

# Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 1

## Lesson 1: The Curse of Sin and the Promise Given to Abraham

### Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

**By Faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.**

### ❖ Introduction

Welcome to Journey to the Promised Land.

Today, we are going to take a quick look at how everything began when God created the world.

Everything started out great, but then the first two people, Adam and Eve, sinned. Sin entered the world, and everything changed for the worse.

God already knew that Adam and Eve would sin, and He already had a Rescue Plan ready.

Today we are going to look at how God started His Rescue Plan when He chose one man – Abraham – to be the father of many.

God ultimately completed His Rescue Plan by sending His own Son – Jesus – to break the curse of sin.

### ❖ Creation

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

Genesis 1 and 2 tell us that God created everything.

God spoke EVERYTHING into existence!

Out of all the wonderful things God created, His ultimate and most valuable creation was us, people.

- **Use a children’s Bible and show them where in the Bible Genesis is and read with them.**

Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

**<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”**

We are created in the image of God.

That doesn’t mean we look like God, but we have some of God’s characteristics:

- God is Relational – He wants to have a relationship with us – And we are relational.
- God is Personal – He is a personal being with personality – And we are personal beings too with a mind and soul.
- God is Creative – When we look around us, we can see how intricate and detailed His creation is – And we are creative as well: artists, engineers, musicians, writers, etc.

**Sin (Explain in terms preschoolers can understand. The wrong things we do that go against God’s perfect plan.)**

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, they were free to eat anything they wanted, except from one tree:

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)

**<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;  
<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**

Adam and Eve disobeyed. They ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Since then, every human being is born with a sin nature. Everyone is a sinner.

**God’s Rescue Plan – Why we need a Deliverer**

But even though God punished Adam and Eve and sent them out of the Garden of Eden, He promised them that one day He would make things right again.

## The Call of Abram – The Start of God’s Rescue Plan

Many years later, the human population had grown. God chose to work out His rescue man through a man named Abram.

- **Read this portion with preschoolers from a children’s Bible (briefly).**
- **If available, flannel graph or other visuals would be extremely beneficial in helping preschoolers understand and engage with the story.**

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”**

Notice the things God promised to Abram:

1. He would have his own Land
2. He would be the father of a great Nation
3. All the world would be Blessed through Abram

But there was a problem:

1. Abram had no children.
2. He was 75 years old (Genesis 12:4)

But God always keeps His promises.

- **You can read this portion with preschoolers from a children’s Bible, again, keeping it brief. Be sure to reiterate that when God makes a promise, He keeps it.**

God repeats the Promise in Genesis 13:14-17 and again in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

God repeats the Promise again in Genesis 17.

God even changed Abram's name to Abraham because he would be the Father of many nations.

At the age of 99, God reaffirmed His promise and said Abraham's wife Sarah, who was 90 years old, would have a child.

God's promise seemed impossible. But what is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

### **Promise Through Isaac**

Genesis 17:15-21 (NIV)

**<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." <sup>17</sup> Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"**

### **Birth of Isaac**

- **Flannel graph or other visuals such as a baby doll.**

Genesis 21:1-3 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.**

After many years of waiting, Abraham and Sarah finally had this promised son. God's promise was fulfilled.

### **God Tests Abraham**

**(Remind preschoolers frequently that God was testing Abraham)**

- **Flannel graph or visuals/activity**
- **Visuals = bundled up popsicle or actual sticks bundled. A small toy ram tangled in some sticks or vines.**
- **Activity = Pretend hike up the mountain (around the room) as you tell the story. The children could end at an altar. You could "stop" there and continue into the portion of the story about Jesus being our sacrifice.**

After a few years, God tested Abraham to see how much he trusted God.

Genesis 22:1-2 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”**

Can you imagine how confused Abraham must have been?

First, in his mind, killing his son would be a sin.

Second, Isaac was the son God said all His promises would come through. If Abraham killed Isaac, how would God’s promises come true?

