

People of faith
Noah

I. Noah loves God

Vocabulary:

godly man: a man who follows God

mean: unkind, hurting other people

put an end: destroy

ruined: spoiled or destroyed

ark: a box or chest – this ark was made into a boat

tar: a black thick liquid made from the inside of a pine tree

waterproof: to keep water from coming into the boat

dimensions: the measurement or size of something

decks: floors on a boat

flood: a large amount of water that covers an area

covenant: a formal agreement between two people – (God and Noah)

store: to put away for future use

spring: a place where water comes up naturally from the ground

Noah was a godly man. However, he lived among people who were mean. The people on earth were sinning and doing harmful acts. They didn't love God. God saw how sinful the people had become. He spoke to Noah. God said, "I will put an end to all people. They have ruined the earth with their evil acts. I will destroy the earth and everything living on it."

Read Genesis 6: 9-13 (page 6)

God told Noah to build an ark with many rooms. The ark would be covered with tar to keep it waterproof. The dimensions of the ark would be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (138.5 meters, 23 meters, 14 meters). The ark would have 3 decks and a roof. God said that he would send a flood. The flood would destroy everything on earth. But God made a covenant with Noah. God promised to save Noah and his family.

Read Genesis 6: 14-18

God said, "Bring a male and female of every animal into the ark. Bring a male and female of each bird into the ark. Gather all kinds of food.

Store the food in the ark for yourselves and the animals.” Noah did everything God said.

Read Genesis 6: 19-22 (page 6)

God said, “ In seven days, it will rain for forty days and nights. I will destroy everything on the earth.” Noah was 600 years old. It began to rain. Noah and his family went on the boat to escape the flood. Males and females of all the animals went on the boat. It was the 17th day of the second month of the year. Water came from springs under the ocean. Rain poured down from the sky. It rained for forty days and nights. The waters on the earth grew higher and higher. The ark began to rise with the water and floated on the water. The water covered the mountains. Everything on earth died. Only Noah and everything on the boat lived.

Read Genesis 7: 4-7, 11-12, 14-24

Questions

1. Why was God angry?
2. What kind of man was Noah?
3. What will God do to the earth?
4. What did Noah build?

5. What would destroy all life?

6. Who and what went into the boat?

7. How long did it rain?

II. God saves Noah

Vocabulary:

decreased: became less
came to rest: to land on
continued: keep on doing something
raven: large black bird similar to a crow
dove: small white bird
beak: the mouth of a bird
return: come back again
covenant: a promise

God cared about Noah and his family. God cared about the animals that were with Noah on the ark. God sent a wind over the earth. The rain stopped. The springs under the oceans closed. The water levels decreased. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The water continued to decrease. Noah waited 40 days. Noah sent a raven out from the boat. It flew back and forth. Then Noah sent out a dove. But the dove couldn't put its feet down. The ground was still wet. The dove returned to the boat.

Read Genesis 8: 1-9 (page 7)

Noah waited seven days. He sent the dove out again. The dove returned to the boat. It had an olive leaf in its beak. Noah knew there was less water on the ground. Noah waited seven more days. Then he sent the dove out again. The dove did not return. The water had dried up from the earth. Noah removed the covering from the ark. The earth was now completely dry. God said, "Noah, leave the boat. Take your family with you. Bring out all the animals, birds, and all the living creatures. The animals will multiply on the earth." Noah, his family, and all the animals left the boat. Then Noah built an altar and sacrificed a burnt offering to God. God said, "I will never put a curse on man again. Even though his heart turns against me and his thoughts are evil."

Read Genesis 8: 10-21

God gave his blessings to Noah. God told Noah and his children to produce many children and fill the earth. God gave them control of all the animals. All living things were under their control. God warned them

against murder or killing anyone. God made a covenant with Noah and all future generations. This covenant was also for all living creatures. God said, "I will never send a flood to destroy the earth again. This is a promise to all living things. When it rains, I will make a rainbow. Then I will remember my covenant with you. The rainbow is a sign of my promise."

Read Genesis 9: 1-17(page 8)

Questions

1. What did God send to decrease the water?
2. Where did the boat land?
3. What did Noah send from the boat?
4. What did the dove have in its beak?
5. The earth was dry. What did God say to Noah?
6. What is the sign of God's promise?

Abraham

I. God chooses Abraham

Vocabulary:

bles: to give good things to someone

curse: bring harm to

nation: a country and its people

honor: to praise, to give respect

vision: to have a dream while awake

shield: something used to protect someone from harm

reward: a gift or blessing

your belongings: all that you own.

fulfill: give what is promised

outsider: someone who does not belong

worn out: very tired

God spoke to Abram. He said, "Leave your country and your people. Go to the land I will show you. I will bless you. I will make your name great. I will bless those you bless and I will curse those who curse you. Your family will become a great nation. All nations will be blessed because of you. You must go to the land of Canaan." Abram obeyed God. He left with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot.

Read Genesis 12: 1-5 (page 10)

Abram went to Canaan. He traveled through the land. Abram arrived at the city of Shechem. God said, "I will give this land to your children after you." Abram built an altar to honor God. He continued traveling toward Bethel. There, he set up tents between the cities of Bethel and Ai. Abram built another altar and worshiped God.

Read Genesis 12: 6-9

Later, Abram and his family were living in Hebron in the land of Canaan. The Lord appeared to Abram in a vision. He said, "Abram, Don't be afraid. I am your shield and your reward." But Abram said, "What can you give me? I have no children. All I own will go to my servant when I die." God said, "Your servant will not get your belongings. You will have a son. He will get all that you own." God said, "Look at the sky. Count the

stars. That is how many children you will have.” Abram believed God. God accepted Abram because he believed.

Read Genesis 15: 1-6 (page 13)

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord said, “ Walk with me. I will now fulfill my promise to you. I will greatly increase your numbers. You will be the father of many nations.” Abram felled down before the Lord. The Lord said, “ Your name will be Abraham for I will make you the father of many nations. You are living in Canaan as an outsider. But I will give you this whole land. You will keep my covenant through circumcision. You must circumcise all males.”

Read Genesis 17: 1-11 (page 14)

God changed Sarai’s name to Sarah. She will be blessed. She will have a son and be the mother of all nations. Abraham laughed, “ How can a son be born to a man who is 100 years old?” Later, the Lord said to Abraham, “I will return to you in one year. Sarah will have a son.” Sarah overheard the conversation. She laughed and thought, “I’m worn out and my husband is old. How can I have a baby?” God said, “ Nothing is too hard for me.” Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. He was born at the exact time God had promised. Abraham named him Isaac.

Read Genesis 17: 15-17 (pg 15), Genesis 18: 10-15 (pg 15), Genesis 21: 1-7(pg 18)

Questions

1. When God first spoke to Abram, what did he say?

2. Where did Abram go?

3. When God spoke to Abram, did he have children?

4. Who would get all of Abram's belongings?

5. When Abram was 99, what did God say to him? How would Abraham keep the covenant?

6. How did Abraham and Sarah respond when the Lord said that they would have a child in one year?

II. God tests Abraham

Vocabulary:

put to the test: to see how someone responds to difficulty

sacrifice (verb): to give up one's life for God

burnt offering: an offering to God using an animal which is killed and set on fire.

servant: someone who works for a family

provide: will give

arrange: to put something in order

ram: male sheep

oath: solemn promise

Isaac was Abraham's only son and Abraham loved him. God put Abraham to the test. He said, "Abraham, take Isaac to a mountain. Sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering to me." Abraham got up early the next morning. Abraham got ready to leave. He took Isaac and two servants with him to the mountain. Abraham cut wood to use for the fire.

Read Genesis 22: 1-3 (pg 19)

Abraham found the place on the mountain. He told his servants to stay behind. Abraham said, "Stay here. Isaac and I will continue on to worship God." Isaac carried the wood while Abraham carried the fire and knife. Isaac said, "Father? We have the wood and fire. Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham said, "God will provide the lamb."

Read Genesis 22: 4-8

Abraham built an altar. He arranged the wood on it. He tied Isaac with a rope. Abraham placed Isaac on the altar, on top of the wood. Abraham picked up his knife to kill Isaac. The angel of the Lord cried out, "Abraham". Abraham said, "Here I am." The angel said, "Do not hurt the boy. I know you respect God. You were willing to give your only son."

Read Genesis 22: 9-12 (pg 20)

He took Isaac from the altar. Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush. Abraham got the ram and placed it on the altar. He sacrificed the ram as a burnt offering. Abraham called this place The Lord

Will Provide. The angel called out to Abraham again. God said, “I am taking an oath. I will bless you because you have obeyed me. You would have killed your son for me.”

Read Genesis 22: 13-16

Questions

1. Who was Isaac?
2. What did God say to Abraham?
3. What did Isaac carry to the mountain? What did Abraham carry?
4. What question did Isaac ask Abraham?
5. What did Abraham build? What did Abraham do to Isaac?
6. Who appeared to Abraham? What did he say?
7. What did Abraham see in the bush?

Joseph

I. Joseph has two dreams

Vocabulary:

shepherd: a person who takes care of sheep

flocks: groups of sheep

bad report: to record negative comments or observations

robe: a lightweight coat with long sleeves

jealous: to want something someone else has

dream: pictures you see when you are asleep

field: ground where plants grow for food.

grain: plants such as wheat, barley, or rye

bundles: groups

bowed down: (bow down) to bend over at the waist

Isaac was Abraham's son. Isaac married Rebekah who gave birth to Esau and Jacob. God said, "I will bless you, Jacob." God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Jacob (Israel) had 12 children but Joseph was his favorite son. Joseph was born when Jacob was old. Also, Joseph was Rachel's first child and Jacob loved Rachel more than any other.

When Joseph was a teenager, he was a shepherd. He helped his brothers take care of his father's flocks. Joseph gave a bad report about his brothers to his father. Israel made a special robe for Joseph. Joseph's brothers were jealous. They knew Israel loved Joseph. The brothers hated Joseph.

Genesis 37: 2-4 (page 38)

Joseph had a dream. When Joseph told his brothers, they got very angry. In Joseph's dream, he was in a field. He and his brothers were tying up bundles of grain. In the dream, Joseph's bundle stood up. His brothers' bundles of grain bowed down to Joseph's. Joseph's brothers were very angry. They said, "Do you think you will be king? Will you rule over us?" The brothers hated Joseph even more because of the dream.

Genesis 37: 5-8

Joseph had another dream. He told his brothers and father. In the dream, the sun and moon and 11 stars bowed down to Joseph. Joseph's father didn't understand. He said, "Will your mother and I bow down to

you? Will your brothers bow down to you?" His brothers were jealous. But his father thought about the dream.

Genesis 37: 9-11

Questions

1. Who was Jacob? What did God change his name to?
2. Why was Joseph Jacob's favorite son? (name 2 reasons)
3. What did Jacob make for Joseph? How did Joseph's brothers feel?
4. What was Joseph's first dream? What did his brothers say?
5. What was Joseph's second dream? What did his father say?

Joseph

II. Joseph is sold by his brothers.

Vocabulary:

far away – at a distance
well – a stone structure that has water
oldest – the brother whose age is the most
harm – hurt or injure
rescue – save from harm
dry – no water
traders – someone who buys and sells things
removed – took off
returned – came back
gone – no longer there
goat – see picture
wild – not tame
comfort him – to make him feel better

Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers. They were in Shechem with their sheep. The brothers saw Joseph coming. He was still far away. The brothers started talking. They wanted to kill Joseph. They said, “Let’s throw him in a well. We will say that a wild animal ate Joseph.” Reuben was the oldest brother. He heard what his brothers said. Reuben wanted to save Joseph. Reuben said, “Don’t kill Joseph. Throw him into the well. But do not harm him.” Later, Reuben would rescue Joseph. Reuben wanted to take Joseph to Jacob.

Read Genesis 37: 12-14, 18-22 (page 38)

Joseph was wearing his beautiful robe. The brothers removed the robe. They threw Joseph into the well. The well was dry. The brothers sat down to eat. While they ate, some traders came by. The traders were going to Egypt. Judah said, “Let’s sell Joseph to these traders. He is our brother. We shouldn’t kill him.” Later, Reuben returned to the well. Joseph was gone. Reuben was very upset.

Read Genesis 37: 23-30

The brothers took Joseph's robe. They put blood from a goat on the robe. The brothers took the robe to Jacob. They asked, "Is this Joseph's robe?" Jacob said, "Yes, it is Joseph's robe. A wild animal must have eaten Joseph!" Jacob cried for his son. No one could comfort him.

Read Genesis 37: 31-35

The traders sold Joseph to a man from Egypt. The man's name was Potiphar. Potiphar worked for the king of Egypt. Potiphar was a captain of the palace guard. The Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar saw that God blessed Joseph. Potiphar was happy with Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of everything he owned.

Read Genesis 39: 1-6

Questions

1. What did Joseph's brothers say when they saw Joseph coming?
2. What did Reuben say?
3. Where did Reuben want to take Joseph?
4. Where did the brothers throw Joseph? Who did they sell Joseph to?
5. What did the brothers give to Jacob (their father)? What was it covered in?
6. Who bought Joseph?

Joseph

III. Joseph is sent to prison

Vocabulary:

noticed: to observe or watch someone or something

handsome: a man who is attractive (beautiful)

wanted...physically: sexual relation

master: owner of a slave

with you: have a relationship

force: use physical power

wine taster: someone who tastes wine for a king (to make sure the wine is good – and not poisoned!!)

flowered: flowers grew

squeezed: press something from two sides

regain: to get something again

positive: having good results

Joseph was handsome. Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph and wanted him physically. Joseph said, "No. My master has put me in charge of everything he owns. He trusts me. I can't be with you. I will not sin against God." Potiphar's wife continued to approach Joseph many times. Joseph would not do what she wanted. He didn't even want to be around her.

Read Genesis 39: 7-10

One day Joseph was working alone in the house. Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph. Joseph ran away leaving his coat behind. Potiphar's wife called her servants. She said, "Joseph tried to force me to have sex with him. I screamed for help and Joseph ran out. Joseph left his coat behind." Potiphar came home from work. His wife told him about Joseph. Potiphar was angry and put Joseph into prison.

Read Genesis 39: 11-20

Joseph was in prison but the Lord was with him. The man in charge of the prison noticed Joseph. This man was pleased with Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. The Lord gave Joseph success in everything that he did at the prison.

Read Genesis 39: 21-23

Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. He was angry with two men, the chief wine taster and the chief baker. Pharaoh sent them to the same prison where Joseph was being held. Joseph took care of these men. Both the wine taster and the baker had a dream. Both men were upset about their dreams. What did the dreams mean? The wine taster told his dream. He saw a vine with three branches. The vine flowered and many grapes grew on the branches. Pharaoh's cup was in the hand of the wine taster. The wine taster squeezed the grapes into the cup and gave Pharaoh the cup. Joseph explained the dream. Joseph said, "The branches represent three days. You will be out of prison in three days. You will work for Pharaoh again as the chief wine taster." Joseph said, "After you regain your job, please remember me. Tell Pharaoh about me. I haven't done anything wrong."

Read Genesis 40: 1-15

The baker saw that the wine taster's dream was positive. So the baker also told his dream. There were three baskets of bread on the baker's head. All of Pharaoh's baked goods were in the basket. Birds were eating the bread out of the baskets. Joseph explained the dream. Joseph said, "The three baskets are three days. In three days, Pharaoh will cut off your head. Birds will eat your body." Pharaoh's birthday was in three days. He gave a big dinner for all his officials. Both the wine taster and baker came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh let the wine taster out of prison. The wine taster had his job again. But Pharaoh killed the baker. The dreams came true just like Joseph said. But the wine taster forgot about Joseph.

Read Genesis 40: 16-23

Questions

1. What did Potiphar's wife want?
2. How did Joseph respond to Potiphar's wife?

3. What did Potiphar's wife say to Potiphar and what did he do?

4. What happened to Joseph in prison?

5. What was the wine taster's dream? What did it mean?

6. What was the baker's dream? What did it mean?

Joseph

IV. Pharaoh has two dreams

Vocabulary:

cows: female cattle

healthy: not sick

skinny: too thin (opposite of heavy)

grain: plants such as rice, wheat, or corn used for food

swallowed up: consumed/ate

worried: to be nervous or unhappy about something

magician: a person who does tricks that looks like magic

Hebrew: people of Israel (also the language spoken)

remained: did not change/ continued to be the same

plenty: more than is needed

appoint: select

store: to keep something (food or material) for future use.

rich: luxurious

collected: gathered

Pharaoh had two dreams. Pharaoh was standing beside the Nile River. Seven healthy cows came out of the river. The cows were eating grass beside the river and were fat. After this, seven more cows came out of the river. These cows were skinny and ugly. The ugly, skinny cows ate the fat, healthy cows.

Read Genesis 41: 1-4 (page 42)

Pharaoh had a second dream. He saw a plant that had seven heads of grain. The heads of grain was good and healthy. After this, a second plant appeared which also had seven heads of grain. The heads of grain was thin and dry. The thin grain swallowed up the healthy grain.

Read Genesis 41: 5-7

Pharaoh was worried. Pharaoh talked to his wise men and magicians. Pharaoh told them his dreams but no one could explain the dreams. The Chief wine taster talked to Pharaoh. He said, “ I remember that I’ve done something wrong. You put the baker and me in prison. We both had dreams. A young Hebrew man named Joseph was in prison. Joseph heard our dreams and told us the meaning. What Joseph said came true.

Read Genesis 41: 8-13

Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Pharaoh said, "I had a dream but no one can explain it. I heard that you could explain dreams." Joseph said, "I can't but God can." Pharaoh told Joseph about the 7 healthy and 7 skinny cows. Pharaoh said, "The skinny cows ate the healthy ones. But the skinny cows remained skinny." He also told Joseph about the 7 good heads of grain and the 7 thin, dried up heads of grain.

Read Genesis 41: 14-24

Joseph told Pharaoh about the dreams. The dreams were about the future. The seven good cows and grain are seven years. The skinny cows and thin grain are 7 years. There will be plenty of food in the first seven years. In the next seven years, there will be hunger. God gave Pharaoh two dreams because the dreams will be fulfilled soon.

Read Genesis 41: 25-32

Joseph told Pharaoh, "You must find a wise man to put in charge of the country. For seven years, you will have much food. Appoint officials to collect the extra grain. The stored grain can be used when there is no food in the land." Pharaoh talked to his officials. Pharaoh said, "God is in this man. Joseph, you are a wise man. I will put you in charge and everyone will obey your orders."

Read Genesis 41: 33-40

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt. He gave Joseph a royal ring and dressed him in rich clothes and jewelry. Pharaoh told the people of Egypt to bow before Joseph. For seven years, there was plenty of food. There was more food than the people needed. Joseph collected the extra food and stored it in each city in Egypt. The seven good years ended. In the next seven years, there was not enough food. Other countries did not have food to eat. But Egypt had stored food. People from other countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

Read Genesis 41: 41-49, 53-57

Questions

1. What was Pharaoh's first dream?
2. What was Pharaoh's second dream?
3. What did the wine taster say to Pharaoh?
4. Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Pharaoh said that Joseph could explain the dreams. What did Joseph say?
5. What did the dreams mean?
6. Who did Pharaoh put in charge of Egypt?
7. For seven years, there was plenty of food in Egypt. What did Joseph do with the extra food?

Joseph

V. Joseph's brothers go to Egypt

Vocabulary:

recognized: to remember that you have seen someone or something before

accused: to state that someone has done something wrong

spies: people who get secret information about a country

prove: show me

fault: to be responsible for something

consumed: eaten

lotion: cream for your skin

moved: emotional

Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph was also Jacob's son but his brothers had sold him to traders. In Egypt, Joseph was in charge of the grain. Joseph recognized his brothers but pretended that he didn't. Joseph's brothers bowed down before Joseph. Although Joseph knew his brothers, they didn't know Joseph. Benjamin was Joseph's youngest brother. Benjamin did not go to Egypt but Joseph wanted to see Benjamin.

Read Genesis 42: 1-8 (page 44)

Joseph remembered his dreams. Joseph accused his brothers of being spies. The brothers denied that they were spies. They were just brothers from one family who came to buy grain. Joseph said that he didn't believe them. Joseph said, "You can prove that you are not spies. Bring your youngest brother to Egypt." He put them in prison for three days. Again, Joseph told them to bring their youngest brother to Egypt. The brothers said to themselves, "This is our fault. God is punishing us for what we did to Joseph." Joseph gave the brothers grain. He placed their money in the grain bags.

Read Genesis 42: 9-25

The brothers returned to Jacob. On the way home, one of the brothers opened his bag. He found money on top of the grain. The brothers were afraid. When they saw their father, they told him everything that happened in Egypt. They said, "We talked to the man in charge. He treated us badly

and called us spies. We said we were honest brothers of one father. One of our brothers was dead and the youngest brother was at home. The man said we must bring Benjamin to Egypt. This will prove that we are honest.” The brothers emptied their bags and found money with the grain. The brothers were afraid.

Read Genesis 42: 26-35

Jacob didn't want Benjamin to go. Reuben said, “ You can put my sons to death if I don't return Benjamin. Let me take care of him. I will keep him safe.” Jacob said, “No, I've lost one son already. I can't lose Benjamin as well.” Later, there was no food again. Jacob and his family had consumed all the grain from Egypt. Jacob said, “ Go to Egypt and buy more grain.” The brothers said, “ We can't go back to this man without Benjamin. He told us that we could not go before him without our younger brother. We can't go to Egypt without him.” Finally, Jacob agreed. Jacob sent lotion, honey, spices, and nuts as gifts. The brothers also took extra money. The brothers took the gifts and Benjamin and returned to Egypt.

Read Genesis 42: 36-38, 43: 1-15

When Joseph saw his brothers and Benjamin, he invited his brothers to his home. He wanted to make a special meal for them. The brothers were afraid when they arrived at Joseph's home. “He will attack us and turn us into slaves,” they said. Joseph had a manager who was in charge of Joseph's home. The brothers talked to the manager. They said, “ We came down to Egypt the first time to buy grain. When we left, we found our money in the bags of grain. We didn't put it there.” The manager said, “ Don't be afraid. I received your money for the grain. Your God gave you the money in the bags.”

Read Genesis 43: 16-23

When Joseph returned home, his brothers gave him the gifts and bowed before him. Joseph asked the brothers about Jacob. Joseph saw Benjamin, his mother's only other son. Joseph was so moved that he left the room and began to cry. The brothers were placed at the table by age. They were very surprised. The brothers ate lunch together but Benjamin was given the most food.

Read Genesis 43: 26-34

Questions

1. Where did Jacob send his sons? Why?
2. Did Joseph recognize his brothers? Did they recognize Joseph?
3. Joseph said that the brothers were spies. What did he want them to do to show that they were not spies?
4. What did Joseph put in the bags of grain?
5. What did the brothers feel when they saw the money?
6. What gifts did the brothers take to Egypt?

7. Joseph was happy to see Benjamin. What did Joseph do?

Joseph

VI. Joseph tells his brothers who he is.

Vocabulary:

emotional: to feel like you could cry

sob: cry deeply

crops: rice, wheat, corn

plow: to get a field ready for new seeds

famine: no food available

hugged: past tense of hug (to put your arms around someone)

pleased: happy

cart: large wooden box with wheels

supplies: things that are needed

loaded: filled with

shocked: very surprised

Joseph became emotional as he talked to his brothers. He said to his servants, "Please, leave." Joseph told his brothers who he was. He said, "I am Joseph" and began to sob. The brothers were afraid. Joseph said, "Come closer. I am your brother whom you sold to traders. Don't be upset. God wanted me to go to Egypt to save many lives. For the past two years, there has been no food. There will be no crops to plow or gather for 5 more years. God sent me to help so that people would not die in the famine. God told me what to do.

Read Genesis 45: 1-7 (page 47)

Joseph said, "You didn't send me to Egypt. God sent me. He put me in charge of Pharaoh's house. God made me ruler of Egypt. Go back to my father and tell him about me. Bring my father and all your families to Egypt. You can live here near me. I will give you everything you need. There are still five more years to come with no food. If you don't come to Egypt, you will lose everything.

Read Genesis 45: 8-13

Joseph hugged Benjamin and began to cry. Benjamin also began to sob. Joseph kissed his brothers and they talked together. Pharaoh was pleased when he heard about Joseph's brothers. Pharaoh told Joseph to

4. What did Pharaoh think about Joseph's brothers?

5. What did Pharaoh tell Joseph?

6. Name some things that Joseph sent to his father.

Moses
People of faith

I. Moses is born

forced: against someone's will

coated: covered

tar: black waterproof liquid from trees

strike: to hit someone

judging: criticizing or condemning

forced: to make someone do something against their will

The number of Israelites grew in Egypt. A new Pharaoh began to rule Egypt. He didn't know Joseph. Pharaoh said, "There are too many Israelites. If there is a war, they will join the enemy. The Israelites were forced to work very hard and were beaten. Pharaoh gave orders to kill all Jewish baby boys. He wanted them to be drowned in the Nile River.

Read Exodus 1: 8-14, 22

A Jewish woman gave birth to a son. She hid him for three months. She wanted to put him somewhere safe. The woman made a basket from grass and coated it with tar. She placed the baby in the basket. The woman put the basket in the tall grasses along the Nile River. The baby's sister watched over the baby. One day, Pharaoh's daughter went to the Nile River to take a bath. She saw the basket in the grasses. One of her servants opened the basket and saw the baby. "It's one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Pharaoh's daughter asked a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby. She was the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter named the baby Moses.

Read Exodus 2: 1-10

Moses grew up. One day, he watched some Hebrew men working. Moses saw an Egyptian man strike a Hebrew man. Moses killed the Egyptian and hid his body. Later, Moses saw two Hebrew men fighting. He asked the men why they were hitting each other. One man replied, "Why are you judging us? Will you kill me like you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was afraid. Pharaoh heard what Moses had done. Pharaoh tried to kill Moses. Moses ran away to Midian.

Read Exodus 2: 11-15

Moses sat down by a well. Some women came to get water. They were the daughters of a priest. There were some shepherds at the well. They forced the women away from the well. Moses helped the women get water from the well. The women returned to their home. They told their father that an Egyptian man helped them get water. The father said, “Bring the Egyptian to our home. Invite him to dinner.” The father gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses as his wife.

Read Exodus 2: 16-22

Questions

1. What did Pharaoh think about the Israelites?
2. What orders did Pharaoh give?
3. What did the Jewish woman do with her baby son?
4. Who found the baby? Who took care of the baby?
5. Moses watched some Hebrew men working. What did he see? What did he do?
6. Why did Moses run away to Midian?

7. What happened when the women tried to get water at the well?
What did Moses do?

Moses
People of faith

II. God calls Moses to save his people.

Vocabulary:

tending: taking care of

consume: to be used up/ destroyed

curious: wanting to know something

wonder: to think about something and want to know about it

slaves: people being forced to work

suffering: to have pain (emotional or physical)

rescue: save from harm

wealth: riches

Moses was tending his father-in-law's sheep. Moses saw a bush that was on fire. But the fire did not consume the bush. Moses was curious. He wondered why the bush didn't burn up. God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. God told Moses that He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When Moses heard God, he was afraid.

Read Exodus 3: 1-6

The people of Israel were in Egypt. They were slaves of the Egyptians. God knew that His people were suffering. God wanted to save the Israelites from the Egyptians. God would rescue them and give them a new land. God told Moses to go to Egypt and rescue the Israelites.

Read Exodus 3: 7-10

Moses said, "How is this possible? I am not important." But God said, "You will not be alone. I will be with you. I will perform miracles. This will show that I have sent you." Moses said, "How will the Israelites know that you have sent me? What name should I tell them?" God said, "Tell them that 'I AM' has sent you."

Read Exodus 3: 11-14

God told Moses to go to the important men of Israel. God said, "Tell the people that I have sent you. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob.” God said, “ Tell them that I have been watching. I know how they have suffered. I know that the Egyptians have hurt the people of Israel. I will deliver the Israelites and give them a wonderful new land.” God told Moses to go to Pharaoh. Moses must ask Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to leave. The Israelites needed to offer sacrifices to God. They would be gone for 3 days.

Read Exodus 3: 15-18

God said, “ I know that Pharaoh will not agree. I will do many miracles against the Egyptians. Then, Pharaoh will let the Israelites go. When you leave, the Egyptians will give you many things. You will take the wealth of Egypt with you.”

Read Exodus 3: 19-22

Questions

1. What did Moses see when he was tending sheep?
2. Who appeared to Moses and what did He say?
3. Where were the Israelites and what was happening to them?
4. How did Moses respond to God?

5. Moses would talk to Pharaoh. How would Pharaoh respond? What would God do?

Moses
People of faith

III. Pharaoh won't listen to Moses

Vocabulary:

slave drivers: people in charge of the slaves.

straw: the dried stalks of grain (rice, wheat, barley, rye, oats)

not our fault: we didn't cause this – not responsible

blamed: you are responsible

burden: difficulties/problems

Moses and his brother Aaron appeared before Pharaoh. They asked Pharaoh, "Let the people of Israel go. We want to worship God in the desert." Pharaoh said, "I don't know this God. Why should I obey him? No, the people of Israel will not go." Moses and Aaron said, "We must sacrifice to God. If not, something bad might happen." Pharaoh said, "You are taking the Israelites away from their work. They must get back to work."

Read Exodus 5: 1-5 (page 58)

Pharaoh gave orders to the slave drivers. He said, "Don't give the Israelites any straw to make bricks. They will have to get their own straw. They must continue to make the same number of bricks. Make them work harder. Then they won't have time to worship." The slave drivers told the people, "You must get your own straw. Pharaoh won't give you straw. But you still must make the same number of bricks." The Israelites gathered as much straw as they could find.

Read Exodus 5: 6-12

The slave drivers continued to make the Israelites work harder. They whipped the Israelites. The slave drivers asked, "Why didn't you make more bricks? You made less bricks today." Some Israelites were in charge of the people. They went before Pharaoh. They said, "Why didn't you give us straw? You tell us to keep making bricks but you won't give us straw. We are being whipped. It is not our fault." Pharaoh said, "You don't want to work. That's why you say that you want to worship God. Now get to

work. I will not give you straw but you must make bricks. You must continue to make the same number of bricks.”

Read Exodus 5: 13-18

The Israelites who spoke to Pharaoh knew that they were in trouble. They talked to Moses and Aaron. The Israelites were very angry. They blamed Moses for their problems with Pharaoh. Moses spoke to God. He said, “ Why have you brought these problems to the people of Israel? I spoke to Pharaoh exactly as you told me. But we have had nothing but trouble. You haven’t saved your people.”

Read Exodus 5: 19-23

The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, “ Now, watch what I do to Pharaoh. He will see that I am powerful and let the people of Israel go. The Lord said, “ Tell the people of Israel that I will be their God. I will remove the burden of the Egyptians from their shoulders.”

Read Exodus 6: 1 and 7

Questions

1. What did Moses and Aaron say to Pharaoh?
2. What did Pharaoh say?
3. What were the orders that Pharaoh gave to the slave drivers?

4. Some Israelites went to Pharaoh. What did they ask him?

5. What did the Israelites blame Moses for?

6. Moses spoke to God. He asked why God had brought these problems. What did the Lord say to Moses?

Moses
People of faith

IV. God sends plagues to Egypt

Vocabulary:

plague: something that kills or causes great suffering

staff: like a walking stick

bathe: to take a bath

stubborn: will not do something

covered: filled

gnats: small flying insects (smaller than flies)

replicate: to make a copy of something

bothered: to be annoyed or disturbed by something

strike down: kill

livestock: domestic animals like cattle, sheep, horses, etc.

boils: infected sores on the skin

ashes: what remains after wood burns

furnace: similar to a fireplace – used to cook or heat houses

hail: balls or lumps of ice

locust: similar to grasshopper

God said that He would show His power to Pharaoh. God said, “Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” God used Moses and Aaron to show His power. God sent 10 plagues to Egypt.

Read Exodus 7: 1- 6 (pg 60)

A. The water in the Nile River turns into blood.

Moses and Aaron met Pharaoh at the Nile River. Moses said to Pharaoh, “ The Lord says, Let my people go. But you won’t listen. Now, you will see that I am God.” God told Moses to strike the water of the Nile River with his staff. God turned the water into blood. Every fish in the Nile River died. There was no water to drink or to bathe in. But Pharaoh would not believe God. Pharaoh’s heart was stubborn.

Read Exodus 7: 14-24

B. The plague of frogs

One week after the first plague, Moses went before Pharaoh. Again Moses said, “The Lord says, Let my people go. If you refuse, I will send frogs. The frogs will be in your palace and in the homes of your people. The frogs will be everywhere. They will be in your kitchens and in your beds.” Aaron reached out with his staff. Frogs covered all of Egypt. Pharaoh said to Moses and Aaron, “ Pray to the Lord to remove these frogs. Then I will let the Israelites go.” Moses prayed and God killed the frogs. But Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

Read Exodus 8: 1-15

C. Plague of Gnats

God said to Moses, “ Tell Aaron to strike his staff on the ground. The dust from the ground will turn into gnats.” The gnats landed on all the people and animals. Pharaoh’s magicians couldn’t replicate this plague. The magicians told Pharaoh, “ God’s power did this”. But Pharaoh was stubborn. He wouldn’t listen.

Read Exodus 8: 16-19

D. Plague of Flies

God said to Moses, “ Go, talk to Pharaoh again. Tell him, The Lord says, “Let my people go. If not, I will send a large number of flies. The flies will be everywhere. The flies will be inside your homes and on you and the Egyptian people. But the people of Israel will not be bothered with flies. You will know that I care about the people of Israel.”

Read Exodus 8: 20-23

Flies covered the land of Egypt. Pharaoh told Moses, “ You can sacrifice to your God here in Egypt.” But Moses said, “No, we must obey God and sacrifice in the desert.” Pharaoh said, “ You can go but please pray for me.” Moses prayed and God removed the flies. But Pharaoh was stubborn. He wouldn’t let the people go.

Read Exodus 8: 24-32

E. Plague on livestock

God said to Moses, “ Go to Pharaoh. Tell him, The Lord says, “Let my people go. Do not refuse. If you do, I will strike down your livestock. But I will not harm Israel’s livestock.” The next day, Pharaoh found out that all of the Egyptians’ livestock died. But not one of Israel’s livestock was harmed. Yet, Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel go.

Read Exodus 9: 1-7

F. Plague of boils

God spoke to Moses. He said, “ Take ashes from a furnace. Throw them in the air in front of Pharaoh. The ashes will become dust that covers all of Egypt. Boils will break out on all the people and animals of Egypt.” The bodies of all the Egyptians were covered with boils. But Pharaoh wouldn’t listen to Moses.

Read Exodus 9: 8-12

G. Plague of hail

God told Moses to get up early. God said, “ Tell Pharaoh that the Lord said, Let my people go. If not, I will send my worst plagues on you. I have saved you. I could have removed you from this earth. But I want you to know my power. I want my name spread through out the earth.” God said, “ I will send the worst hailstorm in your history. Give orders to bring your people and animals inside. Anything remaining outside will die.”

Read Exodus 9: 13-20

Moses reached his staff to the sky. A huge storm began with thunder and lightning. Large pieces of hail began to fall from the sky. The hail fell on people and animals. It destroyed the crops in the fields. Pharaoh said, “ I have sinned. Pray to the Lord. I will let the people of Israel go.” After Moses prayed, the rain, hail, and thunder stopped. When Pharaoh saw this, he became stubborn again. He would not let the people of Israel go.

Read Exodus 9: 23-35

H. Plague of locusts

Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh. They said, “The Lord says, How long will you disobey me? Let my people go. If not, locust will cover all of Egypt. They will eat all your crops. They will be in your homes.” Pharaoh’s officials said to Pharaoh, “Let the people of Israel go. We are being destroyed.” Pharaoh talked to Moses and Aaron. He said, “Go. Worship the Lord. Who will you take?” Moses said, “We will all go. All of our men, women, and children will go. We will also take our livestock.” Pharaoh said, “I will only allow your men to go.”

Read Exodus 10: 1-11

Moses reached out his staff. The Lord made a wind blow from the East. The locust came in with the wind. The locusts covered the ground. There were so many locusts that the ground looked black. They ate all the crops. They consumed all the fruit and leaves of every tree. Pharaoh said, “I have sinned against God and I have sinned against you. Please, pray to God to remove the locusts. Moses prayed and God sent a strong wind to remove the locusts. But Pharaoh wouldn’t let the people of Israel go.

Read Exodus 10: 13-20

I. Plague of darkness

God told Moses, “Reach your hand out toward the sky. Darkness will spread over Egypt.” Darkness covered Egypt for 3 days. No one could see anything for three days. But the people of Israel had light. Pharaoh sent for Moses. Pharaoh said, “Go. Take all your people including women and children. But you must leave your flocks and herds.”

Moses said, “We must take our animals with us. We will need some for making sacrifices. We will need all of our livestock to worship God fully.” But Pharaoh wouldn’t let the people of Israel go.

Read Exodus 10: 21-29

J. Death of the 1st born sons

God said to Moses, “ I will perform one more plague. Then Pharaoh will let the people of Israel go. In fact, Pharaoh will force you to leave.” God said, “ I will go through every part of Egypt. The oldest male child of every family will die. All the first-born male slaves and male animals will also die. But no animal or man will be harmed from the people of Israel.

Read Exodus 11: 1-8

Moses told the people of Israel, “ Choose a lamb for sacrifice. This will be the Passover lamb. Take the blood from the lamb and paint it on the doorframes of your home. Stay in your homes until morning. During the night, the Lord will move through Egypt killing all first-born males. When He sees the blood on your doorframe, God will pass over your home. Every year, you will celebrate this time with a Passover feast.”

At midnight, God struck down every first-born male in every family in Egypt. Pharaoh’s oldest son was also killed. There was loud crying in Egypt that night.

Read Exodus 12: 21-30

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. He said, “ Leave. Go and worship your God. Take all your families and all your animals.” The people of Israel gathered all their belongings. They also asked the Egyptians for silver and gold, and clothes. The Egyptians gave these things willingly.

Read Exodus 12: 31-36

The Israelites traveled to the Red Sea. God caused Pharaoh’s heart to change so that God could show His power. Pharaoh came after the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt.

Read Exodus 14: 4-7

When the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army, they were afraid. Moses said, “ Don’t be afraid. God will save you. Stand firm.” Moses reached his hand out over the Red Sea. God parted the waters and made dry land for the Israelites to pass. God made it difficult for the Egyptians to

follow. As they tried to cross, God made the water flow back over the Egyptians. All the Egyptians were drowned.
Read Exodus 14: 13-14, 21-28

Questions

1. How many plagues did God send to Egypt? Why did he send them?
2. What did Pharaoh say after the plague of frogs? Did he do this?
3. After the flies came, where did Pharaoh say the people of Israel could worship?
4. When God sent hail to Egypt, Pharaoh said that he had sinned. He said that the people could go. What happened after the hail stopped?
5. What was the final plague that made Pharaoh change his mind?
6. What happened at the Red Sea?

Ruth People of Faith

I. Ruth pledges to go with Naomi

Vocabulary:

Judah: a region of land where the descendants of Judah lived

accompanied: came along with

bitter: resentful, angry

clung: to hold onto tightly

There was a food shortage in Judah. A man named Elimelech and his wife Naomi moved to Moab with their family. Elimelech died leaving Naomi with their two sons. Each of Naomi's sons married a woman from Moab. The wives names were Orpah and Ruth. After 10 years, both of Naomi's sons had died.

Read Ruth 1: 1-5

Naomi heard that God was providing food for people in Judah. Naomi decided to return to her family. Both Orpah and Ruth accompanied Naomi on the road back to Judah. Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go back to Moab. Return to your mother's home. You were kind to your husbands and also to me. May God be kind to you and give you good husbands." The women cried together. Orpah and Ruth wanted to go with Naomi. But Naomi said, "I don't have any more sons for you to marry. What can I give you? My life is bitter and God is against me."

Read Ruth 1: 6-13

Orpah kissed Naomi and returned to Moab. But Ruth clung to Naomi. Naomi told her to go back with Orpah. Ruth said, "Don't make me leave you. I'll go where you go and stay where you stay. Your people will become my people and your God will be my God. Only death will separate me from you." Ruth went with Naomi to Bethlehem. Everyone in town was surprised to see Naomi. But Naomi was very sad and bitter. Naomi believed that God had taken everything away from her and made her suffer.

Read Ruth 1: 14-22

Questions

1. Why did Elimelech and his family leave Judah? Where did they go?
2. Why did Naomi decide to return to Judah?
3. Why did Naomi want her daughters-in law to go back to Moab?
4. What did Ruth say to Naomi?
5. Why was Naomi bitter?

II. Ruth meets Boaz

Vocabulary:

related: was a relative of

feel free: be comfortable

bundles: a portion of the grain harvest wrapped with a cord

bushel: dry volume measurement equal to 8 gallons or 35 liters

Naomi had many relatives who lived in Bethlehem. One relative was a wealthy man named Boaz. Boaz was related to Naomi's husband, Elimelech. It was the time of harvest. According to Jewish law, any grain remaining in a field after harvest must be left for widows and foreigners. Ruth offered to go to the fields to gather left over grain. She was working in a field owned by Boaz. Boaz returned from Bethlehem and talked to the workers in his field. As he was talking, Boaz noticed Ruth in the field. He asked his workers who she was. The workers told him that she was from Moab and that she had returned with Naomi to Bethlehem. Ruth had approached the workers in the field. She asked if she could pick up the grain that was left. The workers told Boaz that Ruth had been working since morning with only a short rest.

Read Ruth 2: 1-7

Boaz went to meet Ruth. He said, "Don't go to any other field. Please continue to get grain from my field. You can stay with my female servants. Feel free to pick up any grain that you see. None of my men will harm you. When you are thirsty, get water from my jars." Ruth was very surprised. "Why are you so kind to me?" she asked. "I'm a foreigner". Boaz replied, "I have heard about you. I know that you have helped your mother-in-law. I know that you left your country to help Naomi. You came here to live with strangers." Boaz wanted God's blessings for Ruth. Ruth said, "Thank you for being so kind to me."

Read Ruth 2: 8-13

At lunchtime, Boaz offered Ruth some bread and cooked grain. She ate until she was full. Ruth even had some food left over. After she finished eating, Ruth returned to the field. Boaz told his workers to let Ruth take grain from the bundles. He told them to pull some stalks out of the bundles so she could gather them. Ruth continued to pick up grain until evening.

She separated the grain from the stalk. Ruth collected one half of a bushel of grain. Ruth took the grain and left over lunch to Naomi. Naomi asked Ruth where she collected the grain. Ruth told her about Boaz. Naomi said, “May God bless Boaz. Boaz is a relative. He is a good protector of our family.”

Read Ruth 2: 14-20

Ruth continued to tell Naomi about her meeting with Boaz. Ruth said, “Boaz even told me to stay with his workers until all the grain was in.” Naomi told her to continue in Boaz’s field. She knew that Ruth would be protected. Ruth worked in Boaz’s field during the entire harvest time.

Read Ruth 2: 21-23

Questions

1. Who was Boaz?
2. What is the Jewish law about harvesting grain in the fields?
3. What did Boaz tell Ruth to do?
4. Why was Boaz so kind to Ruth?

5. What did Boaz tell the workers to do to help Ruth?

6. How did Naomi respond to what Ruth said about Boaz?

III. Ruth goes to Boaz

Vocabulary:

threshing floor: a floor where the harvested grain was taken to remove the grain from its husk.

family protector: a older man within a family who looks after the widows and poorer members of the family.

noble: having high moral values

Naomi wanted Ruth to think about her future. She wanted Ruth to remarry. It was Jewish tradition for a widow to marry someone within the family. By doing this, any land would stay within the family. Naomi said, “Tonight, Boaz will be working at the threshing floor. Go. Take a bath and dress yourself in your best clothes. Watch Boaz. Take notice of where he lays down for the evening. Uncover his feet and lay down at his feet.” Ruth said that she would do what Naomi told her.

Read Ruth 3: 1-6

Boaz finished his meal and went to lie down near the grain pile. Ruth quietly approached Boaz. She uncovered his feet and lied down next to them. During the night, Boaz suddenly woke up. There was a woman down by his feet! Boaz called out, “Who are you?” Ruth replied, “It is Ruth. You are our family protector. Would you continue to care for me as your wife?” Boaz said, “May God bless you. You are showing me great honor. You could have gone after younger men. You are such a noble woman. I will do everything you ask.”

Read Ruth 3: 7-11

Boaz said, “I am a relative but there is another man who is a closer relative. Please continue to stay here. In the morning, I will talk to this man. If he is willing to help you, that is fine. But if he will not, I will gladly take care of you.” Ruth continued to lie on the floor at Boaz’s feet until early morning. Before she left, Boaz filled her coat with barley. Ruth returned to Naomi. Ruth told Naomi everything that Boaz had done for her. Naomi said, “Stay here until you find out what will happen. I know that Boaz will not rest until your problem is resolved.”

Read Ruth 3: 12-18

Questions

1. What was the Jewish tradition regarding widows?
2. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do?
3. What did Ruth ask Boaz after he found her by his feet?
4. How did Boaz respond to Ruth?

IV. Boaz marries Ruth

Vocabulary:

jeopardize: to put something or someone at risk

custom: practice or ritual which is performed as a symbol

changed hands: new owner

Boaz talked to the other male relative. This man was a closer relative to Ruth and Naomi. Boaz gathered the elders of the town. He wanted them to witness his talk with the male relative. Boaz said to the man, “Naomi has returned from Moab. She wants to sell the land belonging to her husband Elimelech. Elimelech was our relative. I wanted you to know this. Because you are a close relative, you should buy this land. I am saying this in front of witnesses. If you want to buy this land, let me know. If not, I will purchase it.” The man said that he would buy the land.

Read Ruth 4:1-4

Then Boaz told the man the rest of the story. Boaz said, “When you buy the land, you must also marry Ruth. Ruth is from Moab and was married to Naomi’s son Mahlon. Mahlon died and Ruth is a widow. Mahlon’s name must stay with his property.” When the man heard this, he said, “I can’t buy this land. If I do, I will jeopardize my own property.”

Read Ruth 4: 5-6

There was a special custom in Israel to show that property had changed hands. This custom was to remove a shoe or sandal and give it to the person buying the land. The male relative told Boaz to buy the land himself. Then he removed his sandal. Boaz turned to the elders. He said, “You are my witnesses. Today, I have purchased the land belonging to Elimelech and his sons. I will take Ruth to be my wife. She is the widow of Mahlon, Elimelech’s son. His name will stay with this property. It will remain in the town records.”

Read Ruth 4: 7-10

The elders responded, “We are witnesses. You will marry Ruth. May God bless you and bless the nation of Israel through you.” Boaz married Ruth and God bless them with a son. The women of Bethlehem came to Naomi. They were very happy about Naomi’s grandson. This grandson

would take care of Naomi in her old age. Boaz and Ruth called their son Obed. From this family line, Jesus would be born.

Read Ruth 4: 11-17

Questions

1. Why did Boaz bring the elders together?
2. Why did Boaz tell the man about Naomi's property?
3. In addition to buying the land, what else must the man do?
4. Why didn't the man want to buy the property?
5. What was the custom when property was sold?

6. What did Boaz do?

7. What is important about the family of Boaz and Ruth?

People of faith
Daniel

I. Daniel is chosen to serve Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon

Vocabulary:

conquered: to win in a battle

trained: taught

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon conquered Jerusalem. He wanted some young healthy Jewish men to be trained. Nebuchadnezzar wanted these young men to serve in his palace. The young men had to learn the Babylonian language and culture. They would be given food and wine from the king's table. The young men would be trained for three years.

Read Daniel 1: 1-5 (page 945)

Four of the young men were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The official gave the young men new names. The names were Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God. Daniel decided that he would not eat the king's food or drink his wine. So Daniel talked to the king's official. The king's official listened to Daniel. But he was afraid of the king. If Daniel and his three friends didn't eat and drink from the king's table, they may not look healthy. If Daniel looked sick, the official might get killed.

Read Daniel 1: 6-10

Daniel talked to one of the guards. He said, "Test us. Give me and my friends nothing but vegetables for 10 days. Give us only water to drink. After 10 days, compare us with the young men who ate the king's food." The guard did as Daniel suggested. After 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthy. In fact, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than the other young men. So the guard continued to give Daniel and his friends vegetables during their training. God blessed these young men by giving them knowledge. Daniel was able to understand visions and dreams.

Read Daniel 1: 11-17

The young men's training was complete. King Nebuchadnezzar talked to the young men. He found that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were the best of all the young men. These men were full of wisdom. King Nebuchadnezzar asked for advice from Daniel and his friends.

Read Daniel 1: 18-21

Questions

1. Who was the king of Babylon?
2. Why did the king want to have some men trained? What kind of training did they need?
3. Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God. What did he decide to do?
4. Why was the king's official afraid?
5. What did Daniel want the guard to do for 10 days?

6. How did Daniel and his friends look after 10 days?

People of faith
Daniel

II. Nebuchadnezzar has a dream

Vocabulary:

requested: asked with authority

reward: to be given a gift for performing an action

stalling for time: to delay

my mind is made up: I have decided something and will not change

crush: to grind something into small piece/ to completely destroy something

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He requested that all the magicians come before him. Nebuchadnezzar wanted these men to tell him what he had dreamed. When the magicians appeared before him, Nebuchadnezzar said, “Tell me what my dreams means.” The magicians said, “Oh wonderful king, tell us about your dream. Then we can tell you what it means.” But the king said, “You must tell me what my dream was and also what it means. If you don’t tell me, I will kill you and destroy your homes. So, tell me what I dreamed and then explain it. I will reward you richly.”

Read Daniel 2: 1-6 (page 946)

Once again, the magicians asked the king to tell them his dream. The king accused the magicians of stalling for time. The king said, “My mind is made up. You must tell me my dream. If you can tell me my dream, then I know that you really understand what it means.” The magicians said, “But no one can do what you are asking. No one is able to tell you what you have dreamed.”

Read Daniel 2: 7-11

The king became very angry. He ordered that all wise men and magician be killed. Daniel and his friends were among the wise men. Men came for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. Daniel spoke to one of the commanders. He asked the commander why Nebuchadnezzar gave such an order. The commander explained what had happened. Daniel went to king Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel told the king that he would explain the dream

but Daniel needed more time. Daniel asked his friends to pray to God. He wanted God to give him an understanding of the king's dream. God gave Daniel a vision about Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel praised God for giving him knowledge about the king's dream.

Read Daniel 2: 12-23

Daniel went to see the commander again. He said, "Don't kill the wise men. I will go to see the king. I can tell Nebuchadnezzar about his dream." Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel if he could describe the dream and explain its meaning. Daniel said, "You are asking something that no man can do. None of your magicians will be able to either. But there is a God in heaven who can explain any mystery. God has given you information about the future. I understand this mystery. But it is not because I am wise, it is because God wants you to know about the future."

Read Daniel 2: 24-30

In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge statue. The head of the statue was made of gold, the chest and arms were made of silver. The stomach and thighs of the statue were made of bronze and the legs were made of iron. The feet of the statue were made of iron and clay. A rock appeared and hit the statue on the feet. This rock was not cut by human hands. The feet were destroyed. All of the rest of the statue was also destroyed. But the rock became a huge mountain and filled the earth.

Read Daniel 2: 31-35

Daniel said, "This was your dream. Now, I will tell you what this dream means. God has given you authority. He has made you the greatest king. The golden head of the statue represents you, king Nebuchadnezzar. After your rule, another kingdom will take control (the silver part). Next, a third kingdom will rule the earth. This is represented by the bronze part of the statue. The fourth kingdom is as strong as iron. This kingdom will crush and destroy all the other kingdoms."

Read Daniel 2: 36-43

"During all these kingdoms, God will set up a heavenly kingdom. It will never be destroyed. God's kingdom will crush all the other kingdoms.

God's kingdom will never end. The rock in the dream represents God's kingdom. This rock was not cut by human hands. This rock smashed the statue completely from head to toe. God has shown you what will take place in the future." King Nebuchadnezzar bowed before Daniel. The king said, "Your God is the greatest God of all. He understands and can explain mysteries." King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel a high position of authority. Daniel became ruler of the city of Babylon. The king also appointed Daniel's friends to help Daniel rule the city.

Read Daniel 2: 44-49

Questions

1. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted all of his magicians to come to him. What did he want them to do?
2. Why couldn't the magicians do what the king wanted?
3. The king became angry. What order did he give?
4. What did Daniel ask his friends to do? Why?
5. What was the king's dream?

6. What did the following parts of the statue represent:

gold head:

silver chest and arms:

the rock:

III. Daniel's friends are thrown into a furnace.

Vocabulary:

fiery furnace: a furnace with a very hot fire

demanded: required strongly

Daniel told king Nebuchadnezzar about his dream. King Nebuchadnezzar praised God. The king called God the "greatest God of all". But Nebuchadnezzar soon forgot about God. In fact, king Nebuchadnezzar built a huge statue of gold. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded all his officials to come before the statue. This was king Nebuchadnezzar command: "When you hear music, you must bow down before the gold statue. If you don't, you will be thrown into a fiery furnace". There were people from many nations and languages. When they heard the sound of music, all of the people bowed down in front of the golden statue.

Read Daniel 3: 1-7 (page 948)

Some of the king's magicians came to Nebuchadnezzar. They were angry and jealous of Daniel and his friends. The magicians said, "You have commanded us to fall down and worship the golden statue. You said that when we hear music, we must obey this command. If we do not obey, you will throw us into the furnace. But there are some Jews who are helping Daniel. They refuse to pay attention to your command. They will not worship your golden statue." King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry. He demanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego appear before him.

Read Daniel 3: 8-13

King Nebuchadnezzar asked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, "Is it true? You don't worship my gods? When you hear the music, you must fall down and worship my statue. If you don't, I'll throw you into the burning furnace. What god can save you from my power?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, "We don't want to talk about this again. If we are thrown into the furnace, our God will save us. But understand this, even if God does not rescue us, we will never worship your golden statue." King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry. He ordered that the furnace be made 7 times hotter. Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tied up. The men were then thrown into the fiery furnace.

Read Daniel 3: 14-21

The three men were tied very tightly and thrown into the fire. The fire in the furnace was very hot. When the soldiers threw the men in the furnace, the soldiers were killed by the flames. King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace. He was amazed at what he saw. He asked his soldiers, “Weren’t these men tied up tightly?” King Nebuchadnezzar saw the men walking around in the furnace. They were not tied up and were not injured at all. Instead of three men, Nebuchadnezzar saw 4 and the last man looked like a son of gods. This fourth person may have been Jesus Christ. This story gives us a wonderful lesson. In the middle of suffering for God, Jesus is with us.

Read Daniel 3: 22-25

Nebuchadnezzar called out, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come out.” The men came out of the furnace. Their bodies, clothes, and even hair were not burned. Nebuchadnezzar praised God. He acknowledged that God had sent an angel to protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men had refused to obey Nebuchadnezzar and were willing to die for God. No other god can save people like this. King Nebuchadnezzar gave an order. He said that no one would be allowed to say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Nebuchadnezzar promoted these men to greater authority in his kingdom.

Read Daniel 3: 26-30

Questions

1. What did king Nebuchadnezzar build? What did he command?
2. Why did the magicians go before king Nebuchadnezzar? Who and what did they tell Nebuchadnezzar about?

3. What did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say to king Nebuchadnezzar?

4. What did king Nebuchadnezzar do to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

5. Why was king Nebuchadnezzar amazed?

6. Why is this story important to us?

7. What did king Nebuchadnezzar say when the men came out of the furnace unharmed?

Daniel
King Belshazzar

IV. A hand writes on the wall.

Vocabulary:

confiscated: something taken by force

astrologers: someone who studies the stars to predict the future

pale: to become very white (loss of normal color)

riddle: a word puzzle

King Nebuchadnezzar's rule ended with his death. Later, Belshazzar became king of Babylon. One evening, king Belshazzar gave a big dinner party. He invited many wealthy and important people. King Belshazzar ordered his servants to bring in some gold and silver cups. These gold and silver cups were confiscated from the temple in Jerusalem. Everyone at the dinner drank from these cups. As the people drank, they began to praise the Babylonian idols. Suddenly, a hand appeared. The fingers began to write a message on the wall. As king Belshazzar watched the writing, he became afraid.

Read Daniel 5: 1-6 (page 951)

King Belshazzar called for his wise men, magicians, and astrologers. He said, "I want someone to tell me what this writing means. If you do, I will give you a gold chain. You will be dressed in purple and will be the 3rd highest ruler in the kingdom." All of the wise men looked at the writing. But no one could read the writing or tell what it meant. King Belshazzar became terrified, his face turned very pale. The queen approached the king. She told him about a man who could tell dreams. She said, "This man is very wise. He was so wise that Nebuchadnezzar put him in charge of all the other wise men. His name is Daniel. He can tell dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems. Daniel will tell you what the writings mean."

Read Daniel 5: 7-12

Daniel came before king Belshazzar. Belshazzar said, "I have heard that you have understanding and wisdom. I have heard that the spirit of god is in you. I have asked my wise men to read this writing and explain it. But they are not able to do this. I hope that you can read this message and

explain it to me. If you do, I will give you purple clothes and a gold chain. I will make you the 3rd highest ruler of this kingdom.” Daniel said, “ I don’t want your gifts. But I will read the message and tell you what it means.”

Read Daniel 5: 13-17

Daniel began to speak to king Belshazzar. He said, “ God was good to king Nebuchadnezzar. God gave him power, glory, and honor. King Nebuchadnezzar had the power to honor those he wanted to honor. He also had the power to destroy those he wanted to destroy. But king Nebuchadnezzar became very proud and stubborn. So the king was taken from his throne. King Nebuchadnezzar was given the mind of an animal. He ate grass like a wild donkey. King Nebuchadnezzar stayed this way until he understood that God was the true ruler of all.”

Read Daniel 5: 18-21

Belshazzar knew what happened to king Nebuchadnezzar. But Belshazzar did not learn from Nebuchadnezzar’s example. Instead, Belshazzar became proud. King Belshazzar used cups from the holy temple of Jerusalem. He praised idols made out of gold, silver, bronze, wood, and stone. But Belshazzar refused to honor the God who was responsible for his own life. So God sent a hand to write on the wall. This is what was written: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin. The word “mene” referred to time being finished. Belshazzar’s life would be over. The word “tekel” meant that Belshazzar life had been weighed on a scale. His life did not equal God’s standards. The word “parsin” meant that God would take the kingdom away from king Belshazzar and give it to another country.

Belshazzar gave Daniel purple clothes, and a gold chain. He made Daniel the 3rd highest ruler in the kingdom. But that very night, king Belshazzar was killed and his kingdom was given to Darius the Mede.

Read Daniel 5: 22-30

Question

1. What did king Belshazzar order his servants to bring? Where did these come from?

People of faith
Daniel

V. Daniel in the lions' den

Vocabulary:

excellent: very good

related: connected to something similar

admired: looked up to someone/ to respect someone

sealed: closed tightly – not able to open

decree: an order from a king or leader

Darius the Mede ruled the kingdom once owned by the Babylonians. He placed three leaders over his kingdom. One of the leaders was Daniel. Daniel did an excellent job as a leader. Darius wanted to reward Daniel by placing him in charge of the whole kingdom. But the other leaders and rulers heard about Darius' plan. They tried to find something wrong with the way that Daniel did his job. But they couldn't find anything wrong. The other leaders and rulers said, "We can't bring any charges against Daniel. Maybe we can find something against him related to his God."

Read Daniel 6: 1-5 (page 953)

The leaders and rulers appeared before king Darius. They suggested a plan to the king. They said, "You should make a command. You should tell everyone in the kingdom to worship you only. If they worship any god or man, you should throw them into the lions' den. Put the command in writing." Daniel found out about the command. But he continued to worship God. Daniel went to his room three times a day to pray and give thanks to God.

Read Daniel 6: 6-10

Some officials went to the place where Daniel was staying. They saw Daniel praying to God. These officials went before king Darius. They said, "Didn't you make an order that no one could pray to any god or person but you? Didn't you say that anyone who does this would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king said, "Yes, and this order is now part of the law and can't be changed." Then the officials said, "Daniel is not obeying this command. He prays to his God three times a day." When the king heard

this, he was upset. Darius admired Daniel very much and he didn't want to hurt Daniel. The king tried to find a way to save Daniel. A group of men came before king Darius. They said, "Remember that this order is now a law. You cannot change it."

Read Daniel 6: 11-15

King Darius gave the order and Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "You have always served your God. May He help you now." A stone was placed in front of the den's opening. The king sealed the stone with his royal ring. Daniel was now completely sealed in with the lions. The king went back to his palace. But he was troubled about Daniel. Darius was so upset that he couldn't eat or sleep. Early the next morning, Darius hurried to the lions' den. As he got near it, Darius called out to Daniel. He said, "Daniel, you serve the living God. Did he save you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouth. I have not been hurt at all. This is because I am innocent of anything wrong. I have not done anything wrong to you either, my king."

Read Daniel 6: 16-22

The king was very happy. He ordered his servants to take Daniel out of the lions' den. After the servants removed Daniel, they saw that he had no wounds at all. The king gave another order. The king ordered that all the men who had complained about Daniel should be brought before him. All of these men and their families were thrown into the lions' den. The lions immediately attacked them. King Darius wrote a decree to all the people of his kingdom. He ordered that everyone should respect and honor the God of Daniel, because God is the living God. God performs wonders and miracles. He saves people just as God saved Daniel from the lion's mouth.

Read Daniel 6: 23-28

Questions

1. When Darius became king, what was Daniel's job?

2. When Darius wanted to reward Daniel, what did the other leaders do?

3. What was the plan that the leaders suggested to Darius?

4. Did Daniel obey the command? What did he do?

5. When Darius heard that Daniel continued to worship God, what did he do?

6. Why wasn't Daniel attacked in the lions' den?