

Year **2**

Quarter 4

God Is in Control

Family Devotional

**Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You
established the earth, and it abides.—Psalm 119:89–90**



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 1 • Quarter 4 • Family Devotional

Second Edition

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Answers Bible Curriculum* family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,

when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

To use this guide, we suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller sections.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and He delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that His wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



1 Isaac and Rebekah

Lesson Summary

By the opening of Genesis 24, Abraham's beloved wife Sarah had died (Genesis 23). Abraham was experiencing the blessings of wealth promised by God. However, though God had promised that Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5), Isaac, the son of promise, had not yet given him any grandchildren.

Abraham knew that God would be faithful to His promise to multiply his descendants through Isaac, and so he sent his servant Eliezer to find a wife for his son. Arriving at the city of Abraham's brother Nahor, the servant prayed to God and acknowledged his dependence in finding the woman he trusted that God had already appointed.

In kindness toward Abraham, God brought along Rebekah. She completely fulfilled the requests of Eliezer's prayer and just "happened" to be one of Abraham's relatives. But there is no accident in these events; rather, they are an example of God's providence and faithfulness to fulfill His promise. God demonstrated His control over all of these affairs—His sovereign hand guiding all of the details. Through all of this, God provided a wife for Isaac, and through this marriage the nation of Israel would come. Their son Jacob would be the father of the 12 tribes that were the foundation of the people who would eventually inhabit the land promised to Abraham.

5. What qualifications did Rebekah have to make her the perfect bride for Isaac?

6. What did the servant do as soon as he realized that God had answered his prayer?

7. What was the response of Laban and Bethuel? Who did they recognize as being behind all of these events?

Isaiah 46:5-11

8. What are the idols of men like? Can they do anything?

9. What is our God like? Can anything thwart His purposes or ruin His plans?

10. What do these verses say about man’s plans? About God’s plans?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 50:19–20 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Prayer

Praise God for His sovereignty—that it is His plans that will be established and come to pass. Thank Him for the peace and comfort that comes from knowing He is in control of all the details of your life. Ask Him for faith to live moment by moment in the knowledge of His sovereignty.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



2 Jacob's Ladder

Lesson Summary

Last week we looked at the amazing way that God provided Rebekah as a wife for Abraham's son Isaac. We saw God's sovereign control of all the details. God's promises continued to be fulfilled through Isaac's offspring, though this time in a much more "messy" way.

Rebekah became pregnant with twins. And while they were still in the womb, God revealed to her that Jacob, not his older brother Esau, would be the son of promise—the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham so long ago. This was not due to any of their works, but by God's gracious, sovereign choice (see Romans 9:11–12).

One day, when the twins were older, Jacob took advantage of Esau's hunger and bought the birthright from him. Later, while Esau was out hunting, Rebekah and Jacob tricked the aged and blind Isaac. Isaac blessed Jacob with the blessing he thought he was giving to Esau. Esau returned from hunting to find his blessing had been taken from him as well. Esau hated Jacob and vowed to kill him, so Rebekah told Jacob to go to her brother Laban in Haran (Padan Aram).

So Jacob left Beersheba for Haran and married Leah and Rachel, Laban's daughters. Jacob had children with both Leah and Rachel, and their maids. God demonstrated His faithfulness by keeping His promises to Jacob. He gave him 11 sons in Haran. Jacob returned to Canaan after 20 years in Haran a very wealthy and prosperous man. But his brother Esau awaited him. We pick up the account of their reunion for our devotional reading this week.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 32:1–12

1. Why would Jacob be afraid to meet his brother Esau?
2. How did Jacob respond to the news of Esau's coming with 400 men? Did this exhibit an attitude of trust in God?
3. What did Jacob ask of God in vv. 9–12? Why did he remind God of His promise to him?

Genesis 32:13–21

4. Why did Jacob prepare such an elaborate gift for Esau?

Genesis 32:22–31

5. Who did Jacob wrestle with? What was the outcome?
6. What might be the significance of his name change from Jacob (“supplanter”) to Israel (“struggled with God”)?
7. Would this encounter with God, and His blessing upon Jacob, have encouraged him as he went to meet Esau?

Genesis 33:1–12

8. How did Jacob approach Esau? What did Esau do when he saw Jacob?
9. This is a wonderful account of a restored relationship. Are there people in your life who are estranged from you? What can you do to bring reconciliation? (See Romans 12:18.)

