

Everyday Life In Bible Times

Small Group Leader's Guide

You have finished studying the lessons from the book and video tape, *Everyday Life in Bible Times*. Now it is your turn to teach other people.

We reduced the eight chapters from the book into eight short lessons for small group study and discussion.

Lesson 1: Working with Animals: Hunting, Fishing, Shepherding

Lesson 2: Farming

Lesson 3: Growing Fruit

Lesson 4: Food and Drink

Lesson 5: Homes

Lesson 6: Working at Home and in a Shop

Lesson 7: Business, Art, and Medicine

Lesson 8: Family

When you prepare each lesson, ask God to lead your study. Pray that God will bring people to the group and that He will touch each person with power of His Word. This is not a time for you to show off what you know, but it is an opportunity for God to bring people to a deeper understanding of Himself.

It very important that you study each question and answer *before* you go to class. There is more information that you can share with the group. You can especially show how the topic can help them understand Biblical truth that applies to their lives.

Each time the group meets...

- (1) Begin the meeting with a prayer that God will lead your discussion and bless each person who came.
- (2) Give each person in the group a copy of the study guide for the lesson you will study that day.
- (3) Ask people in the group to look up the Bible verses listed in the study guide, and write their own answers.
- (4) Invite members of the group to take turns offering their answers to the questions, and thank each one for their ideas.
- (5) End each meeting, asking members of the group to share their needs for prayer. It is a good idea to write the prayer requests in a list. The lead a closing prayer for each need.
- (6) If members of the group would like a copy of the next lesson for "home work," you may give it to them. But don't forget to bring extra copies for the next meeting, for the people who may not have one, or who forget to bring it.

Lesson One
Working with Animals:
Hunting, Fishing, Shepherding

Introduction:

In this series of lessons, we will look at the way the people worked and the way they lived in the Bible, so we can better understand what the Bible means.

HUNTING

Read Genesis 27:1-5

1. Who was the famous hunter of the Bible? **Esau**

2. How did he hunt? **Bow and Arrow** (the Bible text says "Bow and quiver." Explain what is a quiver.)

Read 1 Samuel 17:33-49

3. David, a shepherd, killed what kind of animals? **Lion and bear**

4. Why? **Protect his father's sheep**

5. David used what kind of weapon? **Sling and stones** (Describe them)

Read Proverbs 7:22-23

6. What are the names of other hunting weapons? (Answers will depend on the Bible translations each person uses. The Deaf version says...) **trap, arrow, net**

FISHING

Read Matthew 4:18-22

7. Who are the five fishermen named here? **Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Zebedee** (Peter and Andrew were brothers. James and John were brothers, and Zebedee was their father.)

8. They caught fish how? **Nets**

LEADER: Describe three different kinds of nets – casting net, dip net and dragnet. Explain that sometimes they caught fish with string and fish hooks.

9. They caught fish where? **Lake or Sea of Galilee** (Show where that is on a Bible map.)

10. Jesus asked four of the fishermen to change their jobs to do what? **Follow Jesus and become fishermen that catch people, not fish** (Ask what that means. Identify the four disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.)

Read Matthew 13:47-50

11. Jesus said fishing with a net is the same as what spiritual truth? **Judgement Day, when all people will meet Jesus, and He will separate the saved people from the unbelievers.**

CARING FOR SHEEP

- Read Psalm 23

12. Who wrote this Psalm? **David (He grew up as shepherd, became a king)**

13. Who is the shepherd? **The Lord God**

14. Who are the sheep? **We are the sheep.**

Sheep are weak, stupid animals. They always need the shepherd to watch over them and help them. We always need Jesus watching over us and helping us.

15. Sheep eat where? **Green pastures (Spiritual application: We need to feed daily on God's Word.)**

16. Sheep drink where? **Quiet water (Deaf version: Calm pools of water. It must be fresh water. Spiritual application: We must daily have a quiet time and place to study the Bible and pray.)**

17. What protects the sheep? (v.4) **The shepherd's rod and staff (These tools are not like the European hook.)**

- Read Isaiah 53:6-7

18. We do something the same as sheep... what? **Wander, go astray (This means we often wander away from God.)**

19. Jesus did something the same as sheep... what? **People stripped and killed Jesus, but He did not complain.**

Here we have two different kinds of pictures. The first is the picture of a sheep getting the wool cut off. All of Jesus' clothes were stripped off of Him before the soldiers whipped Him and crucified Him. The second picture is the lamb sacrificed for the sins of the people, as Jesus died for our sins. When the priests accused Him of doing bad things, Jesus stood there quiet and did not answer.

