

NextGen LEADERS

Online Activities

Quarter 4 2022

Lesson 1

October 2, 2022

Exodus 2:1-10

- 1) Read through the story aloud twice. While reading the story a third time using post-it notes write down the feelings, emotions, and fears Moses' parents might have experienced during his mother's pregnancy and during his early days. After doing so, post the notes on the wall and try to process what it would have been like for Moses' parents as they brought their son into the world.
- 2) Find a news story about the plight of a refugee family or group. As you read the story, refer to the Post-it wall, noting the feelings and fears that apply. Reflect on the role of compassion and empathy play in the willingness of one group to offer refuge to another group experiencing oppression.

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 to the covenant? Conclude by discussing the ways in which God's covenants were different from other kinds of legal contracts.
- 2) Consider three times you experienced ingratitude and three times you were ungrateful. Which was the easier list to make? Why do you think it was the easier list to draft?

Lesson 3

October 16, 2022

Judges 6:1-2, 7-16

- 1) Find and play a song that encourages a strong self-image or celebrates the uniqueness of each human being. Listen to this song throughout the week.
- 2) Using a journal reflect on the times you have felt "small," when the mission before you felt too big, perhaps drawing a caricature of the oversized mission in your journal. Then make a list of all the assets you have to do to accomplish the mission, both within yourself, with people they know or could get to know, in God's wisdom and presence, etc. Consider how these assets help the right-size the mission and ability to undertake it.

Lesson 4

October 23, 2022

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

- 1) Create a jealousy vortex using Post-it notes on which you have written things you wish you had that others around them have. Arrange the Post-its on the wall in a tornado shape to reflect the ways in which jealousy is unproductive and spins out of control, tearing up everything in its path.
- 2) While looking at the tornado on the wall reflect on the opportunities you may have lost while being jealous of others. What relationships have been impacted by your poor attitude? Have you lost any friends due to your jealousy or theirs?

Lesson 5

October 30, 2022

1 Samuel 16:1-13

- 1) With a group of friends, role-play the anointing of David as King from today's story. Discuss the ways in which this story could be contemporary today, such as the selection of a new pastor or other leader.
- 2) After some time for reflection, write yourself a note about how your heart is pleasing to God and where you want to focus on growing to be more like God. Pray blessing the hopes and desires expressed in the note. Put the note in the visible place in your home, car, or workspace to remind yourself of your commitments.

Lesson 6

November 6, 2022

Ephesians 1:1-14

- 1) Google a copy of a famous person's will or download a sample will from a will-making website. Imagine how a family might work together to carry out the wishes of their deceased loved one. How is an inheritance from God different from an inheritance from a person? Celebrate God's miraculous goodness that allows everyone to inherit all God's goodness—nothing must be divided since there is an unlimited supply.
- 2) Select a song to listen to, something like "We are Family" by Sister Sledge. Reflect on biological family and chosen family. Journal on what it means to be family and whether or not biology is the primary factor in relationship.

Lesson 7

November 13, 2022

Ephesians 1:15-23

- 1) . Using newsprint, brainstorm the wisdom that is implied in the phrase ". . . with the eyes of your heart enlightened. . . ." We tend to envision wisdom as a "head" thing. How would "heart" wisdom differ? How can we tell what's wisdom?
- 2) Do some research on the texts that support the author's description of Jesus in verses 20-23 using commentaries, study Bibles, and commentaries.

Lesson 8

November 20, 2022

Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1) . Diagram the logic of the text using large sheets of paper. Use art supplies and stickers or pictures to map the story told in these verses.
- 2) Write a chant or rap using as the basis for it the words of verse 8. Share your creation with a friend or your Bible study group.

Lesson 9

November 27, 2022

Ephesians 6:10-18

- 1) Research the military tactics of Roman armies of the early Christian period. How does understanding these strategies and tactics help us understand the meaning of the text for us today?
- 2) Choose an injustice (or more than one) about which the group feels strongly. With a small group, design a strategy to address this injustice using tactics inspired by the tools God provides. Make plans to enact this strategy individually or as a group as a way of living into the peaceable and just unity God desires.

Lesson 10

December 4, 2022

Luke 1:8-20

- 1) Research various biblical angelic encounters. What are the normative reactions to these experiences?
- 2) Research biblical characters whose birth was foretold by an angel. What is the significance of an angelic visitation? What might you surmise by the presence of an angel about the life to come?

Lesson 11

December 11, 2022

Luke 1:57-66, 76-79

- 1) Journal about the significance of keeping the Law for Elizabeth and Zechariah.
- 2) Write a list of the first things people do in the morning. Next write a list of all the things Zechariah could have done before he praised God, considering he was mute and deaf for months. What would you have done?

Lesson 12

December 18, 2022

Luke 3:2-6, 15-18

- 1) Create an acronym for “REPENT.”
- 2) Jesus’ baptism signaled the beginning of his ministry. Claim your baptism as your call to ministry. How do you live into this call? Answer this question in your spiritual journal.

Lesson 13

December 25, 2022

Luke 1:46-55

- 1) Was Mary sinless? Research historical theologies. What is your church's answer to this question?
- 2) What current events do you believe God's intervention is needed? Reflect on what you can do a Christian to change those issues and events that you listed.