

# Provision

## Unit 6c

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 101–2: God is all-knowing (omniscient) (Job 42:2).
- 102: God is all-powerful (omnipotent) (Jer. 32:27).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Ecclesiastes 3:7–9
- Recognize God's protecting hand
- Appreciate God's sovereign control of life's events
- Express thankfulness for God's provision
- Identify the correct Bible character
- Develop a biblical understanding of a legacy
- Use Bible reference tools: Bible dictionaries, concordances, and cross-references
- Sequence events
- Read a timeline
- Recall facts and details
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

101

## Chosen Beauty

#### Materials

- Chart 32 ("Palestine and Beyond")
- Unit 6 bookmark [E]

#### 🎵 Music

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

#### ❤️ Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:7–9

**Principle:** People cannot find satisfaction in the repetitiveness of life. Read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:7–9 as the students read silently.

- 💡 When are appropriate times to keep silent? When are appropriate times to speak? **Answers will vary.**
- 💡 What other principles of speech has God given Christians? Possible answers include speaking the truth in a loving way.

Choose three volunteers to read the verses aloud. Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 6 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

#### Bible Account

##### Preview Background Information

###### Names

*Mordecai* was a Babylonian name related to the god Marduk. Mordecai may have been a descendant of King Saul. *Esther* was a Persian name meaning "star," a possible reference to her sparkling beauty; her Hebrew name, *Hadassah*, means "myrtle," symbolizing beauty and sweetness. Both Mordecai and Esther were from the tribe of Benjamin. The Persian king was called *Xerxes* in Greek but is called by his Hebrew name, *Ahasuerus*, in the book of Esther. His Persian name was *Khshayarsha*.

###### Date of the Book of Esther

The events of the book of Esther occurred during the period of Persian dominance in world history. Most Bible scholars hold that the events recorded in Esther occurred between Ezra 6–7.

Commentators disagree about the date the book of Esther was written, but it was probably written around the middle of the fifth century BC. Its author is unknown but obviously knew Persian culture well.

### Historical Support

Archaeologists have found evidence of the wealthy city of Susa (Shushan) and the ruins of Xerxes's palace.

### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss Israel during the time of Esther.** Remind the students that on three occasions Nebuchadnezzar had invaded Judah and taken many Israelites captive to Babylon. After the fall of Babylon, some of the Israelites were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. The events in this account took place about thirty years after the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem was completed. King Darius I was no longer on the throne. The Persian king called Xerxes (Greek) or Ahasuerus (Hebrew) had taken his place.

### Teach for Understanding

Read Esther 1:1–2:20 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **Who did Esther find favor with? God gave her favor with her cousin Mordecai, the king's keeper of the women, and King Ahasuerus.** Display Chart 32 ("Palestine and Beyond") pointing out the italicized places in the account.

## Chosen Beauty

Ahasuerus, king of the Persian Empire, reigned over territory stretching from *India* all the way to *Ethiopia*. From his palace in *Susa*, he ruled over 127 provinces.

After a reign of three years, King Ahasuerus decided to hold a banquet for all the leaders and servants under his authority. For 180 days, Ahasuerus showed the leaders of the Persian Empire all his riches and splendor.

To conclude the celebration, he ordered a seven-day feast in the court of his palace garden. Fine purple linen cords held beautifully colored hangings to silver rings and marble pillars. Gold and silver recliners sat on a multicolored marble floor. Each person drank as much royal wine as he desired from his uniquely designed golden cup.

On the seventh day of the feast when the king's ability to think rationally was impaired due to so much wine, he commanded that his seven officers (chamberlains) bring Queen Vashti to display her beauty in front of all his guests. Vashti refused to come, making the king very angry.

Because she had not obeyed his commandment, the king asked his wise men what to do to the queen according to the law. One officer pointed out that Vashti had wronged not only the king but also all the people under the king. Vashti had set a bad example for the women of the land, who might disrespect and disobey their husbands also. He suggested that Vashti no longer be allowed to come before the king and that someone replace her as queen. King Ahasuerus followed this advice in order to influence all wives to give honor to their husbands.

Time went by, and the king was no longer angry. His servants suggested a plan that he liked. He appointed officers

### Beauty and Character

Esther 1:2–2:20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

When you are making an important choice, do you ever look at the life of a person in authority to see how he has made similar choices? The women in the kingdom of King Ahasuerus looked to Queen Vashti as a model for behavior.

Answer the questions. You may look up the verses.

1. How would Vashti's disobedience to the king affect the women of the land? (Esther 1:17)  
***They might despise or show contempt to their husbands.***
2. As part of her punishment, Vashti would no longer be able to come before the king. What other punishment was given her according to the law of the Medes and Persians? (1:19)  
***Her royal position/estate would be given to another.***
3. What kind of new queen did the king look for? (2:2) ***a beautiful young virgin***
4. Mordecai had been brought to the land when Jehoiachin, a king of Judah, was captured by which Babylonian king? (2:6) ***Nebuchadnezzar***
5. Esther had been orphaned. Although Mordecai was Esther's cousin, how did Mordecai treat her? (2:7) ***as his own daughter***
6. Each candidate had to go through beauty treatments before the king would consider her to be his next queen. How long did the beautification process take? (2:12)  
***12 months***
7. Why do you think Mordecai wanted Esther to keep her Jewish heritage a secret from the king (2:10, 20)?  
***Answers will vary.***
8. What should every Christian be? (1 Tim. 4:12) ***an example for other believers***
9. What should every Christian's character be? (1 Pet. 1:15) ***holy***



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Redemption: God's Grand Design

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to find beautiful young women throughout the kingdom for him. The ladies would all be brought to the palace one at a time, and the one who pleased the king would be queen instead of Vashti.

During that time, a Jew named Mordecai worked in the palace at Susa. Mordecai was raising his beautiful, orphaned cousin Esther as his own daughter.

Esther was one of those brought to the king's palace. The keeper of the women was pleased with Esther and gave her everything she needed as well as the best place in the house.

Mordecai instructed Esther not to tell anyone that she was a Jew, and Esther obeyed. Every day Mordecai walked along the front of the court of the women to see about Esther.

Each young lady prepared for twelve months before presenting herself to the king. If the king did not like her enough to request her by name, she would never go in to see him again.

In the seventh year of the reign of King Ahasuerus, Esther, who was favored by all who saw her, prepared to meet the king. As it turned out, he loved Esther more than he loved the other young women, and she found favor in his sight so that he placed the royal crown on her head and made her the new queen. The king celebrated by holding a great feast in Esther's honor and by giving gifts.

Esther continued to obey Mordecai's command by not telling anyone that she was a Jew.

### The Appropriate Time

Ecclesiastes 3:4–9

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Has your parent or teacher ever told you that something you did was inappropriate behavior? You were probably acting incorrectly for the place you were in. There is an appropriate time and place for everything but sin.

In each pair, mark an X on the activity that is appropriate.

1.  a child crying when he falls  
 a child crying to get something in a store
2.  laughing at a friend's funny picture drawn during church  
 laughing at an actor during a funny skit
3.  getting gifts for a birthday  
 getting a second helping before others have had any
4.  tearing out a hem to lengthen pants  
 tearing a friend's paper to make others laugh
5.  keeping quiet when you see someone doing wrong  
 keeping quiet to avoid hurting someone's feelings
6.  talking about someone you do not like  
 talking to the teacher about a problem



What about other things you do? Do you do "good" things at the wrong times? For example, it is good to help your brother fold his clothes, but if you were told to practice the piano at that time, is it right to be folding laundry?

Read James 4:17 and answer the questions.

7. What does God call it when you do not do what you know is right? sin
8. What is one thing that you know to do but your parents have to regularly remind you about?
9. What does God call your failure to do this particular thing? sin
10. What can you do to keep from sinning in this way? Possible answers include using some method of reminding myself, asking God's and my parents' forgiveness when I have to be reminded, and asking God to help me remember the next time.

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- **What did Vashti the queen do that led to her being de-throned? She refused to obey the king's command to come before his guests.**
- **Who was Mordecai? a Jew who worked at the palace in Susa**
- **Who was Esther, and how did she come to be in the palace? She was the orphaned cousin of Mordecai, who was raising her. She was in the large group of young women the king would choose a new queen from.**
- **How was the new queen to be chosen? Each woman would be brought in to the king, and he would choose the one he liked.**
- **Who did Esther find favor with? God gave her favor with her cousin Mordecai, the king's keeper of the women, and King Ahasuerus.**

### Timeline

Place Esther on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Esther (ca. 479 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Esther picture to his individual timeline.

### Worktext page 150

Recall details about the Bible account.

### Worktext page 151

Develop further understanding of the memory verses.

LESSON

102

## Sorrow to Joy

### Materials

- Chart 12 ("Masterwork: Esther Before Ahasuerus") or a copy from Teacher's Toolkit CD
- Timeline and picture of Esther
- Copy of the "Jewish Calendar" activity page from the Teacher's Toolkit CD (or as used in Lesson 80) [E, O]

### Music

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

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:7–9

Practice the memory verses. Locate Ecclesiastes 3:7–9 and select a student to read the verses aloud.

- **What should Christians love? God commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors the way we love ourselves (Matt. 22:37–40). Other answers include God's law (Ps. 119:97); God's name (Ps. 119: 32); wisdom (Prov. 4:6); mercy (Mic. 6:8); truth and peace (Zech. 8:19); and Christ's future appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).**

### Bible Account

#### Preview Background Information

##### The Agagites

Some commentators say that Haman is called an Agagite because he was the descendant of the Amalekite king Agag, who was an enemy of Israel during Saul's reign (1 Sam. 15:7–33). King Saul did not destroy the Amalekites completely as God had commanded him. If Mordecai was, in fact, a descendant of Saul, Haman's hostility toward Mordecai and the Jews is understandable. (Archaeologists have found an inscription that shows that Agag was also the name of a province in the Persian Empire, so it is possible that Haman came from that area.)

##### Signet Ring

Any document sealed with the king's signet ring proved that the king had authorized it. The signet ring was the symbol of the king's authority—equivalent to his signature; anyone who wore it or used it could give orders in equal authority with the king.

##### Scepter

This rod of gold was a symbol of the king's favor. If he extended it to any of his subjects, he showed his approval of them. If he did not extend his scepter when a person entered, that person could be put to death.

##### Feast of Purim

This feast is held annually for two days. The name comes from Pur, which means "the lot cast" (Esther 9:26). Some Bible scholars believe that it refers to the lot that was cast to determine when the Jews were to be killed, but others believe that it points to the lot that was cast to determine when Haman would speak to the king to obtain permission to have the Jews killed (3:7).

In either case, the lot stands as a symbol of God's deliverance of His people.

## Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss peculiarities in the book of Esther.** Point out that the book of Esther never uses the name of God, has no direct religious teaching, and does not specifically mention prayer. Even though these elements are not spelled out, God's provision and protection for His people are obvious. Challenge the students to listen for ways that God caused events to happen at just the right time to protect His people. Mention that many people today minimize acts of God by calling them coincidences.

## Teach for Understanding

Read Esther 3:1–10:3 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **What was the critical turning point in this account?** Answers may include when the king accepted Esther's approach to the throne without having been invited; when the records were read to the king the night he could not sleep; or when Esther told the king that Haman was the one planning to exterminate the Jewish people.

## Sorrow to Joy

Haman was King Ahasuerus's right-hand man, and the king put him in charge of the princes. King Ahasuerus commanded that all his servants bow down to Haman; but when Mordecai would not bow down, Haman became very angry and came up with a plan to get rid of Mordecai. When Haman heard that Mordecai was a Jew, he wanted to kill all of the Jews in the kingdom.

Haman told King Ahasuerus that there was a group of people in his kingdom that had laws that were different from the king's laws, so they didn't obey the king. Haman told King Ahasuerus that he should not tolerate them any longer.

Haman promised to put ten thousand talents of silver of his own money into the king's treasury to pay the expenses of destroying the Jews if the king would issue a law allowing the Jews to be attacked. The king was pleased with Haman's suggestion, so he gave Haman his signet ring and said Haman had his permission to do whatever he wanted to do to those people.

Haman wrote a letter in the king's name and sealed it with the king's ring, decreeing that all Jews should be killed in all the provinces on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. Any who killed them could take their property.

When Mordecai heard of the decree, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes to mourn. Many other Jews did the same.

When Esther heard about the decree, she too was grieved and sought advice from Mordecai, who told her to go ask the king for help. But Esther, even though she was the queen, had not been called before the king for thirty days, and she knew that she could be killed if she went to the king without his permission. Mordecai reminded her that she would be killed along with the rest of the Jews if the decree was carried out. He encouraged her to go to the

king by suggesting that it might have been for this very purpose at this very time that she had become queen.

Esther told Mordecai to command all the Jews in Susa to fast for three days and promised that she and her servants would fast also. (Typically, fasting was for the purpose of prayer.) Then Esther would go before the king and request his help. "If I perish, I perish," she said.

*Show Chart 12 or the printout from the Teacher's Toolkit CD.*

On the third day, Esther dressed in her royal garments and went before the king on his throne. When the king saw her standing in the court, he invited her in. He held the golden scepter out to Esther, so she approached the king and touched the top of it. He asked her kindly, "What would you like?" And then he reassured her that it would be generously given to her.

Esther answered that she would like for the king and Haman to come that day to a banquet she had prepared for him.

Haman and the king came to the banquet, and once again the king asked her what she wanted. He said he would grant her whatever she asked. Esther requested that Haman and the king come to another banquet the next day when she would tell him her request. Haman was proud of having been invited twice to feast with the king and queen, but later when he saw Mordecai refusing to bow down to him again, he became extremely angry. Haman's wife and his friends suggested that he build a gallows to hang Mordecai on. That idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows built.

That night, the king could not sleep, and he called for the book of records to be brought and read to him. That was how he found out that Mordecai had not received a reward for warning the king about two men who had plotted to kill him some time before. While the king was thinking about how to reward Mordecai for protecting him, Haman came before the king to ask permission to hang Mordecai on the newly built gallows. But before Haman could say anything, the king asked Haman a question. "What should be done for a man the king wants to honor?"

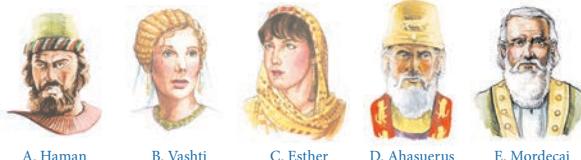
Haman thought that he was the one who the king wanted to honor. So Haman suggested that the man wear the king's royal robe and be led through the city by the king's highest official on the king's horse. So the king sent for Mordecai and commanded Haman to honor him in the ways that he had suggested. Haman obeyed, but he was humiliated.

Then Haman and the king went to the second banquet with Esther. King Ahasuerus again asked her to present her petition and promised to give her half of his kingdom.

Queen Esther asked the king to spare her life and the lives of her people. The king was surprised. He asked her who would dare to harm her or her people.

"This wicked Haman is our enemy!" Esther said. Haman became very afraid. The king was so angry that he went out to the palace garden. When he returned, Haman was begging Queen Esther for his life. He looked like he was trying to hurt her, and King Ahasuerus immediately condemned him to death. One of the king's servants informed the king

## Who Am I?



Write the letter of the correct person next to each statement.

- D 1. I was the king that ruled all the land from India to Ethiopia.  
C 2. I was a Jewish young woman who became the queen.  
A 3. Because the king placed me over all the princes, everyone had to bow to me in reverence.  
E 4. As a Jew, I refused to bow to anyone other than God.  
B 5. I was removed from being queen because I disobeyed the king.  
A 6. My pride, bitterness, and hatred were leading me to be a murderer.

Number the events in order.

- 6 Esther asked the king to release the Jews from the sentence of death.  
3 Mordecai told Esther to go before the king to intercede for her people.  
7 The king had Haman hanged on the gallows Haman had prepared for Mordecai's execution.  
4 Esther went to the king even though she had not been invited.  
1 Because of his hatred for Mordecai, Haman led the king to believe that the Jews were causing trouble and breaking the king's laws.  
5 Esther invited the king and Haman to two special banquets.  
2 When Mordecai heard that the king passed a law to destroy all the Jews, he came to the king's gate clothed as a mourner in sackcloth and ashes.

Although the Lord used Esther and Mordecai's obedience and bravery, God Himself is the central character in the biblical account of their lives. He directs our paths and is worthy of our trust.

about the gallows Haman had built for Mordecai—the man who had saved the king's life.

"Hang Haman on that gallows," the king said. So Haman was hanged instead of Mordecai, and the king gave Haman's house to Esther.

Esther pleaded with the king to spare the lives of her people, the Jews, and King Ahasuerus agreed to have a decree sent out that allowed the Jews to fight and defend themselves on the day they were to be killed.

When the thirteenth day of the twelfth month arrived, the Jews killed their enemies instead of being killed themselves. Their day of sorrow turned into a day of joy and celebration.

*Share the background information about the Feast of Purim.*



- Why did Haman want to kill the Jews? **Mordecai's refusal to bow down to Haman angered him. Haman's pride was attacked, so he wanted to attack Mordecai's people.**
- Why did Haman's plan to kill Mordecai fail? **When the king heard how Mordecai had saved his life, he wanted to honor Mordecai and ordered Haman to honor him. Haman never even got to present his request to execute Mordecai.**
- How did God protect the Jews? **He placed Esther as queen at that time and in that place and gave her favor before the king so that he granted her requests.**
- What was the critical turning point in this account? **Answers may include when the king accepted Esther's**

approach to the throne without having been invited; when the records were read to the king the night he could not sleep; or when Esther told the king that Haman was the one planning to exterminate the Jewish people.

► Read Psalm 31:15. How does the Esther account fit into God's big picture? **God had this situation with Esther planned before the foundation of the world. Everything happened according to His perfect plan, and the Jews were spared to be part of the lineage of Jesus Christ.** Remind the students that God is omniscient; His plan is always perfect and right.

## Masterwork: Esther Before Ahasuerus

**Develop an appreciation of art.** Read and discuss the information about the masterwork and the artist from Chart 12 ("Masterwork: Esther Before Ahasuerus") or the printout from the Teacher's Toolkit CD. Display Chart 12 for reference throughout the unit.

## History Connection (optional)

**Discuss the Jewish calendar.** Give each student a copy of the "Jewish Calendar" activity page from the Teacher's Toolkit CD. Invite students to study it carefully and compare it to the calendar we follow today.

- Haman came to King Ahasuerus in the first month to tell him about the Jews (Esther 3:7). What Jewish month is that? **Nisan**
- Which months on our calendar correspond to that time? **March and April**
- According to Haman's plan, the Jews were to be killed on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (Esther 3:13). What Jewish month is that? **Adar**
- Which months on our calendar correspond to that time? **February and March**

## Worktext page 152

Identify the correct Bible character and sequence events.

LESSON

103

## More Than You Ask For

### Music

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

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:7–9

Practice the memory verses. Locate Ecclesiastes 3:7–9 and select a student to read the verses aloud.

► What should a Christian hate? (Use prompts as necessary.) Answers may include evil (Ps. 97:10); every false way (Ps. 119:104); vain thoughts (Ps. 119:113); lying (Ps. 119:163); a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plans wickedness, feet that run to evil, those who spread strife among brothers (Prov. 6:17–19); and pride and arrogance (Prov. 8:13).

## Application Story

### Introduce the Application Story

Discuss God's provision.

What does God provide for Christians? Accept any answer, but point out that besides providing for their physical needs of food, clothing, and shelter, God also supplies their spiritual needs—grace, peace, strength, forgiveness, guidance, and comfort.

### Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following story. Listening question: What does God provide for Karis? not only the game but opportunities to trust His way of providing, to be a witness, and to give a gospel tract

### Provision for Karis

"And please provide Karis with a gift for her dad. In Jesus' name we pray."

"Amen!" Karis exclaimed.

Karis's mom backed out of the driveway. "Where would you like to go first?" she asked.

"Well, I want to get Dad that game that my cousins got for Christmas."

"Let's check at the mall," Mom said.

Karis and Mom headed to the toy store. Karis searched the aisles and shelves. "Let's see—puzzles, board games, and card games. But the one I want isn't here." When Karis asked an employee whether they had the game in stock, he glanced at the empty space where the game used to be and said, "We can order it for you."

"Well, I need it for tonight," Karis said. The young man apologized and went to help another customer. Mom pointed to the price tag where the game would have been.

"Fifteen dollars," Karis said. "Oh, well. I only have ten anyway."

"Let's check another store," Mom said. "It might be cheaper somewhere else."

Karis and her mom checked every store in the mall that had games. Karis dragged her feet as they walked out to the car.

"Nothing; everyone must have bought them for Christmas. Maybe I'll just give Dad the money," Karis said as they drove back home.

"Oh! There's a garage sale," Mom said. "Let's pull in. We still have a few minutes."

Karis walked toward a table covered with souvenirs, household items, toys, and puzzles. "Here are some games!" Karis said. She prayed silently. "Lord, please, let it be here. Lord, I really want to get that game for Dad."

"Nowhere," Karis said as her mom walked up. "I thought that maybe it would be here."

"Honey, maybe there's something else here that you could get Dad instead," Mom said. "Why don't you look at the ties?"

### Word Study

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Studying the Bible and other sources to find out what God says about a particular word is called a **word study**.

To study the word *provide*, start by reviewing the resources available to you.

**Step 1:** Look in **dictionaries** for the meaning of the word. A Bible dictionary will provide connections to Scripture and give possible biblical application. If your chosen word is not found, try other forms of the word. *Provide* is not in the Bible dictionary.

1. What form of *provide* is in the Bible dictionary? **providence**

#### Bible Dictionary

**PROVIDENCE** (Lat. *providentia*, "foreseeing"). In theology, this word refers to God's preparation for the management of His universe and His continual care and control over it.

#### Concordance

**PROVE**  
Ps 26: 2 examine me, O Lord, p me  
Gal 6: 4 let every man p his work

**PROVERB (PROVERBS)**  
Ps 69:11 I became a p to them  
Else a laughingstock and a p  
In 16:25 things have I spoken unto you in p

**PROVIDE (PROVIDEIT)**

Ge 22: 8 God will p himself a lamb

1Ti 5: 8 if any p not for his own

**Step 2:** Look in a **concordance**. Is the word found in the Bible? If so, it will probably be in a concordance. Look up the references in the box and read the verses. Find out how God uses the word.

2. Which reference is probably the account of God's providing a sacrifice when Abraham went to offer Isaac? **Genesis 22:8**

3. How is the word *provide* used in 1 Timothy 5:8?  
**A man needs to provide for his family's needs.**

#### Bible with Cross-References

##### ROMANS 12

13:17 1Mat 5:29  
17 Cor. 8:21  
12:18  
#Heb. 12:14  
12:19  
1L. Rev. 19:18  
17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. If you provide things honest in the sight of all men.  
18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

**Step 3:** Look at a Bible with **cross-references**. Are there letters or numbers on words in the verses alerting you to look at the reference column? Are words from the verse defined? Is there a cross-reference leading you to other verses to read?

4. Which verse has a cross-reference to another verse about providing? **Romans 12:17**

5. What verse is that cross-reference? **2 Corinthians 8:21**

**Step 4:** Record your findings in a notebook. Keeping a record will remind you of answers you have found in God's Word. Your notebook will be a good source to help you find answers from God.

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Karis sighed. "Oh, OK, I'll look," she said.

"Can I help you with anything?" an elderly man asked.

"Well, I was looking for a game for my dad's birthday, but I don't think it's for sale here," Karis said. "We can't find it in any of the stores!" Karis described the game to him.

"Wait a minute," the elderly man said. "I'll be back." He walked inside his house. Karis and her mom looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders.

"This tie looks nice," Mom said.

Karis nodded. "Here's one too," Karis said. "Dad's favorite color. It looks brand new, and it's only two dollars! I think I'll get it."

"Karis, look at this wallet," Mom said. Just then the man walked toward them and held up a bright box.

"Is this the game you were looking for?" he asked.

Karis' eyes widened. "Is it ever! It's exactly what I've been wanting!"

"My wife and I got it for Christmas, but we can't see the colors well enough to play it," he said. "You can have it for—oh, let's say—three dollars."

"I'll take it!" Karis paid him the money for the game and the tie.

"God provided more than you could ask or think, didn't He?" Mom said.

Karis nodded and smiled at the man. They headed back toward the car. "Mom, do you have any tracts?" Karis whispered.

"Let's see; I should have a couple more in here." She unzipped her purse. "Here's one."

Karis turned back to the elderly man. "Here's something for you to read about God, sir," Karis said.

"Thank you," he said softly. "Is it about the God that gave you more than you asked for?" he asked.

Karis smiled. "Yes, sir!"

"I'll be sure to read it," he said. "Thank you."



- ➊ What do you think would have happened if Karis had found and purchased the game in a store? Possible answers include that she would not have seen God provide in His special way; she would not have been able to give a tract to the man; she would have had to borrow money from her mom and then pay her back; Karis probably would not have been as happy.
- ➋ What did God provide for Karis? not only the game but opportunities to trust His way of providing, to be a witness, and to give a gospel tract
- ➌ How has God provided for you this past week?

Point out that God provides all things, both big and small. Many times God provides more than His children need; He gives them their desires also. Select a student to read aloud Ephesians 3:20–21.

### Worktext page 153

Conduct a word study using Bible study tools: a Bible dictionary, a concordance, and cross-references.

## LESSON 104 Faithful Follower: William Jennings Bryan

### Materials

- Collection of epitaphs [O]

### Music

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

### Memory Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:7–9

Practice the memory verses. Locate and read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:7–9. Invite students to recite the verses.

- ➊ Is there anything you think you should start doing that would honor the Lord?
- ➋ What should you stop doing that does not honor the Lord?

## Biographical Account

### Introduce the Account

Discuss epitaphs. Explain that an epitaph is what is written on a tombstone in memory of the one who died. Read some epitaphs to the students (optional).

- ➊ What epitaphs have you seen or do you know about?
- ➋ What phrase would you like to be remembered by after you pass away? Accept any reasonable answer.

Tell the students that the epitaph on William Jennings Bryan's tombstone reads: "He Kept the Faith." Though Bryan was known as a political leader, outstanding lecturer, and editor, his trust in God was far more important than all of his achievements or talents.

(Note: Though Bryan was theologically conservative, some people view him as a liberal politician.)

- ➌ How would your friends, teachers, or parents describe you if you died today?

### Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of William Jennings Bryan. Listening question: What was the foundation of William's life? his faith in Jesus Christ

## God's Work in Daily Life

At age thirty-six, William Jennings Bryan was the youngest candidate ever to be nominated for the office of president of the United States by any party. Bryan was the Democratic candidate for president not only in 1896, but also in 1900 and 1908. He was the only man in history to have run for the presidential office three times without winning. He did not despair, but continued to serve God by serving his country.

Bryan was a major force in American politics—even more than many presidents. But he was a simple man. He was born in Salem, Illinois, on May 19, 1860. As a child, he attended a Baptist church and a Methodist Sunday school but received Christ as his Savior in a Presbyterian church. Bryan was active in the Presbyterian church throughout the rest of his life.

William's mother taught him at home until he was ten. He then attended public schools until he was fifteen. Bryan loved to read, but he also thoroughly enjoyed sports.

After preparing for college at Whipple Academy, he attended Illinois College from 1877 to 1881. Bryan graduated as valedictorian and class orator. Although he was an outstanding student, he also set a record in the long jump—twelve feet and four inches.

On October 1, 1881, William Bryan married Mary E. Baird, whom he had met in college. Mary studied law after they married so that she would be able to converse with her husband more intelligently. The Bryans had three children—Ruthy, W. J. Bryan Jr., and Grace.

In 1883, William Jennings Bryan graduated from Union College of Law in Chicago and began his practice in Mississippi. After four years, the Bryans moved to Nebraska, where he set up his practice and got involved in politics. In 1888, Bryan supported Grover Cleveland, and two years later he was elected the first Democratic congressman from Nebraska. After his first speech before Congress in 1892,

Bryan began to be recognized as one of the best orators of his generation. Known for his memorable phrases and witty remarks, Bryan was sometimes called the Silver-Tongued Orator. He could speak outdoors to thousands without any amplifier and could be heard well. In 1912, with Bryan's influence, Woodrow Wilson was elected president. He named Bryan as his secretary of state.

William Jennings Bryan was concerned about the working people. During his election campaigns, he was the first candidate to mingle with the people, showing his concern by teaching them about their government and by bringing about changes in governmental methods. In 1913, the U.S. Constitution was amended to allow the people, instead of state legislatures, to vote for senators. Bryan thought that women should have the right to vote, and in 1920, the Constitution was changed so that they could. Bryan also led Congress to pass a law that gave bank accounts government insurance. He believed that the government should make sure that people's money would not be lost if a bank failed. He promoted many other ideas and programs as well, including labor laws and reforms, educational improvements, better Latin-American relations, safety devices, and pure food processing.

Tennessee was one of three states that passed a law prohibiting public schools from teaching any theory contrary to the biblical account of human creation. In 1925, right before he died, Bryan helped prosecute a biology teacher, John Scopes, for teaching evolution to his students. Bryan won the case, and the law against teaching evolution remained until 1967. The foundation of William Jennings Bryan's life was his faith in Jesus Christ. Bryan was a man of principle who viewed his political work as God's work.



- What are two unique facts about William Jennings Bryan as a candidate for president? **At that time, he was the youngest person to ever run for that office; he is the only candidate in history to have lost three times.**
- Where did William get his early education? **His mother taught him at home until he was ten.**
- What was the foundation of William's life? **his faith in Jesus Christ**
- ✿ What does it mean for a person's faith in Jesus Christ to be the foundation of his life? **Everything in his life is a purposeful result of his relationship with Christ.**
- Even though he did not become president, how did Mr. Bryan use his training and talents to help people? **He continued to be involved in politics and taught ordinary people about government; he worked to pass laws that he believed made his country better; he taught and defended the truth of God's Word.**
- ✿ How can you help others by using what God has given you? **Answers will vary.**

### What God Says About My Legacy

Name \_\_\_\_\_



William Jennings Bryan's life has had a lasting effect on U.S. history. He left behind a legacy of serving God by serving his country. What lasting effects of your life will you have on other people? What legacy will you leave behind? Have you made use of the gifts God has given you? Think of an epitaph you might write for a person who has had a lasting effect on you.



**God can use all of His children for His glory. Sometimes that will be in a church or ministry situation, but many times it will be in everyday life situations. How can God use you this week when you are in church and when you are not in church? Match the correct phrases with the Bible passages.**



**A** Doing your job well

**B** Sharing the gospel

**C** Being part of a church family

**D** Instructing your children

**D** 1. Psalm 78:1–8

**B** 3. Matthew 28:19–20

**A** 2. Exodus 31:1–5

**C** 4. Ephesians 4:11–16



Have you ever thought about how your parents use their careers or talents to serve God? If you know some of those ways, list them here. If not, ask them tonight and let them share their living "epitaph" with you.



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Redemption: God's Grand Design

### Worktext pages 154–55

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 105 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Understand the positive and long-lasting effect of personal interaction.** Read the top of page 154 and discuss how God has arranged for the students to have a positive effect on other people (family, friends, church people, and other students). Allow time for students to reflect on what to write about somebody they are grateful for. Then match Scriptures with different ways of honoring God through everyday life. Encourage students to discuss with their parents how they honor God and influence people through their occupations.

**Apply personal influence on others for eternity.** Read the scenarios on page 155 and write how the children in the scenarios may influence others for God through their lives. Encourage the students to write how they can glorify God with their talents and abilities.

**Something to Think About**

My Legacy

Name \_\_\_\_\_



The foundation of William Jennings Bryan's life was his faith in Jesus Christ. Bryan was a man who lived by principle and viewed his political work as God's work. If you are God's child, you have the privilege of serving God through your work (whatever that may be). One day, you may have a career, hobbies, or ministries in which you can utilize your talents and abilities to serve God and others. But you should not wait until you are an adult to start living in the light of this truth. God has given you abilities and talents now and has put you in situations to serve Him today.

**Read through the following scenarios and answer the questions.**

1. Amanda is very shy. She is nervous about meeting new people. As she has been growing in Christ, she has been learning from Scripture that she needs to be friendlier in her neighborhood so she can develop friendships with other people. This is difficult for her because she is not sure if other people will want to be her friends, or if they might be very different from her. She needs to get outside her comfort zone to minister to others in order to have an eternal impact on them. How can you encourage Amanda? What would you do in her situation?



2. Knox and his family enjoy playing at the park in the evenings during the summer. They bring enough snacks and sports equipment to share with other children. His parents want to teach him and his siblings to include other children in activities as a way to minister to them and to create opportunities to witness to them. Although Knox likes the idea of going to the park with his family, he does not like to share his father's attention or his sports equipment with strangers. How can sharing his belongings and his time make a difference for the glory of God?



Think through your schedule, hobbies, and talents. How can you use your time, possessions, and abilities for the sake of the gospel and influence people for God's glory for eternity?

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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LESSON

105

**Unit 6c Activity****Materials**

- Small blank book or notebook with the title *Praise Journal* written on the front cover [E]

**Encourage thankfulness for God's provision.** Give each student a small blank book or notebook. Call attention to the title *Praise Journal* on the cover. Direct each student to open to the first page, write the date, and list provisions that God has given to him and his family. Allow five to ten minutes for the students to write; then allow some volunteers to tell what they have written. Remind the students not to forget the obvious daily and eternal provisions such as food, shelter, and salvation. Challenge each student to record God's provisions in this journal daily and to remember to thank God for taking care of him.

# Promise

## Unit 6d

### PREVIEW

#### Doctrines

- 106: God is unchanging (immutable) (Mal. 3:6).
- 107: God is holy (1 Pet. 1:16).
- 108: God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9).
- 108: God is merciful (Ps. 86:15).

#### Skills and Applications

- Learn Ecclesiastes 3:14
- Know that God will never change
- Understand the seriousness of sin
- Realize that what is done for God is eternal
- Appreciate God's mercy and faithfulness toward those who obey Him
- Develop an understanding of prophecy
- Develop principles of time management
- Recall facts and details
- Use cross-references
- Use a concordance
- Take notes on a sermon
- Read a timeline
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON  
106

## Benefits of Abandoning Sin

#### Materials

- Copy of the "Benefits of Abandoning Sin" activity page from the Teacher's Toolkit CD or the resources page on bjupress.com [E]

#### Music

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

#### Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:14

**Principle:** God's work lasts forever and people should fear Him. Locate and read aloud Ecclesiastes 3:14 as the students read silently.

What attributes of God does this verse refer to? His immutability and omnipotence

Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 6 bookmarks and to highlight the verse in their Bibles (optional).

### Sermon

#### Preview Background Information

##### Sackcloth and Ashes

Sackcloth was a coarse, dark-colored cloth usually made of goat's hair. Mourners, prophets, and captives wore sackcloth. Some scholars think it was a loincloth, while others think it was a simple sack with openings for the neck and arms. When sackcloth and ashes are used together, it usually signifies mourning.

##### Mosaic Covenant

In this covenant with Israel, God promised to reward His people with material prosperity and victory over their enemies if they would obey His laws, which He had given to them through Moses.

##### Messiah Revealed in the Law

The laws in the Mosaic Covenant also revealed the work of God's chosen Messiah. The moral laws revealed the way that

**Benefits of Abandoning Sin**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Listen and take notes as your teacher plays the recording of the sermon or reads it to you.

Scripture **Daniel 9**



Main Question to Ask Ourselves

Why must we **confess** and **turn** from sin in order to have God's **promises** apply to us?

Answers to the Main Question

#1 We are truly guilty of **disobedience** and **rebellion**. (Dan. 9:1–6)

#2 Although God always keeps His **promises**, He doesn't make them to **sinners** who won't **repent**. (Dan. 9:7–14)

#3 God always has **mercy** on those who truly **confess** and **turn** from **sin**. (Dan. 9:15–19)

#4 Other people share the great **benefits** when we **confess** and **turn** from **sin**. (Dan. 9:20–23)

#5 God has a **place** for **each** one of us if we **confess** and **turn** from sin. (Dan. 9:24–27)

What can you do to apply this message to your life?  
**Answers will vary.**

Activity Page      Bible 6      Lesson 106

the Messiah would live (**Gal. 4:4–5**). The ceremonial laws were associated with the way this sinless Messiah would pay the penalty for the sins of God's people (**Heb. 8:1–5**).

### Seventy Weeks

There are a number of ways to calculate the exact date and number of years intended by the prophecies. Most conservative scholars believe these seventy weeks represent 490 years.

### Teach for Understanding

**Listen to or read the following sermon or read Daniel 9.** Play the sermon "Benefits of Abandoning Sin" on the Teacher's Toolkit CD or read the following sermon at a moderate pace. Direct the students to locate Daniel 9 and to complete the "Benefits of Abandoning Sin" activity page (above) as they listen to the sermon.

## Benefits of Abandoning Sin

Has anyone ever promised to give you something or to do something with you that you were really looking forward to? Maybe your dad promised you were going camping or going to have a family fun night? Maybe your mom promised to take you to the zoo or out for ice cream. But then, before it happened, you disobeyed, or you did something else wrong. They were disappointed with you, angry at what you had done, and suddenly they didn't seem likely to keep the promise they had made. They hadn't actually said that you had to be good in order to enjoy the promise,

but you realized that the promise depended on everything being right between you and your mom or dad. Once you did wrong and put something between yourself and them, you realized it wouldn't be much fun even if they were to keep the promise.

In Daniel chapter 9, we see how God's promise comes true for His people. God had made a promise to the people, but through their sin, they had lost it and put in danger the fulfillment of the promise in the future. The book of Daniel reveals that God rules in human history. By his prayer in chapter 9, Daniel shows his confidence that God rules history by asking God to restore the nation of Israel and its capital, Jerusalem. Israel had been in exile for decades, and Jerusalem was ruined. The restoration was necessary for the coming of the Messiah, or the Anointed One, our Lord Jesus Christ. God's promise was therefore salvation for us all—for Israel then, for Christians today.

Recognizing from Scripture that God had promised to restore Israel and Jerusalem, and by that to ensure the coming of the Messiah, Daniel realized that the people of Israel must confess and turn from their sin. Their sins had led to the destruction of Jerusalem in the first place. God's promised salvation was going to come one way or another, but the people had to confess their sins and turn away from those sins if they were to see Jerusalem restored and be saved by the Messiah, who would come there.

What was true of them is true of us now. We have to confess our sins and turn away from sin in order to have God's promise applied to us. God kept His promise to restore Jerusalem, and He sent Jesus Christ there to live, die, and rise again. Looking ahead to the Messiah saved Daniel. Looking back to the same Messiah can save us. The promise of God we have is salvation through that Messiah who came into Jerusalem—salvation to everyone who trusts in that Messiah, Jesus Christ. But we, like Daniel, must confess our sins and turn away from them in order for God's promises to apply to us personally.

So we may ask, "Why must we confess and turn from sin in order to have God's promises apply to us?" Daniel chapter 9 shows us five reasons we must confess and turn from sin.

I. The first reason is that we are truly guilty of disobedience and rebellion. We see this in the first six verses of Daniel chapter 9. Daniel reads God's promise in the book of Jeremiah. (This is the same Jeremiah that we still have in our Bible.) Jeremiah lived before the Southern Kingdom of Israel, called Judah, was destroyed along with its capital city, Jerusalem. Through Jeremiah, God prophesied that the nation would be restored after seventy years (**Jer. 25**). Daniel does not doubt God when he asks God to keep this promise; rather, Daniel recognized that he and the other Israelites are unworthy of God's promise.

*Read aloud Daniel 9:5.*

In the previous verse, Daniel began his prayer by acknowledging that God keeps His covenant (or His agreement or His promise) with those who love Him and obey His commandments. So He doesn't keep covenant with those

who hate Him or those who disobey Him. The Israelites had not loved God or obeyed God's commands. Daniel confesses his own sin and the sin of his people. Now, remember that Daniel was a very good man who had not been responsible for Israel's failure, but he recognized his own sins, and he intercedes for the rest of his people. (To intercede is to ask God to forgive someone else or to give that person something.) Daniel was interceding for Israel in this prayer. This is the first reason we must confess and turn from sin in order to have God's promises apply to us—we are truly guilty of disobedience and rebellion.

II. Now we want to see the second reason we must confess and turn from sin—that although God is always able to keep His promises, He doesn't bless sinners who won't repent (**Dan. 9:7–14**). Daniel acknowledges that the scattering of Israel had not been because God failed them, but because they had sinned. Those Israelites who refused to turn from sin to God lost all the benefits God promised them both on earth and in eternity.

*Read aloud Daniel 9:11.*

Daniel recognizes that the curse had come on the people of Israel just as God had said it would because they had sinned and rebelled against Him. So that is the second reason we must confess and turn from sin: God does not keep His promises to sinners who won't repent. He keeps them only to those who love Him and obey Him.

III. The third reason we must confess and turn from sin in order to have God's promises apply to us is that God always has mercy on those who truly confess and turn from sin. We see this in the last part of Daniel's prayer. In **Daniel 9:15–19**, Daniel professes trust in the character of God to forgive the people, despite their repeated failures. Daniel does not pretend that he or his people deserve forgiveness, but he asks forgiveness for them because God is forgiving. It is for God's glory that Daniel intercedes for Israel and for Jerusalem, and it is on the basis of God's character, because God is forgiving and merciful, that he can ask for forgiveness.

*Read aloud Daniel 9:18.*

A supplication is a request, and Daniel says that he is asking for forgiveness and for the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem, not because the people deserve it or because of their righteousness, but because God is merciful and He will be glorified in this restoration. So that is the third reason: God always has mercy on those who confess and turn from sin.

IV. The fourth reason we must confess and turn from sin to have God's promises apply to us is that other people share the great benefits when we confess and turn from sin (**Dan. 9:20–23**). After Daniel finished his prayer, the angel Gabriel appeared to him with God's message in response to Daniel's prayer. Daniel's humble confessions and repentance had been rewarded with an answer. The angel had come as soon as Daniel began praying. It is natural for answers to prayer to take time to reach us; so don't ever be impatient when you have to wait a day, or a month, or even longer for an answer to prayer. The answer came, and

it shows that Daniel's prayer benefited the people he was praying for, because they would receive the restoration of Jerusalem in fulfillment of God's promise through Jeremiah.

V. Let's look at the fifth and final reason to confess and turn from sin in order to have God's promises apply to us personally. God has a place for each of us in His plan if we confess and turn from our sin (**Dan. 9:24–27**). The answer Daniel received to his prayer was a prediction of the history of restored Jerusalem through the coming of the Messiah, or Christ. The weeks that Gabriel speaks of are groups of sevens, probably seven years. The total of 69 weeks of 7 years each equals 483 years. That length of time takes us forward from about the time Daniel prayed this prayer and received the answer to near the end of Christ's earthly ministry—when Christ was crucified and then rose alive again, conquering sin forever. We see that, indeed, God was going to restore Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, the Messiah was going to come and accomplish the work of salvation that Daniel was trusting in and that we trust in as well. Daniel had a place in God's plan. It was for this purpose, the coming of Messiah, that Jerusalem was restored in accord with God's promise through Jeremiah. Daniel trusted in that promise because he trusted in salvation through the coming Messiah. But Daniel knew that confession and turning from sin were necessary for the promise to apply to him personally. He interceded for all his people because they had to repent of sin and turn from their sin before the promises could apply to them personally. Daniel fulfilled his role in God's plan by confessing his own sin and interceding for the sins of his people. God could have used someone else to fulfill Daniel's role, but He did not. He used Daniel. Likewise, God has a place in His perfectly marked-out plan for you if you confess and turn from your sins, trusting in the Messiah. The Messiah is Jesus Christ, and He will save those who trust in Him. Your trust in Christ allows you to personally share in God's promise: eternal salvation.

In conclusion, we want to review the five reasons we must confess and turn from sin in order for God's plan to apply to us personally.

The first reason is that we are truly guilty of disobedience and rebellion.

The second reason is that although God is always able to keep His promises, He does not bless sinners who will not repent.

The third reason is that God always has mercy on those who truly confess and turn from sin.

The fourth reason is that other people will share the great benefits when we confess and turn from sin.

The fifth reason is that God has a place for each of us in His plan if we confess and turn from sin.

You and I are guilty of disobedience and rebellion. We know that if we don't repent, God will not keep His promises to us. God always has mercy on us if we truly confess and turn from sin. We can be sure that other people besides us will share the benefits if we can turn from our sin, because our sin does not affect just us. Likewise our salvation does not affect just us. Finally, we know that God

## It Shall Be Forever

Ecclesiastes 3:14

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Read Ecclesiastes 3:14. Answer these questions.

1. How long will God's works last? **forever**
2. Write three things about God that you know do not change. **Possible answers include His love, His power, His wisdom, and His grace.**

God is eternal and does not change. Key words from this statement that might be found in a concordance are *eternal* and *change*.

Use the concordance entries to answer these questions.

3. What are most of the *eternal* entries about? ***eternal life***

4. Which verse calls God eternal? **Deut. 33:27**

5. What verses talk about God's glory as everlasting? **2 Cor. 4:17, 1 Pet. 5:10**

### CHAIN (CHAINS)

Isa 3:19 Lord will take away thy e  
2Ti 1:6 was not ashamed of my e

### CHANGE

Jer 13:23 the Ethiopian e his skin  
Mal 3: 6 I am the Lord, I e not

### CHARGE

Ps 91:11 give his angels e over thee  
Mt 4: 6 shall give his angels e  
Ro 8:33 lay to the e of God's elect

ETERNAL
Dt 33:27 the e God is thy refuge
Mt 19:16 that I may have e life
Mk 3:29 he that is of a division
10:17 that I may inherit e life
Lk 10:25 shall I do to inherit e life
Jn 3:15 not perish but have e life
4:24 he that is of God shall raise
17: 3 this is life e, that they
Ac 13:48 ordained to e life believed
Ro 2: 7 honour, immortality, and e life
2Co 4:17 gift of God e life
1Ti 1:17 unto the King e immortal
Tit 3: 7 heirs according to the hope of e life
Heb 5: 9 author of salvation unto
1Pe 5:10 called us unto his e glory
1Jn 5:11 God has given to us e life

6. What verse shows us God never changes? **Mal. 3:6**

Use the Bible excerpts below to answer this question.

7. Ecclesiastes 3:14 gives a cross-reference to James 1:17. How does that verse describe God? **Father of lights, no variableness or shadow of turning (unchanging)**

### ECCLESIASTES 3

3:13 mch. 2:24  
3:14 1:17

Have you trusted the eternal, unchanging God for salvation?

14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: \*nothing can be put to it, nor anything that can be taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

17 \*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, ^with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.



Have you trusted the eternal, unchanging God for salvation?

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has a place for us in His plan if we confess and turn from sin. Just as God had already planned out all the years between Daniel's time and the Messiah's time, He has all the time planned out between now and His return when He brings final salvation for us all and the kingdom on earth.



- Why was Daniel praying to the Lord? **He was begging the Lord to forgive the Israelites' sins and to spare them.**
- Who appeared to Daniel toward the end of his prayer (the fourth point)? **Gabriel**
- Why did God send Gabriel to Daniel? **to tell Daniel about the events that were to come as part of God's plan of salvation to forgive their sins**
- Who does God fulfill His promises for? **those who repent of their sin**
- How does knowing that part of this prophecy is fulfilled help believers? **They can trust God to fulfill the rest of the prophecy.**
- How can a person become part of God's plan? **confess his sin and trust Jesus for salvation**

## Worktext page 156

Use a concordance and cross-references to develop further understanding of the memory verse.

## Prayer and Prophecy

Daniel 9

Name \_\_\_\_\_

To interpret the prophecy of Daniel 9, it is generally accepted that one week equals seven years, so seven weeks would equal forty-nine years.

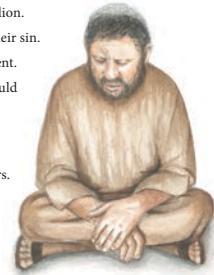
When the coming of Christ was still over five hundred years away, God gave Daniel a message of assurance concerning the coming Messiah.

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

1. Daniel had been studying the prophecies about the captivity in Babylon in the writings of which prophet? (Dan. 9:2) **Jeremiah**
2. The prophecies reminded Daniel of the reason God let His people be defeated and taken captive. Why were the people now in Babylon? (Dan. 9:5) **Answers will vary but should include that they had sinned against God and had not repented.**
3. What did Daniel do when he put on sackcloth and ashes? (Dan. 9:3–5) **Daniel confessed his sin and Israel's sins and asked God for forgiveness.**
4. What hope did Gabriel's message from God bring to Daniel? (Dan. 9:21–22, 25) **Possible answers include that Jerusalem would be rebuilt and the Messiah (Anointed One) would come as promised.**

Write T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false.

- F** 5. Only some people are guilty of disobedience and rebellion.  
**T** 6. God has mercy on those who confess and turn from their sin.  
**F** 7. God promises salvation to the sinners who do not repent.  
**T** 8. Daniel looked ahead to the promised Messiah who would forgive sin and provide salvation.  
**T** 9. Daniel put on sackcloth and ashes to humble himself before God.  
**T** 10. The seven weeks in Daniel 9 represent forty-nine years.



Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 106 157



## Worktext page 157

Recall details from Daniel 9, and determine if statements are true or false.

### LESSON

## 107

## Straying and Separating

### Materials

- Chart 6 ("Judah's Captivity and Return")
- Timeline and picture of Ezra

### Music

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

### Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:14

Practice the memory verse. Locate Ecclesiastes 3:14 and ask a student to read the verse aloud.

- Q** What work has God done in you that you are glad lasts forever? **salvation**

- Q** Why is it good that some of what we do is not forever?

**Because God forgives us when we trust Christ as Savior. If we confess sin after we do it, God says He will not remember that against us (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17). Our sin is gone (Ps. 103:12). Also when we make mistakes, we are able to go back and make some of them right and learn from them.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Cyrus

Cyrus II (also known as Cyrus the Great) became king over Babylon in 538 BC, but he had already reigned over other areas for twenty years. He became king of Anshan in 559 BC and of Medo-Persia in 550 BC.

### Introduce the Bible Account

**Discuss Israel's return from Babylon.** Direct the students' attention to Worktext page 158. Display Chart 6 ("Judah's Captivity and Return") as you present the following information to the students.

#### Back from Captivity

God judged the sin of the people of Israel by allowing their enemies to overpower them. The Northern Kingdom (Israel) fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC, and the people were eventually mixed in with other cultures. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) fell to Babylon in 586 BC. About fifty years later, however, many Jews returned to their homeland.

The first group of Jews returned to the land of Judah in 538 BC when Zerubbabel led them to rebuild the temple. When the second group of Israelites returned to Jerusalem under Ezra in 458 BC, there was revival. The third group returned in 444 BC and rebuilt Jerusalem's walls under Nehemiah's leadership.

The Israelite exiles had returned from Babylon to Judah to worship again as they had before the captivity. Even though they met with opposition, they completed the rebuilding of the temple in 516 BC. God protected them, and they offered sacrifices to Him.

### Teach for Understanding

**Read Ezra 7–10** or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: **How would you describe Ezra as he talked to God about Israel's sin? ashamed and overwhelmed; so embarrassed that he would not lift his face up**

### Straying and Separating

King Artaxerxes ruled after King Ahasuerus. King Artaxerxes had been ruling in Persia for seven years when Ezra planned to leave Babylon and travel to Jerusalem, more than a five-hundred-mile trip. King Artaxerxes gave Ezra everything he asked for and more. God's hand was on Ezra because Ezra determined to study God's Word, to do what God commanded, and to teach God's Word to others.

Any Israelites who wanted to were allowed to go with Ezra to Jerusalem. The king gave Ezra gold and silver for buying animals for sacrifices to God in the temple and for whatever seemed right to Ezra and his fellow countrymen according to God's will. King Artaxerxes even commanded all of the treasurers across the river to provide whatever supplies Ezra needed, and he exempted all the people who served in God's house from paying taxes.

The king gave Ezra additional authority. By God's wisdom Ezra was to set up rulers and judges to judge the people

who knew God's law. If there were any who did not know God's law, Ezra and the leaders were to teach it to them.

Ezra blessed and thanked God for causing the king to be so generous, and he gathered everyone who wanted to travel to Jerusalem. He had not asked the king for any troops to protect them on the journey because he knew that God was powerful enough to protect them. Ezra and the Israelites fasted and prayed for God's protection.

God protected Ezra and the travelers, and they arrived in Jerusalem safely. On the fourth day after their arrival, they offered burnt offerings to God, and they gave the king's edicts to the governors of the land. Ezra and the people lived in Jerusalem and supported God's house and those who were already living in Jerusalem.

When everything was finished, the leaders of Israel came to Ezra with a complaint. "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from doing the wicked things that the people of the land do." God had commanded Abraham's descendants to be separate from those around them, and God had promised blessing in return for their obedience. But God's people had broken their part of the covenant by marrying foreign, ungodly people.

God had commanded the Israelites to keep themselves separate from the people of the land. They were not to marry anyone from that land, and they were not to seek after peace with them or after their prosperity. The land was to be for the Israelites' descendants forever.

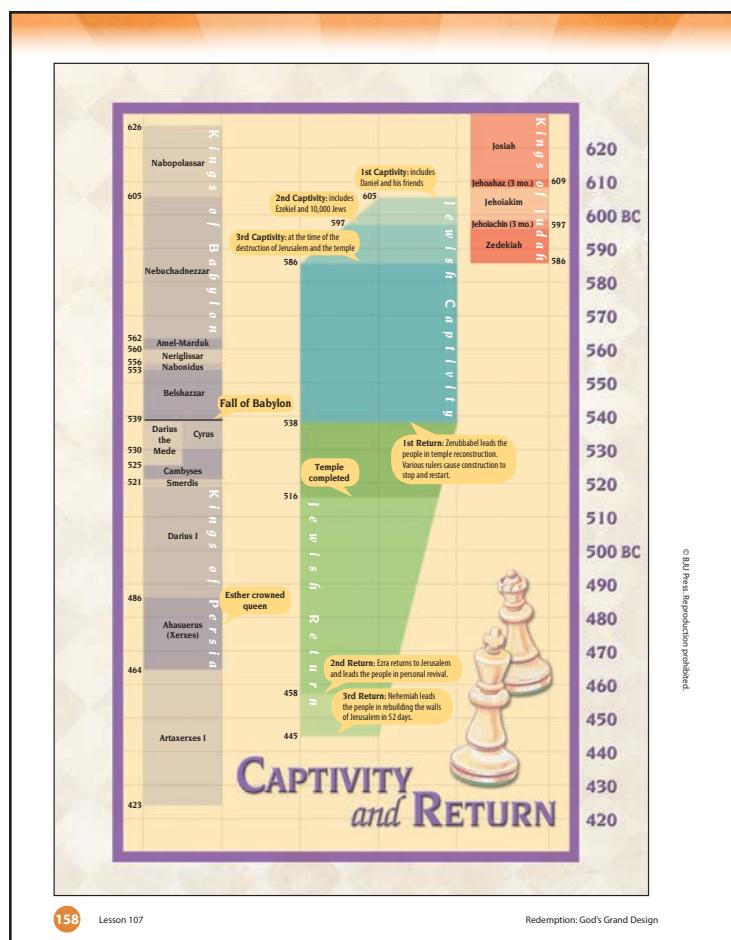
At the evening sacrifice, Ezra fell on his knees before God and said, "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (**Ezra 9:6**). Ezra acknowledged that God had not punished them as they deserved. Ezra realized that God had the right to kill them all and destroy the nation of Israel because of their great sin against God.

Many Israelites—men, women, and children—gathered around Ezra, weeping and wailing. A man named Shechaniah said, "We have sinned against our God and have married the heathen women of the land." He suggested that the Israelites make a covenant with God, stating that they would put away all of their foreign wives and any of their children born of those wives. Shechaniah told Ezra, "Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it" (**Ezra 10:4**).

So Ezra got up and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all of Israel vow that they would do what Shechaniah had said. The Israelites promised that they would obey. Ezra left God's house and went to Johanan's room and did not eat or drink anything because he was so grieved over Israel's sin.

A proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the exiles to present themselves in Jerusalem within three days. Whoever did not appear within that time would have his possessions taken and would be separated from the rest of the exiles.

Everyone gathered together and sat in the open place in front of God's house. They trembled because of the solemn occasion and because of the pouring rain.



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Lesson 107

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Ezra stood and confronted them about their sin of taking foreign wives. He told them to confess their sin to God and separate themselves from the people of the land and to divorce their foreign wives.

The congregation agreed. But there were too many people to carry out the proclamation in a couple of days—especially in the rain. So the leaders organized a system to carry out their obedience. They divided up the people and the responsibility by cities. In a few months, the proclamation had been fully carried out and sacrifices were made for each individual's sins.

- Why was God's hand on Ezra? **He studied, obeyed, and taught God's Word.**
- What kind of testimony did Ezra have before King Artaxerxes? **Accept any positive answer.**
- How can you follow Ezra's example? **by daily studying God's Word, obeying it, and teaching it to others even if only by example**
- How did Ezra react when he heard of Israel's sin? **He mourned, confessed Israel's sin, and fasted because of his sorrow.**
- How would you describe Ezra as he talked to God about Israel's sin? **ashamed and overwhelmed; so embarrassed that he would not lift his face up**

### To Teach the People

Ezra 7-10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ezra was a priest in the Jewish community of Babylon. The king admired him and knew about his devotion to God. Because of Ezra's testimony, King Artaxerxes I not only granted Ezra's request to go to Jerusalem, but also encouraged him with gifts for the temple.

Fill in the circle next to the correct answer. You may use your Bible for help.

1. Why did Ezra want to return to Jerusalem? (Ezra 7:10)
  - O to rebuild his house
  - O to help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem
  - to help the people learn the law of God
2. According to the letter King Artaxerxes sent with Ezra, which Jews could return to Jerusalem? (Ezra 7:13)
  - every Jew who wanted to go
  - O only those related to Ezra
  - O every Jew living in Babylon who was commanded to leave the city
3. Why did Ezra not ask the king for protection for the journey? (Ezra 8:21-23)
  - O He knew the way would be safe.
  - O The king had already offered to send men.
  - He told the king that God's power could defeat any enemy.
4. After arriving in Jerusalem and offering sacrifices, why did Ezra mourn? (Ezra 9:1-3)
  - O The temple had been destroyed again.
  - Many of the Jews already in Judah had sinned against God by taking foreign wives.
  - O Many Jews wanted to return to Babylon.
5. What was the reaction of the people when confronted with their sin? (Ezra 9:4; 10:9)
  - They trembled.
  - O They wanted to stone Ezra.
  - O They hid in their homes.
6. When all the men came to the meeting in Jerusalem, what was their response when Ezra challenged them to confess their sin to God? (Ezra 10:12)
  - O They returned home.
  - They shouted that they agreed with Ezra and would do as he said.
  - O They shouted that they wanted other gods.



Use the timeline on the previous page to answer the questions.

7. What event occurred a year before the Jews began to return to Israel? **the fall of Babylon**

8. How many years after Zerubbabel completed the temple did Ezra arrive in Jerusalem? **58 years**
9. What other biblical event occurred during this period (516-458 BC)? **Esther was crowned queen.**

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How should Christians react when they sin or when they hear of others' sins? **Possible answers: by acknowledging the sin and humbly asking God's forgiveness, by praying for the ones who have sinned, and by encouraging them to make things right with God.**

### Timeline

Place Ezra on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Ezra (ca. 458 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the Ezra picture to his individual timeline.

### Worktext page 158

Read a timeline about the Jewish captivities and returns.

### Worktext page 159

Recall details about Ezra.

LESSON

108

## Courage to Do God's Work

### Materials

- Chart 32 ("Palestine and Beyond")
- Timeline and picture of Nehemiah

## Music

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

## Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:14

Practice the memory verse. Locate Ecclesiastes 3:14 and select a volunteer to read the verse aloud.

-  Why is it important to know that God's works are permanent?  
**Knowing that souls last forever should cause people to fear eternal punishment and to want eternal life above all else.**

## Bible Account

### Preview Background Information

#### Meaning of *Nehemiah*

Nehemiah's name means "the comfort of Yahweh" or "Yahweh has comforted."

#### Cupbearer

Nehemiah's responsibility was to test the king's drinks for poison. The king's cupbearer was in an extremely dangerous position. But he was trusted, so the cupbearer often became close friends with the king.

#### Wall of Jerusalem

The wall around a city was the first and greatest defense a city had against its enemies (**Prov. 25:28**). Due to the scorn heaped on the Jews by the local people and the Jews' own discouragement about their difficult circumstances, the wall of the city remained broken down, lying in heaps of rubble. This broken-down state was an insult to the God of heaven, which motivated Nehemiah to return to build up the walls.

### Introduce the Bible Account

#### Discuss reacting to sarcastic insults or mockery.

-  How would you feel if, while you were doing something good, people stood by mocking and teasing you?
-  How would you react to their insults?
-  Would their mocking frustrate you enough to make you stop doing the good work?

Point out that in the following Bible account, as Nehemiah and his laborers rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, others tried to stop the work by taunting them. The account tells how Nehemiah and his workers responded.

### Teach for Understanding

Read **Nehemiah 1–2** and **4–6** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What do we learn about the kinds of tasks that God's work entails? God's work is not only spiritual tasks (reading His Word, praying, telling others about Him, teaching the Bible, etc.), but also includes any physical task that is our responsibility (cleaning our rooms, doing the dishes, raking the yard, etc.).**

## Courage to Do God's Work

Nehemiah held an important position; he was King Artaxerxes's cupbearer. But Nehemiah was discouraged when he heard that Jerusalem's walls were destroyed, so he did the only thing he could do at that point—he wept, fasted, and prayed. Nehemiah begged God to forgive His people for their sins. He confessed that they had been very rebellious against God in disobeying the commandments God had given them through Moses.

Nehemiah appealed to God on the basis of the promise He had made to bring His people back to Israel. Nehemiah also asked God for mercy in the king's eyes before he took something to drink to the king.

The king asked Nehemiah why he looked so sad since he wasn't sick.

Nehemiah explained that the capital city of his people's homeland was destroyed. When the king asked him what he wanted, Nehemiah prayed and then requested permission to go to Judah to rebuild the city. Nehemiah even asked for official letters to help him arrive quickly and safely and to get the necessary building materials.

*Display Chart 32 ("Palestine and Beyond"), pointing out Samaria, Persia, and Jerusalem.*

God's good hand was on Nehemiah, and King Artaxerxes graciously granted these letters as well as guards and horses.

Nehemiah safely made the long trip of more than five hundred miles from Babylon. He showed the king's letters to Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, and to Tobiah, the Persian governor of Ammon. Sanballat and Tobiah were upset that Nehemiah was coming to help the Israelites in Jerusalem.

After Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he scouted out the area for the next three nights. Then he addressed the Jews, "You see the miserable state our city is in. Jerusalem is in ruins, and the gates have been burned. Come, let's join together to build up the wall of Jerusalem so that we are no longer a disgrace."

Nehemiah encouraged the Jews by telling them how God's hand had been on him in all of this. The people agreed to build and got right to work (**Neh. 2:18**).

Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, the governors of the surrounding areas, mocked the Jews. They asked whether the Jews were planning to rebel against the king.

Nehemiah answered, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem" (**Neh. 2:20**).

At least forty-one different groups rebuilt sections of Jerusalem's wall. Many people gave of their time and energy to rebuild the city of God's people.

Sanballat continued to harass the Jews, calling them "feeble Jews." He taunted them by asking whether they would rebuild the wall with the rubble that had been heaped up and burned.

Tobiah joined in the mocking, saying that even a fox would be able to break down their stone wall.

Nehemiah took the matter to God, asking Him not to forgive these scornful men of their sin but to turn their taunts back on their own heads because they had insulted the builders. So the people "had a mind to work" and continued building the wall and completed half of it.

But Sanballat and Tobiah, along with the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites, became very angry when they heard that the Jews were continuing to build. They agreed to join together to fight against God's people. They tried to discourage them with threats of sudden invasion. The Jews, however, prayed and set up a guard both day and night against the enemy.

Nehemiah told the people to not be afraid of these men, "Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses" (4:14). Half of the people worked while the other half guarded, and everyone who worked also carried a weapon. They slept in their clothes in order to be ready to fight if the enemy attacked. Nehemiah reminded them that they were not alone: God would fight for them.

Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem tried to stop the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall again. They asked Nehemiah to meet them in a village some distance away, but Nehemiah knew that they were trying to do him harm. Four different times, they tried to get Nehemiah to come, but each time Nehemiah sent a message saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whil[e] I leave it, and come down to you?" (6:3).

The fifth time, Sanballat sent his servant with a letter to present to Nehemiah. In the letter, Sanballat accused Nehemiah of rebelling and seeking to be the Jews' king. Nehemiah denied the accusations and asked God to strengthen his hands.

After more threats and deceitful tricks, the enemy gave up. Through the Lord's blessing, the wall was completed in only fifty-two days! The people of Israel blessed the Lord and worshiped Him, realizing that the work was God's.



- How did the enemy try to stop the work? **by mocking, threatening, and accusing**
- How did Nehemiah keep the work going? **He asked God for help, and he set up guards. He did not retaliate but left the enemy in God's hands. He refused to stop the work because of the enemy. He was careful to discern the enemy's tactics.**
- How did Nehemiah keep from being discouraged? Possible answers include that he understood the importance of Jerusalem as the center of the Jews' worship of God and their homeland. In so doing he trusted God to help them serve Him, and he prayed.
- How can Christians keep from being discouraged? **They can talk about and meditate on God's Word (Ps. 119:97; Josh. 1:8) and His work (Ps. 77:12); ask God for help, leave the matter with Him, but work to do what God has given**

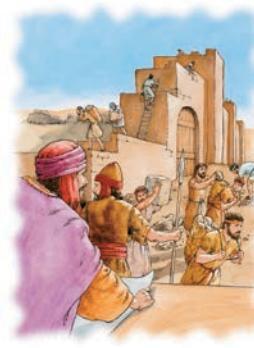
### Bearing the Burden

Nehemiah 1–6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use the timeline on page 158 to answer the questions.

1. How long after Ezra went to Jerusalem did Nehemiah go? **13 years**
2. Who was the king over Persia at the time of Nehemiah? **Artaxerxes I**
3. Why did Nehemiah leave Babylon? **to lead the people in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem**
4. How long had it been since the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed? **141 years**
5. How long did Nehemiah's project take to complete? **52 days**



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Write the letter of the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

- E** 6. Nehemiah was the \_\_\_\_\_ for the king.  
**H** 7. Nehemiah's countenance was sad because he had heard that \_\_\_\_\_.  
**D** 8. Before Nehemiah made his request of the king to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A** 9. Nehemiah encouraged the Jews by telling them \_\_\_\_\_.  
**G** 10. Sanballat and Tobiah, leaders of neighboring lands, tried to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**C** 11. As a result of the threats of Sanballat and Tobiah, the \_\_\_\_\_; some would stand guard while the others continued to work.  
**B** 12. Even though men were standing guard, the workers \_\_\_\_\_ while they worked.  
**I** 13. To stay ready in case of an enemy attack, the workers \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. how God had directed and blessed in bringing him to Jerusalem  
B. also carried or wore weapons  
C. workers were divided  
D. he prayed for wisdom  
E. cupbearer  
F. kept their chariots ready  
G. hinder the work on the walls  
H. the walls of Jerusalem had never been rebuilt, leaving the city unprotected  
I. slept in their clothes

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them the ability to do; and endure and persevere when facing difficulty.

- **Nehemiah is a good example of persevering to serve God in spite of mockery. Is there any good thing that you have stopped doing because of mockery or that you are afraid to start because you think people will make fun of you?**
- **What do we learn about the kinds of tasks that God's work entails? God's work is not only spiritual tasks (reading His Word, praying, telling others about Him, teaching the Bible, etc.) but also includes any physical task that is our responsibility (cleaning our rooms, doing the dishes, raking the yard, etc.).**
- **How does the building of Jerusalem's wall fit into God's overall plan? Point out that Nehemiah knew God had promised to return His people to their land. Nehemiah did not let the enemy discourage him because he knew that he was doing what God wanted. Nehemiah remembered how God had led him to that point and knew that God would fulfill His purpose.**

### Timeline

Place Nehemiah on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Nehemiah (ca. 444 BC) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue Nehemiah's picture to his individual timeline.

### Worktext page 160

Recall details about Nehemiah.

## Music

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

## Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:14

**Practice the memory verse.** Locate Ecclesiastes 3:14 and select a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Invite students to recite the memory verse.

## Biographical Account

### Preview Background Information

#### KGB

This special group of secret police in Russia, established in 1954, was also called the Committee for State Security. Agents from this group were in all the major governmental institutions, enterprises, and factories, ensuring the observance of security regulations and monitoring the political sentiments of the employees.

### Introduce the Account

**Remind students about who Georgi Vins was.** Briefly review the information about Vins from Lesson 12 (page 27). Mention in particular the copy of the Gospel of Mark that Vins risked his life to keep. Explain that this account tells how he got the little book.

**Discuss suffering.** Read aloud 1 Peter 2:21–23. Point out Christ's reaction to suffering. He did not return evil for evil, but knew that God is righteous, good, great, wise, and in control. Christians are to follow Christ's example. Direct the students to notice how Georgi Vins followed Christ's example and how God protected him and gave him the strength he needed (Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 9:8).

#### How can Christians keep from becoming discouraged?

Possible answers include reading the promises in God's Word, communing with God daily, remembering the many ways God has blessed them, and fellowshipping with other Christians.

Challenge the students to remember the great things that God has promised and what He has done in their lives. Remind them to think of these things when they get discouraged.

### Teach for Understanding

**Read or tell the following true story** as told in the first person by Georgi Vins. Listening question: How did God strengthen Georgi Vins while he was in prison? God allowed him to hear singing and preaching with a shortwave radio. His family visited him. They brought him a Gospel of Mark.

## The Secret Place

"It would be better if you were a murderer like me," Anvar said. "Christians are not tolerated so well here," he said. The KGB was more afraid of people that prayed than of the most violent criminals. Anvar, the murderer, and I, Georgi Vins, the Baptist, were taken to another concentration camp. I was handcuffed and put behind bars in the prison vehicle; Anvar was merely seated in the back.

The appointed prison camp would not accept us. We were transferred to another smaller, yet overcrowded, prison. I was an electrical engineer in the previous camp, but I had been accused of trying to set up a print shop for Bibles. Now I would labor outside with seven hundred other prisoners in the subzero degree Siberian winter. We prisoners remained sick most of the time.

Officers ridiculed me and considered me dangerous. I had to report to them every two hours to assure them that I had not escaped. During the night, they would shine a light on me and ask me my full name and date of birth. Repeatedly, they tried to convince me to renounce my faith in God. Officers told me that every time my ten-year term ended, I would be given another ten years until I died. If I denied Christ that minute, they would release me. I longed to read God's Word, especially during those trying times. If only I could talk with a fellow Christian, it would be easier to continue.

One particularly cold night, the head prisoner woke me up. An officer had summoned me. It was one o'clock in the morning, and I was told to present myself to an officer immediately. I trudged through the snow and sharp wind across the deserted camp zone.

A tall, heavyset duty officer nodded toward his office. Upon entering, I saw a shortwave radio. I was amazed to hear one of my favorite songs, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," playing softly. The officer gave me a seat right next to the radio. Then the officer left me to listen to the broadcast that lasted for two hours. I was no longer tired. God knew what I needed. I heard messages from God's Word, Christian music, and people praying. My hungry soul feasted on this miraculous gift of God.

After this incident my mother, who was a Christian, came to visit me. She brought me some food and a copy of a Gospel. After much pleading with the officers, I was allowed the food, but the Gospel was confiscated and never given to me.

My wife and children came to visit me some months later; my youngest son did not even know me. We knew government officials were recording us as we talked, so we wrote any secret message on paper and then burned it and discarded the ashes. My family had brought me a Gospel, and the officers had not confiscated it. My daughter told me in a note that the whole Bible would soon be printed in Russian.

My family and I spent three days together. When our time together was over, the soldiers hurried us as we said

**What Does God Say About My Time?**  
Time Management Name \_\_\_\_\_

 **Answers**

**Time** is a gift from God. Your entire life will be measured by pieces of time—seconds, minutes, hours, days, years, and decades. God is the Creator and the sustainer of time. Before He created time, He decided on exact points in time for you to be born and to die.

**Read Psalm 31:15 and complete the sentence explaining what this verse means.** **God is in charge of the times of my birth, life, and death.**

God has appointed a time for everything that happens on earth. He has put you at this particular time in history for a purpose. He has given you the family you have for a reason. You are your age by God's design. There is a perfect time for every event that occurs in your life.

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. List some of the words that describe events for which God has given us time.**

**Possible answers include laugh, weep, be born, die, peace, war, hate, love, break, build, kill, heal, get, and lose.**

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:11a and answer the question.**

When did God make everything beautiful? **in His time or its time**

God has much to say about the way you use the time He has entrusted to you. He wants you to remember that your days are limited and precious and should be used wisely.

**Read the verses and match them to the correct statements.**  
**The verses match to more than one statement.**

**C** Your life is like a vapor or a mist that will not last long.  
**B** Be wise about how you live your life.  
**B** Understand what the Lord's will is for how you spend your time.  
**A** Ask God to help you value the number of days you have to live.  
**C** You do not know what will happen tomorrow.  
**A** Apply your heart to gaining wisdom.

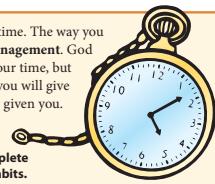
A. Psalm 90:12  
B. Ephesians 5:15–17  
C. James 4:14

Redemption: God's Grand Design Lesson 109 **161**

**Something to Think About**  
Time Management Name \_\_\_\_\_

 You are responsible for what you do with God's gift of time. The way you direct or control the use of your time is called **time management**. God has given you the freedom to choose how you spend your time, but you cannot choose the consequences. Remember that you will give an account to God for the way you use the time He has given you.

 **What About Me?**  
Study the principles. Take time at home to complete the chart evaluating your time management habits.



**Time Management Principles**

**T**arget Priorities  
**Priorities** are activities that are most important to you and that take up your time. They should include your responsibilities to God, your parents, your teachers, and your church.

**Write down some of YOUR God-given responsibilities that YOU must make a priority.**  
God: \_\_\_\_\_ Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teachers: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**I**dentify Distractions  
**Distractions** are things that hinder you from accomplishing God's will in the right time. Avoid becoming distracted as you work! Distractions may include good things as well as bad things.

**Make a list of things that distract YOU from using your time wisely.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**M**aster Organization  
**Organization** is putting everything around you in its proper place so that you can easily get your work done. You should carefully inspect every area in which you work and do what you need to do to get yourself organized! (Sort piles, throw trash away, file papers, etc.)

**Make a list of all the places where YOU work and live.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the ones that you need to organize.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**E**liminate Procrastination  
**Procrastination** is putting off your responsibilities until a later time. If you are honest with yourself, you'll realize that it is laziness in managing the time God has given to you.

**Make a list of the responsibilities in which YOU are tempted to procrastinate.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Redemption: God's Grand Design Lesson 109 **162**

our good-byes. My youngest clung to me, begging me to go home with him. I reminded him that God had placed me in that camp for a purpose. There were so many prisoners that did not know Christ.

We prayed and hugged each other one more time; then the guards took me away. The soldiers searched me but never found the little Gospel of Mark in the hem of my undershirt. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

[Adapted from *The Gospel in Bonds* by Georgi Vins. Used with permission.]



- Was Georgi Vins faithful to God? Yes. How? Accept any reasonable answer.
- Was God faithful to Georgi Vins? Yes. How? Accept any reasonable answer.
- How did God strengthen Georgi Vins while he was in prison? God allowed him to hear singing and preaching via shortwave radio. His family visited him. They brought him a Gospel of Mark.

## Worktext pages 161–62

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 110 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

**Apply principles of time management.** Read page 161 and discuss what God says about managing time. Point out that God is limitless; He is not bound by time. Everything has a beginning—everything except God. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages.

**Personal evaluation of time.** Complete the chart on page 162. Encourage the students to read the "What About Me?" section at home and think about how they use their time.

**Unit 6c–6d Review**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letters of the correct answers.

1. From the choices below, what is the main thing we can learn from the book of Esther? [Lessons 101–2]
  - a. God always works in perfect timing for the good of His people.
  - b. It is best not to accompany important people to banquets.
  - c. We must always pray and fast before making decisions.
  - d. You should not talk to people without an invitation.
  - e. Reading books at bedtime helps you go to sleep.
2. Daniel prayed and confessed the Jewish people's sins (including his own). From Daniel's prayer we learn several reasons why God's people should confess and forsake sin. What are they? (There is more than one answer.) [Lesson 106]
  - a. We should confess our sin because we truly have broken God's law.
  - b. We should confess our sin so that others think we are humble.
  - c. God always has mercy on those who truly confess and turn from sin.
  - d. Other people will share the benefits when we confess and turn from sin.
  - e. God can use each of His children in His plan if we confess and turn from sin.
3. When Ezra found out about the sins of God's people he responded in humility. How should Christians react when they sin or when others sin? (There is more than one answer.) [Lesson 107]
  - a. Acknowledge the sin and humbly ask for God's forgiveness.
  - b. Acknowledge the sin and humbly ask forgiveness from anybody who was offended by the sin.
  - c. If fewer than three people know about it, keep it silent so that reputations are not ruined.
  - d. Pray for those who have sinned, and encourage them to make things right with God and others.
4. Nehemiah and the Jewish people in Jerusalem faced mockery and discouragement for trying to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, but they persisted and finished the wall. What factors inspired them to do right in the face of opposition? (There are at least two correct answers.) [Lesson 108]
  - a. God's Word had promised His people that they would return to Jerusalem, and they would need security.
  - b. The present state of the city was an embarrassment to God's name.
  - c. They wanted to show their enemies that the Jews were better people than they were.
  - d. They wanted to build the wall in record time to make Jerusalem seem like a special place to be.

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Half-Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 101–10

LESSON

110

**Unit 6d Activity****Materials**

- Chart 33 ("A History of Jerusalem")

**Discuss some of Jerusalem's changes.** Display Chart 33 ("A History of Jerusalem"), which shows maps of the city in different eras, as you present the following information to the students.

**A History of Jerusalem****During the Time of David**

Jerusalem was an ancient Canaanite city built on a hill. With valleys on three sides, the city was naturally protected from its enemies except on the north side, so three walls were constructed. The fortress had only one water source outside the walls, and this source provided water only sometimes. In order to conquer the city, King David's men climbed through a shaft that ran from this water source into the city. King David expanded the city. That part of the city is called the City of David. Located in the southern part of Israel, Jerusalem became the religious center and capital of the twelve tribes of Israel.

**During the Time of Solomon**

On top of Mount Moriah, Solomon built the temple on the threshing floor of Ornan, a Jebusite. As a result of a civil war following Solomon's death, Jerusalem became part of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The ten other tribes formed their own kingdom, which was called Israel or the Northern Kingdom.

**During the Time of Nehemiah**

Nehemiah guided the Jews who had returned from Babylon to build up the wall at the top of the northeastern slope of the City of David rather than following the boundaries of the previous wall.

**During the Time of Herod the Great**

Many buildings were constructed during King Herod's reign. The Temple Mount was built and the second temple rebuilt. Herod added more towers to protect the royal palace. Mount Zion in the upper city was higher than the rest of Jerusalem. The high priests and the rich lived there.

**During More Recent Times**

When Israel became a country in 1948, only the western side of Jerusalem belonged to it. In 1967, Israel took the eastern part of Jerusalem from Jordan. The only parts of the temple that remain today are the base of one of Herod's towers and the western retaining wall (called the Wailing Wall). Jerusalem is divided into four quarters—Jewish, Christian, Armenian, and Muslim. An Islamic shrine stands near the temple site on Mount Moriah. This shrine, the Dome of the Rock, is a double octagonal structure enclosing a big rock considered holy by many Muslims. Orthodox Jews still pray for the temple to be restored. The City of David (the original site of Jerusalem) is located on a ridge south of the present-day Old City.

**Unit 6c–6d Review**

**Lead a review of Lessons 101–10.** A reproducible copy of the review questions (without answers) is available on the Teacher's Toolkit CD under Half-Unit Reviews. Answers are there also.

## Unit 6 Review

Through God's Providence

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if the sentence is false.

- T** 1. When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, he took the captive Israelites to Babylon.  
**F** 2. Nebuchadnezzar made a special place to worship God and keep the treasures that he stole from God's temple in Jerusalem.  
**T** 3. Ezekiel prophesied God's message that Jerusalem would be destroyed.  
**T** 4. Ezekiel prophesied God's message that the divided kingdoms would one day be reunited and that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt.  
**F** 5. Nebuchadnezzar knew that his second dream (about the tree) would be good news, so he quickly called Daniel to interpret it.  
**T** 6. King Darius loved Daniel's good character and gave him a position over other leaders.  
**T** 7. King Ahasuerus took away Vashti's rights as queen because her disobedience would have been a bad example to the women of the land.

Write the letter(s) of the correct word(s) to complete each sentence.

- H** 8. Esther's obedience to \_\_\_\_\_ saved her people from death.  
**B** 9. The Jews were \_\_\_\_\_ in Babylon because they had sinned against God and had not repented.  
**G** 10. When Ezra returned to Jerusalem and found the people living in sin, they confessed their sin and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**I** 11. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ of war, Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in only fifty-two days.  
**A, J** 12. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and believers can trust His \_\_\_\_\_ and plan for everyone and everything.  
**F** 13. God never changes, and His works last \_\_\_\_\_.  
**E** 14. A Bible \_\_\_\_\_ is used to find the meanings of words with their scriptural connections and applications.  
**C** 15. A \_\_\_\_\_ lists the verses where a word can be found in the Bible.  
**D** 16. A \_\_\_\_\_ connects one verse to another on a similar topic or meaning.

- A. all-knowing  
B. captive  
C. concordance  
D. cross-reference  
E. dictionary  
F. forever  
G. repented  
H. Mordecai  
I. threats  
J. purpose

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Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 91–110

## Unit 6 Review (continued)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

17. Daniel and three other Hebrews were chosen to be taught in the king's palace. They were no longer with their parents or other authorities who might remind them about God's commandments. What did they do?  
 They did as the other young men at the palace did.  
 Because they realized that they were accountable directly to God, they obeyed Him.  
18. Who does God's Word say is responsible for sin?  
 Every person is accountable to God for his own sin.  
 God holds parents and children responsible for sins committed by each other.  
19. Christians should follow the example set by Daniel when faced with the unknown or when making decisions. How did Daniel respond when he was faced with uncertainties such as interpreting dreams for Nebuchadnezzar?  
 Daniel trusted God and was not troubled.  
 Daniel worried that God would not provide the interpretation.

Write the letter of the correct phrase to complete each sentence.

- F** 20. The blessings Daniel and his friends received from God for not eating the king's food included \_\_\_\_\_.  
**C** 21. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to obey God rather than \_\_\_\_\_.  
**J** 22. King Nebuchadnezzar recognized God's power when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were protected from \_\_\_\_\_.  
**D** 23. In King Nebuchadnezzar's second dream, God showed him that his kingdom would be taken from him and \_\_\_\_\_ because of his pride.  
**A** 24. After \_\_\_\_\_, King Nebuchadnezzar praised God and recognized that God is in control of all things.  
**I** 25. The pride of King Belshazzar led him to misuse the vessels taken from the temple. God sent Belshazzar a message written on the wall. Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ the king for his sin.  
**E** 26. King Darius was grieved when Daniel's \_\_\_\_\_ caused Daniel to break the new law.  
**K** 27. The hatred Haman felt for Mordecai caused Haman to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**B** 28. God placed Esther in her position as queen to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**H** 29. God led Nehemiah to leave Babylon and return to Jerusalem to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. living like an animal for seven years  
B. protect the Jews from Haman  
C. bow before the king's idol  
D. he would be like an animal  
E. praying to God  
F. wisdom and understanding  
G. build houses for the priests  
H. rebuild the city walls  
I. interpreted the message, which condemned  
J. death in the fiery furnace  
K. plan to kill all the Jews

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 91–110

## Unit Review

### Materials

- Copy of "Unit 6 Review" [E] from the Teacher's Toolkit CD

**Guide a review of Lessons 91–110.** Review the people and events in preparation for the Unit 6 test (optional). See the Teacher's Toolkit CD for answers.