- Read John 10:7-18

LEADER: Describe the sheep pen/fold – the place where the shepherd brings the sheep at night to keep them safe. As the sheep enter, the shepherd stands at the gate to inspect & count each one.

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20. Jesus says that He is our Good Shepherd. Each of these verses explains what Jesus does for us:

Verse 9 **Jesus is the "gate/door"... He saves us... gives us life. (See the end of v.10 and v.28)**

Verse 11 **He died for us** (repeated in verse 15, & verse 17 predicts His resurrection)

Verse 14 **He knows us.**

Verse 16 **He will save other people so they will also belong to Him.**

Finish the lesson with a prayer, trusting Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Two.

Lesson Two Farming

In this lesson, you will teach about the way farmers in Bible times worked the soil and grew grain crops. As you explain the farming methods, also show the students that each of these steps have a spiritual application. People in Bible times understood farm work, so the Bible uses farm pictures to teach about the way God works with us.

TWO SEASONS in Bible lands:

- Read Genesis 8:22 (see also Song of Solomon 2:11)

LEADER: Note that these verses do not have the exact words to answer question #1. You must tell the answer. (You must also give the answer to questions #3, #6, and #7.) Note that the farmer plows the field and plants his seed at the beginning of the rainy season, and he harvests the crop at the end of the rainy season or the beginning of the dry season.

Rain is important, but it must be right time, right way, right amount. During the dry season, the only moisture comes from the morning dew, from the west wind that blows from the Mediterranean Sea. Many farms need irrigation. East & south winds from the desert are hot, dry, and destructive.

1. The two seasons of every year are:

winter: rain season (October - April) *The heaviest rain comes in Dec. – Feb.*

summer: dry season (May - Sept)

- ✓ The Bible often uses “rain” as a symbol of God’s love and blessing (Matthew 5:45).

“Your Father lets the sun rise for the good people and the bad people. Your Father sends rain to people that do good and to people that do wrong.”

WORKING THE SOIL

- Read Isaiah 28:24

2. Two tools for working the soil: **Plow & Harrow** *(Explain what they are. Explain how the farmer uses them. Explain what a yoke is.)*

*A pair of **animals** (cows or donkeys) pull the **plow**, connected to a **yoke**. The plow does not cut a neat furrow. It only breaks up the ground into big chunks. The farmer breaks up big chunks of soil with hand tools (mattock or hoe). Then he rakes the soil smooth with a **harrow**, pulled by animals.*

3. Season for working the soil: **beginning of rainy season, October**

- ✓ The Bible often uses “plowing” as a symbol of our working for God (Luke 9:62).

Luke 9:62 - “If a person begins to plow a field, but looks back, he is not prepared for the kingdom of God.” A farm who looks back as he plows will not go straight ahead. A Christian worker who always looks back to better days of the past, or looks back with regret for past mistakes, will not be able to move ahead where God is leading.

PLANTING

- ☐ Read Isaiah 28:25

LEADER: Tell the group to hold this place in their Bible, as we will come back to Isaiah 28 later in this lesson.

4. What kinds of seed did farmers plant? (Answers will depend on the translation students use)

*DEAF: dill, cumin, wheat, barley, spelt
NIV: caraway, cumin, wheat, barley, spelt
GWN: cumin, wild wheat, barley, winter wheat
KJV: fitches, cumin, wheat, barley, rye*

*The most important grain crops were **wheat & barley**.*

5. How did farmers plant the seed? “scatter” – throw the seed out by hand

After sowing the seed, the farmer uses a harrow or herd of sheep or goats walking through field to push the seed into the ground.

- ✓ The Bible often uses “planting” as a symbol of telling people the Good News about Jesus (Luke 8:4-15). This is the parable of the sower.

HARVESTING

6. The words “harvest” and “reap” means: cutting the grain.

7. The time of harvest:

Barley April - May Wheat May - June

- ☐ Read Mark 4:26-29

8. The farmer cut the grain with what tool? Sickle (Describe it)

*As the farmer cut the grain, he tied it into bundles (**sheaves**) with some of the straw, and put it on a wagon. Any grain that fell to the ground, he must leave it there for poor people (**gleaners**). Example: Ruth.*

- ✓ The Bible uses “harvesting/reaping” as a symbol meaning:
(1) people coming to faith in Jesus (Matthew 9:37-38)
(2) the end of the world (Matthew 13:24-30)

(3) the consequences of our action (Galatians 6:7-8)

Explain the following farm tasks (threshing, winnowing, sifting). Also explain how the Bible uses these farm tasks as a picture of the way God works with us.

THRESHING

Read Isaiah 28:27-28

Purpose: Get the seed head off the straw, and get the chaff (husks) off of the seed.

Place: Threshing floor; flat, hard ground (rock is best).

Methods: Spread grain over the threshing floor, then...

- Cows or donkeys walk on grain, or
- Hit the grain with a wood paddle on a stick (flail),
- Cows or donkeys pull a wagon with many wheels over the grain.
- Cows pull a threshing sled over grain.

✓ The Bible uses “threshing” as a symbol of suffering, and God’s judgement & punishment (Isaiah 21:10; Jeremiah 51:33).

WINNOWING

Read Matthew 3:12

Purpose: Separate grain seeds from the chaff (straw and husks).

Place: Threshing floor.

Method: Throw the grain up in the air. The wind blows away chaff, but the heavy grain seeds drop back to the threshing floor.

Read Psalm 1:4

✓ The Bible uses “winnowing” as a symbol of God’s judgement (Matthew 3:12).

SIFTING

Read Amos 9:9

Purpose: Clean dirt and chaff from wheat seeds.

Tool: Sieve -- a wood box with a cloth screen at the bottom, or a metal bowl with holes.

✓ The Bible uses “sifting” as a symbol of testing to see who is a true believer and who is false. (Luke 22:31).

Finish the lesson with a prayer, asking God to make the “seed” of His Word grow in our hearts. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Three.

Lesson Three
Growing Fruit

GRAPE VINES

Read Matthew 21:33

1. List some of the things in a vineyard: **grapes, wall, winepress, watch tower** (Give a short description of each.)

Read Matthew 21:33-41.

2. The owner of the vineyard means who? **God**

3. The people renting the vineyard mean who? **Israel**

4. The son means who? **Jesus**

Read Joel 3:13

5. How did people in Bible lands get the juice out of the grapes? **Workers walked on the grapes in the wine press** (Explain what a wine press looks like. Explain how they used the wine press.)

6. The last line of this verse means what? (Hint: see verse 12.) **God's judgement**

Read Amos 9:13-14

7. People in used the grape juice to make what? **Wine**

8. These verses mean what? **God promised to bless the people of Israel**

Read Ephesians 5:18

9. We should not do what? **We should not become drunk with wine (or any alcohol or drugs)**

10. We should do what? **We should be filled with the Holy Spirit**

OLIVE TREES

Read Deuteronomy 24:20-22

11. People got the ripe olives off the trees how? **Workers hit the olive trees with sticks.**

12. God told the people to leave some olives on the tree and to leave some grapes on the vine. Why? **For poor people (gleaners)**

Read Leviticus 24:2

13. People made olive oil how? **They crushed or squeezed the olives.** (Explain what the olive press looks like. Explain how the people used the olive press.)

14. People used the olive oil for what? **They burned the oil in lamps.**

15. People used olive oil in other ways:

- (a) Exodus 30:30-31 **anoint priests** (Also see Leviticus 8:12)
- (b) 1 Kings 1:39 **anoint kings** (Also see 2 Kings 9:6)
- (c) 1 Kings 17:15 **cook**
- (d) Luke 10:33-34 **medicine**

The Bible often talks about olive oil as a symbol of God's blessing

A place where Jesus often went to teach and pray was on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem (Matthew 26:30 or Luke 22:39). Years later Romans soldiers cut down those trees on the Mount of Olives. But the trees grew up again from the same roots, and they are still alive today. Olive trees live a long time!

OTHER FRUIT

Read Genesis 43:11

16. This verse names what fruit and plant products? **balm, honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts, almonds**

Read Numbers 13:23

17. This verse names what kind of fruit? **grapes, pomegranates, figs**

Other Bible verses that list farm produce:

Deut 8:8 - wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil, honey

Joel 1:12 – vine (grape), pomegranate, palm, apple

1 Sam 25:18 - figs and raisin cakes and a lot more

Read Galatians 5:22-23

18. What kind of “fruit” is important for Christian people? **The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control** (The exact words depend on the Bible translation students are using.)

The “Fruit of the Holy Spirit” are the attitudes of Jesus. We cannot make these attitudes in ourselves. As we believe and love Jesus, He puts these attitudes in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Read John 15:1-6

19. How do we get this “fruit”? **Stay joined with Jesus**

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Thank God for His many blessings. Ask God to grow “the Fruit of the Holy Spirit” (the attitudes of Christ) in our hearts. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Four.

Lesson Four
Food and Drink

INTRODUCTION

☐ Read Deuteronomy 8:7-14

1. Where did the people get *water* to drink (verse 7)? **rivers, pools, springs (and wells)**
2. What kind of *grain* did the people of Israel grow for bread (verse 8)? **Wheat and barley**
3. What kind of *fruit* did they grow for food? **grapes, figs, pomegranates**
4. What kind of animals did they have for *meat* (verse 13)? **cows, sheep, goats**

BREAD

✓ How did people in Bible times make wheat and barley bread? What were the steps?

In lesson 2 we learned about the way they grew the grain, harvested it, threshed and winnowed it. Grain stored in jars or boxes. When they were ready to make the bread, then they ground the wheat into flour with a mill. They did not store the flour, but they milled the wheat whenever they needed flour for baking.

✓ The mill: How they made the mill. How they used it to grind the wheat to make flour.

HOW THEY MADE THE ROTARY MILL:

Large base stone (approx 2-ft diam, 4-inch thick)

Smaller, round grinding stone

Handle

Center hole for axle & for pouring grain

HOW THEY USED THE ROTARY MILL:

Turn with one hand

Slowly pour wheat into center hole with other hand

The flour fell out at outer edge.

✓ The bread dough

They sifted the flour. (The sieve was a copper bowl with holes punched; or a wood box with mesh at the bottom, filter out coarse grain & debris.)

Ingredients: Flour, salt, olive oil, water or milk. & yeast

They baked bread almost every day (The Lord's Prayer: "daily bread"), but not on the Sabbath day of rest.

❑ Read Luke 13:21

5. What was the important ingredient in bread dough? Yeast (or "leaven")

Leaven (yeast) makes bread rise. The cook must wait for the dough to rise before she bakes it. Leaven makes bread soft.

The Bible uses the picture of leaven as a symbol of sin that infects society (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

The Bible also uses leaven as a picture of the way the Holy Spirit changes lives (Luke 13:21).

Jews used bread without leaven ("unleavened bread") during the Passover -- and now we use unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).

Consistency of unleavened bread: Our communion wafer, Jewish matzo, pita, or Mexican tortilla.

✓ Ovens for baking bread

Three types of ovens:

*Dry frying skillet,
Hole in the ground,
small clay & stone structure.*

Fuel:

*Matt 3:12 (chaff)
Matt 6:30 (grass)
Matthew 13:30 (weeds)
John 15:5-6
all symbols of God's judgement.*

MEAT

✓ In addition to cows, sheep, and goats, the Bible tells about other animals Israelites used for meat.

6. What foods are listed in Luke 11:11-12? bread, fish, egg

Bible stories about eating fish:

*Feeding 5000 (Matt. 14:13-21)
feeding 4000 (Matt. 15:29-38)
Jesus, after the resurrection (Luke 24:40-44)
Disciples, after the resurrection (John 21:1-13)*

7. What kinds of *birds* were used for meat?

(a) Matthew 10:29 Sparrows

(b) Matthew 23:37 Chickens

(c) Luke 2:23-24 doves & pigeons

- ✓ God did **not** permitted Israelites to eat some animals. They are listed in Leviticus 11.

v.4 camels
v.5 rock badgers
v.6 rabbits
v.7 pigs
v.13 eagles, vultures, buzzards
v.14 kites, flacons
v.15 black birds
v.16 ostriches, nighthawks, sea gulls, all kinds of hawks
v.17 owls, cormorants, great owls
v.18 water hens, pelicans (NIV: white owl, desert owl, osprey)
v.19 storks, herons, hoopoe, bats
v.29 moles (NIV: weasels), rats, great lizards
v.30 geckos, crocodiles, lizards, sand reptiles, chameleons

MILK

7. What foods are listed in Genesis 18:8? meat (calf), milk, butter (with wheat bread, v.7)
(NIV: "curds and milk")

Describe a goat-skin butter churn and how it worked.

8. What foods are listed in 1 Samuel 17:17-18? roasted grain, loaves of bread, cheese

Remember that in Bible times, they did not have refrigerators or freezers to keep meat and milk a long time.

- Read 1 Peter 2:2.

9. Milk is like what? God's Word

OTHER FOODS

- ✓ The Bible lists other foods: beans, lentils, onions, cucumbers, spices, honey, and more. The people often cooked these with their meat in a stew. They used a piece of bread to scoop up the stew and eat it.

- Read Genesis 25:29-34

10. What price did Esau pay for a pot of bean (lentil) stew? his inheritance, his "birthright" as the oldest son.

- Read John 13:26

11. Who dipped his bread in the stew? Jesus

12. He gave the bread to a friend. Who? **Judas**

IMPORTANT TEACHING ABOUT FOOD

Psalm 104:27-28 **Our food comes from God.** (See also Matthew 6:25-26 and
1 Timothy 6:8.)

2 Thessalonians 3:10 **If a person will not work, then he should not eat.** (See also
Proverbs 6:6-11, 20:4)

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Thank God for His many blessings. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Five.

Lesson Five
Houses

LEADER: This lesson describes the construction of houses in Bible Times. Some of the verses will bring up questions, and you will need to give the answers for those questions (#3, 4).

Read Genesis 18:1

1. Abraham had what kind of home? **TENT**

Read Mark 2:2-4 The full story Jesus healing the paralytic is Mark 2:1-12.

2. The men carried their friend to Jesus how? **They made a hole in the roof, and they lowered the man down through the roof**

3. The house had what kind of roof? **FLAT (Describe the roof construction.)**

4. How did the men get up on the roof? **The house had stairs up to the roof on the outside of the building.**

Other Bible stories about roofs:

Joshua 2:6 – Rahab and the Hebrew spies in Jericho

2 Samuel 11:2 – David and Bathsheba

Acts 10:9 – Peter in Joppa

Read 2 Kings 4:9-11

5. A man and woman made what on their roof? **A guest room**

6. Why? **For the prophet Elisha**

Read Mark 14:12-16

7. Jesus used a large upstairs room for what? **For the Passover (and for Lord's Supper, verses 17-25)**

Other Bible stories about upper rooms:

Acts 1:3 – The Disciples, between Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost.

Acts 9:37 - Tabitha's (Dorcas) house

Acts 20:7-12 – Eutychus in Troas

Read Ephesians 2:20-22 and 1 Peter 2:5-7

8. These verses talk about stones of a walls in what kind of building? **Temple (This is a symbol of the Church – not a building, but the people.)**

9. God used who to made the foundation of the building? **The Apostles and Prophets**
10. The cornerstone is who? **Jesus**

A corner stone is the starting point for all guide lines during the building of the house. The corner stone gives structural support when the building is finished. Jesus does both of these for the Church.

11. The stones in the walls of building are who? **We Christians are the "stones" of the building (the Church).**

1 Corinthians 3:9-12

"...You are a house that belongs to God... The foundation has already been built. No person can build any other foundation. The foundation that has already been built is Jesus Christ."

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Praise Jesus that He is the foundation of our faith. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Six.

Lesson Six
Work at Home and in a Shop

Read Exodus 5:10-11

1. As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites made what? **Bricks**

LEADER: Describe the work of the brick maker.

Read Exodus 35:32-35

2. Two men (Bezalel and Oholiab) had skills in what kind of work?
They could design and make things with metal (gold, silver, bronze), wood, stones, jewels. They could weave cloth with designs.

LEADER: Describe the work of the weaver and metal workers.

Read Exodus 36:8

3. These two men and their helpers made what? **The Tabernacle (or: "The Holy Tent")**

Read Jeremiah 18:1-4

4. God told Jeremiah to visit where? **The potter's house**

LEADER: Describe the work of the potter.

Read Jeremiah 18:5-6 and Isaiah 64:8

5. The potter is the same as who? **God**

6. The clay is the same as who? **Israel... and us! (Explain)**

Read Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3

7. Joseph and Jesus did what kind of work? **Carpenter**

The chief work of a carpenter in Bible times was to make farm tools and furniture.

Read Acts 9:36-43

8. What was Tabitha's work? (see verse 39) **She made coats and clothes.**

9. What was Simon's work? (see verse 43) **Tanner (made leather)**

LEADER: Describe the work of the tanner.

10. Who stayed at Simon's house? **Peter**

Read Acts 16:14-15

11. What was Lydia's work? ***sold purple cloth*** (*Maybe she made it, too.*) _____

LEADER: *Explain how to dye cloth.*

12. Who stayed at Lydia's house? ***Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke*** (*See verses 1-10*) _____

Read Acts 18:1-3

13. What was Paul's work to earn money? ***Tentmaker*** _____

14. Who worked with Paul in the same business? ***Aquila and Priscilla*** _____

Read Acts 19:24-26.

15. What was Demetrius' work? ***Silversmith*** _____

16. Demetrius and his friends earned a lot of money making what? ***idols, or models of the temple (shrines) of the false god Artemis (or Diana)*** _____

17. Demetrius was against Paul. Why? ***Paul told people not worship idols.*** _____

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10.

18. Why must we work? ***"If a person will not work, then he will not eat."*** (*See also Proverbs 18:9*) _____

Read Proverbs 13:4.

19. How must we work? ***We should work hard*** _____

Other verses about working hard:

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 18:9

Colossians 3:22-23

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Thank God for His many blessings. Thank God for the special skills for work that each member of the group has. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Seven.

Lesson Seven
Business, Art, and Medicine

BUSINESS

Real Estate

- Read Genesis 23. This describes a contract to buy land.

See how people in Bible lands talked about buying and selling.
This is called "haggling."

1. Who bought (buy) the land? **Abraham**
2. Why did he buy the land? **He wanted a cave for Sarah's body.**
3. How much did he pay (verse 16)? **400 shekels of silver = 10 lbs of silver**
4. How much did he buy (verse 17)? **the field, the cave, and the trees**

International Trade (import & export)

- Read Genesis 37:25-28

- 5 The Ishmaelite traders came from what country? **Gilead**

Who were the Ishmaelites? Answer: Descendants of Ishmael (Abraham + Hagar)
Where is Gilead? Find it on a Bible map.

6. The Ishmaelite traders had what to sell? **spices, balm, myrrh**
7. The traders were going to where? **Egypt**
8. What did the traders buy from Judah and his brothers? **The Ishmaelites bought their brother, Joseph, as a slave.**
9. What price did the Ishmaelites pay? **20 shekels of silver**

ART (*Sculpture*)

Greeks and Romans painted pictures, but we find no evidence that Jewish people painted pictures. But the Jews had other kinds of art...

- Jews in Old Testament times made sculptures and statues for the Tabernacle and Temple.

10. The Jews in the OT made what kind of statues?

(a) Exodus 37:8-9 **Gold Cherubim (angels) on the Ark of the Covenant (Holy Box of Agreement)**

(b) Exodus 37:17-19 **Gold flowers on the lampstand**

(c) Numbers 21:4-9 **Bronze snake**

(d) 1 Kings 6:29 **carved pictures of Cherubim (angels), palm trees, and flowers**

(e) 2 Chronicles 4:4 **12 statues of bulls supporting the bronze basin**

Read Exodus 20:4-5

11. God told the Jews to not make what kind of statues? **Idols**

12. God told the Jews they must not do what with their statues? **Worship them**

13. Israel broke that law. They worship what idols?

(a) Exodus 32:4 **Aaron's golden calf (while Moses on Mt. Sinai received the 10 Commandments)**

(b) 1 Kings 12:28-30 **King Jeroboam's 2 golden calves (with altars at the two ends of the northern tribes, after Israel divided into two, in order to stop the people from going south to Jerusalem to worship God.)**

(c) 1 Kings 16:30-33 **Baal & Asherah (These were the male and female sex gods promoted by King Ahab, and his foreign wife, Jezebel.)**

(d) 2 Kings 18:4 **Asherah; and the bronze snake that Moses made**

Remember that God told Moses to make the bronze snake as a symbol of healing for the people and as a prophecy of Christ's crucifixion. But the people kept the snake for 700 years, and then they worshipped it like a false god. Good King Hezekiah wisely destroyed the snake sculpture.

Read 2 Chronicles 36:14-21 800 years God warned the people to stop worshipping idols, and stop following false gods.

14. God punished the people by sending them to live as slaves, where? **Babylon (verse 20)**

15. For how long? **70 years, (v.21)**

After the Jews came back home to live in Israel again, they never again worshipped statues for false gods. They did not even let the Roman soldiers bring to Jerusalem the image of the Roman Emperor.

MEDICINE

Read Luke 10:29-37

16. How did the Good Samaritan medically help the injured man? **He poured on oil and wine; bandaged his wounds**

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Read Colossians 4:14

17. A doctor wrote part of the Bible. What was the doctor's name? **LUKE**

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Praise Jesus that He is true God, and we worship only Him. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Eight.

Lesson Eight
Family

MARRIAGE

Read Matthew 1:18-19

1. What was Joseph's problem? **Mary was pregnant. But they were not married yet, and did not have sex, so Joseph thought Mary had sex with another man.**
2. What did Joseph plan to do about his problem? **Divorce Mary**

Mary and Joseph were only engaged, but this it was a legal commitment, so he had to follow the same rules of divorce.

Read John 2:1-10

3. Who went to the wedding in Cana? **Mary, Jesus, and his followers**
4. What was the problem at the wedding? **They ran out of wine.**
5. Jesus helped them how? **He changed water into wine.**

✓ *The Bible often uses the picture of engagement, wedding, and marriage to describe the way God feels about us. At home you can study more in these verses:*

Isaiah 62:4-5.....Israel is "God's bride" and His "wife."

Jeremiah 3.....Israel committed "adultery" by worshipping idols. God "divorced" the northern tribes, and Judah, the southern tribe didn't care, but did the same sin.

Hosea 2:16, 19-20.....God predicts that Judah will return to God, so God will again "make you my bride." The marriage of Hosea and his adulterous wife, Gomer, was an example the relationship between God and Israel.

Matthew 22:1-14.....The parable of the wedding feast that a King gave for his son.

The king = God

The son = Jesus

The wedding feast = heaven or salvation

The invited guests = Christians Believers

Matthew 25:1-13.....The parable of the Ten Virgins, 5 wise & 5 foolish, waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom.

Ephesians 5:25-33Marriage is an example of the relationship between Christ and the Church. So husbands must learn from Christ's example.

Revelation 21:2, 9.....The Church is called "the bride" for Christ ("the Lamb").

CHILDREN

In Bible times, babies were born at home. Sometimes "home" was only a tent. Remember where Jesus was born.

In Bible times midwives helped women with childbirth.

Read Luke 2:21-24

6. What happened to Jesus one week after He was born? **He was circumcised**

All Jewish boys got circumcision. This was a sign that marked their bodies as belonging to God. The Bible says that taking away the skin is a picture of God taking away our sin.

7. One month later, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple. Why? **They presented him to the Lord, and they gave God sacrifices, as the Law of Moses said they should.**

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

8. Children must do what? **Obey their parents.**

9. Fathers must do what? **Teach their children about the Lord.**

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7

10. Parents must teach their children what? **To love God, and to obey God's Commandments**

11. Parents must teach their children when? **All the time.**

...and where? **Everywhere they go.**

"...You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Always remember these commands that I give you today. Be sure to teach them to your children. Talk about these commands when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. Write these commands and tie them on your hands and wear them on your foreheads to help you remember my teachings. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates." -- Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Jewish parents also taught their children the family business, and the children helped in the work of the family.

OLD AGE

- Read Leviticus 19:32 and Proverbs 23:22-25
12. What is the Bible's attitude about old people? **Respect and honor**
- Read 1 Timothy 5:3-4
13. Who is responsible for caring for the old people? **Their children, or other family (if they have no family, then the Christian people in the church should help.)**

DEATH

- Read Genesis 23:19
14. Abraham buried Sarah's body where? **In a cave**
- Read Genesis 49:29-33 (and 50:12-13)
15. Later, other bodies were buried in the same cave. Who? **Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, Jacob**
- Read Matthew 27:57-61 and John 19:38-41
16. Joseph buried Jesus' body, how? **He wrapped Jesus' body in cloth, with spices, laid it in the tomb (cave), and rolled a big stone in front of the door of the cave.**

Other burial customs described in the Bible:
Mark 5:38 (Jairus' daughter)
Luke 7:11-17 (widow's son in Nain)
John 11 (Lazarus)
Acts 9:36-42 (Dorcas)

17. Three days later, what happened to Jesus' body? **Became alive again**
- Read John 11:23-27
18. Jesus promised what will happen for all people that believe in Him? **Rise to life**
- ✓ *For more study at home: 1 Corinthians 15* **About the resurrection**

Finish the lesson with a prayer. Praise Jesus that He has made us children of God, and that He has promised us eternal life. Pray for the needs of people in the group. Give them a copy of the study guide for Lesson Nine.