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 50:19–20 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Prayer

Thank God for His Word, including the accounts of the Old Testament that have been given to instruct and encourage us. Ask Him for the grace and love required to live in harmony with others, and ask Him for the courage to take the initiative in mending broken relationships. Thank God that He has taken the initiative in restoring your broken relationship with Him by sending His Son as payment for sin.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



3 Joseph's Early Life

Lesson Summary

In Genesis 35, God called Jacob to move from Shechem to Bethel. Bethel was the very place God had appeared to Jacob in his vision of the ladder (Genesis 28:12, 28:19).

It was in Bethel that God changed Jacob's name to Israel and again confirmed that he would become a great nation and would inherit the land of Canaan (Genesis 35:1, 35:10–12).

God blessed Jacob with 12 sons—six from Leah, two from Rachel, two from Bilhah (Rachel's maidservant), and two from Zilpah (Leah's maidservant). Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah (Genesis 29:30), and he favored the two sons she bore to him—Joseph and Benjamin—above his other sons. Jacob's obvious favoritism toward Joseph provoked the dramatic and grief-filled accounts of Joseph's early life that we studied this week.

These brothers were part of a blended family—siblings from different parents living together—something we see often in today's culture. The Bible has much to say about how we are to interact and relate with our family members, which can often be a difficult task, especially in families like Joseph's.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 1:26–28, 2:15–25

1. What is God's design for marriage and family?
2. What was God's command to the man and woman (v. 28)?
3. How has the entrance of sin into the world changed family structures? What are some of the effects of sin in our families?

Ephesians 6:1–4

4. What commands are given to children in this passage?

5. What commands are given to fathers?

6. If these commands were consistently obeyed, how would this affect a family?

Ephesians 4:25–5:4

7. List the commands we are given in this passage.

8. Which of these do you need the most help with?

9. How would Joseph's family have benefitted from living as this passage commands? How about your family?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 50:19–20 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Prayer

Thank God for inventing marriage and families. Praise Him for His redeeming love and mercy that shows itself even in our fallen world and in the midst of our sinful lives. Ask Him for grace and strength by His Spirit to live in harmony with our family members, to speak the truth in love, to be compassionate and forgiving, and to live a life of love as Christ did.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



4 Joseph in Egypt

Lesson Summary

Joseph went from a beloved son to a persecuted brother to an honored servant to a falsely accused prisoner to an exalted ruler—all in the space of about 13 years.

The life of Joseph gives us a wonderful glimpse into the workings of our sovereign God to fulfil His plans. These plans worked out through the most unlikely of means: an unfair father, jealous brothers, greedy slave traders, a deceitful woman, crazy dreams, and a pagan pharaoh.

Through all of these circumstances God was with Joseph. God was preparing him for his future and arranging circumstances to preserve the future of God's people—Israel.

At the end these adventures Joseph acknowledged God's hand in it all (Genesis 50:19–20). But do you think Joseph recognized God's hand while sitting in a pit or a prison cell? Perhaps not, but these “bad” experiences were part of God's plan to mold the man and fulfill God's plan. God uses even the evil of men to accomplish His plans.

5. Who was the one who determined beforehand that this would happen to fulfill His plan?

Psalm 115:3, 135:6; Isaiah 46:9-11

6. Whose purposes always come to pass? What does it mean that God does whatever He pleases?

Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28

7. Who works all things according to His plan and together for good for those who love Him? Does “all things” mean everything or just some things?
8. How should we respond to the truth of God’s sovereignty when we encounter trials, temptations, and suffering?

9. How do these passages we looked at relate to Joseph’s life and our memory verse?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 50:19–20 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Prayer

Praise God for His ultimate sovereignty over His creation. Praise Him for His wisdom, goodness, justice, and mercy. Thank Him for the trials and suffering you endure, and ask Him for the faith to trust Him in the midst of your trials as He works all things according to His plan and together for good for those who love Him.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



5 Bondage in Egypt

Lesson Summary

After Joseph died, the Bible tells us that “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8). Joseph was dead, the pharaoh who had elevated Joseph was dead, and now a new pharaoh was reigning who knew nothing of Joseph but who realized that the Israelites living among them were increasing greatly in number.

Because of this pharaoh’s fear, he enslaved the Hebrews and even went so far as to have newborn Israelite boys killed. For hundreds of years, the Israelites worked for the Egyptians and were harshly treated as slaves. In the midst of their burdens, they cried out to God, and He heard them (Exodus 3:23–25).

Sometimes God places us in difficult circumstances; sometimes God seems to be absent and to have forgotten about us. The Hebrews in Egypt no doubt felt like this. But as we saw last week, God has purposes that we don’t always understand. He works in ways that allow evil to prosper, all the while working out His good, perfect plans. And sometimes it takes a long time—years, decades, generations—for His plans to be fulfilled.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 5:32, 6:11–18, 7:6

1. About how old was Noah when God commanded him to build the Ark?

2. About how many years passed before the Flood came? Do you think Noah ever doubted what God had commanded him to do?

Genesis 12:1–4, 17:1–2

3. How old was Abraham when God first spoke with him and promised him descendants?

4. How long did Abraham have to wait until his son Isaac was born? How might he have felt after waiting so long?

Genesis 15:7–14

5. Did Abraham and his descendants inherit the Promised Land during Abraham's life?
6. How long would Abraham's descendants have to wait before they would inherit the land of Canaan?

Hebrews 11:32–39

7. What were some of the trials and tribulations that happened to the saints of old?
8. Did they receive what was promised them (see v. 39)?

1 Peter 1:3–13

9. How are we to live in the midst of trials? Why?

10. What kind of inheritance are we looking for? Will we receive it in this life?

11. Where is all of our hope to be placed?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Genesis 50:19–20 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

Prayer

Praise God for His sovereignty in the midst of our trials and tribulations. Thank Him for our eternal inheritance, reserved for us in heaven. Ask Him for faith to persevere and even rejoice in the midst of trials and suffering. Ask Him for patience to wait upon Him and His timing to work out His good and perfect plan.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Chronology Conundrums

6

Lesson Summary

This week the adults and upper grades watched some video clips that gave archaeological support for many of the biblical events surrounding the time the Israelites spent in Egypt: Abraham in Egypt, Joseph in Egypt, Moses in Egypt, and the Exodus from Egypt.

We know that God is the one who guides all of history, and He has revealed much of that record to us in the Bible. The world often tries to discredit the Bible's accounts of history. And while we may debate about when and how certain biblical events fit into secular historical records, we must never waiver from the understanding that the Bible records true history. We must always be sure that we do not allow secular ideas to take precedence over what the Bible clearly teaches.

What was the attitude of the Lord Jesus toward events of the Old Testament? When one reads the Gospels, it is clear that Jesus viewed it as totally trustworthy. He believed the people actually existed and the events literally occurred. He confirmed the historicity of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, and others. Jesus also confirmed Old Testament historical accounts including creation, the Flood of Noah's day, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Jonah and the great fish. If Jesus believed the Old Testament was a trustworthy account of history, can we do any less?

5. Read the following passages and identify the Old Testament accounts that Jesus confirmed as true history.

- Matthew 5:17–18 –
- Matthew 11:20–24 –
- Matthew 12:3–4 –
- Matthew 12:39–41 –
- Matthew 19:4–6 –
- Matthew 22:29–32 –
- Matthew 23:35–36 –
- Matthew 24:36–39 –



7 God Calls Moses

Lesson Summary

Moses is a key figure of the Old Testament. He is revered by Jews, Muslims, and Christians as a great prophet and lawgiver. And indeed, God did use Moses mightily to lead His people out of bondage in Egypt and through the wilderness. Moses led them for 40 years and gave them God's laws.

But when God first called Moses, he was anything but leadership material. We read in Exodus 3 and 4 of Moses's conversation with God when God called him to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses felt woefully inadequate for the task and put forward many reasons why he wasn't the right man for the job.

We, too, may feel inadequate for the tasks that God has called us to: being a student, spouse, or parent; sharing the good news with others; teaching a Bible study; leading in worship; praying with someone in trial; confronting someone in sin.

And if we feel inadequate . . . we are right where God wants us. That's because our adequacy, our sufficiency, comes from Him, not ourselves.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 15:8–10

1. What was Paul's view of himself?
2. What was it that made Paul who he was?
3. How did Paul labor? What energized him?

2 Corinthians 3:1–6

4. What was Paul's view of himself?
5. From where did his sufficiency come?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Praise God for His strength and faithfulness. Thank Him that He is adequate and sufficient for all things. Ask Him to help you abide in Jesus so that God’s power may be manifested through you as He produces fruit in your lives. Ask God to remove any fear or doubt you may have in fulfilling the tasks that He has called you to.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Plagues and the Passover

8

Lesson Summary

This week we looked at the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. God had promised to make a great nation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob after a period of bondage. He was faithful to fulfill that promise, and the plagues on Egypt were all a part of His plan to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land.

We saw God's sovereign control over the events: He told Moses that Pharaoh would reject His command, and God also hardened Pharaoh's heart to bring about the outcome He had planned. As Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

We also saw God's omnipotence on display as the plagues demonstrated the impotence of the gods worshipped by the Egyptians. Even the magicians serving Pharaoh recognized God's power yet would not submit to Him.

Most importantly, we saw God's provision of salvation from the final plague of death. This foreshadowed the Lamb of God who would come to take away the sins of the world and offer His blood so that God's wrath against sin could be withheld from those who trust in Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 12:1–13

1. What were the requirements for the lamb that was to be sacrificed?
2. Why do you think God might have had the families keep the lamb with them for four days before killing it (vv. 3, 6)?
3. Why were they to be fully clothed and in haste when eating the Passover lamb?

Exodus 12:21–28

4. What were the Israelites to do with the blood of the Passover lamb?
5. What would God do as He passed through the land of Egypt?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Thank God for His wonderful provision of Jesus Christ—the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Ask Him to give you a new and fuller appreciation of the sacrifice of Jesus, and to give you boldness in sharing the good news of the gospel.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



9

The Exodus from Egypt

Lesson Summary

The delivery of the Israelites from Egypt through the Red Sea crossing is one of the great miracles of the Old Testament. Imagine the range of emotions that must have gripped the people as they crossed through the midst of the sea: amazement, fear, joy, wonder, hope

After their deliverance, on the other side of the sea, the people celebrated and rejoiced. Exodus 15 records what is called the Song of Moses. God had triumphed over horse and rider when He allowed the waters that He had parted for the Israelites to roll back and destroy the Egyptian army. The Israelites should have never forgotten, and never failed to remind their children, of God's glorious victory over their enemies.

God is a God of love, but He is also a God of wrath and vengeance. We see this throughout the Old Testament but also in the New Testament, particularly in the book of Revelation (see 2 Thessalonians 1:6–10; Revelation 18:4-8, 19:1–4, 19:11–21).

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 14:30–15:19

1. What are some of the words used to describe God in this song?
2. Do you often think of God as a “man of war” (v. 3)? Why or why not?
3. Is it ever OK to rejoice when our enemy is defeated? Why or why not? Whose enemy were the Egyptians (v. 7)?
4. What would be the response of the surrounding nations to the Exodus from Egypt (vv. 14–16)?
5. How does Moses connect the Red Sea crossing to the promise given to Abraham (v. 17)?

6. What aspect of God is on display in this song?

7. How do we reconcile the wrath and judgment of God with His love and mercy?

8. Read the following passages and discuss what they say about our attitude toward our enemies and how we should respond when the wicked are judged.
 - Proverbs 24:17-18 –

 - Matthew 5:43-45 –

 - Ezekiel 18:23 –

 - Proverbs 11:10 –

 - Psalm 52:1-7 –

 - Psalm 58:10-11 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Praise God that He is the omnipotent, sovereign ruler of the universe. He is a just judge who will mete out vengeance on His enemies. Thank Him that He showed His love and mercy in sending Jesus Christ to die for sinners. Ask Him to give you both a love for your enemies and a desire to see God’s holy name honored.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



10 The Ten Commandments

Lesson Summary

God's Law serves several functions. First, it acts as a mirror reflecting to us both the perfect righteousness of God and our own sinfulness and shortcomings. The Law brings knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, 7:7–11). It shows us our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness, and it acts as our tutor to lead us to faith in Christ (Galatians 3:19–24).

A second function of the Law is to restrain evil. Though the Law cannot change hearts, it can suppress lawlessness by its threats of judgment. God instituted human government to administer punishment for offenses (Genesis 9:5–6; Romans 13:1–5). The civil law secures order and helps to protect people from the unrighteous.

When Jesus walked on earth, He showed us that God is concerned with much more than mere external conformity to the Law; He desires truth in the inward parts.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 5:21–26

1. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not murder?
2. How does Jesus take this commandment further?
3. Have you ever been angry with a brother? Are you now? What does Jesus say you should do about it?

Matthew 5:27–30

4. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not commit adultery?
5. How does Jesus take this commandment further?
6. How seriously are we to take sin?

Matthew 5:33–37

7. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not bear false witness?

8. How does Jesus take this commandment further?

9. What should we do instead of swear or make vows?

Matthew 23:25–28

10. What did Jesus say to the religious leaders of His day?

11. What is the only way that we can “cleanse the inside of the cup”? (See Hebrews 9:13–14; 1 John 1:6–9.)

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Praise God for His holiness, which is reflected in His Law. Thank Him for sending His Son, the only person who fully kept the Law and obeyed God. Confess any sin in your life, and thank Jesus for His sacrifice on the Cross and for the righteousness of Christ that is ours when we trust in Him.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



11

Worship in the Tabernacle

Lesson Summary

Once the Israelites were free from bondage and had received God's Law, God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle—a movable, temporary structure where God would dwell among His people and where they would offer sacrifices to Him. Exodus 35–40 details the construction of the Tabernacle and its furnishings.

To build this structure and the ornate furnishings required much wood, gold, bronze, fabric, yarn, animal skins, and other items. God commanded that the people should give these as a freewill offering, along with their skilled labor. But He only wanted those who were willing to give: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering" (Exodus 25:2).

God had done so much for the Israelites in leading them out of Egypt, providing protection and food for them in the wilderness, and making a covenant with them by giving them His Law. And now the people responded by giving freely of their possessions and talents to worship God.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 35:4–19

1. Who did God want to bring offerings for the Tabernacle?
2. Who did God want to work on the Tabernacle?
3. What does the high quality of the precious materials God required tell us about God?

Exodus 35:20–29

4. What was the attitude of those who presented offerings for the Tabernacle?
5. What did those who spun yarn bring to their task?

Exodus 35:30–36:7

6. How had God equipped and prepared Bezalel and Aholiab for the work of the Tabernacle?

7. In general, how did the Israelites respond to the building of God's Tabernacle?

2 Corinthians 9:5–15

8. Restate this phrase in your own words: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

9. What kind of giver does God love? Are you that kind of giver? Why or why not?

10. How does giving in this way demonstrate our obedience (v. 13)? How does it reflect the way that God gave to us?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Thank God for all He has done for you—be specific. Thank Him for how He has blessed you physically, materially, and spiritually. Ask God for eyes to see opportunities to serve Him and others with the wealth and talents He has blessed you with.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Joshua, Caleb, and the Spies

12

Lesson Summary

Despite God's faithfulness to deliver, provide for, and protect the Israelites, they often complained about their circumstances. In Numbers 11 God consumed many with fire because of their murmurings. Later, many complained about God's provision of manna, recalling the wonderful food they enjoyed in Egypt. God became angry and sent a mind-boggling number of quail to meet the request of the people, but He also sent a plague to judge them "while the meat was still between their teeth" (Numbers 11:31–34).

Not only did the Israelites rebel against Moses, but also Aaron and Miriam sought to overthrow Moses, claiming to be prophets as well (Numbers 12). God judged them for this presumption.

As God was preparing them to enter the Promised Land, the people once again rebelled against God, complained, and failed to trust Him. Of the 12 spies, only Caleb and Joshua trusted God and His promises. They recognized that God had promised to deliver the Promised Land to them and to fight for them. These men had faith in God, and God affirmed that faith.

Are we much different than the Israelites were? Do we complain against God? Do we doubt that God will fulfill the promises He has made to us?

Read and Discuss

1. Read the following passages and discuss what they tell us about complaining and grumbling and our attitude toward God.

- Numbers 14:26–30 –
- Psalm 106:24–27 –
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 –
- Romans 8:28 –
- 1 Timothy 6:6–8 –
- Philippians 4:10–13 –
- Ephesians 5:17–20 –
- Hebrews 13:5 –

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

2. What did the Israelites do that displeased God?
 - Verse 6:
 - Verse 7:
 - Verse 8:
 - Verse 9:
 - Verse 10:
3. What do we need to do so that we don't repeat the errors of the Israelites? How does God help us?

Lamentations 3:19–41

4. What things can we remember when we feel the temptation to complain?

5. Is there any room for complaining in the life of a believer? Why or why not?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Thank God for His mercies that are new every morning. Praise Him for His faithfulness in providing for all of your needs so abundantly. Repent of your lack of trust shown by those times you have complained. Ask Him for grace to bear up under trials with joy and faith.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



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Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We have covered so much in the last two quarters! This week we want to focus on what we've learned about God and His attributes through our study.

Some of the attributes we've seen include God's justice and mercy demonstrated in both judgement and deliverance; God's sovereignty—over both good and evil; God's faithfulness to His promises and His people; God's power over His creation; God's holiness that demands our worship; and His love and goodness demonstrated in all His works.

Let's spend time this week praising our awesome God for who He is and what He had done, and especially for the indescribable gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss which attributes of God are extolled, and join in the author in praising our mighty God.

Psalm 107

Psalm 135

Psalm 150

Romans 11:33–36

Romans 16:25–27

Jude 1:24–25

Revelation 4

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–5a And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”

Prayer

Spend time praising God for who He is, for as many attributes as you can think of. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Thank Him for the great salvation He has provided in Jesus.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:
