

# Master Teacher

## Quarter 4 2022

### Lesson 1

October 2, 2022

Exodus 2:1-10

- 1) Meet a friend for coffee or tea and consider the actions taken by Moses' family. Assess when it is right to obey laws that seem unjust and when it is right to actively disobey unjust laws. How were Moses' parents justified or not justified in their actions? Where do you see God's hand at work in this scene?
- 2) To recognize and name injustices in our own community and global contexts: read a newspaper, church bulletin, program, or listen to the news. Circle or write down examples of injustice you hear. Which ones resonate with you? Determine what just responses to these situations could look like.

### Lesson 2

October 9, 2022

Deuteronomy 32:3-6, 10-14, 18

- 1) Draft the "breach of contract" described in Deuteronomy 32:1-3. What might the "contract" or covenant between God and God's people have included if it were written down? What would be expected, either explicitly or implicitly, from the parties of the covenant?
- 2) Discuss with a friend the following questions: How do the words of Moses' song resonate with you? What positive and negative images does the song evoke? How do you respond to what Moses says?

### Lesson 3

October 16, 2022

Judges 6:1-2, 7-16

- 1) To recognize when our idea of who we are is inconsistent with what God says about our identity: Write a description of how you see yourself. Read Ephesians 1-3 and note what Paul says about our identity in Christ. Record the differences you see between what you wrote about yourself and what God says about you.
- 2) To express wonder and gratitude at God's assessment of our identity and value: Listen to the song "I Am Who You Say I Am." Identify the imagery that the song evokes. Having read Ephesians 1-3, now sing it each day for the week, knowing what God really thinks about you.

### Lesson 4

October 23, 2022

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10:17-24

- 1) Think about the best boss you've ever had. Describe why he or she was so good, and how

his or her qualities impacted the performance and response of the team. Write down what qualities you want to emulate as a leader.

- 2) Compare the benefits of looking to God as sole King and Ruler with following a human king. Discuss with a friend why God's people desired a human king. Consider why God gave them what they asked for.

## **Lesson 5**

**October 30, 2022**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

- 1) Create two lists: (1) qualities people (including Jesse) look for in a leader and (2) qualities God looks for in a leader. Is there any overlap between the lists? What are the differences?
- 2) Consider a popular leader today, either within the church or in the secular world. Compare their lives and words to 1 Samuel 16:6-7, Galatians 5:22-23, and 1 John 4:7-8. In what ways do leaders' lives reflect or distort these values and qualities?

## **Lesson 6**

**November 6, 2022**

**Ephesians 1:1-14**

- 1) Consider Paul's statements about who believers are in Christ. List them on one side of the paper. On the other side, list what their life context (work, home, school, etc.) says about who they are. Which of God's truths about who they are support who they are in their life context? Which conflict directly with what their world tells them? In what ways can they hold on to God's truth in their day-to-day lives?
- 2) Journal about how understanding and accepting God's words about a person's identity impacts one's life and attitude. At the end of the week, list things that have been different because a person is aware of who he or she really is.

## **Lesson 7**

**November 13, 2022**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

- 1) Read Ephesians 1:15-16. Imagine Paul writing these words to you and your church. Name examples of faith in Jesus Christ and love for others that are hallmarks of your congregation. Give thanks to God for the opportunity to do God's work.
- 2) Remember a time when you were part of a group with a clearly defined mission and purpose. Reflect on how that mission and/or purpose impacted the energy and unity of the group. Consider your own life: how was your own sense of call or purpose in life assisted (or not) by the group's defined mission and purpose?

## **Lesson 8**

**November 20, 2022**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

- 1) Draw a picture of your life in Christ as depicted in Ephesians. Give God an opportunity to speak into your heart. Add to your drawing thoughts, pictures, or words that the Spirit impresses on you as you study today's lesson.

- 2) Take inventory of the gifts of God at work in you: mercy, love, life, grace, raised with Christ, faith. What difference do these gifts of God make in your life? How do you show these gifts daily?

### **Lesson 9**

**November 27, 2022**

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

- 1) Write out a definition of the concept of spiritual warfare. Why would Paul use imagery of armor to appeal to his readers? How does the armor he writes about offer protection for Christians facing a hostile environment?
- 2) Imagine putting on a suit of armor, one piece at a time. What kind of fighting does each piece protect you from? Consider the titles and pieces of armor Paul describes. How do these pieces protect you from spiritual attack or struggle? Write down your thoughts and return to reflect on them later this week.

### **Lesson 10**

**December 4, 2022**

**Luke 1:8-20**

- 1) The barren woman motif is well attested in Scripture. Look up and compare some of the experiences of other women in the Bible such as Hannah (1 Samuel 1), Sarah (Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7), and Rebekah (Genesis 25:19-21).
- 2) Theophilus' name means "friend of God" or "beloved of God". Names often carry special meanings like this. Do some research and find out what your name means. You might be surprised at what your name means. If your name is unique, how did your parents decide that this was to be your name? What is your name supposed to signify about your identity?

### **Lesson 11**

**December 11, 2022**

**Luke 1:57-66, 76-79**

- 1) Find blessings/benedictions and research examples of these in the Bible, such as Numbers 6:22-26. Compare vv. 76-79 to those you find.
- 2) Reflect on the memory of the birth of your first child, specifically in regard to the spiritual effects of the event and the hope you held at that time for the future of your child.

### **Lesson 12**

**December 18, 2022**

**Luke 3:2-6, 15-18**

- 1) Compare Matthew 3:7-10 and Luke 3:7-14. What does the Luke passage contain that the Matthew passage does not? What does this difference say about the Gospel of Luke?
- 2) Compare the baptism of John and the baptism of Jesus. How did John's baptism prepare the way for Jesus? How did John's and Jesus' baptism change the lives of people?

## **Lesson 13**

**December 25, 2022**

**Luke 1:46-55**

- 1) Read Mary's Magnificat and identify the feelings she might have felt. Play the song "Breath of Heaven" from Amy Grant's album, *Home for Christmas*. How do the feelings expressed in this song compare with what Mary expresses?
- 2) Review: The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-18), and Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10). Discuss the similarities and differences between those and Mary's song.