



LESSONS 183-195

PERSONALITY PROFILE

THE
Answer

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

The Answer is a Bible study course for fourth grade through junior-high level. Bible references are taken from the King James version of the Bible. A Teacher's Guide accompanies this series and is available online, on our app, and in print.

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PERSONALITY PROFILE

Did you ever know someone named Mason? Or Makayla? Or Ethan? Or Laila?

If you did, a mental picture of the person you knew probably came into your mind as soon as you read the name. If you liked the person, a good feeling came with the mental picture. If you didn't like being around that person, chances are you felt a little turned off just reading the name.

Now read a few more names: Abraham, Isaac, Esau, Jochebed.

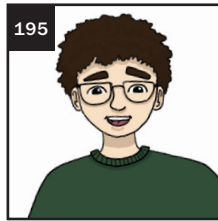
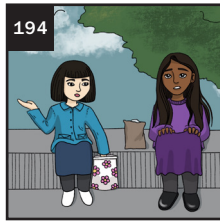
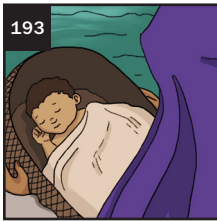
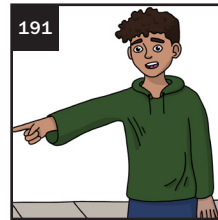
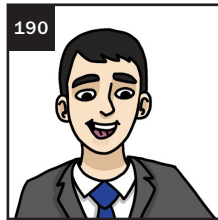
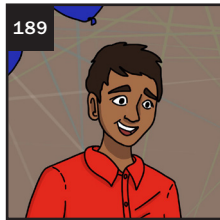
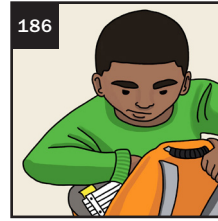
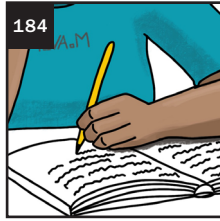
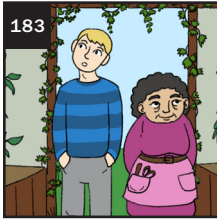
What kind of feelings do you have about these names? They are the names of some people in the Bible, and if you have ever read about them, you may already have an opinion about their character. Did you admire them or not? Why?

*This quarter we are going to look at a "Personality Profile" of each of these four people and eight others who lived in Bible times. Some were the kinds of people we would like to copy. Others . . . well, we want to learn from their mistakes! Join us as we search for *The Answer* to what we can learn from each of them.*

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THE Answer

UNIT 15



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Caden learned that things
did work out when he asked
God for guidance.

FOLLOWING GOD

LESSON 183 → Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 21:1-5

“Don’t touch a thing until you visit the sink, young man. What is that on your hands anyway?”

Caden sighed. “Grease. My chain broke again, and I can’t fix it this time. I wish I could get a new bike.”

Mrs. Gilbert backed away from the doorway to let her somewhat dejected son through.

“Well, your father and I told you that you’re old enough to start earning some of your own spending money. You could start saving toward a bike.” She paused, and then went on, “By the way, how did your ‘Most Admired Person’ speech go today in English class?”

“Oh, pretty good. But I don’t think my new teacher, Miss Hansen, liked it very well. She said my delivery was fine but the subject matter was a little unrealistic.”

“She doesn’t believe in the Abraham of Bible history?”

“No, I don’t mean that. I mean the part where I talked about the traits he had that I wanted to apply to my own life. I guess she doesn’t think obedience in following God is worth much. She asked me after class if God had really ever led me to do anything specific, but the only thing I could think of was when I got saved two years ago. Maybe she doesn’t like Christians.”



KEY VERSE

I WILL WALK WITH GOD.

I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. — Genesis 17:1

Caden's mother offered him some chocolate chip cookies as she said, "Well, I know it was a little hard for you to make that speech, but I believe the Lord will bless you for being a witness at school. We'll just have to pray that Miss Hansen will learn to know and trust God like we do."

The next day was Saturday, and Caden decided he'd head over to the park since he couldn't go bike riding. As he walked, his thoughts went back to the events of the day before. I don't care, he thought to himself, I still want to be like Abraham. I know God will lead me through life if I obey Him, even if Miss Hansen does think I'm crazy. I wish God would lead me to a job so I could earn enough money for a bike. Then I could tell Miss Hansen that God did it.

Climbing onto a low limb of a tree at the edge of the park, Caden scrambled up to a high vantage point. As he was looking over the area, the sun's reflection on a small glass building in the backyard of the nearby community center caught his eye. He squinted as he looked at the building and wondered what it was. After climbing down the tree, he headed across the street to investigate. With the sun's reflection now gone, he could see that it was a greenhouse. As he stood there, a voice called to him.

"Young man, do you have a moment?" An older woman with a pleasant face stood in the doorway of the community center.

"Yeah, I guess so," Caden answered hesitantly.

The woman pointed to a gate that led to the backyard. She said, "I saw you looking at our community greenhouse. Would you like to see it? Maybe if you've got a little time you could help with a few things in it."

Caden instantly liked the woman's cheery tone of voice and was interested in seeing what grew in the greenhouse.

"Sure, I'd be glad to!"

Caden entered the yard. As they went into the greenhouse, he was surprised by the beauty of the hundreds of plants, many of which were in bloom.

"What do you do with all these plants?"

"Oh, once a year we plant most of them in different places around the neighborhood. Then we sell what is left to some of the florists in the area. It helps to offset the expenses.

The two of them walked between the rows, talking about the various plants and finding out a little about each other. "My husband and family are gone," said the woman. "My granddaughter was living with me and going to college, but she graduated and recently started teaching. She used to help me with some of the harder tasks like watering the hanging plants, but she has an apartment now and is too busy."

Back at the door the woman paused and looked at Caden. "How would you like to work with me for an hour or so each weekday? We have a job opening and would be able to pay you . . . or do you already have a job of some sort?"

"No, but if it's all right with my parents, I'd love to work with you! I've been wishing I could find a way to earn some money for a bike."

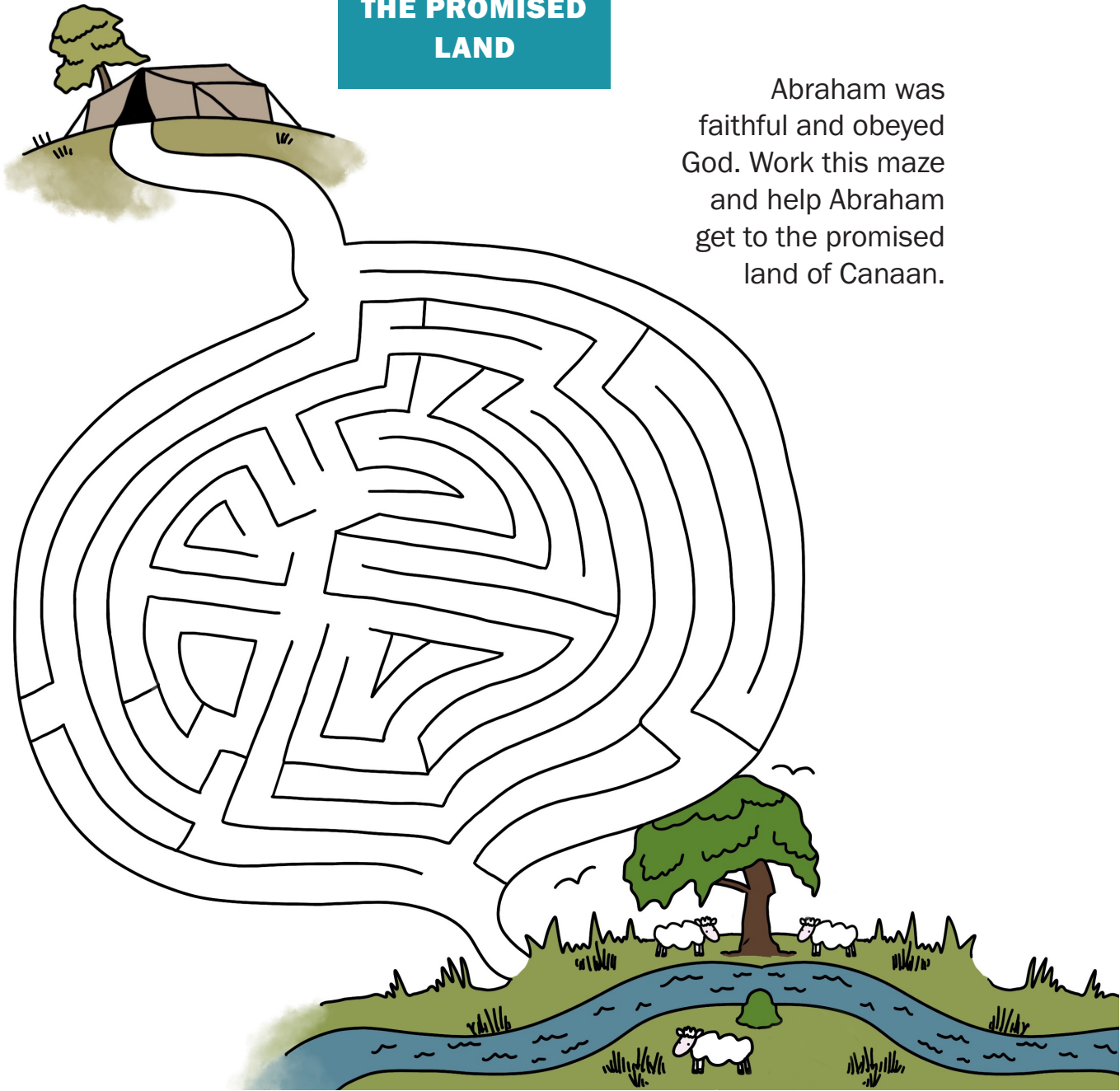
"Well, good. I've been praying that the Lord would lead a nice young man like you to help. You know, I'll have to tell my granddaughter about this. She isn't a Christian yet and doesn't want to believe that praying does any good. Come to think of it, you may know her. She's the new English teacher at the junior high school. Have you heard of a Miss Hansen?"

Caden smiled, "Yes, I've heard of her. As a matter of fact, she's my teacher."

As Caden turned toward home to tell his folks all about this, he looked up into the sky. "Thank You, Lord," he whispered.

THE PROMISED LAND

Abraham was faithful and obeyed God. Work this maze and help Abraham get to the promised land of Canaan.



God promised Abraham that he would have a big family. Unscramble the words below and put them in the right order. You'll find a truth that you should always remember.

EPSKE ODG SHI MISSEPRO

DEAR DIARY

LESSON 184 → Genesis 19:15-28

She wanted to be just like Teva Michaels, the star who seemed to have everything.



JUNE 19
Dear Diary,

Well, hello! I just got you this afternoon for my birthday. It's going to be fun writing down all my secret thoughts. First, I guess I should introduce myself. I'm just an ordinary girl, and about the biggest thing in my life right now is that I'm finally on summer break! My first project is going to be saving enough money out of my allowance to buy the newest album on iTunes by Teva Michaels. She is so cool! She plays Zoe on the new TV show "Misadventures at Music High." I'm thinking about getting my hair cut like hers . . . if Mom will let me. Well, it's been a long day, I'll write some more in you tomorrow.

AUGUST 15

Dear Diary,

This vacation has been a downer so far, and I've only got three weeks left till school starts. I wish, oh how I wish, I could be travelling around the

world, seeing things, going places. Well, at least to California.

If I could go to Hollywood I'd really like to see Teva Michaels. My collection of posters and magazine articles about her is great, but I imagine she's really a lot more beautiful in person. She's going to be touring with the rest of the cast in the spring. She's awesome! I wish I could be just like her. She's got everything—looks, a cute boyfriend, money, a great car, an awesome house, and the best possible job in the world. My life is so boring!

SEPTEMBER 17

Dear Diary,

Well, school is going along okay . . . except that all the girls who are "somebody" have the coolest new clothes. My clothes are ugly compared to them. I'm really irritated with Mom. She hardly



GOD IS FIRST IN MY LIFE.

Remember Lot's wife. — Luke 17:32

let me spend anything on new stuff—and she told me I had to use my allowance if I wanted anything extra. Why can't she see that I'll never make it big looking like this? I'll bet Teva Michaels never had to put up with such a dumb, boring life. Well, I'll show my mom one of these days . . . when I become rich and famous.

DECEMBER 4

Dear Diary,

I can't wait for Christmas. I've told Mom and Dad exactly what stuff I want this year. No more of this little kid stuff for me. I'm ready for serious things! If I'm going to make it like Teva Michaels, I've got to start looking the part—at least something like an adult, even though Mom and Dad seem to think I'm still just a baby.

FEBRUARY 4

Dear Diary,

Guess what????!!! Dad told us this morning that he has to go to Los Angeles in March on business. Since spring break is the same week, we are all going. And my girlfriend read on Facebook that Teva Michaels and the rest of the cast are going to be performing in L.A. in March! I've just got to convince Mom and Dad to let me go to the concert. I'll tell them how all the songs have positive messages about things like staying away from drugs and alcohol. That should win over any parent's heart. I sure hope they'll think it's a good idea!

MARCH 7

Dear Diary,

I can't believe it. Here we are, all set to go to L.A. next week and I read the headlines this morning that Teva Michaels committed suicide by overdosing on drugs. I can't understand it. I thought she had everything. But the news reports say she'd been so depressed lately. She was rude and

obnoxious to her castmates and fought with the director of the show until she was fired. She also had a bunch of fights with her boyfriend. And a couple of weeks ago she got arrested for drunk driving. All of this was kept quiet in the news. I am so confused and disappointed. I thought she was the coolest person ever.

MARCH 9

Dear Diary,

I talked to my brother Jayce tonight. He and Aria are driving through to Westville, and will stay overnight with us. He said some things that really helped me. He told me he knew just how I felt and that he, too, had once looked up to a celebrity who ended up committing suicide.

Then he reminded me about what happened to Dad four years ago. Jayce said it really helped him sort out his priorities. I guess I forgot, or maybe I was too young to really understand then. Dad had been so sick we all thought he might die. Well, Jayce said that one night it was as though the Lord himself came right down and talked to him. He realized that nothing of this life really had any value except those things that are built for eternity. What really matters is our relationship with Jesus and serving Him.

I'm so glad we had that talk. I feel a lot better. I guess I've been forgetting the things I learned in Sunday school. I have a feeling that looking up to people like Teva Michaels might not be the best. I shouldn't be setting my heart on the things of this world and modeling my life after people who don't care a thing about God or the way He wants us to live.

There's church tomorrow and I'm going to take it more seriously than I have been. I'm going to start by praying right now!

Good night.

GOD FIRST!

We must remember to keep God first in our lives. The words listed below are from the Bible text that tells what happened to Lot's wife because she loved the things of the world more than God. Write the words into the correct spaces on the grid.

LOT
FIRE
SALT
SODOM
ESCAPE
PILLAR
GOMORRAH
BRIMSTONE
DAUGHTERS





GIVE GOD SOMETHING SPECIAL

LESSON 185 → Genesis 22:6-14; 24:1-8,62-67; 26:1-5,17-33

Isaac had to decide what he would give God.

As Isaac knelt down by the lamb nuzzling his leg, he pulled a blade of grass and playfully tickled her nose. Suddenly she gave a little sneeze and Isaac chuckled softly.

Long ago, when he first began helping to herd the sheep, Isaac's father Abraham had taught him that it was best not to become too fond of one particular sheep. Isaac had been careful to follow the instruction. He knew he could not keep any lamb as a pet forever. But this little one's mother had died the night the lamb was born. In

spite of himself, Isaac had become very attached to it, and it followed him wherever he went.

Isaac stooped down and picked up the lamb. Far across the field he could see his father leading the donkey from the stable. Isaac's heart beat a little faster as he realized the donkey was loaded in preparation for a journey. He remembered some of the journeys he had taken with his father. They had always been special times of fellowship and of worshipping God. Quickly, he put down the lamb and walked toward the stable, the lamb frisking along behind him.



I WANT GOD'S SPIRIT IN ME.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.
— Zechariah 4:6

“Father, I see you are taking a journey,” Isaac said. He watched his father tie the last knots on the bundles.

“Yes, I must go,” Abraham answered—a little sadly, Isaac thought. “God has instructed me to go up to the mountain to offer a sacrifice to Him there. You will be going with me.”

Before long they were on their way down the dusty trail. As they walked along, Isaac remarked, “I’ve noticed the lambs in the fields as we’ve gone along. None are as nice as my special lamb. I suppose God would be very pleased if I would offer her as a sacrifice. But Father, I can hardly bear the thought. Do you think I am wrong to feel this way?”

Abraham was silent. Isaac was not sure what his father’s silence meant, and it troubled him. He wanted to reach out to his father, but he didn’t know what to say.

“Father, I would give the lamb if God required that of me. It’s just that it hurts so much to think of it. But I would do it. I know you would . . .”

Abraham stopped. He turned slowly to Isaac. Then he reached out and gently put his hand on Isaac’s shoulder. Their eyes met. Isaac could feel the deep love that flowed from his father to him. It made him glow inside. But then he noticed the tears. Crystal clear, they rolled down Abraham’s tanned cheeks and into his long, white beard.

“It would be a small sacrifice, Father,” Isaac said softly. “You have given many lambs to God.”

“It would be a great sacrifice, Isaac, because it is very precious to you. God sees that and is pleased, I know. When you give something to God in your heart, to Him it is as though you had given it already.”

Abraham said to the servants with them. “You stay here. Isaac and I will go and worship and come again to you.” Abraham took the wood off the donkey and placed it on Isaac’s back. Then

he took the little pot with the fire in it and his knife. Together, he and Isaac went on.

After walking in silence for some time, Isaac spoke, “Father, I see we have the wood and the fire. But where is the sacrifice?”

“My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a sacrifice,” Abraham answered.

Isaac wondered at the things his father said. But he was sure his father knew the very heart of God. They trudged on up the mountain.

At last his father stopped and said, “This is the place God has chosen for the sacrifice.” Immediately Abraham went to work building the altar. When the wood was in order, he turned to his son. Isaac saw the look of anguish on his father’s face.

Suddenly Isaac realized the truth. He was to be the sacrifice! He was going to die! His heart nearly stopped. How could his beloved father consider doing such a thing? Then he looked at Abraham and saw the agony in his eyes. This was no rash decision of his father’s. It was something God must have commanded him to do. Though Isaac was strong enough to rise and flee, he would not.

As his father lifted the knife over him, Isaac shut his eyes and thought, I am taking my last breath. Then the voice came, “Abraham, Abraham, do your son no harm.” At God’s word, Abraham stopped. He turned and there in a thicket was a ram caught by his horns. This was the sacrifice God provided.

Later, as they walked down the mountain together, Isaac felt a deep peace. He knew when his father gave him up to God, it was the hardest thing he had ever done. Surely God must be pleased with his father’s obedience. Isaac was glad that he had willingly submitted to his father.

Thankful that his life had been spared, Isaac thought, I will offer my very own lamb to God.

**LET'S FOLLOW
ISAAC'S EXAMPLE!**

If we want God to use us in His work we must obey Him. We must be loving and peaceable and prayerful. Isaac was all of these things, and God used him. The words on the list below are from our Bible text. Find them in the puzzle and circle them.

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

RAM	ALTAR	ABRAHAM
SON	ANGEL	BLESSED
FIRE	EGYPT	HERDSMEN
LAMB	ISAAC	KINDRED
LORD	KNIFE	REBEKAH
OATH	LOVED	SERVANT
SEED	PEACE	OFFERING
SLAY	STARS	BEERSHEBA
TENT	CAMELS	
VEIL	FAMINE	
WELL	FATHER	
WIFE	OBEYED	
WOOD	STRIVE	

Find Romans 12:18 in your Bible and write it in the box below.
It tells what God wants you to do.

A LOST INHERITANCE

LESSON 186 → Genesis 25:27-34; Hebrews 12:14-17

*Leo found that carelessness could
have big consequences.*





I CHOOSE JESUS.

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? — Mark 8:36

“LEO!” The concerned note in his father’s voice caught Leo’s attention and he stuck his head around the corner of the doorway into the family room. “Yeah . . . did you want me, Dad?”

“Leo, Great-grandfather’s Bible isn’t here on the shelf. Mom says she hasn’t moved it or seen it around the house. Did you take it down for some reason?”

Leo gulped. “Uh . . . yes, I did, Dad. Remember last week we finished our unit on Civil War history in Social Studies? Well, I took the Bible because I wanted to show the kids Abraham Lincoln’s signature in it. They didn’t believe me when I said we had a Bible in our family that he had autographed.”

Leo’s father frowned slightly. “I wish you had asked me before you took the Bible. You know how highly we value it. Where is it now? You did bring it home, didn’t you?”

Leo shrugged. “I guess I did. It’s probably in my backpack.”

“Probably!” his dad exclaimed. “I certainly hope you know where it is, Leo. Go find your backpack right now. That Bible is too precious a possession to treat so lightly.”

Leo sauntered into the hallway and located his backpack beneath his jacket. Unfastening the buckles, he dug through it . . . math book, health book, some papers, but no Bible. Oh, oh! Dad was going to be upset. He lingered in the hallway, trying to remember if he really had put the Bible into his backpack last week after class. Or could the Bible be in his desk at school? Did Mr. Brookings keep it? He just couldn’t remember for sure.

“Well?” his father’s stern voice came from the family room once more. “Did you find your backpack, Leo? Is the Bible there?”

Leo groaned inwardly. He really didn’t want to make his dad feel bad, but he couldn’t remember where the Bible was. I should have been more

careful with it, he thought. I guess I’d forgotten how important things like that are to Dad.

His dad came into the hall. One look at Leo’s troubled face gave him the answer. “You didn’t find it,” he said flatly.

“Dad, I’m sure it’s at school. It’s got to be. I guess I just forgot and thought I put it into my backpack. It’s probably in my desk, or maybe Mr. Brookings has it. Anyway, I’m sure I can find it tomorrow.”

His father looked troubled. “Leo, how could you have been so careless? That Bible was to have been yours someday, yet you valued it so little that you can’t even remember what you did with it. It has been a special treasure in our family for years, handed down from father to son. It contained marginal notes made by your great-grandpa when he was pastor of the little church in Minneapolis. It had names and dates recorded in it of when each family member was saved. Its presence in our home has been a visual and spiritual reminder of the Christian heritage we have. And you took it to school without even asking, and then you lost it.”

Leo couldn’t look at his father. Instead he stared down at his tennis shoes and mumbled, “Sorry, Dad. I’ll really look for it tomorrow.”

At school the next day, he looked through his desk. He talked to his teacher. He even tried asking at the office. But he didn’t find the Bible.

Leo didn’t put very much value on the Bible that was a family treasure. In the text for this lesson, we read a story about a young man named Esau who also did not value something of importance. Esau sold his birthright to his younger brother. The birthright was a special blessing usually given by the father to his oldest son. Selling the birthright was a poor choice. Esau lived to be sorry for the decision he made that day.

What kind of choices are you making? Are you putting the right values on the things which are going to count for eternity?

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?



F 4 R W H 1 T 3 S
 1 M 1 N P R 4 F 3
 T 2 D 3 F H 2 S H
 1 L L G 1 3 N T H
 2 W H 4 L 2 W 4 R
 L D 1 N D L 4 S 2
 H 3 S 4 W N S 4 5
 L 4 R W H 1 T S H
 1 L L 1 M 1 N G 3
 V 2 3 N 2 X C H 1
 N G 2 F 4 R H 3 S
 S 4 5 L

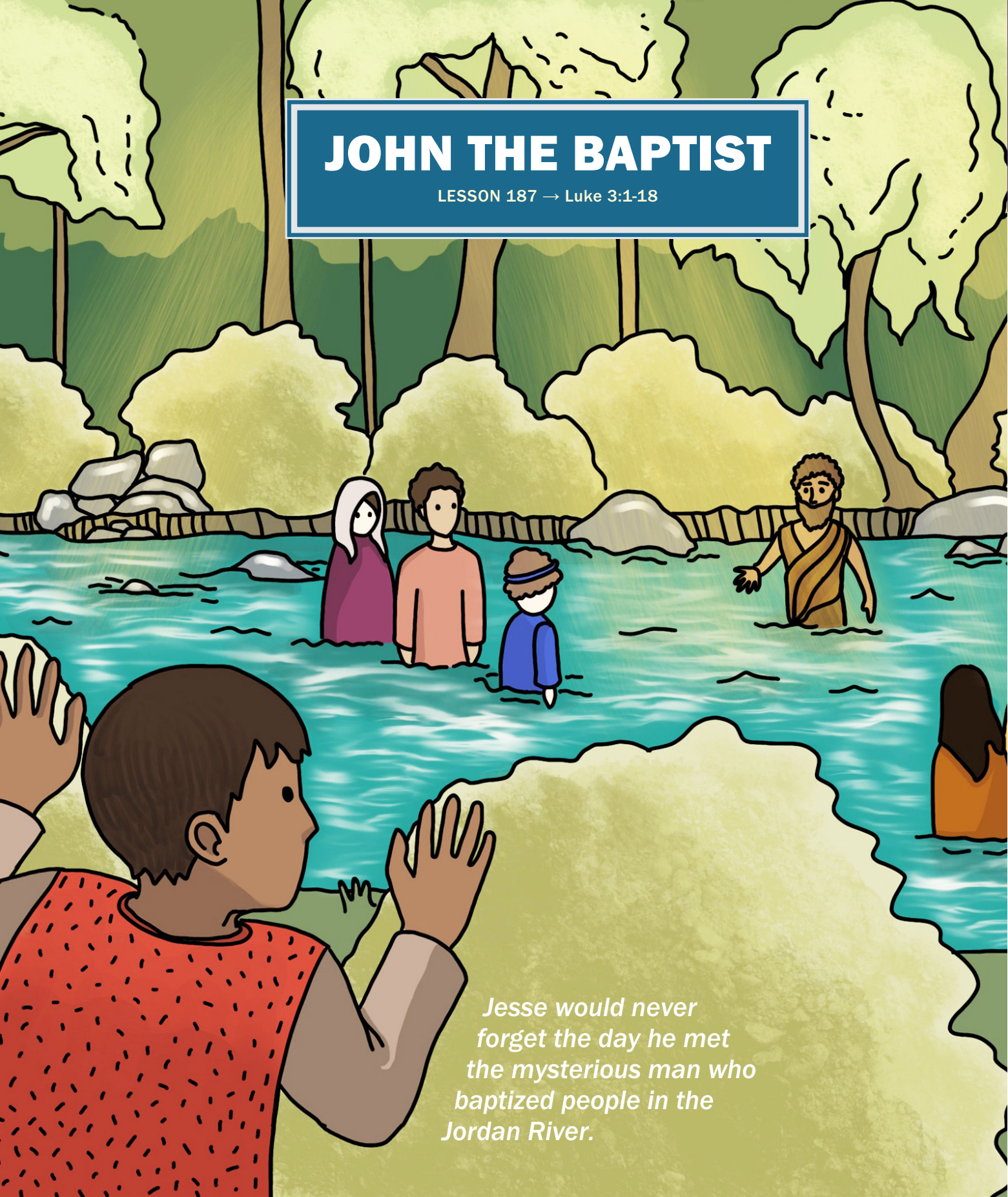
The verse on the left asks two important questions. To find out what they are, place each letter in the coin in order on the blank lines, starting with F. Each time you come to a number, change it to the letter it represents. (1=A, 2=E, 3=I, 4=O, 5=U)

 _____,
 _____,
 _____?

 _____?

JOHN THE BAPTIST

LESSON 187 → Luke 3:1-18



Jesse would never forget the day he met the mysterious man who baptized people in the Jordan River.



KEY
VERSE

JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. — John 1:29

Jesse sat up straight, wide-awake in the early morning light. Was it his imagination, or had he really heard someone call for help? It was easy for a person to get lost out here in the wilderness, even though the road to Jerusalem was nearby. He and his brothers had lain down here to rest for the night. He listened intently. There it was again—an urgent voice that seemed to be coming from the river a few hundred feet away.

He quickly fastened his cloak about him and set off toward the river, leaving his three sleeping brothers behind. Arriving at the bank of the Jordan, he stared in amazement. A man was by the river shallows seemingly preaching to the group of people gathering before him. Even as Jesse watched, more people arrived. The man's voice echoed in the morning air, and he seemed very intent on his message. The people didn't appear to mind the chilly morning breeze. What was he saying? He was speaking of repentance, and of someone who would be coming. What was this all about? Jesse moved closer and began to listen carefully.

The man's words stirred Jesse, and it seemed others in the crowd felt the same way. For when the man spoke of baptism, and moved into the waters of the river, they formed a line and began joining him in the water. What a strange sight, thought Jesse, as he watched in wonder. The man was now lowering the people one by one into the water. As he brought them up they joyfully praised God and sang hymns.

Others in the crowd questioned the man. "What shall we do?" Jesse moved closer, drawn by the power in the man's words. "Repent! Repent of all your sins and be baptized!" he was pleading with them. "The Lord is at hand! Make His paths straight!"

Then Jesse remembered. This must be John the Baptist! He had heard a lot about him for he

was quite famous in Jerusalem and the cities all around. It was said that he ate locusts and wild honey; that he was a mysterious man and had lived in the desert country much of his thirty-some years. Then, out of the wilderness he came with an amazing message: "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Repent and be baptized. Make your-selves ready for His coming."

Suddenly, the crowd shifted and Jesse was aware of John's eyes looking directly at him. Jesse backed away confused—he hadn't meant to get quite so close. But John held out his hand. "Don't be afraid, my young friend. Prepare yourself now for the Lord's coming! I was sent from God to tell you this."

A half hour later he arrived back at the camp where his brothers were now cooking breakfast over a fire. "Where have you been?" they asked him. "Have you been down to the river? Gehadzi went over that way to look for you and saw the great crowd gathered around that preacher, John. Were you there? Yes, your cloak is wet . . ."

Jesse had met the forerunner of Christ, the messenger who came to teach the people of the coming Messiah. His mission was to introduce Jesus Christ to the world, and he did it with such obedience, courage, and zeal that he drew vast multitudes to the Lord. What a thrill Jesse now had in his heart.

We have this same mission today. The Lord lives in our hearts! Do we have the courage and zeal to introduce Him to the lost all around us? Let's ask the Lord to help us as we prepare the way for His second coming!

**I'LL BE A
MESSENGER TOO!**

Match the symbols to the correct letters of the verse below and find out what John the Baptist told people about Jesus. We should also tell people of Jesus and His love.

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R

T	S	U
V		

X	W	Y
Z		



THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPENED

LESSON 188 → Mark 16:1-14; John 20:19-29



*The evidence
was there to
convince Piper.*

“It really happened, Piper. It’s not just some made-up story.”

Piper didn’t respond to Ian’s statement.

Her head was spinning from the discussion they’d been having on their way to school. Ian is really a neat guy, she thought to herself. If only he weren’t so into being a Christian. It’s all right to go to church once in a while, but talking about Jesus and the Bible during the week seems so unnecessary.

“Well, Ian, I’ll see you later. Thanks for walking with me.”

Noontime came and Piper and her best friend, Sophia, took their lunches to the front lawn of the school since it was a nice spring day. As they looked across the lawn they saw Ian eating his lunch with some of his friends.

“Why do you think Ian is so caught up in his religion? You know, Sophia, I just wish there were some way that I could prove to him that Jesus was just a man and not God like he thinks. I believe He might have been a great teacher, but why does Ian think He is God? He even believes that Jesus came back from the dead!”



I BELIEVE JESUS AROSE.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. — John 20:29

“I don’t know too much about that, but you have to admit something really happened to Ian. You remember as well as I do what he was like before he became a Christian.”

Piper nodded slowly. “You’re right. I was shocked to see the change in him. He nearly ended up in jail—and now, even my mom says he’s one of the nicest young men she knows. But does that prove that Jesus is God?”

“I’ve got an idea, Piper. Why don’t you ask Mr. Martinez? If anyone knows about history, he does. He’d know if it’s all just some tall tale or not.”

History was her last-period class, so Piper was able to take a few minutes after school to talk to Mr. Martinez. She hoped he could give her the proof she needed to tell Ian not to waste any more of his time on religion.

“Mr. Martinez, I have a question I’d like to ask you. It may sound weird, but . . . did Jesus really exist?”

Her teacher looked up from the papers he was going over. “Oh, yes, Piper. We have abundant proof of His having lived at the beginning of the first century. I’ve done quite a bit of study on that era of time.”

“Was He really God, or just a man like you?”

“Well, He said He was God, and He did do many miracles during His short life, but . . .”

“What about the Resurrection? Did that really happen?”

“In looking into the historical records relating to that incident, I’d have to say that there is no conclusive evidence that it did not happen. Actually there is every reason to believe that it happened just as His disciples said. It was the duty of the Roman soldiers to make sure Jesus was dead. After He had been wrapped in grave clothes and buried in a tomb He miraculously disappeared, even though there were Roman

soldiers guarding the entrance. He was seen by over five hundred people after that. Those who persecuted His disciples were never able to produce the body or prove that the Resurrection didn’t happen.”

Piper’s expression changed considerably as Mr. Martinez continued.

“It really does seem unlikely that a group of unschooled fishermen and common people, dejected and discouraged after Jesus’ death, would suddenly become the triumphant and confident men they were unless they had actually witnessed the miracle of the Resurrection. No persecution could keep them from publishing the Gospel, and thousands were converted under their ministry. And even today it continues.”

After thinking for a moment Piper responded, “So then He really is God and my friend Ian is right. Since you know all this, you must be a Christian too, Mr. Martinez.”

“Ah . . . well, that is . . . I . . .”

“Mr. Martinez,” she began in a surprised voice, “you have all the proof you need that Jesus is who He said He was, and that means the Bible is true, and that there is a Heaven and a Hell, and that . . .”

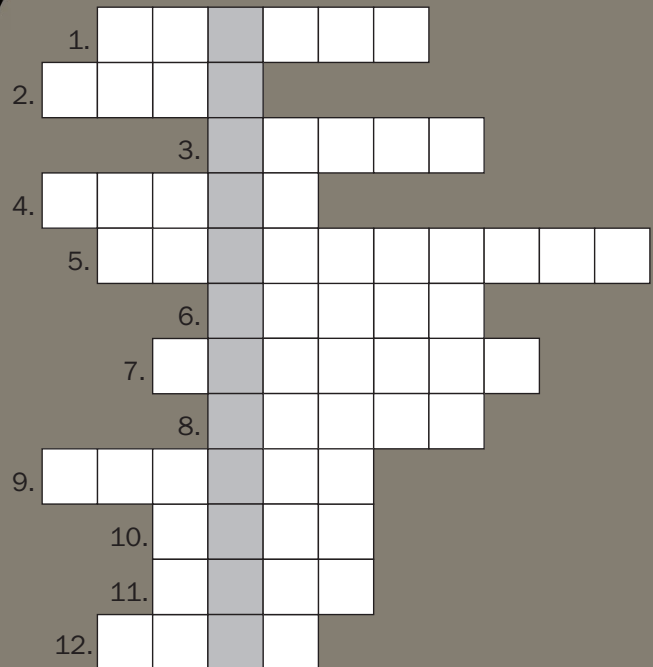
Appearing to be very nervous, Mr. Martinez stood up and began stuffing some papers into his briefcase. “I’ve got to be going now, Piper. Perhaps you could talk to someone else about this.”

Following him out the door, Piper continued, “If I knew for a fact all that you do, I think I’d be out telling it to others like Ian does. Ian told me the Bible says that Jesus is coming soon. Don’t you think that must be true also since we know the Resurrection really happened? You and I need to be ready to meet Jesus—right, Mr. Martinez? Mr. Martinez . . .”

THE RISEN CHRIST

Do you believe that Jesus lives? He does, and if you believe on Him you can have power and blessings. Fill in the missing words in the verses on the left. Then put those words in the correct order in the puzzle on the right. The word in the shaded area is the key word for this lesson.

1. is all, and in all.
Colossians 3:11
2. For in Him we . *Acts 17:28*
3. The world through him might be
. *John 3:17*
4. Redemption that is in Christ
. *Romans 3:24*
5. The disciples were called
. *Acts 11:26*
6. He is not here: for he is
. *Matthew 28:6*
7. I that thou
art the Christ. *John 11:27*
8. Take up the , and
follow me. *Mark 10:21*
9. Intending after
to bring him forth. *Acts 12:4*
10. Jesus Christ, who for us.
1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
11. one another, as I have
loved you. *John 15:12*
12. Christ died for our .
1 Corinthians 15:3





THE RIGHT CHOICE

LESSON 189 → Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75; Acts 2:14-24, 41

Dylan found the strength to stand for Jesus.

“**H**ey, Dylan . . . how do you like it?”
Deep in thought, Dylan hardly had been aware of Aiden and Toby’s arrival. Now he answered Aiden with a grin. “Man, it’s great! You guys outdid yourselves. If I don’t win the election, it won’t be your fault.”

Toby laughed, “Well, we only made the banner. You came up with the slogan, ‘Choose you this day . . .’ And, by the way, you don’t have much time left to campaign. Just between us, I understand Tyson Barnett thinks the party he’s throwing will draw away some of your main support. You know they say, ‘Fight fire with fire.’ Why don’t you loosen up and let your friends

know that you like a good time as well as the next guy. It might take more than a slogan, some posters, and a banner to win.”

“He’s right,” Aiden picked up the suggestion. “Some of us have an idea but wondered if you would go along with it. The Noise Boys—the group that will make Edison High famous—are willing to play for a block party if we will take care of the details, mainly the refreshments.”

“Yeah,” Toby interrupted, “we’ve even made our own slogan, ‘Rock the Block!’ And those guys can do it if anyone can.”

Dylan turned away from their eager expressions, not wanting to answer them.



JESUS IS MY STRENGTH

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. — Philippians 4:13

Aiden persisted, “Come on, Dylan. Mix a little fun with your religion! What do you say? It’s really up to you because it would be a campaign party. We could have it at Lane Bradley’s while his parents are on vacation. Your parents would never know, if that’s what’s bothering you.”

Dylan looked at his watch. “Hey, I’m going to miss my ride home if I don’t get going. I’ve got to run. About the party, I’ll think it over. Don’t get the idea that I can’t have fun.”

That evening Dylan found it impossible to concentrate on his algebra homework. Right after dinner Colin Jensen had called to remind him that Thursday night was the get-together for high school students at church. It was also basketball practice at school and he didn’t intend to miss that. After all, he was hoping for some votes from those kids. Now he felt a little uneasy about his answer to Colin, he hadn’t really wanted Colin to know he wasn’t coming and why, so he had just said, “Oh, thanks for reminding me, Colin.”

There had been a time when he wouldn’t have missed any of the youth activities at church. But this was one of those changes in his life since he began to make new friends. Maybe my life is too restricted, he thought. To broaden out a bit wouldn’t hurt anything. “You have to fit in, if you’re going to win,” he told himself, and grinned. Here I am, even thinking in slogans. What would Toby and Aiden say if they knew that the election slogan came to his mind after hearing a sermon on Joshua and his challenge to the Children of Israel, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . .” Dylan shifted uneasily in his chair and finally got up. I might as well go to bed for all the studying I’m doing.

Election day dawned and Dylan awoke to the same troubled thoughts that had kept him awake long after the loud party had come to an end last night—this morning, actually. Even Tyson Barnett, his chief opponent had come, “to check out the opposition,” he had said. He had known Tyson a little from primary school days,

and had even brought him to Sunday school once. So Dylan had felt a little embarrassed last night when Tyson had said, “You surprise me. I thought you were a Christian. When I heard what kind of a party was planned, I had to see it for myself.”

Dylan felt a little sick inside when he remembered his laughing answer, “Hey man, do you think I’m dead just because I go to church once in a while?”

He dressed with a little extra care, remembering the assembly, and hoped he could get out the door without having to discuss coming in late with his parents.

At the assembly, it was announced that he won the election. The excitement and the taste of victory were good. So why did he feel miserable? He tried to push the feeling into the background, and might have succeeded had it not been for a man named Peter.

In their study of the Apostle Peter the following Sunday, it was brought out in the class discussion that there are many ways to deny Christ besides saying, as Peter did: “I do not know the man.” The class concluded that our actions, our words, our pastimes, and our associations all tell the world our stand regarding Jesus Christ.

Dylan hardly knew what went on in church that morning, or what the sermon was about. The one thing he did know for sure was that over and over in his mind he was saying, “O Lord, forgive me; I’m so sorry.” And at the prayer service God did forgive him and made him a brand new person.

“And you know, Dad and Mom, there’s something else,” Dylan said at the dinner table later that day. “All those friends that I wanted so much to impress and be like are going to hear something new from me. I’m going to tell them that their new class president has another slogan, ‘I’ve become new, and so may you.’ When they ask what I mean, I’ll tell them. I’ll really tell them!”

Lesson 189 Activity

**A REAL
CHANGE!**

There was a real change in Peter when he repented and began his new life for Christ. The verse below is advice that Peter gave for all who follow Jesus. Fill in the missing words. Then write those words where they fit on the crossword.



always to an
 to every that
 you a of the
 that is in you with
 and fear. -1 Peter 3:15

SOMEONE FAITHFUL

LESSON 190 → 2 Corinthians 4:8-18; 11:24-28; 2 Timothy 4:6-8



Well, here we are, thought Summer. I wonder how many of the other kids came up with examples?

Last Sunday Erik Mason, their eighth-grade Sunday school teacher, had thrown out a challenge to everyone in the class. Their lesson subject was the Apostle Paul, and they were each to think of an example of someone who was faithful in service to Christ, and be prepared to support their selection with specific details. Summer had

thought off and on all week about who her choice would be.

Monday night she had helped prepare and serve refreshments for the youth get-together. Later in the week she had twice helped in the home of a new family in the church whose little girl was very ill. Between these things and the regular schedule of services and practices, she really had no time until yesterday to get her thoughts together and make a decision.



BE FAITHFUL TO JESUS.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
— 2 Timothy 4:7

When she told Mrs. Adolphsen, a kind elderly lady, about the person she had finally chosen, Mrs. Adolphsen helped Summer with a few of the details.

“... so Paul wrote to Timothy and told him, ‘I have kept the faith,’” Teacher Erik was saying. “There were other people who kept the faith before Paul’s time and there have been many since. Now, how many of you came up with an example of a person faithful in Christ’s service? Four? That’s a good start. Let’s hear the descriptions and then see if we can guess who each person is.”

“I’ll go first,” said Ryan. “I chose a man who loved to pray. He was very faithful in doing so. In fact he was so faithful that he was punished for praying to God instead of the king. He . . .”

“Oh, I know, Daniel! It’s Daniel!” cried Summer.

“Good for you, Summer,” said Teacher Erik. “How about you take the next turn?”

“This is a lady who none of us knows, but we’ve heard a lot about her. She was a preacher many years ago. At first she didn’t have a church building to meet in, just a blacksmith shop. Some rowdy people were always giving her a bad time. While the meetings were going on, the windows were broken with rocks, and eggs were thrown in. Also vegetables! She was even cut on her forehead when someone tossed a glass bottle through a window. Most people would have quit and said, ‘Forget preaching to people like that!’ But she was faithful and soon the church grew. The church she started now has branch churches in many different cities and in other countries. Some special words that might help you to know who she is are: ‘Jesus, The Light of the World.’”

Josie raised her hand and spoke at the same time. “That’s the lady who started our own Apostolic Faith Church, Florence Crawford!”

“Good,” said Teacher Erik. “Okay, Josie, do you have an example? No? Well, who’s next? Go ahead, Gunner.”

“My dad and I were talking about this man last week. He isn’t a person from the Bible but he had a lot to do with it. If he hadn’t been faithful in his work of translating the Bible we might be reading a different version today. There is a famous verse from the Bible that changed this man’s life, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

“Martin Luther!” Paige said.

“Right! You’re next,” said Teacher Erik.

“Well, at first, when I thought about Paul’s being faithful even through persecution, I tried to think of someone who was having persecution now. When I couldn’t, I figured we don’t suffer persecution like he did. So, how do we prove we’re faithful? Well, I have a good one! I hope you’ll agree with me. This is a person you all know. A person who is always there when you need someone. You can always count on her to pray for you. If you need to get something done she’ll help you or even do it all for you. She’s a friend to everyone, young and old. She has a small job that most people would say ‘No thanks’ to, but you couldn’t get her to give it up. She takes care of old Mrs. Adolphsen on Saturday mornings—that means no weekend trips. And she does it with love! Mrs. Adolphsen told me she’s never met a more faithful young person.”

By now the whole class knew that she was talking about Summer.

While Summer blushed, Teacher Erik said, “It looks like we’re about out of class time but you did a great job coming up with examples of faithful people. Let’s remember all the examples we’ve talked about—and especially the last one because that’s where we are today. In our country this may not be a time of persecution such as those in other times have known. Still, if we are faithful in our work for Jesus we can say with Paul, ‘I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.’”

I WANT TO BE
FAITHFUL!

There is a crown
of life for everyone
who is faithful in the
service of the Lord.
Paul knew this was
true even when he
had many troubles.
The words on the
list below are from
this lesson's Bible
text. Find them in the
word-find and circle
each of them.

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

GOOD
KEPT
LIFE
LORD

LOVE
PAUL
CROWN
FAITH

GLORY
GRACE
JESUS
RAISE

READY
BELIEVE
ETERNAL
RENEWED

FINISHED
RIGHTEOUS
THANKSGIVING



THOSE BIG, SHARP TEETH!

LESSON 191 → Jonah 1-3

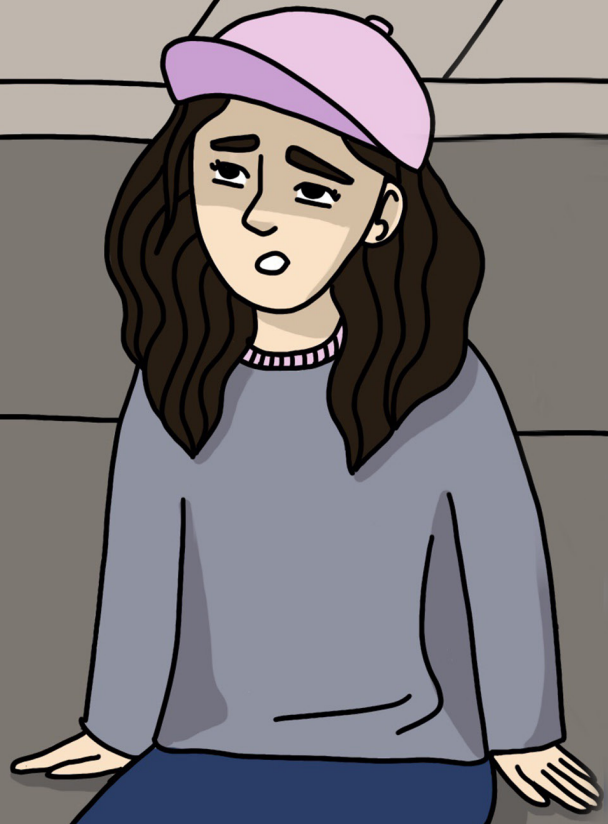
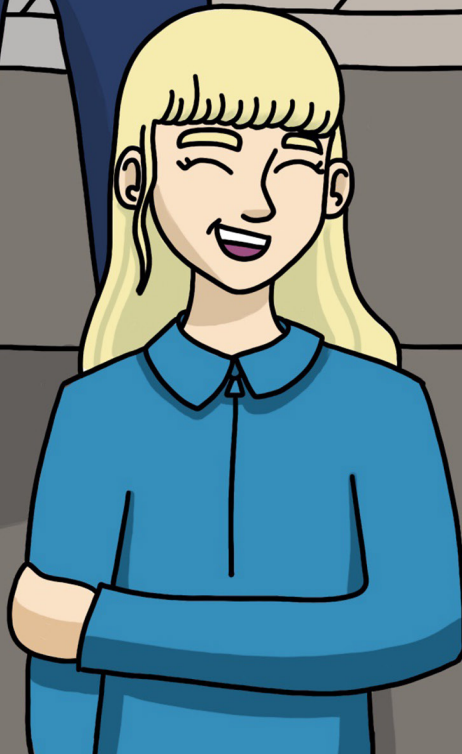
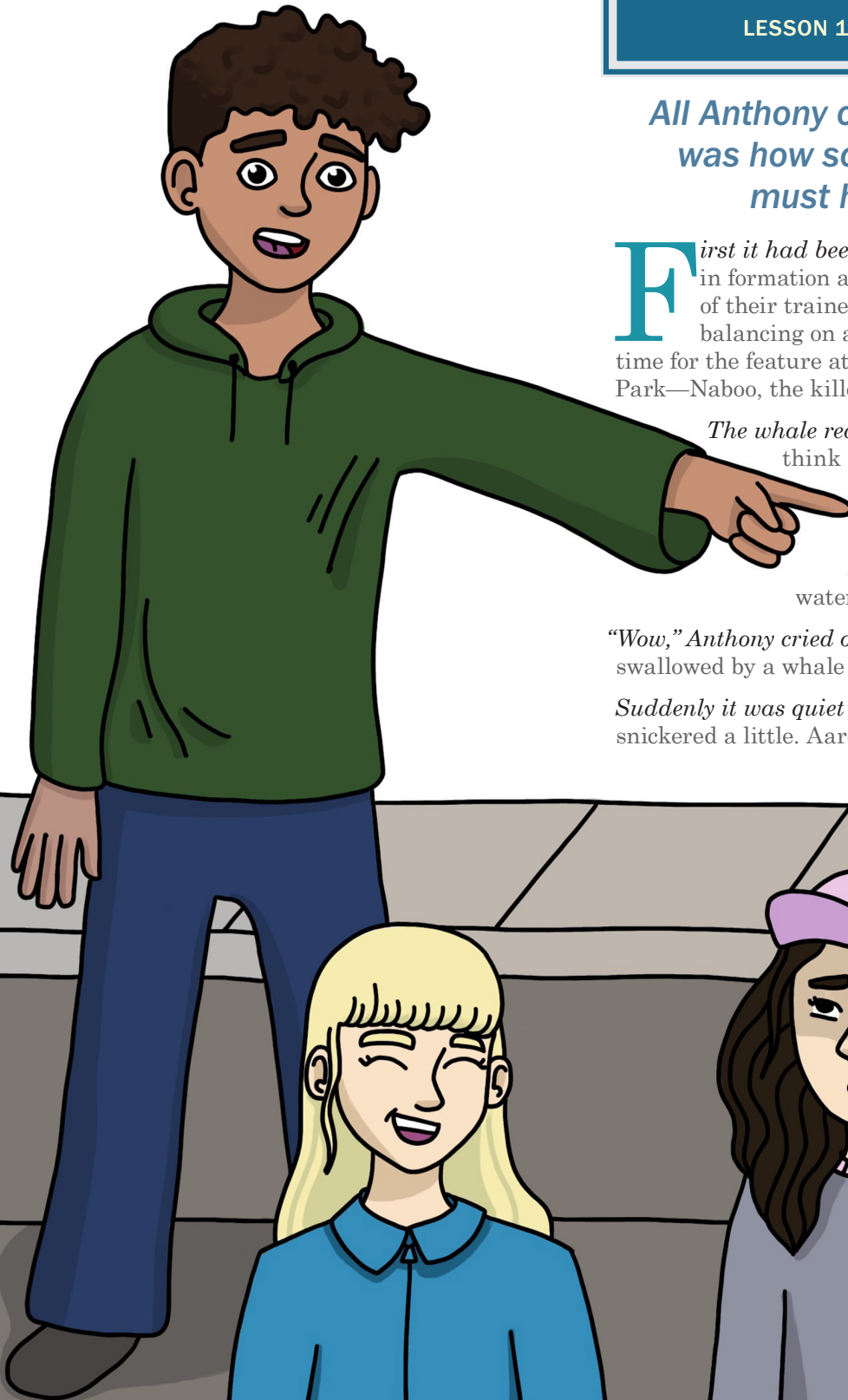
All Anthony could think about was how scary that whale must have been.

First it had been the porpoises, swimming in formation and eating raw fish out of their trainer's hand. Then the seals, balancing on a teeter-totter. Now it was time for the feature attraction of Ocean World Sea Park—Naboo, the killer whale.

The whale really didn't do much—if you think “much” is more than jumping completely out of the water and drenching everybody around with the tons of water he splashed.

“Wow,” Anthony cried out. “Just think, Jonah was swallowed by a whale like that one.”

Suddenly it was quiet all around him. Leilani snickered a little. Aaron pointed at Anthony and





I'M GOING TO OBEY JESUS.

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh. — Jonah 3:1-2

sneered, “Jonah? I’m sure!” Several others laughed. Finally, their seventh-grade teacher, Mr. Simmons, spoke up. “Now, Anthony,” he said, “even religious people realize that the story of Jonah in the Bible is only an ancient myth. Did you see the big, sharp teeth in the whale’s mouth? No human being could get past them, much less live inside the animal for three days.”

The next day, Saturday, broke sunny and clear. It was just perfect for the plans Anthony’s Sunday school class had made—visiting the children at the big housing project and inviting them to Sun-day school. These visitations had been planned weeks ago, and he had been asked to be a leader of one of the groups. He had agreed, and all the arrangements had been made.

But Anthony didn’t go. “Only a myth . . . only a myth. . .” kept running over and over in his mind.

Instead, he headed down to the waterfront. He wandered around the fishing boats and sailboats, though he had nothing particular in mind to do.

“Hey, Anthony, whachya’ doing here?” A voice broke through his brooding thoughts.

Looking up, Anthony saw Aaron, a boy from his class, leaning over the side of a rather old and rough-looking sailboat.

“Nothing,” Anthony replied. “What are you doing?”

“I’m going sailing in my boat.”

“Hey, can I go along?” asked Anthony.

“Well, you know, it takes a lot of money to keep up a boat like this,” Aaron said as he looked down at his worn-out little craft. “But for a dollar, you can go!”

Anthony dug through his pockets and brought out a crumpled bill. A few minutes later the boys sailed into the bay. The thoughts of

bringing boys and girls to Sunday school were now far from Anthony’s mind.

Neither boy noticed that the sun had disappeared behind the now rapidly gathering clouds. It wasn’t until a heavy wind came up and whitecaps started to appear that they realized a storm was upon them.

“Where’d this storm come from?” Aaron shouted. “You must have brought me bad luck!”

Just like Jonah, Anthony thought. JONAH!

Aaron grabbed the mast as a heavy gust pushed the boat over on its side. Anthony grabbed frantically, too—and missed.

Those teeth! Those big, sharp teeth! They flashed through Anthony’s mind as a wave hit him and pushed him under the water. All he could imagine was a huge fish with sharp teeth coming after him.

“Those teeth! Those big, sharp teeth!” Anthony struggled to cry out. With an effort he opened his eyes, but in a hospital bed, not in the water of the bay. His mother was beside him crying but his father leaned over him and said, “He’s conscious. Thank God!”

“Those teeth!” Anthony cried again.

“Calm down, Son. You’ll be okay,” his father assured him. “What teeth are you talking about?”

“The big, sharp teeth in the whale that swallowed Jonah,” Anthony replied.

His father looked puzzled, but replied, “Why, Son, there probably were no teeth. The Bible says that God prepared a special fish to swallow Jonah. That was no ordinary whale.”

Anthony thought of his ill-fated boat trip and the visit to the housing project where he should have been instead. God had spared Jonah, and now God had spared him. Doubt God’s Word? Never again! And next time, God’s work would come first.

**DON'T BE
A JONAH!**

There is danger in refusing to obey God, but He is merciful and loving. Below are some questions about Jonah, a man who received mercy even though he ran away from God's call. Answer them and then answer the questions that relate to you. Remember, God loves you!

God asked Jonah to preach to Ninevah.
Did he go?

What did Jonah ride on that was going
in the wrong direction?

What happened when Jonah disobeyed
God? List at least two things.

What did Jonah do while he was in the
belly of the fish?

How does the lesson show God's mercy
to Jonah?



Do you obey God when He asks you to
do something?



What would keep you from going in
God's direction?



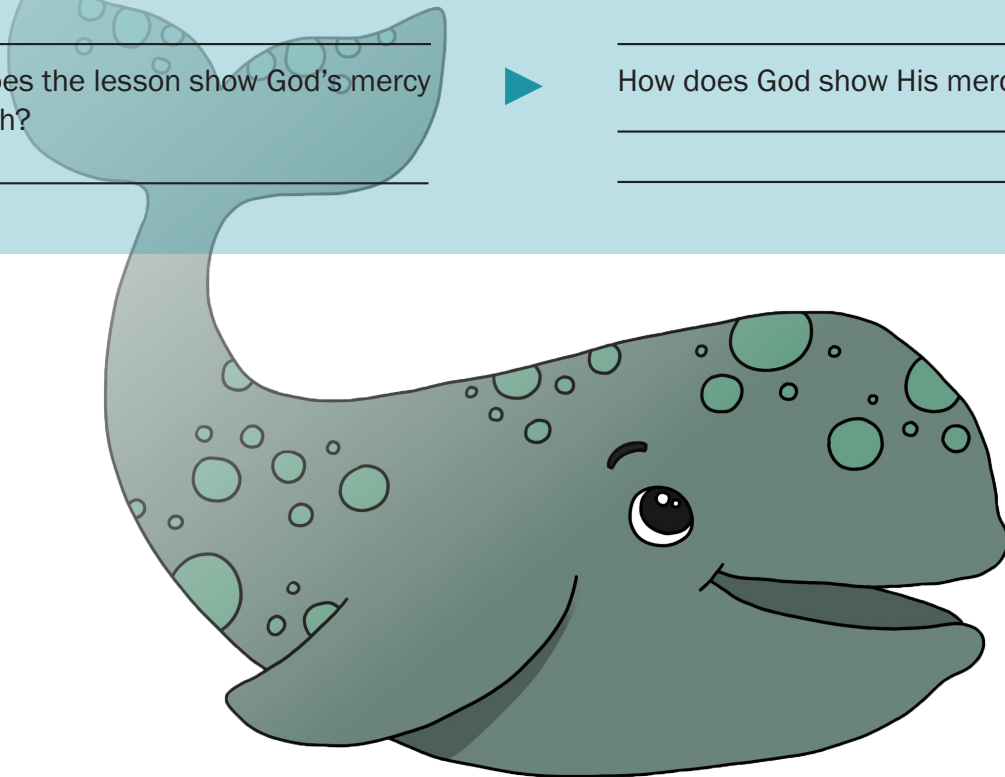
What might happen to you if you
disobey God?

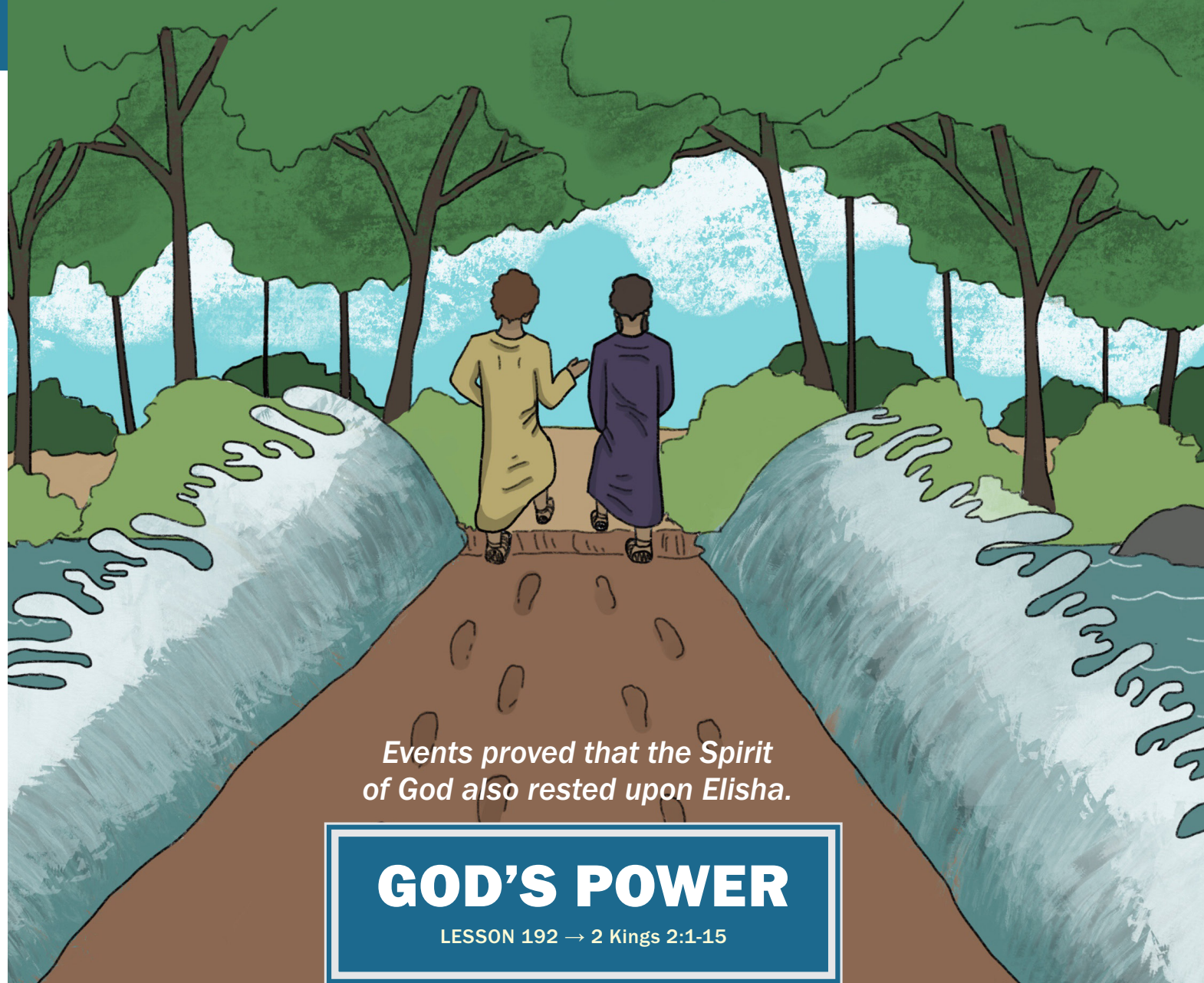


What should you do if you want God's
blessing?



How does God show His mercy to you?





*Events proved that the Spirit
of God also rested upon Elisha.*

GOD'S POWER

LESSON 192 → 2 Kings 2:1-15

My heart is sorely troubled—some-
how I sense this is no ordinary day.
And I know well the reason for the
distress that rests upon me.

*It was clear by the words of Elijah the Prophet
this morning that he was taking his leave of us.
It must be the Lord has revealed to him that his
time of departure will be soon.*

*I feel I must pen my misgivings as we sit here
gazing over the plain and the Jordan River
stretched out before us. I, along with a number
of others from among the sons of the prophets
here at Jericho, have come to watch. As Elijah
and his helper move toward the river, I wonder:*

Will this indeed be the last time we look upon
our teacher?

*What will become of our people when Elijah is
taken from us? Surely his communication with
Jehovah has been seen times without number.
His faith is not doubted. His leadership among
the prophets of Israel has remained unchal-
lenged for many years.*

*It is impossible for me to imagine how Elisha,
the one who has walked with him for some six
years as his helper, can ever take his place.
Elisha is such a quiet man. Though it is appar-
ent that he is the one Elijah has chosen as his
successor, seldom do we hear him utter a word.*



I WANT MORE OF JESUS.

I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. — 2 Kings 2:9

Even this morning I myself questioned him, “Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day?” His only reply was a brief, “I know it; hold ye your peace.”

I cannot erase from my mind the troubled look on his face as he spoke those words. There was no happiness, no anticipation at the thought of taking on a position of such importance. He spoke with none of the authority and vigor which so mark the speech of Elijah. Can he, in truth, be the one chosen of the Lord to lead the people of Israel?

* * * * *

Two days have passed since I penned the first words of this document. As I look over my earlier thoughts noted here, I cannot help but marvel at the change in my feelings regarding Elisha. But not without reason! I must detail here the events which took place. For I was not wrong in feeling that was no ordinary day.

Indeed my heart was heavy as Elijah and Elisha approached the Jordan River. I admit to feeling a bit puzzled as they headed directly for the riverbank, rather than going south toward the usual crossing. As they stood on the shore, Elijah twisted his cloak together and smote the waters flowing before them. It is difficult for me to explain, but before our eyes, the waters were divided hither and thither at the place where Elijah struck them. We, the sons of the prophets, rose to our feet as one man. We were witnessing a miracle! Elijah and Elisha proceeded to walk steadily across to the other side—obviously on solid, dry ground for they did not appear to gather up their robes or choose their path cautiously.

A thrill coursed through my veins. With my own eyes, I had seen the hand of God move! Immediately I could sense that those around me felt the same awe, for there was a murmur among the other sons of the prophets standing close by.

Our eyes were fastened on the two figures. They paused briefly after crossing and conversed for a moment, then resumed walking. But they had not progressed more than a few hundred yards when there was a sudden flash of light directly above them. Again, words fail me as I attempt to describe what we saw. It appeared as a moving flame, larger than the two men. It swept between them, and in an instant, one figure was gone. I knew at once it was Elijah. We would never look on his face again in this life! A sense of sadness settled over me. But some compelling force kept my attention on the lone figure remaining. What emotion was the man Elisha experiencing now?

He bent and picked up a garment from the ground. Then, without hesitation, he turned back toward the river. Even from this great distance I could see he moved with determination. As he approached the river, he twisted together the garment just as Elijah had done such a short time earlier.

I felt a great tension suddenly grip me. Was he going to smite the water as Elijah had done? Would the waters part as they had for Elijah? Somehow, the fate of our people seemed to hover in the balance. Had the Lord God of Elijah allowed His Spirit to rest upon the man Elisha?

In a brief moment I had my answer. Elisha smote the waters—and again they separated and formed a path! We all rushed to meet him as he triumphantly strode across.

My doubts were laid to rest—but if any had remained, they would have been quieted when we again spoke with Elisha. What a transformation has taken place in this once quiet, humble servant of Elijah! His voice now rings with authority. He has a confidence and assurance that is obviously given of God. Indeed, I felt the Spirit of the Lord Jehovah more powerfully in him than I have ever felt before in another man, even Elijah! He is the chosen one to teach the Children of Israel. I have no further doubts.

I WANT MORE!

Wanting more of God’s Spirit on your life is a good thing. This way God can help you do more for Him. Elisha is a good example for us to follow. Each sentence below contains a hidden word from our lesson. A list is given but the words are not in the correct order. We have found the first word for you. Have fun!



FIRE	SONS	SHALL	PARTED
HEAD	LEAVE	LIVETH	PORTION

Money was given to help Art Edwards buy a bike.

Judy finally found her lost cat on Circle Avenue.

I have a complete set of the presidents’ pictures on stamps.

Mom said I have to finish all my homework before I can play ball.

I need to decide what stuff I really need and what I can throw away.

Tell Bill I’ve thrown his old shoes away.

I told her to add one cup of sugar but she added two.

At the airport, I once saw a military bomber.



IN GOD'S KEEPING

LESSON 193 → Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23

***Jochebed knew
she could trust the
Lord with her baby.***

Jochebed sat in her small home, straining to hear the sounds of Miriam's returning steps. Her troubled thoughts went to the frightening things that had been happening to their people.

Pharaoh had decreed that all their baby boys must be killed when born, but the midwives who assisted in the births had found ways to keep them alive. Defeated in this, he had ordered that all their infant boys be thrown into the river.

Many of Jochebed's neighbors and friends had lost their baby boys in this way. There was scarcely a family in the land that had not been affected by this cruel law.

Jochebed's eyes filled with tears as she thought of the events of the morning. For three months she had hidden her own baby, defying the king's command. Her husband, Amram, had helped her and so had Miriam, their daughter. But now the baby was too old to be kept quiet in the small home, and the last few weeks had been spent in agony, fearing that he would soon be discovered.

A few days earlier she had thought of a plan. She would hide the baby in a new place—in the reeds at the edge of the river. Pharaoh had said the babies should be thrown into the river, so who would think of hiding one there? She had made a small reed boat, just large enough to hold the carefully wrapped baby. After coating the little boat with pitch, she had let it dry, and then tested it for leaks. At last she was satisfied that it would float.



I CAN TRUST JESUS.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
— Psalm 37:5

Very early this morning she had gently laid her precious baby in it, and carefully put on the cover, checking to be sure he could breathe. “Come, Miriam,” she had said softly, “we must get to the river before anyone can see what we are doing.”

Hurriedly the two had walked to the river’s edge. Jochebed had waded into the reeds, picking a spot where they were especially thick. She placed the small boat where it would not tip over. “Lord God,” she said, “this child is now in Your keeping. I trust You to do what is best for him. He is Yours.” Struggling to hold back the tears, she returned to where Miriam stood. Miriam’s eyes were filled with tears. Jochebed thought: What will happen to him if we go away and leave him? She said quietly to Miriam, “Stay here, my child, to see what may happen.”

Now Jochebed was at home, waiting. Waiting for what? She had committed the child to the keeping of her God. But what would God do in these circumstances? She wasn’t really sure. She only knew that God had helped in times past. He had heard her prayer, she knew. Now she would see what He would do for her and for her baby.

Suddenly Jochebed was aware of the sound of running feet. The door of the home was thrown open. “Mother!” Miriam’s voice was urgent. “Mother, come quickly!”

“What is the matter? Is the baby all right?”

“Oh, yes, Mother. Come! I will tell you as we go.”

Quickly, Jochebed followed her daughter. As they hurried past the other small homes Miriam spoke softly. “I watched from the edge of the river. I was going to throw a rock if a crocodile came. But, Mother . . .” Here the girl stopped, her eyes opened wide with wonder. “Mother, Pharaoh’s daughter came down to the river to bathe. She saw the basket and sent one of her maidens to find out what was in it. When they opened it up, the baby was crying. She must

have felt sorry for him because she took him out of the basket. He stopped crying when she held him close, and then he started to smile. She seemed to love him right away.

“Then I heard her say, ‘Poor baby, he’s one of the Hebrew children. If I had a way to feed him, I could keep him for my own.’ When I heard that, I ran up and asked her if she wanted me to go and get a nurse from among the Hebrew women. That’s when I ran home for you. I didn’t tell her that he was your baby.”

By now they were at the path that led to the river’s edge. Jochebed looked ahead and saw the princess with her maidens gathered around her, holding the precious baby. Slowly, trembling inside, Jochebed approached and knelt before the ruler’s daughter.

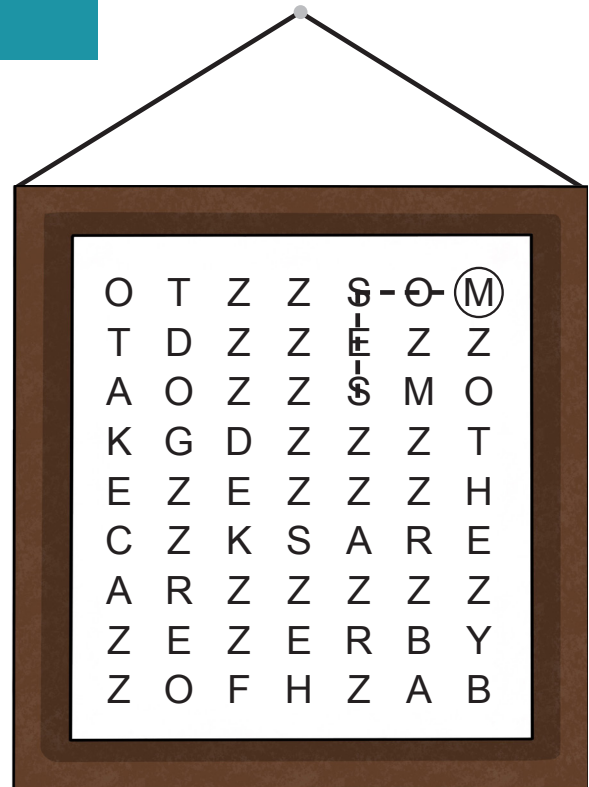
The princess looked at Jochebed carefully, then down at the baby in her arms. “This child is one of the children of your people, but now he is mine. I will call him Moses, because I took him from the river. Take him and care for him as if he were your own; I will pay you. My father’s guards will be told that he is my son. When it is time, I will call for him, and he will come and live with me in the palace of my father.”

Silently, Jochebed stood up and reached for her baby, and in a few moments she turned toward her home. Carefully cradling the infant in her arms, she spoke to him softly. “Moses. She called you Moses. I will call you that too, because it means ‘drawn out.’ My Son, the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has caused you to be taken from the river. He has given you back to me for a little while. As long as you are with me, I will teach you about the one true God. Who knows but perhaps from Pharaoh’s own house you may someday help free our people from slavery.”

Then Jochebed praised the Lord. The Lord had answered her prayer!

I'LL TRUST GOD

When we have a need we can ask God to help us, and He will. Moses' mother trusted God too. What did she ask for? Start with the circled letter and move from letter to letter, right and left, up and down, but not diagonally. Write the answer on the lines below.

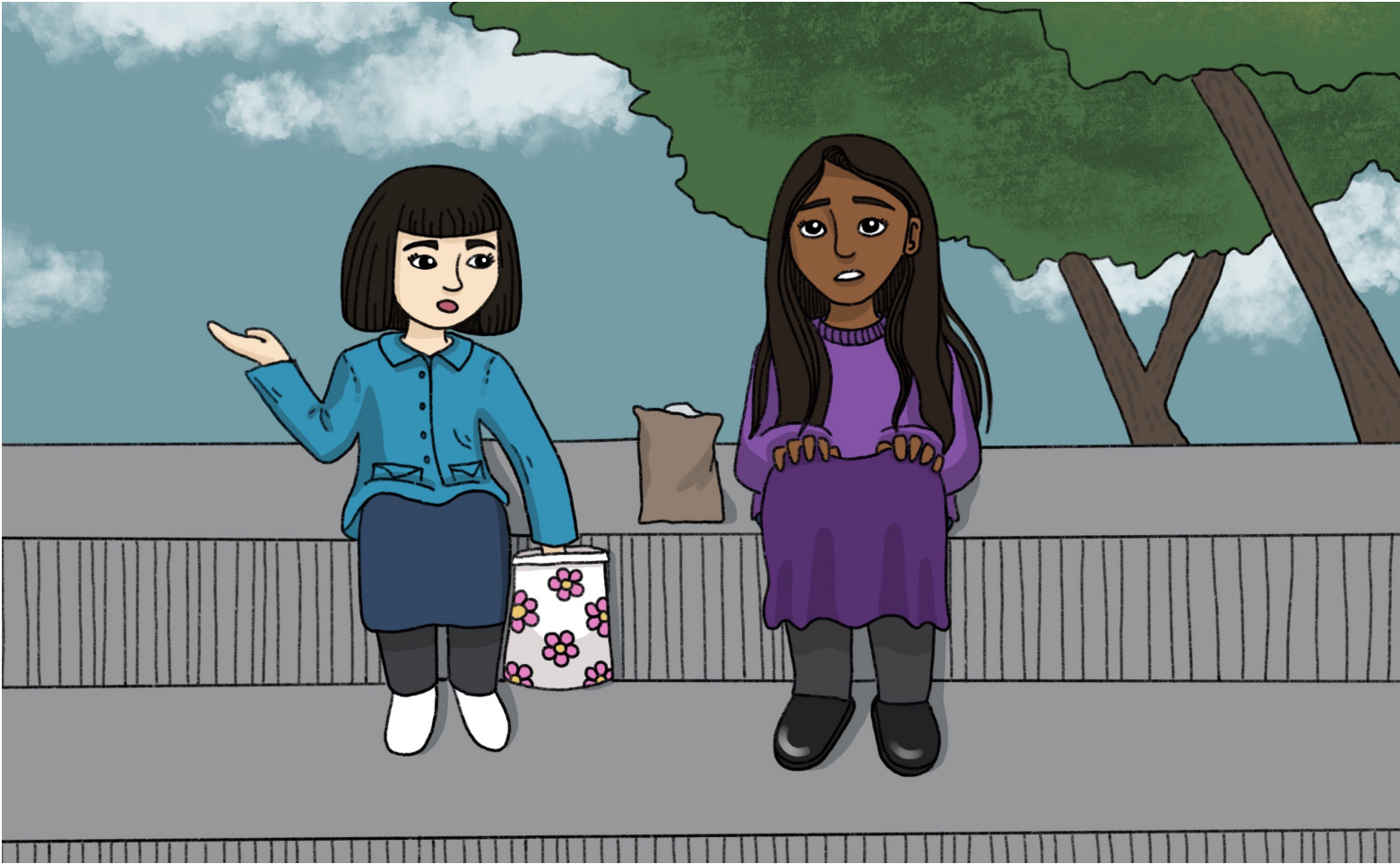


On the lines below list some things that you would like to give to God, knowing that He will take care of them.

GOD STILL GIVES THE ANSWERS

LESSON 194 → 1 Kings 3:5-14; 4:29-34

Kylie proved that true wisdom is available today.



“I don’t think I can face another day of it!” Kylie said, her voice almost breaking. “He knows just how to ask the questions I can’t answer. And when I do answer, he shoots my statements full of holes. Sometimes I wish I had never signed up for this class in Bible literature!”

Layla sighed sympathetically. “I know it’s been a rough go for you, Kylie. Mr. Joelsted has the reputation of being a difficult teacher, but I’ve always heard that he really knows his stuff.”

“Oh, he knows the Bible all right. That’s what makes it so difficult! When he questions me on what I believe and why, he wants to know just which Scriptures back up my beliefs. And if I don’t have them right on the tip of my tongue, he’s got a Scripture that seems to say something different. I’ve prayed that God would help me say the right thing, but lots of times I feel like I just don’t know how to answer him.”



TRUE WISDOM IS FROM GOD.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad. — 1 Kings 3:9

Layla looked out over the bleachers where the girls were sitting, eating their lunches. “Why do you think he’s picking on you, Kylie? Does he ask the other kids in your class the same kinds of questions?”

Kylie brushed the crumbs from her lap and stuffed her napkin into her lunch sack before answering. Finally she responded, “Layla, I really don’t think he’s trying to pick on me. He doesn’t do it in a mean way . . . more like he’s just curious. I think he asks me questions because he honestly wants to know how I will respond. And when he gives a Scripture that seems to present an opposing thought, I think he really wants to know how I explain that.” She sighed. “I guess the problem is really me. I wish I knew more. I wish I had the answers so I could explain what I believe.”

Layla swallowed her last bite of cookie. “Well, one good thing, there are only a few weeks of school left. Just hang in there, Kylie.”

“Oh, I suppose I will . . .”

The next couple of weeks went by, and Kylie faced each session of her Bible literature class with apprehension. She prayed every morning that God would give her the right words, and sometimes she thought that the strength He gave was the only reason she was able to keep on going to the class.

On the last day before finals, Kylie found out that her prayers really had been answered.

Mr. Joelsted began his lecture that morning by summarizing the chapters they had studied in 1 Kings about Solomon and his wisdom. In concluding his remarks, he commented that Solomon had asked God for wisdom and had obviously received it. Then he asked, “Do any of you believe that God still could and would give wisdom to those who ask for it as Solomon did?”

For a moment there was silence in the classroom. Then Kylie raised her hand. “Yes, I do believe that He would, Mr. Joelsted.”

“Will you please explain this to the class, Kylie?”

Mr. Joelsted asked. “Do you know anyone who has had their IQ increased because they prayed about it?”

“God may not come down and put the solution to every algebra equation in my mind, or give me a complete understanding of my biology textbook. But when I pray, He does help me and guide me in making decisions and choices. He shows me what I should say and do. I believe true wisdom is learning to lean on God.”

Mr. Joelsted looked at her thoughtfully. “That’s an interesting point, Kylie.” He paused for a moment and then added, “Would you mind staying after class for a few minutes? I’d like to discuss this with you a little further.”

When the bell rang, Kylie sat quietly at her desk as her classmates gathered up their books and went out into the hall. Then she walked up to Mr. Joelsted’s desk, her heart thumping. What was he going to say?

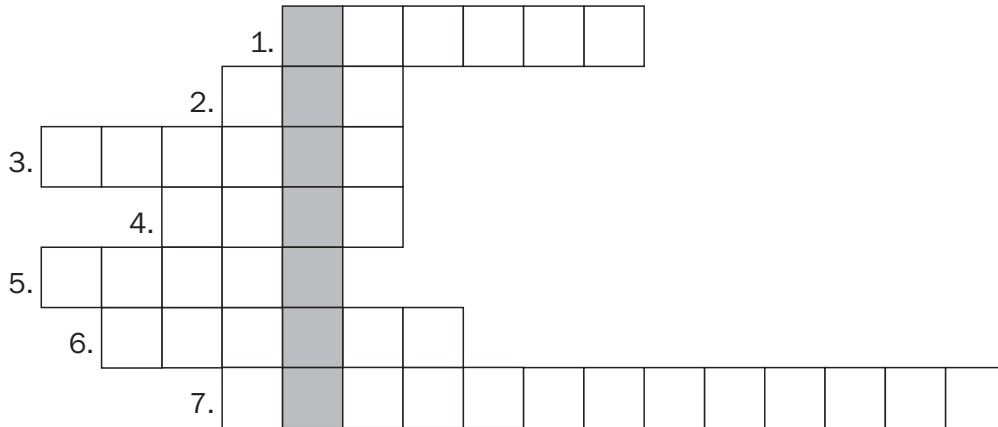
He seemed intent on the papers at his desk, shifting them from one side to another. Finally he looked up and smiled slightly. “Kylie, I just wanted to tell you that I have really enjoyed having you in my class. Your comment today regarding how God helps by showing you what you should do and say was very enlightening. I know that I have thrown some pretty difficult questions your way this year. You have done very well in answering them—so well, in fact, that I have wondered where you got your insight. Now I think I understand.”

Kylie looked seriously at her teacher. “Thank you, Mr. Joelsted. Your questions have made me think, and pray for wisdom as to how to answer them. I do believe that God has helped me.”

“I believe that too,” said Mr. Joelsted quietly. “Never let go of the faith you have, Kylie. It is something very special.”

A WISE GUY

We should ask God for wisdom in our lives. Read 1 Kings 3:5-14 to find the words that are missing below. Write the words in the acrostic puzzle. The name in the shaded area belonged to the man who asked God for wisdom before anything else.



1. and the _____
pleased the LORD (verse 10)

2. and _____ said
unto him (verse 11)

3. in the midst of thy
_____ (verse 8)

4. discern between _____
and bad (verse 9)

6. both riches, and
_____ (verse 13)

5. a _____ by night
(verse 5)

7. an _____
heart to judge (verse 9)

PERSONALITY
PROFILE

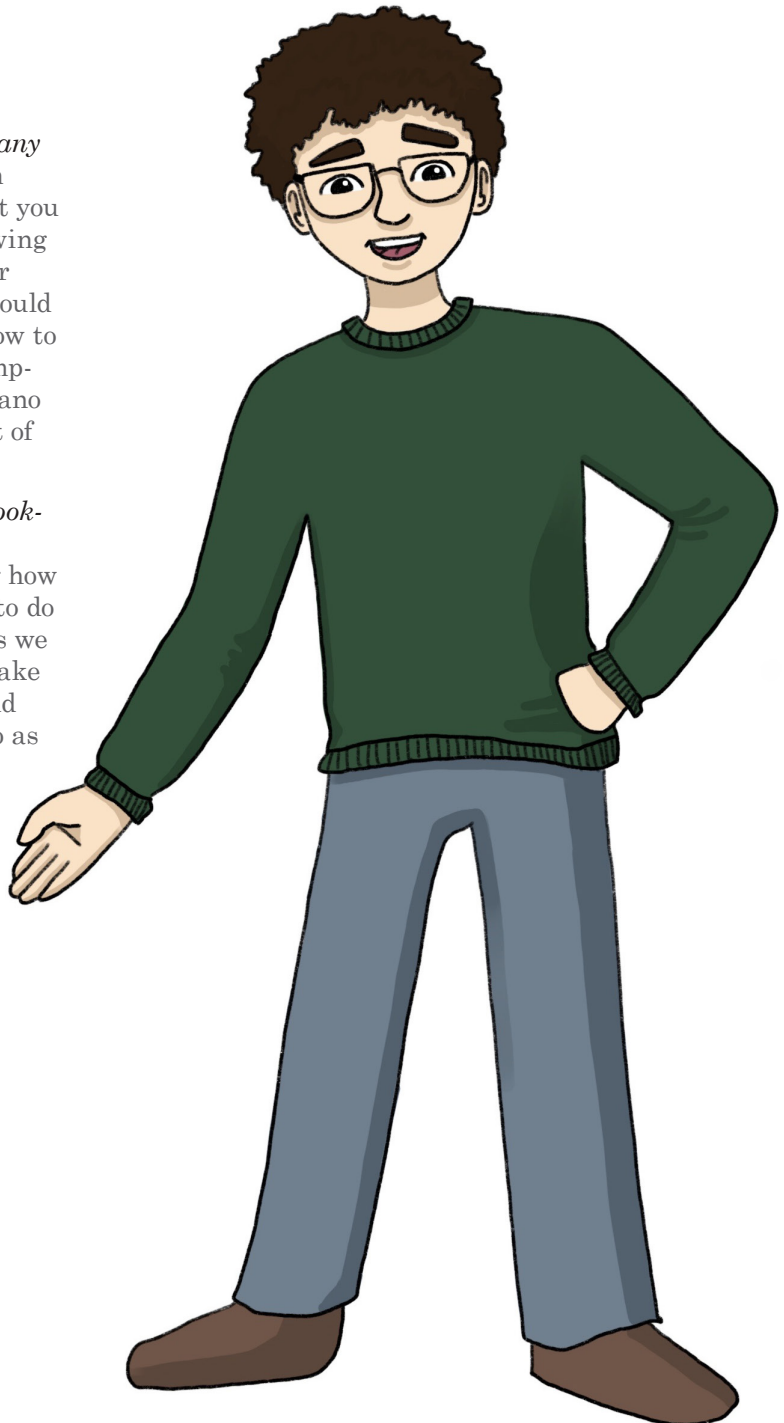
QUARTER REVIEW

LESSON 195 → Hebrews 11:8-27

Do you ever think about the many things you have learned from other people? Someone taught you to tie your own shoes by showing you how. Maybe you watched your older brother ride his bike and decided you could ride one too. Did your dad teach you how to put together a model car or build a campfire? Did Mom show you how to play piano or bake cookies? We've all learned a lot of things from others.

We can learn spiritual lessons too, by looking at some of the people in the Bible. Sometimes we learn a lesson by seeing how a person succeeded and then deciding to do things just the way he did. Other times we might see where a person made a mistake or did something wrong. Then we would learn our lesson by purposing not to do as he did!

This past quarter we have studied twelve people in the Bible. How much have you learned about them? How well have you learned the lessons taught by their examples? Take this quarter quiz and find out!





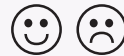
I WANT TO HAVE GOD'S PEACE.

*Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.
— Psalm 37:37*

Complete the personality acrostic by writing in words that tell what the person is like. Abraham has been done as an example for you.

re	A	dy	E
o	B	eyed	L
p	R	ayed	I
f	A	ithful	S
	H	onest	H
rew	A	rded	A
exa	M	ple	
	I		P
	S		E
	A		T
	A		E
	C		R

Color in the Happy Face if the statement is correct. Color in the Sad Face if it is false.



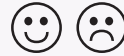
Esau was a great farmer.



John the Baptist said, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."



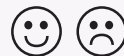
The first person to see Jesus after He rose was Mary Magdalene.



Lot's wife turned into a pillar of stone.



Solomon asked God for an understanding heart.



Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the battle."

Draw a line to the words that best describe each person:

Abraham	Kept the faith
Paul	Trusted God
Jonah	Was blessed
Solomon	Disobeyed
Moses' mother	Was wise

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

Let's pretend you are being interviewed by a roving reporter. Below are a few questions he wants answered for a special column in his newspaper. Help him out by answering them. It might be fun to compare your answers with a friend's answers.



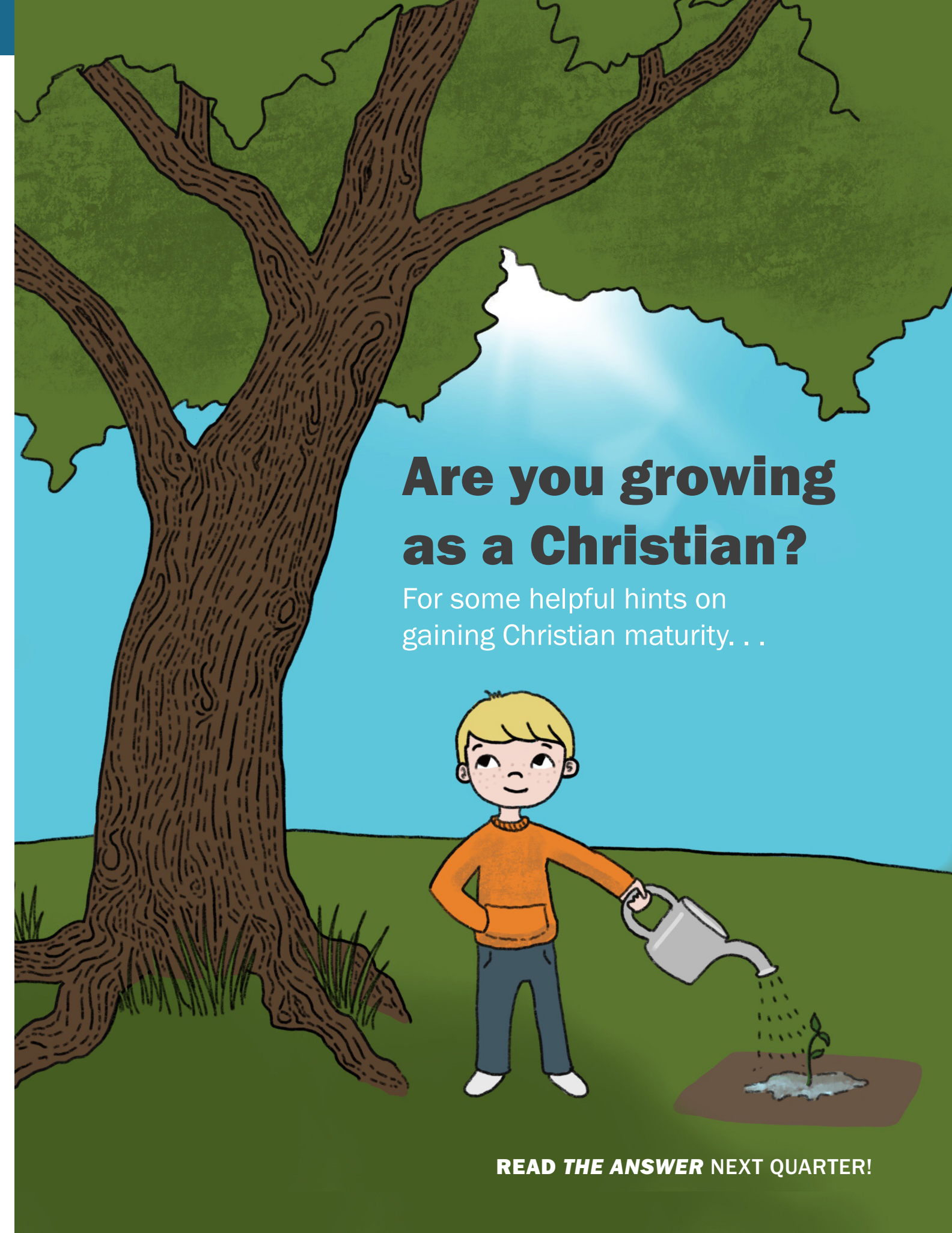
Which Bible character did you most enjoy studying about during this quarter?

Did this person trust God?

Why or why not?

What did God do for this person?

Do you want to be like this person?

A cartoon illustration of a boy with blonde hair, freckles, and a friendly expression. He is wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt, blue pants, and white shoes. He is holding a silver watering can and pouring water onto a small green seedling that is growing out of a patch of brown soil. To the left of the boy is a large, old tree with a thick, textured brown trunk and a full green canopy. The background is a bright blue sky with a white sun partially obscured by the tree's leaves. The ground is a flat green field.

Are you growing as a Christian?

For some helpful hints on
gaining Christian maturity. . .

READ THE ANSWER NEXT QUARTER!



APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH
5414 SE DUKE STREET
PORTLAND, OREGON 97206

YOUR NAME:
