented Joseph's dreams that he would one day rule over them and that they would have to submit and bow down to him.**
- What sin did the brothers commit against their father? **They dishonored and deceived him.**
- What did Potiphar notice about Joseph? **God was with him and prospered Joseph in all that he did.**
- What did Joseph do when Potiphar's wife tempted him? **He refused to sin against God; he avoided her.**
- Why was Joseph put in prison? **Potiphar's wife lied about him.**
- How did the Lord use Joseph to help others when he was punished for something he had not done? **The Lord had the jailer put Joseph in charge of the prison. He helped the butler and baker by telling them the meanings of their dreams.**

**What Does God Say About Honesty?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Growing in Christlikeness means that you are becoming more like Christ each day. You seek to know Him and to imitate His character. To become like Christ, you must love what God loves and hate what God hates.

**Read Proverbs 6:16–19 and list seven things that God hates.**  
Circle the action that is mentioned twice in this list.

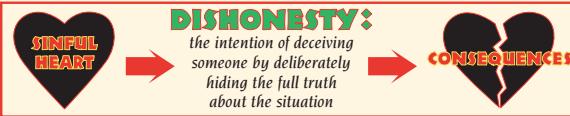
- a proud look or haughty eyes
- a lying tongue
- hands that shed innocent blood
- a heart that devises wicked plans
- feet that run quickly to evil or mischief
- a false witness who tells lies
- a person who sows discord (strife or dissension) among brothers

Notice that dishonesty is mentioned twice in a list of things which God hates. God's enemy, the Devil, loves to lie and has tempted humans with lies since the Garden of Eden.

**Read John 8:44 and answer the questions.**

1. What three things does Jesus call the devil? a murderer, a liar, and the father of lies
2. What does the Devil not have in him? truth

**Study the causes and effects in the chart.**



Dishonesty comes out of a sinful heart. When you deceive someone, you choose to be like the Devil instead of Christ. As with every sin, God promises negative consequences to those who choose to disobey Him. Honor God by choosing the blessing of loving and trusting God for victory each day instead of the pain of serving yourself.

**Read the verses and write in your own words what God says about those who are dishonest.**

Proverbs 19:9 A false witness will be punished, and a liar will perish.  
Proverbs 12:22 God hates lying lips.

If you love God and desire to grow in Christlike character, you will have the same attitude toward dishonesty that God does. You will hate it. Instead of lying, you will ask and trust God for grace to tell the full truth in every situation.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 37

55

**Something to Think About**

Honesty

Name \_\_\_\_\_

 Remember that dishonesty is more than just telling a lie. It is having the intention of deceiving someone by deliberately hiding the full truth.

**Read the scenarios and describe the deception taking place. Then write an honest response that could have been given.** **Answers will vary.**

Scenario	How was each one deceitful?	What should have been said to be honest?
When Kodie's mom asked if she had cleaned her room, Kodie said that she had, but she did not explain that she had cleaned the room by stuffing everything under the bed.	<b>She did not clean it in the way her mom intended.</b>	<b>Kodie should have told her mom that she had not cleaned it properly.</b>
Raelyn was invited to a slumber party. She knew that her parents would not approve of the movie the girls were renting. When asked about the activities, she did not mention the movie so that her parents would give her permission to attend.	<b>She deceived her parents by hiding part of the truth.</b>	<b>Raelyn should have told her parents about all of the activities, including the movie.</b>
Cameron threw the football to his sister in the living room. She missed the ball and it broke a lamp. When their mom came home, Cameron said he did not know about it and suggested that maybe the dog had broken it.	<b>Cameron lied to his mom and then tried to blame the dog for his own sin.</b>	<b>Cameron should have told his mom that he was responsible for breaking the lamp.</b>

**What About Me?**

Take time at home to think about your attitude toward being honest in all that you say and do. Carefully consider the following questions.

Have I ever told a lie to stay out of trouble?  
Have I ever deceived my parents by not telling them the whole truth?  
Have I ever falsely accused someone else to make myself look good?  
Am I Christlike in the way I tell the truth?

It is not too late! If you have a habit of dishonesty, confess this sin and ask God for His forgiveness. Then ask Him to help you to become a person who always tells the truth.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

56

Lesson 37

- ➊ **What reasons did Joseph have for being discouraged? His brothers hated him and sold him; he had done right but Potiphar's wife lied about him; he was being punished for something he did not do.**
- ➋ **How would you respond if you were betrayed by your own brothers or sisters, were taken far from your family and homeland, were accused falsely, and were forgotten when you had served faithfully? Answers may vary.** But point out that Joseph responded similarly to the way Christ did when He suffered (1 Pet. 2:23).
- ➌ **Why do you think Joseph was not worried or upset about his future? Answers may include that he had faith in what God had revealed to him about God's plan for his life.**

## Timeline

**Place Joseph on the timeline.** Select a student to attach the picture of Joseph (ca. 1915–1805 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Joseph picture to his individual timeline.

