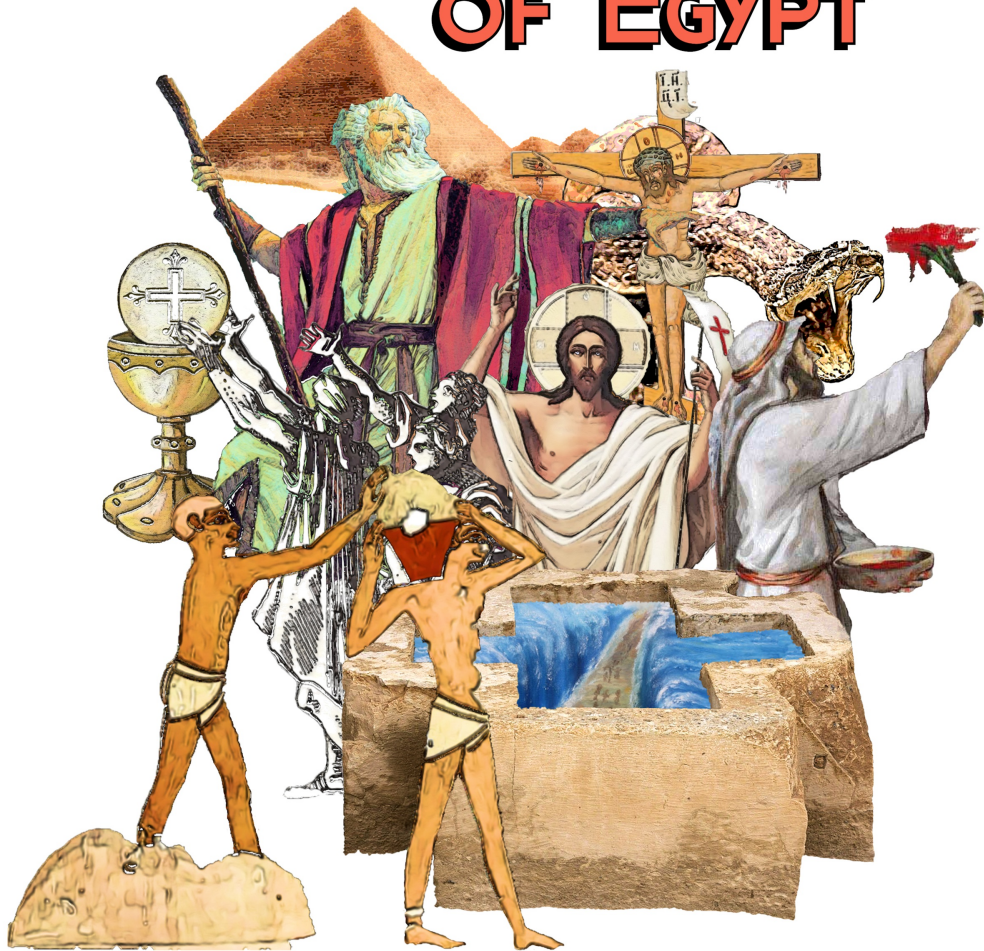


CALLED OUT OF EGYPT



Vacation Bible School

**Sample Packet
for
Called out of Egypt**






Created in Christ

by Pax Domini Press

Introduction

Called out of Egypt is a VBS program by Pax Domini Press on the testimony of Christ in Israel's exodus from Egypt. It is a great VBS to help understand the Christian life using the types and foreshadows of Israel's journey from slavery to redemption.

The outline of the lessons is as follows:

Day	Title	Theme	Passage	Image
1	Enslaved	We are slaves to sin, death, and the devil, and have no ability to free ourselves.	Exodus 1-4	 Lesson One: Enslaved
2	Redeemed	Jesus was the substitute for us and received the wrath of God, causing us to be freed from our sin.	Exodus 5-12	 Lesson Two: Redeemed
3	Baptized	The waters separate us from our slavery, but also wash away all our enemies.	Exodus 13-15	 Lesson Three: Baptized
4	Fed	In the wilderness of this world, the Lord feeds us with His heavenly bread, the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.	Exodus 16	 Lesson Four: Fed
5	Forgiven	In the wilderness of this world, we still sin. We look to the cross of Jesus Christ for our healing.	Numbers 21: 4-9	 Lesson Five: Forgiven

Why is this theme important?

Called out of Egypt teaches several important truths about Christian faith and life. First, it introduces the concept of christocentricity. That is, all the Bible is centered on Jesus Christ. Even the Old Testament reveals Jesus through prophecies, types, foreshadows, and unfolding promises.

The VBS also uses the exodus of Israel as a foundation for understanding the Christian life. The Christian life has a remarkable parallel to the life of Israel as they left Egypt. The New Testament invokes the exodus account for this very purpose. Israel was enslaved in Egypt, redeemed by the Passover lamb, passed through the waters in which their enemies were drowned, lived by heavenly bread in the wilderness, and looked to the bronze serpent for healing. So also are we enslaved to sin, redeemed by the Lamb of God, pass through Holy Baptism, are fed by Holy Communion, and we look to Christ in Holy Absolution for our forgiveness.

How do Pax Domini Programs work?

Pax Domini VBS programs come in electronic files, either on a CD or downloaded from our website at paxdominipress.com. Included in the files are the following:

1. Four levels of workbook material, 20 pages each
 - Level 1, ages 4-5
 - Level 2, ages 6-7
 - Level 3, ages 8-9
 - Level 4, ages 10-12
2. Teachers' editions for each level, with extra material and more guidance for Level 1 material
3. Activity sheets for Level 1 activities and extra materials for other levels if need be
4. Chapel bulletins for each day based on the order of matins
5. Puppet show script for each day
6. Recreation ideas that fit the theme of the program
7. Craft instructions

Pax Domini programs are "do-it-yourself." Everything is included for a congregation with a color copy machine to self-publish the program itself. Rights are given the congregation to produce as many copies as required for the program.

Pax Domini crafts are designed to be durable and made of organic materials, as is fitting our eternal and holy Lord. Materials like wood, glass, ceramic, mosaic pieces, cloth, and plaster are used. Most materials can easily be found at a craft supply store.

Crafts, workbooks, and T-shirts are available at paxdominipress.com for congregations who may not have access to the required supply stores.

Our prices are as follows;

Program	\$150
Workbooks	\$5.99/workbook
Crafts	\$9-\$15/craft
T-Shirts	\$14.50-\$17.50/T-shirt

How do I order?

Go to paxdominipress.com and browse our nine VBS programs, three Sunday School curricula, and other items.

Items can be ordered on a CD and shipped, or downloaded directly from the website.

There are several payment options, including credit card and paypal. Also, the buyer can select to be invoiced with no payment at time of purchase.

Craft

What is the craft?

The craft is a pyramid that opens up into five panels – a base panel and four triangular panels. Each panel corresponds to a theme covered on each of the five days of VBS.



How can a congregation make this craft?

To make this craft, a congregation will need someone to cut out the panels from 1/8" birch plywood on a table saw. The doorposts/lintels and cross from the bronze serpent will also need to be cut out.

The bricks for the Day One panel (Enslaved) are made from salt dough mixed with tan paint and dry grasses, and then shaped in bricks and cooked in a microwave for about a minute.

The rest of the materials can be purchased at a craft supply store or online.

Craft kits may be purchased through Pax Domini Press for \$15.00.

Chapel Service Sample

Wednesday Prayer

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Children: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips.

Children: And my mouth will declare your praise.

from Psalm 106

Pastor: Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea – the Red Sea.

Children: Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, That He might make His mighty power known.

Pastor: He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.

Children: He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

Pastor: The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left.

Children: Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn

Enslaved by Tyrant Enemies [pg. 7]

Scripture Reading

Exodus 14: 21-31

The Apostles' Creed

[back page]

Message

Baptized

Lord's Prayer

Prayers

Benediction

Chapel Hymn

Enslaved by Tyrant Enemies

Tune: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"
(for other tunes, see back of hymnal: L.M.)

Verse 1 (With Day One)

Enslaved by tyrant enemies;
Hear, Oh dear Lord, our humble pleas!
Sin, death, and Satan e'er oppress.
Save us from all their bitterness.

Verse 2 (With Day Two)

Redeemed on that Passover night.
Behold the Lamb, the bloody sight!
His blood from sin now sets us free.
Now ends the devil's tyranny.

Verse 3 (With Day Three)

Baptized through waters all around.
See all our enemies now drowned!
Anew we rise up heavenward,
Singing a new song to the Lord.

Verse 4 (With Day Four)

Fed with the manna from above.
Taste, see the blessings of His love!
Christ is our food and drink indeed.
Upon His flesh and blood we feed.

Verse 5 (With Day Five)

Forgiven in the desert drear.
What joyful hope fills eye and ear!
Jesus is lifted up on high.
Looking to Him we never die.

Puppet Show Sample

Day Four – Fed

[Jessie and Nickolai are up on the stage.]

Jessie: Hey Nickolai. Did you hear the news?

Nickolai: No! What's going on?

Jessie: Everyone went on vacation. No one's in the house. We're here home alone!

Nickolai: You know what that means...

Jessie and Nickolai: PARTY!! Woo hoo! Woo hoo!

Nickolai: This means we can sit up on the couch...

Jessie: ...and lay around all day watching TV...

Nickolai: ...and sleep on the beds with no humans kicking us off...

Jessie: ...and...and...whoa...wait!

Nickolai: What? What's wrong Jessie?

Jessie: What's wrong? What's wrong is, who is going to take care of us?

Nickolai: What do you mean?

Jessie: I mean, who's going to let us out? Who's going to feed us? Who's going to fill our water dish?

Nickolai: I never thought of that. No food! No water! No...oh nooooo...No going out. No peeing or pooping! I'm going to have to hold it forever!

Jessie: It will be like a desert. No food. No water. We'll starve and die of thirst.

Nickolai: [dramatically acting hot and faint] Jessie, don't say such things. I'm already feeling it. The heat is getting to me. I feel faint. I...can't...go...on...

Jessie: Nickolai, we're not going anywhere anyways. You'll be fine for awhile. Just relax. Let's think this through.

Nickolai: You go ahead and think things through, Jessie, I'm going to go forage for food and water. You think the toilet seat is up? There's water there!

Jessie: I checked already. Besides...Ew!

Nickolai: You won't be saying "Ew!" when you're dying of thirst after I've licked the entire bowl clean...OK, you're right...Ew!

Jessie: Nickolai, let's think this through. Do you really think mom and dad would just leave us alone here like in a desert? Do you really think they'd leave us to go hungry and starve? And have no place to go out and do our business? Do you think they'd take the chance that your furry butt would leave little gifts all over the house...again.

Nickolai: I resemble that remark, Jessie!

Jessie: I'm just saying I don't think we may need to worry. I mean, what else do we know about mom and dad?

Nickolai: I don't know. That it's not like them to just leave us alone in a desert with no food or water?

Jessie: And why is it not like them to do that?

Nickolai: Because they love us?

Jessie: That's right! They love us! They haven't forgotten about us. They will make sure we have food and drink. I bet they have someone set up to come over and feed us, give us water, and let us out. I bet it might even be Alexandria. You remember her, don't you?

Nickolai: Alexandria! She's the one who loves scratching me behind the ears and thumping my belly! I love her!

Jessie: See, Nickolai! Mom and dad love us and have not abandoned us. They will make sure we're taken care of.

Nickolai: You know, the children today are learning about the people of Israel being in a desert. I bet they also got afraid and thought they would die from having no food or water.

Jessie: Right! But God took care of them. He gave them water from the rock and the manna from heaven. And why did God take care of them?

Nickolai: For the same reason mom and dad took care of us, because He loves us!

Jessie: That's right.

Nickolai: But Jessie, it sure is hard to trust that God will take care of us every day. In a desert so many bad things can happen. There's nothing we can do to make water flow or cause food to grow. We have to totally trust in God! That's really hard!

Jessie: It is hard. In fact, it's kind of like a test. God teaches us to trust in Him daily.

Nickolai: Hey, Jessie, I just thought of something. Is that why we pray every day that our Father might give us this day our daily bread?

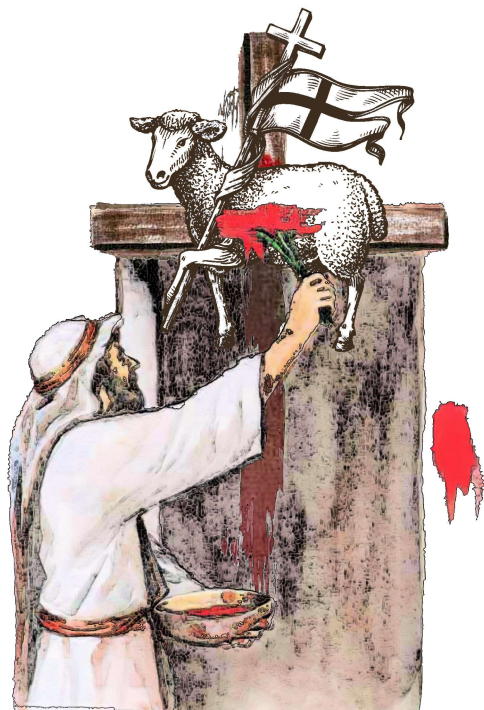
Jessie: That's exactly why we pray those words. Every day we learn that we have to trust in God to provide for us every day.

Nickolai: You know what, Jessie? Trusting God is a lot better than licking that toilet bowl!

Level One Sample

Lesson Two:

Redeemed



I Corinthians 5: 7b – Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Introduction

Last lesson we learned that the whole Bible is about Jesus. Even the parts written long before Jesus was born are still about Jesus! How can this be?

Jesus was born a little baby, but He is also the Son of God. As the Son of God He has been around forever!

We are learning how, long before Jesus was born, God had a special people named Israel. They were the Hebrew people. They were the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

They were slaves in the land of Egypt for a long, long time. The Egyptians made them work long and hard hours to build their buildings. Oh how Israel cried out to God to save them!

God raised up a messenger, a prophet named Moses. He met Moses at the burning bush and told Moses he was going to save His people from Egypt. Today we're going to learn how God did this.



God raises up Moses

The Plagues and Passover

After Moses came down the mountain where the burning bush was, he met his brother Aaron. The two brothers went back to Egypt, to save Israel from their slavery.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh's palace, came before him, and declared to him, "Thus says the Lord God, 'Let my people go!'"

Pharaoh didn't care one bit what the Lord had to say to him. In fact, he made a command that the people of Israel had to work even harder than they were working before. When Moses and Aaron returned to the Hebrews, the people cried out to them, "We thought you were going to save us. You've only made our work harder!"

The next day, Moses and Aaron entered into Pharaoh's palace again. Again they said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" This time Aaron threw down his staff, and it turned into a snake!

Pharaoh called his magicians in, and they did the same thing. They threw down their staffs, and they all turned into snakes. But Aaron's snake ate all the other snakes.



The next day, Moses and Aaron met Pharaoh as he was outside by the Nile River. Again they said to him, "Let my people go!" This time, Aaron stretched his staff over the river, and it turned into blood. Blood was everywhere! It was in the streams, in the ponds, and in the pools. No one could drink any water, because it was all blood. The fish in the waters all died, and everything stunk very bad.

All in all, God sent ten plagues on the land of Egypt. The first plague was turning the Nile into blood. After that came nine more plagues.

God sent frogs over all the land of Egypt, frogs everywhere, in the houses and in their cupboards. Then He sent lice to swarm over all the land. After that, the Lord sent flies everywhere.

Next, all the cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys died from a disease. After that, the Lord sent boils, painful skin sores, on both the animals and on the people. Then the Lord sent heavy hail so heavy it killed animals and people.

After the plague of hail, God sent locusts to eat all the food the hail didn't destroy. Then came the plague of darkness – all the land was covered in darkness, so that no one could see anything at all.



Finally came the last plague. After this plague, Egypt would let Israel free. This plague was called the Passover.

On the night of the Passover, God was going to go through all the land of Egypt and strike the firstborn son of every house. But He would “pass over” the houses who followed His instructions.

These were His instructions. Each family of Israel was to kill a one-year-old, male lamb, and paint its blood on the doorposts and lintels. That night, when God went through Egypt, if He saw the blood of the lamb above the doors, He would “pass over” that house. Everyone in that house would be safe from death.

On the night of the Passover, God went through all the land of Egypt and struck the firstborn sons of many houses, but none of the sons of the Hebrews was harmed at all. They were protected by the blood of the lamb.

Finally, Egypt had had enough! They cried out to Israel to leave them. At last Israel was freed from Egypt!

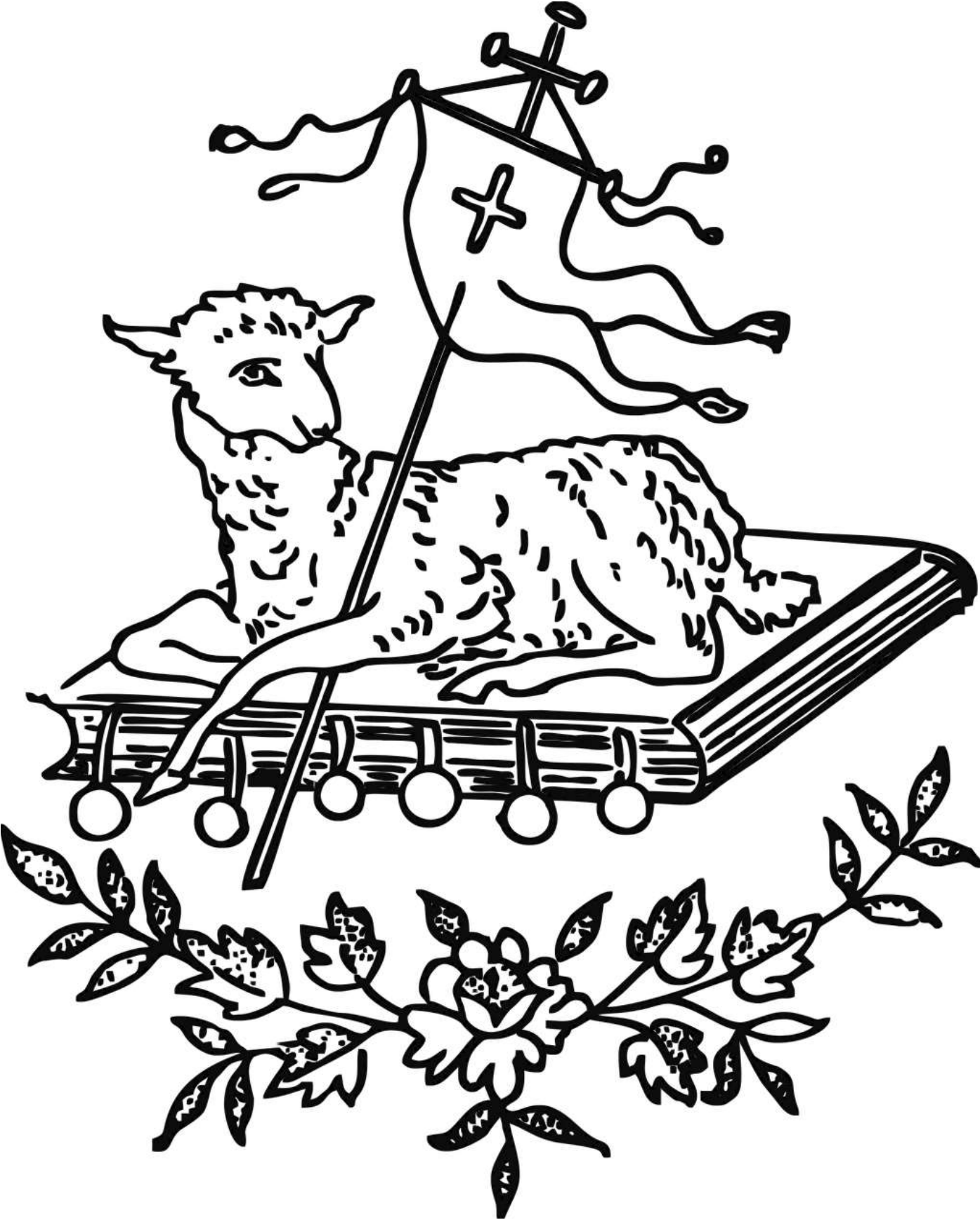
The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

Let us say together, “Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” Jesus is our Passover Lamb! The blood of Jesus protects us from God's judgment. One day, Jesus will judge the whole world, but we will be protected from His judgment, because we are covered by His blood.

When Jesus died on the cross, He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He died so we can be freed from sin, death, and the devil. Just as the Passover lamb freed Israel from Egypt, so does Jesus, our Passover Lamb, free us from sin, death, and the devil.



Color the picture of the Lamb of God. Keep the flag white and color the cross red:

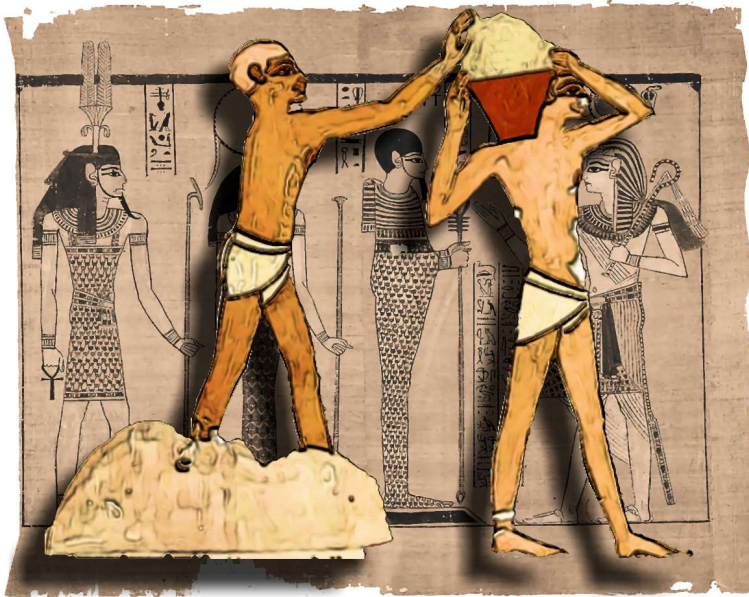


Level 2 Sample

Lesson One:

Enslaved

John 8: 34 – [Jesus said,] “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”



Introduction

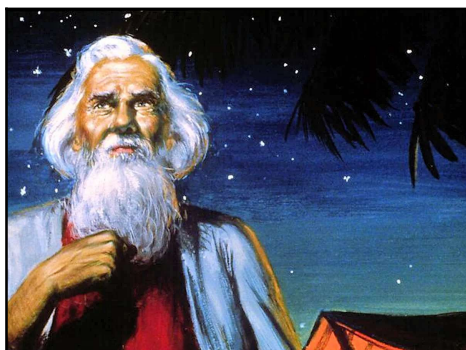
The Bible tells us all about Jesus. The Bible tells us many other stories too. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament tells us all the things before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us all about Jesus and the Church He set up.

One of the greatest stories of the Old Testament is how God freed His people Israel from Egypt. God freed His people Israel from Egypt, He also free us from sin, death, and the devil. In fact, the story of God freeing His people from Egypt is also about Jesus freeing us from sin, death, and the devil!



The picture here shows a shadow of a cross. Sometimes a shadow can tell us someone is coming even before we see them. How are stories in the Old Testament like “foreshadows” of Jesus in the New Testament?



God shows Abraham the stars of the sky

Israel Enslaved in Egypt

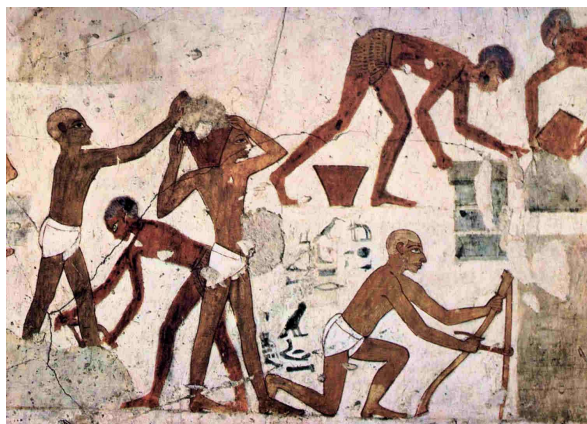
Let us learn how God freed His people from Egypt. Let us learn how He frees us also!

Long ago, God called a man named Abraham. God promised Abraham he would have many children. He would have as many children as there were stars in the sky!

Abraham’s family grew very large indeed. He had a son named Isaac, and Isaac had a son named Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons.

During a famine, Jacob and his family moved to Egypt to get food. They remained there for many, many years. They became a huge family in Egypt.

These people were called Hebrews. These were the people of Israel. These were God's people.



Israel as slaves in Egypt

The king of Egypt was called Pharaoh. He feared the Hebrews because there were so many of them. He came upon a plan. He made them slaves. He made them build his buildings without pay. He set masters over them to force them to work hard. The people cried out to the Lord for help.

The Pharaoh had another evil plan. He ordered the Hebrew mothers to throw their baby boys into the Nile, the river of Egypt.

One Hebrew mother tried to save her baby boy. She made a little basket for her baby and placed him in it. Then she set the basket in the river. The basket floated down the river, and the baby's older sister followed the basket to see what would happen.

The basket came to where a princess was bathing in the river. She saw the basket and felt sorry for the boy. She wanted to keep him for herself. The baby's sister came up and told the princess, "I know someone who can nurse the baby for you and help raise him." She meant the baby's mother!



The princess named the boy Moses, which means "drawn from the water." Moses grew up in the princess' house.

One day Moses went out and saw the Hebrew slaves working hard. He saw an Egyptian master beating a Hebrew slave, so he killed the Egyptian. Because of this crime Moses had to leave Egypt.



Moses left Egypt and soon he met a shepherd who had seven daughters. He married one of the daughters and became a shepherd for many years.

One day while Moses was tending sheep, he came to a mountain. There he saw the Angel of the Lord in a burning bush. The bush was on fire, but it was not burning up!

The Lord spoke from the bush and said, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. I have seen the slavery

of my people Israel, and have heard their cry because of their masters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.”

God continued speaking to Moses, “I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Moses asked God what His name was, and God said, “I Am Who I Am.”

The Lord was going to use Moses to free His people from Israel! So Moses returned to Egypt and prepared to meet Pharaoh.

This was going to be a great battle between God and Pharaoh. The Lord was going to triumph, and His people were going to be freed!

Match up the items on the left with items on the right:

Hebrews

The king of Egypt

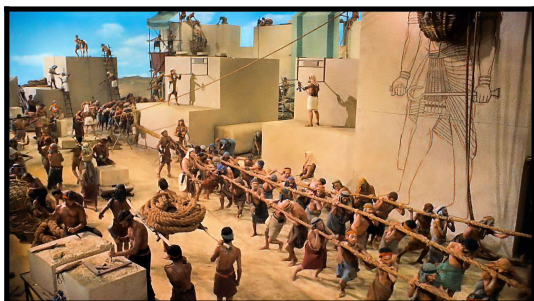
Pharaoh

“Drawn from the water”

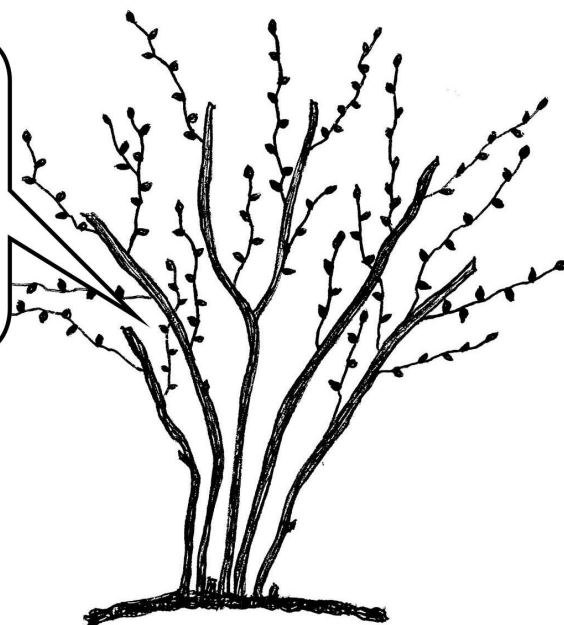
Moses

The people of Israel

Explain what is happening in this picture:



Draw a flame on the bush and in the caption write, “I Am Who I Am”:

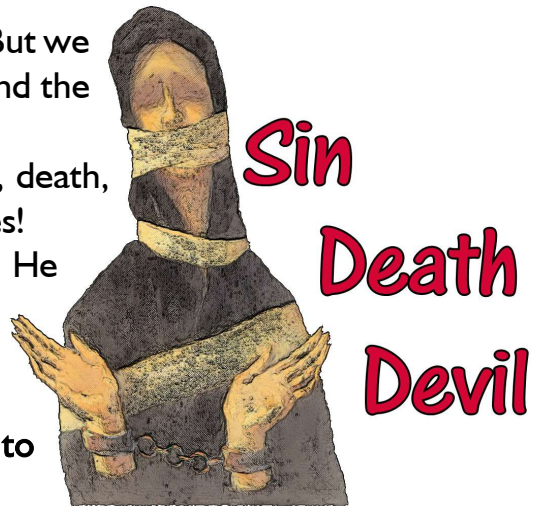


Israel's Slavery Foreshadows Our Slavery

Jesus teaches we are slaves just like Israel was. But we are not slaves to Egypt. We are slaves of sin, death, and the devil.

Do we cry out to the Lord for help against sin, death, and the devil? Yes! Does the Lord hear our cries? Yes!

Whom does the Lord God raise up to save us? He raised up Moses for the Hebrews. Whom does He raise up for us?



Color in all the letters of Moses' name – M O S E S – to reveal the one God raises up to save us:

Q	R	M	T	O	O	O	Y	I	S	S	K	E	G	E	D	A	S	S
N	B	M	V	O	X	D	H	S	L	A	R	E	I	E	T	S	B	L
A	H	M	G	O	O	D	R	T	S	B	N	E	D	E	Q	W	S	P
M	P	M	A	O	U	C	L	R	I	S	T	E	L	E	Y	D	A	S
K	M	K	I	O	O	O	D	S	S	N	T	L	E	B	A	S	S	D

In each situation, discuss how the person is a slave to sin, death, or the devil:

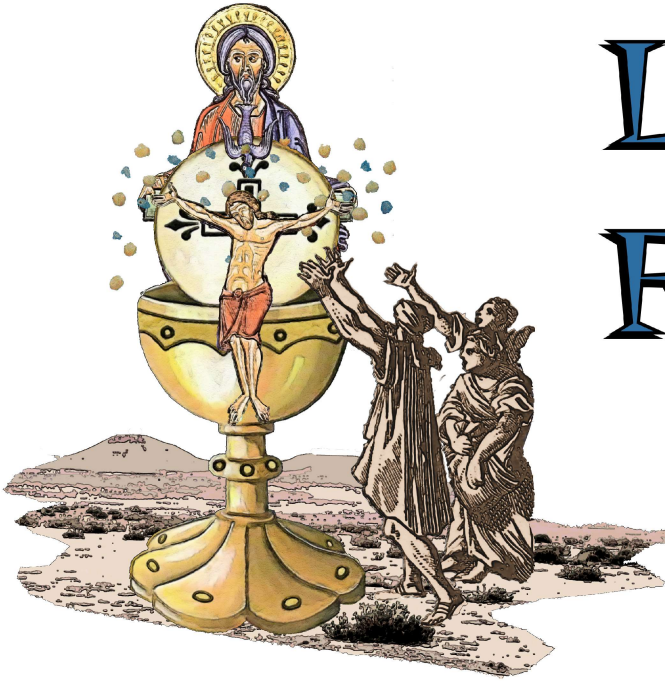
1. Michael wakes up one day and says, "I am going to be the perfect boy today!" Soon, his mother says, "Michael, make your bed." Michael says, "Aww, I don't want to, Ma! I want to climb the tree!" Michael could not be perfect. Why? What was Michael a "slave" to?
2. Ava loved her grandma very much, but her grandma is old. One day, she got sick and died. Ava was so sad. She said, "Why do people have to die?" What are all people a "slave" to?
3. Nicholas has a hard time believing in Jesus. He says, "How can Jesus love me? I sin all the time!" He thinks maybe he should believe in science instead. Why do so many people not believe in Jesus. Who are many people slaves to?

We are slaves to three enemies. Who are they?



Level 3 Sample

Lesson Four: Fed



John 6: 49-50 – [Jesus said,] “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.”

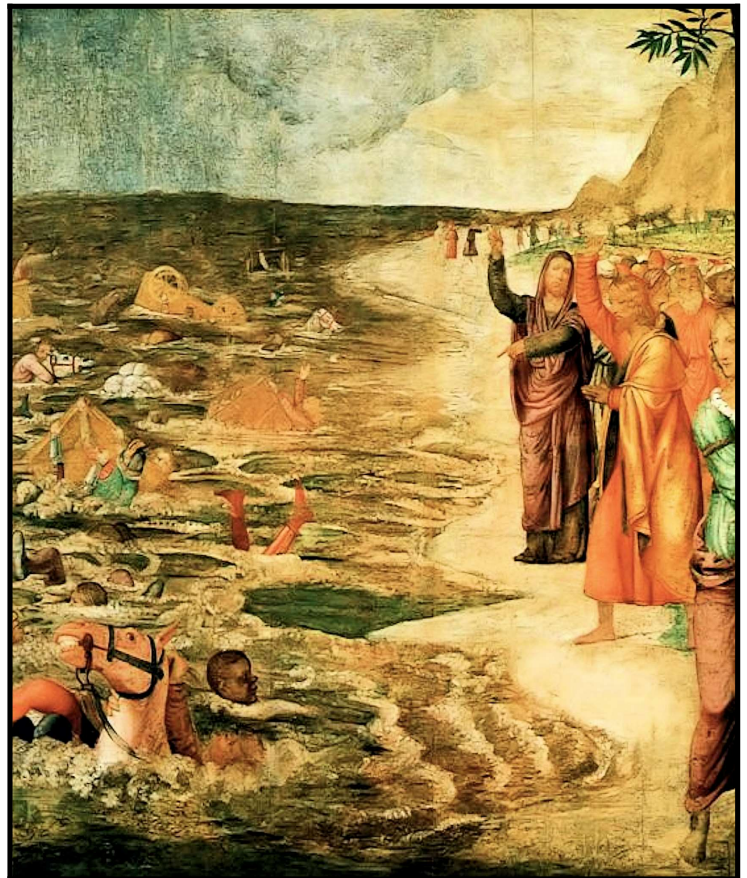
Introduction

The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt for 430 years. They cried out to the Lord for freedom. The Lord raised up His servant Moses. Through Moses, God sent ten plagues on Egypt. After the first nine plagues, Pharaoh still not let Israel free.

On the first Passover, God passed through Egypt and struck down the firstborn sons of Egypt. God spared any house with the blood of a lamb over its doors. Israel was free!

Israel left Egypt the next day. They came to the Red Sea, and then Pharaoh went after Israel. He changed his mind again! Israel was trapped between the sea and Pharaoh’s army. The Lord split the sea for Moses, and Israel walked through. They were totally free at last. All their enemies were drowned in the sea. The Lord defeated Pharaoh for Israel.

Now Israel was in the wilderness. A wilderness is like a desert. They would live in the desert for forty years! What would they eat during this time? What would they drink? Today we answer those questions.



Israel after crossing the Red Sea

Now repeat the same story again, but make it fit your own life by filling the blanks with the terms here:

Jesus
Baptism

sin
devil

Christ
wilderness

cross
death

We were slaves to _____, _____, and the _____. God sent _____ to free us from our enemies. When _____, the Lamb of God, died on the _____, we were free! As we pass through the water in Holy _____, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," all our enemies are drowned. Now we too are in a _____. What will we eat? What will we drink? Today we answer those questions.

Israel in the Wilderness

After crossing the Red Sea, Moses led Israel into the wilderness. Soon they became thirsty. They came upon water, but it was bitter. The Lord had Moses throw a certain tree into the waters, and then they could drink the water.

All forty years, Israel had water. Once Israel needed water, so Lord stood before a rock and told Moses to strike the rock. The rock began to flow with water! Afterwards the rock followed Israel in the wilderness.

Who else was struck and had water (and blood) flow from Him?

Who was the Rock that followed Israel? _____



After a few days in the wilderness, the people became hungry. They began to complain to Moses.

Here is how the Lord fed Israel. He said, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. The people shall gather it every day. This is a test for them, whether they will walk in My law or not. On the sixth day, they shall bring in twice as much."

In the morning, there was a substance like frost on the ground. Israel gathered up the substance, as each family needed. They baked it like bread. This is what Israel ate for forty years in the wilderness.

Each day they were to take no more than they needed. On the sixth day, they took twice as much, so that they would not work on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath. Some tried to keep more than they needed and store it away. The next day, it rotted and stunk. Others tried to gather it on the Sabbath. The Lord forbade them from doing this.

Israel called the bread Manna. It tasted like wafers made with honey.

The Wilderness of this Life

Look at the following diagram to see how our life, Jesus' life, and Israel are very similar. Fill in the blanks with the missing information:

	Israel	Jesus	Us
Before Water		Jesus spent His early years in Egypt.	
In Water			We are baptized.
Wilderness	Israel goes into the wilderness for 40 years.		

After Israel went through the waters of the Red Sea, they entered into the wilderness for forty years. After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, He entered the wilderness for forty days. Did we also pass through water? Yes we did, in Holy Baptism. Do we now enter into a wilderness? Yes we do.

Read each statement below and discuss how this world is a wilderness:

The wilderness is where there is no food or drink.
Does this world give us what we need to live forever?

The wilderness is what we pass through before going to heaven.
Is this world more like a hotel we stay at for a night, or a home?

The wilderness is where we are tested by God like Israel.
Does God test us because He's mean, or because He loves us?

The wilderness is where we learn to live by God's Word and trust God will provide us with daily bread.
Will God provide us with everything we need for our body and life?

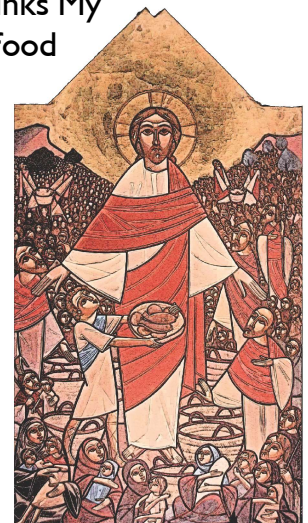
Fed in the Wilderness

Israel never forgot how God fed them manna in the wilderness. Many years later, Jesus was in the wilderness too. Many people were following him, just like Moses! He also fed them with bread and fish. He took five loaves and two fishes and fed 5,000 people.

Jesus taught them that He brings a greater bread than just manna. He said "I am the bread of life."

Israel ate manna, but still all of them died. Jesus gives us a better bread. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

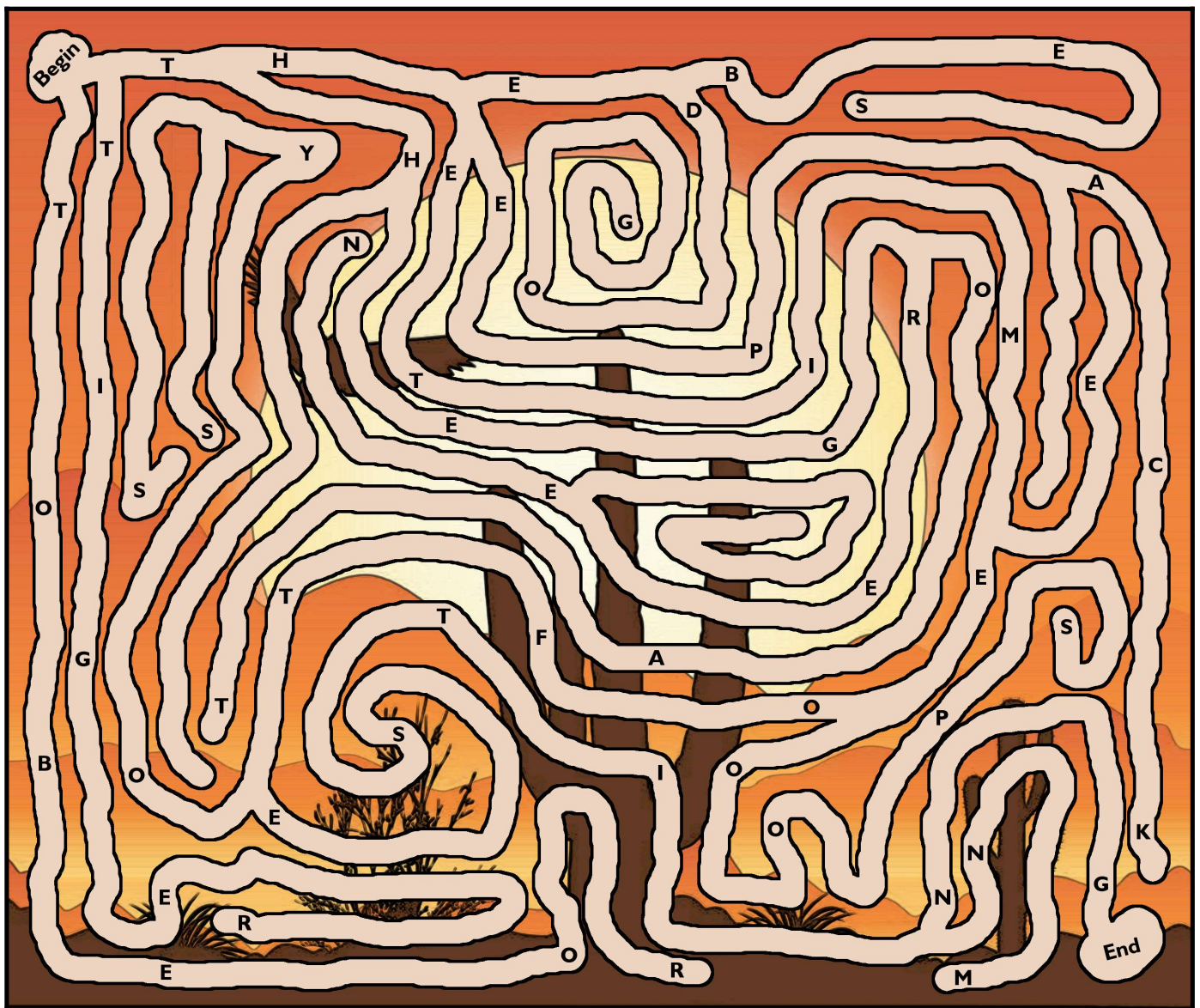
Read what Jesus says about this bread: “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. . . .This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”



Discuss: What is the bread Jesus feeds us as we journey through the wilderness of this world? What happens to those who eat this bread?

Do the maze and circle the letters on the correct path. Fill in the blanks with those letters:

For us, the time of the wilderness is _____.



Level 4 Sample



Lesson Five: Forgiven

John 3: 14-15 – [Jesus said,] “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Introduction

The people of Israel were enslaved to Egypt for many years. Then they were redeemed by the blood of the lamb. Through a baptism into the Red Sea, they came out the other side a new people. In the wilderness they were fed by the bread from heaven.

Is this Israel's story or our own? We too were enslaved...to sin, death, and the devil. We too were redeemed by the blood of the lamb...of God who takes away the sin of the world. We also were baptized...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And finally, we also are fed in the wilderness of this world with the bread from heaven which is...the flesh and blood of Jesus.

There's one more part of the story we need to learn. How else does God care for us in the wilderness? What is life like in the wilderness?



Let's review what life is like in the wilderness of this world. Check the following if it describes life in the wilderness for us:

We will have a lot of power and riches, and we can do great things.

We learn we have to rely completely on our Lord.

Sometimes we complain because we wonder why life is a wilderness.

Everything goes very easy for us.

We get bored with the long path through the wilderness.

Every day we see great miracles from God.

We sin daily.

Often we lose trust in God.

We can get sick and hurt; people we love may die.

We see good people do well, and bad people get punished.

Often we see evil people succeeding, while the righteous suffer.

Life in the wilderness of this world is not all fun and games! Often we sin and get in trouble. We get hurt and sick. Often it looks like evil goes unpunished, and good gets ignored.

Through this all, our Lord is training us to trust in Him. We learn we have to rely on Him every day for our daily bread.

Today we will learn how Israel sinned against God in the wilderness, but how He gave them forgiveness.

The Bronze Serpent

Israel had been journeying for a long, long time in the wilderness. They traveled through dusty paths in the dry heat of the sun. Every day they woke up, and God provided the manna they needed to survive. He also provided the water from the rock.

Finally Israel had had enough. The people complained against God and Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up from Egypt? To die in this wilderness? There is no food and water, and we hate this worthless bread.”

Now, this was not exactly true. Israel most certainly had food and water. They had the quail, the manna from heaven, and the water from the rock.

Discuss some reasons why Israel may have been complaining?

Discuss some ways we might complain how the Lord takes care of us, in our wilderness?



What Israel meant by saying, “We have no bread and water” is that they had no permanent bread and water. They had no fields in which to grow grain, or rivers from which to get water. They wanted their homeland! They wanted to arrive at the Promised Land!

When you are not thankful for what you are given, what don't you have? _____

When you can't wait for something and get angry about it, you lose your _____.

Not only did Israel lose patience, but they were getting tired of trusting in God to provide bread and water every day. They wanted to feed themselves.

When you want to rely on yourself rather than God, you lose your _____ in God.

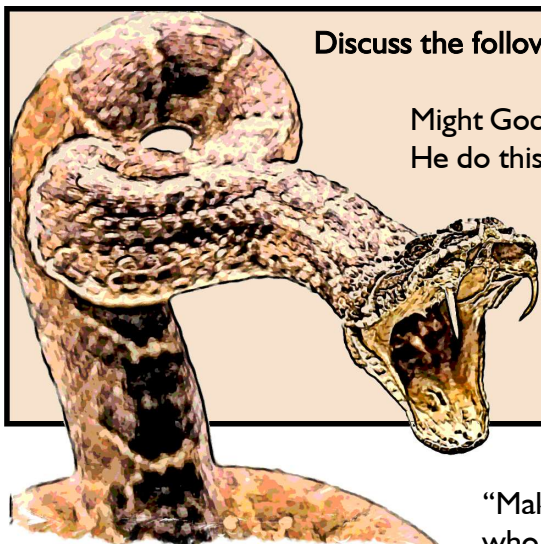
Israel lost patience and trust, and they were not grateful for what the Lord had given them. Patience and trust are important elements of the faith we must have during our time in the wilderness. Being grateful for everything God richly provides for us daily is also an important part of faith.

Let us continue with the account:

Because the people complained, God sent fiery serpents among the people. These serpents bit the people, and many of them died because of the serpents.

The people repented of their lack of trust, patience, and gratitude. They came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you.”

Then they asked Moses to pray to the Lord, that He might take the serpents away from them.



Discuss the following questions:

Might God send “fiery serpents” to us when we rebel against Him? Why would He do this?

What exactly does it mean to repent?

An intercessor is someone who asks something from someone on your behalf. How was Moses an intercessor for Israel? Who is our intercessor?

Moses prayed to the Lord, and the Lord heard His prayer. He said, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”

So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.



Discuss the following questions:

Was it enough that Israel repented? What else needed to happen for them to be saved?

Were there magical powers in the bronze serpent?

If there were no magical powers in the bronze serpent, why did it have the power to heal them?

What kind of people might not have looked to the bronze serpent?

Activity: Follow the Clues!

Figure out the following clues to come up with a Bible passage. Then look up the passage and answer the questions below.

_____ : _____ through _____
(1) (2) (3) (4)

- (1) Clue for the first space: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and ???
- (2) Clue for the second space: We believe in One God, and ??? Persons.
- (3) Clue for the third space: ??? people were at the Last Supper, including Jesus and His disciples.
- (4) Clue for the fourth space: There are ??? chapters in the Gospel of Mark.

Now answer the following questions:

Who is lifted up for us?

When was Jesus lifted up for us?

When else was Jesus lifted up for us?

How do we look to Jesus like Israel looked to the bronze serpent?

Why did God send His Son Jesus to save us?

Life under the Cross

Life in the wilderness is difficult. We have many temptations. We complain about God. We are not grateful for His gifts to us. We lose patience. We end up sinning against God.

But God does not leave us in our sins. He sent Jesus to die for our sins. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross and died, He gave over His life to us. He breathed out His Holy Spirit to give us the gift of forgiveness. Jesus was also lifted up when He ascended to heaven. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us everything we need for salvation.

We look to Jesus for salvation. We believe in Him and receive what He gives us. Yes, we sin daily, but we have an intercessor with God, Jesus Christ.

