



Bible Study Curriculum Samples

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1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS



RAFIKI

1 Corinthians

EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: What is the tenth commandment?
Answer: The tenth commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, not his male servant, not his female servant, not his ox, not his donkey, not anything that is your neighbor's."

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Two

God gently shows us our sin.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Three

Paul writes about the dangers of sin.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Four

Paul's letter is for us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Five

God loves sinners like us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY ONE

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

We are starting a new book of the Bible today. The book is called 1 Corinthians. It is called 1 Corinthians because it was a letter written to the church that was in the city of Corinth. Paul was the human writer of the letter. But the real author of the letter to the Corinthians is God. God is the author of the whole Bible. God gave Paul the words to write in this letter. We do not know how God did this. All we know is that God did it. God can do whatever he wants to do. And everything God does is good. God gave us the Bible so we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we can learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works, works that he has called us to do. If we want to know God and do his will, we must read the Bible every day. Each day before we read the Bible we should ask God to teach us. Ask him to let you know him better. Ask him to teach you what he loves and what he hates. And ask him to give you the power to know, love, and obey him more and more each day.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

1. Who is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians? (Paul is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Who is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians? (God is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Why did God give us the Bible? (God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we can learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works, works that he has called us to do.)
2. Is God always good? (Yes)
3. How can you know God better? (I can know God better by reading the Bible.)

DAY TWO

God gently shows us our sin.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthians because they were sinning. They were not living lives that showed they honored and loved the Lord Jesus. They did not obey God's words. They were not doing what is right in the sight of God. Rather than living like children of light, the people in Corinth were living like their neighbors in darkness. They were copying their bad behavior. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians who were sinning. Paul told them what they were doing wrong. However, Paul did not yell at the Corinthians. Paul was gentle when he talked to the Corinthians about their sin. Paul knew the Lord was not happy with their sin. Just like Paul was gentle in his words to the Corinthians, so is God when we sin. God is gentle and kind when he shows us our sin. God shows us our sin because he knows we are not happy when we sin. God knows we are happy only when we are obeying him and living like Jesus.

1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

QUESTIONS

1. Were the Corinthians obeying God? (No)
2. Who wrote the Corinthians a letter? (Paul wrote the Corinthians a letter)
3. Did Paul yell at the Corinthians? (No)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Was Paul gentle when he talked to the Corinthians? (Yes)
2. Is God gentle when he shows us our sin? (Yes)
3. Are we happy when we sin? (No, sin makes us sad.)

DAY THREE

Paul writes about the dangers of sin.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The Corinthians went to church, but they were not living like followers of Jesus. They were not kind. They did not serve one another. Instead, they were jealous and selfish. They were fighting with one another. Worst of all, the Corinthians said it was okay to sin. They did not think sin would hurt them. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians to tell them to be careful! Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that sin is very, very dangerous. Sin makes God angry. Sin makes God seem distant and makes us sad. Paul knew that if his friends the Corinthians did not turn away from their sin, they would be very, very sad. Paul loved his friends the Corinthians and he wrote a letter to tell them to stop sinning and obey God.

QUESTIONS

1. Were the Corinthians living like followers of Jesus? (No)
2. Were the Corinthians serving one another? (No, the Corinthians were acting unkind and selfish.)
3. Did the Corinthians believe sin could hurt them? Were they right? (No, the Corinthians did not believe sin would hurt them. They were wrong! Sin always hurts us.)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. What did Paul write to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did Paul write a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wanted to tell the Corinthians to be careful! Sin is dangerous and if they did not stop, they would be sad.)
3. Why is sin bad? (Sin separates us from God. Sin takes us away from God. When we are away from God, we are in danger and sad.)

1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY FOUR

Paul's letter is for us!

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul wrote a letter to his friends, the Corinthians. He wrote to them because they were not acting like the children of God. They were sinning and acting like the children of Satan. Paul knew his friends would be hurt if they continued to live in such sin. Paul wrote to them to stop sinning and to live in light like Jesus.

However, Paul's words aren't just for the Corinthians. Paul's words are God's words and they are for you and me too. If we are God's children, then we must obey God and run away from sin. Sometimes we don't tell the truth. Sometimes we do not obey our mother. Sometimes we hit our brother or sister. Sometimes we take things without asking. These are all sins. And if we live with sin and say it is "good," God seems distant to us. This makes us sad. So when we sin, we must hate our sin, just like God hates it. We must say we are sorry for our sin. We must ask God to take that sin away and help us to live like Jesus, without sin.

QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did Paul write a letter to the Corinthians? (Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians because they were not acting like the children of God.)
3. Were the Corinthians living like children of Satan? (Yes)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Are Paul's words for you and me too? (Yes)
2. Is our sin dangerous? (Yes, sin is always dangerous because it takes us away from God, who keeps us safe.)
3. What should we do when we sin? (We should say we are sorry. We should hate our sin and ask God to forgive us and help us to live like Jesus.)

DAY FIVE

God loves sinners like us.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The church at Corinth had many problems. The Corinthians were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. They were allowing sin. They were not acting like children of God; they were acting like sinners. But Paul still loved them. And God still loved them. God did not like what they were doing, but he still loved them. God chose the church in Corinth to be his children before the world began. He chose to smile upon them and give them eternal life. God did not choose these people because they were very good. He did not choose them because they pleased him and always obeyed. Before the people of the church in Corinth heard the good news, they were sinners just like everyone else. They lived in the kingdom of sin, Satan, and evil. They were dead to God. They loved evil and hated God. But God is rich in mercy and he is full of grace. God sent Paul to them with the good news about Jesus. God did not have to send Paul with the good news. Sinners do not deserve to hear the good news. But God did

1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

not give the believers in Corinth what they deserved. They deserved to be punished for their sins. They deserved to go to hell forever. But God gave them what they did not deserve. He gave them the gift of eternal life in his Son Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Did the church at Corinth have many problems? (Yes)
2. Did the church at Corinth allow sin? (Yes)
3. Did God still love the church at Corinth? (Yes)

FOR KINDERGARTEN

1. Did God choose the church at Corinth to be his children because they were very good and obedient? (No, God did not choose them because they were very good people. God chose them even though they were sinners and hated God.)
2. If you obey and are a very good boy or girl, will God love you more? Will he choose you if you do only good things? (No, God does not love us more when we are good. God does not love us more when we obey. God loves us all of the time whether or not we always obey. God loves you even when you hate him. God gave you his Son Jesus who saves you from punishment.)
3. How does this make you feel to know this? (When we know God loves us all of the time, even when we are bad, it makes us feel happy. It makes us want to obey a kind God who never stops loving.)

1 CORINTHIANS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS



RAFIKI

1 Corinthians

PRIMARY 1-3 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE:

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN:

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE:

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Two

Paul is the one who brought the good news to Corinth.

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18

Day Three

Paul identifies himself as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Four

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers who they are in Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Five

Paul gives thanks for the grace that God has given to the Corinthian Christians in their union with Christ Jesus.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY ONE

God sends a letter to the Corinthian believers through Paul.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

We are starting a new book of the Bible today. The book is called 1 Corinthians. It is called 1 Corinthians because it was a letter written to the church that was in the city of Corinth. Paul was the human writer of the letter. But the real author of the letter to the Corinthians is God. God is the author of the whole Bible. The Bible says that “no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). It also says, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There are big words in these Bible verses, are there not? These verses are saying that God gave certain men the words to write down. He gave Paul the words to write. We do not know how God did this. All we know is that God did it. He can do whatever he wants to do. And everything God does is good. God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we could learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works; works that he has called us to do. If we want to know God and do his will, we must read the Bible everyday. Each day before we read the Bible we should ask God to teach us. Ask him to let you know him better. Ask him to teach you what he loves and what he hates. And ask him to give you the power to know, love, and obey him more and more each day.

Paul wrote the letter to the Corinthians because they were sinning. They were not living lives that showed they honored and loved the Lord Jesus. They needed to be trained in righteousness. When we live a righteous life we are doing what is right in the sight of God. The Lord Jesus made it possible for us to live lives that are right in the sight of God. He came and died for our sins so we could be rescued from the kingdom of darkness, from the power of sin, death, and Satan. He came to bring us into the kingdom of light and life.

The believers in Corinth had been naughty. They were acting like they were still in the kingdom of darkness. They were still following many of the evil ways of the world. They were doing things that their unbelieving neighbors were doing. Paul wrote this letter to reprove them. That means he was telling them what they were doing wrong in a gentle way. Paul knew the Lord was not happy with the Corinthian believers. They were not living like children of God. They were living like children of the devil. Christians who live like children of the devil make the Lord sad. He is sad because they have forgotten what he did to set them free. He gave his own life to set us free.

God is the Father of all those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God is a good Father. He loves his children. So when his children are naughty, he disciplines them. He does not do this to hurt his children. He disciplines his children so that they will want to live righteous lives. He disciplines them so they will begin to hate sin and love what is good and true. Our heavenly Father knows that his children are happiest when they do what pleases him. He knows they are happiest when their lives honor and glorify God. God loved the Corinthian Christians so he sent them a letter through Paul. He told them what they were doing wrong. And he told them how to do what was right. God does this for all his children. He has a plan for his children. His plan is for his children to become more and more like Jesus. This is the good work that he is doing in his children. And he has promised that he will complete this good work.

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Definitions:

Profitable – producing good or helpful results or effects

Reproof – criticism or blame

Training – the process by which someone is taught the skills that are needed

Correction – the change that makes something or someone right, true, accurate

Competent – having the necessary ability or skills: able to do something well or well enough to meet the standard

Equipped – to prepare someone for a particular activity; to make ready

Naughty – behaving badly: used especially to describe a child who does not behave properly or obey a parent, teacher, etc.

Discipline – punishment for bad behavior

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians? (Paul is the human writer of the letter to the Corinthians.) Who is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians? (God is the real author of the letter to the Corinthians.)
2. Why did God give us the Bible? (God gave us the Bible so that we can know him. He gave us the Bible so we could learn what is right in his sight. And he gave us the Bible to make us ready to do good works; works that he has called us to do.)
3. Had the believers in Corinth been naughty children? (Yes)
4. Were the believers in Corinth living as if they were children of God or children of the devil? (They were living like they were children of the devil.)
5. Did God send the believers in Corinth a letter through Paul? (Yes)
6. Did the letter tell them what they were doing wrong? (Yes)

DAY TWO

Paul is the one who brought the good news to Corinth.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18

(Read Acts 18:1-18 to the students.) Paul brought the good news to Corinth on his second missionary trip. Paul had preached the good news in Athens. Then the Spirit of God led Paul to the large city of Corinth. Paul had planned to spend a short time in Corinth. But that was not the Lord's plan. Paul spent almost two years in Corinth telling the good news to anyone who would listen. It was in Corinth that Paul met Aquila and his wife Priscilla. They worked with Paul to help many in Corinth know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every Sabbath Paul would go to the synagogue in Corinth. He would show the Jews and God-fearers what the Scriptures said about the Christ. He showed that the Christ had to suffer and be raised from the dead. He told them that Jesus was the promised Savior. But most of the Jews would not believe. They hated Paul. They called him a liar. They said mean things about him. And they said that Jesus was not the Savior. When the Jews would not believe in Jesus, Paul stopped coming to the synagogue. He went to the Gentiles. When Paul left the synagogue he shook out his garments. And he said to the unbelieving Jews, "Your blood be on your own heads!"

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6). Paul left and went to the house of a God fearing Gentile named Titius Justus. Not all the Jews hated Paul. There were some Jews and God-fearers who believed. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed that Jesus was the promised Savior. And his whole family also believed. Most of the Jews did not want to hear about Jesus. But the Gentiles did want to hear about Jesus. They were very glad that God was willing to save great sinners like them. They were very glad that Jesus had saved his people from the great anger of God. They were very glad to hear they could be freed from the kingdom of darkness and be brought into God's kingdom of light.

Sometimes Paul must have been discouraged. His own people would not listen to him. Over and over again they tried to stop him from preaching the good news. In every town he visited, the Jews persecuted him and tried to harm Paul. The Lord Jesus loved his faithful servant Paul. He knew Paul was tired, fearful, and discouraged. So one night he appeared to Paul in a vision. He told Paul not to be afraid. He said, "Go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people" (Acts 18:9-10). The Lord had opened the door to heaven for many who lived in Corinth. When Paul preached the good news many believed. Many were rescued from the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of Satan, sin, and death. Many were brought into the kingdom of light, the kingdom of God, goodness, and life. Paul stayed in Corinth for almost two years. For two years Paul taught the new believers about the Lord. He taught them what the Lord loves and what he hates. He taught how those who live in the kingdom of light should live. After two years it was time for Paul to go. The Holy Spirit was guiding Paul back to Antioch. Paul loved the Corinthian believers. He was sad to go. It would be many years before he would see them again.

QUESTIONS:

1. When Paul arrived in Corinth, where did he go first? (Paul went to the Jewish synagogue.)
2. What happened when Paul told the Jews about Jesus? (Most of the Jews did not want to believe in Jesus.)
3. Who appeared to Paul in a vision? (The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision.)
4. What did the Lord Jesus say to Paul? (The Lord Jesus told Paul not to be afraid. He said, "Go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people" [Acts 18:9-10].)
5. Did the Lord Jesus keep his promises to Paul? (Yes, the Lord Jesus always keeps his promises.)
6. How long did Paul stay in Corinth? (He stayed almost two years in Corinth.)

DAY THREE

Paul identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Acts 9:1-18

(Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 to the students as they follow along in their Bibles.) Word had come to Paul that there were problems in the church at Corinth. They were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. And they were tolerating sin in the church. When we tolerate something we allow things that are bad to be done. The church was allowing something bad to be done. They were allowing sin! They had forgotten that the Lord had saved them so they could live in a way that pleased God. Sin does not please God. Paul knew the Christians in Corinth were in great danger. They were in danger of being drawn away from their devotion to

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

the Lord Jesus. Paul was angry when he heard that the church was tolerating sin. So Paul wrote a very long letter to the Corinthian church. He told them what they were doing wrong. And he called them to do what was right in God's sight.

Paul wrote this letter because he loved them. He knew that true joy comes when God's people know, love, and obey the Lord Jesus. He knew true joy comes when God's people glorify God and enjoy him forever. God is not glorified when his people sin. And God's people have no joy when they live sinful lives. Paul was also angry. He was angry as a father is angry when he hears his children have been naughty.

Paul was going to write some hard things to the church. But he loved them. So he began his letter with gentleness. He reminded them who he was. And he reminded them of who they were in Christ. He reminded them of what God had done for them through the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul called himself an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. An apostle is one who is sent. Paul had been sent by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had not always loved and obeyed the Lord Jesus. Paul had been an enemy of the Lord Jesus. He had persecuted the church of Christ. He wanted every Jewish believer dead. One day Paul was on his way to the city of Damascus. His plan was to find Jewish Christians and bring them bound to Jerusalem. But the Lord Jesus had different plans for Paul. On the road to Damascus something happened. The thing that happened that day changed Paul forever. Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And Paul fell on the ground. Then a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4). And Saul said, "Who are you Lord?" (Act 9:5). The voice from heaven said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). The Lord Jesus had called Paul for a special purpose. Paul would no longer be an enemy of Jesus or his church. Paul would now be a builder of Christ's church. The Lord Jesus had chosen Paul to take the good news to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel. The Lord Jesus is wonderful. He is all powerful. He can turn his enemies into his faithful children.

Only twelve men were called to be apostles. They were given the special privilege of bringing God's Word to the world. Some went east. Some went west. Some went north and some went south. Wherever the Lord sent them, they told others the good news about Jesus. They told others that Jesus saves his people from the power of sin and death. The twelve apostles were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon and Paul. Eleven of these men had been Jesus' disciples when he lived on earth. Paul was called by Jesus after he had been crucified, raised, and gone back to heaven. Their true teachings about the Lord Jesus laid the foundation of Christ's church. Those true teachings are found in the New Testament. If we want to know the truth about Jesus we must read the New Testament. When we know what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus, we will not be tricked by false teachers. We will not follow false teachers.

Definitions:

Devotion – a feeling of strong love and loyalty

Tolerate – to allow things that are bad to exist, happen, or to be done

Gentleness – not harsh or stern

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

QUESTIONS:

1. Were the Christians in Corinth fighting among themselves? Were they listening to false teachers? And were they tolerating sin in the church? (Yes)
2. What did Paul do when he heard the bad news about the Christians in Corinth? (He wrote them a letter.)
3. Who called Paul to be an apostle? (The Lord Jesus called Paul to be an apostle.)
4. What does the word apostle mean? (The word apostle means "a sent one".)
5. What did the Lord Jesus call the apostle Paul to do? (The Lord Jesus called Paul to take the good news to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel.)
6. How many apostles did Jesus call? (He called twelve apostles.)
7. Where can we find out the truth about the Lord Jesus? (We find the truth, the whole truth about Jesus in the New Testament.)
8. What can we do so false teachers cannot trick us? (If we read and believe the Bible, false teachers cannot trick us.)

DAY FOUR

Paul reminds the Corinthian believers how God saw them because they were in Christ.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

(Have the students open their Bible to 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 and follow along as you read the for today.) Paul addressed his letter to the church of God that is in Corinth. Paul thought that his letter was only for the Christians at Corinth. But the Lord had different plans. This letter would be read by Christians in every age. It would be part of God's holy Bible. This letter has been read by Christians for 2,000 years. And today in our class we are reading it. The Lord Jesus has sent it to us so we can learn more about him. He has sent it to teach us how he expects his people to live in a sinful world. He sent it to us so that we will not fall into the same sins as the Corinthian church. He does not want us to fight among ourselves. He does not want us to listen to false teachers. And he does not want us to tolerate sin in his church.

Paul addresses his letter to the church of God that is in Corinth. The church of God is made up of those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's church is in every country. Wherever there are Christians, God's church is there. When we talk about God's church we can be talking about the place where we gather to worship God each week. Or we can be talking about God's universal church. The universal church is made of every believer who has ever lived. When Paul writes his letter to the church of God in Corinth, he is writing to Christians who gather to worship together in Corinth.

Paul is writing his letter to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus. He is writing to true believers. A true Christian is one who has heard the good news and believed the good news. They believe Jesus is God with us. They believe he was born of a virgin. They believe he is the Son of God. They believe that Jesus came and lived a sinless life. They believe he came to die for the sins of his people. And they believe he was raised from the dead. They believe he now sits at the right hand of God. And they believe Jesus will return and set up his kingdom on earth. True Christians have repented and received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit. We become saints. When we are sanctified, the Holy Spirit sets us aside for a holy purpose. We are no longer of the world. We are no longer in the evil kingdom of the world. Jesus has rescued us from the evil

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

kingdom. We are now God's holy people. We are now citizens of the kingdom of God. We have a new purpose. Once we lived to glorify ourselves. But now we live to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Paul calls true believers saints. Saints are holy ones. God has chosen and called his people to be saints. He has called them for a holy purpose. They are not chosen because they are extra good. Sometimes we are not very good. Sometimes we do not obey God. Sometimes we act worse than people who do not know and love the Lord. But Paul calls all believers saints. And God sees us as saints. When God looks at us he does not see our sins. He sees the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our old sinful self is put to death. And the Lord Jesus comes to live in us. And we live in him. He lives in us through the Holy Spirit. We are no longer what we were. We are no longer enemies of God. We are no longer rebels against God. The Bible tells us that anyone who is in Jesus is a new creation. The old sinful nature is gone. It is dead. The new righteous nature has come. Even though we do not always act like saints, God sees us as saints. While we live in this body, the Holy Spirit will make us more and more like Jesus everyday. And in the future when Jesus returns we will get new bodies. Those bodies will not be able to sin. We will be like Jesus and then we will always act like saints.

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom did Paul write? (He wrote to the church at Corinth.)
2. Are saints perfect people or are they people who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior? (They are people who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior.)
3. When God looks at Christians, does he see their sins or does he see Jesus' righteousness? (God sees Jesus' righteousness when he looks at Christians.)
4. Who makes us more and more like Jesus, our pastors or the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Jesus.)

DAY FIVE

Paul gives thanks for the grace that God has given to the Corinthian Christians in their union with Christ Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 to the students.) The church at Corinth had many problems. They were fighting among themselves. They were listening to false teachers. They were allowing things that were bad to be done. They were allowing sin! They were not acting like saints. They were acting like sinners. But Paul still loved them. And God still loved them. God did not like what they were doing but he still loved them. He had chosen them to be his children before the world began. He had chosen to smile upon them and give them eternal life. God did not choose them because they were extra good. He did not choose them because they pleased him in everything they did. Before they heard the good news, they were sinners just like everyone else. They lived in the kingdom of sin, Satan, and evil. They were dead to God. They loved evil and hated God. But God is rich in mercy and he is full of grace. He sent Paul to them with the good news about Jesus. God did not have to send Paul with the good news. Sinners do not deserve to hear the good news. But God did not give the believers in Corinth what they deserved. They deserved to be punished for their sins. They deserved to go to hell forever. But God gave them what they did not deserve. He gave them the gift of eternal life in his Son Jesus.

Paul thanked God for saving the Christians in Corinth. He thanked God for bringing them out of

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

darkness into his marvelous light. Paul was grateful for the gift of eternal life that God had given to the Corinthian believers. This gift of eternal life was given when they received Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was given when Jesus came to live in them. Jesus is the life. Wherever Jesus is there is life. When Jesus comes to live in repentant sinners, sinners have life. They have Jesus' life. When Jesus came to live in believers, he gave other gifts. First, he gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. And then the Holy Spirit gave gifts. He gave the Corinthian believers gifts of speech and knowledge. They were to use these gifts to glorify God and bring others to know, love, and obey the Lord Jesus.

But they were not using the gifts God had given them to glorify the Lord. They were not sharing their gifts. They were using them to glorify themselves. They were not being faithful to the Lord. But the Lord was faithful to them. And the Lord is faithful to us. He had begun his good work in the Corinthian believers. And he has begun a good work in our lives. He still has a lot of work to do in our lives but he will not desert us. He who began a good work in our lives will complete it. That good work will be completed when the Lord Jesus comes again. On that day we will stand before the Lord Jesus guiltless. We will be without guilt because God, our Father, has declared that no legal charge can be brought against us. Jesus has taken our punishment at the cross. He died in our place so no legal charge could be brought against us. We deserved death and hell. We are guilty. But our beloved Savior took the punishment for our guilt so we could go free.

Definitions:

Guilt – responsibility for a crime or for doing something bad or wrong

Guiltless – without guilt

QUESTIONS:

1. Did God still love the Corinthian believers when they sinned? (Yes)
2. Did God save the Corinthian believers because they were good? (No, they were not good. None of us are good.)
3. Did he save them because he had decided to love them before the world began? (Yes)
4. When the Corinthian believers were unfaithful to Jesus, did Jesus stay faithful to them? (Yes)
5. If we belong to Jesus, will he stay faithful to us also? (Yes)
6. God has given his children many good gifts. Should we use those gifts to glorify ourselves or to glorify God? (We should use our gifts to glorify God.)
7. Do you think it would be a good idea to thank Jesus everyday for dying for our sins? (Yes)

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1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS



1 Corinthians

PRIMARY 4-6 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9



MEMORY VERSE

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).



HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

The city and church of Corinth

Scripture: Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2

Day Two

The gospel took root in Corinth.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Day Three

The basic outline of 1 Corinthians

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Four

The church of Corinth is deeply troubled.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Day Five

The church of Corinth is a work of God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. How is our hymn for the week, "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," fitting for this lesson? (This hymn is fitting for this lesson on the introduction to the letter to the troubled church in Corinth. Although the church had many serious problems, it was still God's church, built on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ. Verse 1 reminds us that the members of this church were "chosen of the Lord and precious" and that in Christ they are one with all other believers. Verse 2 reminds us that this struggling group is identified as *"the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]"* [1 Corinthians 1:2]. Verse 3 reminds us of the work of God that Paul promised would sustain these believers to the end. It is not the work of believers, but the sure foundation of Jesus Christ that is the cornerstone of the church—even a very troubled church.)

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY ONE

The city and church of Corinth

SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2

During his second missionary journey Paul went to the city of Corinth and with the help of a Jewish couple named Aquila and Priscilla, supported himself as they did as a tentmaker and preached in the local synagogue. When opposition came from the synagogue, Paul moved on to preach and teach in a house next door. Paul stayed in Corinth for eighteen months and a strong church was established in that city made up of believing Jews and Gentiles. Paul wrote a letter back to the established church in Corinth from Ephesus during his third missionary journey. Paul wrote the letter to the church in Rome at about the same time he wrote to the Corinthians. The basic beliefs of Christianity are clearly laid out in Romans, while the letter to the Corinthians seems to deal with a number of problems in Corinth that could have little importance to the church today.

Although the letter to the Corinthian church addresses problems faced by that particular church, the godly advice given by Paul is something the church in our day needs to hear as well. Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe.

The city of Corinth was located on a narrow strip of land that joins the mainland of Greece with the southern islands. Corinth was an important city that connected the intellectual center of Athens and the military center of Sparta. All movement from Athens to Sparta had to pass through Corinth. Also, ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the four-mile strip of land (called an isthmus) to the sea on the other side. In the first century, Nero, who was emperor of Rome, wanted to build a channel across that small strip of land, but it was not completed until many centuries later in 1893. The population of Corinth became quite wealthy from the amount of trade done there. Its location made Corinth a primary point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Like other port cities, Corinth was universally known as a pleasure-loving, self-indulgent, corrupt community. Even the name "Corinthian" became known as a title of immorality.

Another matter of significance for Corinth was its role as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic Games. All the glamour associated with the trained athlete and the muscular body also became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

It is not difficult to see why the Christian gospel faced serious challenges as it sought to transform this corrupt community.

QUESTIONS

1. When did Paul write this letter to the church at Corinth? (Paul wrote this letter back to the established church in Corinth from Ephesus during his third missionary journey.)
2. Thinking that Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians were written at about the same time, how do you see their differing significance in the life of the church as it was just being formed? (Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe.)
3. What cities of the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its corruption? In what way do you see them also needing a word from God with very practical implications? (Answers will vary.)
4. How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup, baseball's World Series, and (American) football's Super Bowl to the Isthmian Games of Corinth? (Answers will vary but might include that like the Corinthians, we are very interested in the glamour of athletes.)

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY TWO

The gospel took root in Corinth.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

During his missionary journeys, Paul stopped in Athens, the most intellectual city of his day. He preached to the leading philosophers on Mars Hill. Then he moved across the narrow four-mile-wide isthmus to Corinth (Acts 18:1). He exchanged an atmosphere known for thinking with an atmosphere known for self-indulgence.

Yet the gospel found an early success in Corinth that was not clear in Athens. As a consequence of an encouraging vision, Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God (Acts 18:11). Although Paul wrote several letters back to the established church in Corinth, no evidence exists of any further contact with Athens.

QUESTIONS

1. Review Acts 17 and 18 that record the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. How would you compare these two cities in terms of their cultural focus and their response to the gospel? (Athens was focused on thinking, Corinth was focused on indulgence. Yet it was in Corinth that the gospel took root.)
2. Compare your own village, town, or city to these two ancient cities in terms of cultural focus and response to the gospel. (Answers will vary.)
3. How long did Paul remain in Corinth? (Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the Word of God.)
4. How did God encourage Paul to keep teaching and preaching in Corinth? (*"And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people'"*[Acts 18:9-10].)
5. How does the Lord's encouragement to Paul help you? (Answers will vary but might include that the Lord has his people in many places and our words can be used to help also.)

DAY THREE

The basic outline of 1 Corinthians

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Book of 1 Corinthians can be divided into two main sections. In the first division (chapters 1-6), Paul responds to the news he has heard from Corinth. He has heard about divisions in the church so he addresses the pride that caused the divisions in the first place and the solution. He has heard about lawsuits within the church and addresses both proper and improper use of the law in such cases. He has heard about a terrible case of sexual immorality that has been allowed to go unchecked and he tells the leaders how to bring repentance and restoration. He speaks to those in the church who have been offended and to those who have offended others.

In the second division (chapters 7-16), Paul answers questions the church raised in a letter they wrote to him. The church had questions about marriage, about Christian liberty, about order in worship services, about the resurrection of the body and about collections for fellow believers in Jerusalem.

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

QUESTIONS

1. Review the basic outline of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book? (In the first division, Paul responds to the news he has heard from Corinth. In the second division, Paul answers questions the church raised in a letter they wrote to him.)
2. Considering the five different questions raised by the Corinthians in chapters 7 – 16, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why? (Answers will vary.)
3. What other issues not mentioned in 1 Corinthians can you identify as creating serious problems in your church? (Answers will vary.)

DAY FOUR

The church of Corinth is deeply troubled.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Corinthian church was a church with lots of problems—big problems. The problems were not just minor distractions of an otherwise healthy church. The church is the body and bride of Christ, and the problems in this body struck at the root of Christian practice and belief.

Deep divisions disrupted their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. They were confused about the proper understanding of marriage from God's perspective. They had abused their Christian liberties and treated the Lord's Supper with such irreverence that some of their members had been struck dead by the hand of an offended God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created confusion and disorder in the sacred hour of worshipful assembly. Some among them openly denied the basic doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

QUESTIONS

1. What were some of the troubles in the Corinthian church? (Deep divisions disrupted their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples. The church had questions about marriage, about Christian liberty, about order in worship services, about the resurrection of the body.)
2. Were these questions just minor distractions? (No, the problems in this body struck at the root of Christian practice and belief.)
3. How does it help you to know that Paul addressed these major problems in the church in Corinth? (Answers will vary but might include that even though the church in Corinth had major problems, God was still working to sanctify them. God will still work with his sinful, but sanctified people today.)

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

DAY FIVE

The church of Corinth is a work of God.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

This struggling group is identified as *“the church of God [the Father], sanctified in Christ Jesus [the Son], and called to be saints [by the work of the Holy Spirit]”* (1 Corinthians 1:2).

Yes, the church in Corinth had major problems, but it was still the church, the body of Christ. God had already begun a work of change in the hearts of these saints, these people beloved by God and set apart to be holy, but that work was not yet finished. In this world there will never be a church free from every wrinkle and stain of sin.

Paul goes on to say that this church is united *“with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus”* (1 Corinthians 1:2). Without doubt they are a part of the universal body of Christ. He also notices the positive aspect of this community of Christians. They are *“not lacking in any gift”* (1 Corinthians 1:7). They must be recognized as having an abundance—even an overabundance—of the Spirit’s gifts. In addition, he is confident of their ultimate destiny, for they are *“waiting expectantly”* for the complete revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). The possession of God’s Holy Spirit serves as the guarantee of their eternal inheritance, for God is faithful, who will carry on his work of salvation to the end (1 Corinthians 1:8). Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has rebuked them over so many matters.

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul’s thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God’s people.

QUESTIONS

1. List as many encouraging things about the church in Corinth as you can find in chapter 1, verses 4-9. (The members of this church belonged to God the Father, they were sanctified by Jesus Christ, and called to be saints. They were part of the church universal. They were given many spiritual gifts. They would be kept until the end in the faithful hand of God.)
2. Discuss Paul’s wisdom in beginning on this positive note. (Answers will vary.)
3. How would you explain how opposite the introductory remarks of Paul are compared with the body of his letter? (Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has rebuked them over so many matters.)
4. What very important lesson can we learn from Paul’s identity of the Corinthian church by their relation to each of the three persons of the Trinity? (It is the work of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to call, to redeem, and to keep believers until the coming of Jesus Christ in glory.)
5. How should this perspective affect your attitude toward other Christian denominations? (Even the most problem-filled of churches may still be true churches of Christ because of their union with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.)
6. What realities does Paul point to as a firm foundation for a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? (Believers are called by the will of God, sanctified in Christ Jesus, part of the family of believers of all times and all places.)
7. How can these same realities serve as an encouragement to the individual Christian, including yourself? (Answers will vary.)

1 CORINTHIANS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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1 CORINTHIANS ADULT LESSONS



1 Corinthians

Adult Lesson

PASSAGE
1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

MEMORY VERSE
"FOR THE WORD OF THE CROSS IS FOLLY TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING, BUT TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD" (1 CORINTHIANS 1:18).

DOCTRINAL FOCUS
EVEN THE MOST PROBLEM-FILLED OF CHURCHES MAY STILL BE TRUE CHURCHES OF CHRIST BECAUSE OF THEIR UNION WITH THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

CATECHISM
QUESTION: HOW DO THE SACRAMENTS BECOME EFFECTUAL MEANS OF SALVATION?
ANSWER: THE SACRAMENTS BECOME EFFECTUAL MEANS OF SALVATION, NOT FROM ANY VIRTUE IN THEM, OR IN HIM THAT DOTHS ADMINISTER THEM; BUT ONLY BY THE BLESSING OF CHRIST, AND THE WORKING OF HIS SPIRIT IN THEM THAT BY FAITH RECEIVE THEM.

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Church of Corinth

Day One

Read Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Generally Paul's letters to the Corinthians are not regarded as having the same significance as his letter to the Romans. The basic beliefs of Christianity are clearly laid out in Paul's letter to the Romans, while the Corinthian correspondence gives the appearance of dealing with a number of peculiar problems in this early church that have little significance for the church of today.

Yet the letters to Corinth address perennial problems that the church faces in differing forms in every generation, for Christianity addresses the way its adherents are to live as well as what they are to believe.

In introducing this study four matters will be considered:

1. The city of Corinth
2. The gospel in Corinth
3. A basic outline of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians
4. Paul's introductory remarks

THE CITY OF CORINTH

The city of Corinth was strategically located on the western end of the isthmus (the narrow strip of land) that joins the mainland of Greece with its southwestern extremity known as the Peloponnesus. Corinth provided the essential connection with the intellectual center of Athens and the militant center of Sparta. All movement going west from Athens or other parts of the Grecian peninsula had to pass through Corinth. In addition, ships moving their trade up the western coast of Greece from the Mediterranean had to unload their cargo and carry it across the four-mile strip of land to the sea on the other side. In the first century, Nero who was emperor of Rome, sought to construct a channel across the isthmus, but it was not completed until many centuries later in 1893. The population of the city became quite wealthy due to its abundant commerce. Its locale made Corinth a primary point for the transport of goods between Asia, Africa, and Europe. As a consequence, it has been called the "chief city of Greece, not only in authority but in wealth, magnificence, literature, the arts, and in luxury" (Hodge 4).

Corinth was universally known as a pleasure-loving, decadent community. The designation "Corinthian" was equivalent to "one who practices fornication." In classical Greek, "to act the Corinthian" meant "to practice fornication" (Bruce 367).

1 CORINTHIANS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

According to one commentator,

There were more than a thousand prostitutes connected with the temple of Aphrodite [the Greek goddess of love] in old Corinth. . . Shrines were “everywhere” erected to “Aphrodite. . . as patroness of harlots”. . . , this was presumably the reason for the “ancient custom in Corinth. . . whenever the city prays to Aphrodite in matters of grave importance, to invite as many prostitutes as possible to join in their petitions” (Morris).

It is not difficult to see why the Christian gospel faced serious challenges as it sought to transform this corrupt community.

Another matter of significance for Corinth was its role as sponsor of the Isthmian Games, similar to the Olympic Games. All the glamour associated with the trained athlete and the muscular body also became a matter of great significance to the Corinthian.

THE GOSPEL IN CORINTH

After his stay in Athens and his memorable sermon on Mars Hill among the intelligentsia of the Greeks (Acts 17:16-34), Paul proceeded across the narrow four-mile-wide isthmus to Corinth (Acts 18:1). As has been noted, “To leave Athens for Corinth was to exchange an intellectual for a sensuous atmosphere” (Purves 194). Yet the gospel found an initial success in Corinth that was not evident in Athens. As a consequence of an encouraging vision, Paul remained in Corinth a year and a half teaching the word of God (Acts 18:11). Although Paul subsequently wrote several letters to Corinth, no evidence exists of any further contact with Athens.

A BASIC OUTLINE OF 1 CORINTHIANS

INTRODUCTION (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9)

A. Response to News from Corinth (1:10 – 6:20)

1. About Divisive Pride over Persons and its Solution (1:10 – 4:21)
2. About Lawsuits Proper and Improper (5:1 – 6:20)
 - a. A specific case of sexual immorality (5:1-13)
 - b. Lawsuits between believers (6:1-20)
 - (1) A word to the offended (6:1-7)
 - (2) A word to the offenders (6:8-20)

B. Questions Raised in Their Letter to the Apostle (7:1 – 16:4)

1. About Marriage (7:1-40)
2. About Christian Liberty (8:1 – 11:1)
3. About Order in Worship (11:2 – 14:40)
4. About the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58)
5. About Collections (16:1-4)
6. Conclusion (16:5-24)

PAUL’S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9)

The Corinthian church might justly be characterized as a church with problems, problems, problems. These problems were not minor distractions of an otherwise healthy manifestation of Christ’s body and bride. Instead, they struck at the root of Christian practice and belief. Deep divisions marred their unity. A kind of immorality existed among them that would not even be mentioned among heathen peoples.

1 CORINTHIANS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Confusion clouded a proper understanding of God's ordinance of marriage. Abuse of Christian liberty and the Lord's Supper had become so blatant that some of their members had been struck dead by the hand of an offended God. Pride over gifts graciously given by the Holy Spirit created chaos in the sacred hour of worshipful assembly. Some among them openly denied the cardinal doctrine of the resurrection of the body. This was, indeed, a deeply troubled church!

Yet in a great paradox, this struggling group is identified as "*the church of God* [the Father], *sanctified in Christ Jesus* [the Son], *and called to be saints* [by the work of the Holy Spirit]" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Noting the practical significance of this fact, John Calvin observes:

This is a passage that ought to be carefully observed, that we may not require that the church, while in this world, should be free from every wrinkle and stain, or forthwith pronounce unworthy of such a title every society in which everything is not as well as we would wish it (Calvin 51).

Paul further affirms the union of this church "*with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus*" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Without doubt they are a part of the universal body of Christ. He also notices the positive aspect of this community of Christians. They are "*not lacking in any gift*" (1 Corinthians 1:7). They must be recognized as having an abundance—even an overabundance—of the Spirit's gifts. In addition, he is confident of their ultimate destiny, for they are "*waiting expectantly*" for the consummate revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). The possession of God's Holy Spirit serves as the guarantee of their eternal inheritance, for God is faithful, who will carry on his work of salvation to the end (1 Corinthians 1:8).

In opening his remarks with these encouragements, Paul prepares the Corinthian church for the corrections he will immediately introduce, for he does not wish them to despair after he has admonished them over so many matters (Calvin).

The apostle refers to Jesus Christ no less than nine times in these opening nine verses. As in all of Paul's thinking, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the only answer to all the problems of God's people.

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Day Two

1. Assuming that Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians were written at about the same time, how do you see their differing significance in the life of the church as it was just being formed?
2. What cities of the world today might you compare with Corinth, both in its wealth and its decadence? In what way do you see them also needing a word from God with very practical implications?
3. Can you think of any religious practices today that join supposed piety with sexual immorality? How would you compare people's interest in various sports activities today such as soccer's World Cup, baseball's World Series, and (American) football's Super Bowl to the Isthmian Games of Corinth?

Day Three:

1. Review the narratives of Acts 17 and 18 that record the response to the Christian message in Athens and Corinth. How would you compare these two cities in terms of their cultural focus and their response to the gospel?

1 CORINTHIANS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

2. Compare your own village, town or city to these two ancient locales in terms of cultural focus and response to the gospel.
3. Review the “Basic Outline” of 1 Corinthians. What are the two main divisions of the book?

Day Four:

1. List as many encouraging things about the church in Corinth as you can find in chapter 1, verses 4-9. Discuss Paul’s wisdom in beginning on this positive note.
2. Considering the five different questions raised by the Corinthians in chapters 7 – 16 as noted in the Basic Outline, which would you consider most pressing in your church today? Why?
3. What other issues not mentioned in 1 Corinthians can you identify as creating serious problems in your church?

Day Five:

1. How would you explain the “great and joyful paradox” that arises when the introductory remarks of Paul are compared with the substance of his letter?
2. What very important lesson does John Calvin derive from Paul’s identity of the Corinthian church by their relation to each of the three persons of the Trinity? How should this perspective affect your attitude toward other Christian denominations?
3. What realities does Paul point to as a firm foundation for a positive perspective on the Corinthian church despite all its problems? How can these same realities serve as an encouragement to the individual Christian, including you?

For Weekend Reflection or the Staff Meeting

Days Six and Seven:

1. Sing “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation,” *Rafiki Hymnal*, p. 30.
2. Take a few moments to review the problems of the Corinthian church, and ask how these problems may or may not be present in your church, school or organization.
3. Go through the same procedure with the points of encouragement mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.
4. Rehearse the five questions raised by the Corinthians in their letter to Paul. Have each member of your group write on a piece of paper the single question that seems most relevant to their current situation. Collect the pieces of paper, read the results, and discuss the reasons for the various choices.

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1 CORINTHIANS HOME DEVOTION PAGES

Home Devotion Page
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 CORINTHIANS LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH

PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

MEMORY VERSE:

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

DAY ONE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2 AND ACTS 18:1-18.

Principle/Lessons: A strong church existed in the city of Corinth.

Questions: Corinth was both a wealthy and a corrupt city. What cities today are like Corinth and need to hear the Word of God?

DAY TWO: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3.

Principle/Lessons: The gospel took root in Corinth.

Questions: How did God encourage Paul to keep teaching and preaching in Corinth?

DAY THREE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians in two parts.

Questions: Paul addressed problems in the Corinthian church and answered the church's questions. What issue or problem might a church today face?

DAY FOUR: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: The church of Corinth was deeply troubled.

Questions: Though the church had deep problems, what were some ways Paul said they were blessed?

DAY FIVE: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9.

Principle/Lessons: The church of Corinth was a work of God.

Questions: What phrases in verses 1 through 9 confirm the Corinthian church was a work of God?

DEVOTIONAL POINTS:

On his third missionary journey, the Apostle Paul, at the Lord's encouragement, stayed 18 months in the wealthy and corrupt city of Corinth, preaching the gospel and establishing a strong church. Later Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian church. He also wrote a letter to the church in Rome. In Romans, Paul highlighted the basic beliefs of Christianity, but in 1 Corinthians he addressed problems and questions in the church. His letters show us that Christians need to pay attention to the way they live as well as what they believe. Though Paul called out the deep problems in the Corinthian church, he also clearly showed that God had begun a work of change in the peoples' hearts and would complete it. No church is free from the influence of sin, but it is a true church if it is united with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CATECHISM:

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

1 CORINTHIANS HOME DEVOTION PAGES

Home Devotion Page
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

HYMN:

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

The Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation." Is. 28:16

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
2. All that ded-i-cat-ed cit-y, dear-ly loved of God on high,
3. To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, to-day;
4. Here vouch-safe to all thy ser-vants what they ask of thee to gain,
5. Laud and hon-or to the Fa-ther, laud and hon-or to the Son,

cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious, bind-ing all the church in one;
in ex-ul-tant ju-bi-la-tion pours per-pet-ual mel-o-dy;
• with thy wont-ed lov-ing-kind-ness hear thy peo-ple as they pray;
what they gain from thee for-ev-er with the bless-ed to re-tain,
laud and hon-or to the Spir-it, ev-er Three and ev-er One,

ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er, and her con-fi-dence a-lone.
God the One in Three a-dor-ing in glad hymns e-ter-nal-ly.
• and thy full-est ben-e-dic-tion shed with-in its walls al-way,
and here-af-ter in thy glo-ry ev-er-more with thee to reign.
One in might, and One in glo-ry, while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Latin, 7th cent.
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851
Alt. in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Smart, 1876

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EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS



Exodus

EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

Exodus 1:1 – 2:15



MEMORY VERSE

"The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank" (Exodus 2:2-3).



HYMN

"Trust and Obey," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

God uses ordinary people who obey in faith in order to fulfill his plans.



CATECHISM

(FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: What covenant did God make with Adam?
Answer: The covenant of works.

LESSON 1: THE SAVING LORD: WHO GENERATES THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

God's people multiplied in Egypt.

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-14

Day Two

Pharaoh tried to get rid of Israelite boys.

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-21

Day Three

God saved the baby Moses.

Scripture: Exodus 1:22 – 2:10

Day Four

Moses ran away from Egypt.

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-15

Day Five

God gave Moses a family in Midian.

Scripture: Exodus 2:16-22

EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

Early Childhood Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY ONE

God's people multiplied in Egypt.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:1-14

DISCUSSION

It had been a long time since old Joseph died. Years and years passed. The grown children of Joseph and his brothers had children of their own. And those children grew up and had families. And those families had children. God's children were called Israelites. They were not called Egyptians even though they had lived in Egypt for a long time. On and on, the Israelites lived in Egypt for years, and many, many more of them were born year after year. The land of Egypt was filled with more of God's children than we could count!

This seems good to us, because we love God and his family, but there was someone in the land of Egypt who did not think it was good that there were so many Israelites. His name was Pharaoh. The people of Egypt called their king, Pharaoh. This Pharaoh did not remember Joseph or Joseph's family. Pharaoh did not remember how important and wise Joseph was. No. This Pharaoh only saw how many Israelites there were in his land, and he was afraid of them.

The Pharaoh was afraid that because there were so many Israelites, they would become more powerful than he was. So, Pharaoh decided to make the Israelites his slaves so they could not become powerful. Pharaoh ordered that the Israelite slaves work hard. Pharaoh made the Israelite slaves build cities for him and work in the fields. Pharaoh was not kind. Pharaoh was mean and cruel to God's people. But the Pharaoh's plan did not work. The harder he made the Israelites work, the stronger they grew. God's plan was to make his people strong, but Pharaoh did not know God's plan.

QUESTIONS

1. What were God's children called? (God's children were called Israelites.)
2. Where did the Israelites live? (The Israelites lived in Egypt.)
3. Were there many Israelites in Egypt, or just a few? (There were many Israelites in Egypt.)
4. Why was Pharaoh afraid of the Israelites? (Pharaoh feared the Israelites would become more powerful than he was.)
5. What kind of work did the Israelites do for Pharaoh? (They had to build cities and work in the fields.)

ACTIVITY

Plan a work activity. Pile rocks, sweep the walkway, dust and stack books in the shelves, scrub the tables or wash windows, etc. Talk about how work builds muscles and makes a person strong. Work alongside the children. Enjoy the project and helping one another. Working with a good attitude pleases God.

EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

Early Childhood Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY TWO

Pharaoh tried to get rid of Israelite boys.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:15-21

DISCUSSION

The wicked king Pharaoh thought of a plan to get rid of the many Israelites. Pharaoh's plan was a wicked one. Pharaoh said to the women who helped the Israelite mothers have their babies, "When you help a woman having a baby, if it is a boy baby, kill him; but if it is a girl baby, let her live." What a horrible plan! This was evil, very evil.

The women listened to the Pharaoh, but the women knew that God would not be pleased if they did what Pharaoh told them to do. The women obeyed God; they did not obey the Pharaoh's evil command. The women let all the babies live. The women let the girl babies live, and they let the boy babies live. We can be sure that all the Israelite mothers were glad that their helpers obeyed God.

Pharaoh was not glad. Pharaoh called the women and asked them, "Why have you let the boys live?"

The women answered Pharaoh with wise words. God was kind to the women and God blessed them. Soon even more babies were born to the Israelite Mommies. And as a blessing, God gave the women-helpers families of their own.

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of a man was King Pharaoh? (King Pharaoh was a wicked, evil man.)
2. Did the women who helped the Israelite Mommies obey Pharaoh or God? (The women who helped the Israelite Mommies obeyed God.)
3. Was the Pharaoh glad or not glad? (The Pharaoh was not glad.)
4. What did God give to the women helpers? (God gave the women helpers families of their own.)

ACTIVITY

Give every child a baby doll to hold, or have children share one or two dollies. Practice singing a loving song to the dolls, holding and cradling the dolls lovingly, wrapping in a blanket, etc. Talk about the ways God wants people (all people) to love all babies.

EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

Early Childhood Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY THREE

God saved the baby Moses.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:22 – 2:10

DISCUSSION

The evil King Pharaoh had another wicked plan. This time Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile River." This was a terrible evil plan.

In one of the houses of the Israelites, the mother and father had a new little baby boy. They loved their baby boy. They did not throw their baby into the river. No! They hid him in their house. But when the baby grew, the mother could no longer hide him. God gave her a good plan.

The mother got a basket for the baby. She fixed the basket so it was strong and safe. Then she put her baby boy inside the basket. The mother took the basket and walked to the river. But instead of throwing the baby into the river, the mother carefully placed the basket among the tall grasses growing along the river bank. The baby boy's big sister stood silently nearby and watched.

Soon the daughter of the Pharaoh came to the Nile River to take a bath. The princess saw the basket in the water. "Go get that basket," she told her helpers. When they brought her the basket, she opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for the baby.

Big sister was watching and spoke out, "Shall I go and get one of the women to nurse the baby for you?"

The princess liked this idea. The sister ran to get the baby's mother. When the mother came back, the princess said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the mother took her baby and did what the princess asked. What a good plan!

Day after day the mother took care of her baby. She did not do the Pharaoh's wicked plan, she did God's wonderful plan. When the baby boy grew older, she took him to the princess and he became her son. The princess named the baby Moses.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the mother and daddy hide in their house? (The mother and daddy hid a baby boy.)
2. When the baby grew, where did the mother put the baby? (The mother put the baby in a basket.)
3. Who stayed by the basket and watched? (The big sister stayed by the basket and watched.)
4. Who found the baby in the basket? (The princess found the baby.)
5. In God's plan, who took care of the baby? (The mother took care of the baby.)
6. What did the princess name the baby? (The princess named the baby Moses.)

ACTIVITY

EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

Play hide and seek where two children hide and the rest of the class finds them. Have the two children pretend to be a momma with baby, hiding him in the house. Take turns hiding and finding the baby when he cries.

DAY FOUR

Moses ran away from Egypt.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:11-15

DISCUSSION

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people (the Israelites) were. Moses stood and watched the men as they worked hard as slaves. As he watched, he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelite men. Moses looked this way. Moses looked that way. Moses saw no one, so Moses did a terrible thing: Moses killed the Egyptian.

The next day Moses went outside. He saw two Israelite men fighting. Moses spoke to them, "Why are you hitting him?"

The man did not like Moses interfering. He answered, "Who made you ruler over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?"

Then Moses was afraid. He thought, people know what I did. Pharaoh will be angry when he learns what I did. And that is just what happened.

When the Pharaoh heard of what Moses had done, Pharaoh tried to kill Moses. The only thing Moses knew to do was to run away so that the Pharaoh could not catch him. That is what Moses did. Moses left the palace where he lived and ran far away. Moses left Egypt and went to live in the country of Midian.

QUESTIONS

1. What terrible thing did Moses do? (Moses killed an Egyptian.)
2. Who was Moses afraid would find out? (Moses was afraid the Pharaoh would find out.)
3. When Pharaoh found out, what did Moses do? (Moses ran away.)
4. Where did Moses go? (Moses went to Midian.)

ACTIVITY

Organize races and try to catch each other. Let the boys chase the girls, then the girls chase the boys. Stick pieces of cloth on each child and let "it" chase until she gathers all the pieces of cloth.

EXODUS EARLY CHILDHOOD LESSONS

Early Childhood Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY FIVE

God gave Moses a family in Midian.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:16-22

DISCUSSION

Moses ran away from Egypt and did not stop running until he got to Midian. In Midian he sat down by a well. Soon a group of young women came toward the well with their flock of thirsty animals. The young women were seven sisters coming to water their father's animals. As Moses watched, some shepherds appeared and began to drive away the women. Moses knew this was not right, so he got up and helped the women against the shepherds. Then Moses drew water and watered their thirsty animals.

When the sisters returned home they told their father Jethro what had happened at the well. Father Jethro was happy to hear that someone had helped his daughters, but he was also surprised. He asked the girls, "Where is this man? Why did you not invite him to have something to eat with us?"

So, Moses agreed to stay with Jethro and his family. Moses got to know them and soon Moses married one of the daughters. Moses and his wife had a baby boy. Now Moses had a family here in Midian. What was happening to the Israelites back in Egypt did not seem to matter. Moses lived in Midian with a wife and child. Moses had a new home.

QUESTIONS

1. From what country did Moses run away? (Moses ran away from Egypt.)
2. Who came to the well with thirsty animals? (Seven sisters came to the well with thirsty animals.)
3. What did Moses do to help the women? (Moses helped them when the shepherds tried to drive them away, and he watered the animals.)
4. Was father Jethro happy or mad? (Father Jethro was happy.)
5. Where was Moses' new home? (Moses' new home was in Midian.)

ACTIVITY

Let the children retell the story by drawing a picture. Draw a picture of the well. Put Moses sitting beside the well. Add the seven sisters and their animals. Add the other shepherds. Turn the paper over and draw on the other side. Put Moses, his new wife, and child.

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EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS



Exodus

PRIMARY 1-3 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

Exodus 1:1 – 2:15



MEMORY VERSE

"The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank" (Exodus 2:2-3).



HYMN

"Trust and Obey," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

God uses ordinary people who obey in faith in order to fulfill His plans.



CATECHISM (FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question: What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

LESSON 1: THE SAVING LORD: WHO GENERATES THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

The king of Egypt enslaved the descendants of Jacob.

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-14

Day Two

The king of Egypt ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-22

Day Three

The mother of Moses made plans to save his life.

Scripture: Exodus 1:22 – 2:4

Day Four

Moses was rescued by the daughter of the king of Egypt.

Scripture: Exodus 2:5-10

Day Five

Moses fled from Egypt when Pharaoh sought his life.

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-15

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Have the students help you make a basket out of reeds, palm leaves, or any appropriate branches. Bring a baby doll to put in the basket. Have the students retell the true story of how God saved baby Moses from the Nile River.
2. Let the students role play the story of Moses found in Exodus 2:1-15.
3. Draw a mural of the Nile River. Have the students draw baby Moses, the basket, crocodiles, snakes, reeds, Miriam, Jochebed, Pharaoh's daughter, and her servants. Let the students cut out their pictures and glue them to the mural. Talk about how dangerous it was for the baby. Talk about how God watched over him and kept him safe.
4. Bring in bulrushes, cattails, or reeds for the children to examine.

EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

5. Plan a work activity. Pile rocks, sweep the walkway, dust and stack books in the shelves, scrub the tables or wash windows, etc. Talk about how work builds muscles and makes a person strong. Work alongside the children. Enjoy the project and helping one another. Working with a good attitude pleases God.
6. Activity pages.

DAY ONE

The king of Egypt enslaved the descendants of Jacob.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:1-14

It had been many, many years since the Lord told Jacob to take his family to Egypt. Jacob was dead, Joseph was dead, and all his brothers were dead. When Jacob came to Egypt he brought seventy family members. Now after hundreds of years there were a multitude of Jacob's descendants living in Egypt. The Lord had caused the children of Jacob to increase greatly and grow very, very strong. The word multitude means a great number of people or things.

"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). He did not remember that Joseph had been a good friend of the Egyptian people—that God had used Joseph to save the Egyptians from the great famine. The king of Egypt was afraid of the Hebrew people because there were so many of them, and they were very strong. (The Egyptians called Jacob's descendants, Hebrews.) Because he was afraid the Hebrews would join Egypt's enemies and fight against Egypt, the king decided to make them slaves. A slave is a person who is owned by another person.

The Egyptians made the Hebrews work very hard. The Hebrew's were shepherds, but Pharaoh forced them to construct cities and great buildings. They also were forced to work on Egyptian farms. They tilled the soil, planted the seeds, and harvested the crops. The Egyptians treated them ruthlessly. Ruthless means to be without pity or compassion. The cruel Egyptians beat them if they did not work fast enough. They made the Hebrews carry heavy loads and beat them if they were too weak or tired to carry them.

The descendants of Jacob were very sad. There was nothing to be happy about. Their lives were very hard. They had lost hope and they thought they would be slaves forever. When they woke up each morning they had nothing to look forward to except hard work and cruel beatings. They were afraid that God had forgotten them—that he had forgotten his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Remember, God had promised to be their God. He had promised that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be as numerous as the sands of the sea and the stars in the sky. God had promised that he would make them a great nation and that the land of Canaan would be their home forever.

But God had not forgotten his people or his promises. He always keeps his promises. In fact, he had already fulfilled the promise to greatly multiply the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Although the Egyptians were doing something very evil to the Hebrews, the Lord was using it for good. He was using their trouble to make the descendants of Jacob into a great nation. That was all part of God's plan.

God was not surprised when the Egyptians made the Hebrews slaves. Hundreds of years before, the Lord said to Abraham, *"Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in*

EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions” (Genesis 15:13-14). God says, “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purposes...’” (Isaiah 46:10). The Lord was watching the evil things the Egyptian’s were doing to his people. He would not leave them as slaves forever. He would use a man called Moses to free his people from the power of the evil Egyptian king.

QUESTIONS

1. Did the new king of Egypt remember Joseph and all the good things he had done for Egypt? (No, the new king of Egypt did not remember Joseph or the good things he had done.)
2. Why did the king fear the Hebrews? (The king feared the Hebrews because there were too many of them and they were too strong. He was afraid they would join Egypt’s enemies and fight against Egypt.)
3. What did the king of Egypt do to the Hebrew people? (The king of Egypt made the Hebrews slaves.)
4. Was life happy for the Hebrew slaves? (No, life was not happy for the Hebrew slaves.)
5. Why was life not happy for the slaves? (Life wasn’t happy for the slaves because they were beaten. They were not free.)
6. Who did the descendants of Jacob think had forgotten them? (The descendants of Jacob thought the Lord had forgotten them.)
7. Had the Lord forgotten them? (No, the Lord had not forgotten them.)
8. Did the Lord see the evil the Egyptians were doing to his people? (Yes, the Lord saw the evil the Egyptians were doing to his people.)
9. Did the Lord plan to punish the Egyptians for the evil they were doing? (Yes, the Lord planned to punish the Egyptians for the evil they were doing.)
10. What did the Lord know that the Hebrews did not know? (The Lord knew he would deliver them from the evil Egyptian king. He would not leave them slaves forever. He would judge Egypt and deliver his people.)

DAY TWO

The king of Egypt ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:15-22

Even though the king of Egypt made the Hebrews slaves, he was still afraid of them. Even though the descendants of Jacob were slaves, the Lord had kept his promise and multiplied their numbers as the sand of the sea and stars of the sky. The more the Egyptians oppressed the Hebrews, the more their numbers increased. Oppressed means to crush by harsh rule or to rule someone with cruelty.

The king of Egypt was afraid that the Hebrews would become so numerous that they would

EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

rebel and defeat the Egyptians. The king had a plan to stop the Hebrew people from growing and growing. He planned to kill all the newborn Hebrew boys. The king called two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah to come before him. A midwife is a woman who helps mothers when it is time to give birth. The king commanded Shiphrah and Puah to kill any Hebrew babies that were boys but they should let the baby girls live. This was an evil law.

"But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live" (Exodus 1:17). To fear God is to honor him and his laws as holy. The Lord gave Shiphrah and Puah strength to fear him and his laws more than Pharaoh and his evil law. The Lord made Shiphrah and Puah understand that if they killed the Hebrew baby boys they would be an enemy of God and that it would be better to be an enemy of Pharaoh than it would be to be an enemy of God.

When the king of Egypt demanded the reason why Shiphrah and Puah let the baby boys live, Shiphrah and Puah said, "Because the Hebrew women give birth to their babies before the midwife comes to them." Because Shiphrah and Puah proved they feared God by obeying him, "God dealt well with the midwives. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families" (Exodus 1:20, 21).

God had used the midwives to save the Hebrew baby boys, but the king of Egypt still wanted to kill the baby boys. So he made a new plan. *"...Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live'"* (Exodus 1:22). The Nile was the great river that flowed through the country of Egypt. The Nile River was full of crocodiles and deadly snakes. No baby could be thrown into the Nile River and live. Only God could save the baby boys from such a dangerous river.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the king of Egypt still afraid of the descendants of Jacob? (The king of Egypt was afraid of Jacob's descendants because they became more numerous. He was afraid they would rebel and defeat Egypt.)
2. What was the king's plan to stop the Hebrew population from growing? (The king planned to kill all the newborn baby boys to keep the Hebrew population from growing.)
3. What were the two midwives names? (Shiphrah and Puah were the names of the two midwives)
4. Did Shiphrah and Puah fear God or the king of Egypt? (Yes, Shiphrah and Puah feared God.)
5. How did they show that they feared God? (Shiphrah and Puah showed their fear of God by obeying God and did not kill the Hebrew baby boys.)
6. Who gave Shiphrah and Puah strength and faith to do what was right in God's sight? (God gave Shiphrah and Puah the strength and faith to do what was right in his sight.)
7. Did God keep Shiphrah and Puah safe when they obeyed him rather than the king? (Yes, God kept Shiphrah and Puah safe when they obeyed him.)
8. Because Shiphrah and Puah feared God, what did he give them? (God gave Shiphrah and Puah families.)
9. What was Pharaoh's new plan to kill the baby boys? (Pharaoh's new plan to kill the baby boys was he commanded they be cast into the Nile River.)

EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY THREE

The mother of Moses made plans to save his life.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:22 – 2:4

It was a terrifying and sad time for the Hebrew people. They were God's chosen people but now they had been enslaved by Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Even worse, Pharaoh feared and hated God and his people so much that he wanted to destroy them. Destroy means to put an end to; to do away or to kill. Pharaoh had ordered that all the newborn Hebrew boys be thrown into the Nile River. The Hebrew mothers and fathers hid their baby boys hoping that the evil Egyptians would not find them and throw them into the Nile.

Now there was a Hebrew woman named Jochebed who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. When Jochebed held her little boy, he was so sweet, cuddly, and soft. All mothers and fathers think their babies are very special, but when Jochebed and her husband Amran looked at their new baby boy, they knew he was special. In fact, the Bible says that their baby *"was beautiful in God's sight"* (Acts 7:20). They remembered the stories that had been passed down from generation to generation about the promise the one true God had made to Abraham. They had heard that the Lord had told Abraham, *"Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions"* (Genesis 15:13-14). Jochebed and Amran knew that the Hebrew people had been slaves in Egypt for close to four hundred years. They knew it must be growing close to the time that the Lord would send the deliverer to free them. Could this baby be the one God would send to free them from the wicked Egyptians?

Jochebed and Amran were very afraid for their little baby. They knew if the Egyptians found out about their baby boy, they would come, and take him, and throw him into the Nile River. So Jochebed and Amran hid their baby for three months. But babies do not stay little, and they do not stay quiet. The older Jochebed's baby became, the louder he cried when he wanted something. Every time he cried Jochebed and Amran were so afraid an Egyptian would hear him and take their baby boy. Soon it was impossible to hide him any longer. How could she save him?

When Jochebed could not hide her baby any longer, she made a basket of bulrushes taken from the Nile River. Bulrushes are tall plants found in wet places. She covered the basket with tar so it would float on the water. Tar is a thick and sticky black substance. Then she lovingly put her precious baby boy into the basket, placed the basket among the reeds by the river bank, and trusted God to take care of him. (Reeds are tall slender grass.) Jochebed and Amran knew they could no longer protect their beautiful baby boy from the wicked Egyptians, but they knew who could—God! God had given them faith to trust this baby they loved so much to his care.

After Jochebed placed her baby boy among the reeds, her little daughter, Miriam, stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to her baby brother. Miriam must have loved her baby brother very much. She did not want him to be hurt. She was not strong, but she would try to make sure he was safe. She would be brave and chase away any snakes or crocodiles that came near to the basket. Would the Lord watch over this baby boy? Would he be rescued from the Nile River and the evil Egyptians?

EXODUS PRIMARY 1-3 LESSONS

Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

QUESTIONS

1. What had Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to do when they found a new born Hebrew baby boy? (Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to throw the babies into the Nile River.)
2. Did Pharaoh love God and God's people? (No, Pharaoh did not love God or God's people.)
3. Did Jochebed and Amran think their baby boy might be special? (Yes, Jochebed and Amran thought their baby boy was special.)
4. How long had God told Abraham that the Hebrew people would be slaves? (God told Abraham the Hebrew people would be slaves for four hundred years.)
5. Was it growing near to the time God had promised to free the Hebrew slaves? (Yes, the Hebrews had been in Egypt for close to four hundred years.)
6. When Jochebed's baby grew too big to hide anymore, what did Jochebed do? (Jochebed made the baby a basket of bulrushes taken from the Nile River. She covered the basket with tar so it would float on the water. Then she lovingly put her precious baby boy into the basket and placed the basket among the reeds by the river.)
7. When Jochebed and Amran could not protect their baby boy anymore, who did they trust to protect him? (Jochebed and Amran trusted the Lord to protect their baby boy.)
8. Who watched the basket from a distance? (Miriam watched the basket from a distance.)
9. Who was powerful enough to make sure baby Moses was safe? (God was powerful enough to keep baby Moses safe.)

DAY FOUR

Moses was rescued by the daughter of the king of Egypt.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:5-10

Miriam was standing at a distance watching the basket that contained her baby brother. She knew her mother and father trusted that the Lord would protect him. So Miriam stayed close to see how God would save her little baby brother.

"Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river" (Exodus 2:5). As she was bathing, Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket among the reeds. She was curious to see what was in the basket, so she sent her servant woman to get the basket for her. When Pharaoh's daughter took the basket from her servant, she thought she heard a sound coming from the basket. She wasn't exactly sure what the sound was, but it sounded like a baby crying. When she opened the basket, it was a baby and he was crying. Maybe he was crying because he was hungry, or tired, or just because he didn't like being alone in the basket. But what is certain is that he cried at just the right time. God can do anything, and he wanted the baby to be found by Pharaoh's daughter. God wanted this baby saved because this baby would be the one who would deliver the Hebrew people from their slavery and lead them out of Egypt.

When Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby she knew he was one of the Hebrew children that her father had ordered to be thrown in the river. Pharaoh's daughter was not like her father. When she looked at the helpless Hebrew baby she took pity on him. Pity means a sympathetic feeling for the sufferings or distress of others. God worked in her heart so she

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Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

would not hate this little boy, but would love him, and keep him safe. Because she wanted to keep this baby safe Pharaoh's daughter decided to raise him as her own son.

Miriam had been watching what would happen to her brother. She watched when Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe. She watched when Pharaoh's daughter discovered the basket and opened it. Miriam was so afraid Pharaoh's daughter would see the baby and cast him into the river. Miriam watched Pharaoh's daughter very carefully when she discovered the baby inside the basket. Miriam could tell by the way that Pharaoh's daughter looked at her baby brother that she liked him and was concerned about him.

Miriam had an idea. She knew that her brother would need someone to feed and take care of him for Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam bravely walked over to Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam said, *"Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"* And Pharaoh's daughter said, *"Go"* (Exodus 2:7, 8). Miriam knew who could feed and take care of her baby brother—her mother! So Miriam ran home as fast as her legs would carry her. She ran into the house calling, *"Mother, mother, come quickly."* Miriam and her mother, Jochebed, hurried back to the river.

When Jochebed came to Pharaoh's daughter, *"Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages'"* (Exodus 2:9). Pharaoh's daughter named the baby *"Moses because she...had drawn him out of the water"* (Exodus 2:10). Jochebed and Miriam joyfully took baby Moses home. As they walked toward their house, they must have been thanking and praising the Lord for saving baby Moses. Jochebed fed and cared for Moses until he was old enough to go and live in the palace with Pharaoh's daughter. Over and over again Jochebed must have told Moses the wonderful story of how their faithful Lord saved him from the river.

QUESTIONS

1. Who came to the river to bathe? (Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river.)
2. What did Pharaoh's daughter discover among the reeds? (Pharaoh's daughter discovered the basket among the reeds.)
3. Was the baby boy sleeping or crying when Pharaoh's daughter found him? (The baby boy was crying when Pharaoh's daughter found him.)
4. Who made sure that the baby cried at just the right time, so Pharaoh's daughter would find him? (The Lord made sure the baby cried at just the right time.)
5. Was Pharaoh's daughter like her father? Why or why not? (No, Pharaoh's daughter was not like her father. She wanted to save the baby, not throw him into the river.)
6. Because Pharaoh's daughter wanted to keep the baby safe, what did she decide to do? (Pharaoh's daughter decided to raise him as her own son.)
7. Why did God save the baby's life? (God saved the baby's life because this baby was the one who he had sent to save his people from slavery in Egypt.)
8. What did Pharaoh's daughter name her baby? (Pharaoh's daughter named her baby Moses.)
9. Who took care of Moses until he was old enough to live with Pharaoh's daughter? (Jochebed, Moses' mother took care of him until he was old enough to live with Pharaoh's daughter.)

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

QUESTIONS

1. What had Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to do when they found a new born Hebrew baby boy? (Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to throw the babies into the Nile River.)
2. Did Pharaoh love God and God's people? (No, Pharaoh did not love God or God's people.)
3. Did Jochebed and Amran think their baby boy might be special? (Yes, Jochebed and Amran thought their baby boy was special.)
4. How long had God told Abraham that the Hebrew people would be slaves? (God told Abraham the Hebrew people would be slaves for four hundred years.)
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5. Was Pharaoh's daughter like her father? Why or why not? (No, Pharaoh's daughter was not like her father. She wanted to save the baby, not throw him into the river.)
6. Because Pharaoh's daughter wanted to keep the baby safe, what did she decide to do? (Pharaoh's daughter decided to raise him as her own son.)
7. Why did God save the baby's life? (God saved the baby's life because this baby was the one who he had sent to save his people from slavery in Egypt.)
8. What did Pharaoh's daughter name her baby? (Pharaoh's daughter named her baby Moses.)
9. Who took care of Moses until he was old enough to live with Pharaoh's daughter? (Jochebed, Moses' mother took care of him until he was old enough to live with Pharaoh's daughter.)

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY FIVE

Moses fled from Egypt when Pharaoh sought his life.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:11-15

The baby that Pharaoh's daughter had found in the basket among the reeds of the Nile River had grown up to be a strong and intelligent man. For many years Moses had lived in Pharaoh's palace with his adoptive mother. During that time his adoptive mother, Pharaoh's daughter, had made sure Moses *"was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians."* Moses had become *"mighty in his words and deeds"* (Acts 7:22).

"When Moses was forty years old," God put it into Moses' heart "to visit his brothers, the children of Israel" (Acts 7:23). As a little boy, Moses' parents must have told Moses how the Lord had saved him from the river. They must have told him he was a special child; that the Lord had saved him for a reason. Jochebed and Amran believed God intended to use Moses to deliver their people from the cruel Egyptians. Surely, they told Moses what they believed.

It seems that over the years Moses may have forgotten his parents' words. He must have loved living in Pharaoh's palace. It was so much better than being a slave. He loved learning, and he loved being important. After all, he was the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Everyone must have treated him with great respect and honor.

But Moses began to think about the Hebrew people—his people. So one day he decided to go out and see what their lives were like. What he saw made him sad and angry. His people were slaves and he saw that the Egyptian taskmasters oppressed and treated the Hebrews harshly. The word oppressed means to crush by harsh rule; to rule with cruelty.

Moses had to make a decision. He had to decide if he would remain with the cruel Egyptians—a people who hated God and his people, or if he would go back to his own people, the Hebrews. The Hebrew people were the children of Israel. They were the people of God. Would Moses choose the God haters, or the God lovers? The Bible tells us that *"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin"* (Hebrews 11:24). Moses wanted to help his people. He would choose to follow God, not Pharaoh. He believed the Lord had saved him from the Nile River and put him in Pharaoh's palace, so he could save his people from the cruel Egyptians.

One day, when Moses *"saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people, he looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand"* (Exodus 2:12). Moses thought the Hebrews would understand that he was going to deliver them from slavery. He thought they would be glad he was coming to save them from the cruel Egyptians. But the Hebrews did not understand this. When Moses went out the next day to visit the Hebrew people, he saw two Hebrews fighting. When he tried to stop the fight, one of the men pushed Moses aside and said, *"Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday"* (Acts 7:27, 28). Then Moses was afraid and thought, *"Surely the thing is known"* (Exodus 2:14); and it was known! Moses knew Pharaoh would condemn him to death for killing an Egyptian, so Moses fled from Egypt. He ran into the desert wilderness where no one could find him, and after many days Moses came to the land of Midian.

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Primary 1-3 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

QUESTIONS

1. How old was Moses when he decided to visit his people? (Moses was forty years old when he decided to visit his people.)
2. Where was Moses living when he decided to visit his people, the children of Israel? (Moses was living in the palace of Pharaoh when he decided to visit his people.)
3. Who do you think put it in Moses heart to visit the children of Israel? (The Lord put it in Moses' heart to visit his people.)
4. Was Moses angry or happy when he saw how the Egyptians treated the children of Israel? (Moses was sad and angry when he saw how the Egyptians were treating the children of Israel.)
5. Were the Egyptian's kind and loving to the children of Israel; or were they mean and cruel? (The Egyptians were mean and cruel to the children of Israel.)
6. Moses had to choose whether he would remain with the cruel Egyptians—a people who hated God and his people, or if he would go back to his own people—the Hebrew people. What did he choose? (Moses chose to go back to be with his people—God's people.)
7. Did Moses believe that God was going to save the Hebrew people from slavery through Moses? (Yes Moses believed that God was going to save the Hebrew people from slavery.)
8. When Pharaoh heard that Moses killed an Egyptian, what did he want to do? (Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses when he heard he had killed an Egyptian.)
9. Where did Moses go when he ran away from Pharaoh? (Moses went to Midian to get away from Pharaoh.)

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

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EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS



Exodus

PRIMARY 4-6 LESSON TEACHER'S GUIDE



PASSAGE

Exodus 1:1 – 2:15



MEMORY VERSE

"The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank" (Exodus 2:2-3).



HYMN

"Trust and Obey," Rafiki Hymnal



DOCTRINE

God uses ordinary people who obey in faith in order to fulfill his plans.



CATECHISM

(FOR MEMORIZATION)

Question What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

LESSON 1: THE SAVING LORD: WHO GENERATES THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH



OUTLINE FOR THE WEEK

Day One

The king of Egypt enslaved the descendants of Jacob.

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-14

Day Two

The king of Egypt ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-22

Day Three

The mother of Moses made plans to save his life.

Scripture: Exodus 1:22 – 2:4

Day Four

Moses was rescued by the daughter of the king of Egypt.

Scripture: Exodus 2:5-10

Day Five

Moses fled from Egypt when Pharaoh sought his life.

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-15

SUGGESTED OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Have the students help you make a basket out of reeds, palm leaves, or any appropriate branches. Bring a baby doll to put in the basket. Have the students retell the true story of how God saved baby Moses from the Nile River.
2. Let the students role play the story of Moses found in Exodus 2:1-15.
3. Draw a mural of the Nile River. Have the students draw baby Moses, the basket, crocodiles, snakes, reeds, Miriam, Jochebed, Pharaoh's daughter, and her servants. Let the students cut out their pictures and glue them to the mural. Talk about how dangerous it was for the baby. Talk about how God watched over him and kept him safe.
4. Bring in bulrushes, cattails, or reeds for the children to examine.

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

5. Plan a work activity. Pile rocks, sweep the walkway, dust and stack books in the shelves, scrub the tables or wash windows, etc. Work alongside the children. Enjoy the project and helping one another. Working with a good attitude pleases God.
6. Activity pages.

DAY ONE

The king of Egypt enslaved the descendants of Jacob.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:1-14

It had been many, many years since the Lord told Jacob to take his family to Egypt. Jacob was dead, Joseph was dead, and all his brothers were dead. When Jacob came to Egypt he brought seventy family members. Now after hundreds of years there were a multitude of Jacob's descendants living in Egypt. The Lord had caused the children of Jacob to increase greatly and grow very, very strong.

"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). He did not remember that Joseph had been a good friend of the Egyptian people—that God had used Joseph to save the Egyptians from the great famine. The king of Egypt was afraid of the Hebrew people because there were so many of them, and they were very strong. (The Egyptians called Jacob's descendants, Hebrews.) Because he was afraid the Hebrews would join Egypt's enemies and fight against Egypt, the king decided to make them slaves.

The Egyptians made the Hebrews work very hard. The Hebrew's were shepherds, but Pharaoh forced them to construct cities and great buildings. They also were forced to work on Egyptian farms. They tilled the soil, planted the seeds, and harvested the crops. The Egyptians treated them ruthlessly. Ruthless means to be without pity or compassion. The cruel Egyptians beat them if they did not work fast enough. They made the Hebrews carry heavy loads and beat them if they were too weak or tired to carry them.

The descendants of Jacob were very sad. There was nothing to be happy about. Their lives were very hard. They had lost hope and they thought they would be slaves forever. When they woke up each morning they had nothing to look forward to except hard work and cruel beatings. They were afraid that God had forgotten them—that he had forgotten his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Remember, God had promised to be their God. He had promised that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be as numerous as the sands of the sea and the stars in the sky. God had promised that he would make them a great nation and that the land of Canaan would be their home forever.

But God had not forgotten his people or his promises. He always keeps his promises. In fact, he had already fulfilled the promise to greatly multiply the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Although the Egyptians were doing something very evil to the Hebrews, the Lord was using it for good. He was using their trouble to make the descendants of Jacob into a great nation. That was all part of God's plan.

God was not surprised when the Egyptians made the Hebrews slaves. Hundreds of years before, the Lord said to Abraham, *"Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions"* (Genesis 15:13-14). God says, *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient*

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purposes...'" (Isaiah 46:10) The Lord was watching the evil things the Egyptian's were doing to his people. He would not leave them slaves forever. He would use a man called Moses to free his people from the power of the evil Egyptian king.

QUESTIONS

1. According to Exodus 1:1-5, who came to Egypt with Jacob? (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher came to Egypt with Jacob.)
2. Which verse states the number of Jacob's descendants that came to Egypt? (Verse five tells us the number of Jacob's descendants that came to Egypt.)
3. What does Exodus 1:7 show about the faithfulness of God? (Exodus 1:7 shows us that God had promised to multiply Israel, and he did.)
4. Why did the king fear the Hebrews? (The king feared the Hebrews because there were too many of them and they were too strong. He was afraid they would join Egypt's enemies and fight against Egypt.)
5. What was Pharaoh's first plan? Did it work? (Pharaoh's first plan was to enslave them and work them very hard in hopes that this would reduce their number. No this did not work, verse twelve says the more they were oppressed, the more they grew in number.)
6. What does it mean to be oppressed? (Oppressed means to crush by harsh rule or to rule someone with cruelty.)
7. What does Genesis 15:13-14 have to do with Exodus 1:1-14? (God had told Abraham that this would happen. He promised to deliver them from slavery and judge those that oppressed them.)

DAY TWO

The king of Egypt ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:15-22

Even though the king of Egypt made the Hebrews slaves, he was still afraid of them. Even though the descendants of Jacob were slaves, the Lord had kept his promise and multiplied their numbers as the sand of the sea and stars of the sky. The more the Egyptians oppressed the Hebrews, the more their numbers increased.

The king of Egypt was afraid that the Hebrews would become so numerous that they would rebel and defeat the Egyptians. The king had a plan to stop the Hebrew people from growing and growing. He planned to kill all the newborn Hebrew boys. The king called two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah to come before him. A midwife is a woman who helps mothers when it is time to give birth. The king commanded Shiphrah and Puah to kill any Hebrew babies that were boys but they should let the baby girls live. This was an evil law.

"But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live" (Exodus 1:17). To fear God is to honor him and his laws as holy. The Lord gave Shiphrah and Puah strength to fear him and his laws more than Pharaoh and his evil law. The Lord made Shiphrah and Puah understand that if they killed the Hebrew baby boys they would be an enemy of God and that it would be better to be an enemy of Pharaoh than it would be to be an enemy of God.

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

When the king of Egypt demanded the reason why Shiphrah and Puah let the baby boys live, Shephrah and Puah, said "Because the Hebrew women give birth to their babies before the midwife comes to them." Because Shiphrah and Puah proved they feared God by obeying him, *"God dealt well with the midwives. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families"* (Exodus 1:20, 21).

God had used the midwives to save the Hebrew baby boys, but the king of Egypt still wanted to kill the baby boys. So he made a new plan. *"...Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live'"* (Exodus 1:22). The Nile was the great river that flowed through the country of Egypt. The Nile River was full of crocodiles and deadly snakes. No baby could be thrown into the Nile River and live. Only God could save the baby boys from such a dangerous river.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the king of Egypt still afraid of the descendants of Jacob? (The king of Egypt was still afraid of the descendants of Jacob because even though they were oppressed they became more numerous. He was afraid they would rebel and defeat Egypt.)
2. What was the king's second plan to stop the Hebrew population from growing? (The king's second plan was to kill all the newborn baby boys.)
3. Why do you think he only wanted the boys killed? (The king only wanted to kill the boys because killing the boys, the Hebrews could not form an army against him or join another nation to fight against him. By keeping the girls, they would become wives of Egyptian men. Soon, there would be no Hebrew people, only Egyptians.)
3. What were the two midwives names? (The name of the two midwives was Shiphrah and Puah.)
4. What does it mean to fear God? (To fear God means to honor or respect God and his laws as holy.)
5. How did they show that they feared God? (The midwives showed they feared God by obeying him and they did not kill the Hebrew baby boys.)
6. Can you think of ways that you have to choose to fear God? (Answers will vary. We choose to fear God by choosing to attend church and not go to a sporting event or game. We choose to fear God by doing our own work in school and not stealing work from classmates or plagiarizing.)
7. According to Exodus 1:19, what did the midwives tell Pharaoh? Did they lie? (The midwives told Pharaoh that the women gave birth before the they arrived. The midwives lied.)
8. Do you think it is ever right to lie? (Answers will vary.)
9. Because Shiphrah and Puah feared God, what did he give them? (God gave Shiphrah and Puah families because they feared him.)
10. What was Pharaoh's third plan to kill the baby boys? (Pharaoh's third plan to kill the baby boys was to have the babies be cast into the Nile River.)

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

Primary 4-6 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY THREE

The mother of Moses made plans to save his life.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:22 – 2:4

It was a terrifying and sad time for the Hebrew people. They were God's chosen people but now they had been enslaved by Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Even worse, Pharaoh feared and hated God and his people so much that he wanted to destroy them. Pharaoh had ordered that all the newborn Hebrew boys be thrown into the Nile River. The Hebrew mothers and fathers hid their baby boys hoping that the evil Egyptians would not find them and throw them into the Nile.

Now there was a Hebrew woman named Jochebed who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. When Jochebed held her little boy, he was so sweet, cuddly, and soft. All mothers and fathers think their babies are very special, but when Jochebed and her husband Amran looked at their new baby boy, they knew he was special. In fact, the Bible says that their baby *"was beautiful in God's sight"* (Acts 7:20). They remembered the stories that had been passed down from generation to generation about the promise the one true God had made to Abraham. They had heard that the Lord had told Abraham, *"Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions"* (Genesis 15:13-14). Jochebed and Amran knew that the Hebrew people had been slaves in Egypt for close to four hundred years. They knew it must be growing close to the time that the Lord would send the deliverer to free them. Could this baby be the one God would send to free them from the wicked Egyptians?

Jochebed and Amran were very afraid for their little baby. They knew if the Egyptians found out about their baby boy, they would come, and take him, and throw him into the Nile River. So Jochebed and Amran hid their baby for three months. But babies do not stay little, and they do not stay quiet. The older Jochebed's baby became, the louder he cried when he wanted something. Every time he cried Jochebed and Amran were so afraid an Egyptian would hear him and take their baby boy. Soon it was impossible to hide him any longer. How could she save him?

When Jochebed could not hide her baby any longer, she made a basket of bulrushes taken from the Nile River. Bulrushes are tall plants found in wet places. She covered the basket with tar so it would float on the water. Tar is a thick and sticky black substance. Then she lovingly put her precious baby boy into the basket, placed the basket among the reeds by the river bank, and trusted God to take care of him. (Reeds are tall slender grass.) Jochebed and Amran knew they could no longer protect their beautiful baby boy from the wicked Egyptians, but they knew who could—God! God had given them faith to trust this baby they loved so much to his care.

After Jochebed placed her baby boy among the reeds, her little daughter, Miriam, stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to her baby brother. Miriam must have loved her baby brother very much. She did not want him to be hurt. She was not strong, but she would try to make sure he was safe. She would be brave and chase away any snakes or crocodiles that came near to the basket. Would the Lord watch over this baby boy? Would he be rescued from the Nile River and the evil Egyptians?

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

Primary 4-6 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

QUESTIONS

1. What had Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to do when they found a new born Hebrew baby boy? (Pharaoh ordered that the Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the Nile River.)
2. From what tribe was Jochabed and Amram? (Jochabed and Amram were from the tribe of Levi.)
3. How long had God told Abraham that the Hebrew people would be slaves? (God told Moses the Hebrews would be slaves for four hundred years.)
4. Compare Exodus 2:2 with Acts 7:20 and Hebrews 11:23. How do these verses point to the truth that God chose Moses for a special work? (These verses tell us that Moses was a fine child; Moses was beautiful to God.)
5. When Jochebed's baby grew too big to hide anymore, what did Jochebed do? (Jochebed made the baby a basket of bulrushes taken from the Nile River. She covered the basket with tar so it would float on the water. Then she lovingly put her precious baby boy into the basket and placed the basket among the reeds by the river. She had Miriam watch to see what would happen.)
6. If you thought your baby would be eaten by crocodiles, would you ask your young daughter to stand on the riverside and watch it happen? (if I thought my baby would be eaten by crocodiles, I would not ask my young daughter to watch it happen.)
7. What insight does this give you about Jochabed's faith? See also Hebrews 11:23. (Jochabed believed that God was going to somehow spare her child.)

DAY FOUR

Moses was rescued by the daughter of the king of Egypt.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:5-10

Miriam was standing at a distance watching the basket that contained her baby brother. She knew her mother and father trusted that the Lord would protect him. So Miriam stayed close to see how God would save her little baby brother.

"Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river" (Exodus 2:5). As she was bathing, Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket among the reeds. She was curious to see what was in the basket, so she sent her servant woman to get the basket for her. When Pharaoh's daughter took the basket from her servant, she thought she heard a sound coming from the basket. She wasn't exactly sure what the sound was, but it sounded like a baby crying. When she opened the basket, it was a baby and he was crying. Maybe he was crying because he was hungry, or tired, or just because he did not like being alone in the basket. But what is certain is that he cried at just the right time. God can do anything, and he wanted the baby to be found by Pharaoh's daughter. God wanted this baby saved because this baby would be the one who would deliver the Hebrew people from their slavery and lead them out of Egypt.

When Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby she knew he was one of the Hebrew children that her father had ordered to be thrown in the river. Pharaoh's daughter was not like her father. When she looked at the helpless Hebrew baby she took pity on him. Pity means a sympathetic feeling for the sufferings or distress of others. God worked in her heart so she would not hate this little boy, but would love him, and keep him safe. Because she wanted to

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

keep this baby safe Pharaoh's daughter decided to raise him as her own son.

Miriam had been watching what would happen to her brother. She watched when Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe. She watched when Pharaoh's daughter discovered the basket and opened it. Miriam was so afraid Pharaoh's daughter would see the baby and cast him into the river. Miriam watched Pharaoh's daughter very carefully when she discovered the baby inside the basket. Miriam could tell by the way that Pharaoh's daughter looked at her baby brother that she liked him and was concerned about him.

Miriam had an idea. She knew that her brother would need someone to feed and take care of him for Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam bravely walked over to Pharaoh's daughter. Miriam said, *"Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"* And Pharaoh's daughter said, *"Go"* (Exodus 2:7, 8). Miriam knew who could feed and take care of her baby brother—her mother! So Miriam ran home as fast as her legs would carry her. She ran into the house calling, *"Mother, mother, come quickly."* Miriam and her mother, Jochebed, hurried back to the river.

When Jochebed came to Pharaoh's daughter, *"Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages'"* (Exodus 2:9). Pharaoh's daughter named the baby *"Moses because she...had drawn him out of the water"* (Exodus 2:10). Jochebed and Miriam joyfully took baby Moses home. As they walked toward their house, they must have been thanking and praising the Lord for saving baby Moses. Jochebed fed and cared for Moses until he was old enough to go and live in the palace with Pharaoh's daughter. Over and over again Jochebed must have told Moses the wonderful story of how their faithful Lord saved him from the river.

QUESTIONS

1. Who came to the river to bathe? (Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe at the river.)
2. What did Pharaoh's daughter discover among the reeds? (Pharaoh's daughter discovered the basket among the reeds.)
3. Was the baby boy sleeping or crying when Pharaoh's daughter found him? (The baby boy was crying when Pharaoh's daughter found him.)
4. From Exodus 2:5-10 and Acts 7:20-22, find evidences of God's sovereign control over baby Moses. (Moses was placed where he would be found by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses cried at just the right time. God softened the heart of Pharaoh's daughter to pity Moses. Moses was a fine baby—very beautiful—which made it difficult for her to let him die. Miriam was near and went to fetch her mother. Moses was nursed by his own mother. Moses grew up with the protection of Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grew up in the palace with the benefits of a great education.)
5. Why did God save the baby's life? (God saved the baby's life because this baby was the one who he had sent to save his people from slavery in Egypt.)
6. Why did Pharaoh's daughter name her baby Moses? (The Pharaoh's daughter named her baby Moses because it means to draw out of the water.)

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

DAY FIVE

Moses fled from Egypt when Pharaoh sought his life.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:11-15

The baby that Pharaoh's daughter had found in the basket among the reeds of the Nile River had grown up to be a strong and intelligent man. For many years Moses had lived in Pharaoh's palace with his adoptive mother. During that time his adoptive mother, Pharaoh's daughter, had made sure Moses *"was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians."* Moses had become *"mighty in his words and deeds"* (Acts 7:22).

"When Moses was forty years old," God put it into Moses' heart *"to visit his brothers, the children of Israel"* (Acts 7:23). As a little boy, Moses' parents must have told Moses how the Lord had saved him from the river. They must have told him he was a special child; that the Lord had saved him for a reason. Jochebed and Amran believed God intended to use Moses to deliver their people from the cruel Egyptians. Surely, they told Moses what they believed.

It seems that over the years Moses may have forgotten his parents' words. He must have loved living in Pharaoh's palace. It was so much better than being a slave. He loved learning, and he loved being important. After all, he was the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Everyone must have treated him with great respect and honor.

But Moses began to think about the Hebrew people—his people. So one day he decided to go out and see what their lives were like. What he saw made him sad and angry. His people were slaves and he saw that the Egyptian taskmasters oppressed and treated the Hebrews harshly.

Moses had to make a decision. He had to decide if he would remain with the cruel Egyptians—a people who hated God and his people, or if he would go back to his own people, the Hebrews. Would Moses choose the God haters, or the God lovers? The Bible tells us that *"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin"* (Hebrews 11:24). Moses wanted to help his people. He would choose to follow God, not Pharaoh. He believed the Lord had saved him from the Nile River and put him in Pharaoh's palace, so he could save his people from the cruel Egyptians.

One day, when Moses *"saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people, he looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand"* (Exodus 2:12). Moses thought the Hebrews would understand that he was going to deliver them from slavery. He thought they would be glad he was coming to save them from the cruel Egyptians. But the Hebrews did not understand this. When Moses went out the next day to visit the Hebrew people, he saw two Hebrews fighting. When he tried to stop the fight, one of the men pushed Moses aside and said, *"Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday"* (Acts 7:27, 28). *"Then Moses was afraid and thought, 'Surely the thing is known'"* (Exodus 2:14); and it was known! Moses knew Pharaoh would condemn him to death for killing an Egyptian, so Moses fled from Egypt. He ran into the desert wilderness where no one could find him, and after many days Moses came to the land of Midian.

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

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Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

QUESTION

Write a short account of Moses' first attempt to help the Israelites. Use Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:23-29; Hebrews 11:24-26 for reference. (Answers will vary.)

EXODUS PRIMARY 4-6 LESSONS

Primary 4-6 Lesson Teacher's Guide
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

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EXODUS ADULT LESSONS



Exodus ADULT LESSON

PASSAGE
EXODUS 1:1 – 2:15

MEMORY VERSE
“THE WOMAN
CONCEIVED AND BORE
A SON, AND WHEN
SHE SAW THAT HE
WAS A FINE CHILD,
SHE HID HIM THREE
MONTHS. WHEN SHE
COULD HIDE HIM NO
LONGER, SHE TOOK
FOR HIM A BASKET
MADE OF BULRUSHES
AND DAUBED IT WITH
BITUMEN AND PITCH.
SHE PUT THE CHILD
IN IT AND PLACED IT
AMONG THE REEDS
BY THE RIVER BANK”
(EXODUS 2:2-3).

DOCTRINAL FOCUS
THE LORD WHO
SAVES USES UNLIKELY
INSTRUMENTS TO
ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN
AND PURPOSE BY
GENERATING WITHIN
THEM THE OBEDIENCE
OF FAITH.

CATECHISM
QUESTION: WHAT
OFFICES DOES CHRIST
EXECUTE AS OUR
REDEEMER?
ANSWER: CHRIST,
AS OUR REDEEMER,
EXECUTES THE OFFICES
OF A PROPHET,
OF A PRIEST, AND
OF A KING, BOTH
IN HIS ESTATE OF
HUMILIATION AND
EXALTATION.

Lesson 1: The Saving Lord: Who Generates the Obedience of Faith

Days One, Two and Three

Read Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

In the book of Exodus, Moses continued the story he began in Genesis, quickly transitioning from ancient history to current events. After briefly reminding God’s people of their humble beginnings in Egypt and subsequent increase in numbers and strength, he zeroed in on their present condition. At the time Moses spoke, the people were no longer in Egypt. They were struggling in the desert on their way to the land God had promised them. Their lives had been difficult for a very long time, and most of them were indulging a self-absorbed mindset. Moses saw their great need for a perspective adjustment. So he directed their attention to *God’s* plan and purpose for them as a nation.

He affirmed that they were God’s treasured possession, a peculiar people chosen wholly by God’s grace to reveal God to the nations and represent the nations before God. They had been selected, through no merit of their own, to mediate God’s plan of redemption in his fallen world. They were, in essence, a nation of priests. Michael D. Williams (2005) in *Far As The Curse Is Found*, says that in order to fulfill that mandate, Israel had to be holy—separate but not separated from the other nations, distinct in their orientation to God. “What God is should be seen in how Israel lives. . . . As a nation among the nations, Israel gives living embodiment of God’s rule, a flesh-and-blood example of what it means to serve God with full devotion” (Williams, 2005, pg.139).

Moses encouraged the people of God to shift their eyes from their circumstances to the One who had ordained those circumstances. He showed them that their God had orchestrated every event in their lives since Joseph’s death, and in doing so, had revealed himself to be the Lord who saves by his power, rules by his prerogative, and dwells with his people in passionate presence.

The Lord who saves is highlighted in Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage; the Lord who rules is featured in the Law-giving at Sinai; and the Lord who dwells with his people is accented in the instructions for building the Tabernacle. Our lessons in Exodus devote three studies to each of these aspects of Israel’s Lord, who is, of course, our Lord as well. We begin by examining what Moses wrote about the Lord who saves: In the next few lessons, we will see that he generates within his people the obedience of faith, that he overthrows the gods of Satan, and that he delivers his people from bondage.

Frances Schaeffer pointed out in “*No Little People, No Little Places*,” that

EXODUS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

“much can come from little if the little is truly consecrated to God” (quoted in Ryken 109). Moses will show us in Exodus 1:1 – 6:13 that his own true consecration to God had not come from human ability and effort exercised in the comfort of pleasant circumstances. It came when the Lord who saves used the stress of discomfort to generate the *obedience of faith* within Moses for the purpose of accomplishing his purpose of delivering his people.

As Exodus opens, God is preparing to fulfill his ancient promise to Abraham: “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. . . . And they shall come back here in the fourth generation. . . .” (Genesis 15:13-16). Much of God’s preparation to fulfill this promise involved equipping key people to be used as his instruments.

God instilled fear in the heart of “*a new king over Egypt*” who looked at the burgeoning population of Hebrews in his nation and fretted that “*if war breaks out*” they will “*join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land*” (Exodus 1:8,10). Insecurely perceiving them as a great threat, he lashed out ruthlessly. He oppressed the Hebrews with “*hard service, in mortar and brick, and all kinds of work in the field,*” (Exodus 1:13-14) and instructed the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, to kill all male babies whom they delivered. These two women, however, were strengthened by God to fear him more than they feared Pharaoh and to obey him in faith. They refused to kill Hebrew male babies, boldly extolled the strength of Hebrew women when questioned by Pharaoh, and were rewarded by God with their own families.

Having failed with the midwives, Pharaoh commanded all his people to seek out Hebrew male babies and toss them into the Nile. Almost humorously, God proceeded to use Pharaoh’s very own words and his very own daughter to raise up the man God had chosen to save God’s very own people. When his mother could not hide him any longer from marauding Egyptians, she obeyed God in faith by complying with the letter of Pharaoh’s order. She placed her “*fine child*” in a basket and consigned him to the Nile. There he was rescued by the Princess in seemingly open defiance of her father’s command and, at the suggestion of the baby’s big sister, was given back to his mother to nurse under royal protection.

Moses’ mother no doubt fed her son on the milk of God’s Word along with the milk of her breasts. Stephen tells us in Acts 7:23-25 that Moses, although reared in Pharaoh’s household as an Egyptian, considered the children of Israel to be his brothers—and apparently saw himself as their deliverer. He did not hesitate to spring to the defense of an abused Hebrew, murdering his Egyptian abuser and burying him in the sand. Then he was surprised when his fellow Hebrews scorned him for doing so.

Moses had taken matters into his own hands, relying on his own status, ability, strength, and influence to preempt God’s timing and execute God’s plan prematurely. Moses was not obeying God in faith. He was running ahead of God in self-assertion. Consequently, he failed miserably. He was not yet ready to deliver God’s people and lead them to Canaan. So God graciously sent him to Midian to learn a few much-needed leadership lessons.

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Ryken, P. *Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory. Preaching the Word Series*, R. Kent Hughes (Ed.) Crossway Books, 2005, p. 91.
Williams, M. *Far As the Curse Is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption*. P&R Publishing, 2005, p. 109.

Days Four and Five

1. Study the following passages. Then describe “the obedience of faith” and explain how Scripture reveals it to be the kind of obedience that most glorifies God.

Acts 6:7; Romans 1:1-6; 6:15-23; 15:17-20; 16:25-27; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:7;
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 5:6-9; 1 John 5:4-5

EXODUS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

2. Carefully consider Paul's teaching in the following passages. According to his teaching, what is the **source of** and the **motivation for** the obedience of faith?
1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16; 2 Corinthians 3:4-6; 4:1-7, 16-18; 5:17; Philippians 3:3 – 4:1; 4:12-13, 19-20
3. How does Paul's display of the obedience of faith, as evidenced in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, the opposite of Moses' first attempt at leadership? (See Acts 7:17-29.) What does this tell you about the consistency of God's dealings with his people throughout the ages?

Days Six and Seven—For the Staff Meeting

1. Sing "Trust and Obey," *Rafiki Hymnal*.
2. John Calvin said, "Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. . . . It is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself" (quoted in Ryken 91). How do you see the truth of this statement reflected in the opening chapters of Exodus—both in a general sense and specifically in the lives of the midwives, Moses' family, and Moses himself?

EXODUS ADULT LESSONS

Adult Lesson
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

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EXODUS HOME DEVOTION PAGES

Home Devotion Page
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

EXODUS LESSON 1: THE SAVING LORD: WHO GENERATES THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH (EXODUS 1:1 – 2:15)

MEMORY VERSE:

“The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank”
(Exodus 2:2-3).

DAY ONE: READ EXODUS 1:1-14.

Principle/Lessons: God always remembers his promises to his people even though we sometimes forget those promises.

Questions: How can you learn to remember the promises and the answered prayers that God has done for you? Why is it important to remember God’s goodness?

DAY TWO: READ EXODUS 1:15-22.

Principle/Lessons: People who do not know or trust God will often do evil because they don’t love and fear (honor and respect) God.

Questions: What would you do if someone told you to disobey God?

DAY THREE: READ EXODUS 1:22 – 2:4.

Principle/Lessons: God sometimes tests us to see if we will do the right thing in obeying him even if it goes against man’s laws.

Questions: Have you ever faced a time when you had to choose to obey God or man? How did you handle this situation and how did it make you feel?

DAY FOUR: READ EXODUS 2:5-10.

Principle/Lessons: God makes all things work together to accomplish his good plans and purposes.

Questions: In what ways do you see God at work in accomplishing his will for baby Moses? How has God accomplished good in your own life for his purposes?

DAY FIVE: READ EXODUS 2:11-15.

Principle/Lessons: God uses events in our lives that bring about his perfect will even though these events sometimes seem to be contrary to God’s laws.

Questions: What would you do—choose the hard thing by obeying God or do the easier by disobeying God? How do you see God using and protecting Moses for God’s future work in saving the Israelites?

DEVOTIONAL POINTS:

The Israelites were slaves enduring very cruel and harsh treatment in Egypt. But under such terrible conditions, God was at work to accomplish the goal of saving his people. God challenged his people to make tough decisions that sometimes even disobeyed the laws of the land to do and accomplish his will—midwives lying, Moses’ mother hiding then floating the baby down the river, Moses’ sister watching the baby, Moses running away. This reminds us how much God protects and provides for us to do his good work.

CATECHISM: (FOR MEMORIZATION):

Question: What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

EXODUS HOME DEVOTION PAGES

Home Devotion Page
Exodus 1:1 – 2:15

HYMN:

Trust and Obey

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Ex. 19:5

Capo 3: F (D) C (A) F (D) C (A) F (D)

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word,
2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
4. But we never can prove the delights of his love
5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,

Bb(G) F(D) C(A) F(D) C7(A7) F(D)

what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will,
but his smile quickly drives it away; not a doubt or a fear,
but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief nor a loss,
until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows,
or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do,

C(A) F(D) Bb(G) F/C(D/A) C7(A7) F(D)

he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.
not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.
and the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.
where he sends we will go, never fear, on - ly trust and obey.

REFRAIN C(A) F(D) D(B) Gm(E m)

Trust and obey, for there's no other way

C7(A7) F(D) F/C(D/A) C7(A7) F(D)

to be happy in Je - sus, but to trust and obey.

John H. Sammis, 1887

TRUST AND OBEY 6.6.9.D.ref.
Daniel B. Towner, 1887

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