## Masterwork: Jacob Shown the Coat of Joseph

**Develop an appreciation of art.** Read and discuss the information about *Jacob Shown the Coat of Joseph* by Giovanni Battista Carloni on the Toolkit CD. Display Chart 8 for reference during the unit.

## Worktext pages 55–56

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 40 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Develop a biblical view of honesty and deceitfulness.** Point out that dishonesty is any intent to deceive or mislead someone, including not telling the full truth, hiding part of the truth, or purposefully avoiding a direct question. Read page 55 and discuss what God says about dishonesty. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

**Personal evaluation of honesty.** Read and discuss the scenarios on page 56. Encourage the students to read the "What About Me?" section at home and think about ways that they may not have been completely honest.

LESSON

38

## God's Plan Unfolded

### Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

### Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:13–14

Practice the memory verses. Direct the students to read Hebrews 11:13–14 silently several times.

What attitude did Abraham and his descendants have toward that heavenly country? **They saw it with eyes of faith. Because God had promised it in His Word, they believed it was already theirs.**

Lead the students in reading **Hebrews 11:8–14** together. Prepare them to recite verses 8–14 in Lesson 39.

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Jospeh's Time in Prison

Bible scholars say that Joseph was in prison for at least two years. When he was released from prison, it had been about fourteen years since he had been sold as a slave.

#### Joseph's Family

Joseph was thirty years old when Pharaoh appointed him ruler over Egypt (**Gen. 41:46**). Pharaoh gave him a wife, Asenath, who was the daughter of the priest of On. Joseph and Asenath had two sons before the famine. Joseph named their firstborn Manasseh, which means “one who forgets,” to show that he had forgotten his hardships. Ephraim, the second son, was given a name that means “fruitful,” indicating that Joseph had become prosperous in the land of his difficulties.

### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss endurance.** Point out that God is sovereign and is in control of every aspect of our lives every day. Though delays seem like interruptions in our planning, God wants to use them to help us become more Christlike. Ask for volunteers to tell about ways they or their families have been delayed; lead them to recall how God used those delays in their lives. Point out that God does not always show us why situations are not resolved right away, but we do know that He commands us to live for Him, to serve Him, and to endure.

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Genesis 41:1–43:18** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What did Jacob do that he did not want to do? He let his youngest son, Benjamin, return to Egypt with his other sons.**

## God's Plan Unfolded

The cupbearer was released from prison, just as Joseph had said in his interpretation of the man’s dream. But the cupbearer forgot to mention Joseph to Pharaoh, so Joseph stayed in prison for two more years. Then one day, Pharaoh had a dream.

He dreamed that he was standing beside the river and seven fat cows came out of the river and grazed. Then seven very thin and ugly cows came out of the river and ate the fat cows.

Pharaoh had a second dream. Seven good, full ears of grain grew on one stalk. Then seven thin, wind-beaten ears of grain came up and swallowed the full ears.

When Pharaoh woke up he was upset and wanted to know what these dreams meant. He called for all of the

magicians and wise men of Egypt, but no one knew what the dreams meant.

Then the cupbearer remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh how Joseph interpreted two dreams in prison, and how everything happened exactly according to his interpretation.

Pharaoh was hopeful. He called for Joseph to be brought before him. “I have heard that you can understand a dream and interpret it,” Pharaoh said.

“I can’t,” Joseph said. “But God will give you a good answer.” So Pharaoh told Joseph his two dreams, and Joseph said that both of Pharaoh’s dreams meant the same thing.

God was warning Pharaoh that Egypt would have seven years with plenty of food and then seven years of extreme famine. Joseph recommended that Pharaoh appoint someone to be in charge of collecting a fifth of all Egypt’s food in each of the prosperous years. That food would prevent starvation during the seven years of famine.

“Can we find such a man who has the Spirit of God in him?” Pharaoh asked. Then Pharaoh realized that that man was standing right there in front of him, so he made Joseph ruler over his household and over all Egypt because God had shown Joseph the meaning of his dreams. Joseph gathered so much food during seven years that they stopped keeping records of it.

Then the seven years of famine hit. The surrounding countries had no food, but Egypt had storehouses full of grain, so foreigners came from far away to buy food.