Genesis 22:9-12 (NIV)

**<sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>12</sup> “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”**

Abraham passed the test! **Hooray! (Adding excitement and/or a big expression here will help bring to a close a very tense moment.)** Even though he didn’t understand everything, Abraham trusted that God was even able to raise his son from the dead if needed. Abraham had learned to trust God no matter what and to obey what God told him to do.

### The Blessing for the World (JESUS)

- Flannel graph or visuals/activity
- Activity = At the altar, describe how Jesus was the sacrifice for us, but didn’t stay dead etc.

Remember part of God’s promise to Abraham was that all the earth would be blessed through one of his descendants.

Genesis 22:17-18 (NIV)

**<sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.**

The Bible shows us who Abraham’s descendants were, and guess who ultimately came through the line of Abraham – JESUS!

God's own Son Jesus was born as a descendant of Abraham.

The Bible teaches that there is only one God, but He exists in three separate yet equal Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the earthly name given to the Second Person of the Trinity – God's Son.

Jesus, although He was God, became an actual human being and came to this earth to live among us, to show us what God is really like, and ultimately to take the punishment we deserve for our sins by dying on the cross for us.

But because Jesus was God, when He died, He did not remain dead. Three days later He arose from the grave.

Jesus broke the curse that was given to Adam in the garden.

The Bible says, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Abraham was saved through his faith (belief in God).

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

**<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**

We are also saved by God's grace through faith, not by anything we can do to earn it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

**<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.**

Anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved from eternal punishment.

As we saw before, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God.

But God forgives us of all our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Then, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don't become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.

# Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 2

## PRESCHOOL Lesson 2: Moses and the Exodus

### Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NIV)

**By Faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.**

- You can use flannel graph or pictures of the plagues to tell the story.
- You can do a craft as you go through the lesson, using most of the visual aids as part of the craft. Substitute perishable items (jello/water beads/ice).

This lesson will examine the 10 plagues in Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea. We will examine the Passover and its relation to Jesus Christ as our Passover lamb.

**Visuals:** For this lesson it may be helpful to provide pictures or visuals of the following: a river, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock, boils, hailstorm, a swarm of locusts, darkness, death such as a picture of a coffin, a lamb and a large rock or bolder to illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart.

It's great to see everyone again today.

So yesterday, we looked at the life of Abraham. Abraham had a child named Isaac. Isaac had a child named Jacob. Jacob had many children and grandchildren. Over time, his descendants became a nation of people known as the Israelites.

However, after many years, the Israelites became slaves in Egypt. The Egyptians mistreated the Israelites. Pharaoh, the Egyptian King, was evil and killed many of the Israelites' babies. In response, the Israelites were crying out to God for help.

So, God raised up a man named Moses. Through Moses, God would save the nation of Israel from their slavery and bring them to the Promised land.

Moses was also an Israelite. He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. But when he was a younger man, he killed an Egyptian who was hurting an Israelite slave. Pharaoh found out and Moses had to flee for his life.

Moses became a shepherd in Midian. When Moses was an old man, God appeared to him through a burning bush and told him to go back to Egypt, confront Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God allowed Aaron, Moses brother, to speak for him and confront evil Pharaoh.

Let's pick up this story in Exodus Chapter 5:

Exodus 5:1-2 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"**

**<sup>2</sup> Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."**

So, there was a big problem. God commanded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh told God, No. Pharaoh admitted he didn't know the Lord. He would not obey the God of the Hebrews.

Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh again.

Exodus 5:4-5 (NIV)

**<sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" <sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."**

After speaking with Moses, Pharaoh made the Israelite slaves work even harder. Instead of letting the people go, he gave them extra work. Pharaoh would not listen to God.

We will learn that Pharaoh had a hard heart towards God. We can illustrate Pharaoh's hard heart with this rock (*show a picture of a large rock*). Rocks are hard. They are difficult to penetrate. Pharaoh's heart was hard like this rock. He would not listen to God or let God's words enter His heart.

So, in response to Pharaoh's hard heart, God sent plagues and disasters upon Egypt in order to free His people. Through these plagues the whole world would hear about the power of God and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt.

Today we are going to examine each of these plagues. We are going to see who is more powerful: God, the creator of the universe, or Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Let's examine Exodus chapter 7, which tells us about the first plague.



(First Plague)

Exodus 7:14-18 (NIV)

**<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup> Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river... <sup>16</sup> Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup> The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’”**

- **Illustration: Use a clear bin (bin size dependent on class size) filled with either red Jello or red water beads. Put a toy fish in it and add a sign to signify it’s stinky (i.e. a picture with a dead fish and a nose crossed out).**

So, God did an amazing thing in Egypt. He turned the entire Nile river into blood. The fish died and the river stank, just as God said it would. Blood was everywhere. The Nile, being over 4,000 miles long, is the longest river in the world. Imagine the entire river turning into blood (*show a picture of a river*).

What was Pharaoh’s response? His heart became harder. He would not listen to God (*show a picture of large rock*).

Let’s read about the second plague in Exodus chapter 8.

(Second Plague)

Exodus 8:1-4 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. <sup>3</sup> The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup> The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.’”**

- **Illustration: Any kind of frogs - paper cutout, plastic, rubber toy ones (preferably small in size because you will need many of them).**

So, God told Pharaoh, if he didn’t obey, frogs would be sent throughout Egypt, into their houses and into their beds. Frogs would be in their kitchens and where they make their food (*show a picture of frogs*). Imagine having frogs in your breakfast. Yuck!

Do you think Pharaoh obeyed this time? (Answer, No.) (*Show a picture of a large rock.*)

Pharaoh hardened his heart again as frogs invaded the land.

(Third Plague)

Exodus 8:16, 18b-19 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” <sup>18b</sup> Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, <sup>19</sup> the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.”

- **Illustration: Pictures of swarms of gnats. Paper hole punch dots or plain confetti (will need a vacuum handy).**

So, God sent trillions of gnats, swarms of tiny flying bugs, into Egypt.

Even Pharaoh’s magicians admitted that God caused this. But Pharaoh did not listen (*show a picture of a large rock*).

(Fourth Plague)

Exodus 8:20-21 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>21</sup> If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

Exodus 8:32 (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go (*show a pictures of flies*).

- **Illustration: Inexpensive plastic flies from Amazon or other retail site, or cutouts of flies.**

(*Show a picture of flies*)

(Fifth Plague)

Exodus 9:1-4 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: “Let my people go, so that they may worship me.” <sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, <sup>3</sup> the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and

goats. <sup>4</sup> But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.”

- **Illustration: A good variety of toy animals and a toy fence if available (can be made with blocks) to show the contrast of Egypt’s animals dying and the Israelites’ animals being spared.**

So, God killed the livestock of Egypt. Egypt’s supply of meat and milk for food was destroyed (*show a picture of livestock*). Even after this the Bible says Pharaoh’s heart was unyielding. He was stubborn. He would not let the people go (*show a picture of a large rock*).

But we also see that God protected His people. None of the Israelites lost livestock. God is a good God who protects His people.

(Sixth Plague)

Exodus 9:8-9 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. <sup>9</sup> It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.”

- **Illustration: Red dot stickers**

So, God then caused painful infections called boils to break out on the people (*show a picture of boils*). The Egyptians were infected so badly that the magicians couldn’t even stand before Moses.

Exodus 9:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

Prior to this, Pharaoh had hardened his own heart. Now we see the Lord hardening Pharaoh’s heart. Let’s hope none of us here are ever that stubborn and disobedient, that the Lord hardens our hearts (*show a picture of a large rock*).

(Seventh Plague)

Next, God sent a hailstorm on Egypt. It was the worst hailstorm that had ever fallen on Egypt. Large hail destroyed food crops and killed animals and people (*show a picture of hail*).

Do you think Pharaoh listened?

Exodus 9:34-35 (NIV)

<sup>34</sup> **When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts.** <sup>35</sup> **So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.**

- **Illustration: A clear bin (bin size dependent on class size) filled with ice and scoops or spoons. Also use pictures of hail damage to show the true destruction that can be caused by hail.**

Pharaoh would not listen to God. He had a hard heart. He sinned against God (*show a picture of a large rock*). All of Pharaoh's officials also hardened their hearts.

(Eighth Plague)

Next, God sent a swarm of locusts. The locusts ate all the plants in Egypt.

Exodus 10:15 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> **"They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt."**

*(Show a visual of locust)*

- **Illustration: Cutouts of locusts or clothespin locusts (will need to make ahead of time).**

Again, Pharaoh would not listen (*show a picture of a large rock*).

(Ninth Plague)

Exodus 10:21-23 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> **"Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt."** <sup>22</sup> **So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days.** <sup>23</sup> **No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived."**

- **Illustration: Turn off lights and/or blindfold children (make sure to do this in an open area of the classroom to avoid injury)**

Imagine complete darkness for three days. For three days the Egyptians couldn't see anything. But God's people had light. Today we know that God's people have the light of life. Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** (John 8:12 NIV)

(Tenth Plague)

Exodus 11:1 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.”**

So, God told each Israelite family to kill a spotless lamb. They were to take some the lamb’s blood and put it on the sides and tops of their door frames. They were instructed to cook and eat the lamb. They were told if they obeyed, the Lord would protect their family from death. But if they did not obey, God would kill the firstborn in their household.

These are the worst consequences yet. Those who obeyed and trusted God would live. Those who disobeyed and did not believe God would face death either for themselves or for their families.

We know from the story, God’s people obeyed. But Pharaoh and the Egyptians did not.

So, let’s read what happened:

Exodus 12:29-30 (NIV)

**<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. <sup>30</sup> Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.**

**Illustration: Show pictures of sad faces or a coffin**

- **This is a difficult thing for most kids this age to grasp. Do your best to convey sadness when discussing the death of the firstborn.**

This picture represents what happened to the Egyptians. Someone had died in every house of Egypt. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians were now dead. Sin and rejection of God always leads to death (*show a picture of a coffin again*). The Bible teaches us, **“For the wages of sin is death...”** (Romans 6:23a NIV)

However, none of the Israelites died (*show a picture of a lamb*). The lamb was killed instead of them. The blood of the lamb covered and protected them from certain death.

So, after all this, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go and the Israelites left Egypt.

The Israelites also needed a new heart towards God. Through all this God showed kindness and grace towards Israel. God didn’t punish the Israelites like they deserved. God was patient and loving toward His people.

This story should cause us to examine our own hearts. Are we more like Pharaoh, who had a hard heart towards God (*show a picture of a large rock*)? Or do we listen to and obey God? Do we know God, like Moses knew God? Or do we reject God and do things our own way?

- **Preschoolers may not be able to follow along with all the following verses due to quantity. Just do your best to have verses printed out or marked ahead of the lesson and use visual cues to keep them engaged, such as a rock for our hard hearts that God exchanges in turn for a moldable heart like playdoh, clay, etc.**

So, I ask each of you a question. Who are you more like? How is your heart toward God today?

The bible teaches us that all of us are born sinners.

**“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** (Romans 3:23 NIV) We are all born with a hard heart toward God (*show a picture of a large rock*). When we are born, we are all like evil Pharaoh.

**“For the wages of sin is death...”** (Romans 6:23a NIV) (*Show a picture of a coffin*)

However, God did not leave us without hope. God made a way for us to be made right with Him. In our story today, the sacrifice of the lamb (*show a picture of a lamb*) saved the Israelites from death. Well, we also have a Lamb that died for us and saves us from eternal death.

**“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8 NIV)

In the New testament, when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”** (John 1:29 ESV)

Jesus is like the lamb for us. Just as the lamb’s blood saved the Israelites from the plague of death in Egypt, the blood of Jesus covers our sin and saves us from the punishment of hell. Forgiveness comes when we believe in Jesus. When we do that, God forgives all of our sins and save us from eternal death.

**“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”** (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Three days after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was raised from the dead. He is alive, ruling and reigning in heaven today. Once we place our trust in Jesus, God does an amazing thing. He takes away our hard heart and gives us a new heart that desires to please him. He gives us new life. We can then know God personally.

**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”** (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!”** (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

So, if you have never trusted in God to save you from the penalty of your sins, trust in God today. **“Believe in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved.”** (Acts 16:31 NIV)

Close in prayer.

# Journey to the Promised Land Preschool: Teaching for Day 3

## Lesson 3: Joshua and the Big Battle

### Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)

**By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.**

### Introduction/Recap

Welcome back to our final day of Journey to the Promised Land.

Let's review what we have learned so far.

On **Day 1**, we talked about how God created everything in the beginning.

God's ultimate and greatest creation was mankind.

God loved mankind and wanted to have a relationship with us.

But Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and brought the curse of sin into the world.

But God already knew what was going to happen and already had a Rescue Plan in place.

Then, many years later, God chose a man named Abram and promised to bless him with his own land, his own nation, and that all the world would be blessed through him.

**(Reminder that God changed his name from Abram to Abraham.)**

Abraham had faith in God, so God counted his faith as righteousness.

This was the start of God's Rescue Plan.

On **Day 2**, we learned that Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, ended up moving to Egypt, and they became so numerous that the Egyptians put them into slavery to keep them under control.



But God raised up a man named Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt.

Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, was stubborn and would not let them go, so God sent 10 plagues to get Pharaoh's attention. **Finally, Pharaoh let the Israelites go.**

### **Joshua's Rise to Leadership**

Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years until it was time for them to enter the Promised Land, the land God had promised to Abraham and to his descendants.

However, Moses was not going to be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

#### **(Remind them how Moses disobeyed God.)**

Moses had not honored God's commandment and took matters into his own hands, so God told Moses he would not enter the Promised Land.

God chose Joshua, one of Moses' helpers, to take over and lead the people into the land.

### **Death of Moses**

Moses was allowed to go up on a mountain and view the Promised Land.

So, Moses went up on the mountain and saw the Promised Land from a distance, and then he died.

God Himself buried Moses on the mountain.

#### **(You can read this verse with the children briefly from a children's Bible but remember to keep it short as it's not the main point of today's lesson.)**

Deuteronomy 34:1 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land...**

Deuteronomy 34:4-6 (NIV)

**<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." <sup>5</sup> And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.**

## Joshua Commissioned to Lead Israel

After Moses' death, God again confirms that Joshua is now to be the leader.

Joshua 1:1-2 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them — to the Israelites.**

Joshua 1:5-6 (NIV)

**<sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.**

## Jesus – Captain of the LORD's Army

Joshua prepared the people to cross over the Jordan River into the Promised Land to take it.

But before they went, God came and met with Joshua.

Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV)

**<sup>13</sup> Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" <sup>14</sup> "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" <sup>15</sup> The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.**

We believe this person was Jesus Himself, before He came to earth as a human born in Bethlehem.

Jesus appeared to people at various times in the Old Testament. These appearances are called Christophanies. **(Inform or remind children that Jesus was not seen on earth in human form until over 1000 years later)**

Some other possible examples:

- The angel who met Hagar in the wilderness and told her to go back to Abraham and Sarah
- One of the 3 strangers who came to Abraham and told him Sarah would have a child within the next year
- The angel who intervened and stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac
- The angel Jacob wrestled with before meeting back up with his brother Esau
- The voice that spoke to Moses from the burning bush

- The angel who told Sampson's mother she would have a child
- The fourth person in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

## Jericho

Joshua had courage because he knew God would be with him.

Even when God gave what seemed like strange instructions for conquering the first city, Jericho, Joshua obeyed.

**(Read these verses with preschoolers from a children's bible. Use expression when reading.)**

- **Use flannel graph if available. Use flannel graph during the Bible reading to tell the story and/or**
- **Use boxes to build a wall for the children to march around/ Make trumpets out of paper and let them decorate.**

Joshua 6:1-5 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."**

Joshua and the people obeyed God.

Joshua 6:15-16 (NIV)

**<sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"**

Joshua 6:20 (NIV)

**<sup>20</sup> When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.**

Joshua 6:27 (NIV)

**<sup>27</sup> So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.**

**(If time permits, you can briefly explain/recap some of Joshua's failures as a leader. Going into detail would just be too much for this age group on top of all the other information.)**

### **Failure to Seek God (Gibeonites)**

But Joshua was not a perfect leader.

He made other mistakes.

**(Give a brief overview of Joshua's failures as a leader. Just enough to show that he was still imperfect and in need of a Rescuer.)**

### **Flashback – Abraham and Sarah's Failures; Moses Killing an Egyptian; Moses Cannot Enter**

#### ***Sarai and Hagar (Genesis 16: 1-4)***

Sarai also got impatient with God when she was getting older and still had not given birth to a child. So, she convinced Abram to marry her servant Hagar and have a son through her. Abram gave in, but this was not God's plan.

Because they jumped ahead of God's plan, there was fighting and contention within the family, between Sarai and Hagar. And that fighting and disunity have continued to this day between the descendants of Hagar's son, Ishmael, and the descendants of Sarai's son, Isaac.

#### ***Moses Flees to Midian (Exodus 2:11-22)***

Even Moses made his mistakes.

He had been raised in Egypt by Pharaoh's daughter, so he was a ruler in Egypt.

He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, so he took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

When Pharaoh found out what Moses had done, he wanted to kill Moses, so Moses had to run away to Midian.

### ***Moses Strikes the Rock (Numbers 20:2-13)***

Years later, after Moses had led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, they needed water to drink, so they complained to Moses and accused him of bringing them into the wilderness to die.

Moses and Aaron went to God, and God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would come out for the people.

But Moses was angry with the people. Listen to what he did:

Numbers 20:10-12 (NIV)

**<sup>10</sup> He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup> Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. <sup>12</sup> But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”**

Moses took matters into his own hands and said “We will give you water” instead of giving glory to God. So God would not let Moses be the one to lead them into the Promised Land.

### **God’s Faithfulness**

Despite Joshua’s failures, and the failures of Abraham and Moses before him, God continued to help the Israelites conquer and take over the Promised Land.

**(Still review, perhaps just use flannel graph or previously completed crafts to review lesson content from days 1 through 3)**

Joshua gathered the Israelites together and summarized all that God had done for them.

### **The New Heaven and the New Earth (Our Future Promised Land)**

Just as the Israelites were promised a land for their very own, we have been promised that we can live with God forever, our own Promised Land.

Let’s see what the last book of the Bible says about this future Promised Land.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

**<sup>1</sup> Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

As we have seen in other lessons, we are all sinners and have disobeyed God.

Sin separates us from God.

Romans 6:23 says that what we deserve for our sin is death.

But that verse goes on to say that God offers us a free gift of eternal life through Jesus.

God offers to forgive our sins and make us His very own children when we trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

When we trust in Jesus Christ, God’s Holy Spirit comes to live within us and He gives us the strength to live for God and to do what is right.

We don’t become perfect immediately, but God helps us day by day to live in a way that pleases Him.

And He promises that one day we will live with Him forever in His Promised Land!

Close in prayer.