Joseph’s family back in the Promised Land lacked food also, so Jacob sent his ten older sons to Egypt to buy grain. They arrived and bowed down before none other than their brother Joseph. Joseph recognized his brothers right away, and he thought back to his dreams.

“You are spies,” he said to them. “No, my lord, we are not. We are your servants who have come to buy food,” they said. “We are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother stayed home with our father, and another brother is not alive.” Joseph’s brothers talked among themselves but didn’t know that Joseph understood them. “We are very guilty concerning our brother. We saw the anguish of his soul, but we wouldn’t listen to him,” they said. “That’s why we’re facing this trouble.”

Joseph went to another room and wept. He had a plan to test them. He imprisoned Simeon but gave the others grain and sent them on their way. He made them promise to return with their younger brother Benjamin to prove that they were not spies. On their way home, when one of them opened his sack of grain, he found that the money he had paid for the grain was in his bag! “What is this that God has done to us?” they said. They returned home and told Jacob all that happened, but he would not let Benjamin go with them to Egypt.

After some time, all the grain had been eaten, so Jacob told his sons to go back to Egypt for more. But Judah appealed, “The ruler there told us that we would not see his face unless we bring our youngest brother with us.” Finally, Jacob agreed to let Benjamin go back to Egypt with them for more food.

## Trust Brings Blessing

Genesis 37-41

Name \_\_\_\_\_

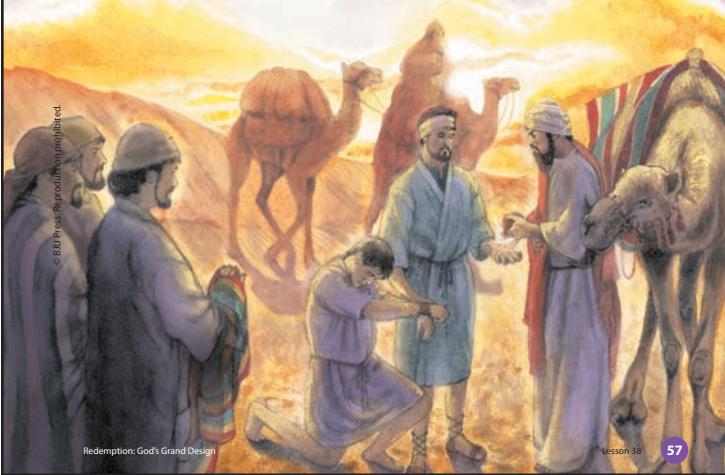
Write the letter of the effect next to the correct cause in the events in the life of Joseph.

### CAUSE

- D** 1. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son.
- F** 2. Joseph's brothers let their hatred control them.
- B** 3. God helped Joseph resist the temptation to sin with Potiphar's wife.
- G** 4. Potiphar's wife lied to Potiphar about Joseph.
- C** 5. In jail, Joseph had a godly response to his circumstances and was obedient.
- A** 6. God helped Joseph correctly interpret the dreams of the baker and butler.
- H** 7. God helped Joseph correctly interpret Pharaoh's dreams and give wise counsel.
- E** 8. God gave Joseph wisdom about raising and storing food.

### EFFECT

- A. Joseph was brought before Pharaoh to interpret the king's dreams.
- B. Potiphar's wife became angry and lied about Joseph.
- C. Joseph was placed over the other prisoners.
- D. Joseph's brothers became jealous and hated him.
- E. Egypt had plenty during the time of famine.
- F. They sold Joseph into slavery.
- G. Joseph was sent to jail.
- H. Joseph was promoted to second in command in Egypt.



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When the brothers appeared before Joseph once again, he saw that they had brought Benjamin with them. He commanded his staff to prepare a feast for him and his brothers. All the brothers were brought into the house, thinking they were in trouble because of the money that they had found in their sacks.



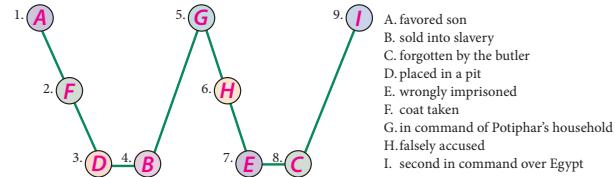
- What event did God use to release Joseph from prison? **God gave Pharaoh a dream that nobody but Joseph could interpret.**
- ❖ How had God prepared the way two years earlier? **God gave the cupbearer and baker dreams, and He gave Joseph the wisdom to interpret them.**
- How did Joseph respond when Pharaoh considered him able to interpret dreams? **He gave the credit to God.**
- What did Pharaoh notice about Joseph? **God's Spirit was in Joseph.**
- How did Joseph react to his brothers, and how did Joseph's brothers react to their difficulty? **Joseph seemed harsh, but he cried in secret. The brothers felt guilty for what they had done to Joseph and thought this was a punishment for that; they were afraid.**
- ❖ How do you think you should react when someone treats you unfairly? **Possible answers: patiently, lovingly, and humbly—like Christ**

## An Honoring Response

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph's brothers did not like the favoritism shown by their father toward Joseph. They chose not to see Joseph's dreams as prophecy from God about their future. They demonstrated their sinful feelings and distrust by mistreating Joseph. Joseph experienced many ups and downs in his life, yet all of his responses recorded in Scripture were honorable.

Sequence the ups and downs in the life of Joseph. Write the letter in the correct circle on the diagram.



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Remember Rebekah's response when she saw that the camels needed water? She could have ignored the camels and given water only to Abraham's servant. But she saw the need and knew the right action to take. Look at how the Lord blessed her response! Throughout the Bible God gives examples of those who chose to walk with God through their circumstances and responded in a godly way.

Read the verses. Write each person's response that honored God.

Genesis 14:21-23 Abraham **refused goods or riches.**

1 Samuel 3:10 Samuel **listened.**

Daniel 6:10 Daniel **prayed and thanked God.**



God controls all circumstances and wants to bear the fruit of the Spirit in your life. When things do not go as you planned, perhaps God is trying to teach you to trust His goodness and greatness.

Have you ever been in a situation where you have been wronged? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Would there have been a better response? \_\_\_\_\_

58 Lesson 38

Redemption: God's Grand Design

❖ **What did Jacob do that he did not want to do? He let his youngest son, Benjamin, return to Egypt with his other sons.**

❖ **What do you think the title of this account, "God's Plan Unfolded," means? Though it had been twenty years from the time of Joseph's telling his family his dreams and his brothers bowing before him (Gen. 37:2; 41:6, 53-54), God was keeping His Word to Joseph. And He was keeping His promises in a way that preserved Abraham's descendants so that the promise of the Messiah coming from Abraham would be fulfilled.**

❖ Twenty years is a long time, and Joseph had no idea how God would work His will out. Slavery and being forgotten in prison do not seem like the way God would accomplish His will. What do you think kept Joseph from being discouraged, depressed, and in despair during that time? **Answers may vary but should indicate that Joseph believed what God had revealed to him (Heb. 11:1, 22; Rom. 15:4, 13). Circumstances always change, but God's Word is unmoveable (Ps. 119:89).**

❖ **Are you confused about what God is doing in your life?** As we die to self, accept God's plan for us daily, and follow Him, we can rest in His goodness, greatness, and sovereignty (Luke 9:23-24; Matt. 11:28-29).

- What Scriptures are helpful to meditate on to keep our hearts at peace when we do not understand our circumstances? Many Scriptures apply, but suggest **Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28–29; Philippians 4:6–9; 2:3–8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 9:8; Romans 15:4, 13; Jeremiah 9:23–24.**

Those who are feeling discouraged or depressed should be encouraged to find biblical help for understanding and hope at [www.quietinganoisysoul.com/](http://www.quietinganoisysoul.com/).

## Worktext page 57

Recall details from the Bible account.

## Worktext page 58

Interpret Scripture and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

LESSON

39

# True Love

## Music

Review the song and develop higher-level thinking skills by asking application questions.

## Memory Verses: Hebrews 11:13–14

Practice the memory verses. Ask for seven volunteers to quote Hebrews 11:8–14—one verse per student.

- How would the lives of people who are living for “the here and now” differ from Christians who are living for eternity (who are passing through, anticipating an *eternal* homeland)? **Answers will vary.**

Allow other volunteers to recite **Hebrews 11:13–14**, and then **11:8–14**.

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Fear

Joseph’s brothers feared punishment for having the money in their sacks. They had dealt maliciously with others in the past, and now they expected the same treatment to come their way.

#### Favoritism

Joseph and Benjamin were brothers from the same father and mother (Jacob and Rachel). The other brothers were from Jacob and his three other wives, so Joseph’s only full brother was Benjamin. And because Benjamin was from Jacob’s favorite wife, he was Jacob’s favored son now that Jacob thought Joseph was dead. When all the brothers were served a meal in Joseph’s house, he gave everybody but Benjamin only one portion. He gave Benjamin five portions without any explanation. Then Joseph set up the same scenario for their trip home as he had done on their first trip. Joseph wanted to see whether they hated Benjamin the same way they had hated *him* when he was Jacob’s favorite son.

#### Silver Cup

By putting his special silver cup in Benjamin’s sack, Joseph

gave his brothers an opportunity to escape and leave Benjamin behind to suffer as they had done to Joseph. But Judah delivered a passionate speech that revealed that the brothers had indeed had a change of heart.

### Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss **forgiveness**. Point out that Joseph reacted toward his persecutors much like Christ did. Lead the students to share ways they can forgive and show love when they are treated wrongly. Point out that the true test of selfless service is how a person reacts when he is treated like a servant.

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Genesis 43:19–50:26** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was Joseph’s answer to the brothers’ last fear?** **He asked if he were God. He said that the evil plans they had were used by God to save many people’s lives.**

## True Love

The brothers asked one of Joseph’s workers about the money that was in their sacks. “Don’t be afraid,” the servant said. “Your God has given you treasure in your sacks. I received your money.” Then he released Simeon (who had been kept in confinement) to join them.

Joseph returned home at noon, and his brothers bowed down to him with their presents. “Is your father well? Is he still alive?” Joseph asked. They assured him that their father was well, and they bowed again. When Joseph saw Benjamin, his only true brother and the youngest brother of them all, he left quickly and went to another room and cried.

*Share the background information about favoritism.*

When the feast was ready, Joseph came back into the room where his eleven brothers were. He had seated the men in order from the oldest to the youngest. That amazed the men because they still did not know that Joseph was their brother. The next morning Joseph sent his brothers back home with plenty of grain and hid their money in their bags as before. The brothers had gone only a short distance when Joseph’s steward caught up with them and accused them of taking Joseph’s special silver cup. “Why have you rewarded my master’s good with this evil deed?” the steward asked.

*Share the background information about the silver cup.*

The eleven brothers could hardly believe the accusation. “Whichever of your servants is found with the silver cup, let him die, and the rest of us will be our lord’s servants,” they said. But the steward promised that only the guilty person would return to be Joseph’s slave.

*Ask the students, “Whose sack do you think had the cup in it?”*

The brothers could hardly believe it when the silver cup was found in *Benjamin's* sack! But they didn't let the steward take him. All the brothers returned to Joseph and pleaded with him to make *all* of them his servants. Judah spoke to Joseph and reminded him of all that had happened—of his father who had already lost one son and grieved deeply. "If we leave Benjamin behind, our father will die when he finds out that his youngest son isn't with us," Judah said. Joseph could not hold the tears back any longer. He commanded that everybody but his brothers leave the room! Now he was alone with his brothers who had once wanted to kill him but sold him into slavery instead. All Joseph could do was cry. He wept so loudly that the whole household could hear him. And then finally he told his brothers, "I am Joseph!"

His brothers were speechless and filled with fear. "I am Joseph your brother, who you sold into Egypt," he said. "But don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me," Joseph said. "God sent me here before you to preserve life. So in actuality it was not you that sent me here, but God."

Joseph invited his brothers to come live in Egypt, where there would be plenty of food for their families. Pharaoh sent wagons for them to bring back the whole family—every one of them. Joseph gave all the brothers clothes, but he gave more to Benjamin. He also gave them gifts and food for their journey.

Jacob could hardly believe what they told him until he saw all the things they had brought from Egypt. "It is enough," Jacob said. "Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." Jacob worshiped God, and God assured him that he should travel to Egypt. Joseph's whole extended family, all sixty-four of them went to live in Egypt.

Joseph presented his father and some of his brothers to Pharaoh. Pharaoh told Joseph to take his father and brothers and all their herds to live in the land of Goshen, and Joseph provided for his family.

Seventeen years later, Jacob was near death. Joseph brought his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to him, and Jacob blessed Joseph's sons and gave each of them a portion of the inheritance before he died.

Joseph, his family, and all of Egypt mourned when Jacob died. But now Joseph's brothers feared that Joseph would hate them and get revenge, so they offered to serve Joseph. But Joseph reassured them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You planned evil against me; but God meant it for good, to save many people's lives."

- 
- ❖ What was the brothers' attitude toward Benjamin? They were very protective of him and wanted to be sure he arrived safely back home to be with Jacob.
- ❖ Why did the brothers want to be sure Benjamin returned home safely? Jacob, their father, loved him dearly, and they did not want Jacob to suffer any more grief. If anything had happened to Benjamin, Jacob would have been severely grieved.

- ❖ How did Joseph's brothers once again fulfill the dreams God gave Joseph? They bowed down to him.
- How did Joseph treat his brothers after he told them who he was? He told them not to be angry with themselves; he assured them that God had used them to accomplish His purpose of keeping many people alive. He provided his whole family with food and land.
- ❖ Why do you think Joseph's brothers were afraid after their father died? Possible answers include that they thought that Joseph had just been kind to them for their father's sake and now he would get revenge on them.
- What was Joseph's answer to the brothers' last fear? He asked if he were God. He said that the evil plans they had were used by God to save many people's lives.
- ❖ How could Joseph forgive his brothers for such a hateful thing they had done to him? Joseph understood that the hand of God is behind all events, and that God could do whatever He wanted with Joseph's life to accomplish His own goals. He understood that everything that happens to us may serve God's purposes if we respond in a godly manner.
- ❖ Why is the title of this account, "True Love," a good description of how Joseph treated his brothers? Answers may include that Joseph did not kill or harm his brothers for the wrong they did to him even though it completely changed his life. Not only that, he was kind to them and provided for them and their families, both while their father was alive and after he died. He treated them as though they had been his best friends all along. His forgiveness and provision is like Christ's for all sinners who trust Him as Savior.
- ❖ Do you think that you would forgive someone who treated you as unkindly and unjustly as Joseph's brothers treated him?

### Old Testament Connection (optional)

Compare Joseph's life with Christ's. Tell the students that the New Testament never tells us that Joseph is a type of Christ, but there are many obvious similarities. The following Bible references cite similarities rather than exact parallels of Joseph's life with Christ's life. Assign each of the following passages to a different student to read aloud, asking him to point out the similarity.

- Philippians 2:3–7 was a humble servant  
John 1:11; Matthew 13:13 spoke God's words in spite of rejection and opposition  
Matthew 12:14 was someone that others wanted to kill  
Luke 22:3–6 was betrayed and sold  
Philippians 2:8–9 suffered and was later exalted  
Luke 23:33–34 forgave those who treated Him unjustly

## Reunited

Genesis 42–50

When accused of being spies, Joseph's brothers immediately remembered their sin of selling Joseph. At this time they did not know that Joseph was the one speaking to them, but they still carried the guilt from their actions years before.

**Answer the questions. You may use your Bible for help.**

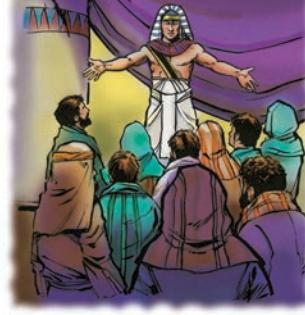
1. Joseph saw his brothers' sin as God's instrument to place him in Egypt. When did Joseph finally reveal himself to his brothers? (Gen. 45:1–12)  
**when they made their second trip to Egypt with Benjamin**
2. Did the brothers ask forgiveness at that time? **no**
3. What did Pharaoh do when he heard that Joseph's brothers had come? (Gen. 45:16–19)  
**He sent wagons to help move the family to Egypt.**
4. Jacob lived in Egypt for seventeen years before he died. After his burial in Canaan, what were the brothers' thoughts about Joseph? (Gen. 50:14–18)  
**Joseph would hate them and repay the evil that they had done.**

5. Did Joseph's brothers ask forgiveness at this time? **yes**

6. What did Joseph tell his brothers about their actions? (Gen. 50:19–20)  
**They meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

God wants every sinner to seek forgiveness. Sin carries guilt, which can show itself in a variety of ways. One way is to make the sinner suspicious of other people's thoughts and actions. A guilty person often interprets the events in his life as being punishment for sin.



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Have you committed a sin that keeps coming to mind? Does thinking about that sin cause you to act differently toward God and others? Ask God's forgiveness and that of anyone you have wronged. The Lord is faithful and just to forgive our sins (1 John 1:9).

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 39

59

## Covenant Review

Abraham Through Joseph

Many times throughout Scripture, God is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The covenant is often identified with these three names. Once the people of Israel returned to occupy the Promised Land, the inheritance was divided among the twelve sons of Jacob (Gen. 49). Since

Levi's descendants were made the priests and keepers of the tabernacle, they did not receive an inheritance of land. Because of the blessing given them by Jacob (Gen. 48:5), Joseph's inheritance was divided between his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

**Locate and circle the twelve tribes on the map.**



**Write T if the sentences are true and F if the sentences are not true about God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants.**

- F** 1. God included Lot in the covenant as Abraham's son.
- F** 2. Ishmael was included in God's covenant with Abraham.
- T** 3. God fulfilled His covenant with Abraham through Isaac.
- T** 4. God promised to make of Abraham a great nation.
- T** 5. God led Abraham to the land of promise.
- F** 6. Abraham lived a sinless life and always did what God wanted.
- F** 7. God planned for Esau to be the son who was included in the covenant.
- T** 8. God planned for Jacob to receive the blessing as part of the covenant.
- T** 9. God provided for Abraham's descendants in a time of famine through Joseph.
- T** 10. Both Abraham and Christians today share the same faith to believe God's promises.



60 Lesson 39

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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## Worktext page 59

Recall facts from the Bible account.

## Worktext page 60

Recall details from the Bible accounts in Unit 2 and identify information on a map.

LESSON

40

## Unit 2d Activity

### Materials

- Chart 18 or printout from Toolkit CD ("God's Word—History, Old Testament")
- Bible book cards (Old Testament books of History)

### Background Information

#### Joshua (Conquest of the Promised Land)

God guided His people under the leadership of Joshua as they fought for and won the land God had promised to Abraham.

#### Judges (Sin, Oppression, Repentance, and Deliverance)

For three hundred years (from Joshua's death until Samuel), Israel failed to consistently show the glory of God to the heathen nations.

#### Ruth (The Romance of Redemption)

God worked through the personal and family history of Ruth,

who was not an Israelite. She was a Moabite and lived in the land of Moab with her husband who was an Israelite. During a time of famine, Ruth's husband died. Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, decided to return to Bethlehem, and Ruth decided to go with her to help care for her. After returning to Bethlehem, Ruth was gleaning in the fields and met a man named Boaz. She married him and had a son who became the grandfather of David, making Ruth one of Christ's ancestors. (This book and Esther are the only books of the Bible named after women.)

#### 1 and 2 Samuel (The Kingdom Established)

Samuel was the last judge of Israel. After that, Israel was ruled by kings. These books tell the history of Samuel and the reigns of the first two kings, Saul and David. God promised that one of David's descendants would have an everlasting kingdom.

#### 1 and 2 Kings (The Kingdom Divided)

These books record David's death, Solomon's reign, and the time after Solomon's death, when the kingdom split. Ten northern tribes formed the kingdom of Israel, and at first followed Jeroboam (one of Solomon's officials). The two southern tribes, Judah and Benjamin, formed the kingdom of Judah and were first ruled by Solomon's son Rehoboam. For centuries, these two kingdoms were led by different kings who either turned them toward God or away from God. Eventually, Israel was conquered by the Assyrians and later Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon.

#### 1 and 2 Chronicles (God's Promise)

Like 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Chronicles tell the history of Israel



► Which book comes before this one?

► Which book comes after?

► What is its abbreviation?

Award points for correct answers. Display Chart 18 ("God's Word—History") for reference and review.

and Judah. God was faithful in fulfilling His promises to Abraham and David. He offered mercy to those who looked for Him with all their hearts.

#### **Ezra (Return from Captivity)**

Ezra was a priest and the leader of a group of exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Ezra led a reform, encouraging the people to rebuild the temple and rededicate themselves to God.

#### **Nehemiah (Jerusalem Rebuilt)**

After Ezra led the exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem, God used Nehemiah to organize the Israelites to rebuild the city walls. This book also tells about the reforms Nehemiah initiated.

#### **Esther (The Providence of God)**

God arranged events so that Esther, a Jewish woman, became queen of Persia and was able—at the risk of her life—to save God's people in the land of their captivity.

### **Teach for Understanding**

Review the **Old Testament books of History**. Select students to read each book name and theme from Worktext page 274. Share the background information for each of the books of History (optional).

**Practice the sequence of these books.** Divide the students into teams. Cover one of the bottom corners of a Bible book card and ask questions about the book named at the top. Use questions such as the following:

**Unit 2c–2d Review**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the letters of the correct answers.**

1. Circle the letter of each statement that is true of Abraham's servant's trip to find a wife for Isaac.  
[Lesson 31]
  - a. The servant did not want to go.
  - b.** He asked God for help.
  - c. Rebekah asked her younger sister to help her get water for Abraham's servant.
  - d.** Rebekah was willing to go with the servant the next day.
  - e. Rebekah asked for her own camel and lots of jewelry before she agreed to be Isaac's wife.
  - f. Rebekah changed her mind and got leprosy.
2. Why was Abraham concerned about Isaac's getting married? [Lesson 31]
  - a. Isaac was unhappy.
  - b.** Isaac had to have a family for God's promise of Christ's being Abraham's seed to be fulfilled.
  - c. Abraham needed more soldiers to fight for him so he could claim the land as his own.
  - d. It was culturally unacceptable to marry after forty years of age.
3. What is true about Jacob's telling lies in order to get his father Isaac's blessing? [Lesson 33]
  - a. Jacob's mother told him to lie, so he had to lie.
  - b. It was OK for Jacob to deceive his father because Jacob deserved the blessing more than Esau.
  - c.** Jacob should have obeyed God (by not lying) no matter how much he thought that the blessing should be his.
4. What are some of the "bad" things that happened to Joseph? [Lessons 37–38]
  - a. He was not good at sports.
  - b.** His brothers did not like him.
  - c. He was often sick, so he could identify with Pharaoh's dream of the famished cows being devoured.
  - d.** Potiphar's wife accused him of a wrong he did not do.
  - e. He had a bad temper.
  - f.** He spent two more years in prison because the cupbearer forgot about him.
  - g. He stayed in prison for a long time because he was caught trying to break out.
5. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, why did he not tell them who he was at first? [Lesson 39]
  - a. Joseph wanted to make them suffer.
  - b.** He wanted to see if they loved their father, Jacob.
  - c. It would take a long time to prepare meals for his extended family once they all arrived in Egypt.
  - d.** He wanted to see if they loved Benjamin, their father's favorite son.
  - e. He wanted them to get angry and sin so that he could legitimately punish them.

## Unit 2c–2d Review

**Lead a review of Lessons 31–40.** A reproducible copy of the review questions (without answers) is available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD under Half-Unit Reviews. The answers are there also.

## Unit 2 Review

Through the Covenant

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write the correct word to complete each sentence.

express	Ishmael	obedience	procrastination	sacrifice	trusted
Isaac	nations	plagues	reward	tithe	wife

1. Abram trusted God and obediently went where God told him to go.
2. Abram offered sacrifices on altars to express his thankfulness and praise to God.
3. While in Egypt, Abram lied to Pharaoh by not saying that Sarai was his wife.
4. God sent plagues to Pharaoh and his family because of Abram's lie.
5. After Abram's victory in the battle to rescue Lot and the other people of Sodom and Gomorrah from the enemy kings, Abram thanked God with a tithe of the goods from battle.
6. Abram refused a reward from the King of Sodom.
7. God confirmed His covenant with Abram by changing his name to Abraham, which means father of many nations.
8. In an attempt to help God fulfill His promise, Abraham and one of Sarah's servants had a son that they named Ishmael.
9. Abraham had two sons, but God's covenant was established only with Isaac, the son of Sarah.
10. God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
11. Abraham and Isaac demonstrated obedience and trust as they prepared to sacrifice Isaac.

Mark with an X all the true sentences about the life of Joseph and his family.

- X 12. The brothers' hatred led them to sell Joseph into slavery.  
X 13. Joseph's brothers told their father about selling him.  
X 14. Joseph saw that God meant for good to come from his going to Egypt.  
X 15. Although they were afraid of Joseph when he revealed himself to them, Joseph's brothers did not ask his forgiveness until after the death of Jacob.  
X 16. Pharaoh sent wagons to help move Joseph's family to Egypt.  
17. Jacob punished his sons for lying about what had happened to Joseph.  
Mark with an X all the true sentences about how God helped Joseph.
- X 18. God helped Joseph resist the temptation to sin with Potiphar's wife.  
19. God helped Joseph seek revenge on his brothers.  
X 20. God helped Joseph correctly interpret dreams while in prison.  
X 21. God helped Joseph by giving him the wisdom to raise and store food for the famine.  
22. God helped Joseph resist the punishment of Potiphar and seek a retrial.

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 21–40

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## Unit 2 Review (continued)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions.

23. How do Christians and God communicate with each other today?  
through Bible reading and prayer
24. What were the two main parts of the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?  
He would give them land, and their descendants would be more than the sand, stars, or dust of the earth.
25. Name two situations in which Joseph's responses honored God. Accept answers from the accounts about Joseph.

Circle the answer that makes each sentence true.

26. Through Jacob's dream about a ladder from heaven, God (confirmed) revoked) the covenant He had previously made with Jacob.
27. Rebekah helped Jacob deceive Isaac into giving Jacob the birthright of the (firstborn) more loyal son.
28. How did Abraham's servant know what girl to choose as a wife for Isaac? He considered her (talents and skills / kindness and character) looks and wealth).
29. The one tribe that did not receive a regular portion of land because they were priests was the tribe of (Judah / Joshua / Levi).
30. Abraham viewed himself as a temporary resident in the land God had given him because he was looking forward to another city. That other city was (Canaan / the new Jerusalem / the new Ur).

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 21–40

## Unit Review

Guide a review of the entire unit. Review the people and events in preparation for the Unit 2 test (optional). A reproducible copy of the review (without answers) is available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD.