

# **DISCOVERY**

Genesis, Exodus, Job

UNIT  
1

**TEACHER'S  
GUIDE**

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Discovery is a Bible study course for the high school and adult levels. Bible references are taken from the King James Version. The companion to these Sunday school lessons is Daybreak, a daily devotional and personal Bible study continuum. All of the material is available on our website, as well as in printed form. The print version is designed as a tear apart, to be stored in a binder; subsequent modules can then be easily inserted. Discovery is an official publication of the Apostolic Faith Church. All rights are reserved.

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# The Creation

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

## Genesis 1:1 through 2:25

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

## BACKGROUND

The Word of God begins with the statement, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The Biblical explanation of origins, described in the first chapters of Genesis, is foundational to a correct understanding of all Scripture. If one undermines or challenges the Creation account, the rest of the Bible is also undermined and challenged. This passage opens by describing God’s creation of the universe, and closes by describing the creation of Eve and her relationship with Adam.

The first of the great themes in Genesis is God's creative power. The Genesis description of Creation is simple and specific, establishing a definitive beginning of the universe and all it contains, and recording that God the Creator accomplished this in a six-day period. There is no reference to a world that is evolving, or to creatures that are becoming more complex.

Some have theorized that the twenty-four-hour day portrayed in Genesis 1 actually represents an eon of time. However, if “the evening and the morning” referred to were each an eon long, all plant life on the earth’s dark side would die during the earth’s rotation. Also, the theory that the days of Creation were actually geologic ages fundamentally undermines the Gospel, because that would mean that death, disease, and decay occurred before the Fall of mankind.

A further validation of the twenty-four-hour time periods of Creation is found in a study of the Hebrew word *yom*, translated *day* in Genesis 1. The word *day* can have a variety of meanings, both in Hebrew and in the English language. However, in this chapter, both a number and the phrase “evening and morning” are used to describe each day of Creation. The same usage (*yom* with a number) occurs in Scripture 359 times—and in every instance, it means an ordinary, twenty-four-hour day. There is no reason to assume that the *yom* in Genesis 1 would be an exception.

Another theme we find in these chapters is that of God's wonderful love. His provision of a perfect

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environment which provided all the necessities for man’s existence, His design for marriage and human companionship, and His desire to have a close and personal relationship with man all show that we serve a God who loves us and wants the best for us.

The account given in this text is true, literal, and perfect. In order to preserve the foundations of Christianity, the followers of Christ must protect the truths expounded in these key chapters of the Bible, and be willing to stand against the forces in current society which promote an explanation of the beginning of the world that is contrary to what is taught in God’s Word.

**SUGGESTEDRESPONSETOQUESTIONS**

**1.** In the first chapter of Genesis, it is stated ten times that the living entities God created would produce after their own kind. The phrase “after his kind” indicates that God put boundaries in place with regard to the ability to reproduce. What evidence do we see of those boundaries in the natural world around us?

*The boundaries are evidenced by the fact that each species of living thing reproduces a like living thing. Though strains may be combined and crossbred within a species to enhance certain characteristics, dogs will always produce dogs. Likewise, birds will always produce birds, wheat will always produce wheat, and peach trees will always produce peach trees.*

*You may wish to amplify your class discussion by pointing out that since the days of Charles Darwin, evolutionists have used the fact of natural selection (the “survival of the fittest” theory, which simply says that the future gene pool of any species is dominated by the those who best survive and reproduce in their environment) as evidence of the theory of evolution. However, natural selection does not come close to proving evolution, nor does it contradict a firm belief in the Creation account. Creationists point to natural selection as a possible explanation of why species today are so diverse around the world despite only two of each kind having been preserved on the Ark.*

**2.** What are some foundational truths that are established in these opening chapters of Genesis?

*Class input may bring up a number of truths in response to this question. Among the points that could be discussed are the following:*

- The Biblical account of Creation identifies God. Our culture today interprets the word god in a variety of ways, including an embodiment of nature, the universe, or each individual himself. The Genesis record reveals God to be the Supreme Being.*
- The Biblical account of Creation identifies man. Human beings are not just an evolutionary*

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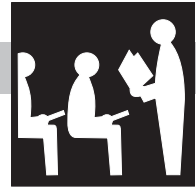
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# From the Fall to the Flood

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

## Genesis 3:1 through 5:32

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” (Genesis 3:22-23)

## BACKGROUND

The first two chapters of Genesis describe the perfect world created by God and put under the stewardship of the man, who was created with a moral nature patterned after God's own. This included the freedom to reason, and to choose between good and evil. The third chapter of Genesis continues the narrative in the Garden, describing the temptation of Eve by the serpent, and the disobedience of Adam and Eve in partaking of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. At that point, the nature of human beings shifted from good to evil—the terrible consequence of an event theologians refer to as the “fall of man.” The chapter continues with a description of the punishments meted out to the serpent, the woman, and the man, along with the impact on all of creation. Included in this chapter is the first Messianic prophecy of the Bible, offering an initial glimmer of hope in a reference to Jesus Christ, who would ultimately deliver the death-blow to Satan.

In chapter 4, we read of the births of Cain and Abel, the first two people born into this world. An account is given of their offerings to God, and Cain's jealous murder of his brother when Abel's offering was accepted while his was rejected. God ordained that as punishment, Cain would be cursed, banished to a life of homelessness, and driven away from his agricultural vocation. This chapter concludes with a record of Cain's descendants.

Chapter 5 closes out the history of Adam, giving a list of his descendants. The genealogical record begins with the assertion that Adam's son Seth was born "in his [Adam's] own likeness" rather than "in the likeness of God" as Adam was created, thus indicating that successive generations were born with a fallen nature. Notable in this genealogical record is the brief commentary on Enoch, whose testimony of intimate fellowship with God brought about his translation. The chapter concludes with the introduction of Noah, whose account is developed in the following chapters.

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## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

## NOTES

1. Who are the four main participants in the narrative of Genesis 3:1-24, and how would you describe the nature of each?

*The four main participants in this chapter are God, Adam, Eve, and Satan (in the form of a serpent). Class discussion of the nature of each of these four should bring out that God, the omnipotent Creator, is all-knowing, all-powerful, holy, just, and perfect. Adam and Eve were moral creatures with consciences, the ability to reason, and the power to make choices. Satan is deceptive, cunning, and the essence of evil.*

**2.** Genesis 3:1 declares that the serpent (Satan) was “more subtil [cunning, crafty] than any beast of the field.” What question did Satan use to put doubt in Eve’s mind concerning God’s words? What are some ways he attempts to stir up doubts in people’s minds today?

*Satan's first question to Eve was, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Point out to your students that this was a misquote of God's command; the original prohibition concerned only one tree. By suggesting it concerned "every tree of the garden," Satan not only made the command look unnecessarily restrictive, but almost ridiculous.*

*As your class considers the second question, they may suggest some of the following ways Satan attempts to stir up doubts today:*

- *He tries to make people doubt whether God would ever save them, or that they could stay saved.*
- *He says that Jesus was merely a good teacher, but not the divine Son of God.*
- *He insinuates that following Jesus is much too strict a way to live.*
- *He asserts that there are many other avenues to find religious satisfaction besides believing in Jesus Christ and His power to save.*
- *He suggests that it is impossible for man to live without sinning.*

*Obviously, the list generated by your class could be extensive. The point of this exercise is to help your students recognize some of the common devices employed by Satan, and thus be equipped to resist him.*

**3.** Temptation often seems to follow the progression found in Genesis 3:1-6. Describe this progression and explain how we can use this knowledge to avoid or resist temptation.

*The progression developed by your students should depict the downward spiral of temptation. It may be summarized by noting that Eve's downward spiral came about as she listened to Satan, dialoged*

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with him, believed his lie, desired the fruit, and finally took and ate of the tree and gave to her husband as well. You may wish to bring out that Satan uses our natural, God-given desires and characteristics to tempt us. In Eve's case, he preyed upon her ability to see and appreciate beauty, her natural desire for nourishment, and her interest in and capacity for acquiring knowledge. This illustrates that even holy individuals are subject to temptation.

As you discuss how to avoid or resist temptation, principles such as the following should be covered.

- Don't listen to Satan or enter into a discussion with him—if Eve had not been talking to him, he would not have had the opportunity to entice her to sin.
- Remember that Satan is a liar, and one strategy he uses is to plant the thought that it will somehow benefit us to disobey God.
- Remove yourself from the vicinity of temptation.
- Guard your thoughts, realizing that doubt led to sin in the Garden.
- Maintain a close relationship with God.

**4.** In Genesis 3:9-13, how did Adam and Eve respond to God's probing questions? What did their response reveal about how knowing both good and evil affected their inner nature?

*They responded to God's questions by hiding, admitting to being afraid, and then by shifting the blame. Adam blamed Eve, and in some sense, even blamed God who had given him the woman. Eve, in turn, blamed the serpent who had beguiled her. Adam and Eve's response clearly revealed that their pure natures had been corrupted, and they had become self-centered, self-protecting, and self-serving. Whereas before they had known only delight, peace, and fellowship with God, they now experienced three of mankind's perennial problems: guilt, shame, and fear, and all these were evidenced in their response to God's questions.*

*The tendency to blame others is still evident in sinful man today, particularly when disobedience is pointed out rather than freely admitted. You may wish to follow up this question by asking your students to identify ways people deal with guilt in our day. Answers could include: rationalizing, excusing, refusing to acknowledge wrongdoing, considering oneself a victim, blaming upbringing or other external factors, or even contending that there are no moral absolutes (i.e. God's laws) and thus right and wrong are totally subjective.*

**5.** The dire results of sin were immediate and severe. What were the moral and temporal consequences that befell Adam and Eve, and how did those consequences affect subsequent generations?

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As a result of man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, all the descendants of Adam and Eve are born under the consequences that God ordained. Still, these sad chapters of Genesis include a bright note of hope in the person of the "seed of the woman," the Redeemer who would come to deliver mankind from the bondage of sin.

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**5.** Noah's decision to follow the Lord saved him and his family from utter destruction. What does God's provision for them tell us about Him?

*Though your class may come up with a variety of responses, you should conclude that God is merciful and will always make a way of escape. Though we are not protected physically in every circumstance—the righteous may suffer in body—the Lord will always preserve the soul and will not allow a person to go through more than he can bear.*

**6.** What was the first action Noah took after he and his family left the ark? What does this reveal about Noah? Genesis 8:20

*Noah's first action was to build an altar to the Lord and offer a burnt offering. As your class discusses what this action reveals about Noah, they may bring out that no doubt Noah was impacted by the tremendous devastation that met his eyes when he stepped from the ark. Whatever his feelings may have been, however, the fact that he built an altar clearly indicated his respect for God and his desire to please Him. God's response to Noah's sacrifice was His promise to never again use a flood to destroy the world, and as a witness to His promise, He gave the rainbow (see Genesis 9:12-17). The point can be made that sacrifice offered by a righteous man in faith is always acceptable to God.*

**7.** What spiritual lesson or insight most impressed you as you considered the account of Noah?

*As your class offers their thoughts about lessons or insights from the account of Noah, some of the points brought out may include that God is faithful to those who obey Him; that God does not always shield us from trouble, but He cares for us in the midst of trouble; and that obedience is vital in our relationship with God.*

**8.** After the Flood, Noah's family was divided into tribes or colonies to settle in different directions, thus replenishing the other regions of the earth. However, as the population increased, they all came together. Ultimately they settled in the land of Shinar, where they determined to build a city and a tower that would reach unto Heaven. Why was it wrong for the people to build a tower and a city? What was God's reaction to their rebellion? Genesis 11:1-9

*It is apparent that the people's hearts were set to do as they pleased and not as God had commanded. They wanted fame, saying, "Let us make us a name . . .", and they wanted security, ". . . lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (verse 4). Their purpose was to secure these aims through human ingenuity and effort. God was left out of the endeavor; there is no mention of Him. God responded to their rebellion by demonstrating that human ingenuity and effort apart from God is futile.*

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*You may wish to conclude your class session by contrasting righteous Noah with the godless people who attempted to build the tower of Babel. Noah persevered according to God's direction, and succeeded in a seemingly impossible task. The people of Babel chose to strive in their own strength, and saw their efforts fail because they did not align their efforts with God's will and purposes.*

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Noah and the people of Shinar present a picture of the choice facing every individual in our day: will we live and work in obedience to God, or will we choose to resist and rebel against Him and His directives? As we ponder the outcomes for Noah and the tower builders at Babel, the best choice is clear.



## Abraham, Man of Faith

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

## Genesis 11:10 through 23:20

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)

## BACKGROUND

The first portion of text for this lesson, Genesis 11:10-26, gives a selective list of ten generations that traces the ancestry of the man Abram, whose name was changed by God to Abraham in Genesis 17:5. The account of Abraham marks a pivotal point in the Book of Genesis. Prior to this time, God had dealt with the entire human race. At this point in Scripture, He centered His attention on Abraham and his family, beginning the patriarchal history.

The themes of separation, faith, and obedience are interwoven threads that can be traced throughout the life of Abraham. God called Abraham from pagan Ur of the Chaldees, which was a well-developed city with approximately 250,000 inhabitants at that time. A call from God always necessitates a choice. Abraham had to forsake the heathen practices of his society, and anchor his faith in the one true God. He had to leave behind his country and all that was secure and familiar, and begin traveling at God's direction toward a land that was unknown to him. As a result of Abraham's choice to obey, God established a covenant with him, promising to bless Abraham and make of him a great nation. Then God led Abraham step by step on a fifteen-hundred-mile journey, ending in the fertile region of Canaan where His desire was to establish a moral, God-centered nation through Abraham's offspring.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1. God is generous with His promises, but often those promises are accompanied by conditions. What were the first promises He made to Abraham? What was required of Abraham if he wished to obtain God's promises? Genesis 12:1-3**

*God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation and would bless him, make his name great, and make him a blessing. In order to obtain God's promises, Abraham had to leave his country and kindred and go to a land that God would show him. Point out to your group that Abraham seemingly did not struggle with the unknown details.*

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*generous, peaceable, wise, and kind-hearted—all qualities that we would do well to develop in our own lives. It also shows Abraham's continual trust in God and His leading. He allowed God to work for him, rather than trusting in his own wisdom.*

**4.** After ten years, with no fulfillment of God's promise of numerous descendants, Abraham began to wonder how it was really going to come about. How did God reassure Abraham, and what was Abraham's response? Genesis 15:1-6

*God reassured Abraham that he would have a son of his own, rather than his eldest servant becoming his heir. Then God showed Abraham the stars and said that his descendants would be as the stars in number.*

*You may wish to explain that the law prevalent around Haran, where Abraham had lived before departing for Canaan, allowed a childless couple to adopt a servant to take care of them in their elderly years and to attend to their burial. The expectation was that the servant would then inherit the wealth of the family. Eliezer of Damascus, referred to in Genesis 15:2, was a trusted servant who served as Abraham's household administrator (see Genesis 24) and was also his heir if Abraham died childless. Though Abraham clearly regarded this man very highly, he naturally wanted a son of his own to carry on his lineage.*

*The Hebrew word chashab that is translated counted in Genesis 15:6 means "to think, reckon, calculate, imagine, to put one's thoughts together." God added up everything that Abraham's belief meant to Him and concluded that it equaled righteousness (Romans 4:1-3).*

**5.** In Genesis 17, God appeared to Abraham again and renewed and expanded His covenant. At this time he changed the man's name from Abram (which means "high father" or "patriarch") to Abraham (which means "father of a multitude"). What was the significance of the new name, and how did it fit with the expanded promises God gave at that time?

*The significance of the new name was that it reinforced God's covenant with Abraham. It was another indicator that he would indeed become the father of a multitude—he would become the patriarch of the whole Hebrew nation, as well as the Arab nations.*

*You may wish to follow up with a discussion of how faithful God is to give assurance to those who follow Him. This encounter between Abraham and God seemed to be mainly for that purpose. God does not need assurance, but He knows that we do. Your class members could be encouraged to share times when God has offered them reassurance in personal and individual ways.*

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*This could be a good opportunity to explore with your class the right way to deal with failures and shortcomings in our Christian lives. If we have willfully turned our backs on God and sinned, we need to repent and seek His forgiveness. If we have erred through human weakness rather than outright rebellion, we should acknowledge our error, do our best to repair any damage caused, seek for God's help to do better the next time, and step forward in confidence that God has seen our contrite spirit and will help us to learn from our mistakes and walk victoriously in the future.*

**8.** What ongoing problem described in Genesis 26:12-22 did Isaac face? What did Isaac's response to the herdsmen of Gerar reveal about his character? Genesis 26:18-28

*His enemies harassed him by stopping up the wells that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham. You may wish to point out to your class that sheep and goats need water on a daily basis; a large herd requires a lot of water. The area where Gerar is located has very few sources of water and a low annual rainfall. In Isaac's day, herdsmen depended on wells. If a well could only supply one group of herdsmen, contention often resulted over who had the rights to it. Sometimes a new well was only tapping into the source of an existing well, making peaceful co-existence very difficult.*

*In response to the second question, Isaac seemingly was a peace-loving man who did everything in his power to avoid trouble. He was quick to make an agreement to clear up old tensions.*

**9.** What key lessons can we apply to our lives based on a study of Isaac?

*As your class discusses some of the lessons we can learn, thoughts brought out may include:*

- To please God does not require great accomplishments or tremendous exhibitions of our faith. He wants us to be faithful in the call that He has placed upon our lives.*
- God has a plan for each of our lives and a role for us to fill.*
- Submission is a vital attribute in a successful Christian life.*
- God keeps His promises! We should never be afraid to trust in Him.*

## **CONCLUSION**

Like his father Abraham, Isaac was a stranger and pilgrim in a foreign land. He was a vital part of the divine plan that eventually produced the Hebrew nation, gave us the Bible, and brought Jesus Christ into the world as the Savior for all mankind.



privileges, and obtained Esau's birthright in exchange for a bowl of lentil stew. (See Genesis 25:27-34.) In the first chapter of today's text, we read how Jacob deceived Isaac into giving him the blessing that Isaac expected to give to Esau. Why was the trickery and conniving of Jacob and Rebekah unnecessary in both of these circumstances?

*God had revealed to Rebekah before the twins were born that the elder of her sons would serve the younger (see Genesis 25:23), although this was contrary to the custom of the day. There was no need for Rebekah and Jacob to connive in order to bring about what God had already ordained.*

*Ask your class what lessons we can learn from this account. They will likely conclude that no matter how worthy we think our goals, we must be careful about how we attempt to achieve them. It is important not to get ahead of God, and critical that we guard against anything dishonest or even questionable in our pursuit of a goal. God has a perfect plan for each of our lives, and if we submit to Him and follow His leading, He will bring it to pass no matter how impossible it may seem from our human perspective.*

**2.** What was Esau's response to Jacob's deceitful action in securing Isaac's blessing, and how did God use this in Jacob's life? Genesis 27:41-45

*Esau was angry at Jacob's deception, and determined to get revenge. Rebekah became aware of Esau's intent, and warned Jacob to flee from his brother's wrath and go to her family in Haran. Her counsel was for him to stay there "a few days" but God had a different scenario in mind, and Jacob spent many years away from his homeland. It is interesting that in all of Jacob's planning and conniving, leaving home to dwell in an unknown land was not in his plans. However, God can use circumstances in our lives to bring about His own purposes. It was in Haran that Jacob married, and fathered the sons who would become the leaders of the tribes of Israel. Later, it was the knowledge of Esau's anger which helped Jacob learn humility and dependence upon God.*

**3.** God spoke to Jacob in a dream as he fled from Esau. What did God show Jacob, and how did Jacob respond when he awoke? Genesis 28:12-22

*God showed Jacob a vision of a ladder resting on the earth, with its top reaching Heaven. The angels of God were moving up and down the stairway, and at the top stood the Lord. At this point, God extended to Jacob the covenant promise He had made with Abraham and Isaac. In response, when Jacob awoke, he acknowledged that God was in that place. He rose up and created an altar from the stone he had used as a pillow, and made a lifelong commitment that the Lord would be his God, and also that he would give God a tenth (or tithe) of all that came to him.*



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No matter what we perceive to be happening, God is sovereign and well able to bring about His plan. Let us learn a lesson from the life of Jacob, and allow God to work out the details of our lives in accordance with His divine will. As we submit to Him, we can be assured of His favor.

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**Joseph**

### SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

## Genesis 37:1 through 50:26

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” (Genesis 45:7)

## BACKGROUND

Joseph's birth is recorded in Genesis 30:22-24, and then his story begins in chapter 37, opening a new section in the book and covering fourteen chapters. Like his father Jacob, grandfather Isaac, and great-grandfather Abraham, Joseph was a chosen man. The hand of God was evident on his life in each situation portrayed, ruling and overruling the plans and decisions made by men.

Joseph was the eleventh of Jacob's twelve sons, and the elder son of Jacob's beloved wife Rachel. Of all his sons, Jacob loved Joseph the most, and this obvious favoritism caused a spiraling resentment in Joseph's half-brothers that brought seeming tragedy into the young man's life. However, Joseph's commitment to the principles of truth, right, and faith in God were already entrenched in his heart, and those attributes served him well in the ensuing traumatic events. Though he faced betrayal, temptation, false accusations, and unfair imprisonment, his positive responses and consistent faithfulness to God transformed each adversity into something God could and did use.

The story of Joseph cannot be fully understood without a clear grasp of the Lord's involvement in the proceedings. Years before Joseph was born, God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham. However, He had also revealed to the patriarch that "thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them" (Genesis 15:13). God used the harsh events in Joseph's life to relocate him, and ultimately his whole family, to Egypt, which was part of God's foreordained plan. Joseph's story offers us insight into how the mysterious workings of our sovereign God are threaded through all the endeavors of humankind, and His purposes will ultimately prevail.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1. In Genesis 37:3 we read that Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors. What did the coat represent? How did this garment impact his relationship with his brothers?**

## OPENER

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## NOTES

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*The coat of many colors given to Joseph by his father was a symbol of Jacob's preference for Joseph. As such, it added to the resentment of his brothers, which was already growing because Joseph had given his father a bad report about them (see verse 2). Historians suggest that the coat may have been a long, colorful, embroidered or striped robe with sleeves; ancient writings suggest that it may have been an ornamental tunic such as royalty might wear. Colorful dyes were difficult to procure and therefore rare in those days. Clearly, Jacob must have put much thought and money into this coat for his most-loved son. The dangers of preferring one child above another in a family may be discussed here.*

**2.** Joseph had some unusual dreams, and he shared them with his already antagonistic brothers. What effect did Joseph's dreams about the sun, moon, and stars, and the sheaves have on his brothers? Genesis 37:5-9

*The brothers' resentment escalated as a result of hearing about the dreams. Discuss with your class that while Joseph's recitation of the dreams stirred up the jealousy of his brothers, his simple frankness may actually point to a spirit that was without guile. Possibly he was only mildly conscious of the significance of the dreams, and merely related them because of their somewhat unusual nature. Joseph likely had no idea that his brothers would hate him "yet the more" because of what he told them. While he may have been short on tact, we can already see the commitment to the principles of truth, obedience, and faith in this young man—attributes that would serve him well in traumatic events that occurred later.*

*This could be an opportunity to discuss the danger of allowing the slightest amount of animosity or bitterness against another individual to creep into our hearts. Harboring those feelings led Joseph's brothers to hostility, rage, and attempted murder.*

**3.** The brothers' anger at Joseph led them to conspire to murder him when he came to them in Dothan at his father's request. Which two brothers intervened, and what was the outcome of their intervention? Genesis 37:18-28

*Reuben and Judah intervened, and God used their efforts. Reuben kept the other brothers from killing Joseph outright, and persuaded them to cast Joseph into a pit instead, planning to deliver him later. When a band of traders approached, Judah suggested that they sell Joseph into slavery instead of slaying him.*

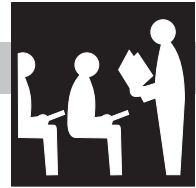
*Follow up this question by discussing God's involvement in this sequence of events. What befell Joseph was tragic and unjust. However, God used these events to fulfill His prophetic announcement to Abraham that his descendants would be strangers in a land that was not theirs (see Genesis 15:13-16).*

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*Joseph understood that God is sovereign. He was able to recognize that God's plans are not dictated nor altered by man's activities. Man's intentions may be evil but God will overrule and make all things work together for good for those who trust Him.*

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# The Call of Moses and the Exodus

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Exodus 1:1 through 11:10

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.” (Exodus 3:20)

## BACKGROUND

Approximately four hundred years had passed since Joseph had brought his family to dwell in Egypt. The Children of Israel were in Egypt from about 1800 B.C. to approximately 1400 B.C., and while the early part of their stay had been favorable, the latter years were spent in slavery. The Pharaoh ruling Egypt at the time of Moses' birth was greatly concerned because the Hebrew population had increased to nearly two million, so he took steps to control their expansion. Oppressed and afflicted, the heart's cry of the Hebrews was for deliverance.

The theme of Exodus is just that: deliverance. The opening chapters give an account of how the Children of Israel were forced into slavery in Egypt, the birth of Moses, God's calling of Moses to leadership, Moses' dealings with Pharaoh, and the plagues that God sent against the Egyptians. Time and again, we see what a special relationship Moses had with God. Initially, God spoke to him through a burning bush, and communicated with him directly several more times during the process of the release of the Children of Israel. God performed many miracles in leading His chosen people out of Egypt. In so doing, He displayed His awesome power.

It is interesting to note that many of the plagues sent upon Egypt were a direct insult to the gods the Egyptians worshipped.

- Hapi, the god of the Nile River, could not prevent the river from turning to blood.
- Hathor, the cow goddess, could not prevent the Egyptian cattle from dying.
- Osiris, the god of vegetation, could not protect their crops.
- Ra, the sun god, could not stop the three days of darkness that God sent upon the land.
- Seth, the god of chaos, was supposed to protect from anything that threatened the harmony of Egypt, but clearly was unable to withstand the power of the God of the Hebrews.
- Isis, the protective goddess, was supposed to bring help to those in need, but the dire results of Pharaoh's defiance could not be lessened.

## OPENER

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The plagues showed the inadequacy, and in fact, the non-existence of these purported gods.

## **SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

**1.** Through what series of miraculous events did a Hebrew baby become a prince in the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt? Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

*Lead your class in summarizing how, in spite of Pharaoh's decree that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed at birth, God preserved Moses. His mother kept him hidden for three months, and when that could not be done any longer, she made an ark of bulrushes and placed him in the river. There the infant was discovered by the daughter of Pharaoh, whose heart was moved with sympathy. Moses' own mother was summoned to be the baby's nursemaid, and the child Moses was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.*

*Ask your class if they ever feel surrounded by the enemy and powerless against his forces. In such times, what lesson can we learn through the miraculous preservation of Moses? Discussion should bring out that God can intervene to protect and preserve His own, no matter how impossible the circumstances may appear to our finite understanding. We must focus on God and trust Him for deliverance, or for grace to endure if deliverance according to our hopes is not His divine purpose.*

**2.** After spending forty years tending sheep in the desert, God spoke to Moses from a burning bush that was not consumed. What was God's command to Moses in Exodus 3:5, and what did Moses' response signify?

*God's command to Moses was that he was not to come near, but was to put off his shoes, because the place where he stood was holy ground. Moses' response indicated that he realized he was in the presence of God. The symbolic action of taking off his shoes was not only an act of obedience, but also one of reverence, and conveyed his own sense of unworthiness and humility before God.*

*This question provides a good opportunity to discuss the fact that the places and the presence of God are to be honored and viewed as holy in our day as well. He is to be regarded with awe and respect. Ask your class: what are some ways we can show reverence and respect to God when we come into His house?*

**3.** Read Exodus 3:7-8. What did God promise Moses He would do for the Children of Israel? How can we find encouragement when we apply these verses to our own lives?

*God promised to deliver the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage and to bring them into a land that flowed with milk and honey. Focus class attention on the three key words in verse 7: God let Moses know*

## **NOTES**

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speech. God responded by demonstrating His power, and then stating He would allow Aaron to accompany Moses as his spokesman.

*Class discussion of this passage should bring out that a lack of confidence, or an awareness of our own limitations, is never justification for avoiding God's call. God understands when we feel inadequate for the tasks He gives us, but He does not change His mind. It is easy for us to focus on our weaknesses, but if God calls us to do something, we can be sure He will help us accomplish the task by providing what we need to obey Him.*

**7.** When Moses appeared before Pharaoh to request that the Israelites be allowed to leave to worship their God, the ruler refused. His stubborn disobedience brought terrible suffering upon himself and his entire country. What were the first nine plagues God sent upon Egypt? Exodus 7:14-25; 8:1-7, 16-19, 24; 9:1-12, 22-26; 10:12-15, 21-26

*You may wish to compile a list with your students.*

- Exodus 7:14-25 — Water turned to blood
- Exodus 8:1-7 — Invasion of frogs
- Exodus 8:16-19 — Plague of lice
- Exodus 8:24 — Swarms of flies
- Exodus 9:1-7 — Pestilence upon livestock
- Exodus 9:8-12 — Painful boils
- Exodus 9:22-26 — Hailstorm
- Exodus 10:12-15 — Plague of locusts
- Exodus 10:21-26 — Three days of darkness

**8.** Pharaoh's sorcerers were able to mimic some of Moses' miracles through enchantments (see Exodus 7:22 and 8:7). Ironically, they only made matters worse. Why were the sorcerers unable to reverse the plagues?

*The sorcerers were unable to reverse the plagues because God did not permit them to do so. While Satan has power, he can only operate within the boundaries that God allows. Eventually, even the sorcerers had to acknowledge the plagues were from God (see Exodus 8:19).*

**9.** How did God demonstrate His concern for Israel during the plagues? Exodus 8:22-23; 9:4-7, 26; 10:23

*God prevented the flies from entering the land of Goshen, protected the livestock of the Hebrews, did not allow hail to fall upon Goshen, and did not allow the darkness to overspread the Hebrews in the land of Goshen—all things only God could do! Bring out to your class that, in Exodus 8:23, the word translated division means, "a distinction." Because the Children of Israel belonged to God in a special way, God made a distinction between them and the heathen people of Egypt. God's hand was over them and provided deliverance.*

**10.** What suggestion did Pharaoh make in Exodus 8:25, and how did Moses respond? What lesson can we learn from his response?

*Pharaoh suggested the Children of Israel sacrifice in the land of Egypt rather than traveling out of Egypt. Moses responded that this was not acceptable.*

*Class response to the second question should bring out that God requires complete obedience. At times in our Christian lives, unbelievers may urge us to compromise or to only partially obey God's commands. However, we must respond as Moses did and let it be known that we have no intention of giving only partial obedience to Him. The fact is, partial obedience is really just disobedience.*

*You may wish to wrap up your class session with the thought that God was not done with Pharaoh and Egypt. In next Sunday's lesson, we will study the final culmination of God's dealing with Egypt, and the great deliverance He brought about for the Children of Israel.*

## CONCLUSION

The life of Moses should be an inspiration to all of us. Although he felt inadequate to face the challenges of the task assigned him by God, he ultimately followed. The lesson is plain: God knows us better than we know ourselves, so we must simply trust Him and obey. The command of God will never lead us where the power of God cannot enable us!

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## The Deliverance

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Exodus 12:1 through 15:21

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

(Exodus 12:13)

## BACKGROUND

In spite of the devastation that had come upon Egypt, Pharaoh continued to harden his heart against God, thus setting in motion the painful consequences which precipitated the Exodus of the Children of Israel from bondage. By the hand of God, in a single night the Children of Israel exchanged slavery for freedom, and living in the land of Goshen for a journey to the Land of Promise. As Egypt buried their dead, the Children of Israel left the country, a free people at last.

God instructed the Israelites to commemorate the night when the Lord had “passed over” their homes and, through the sacrifice of an innocent lamb, had spared their firstborn from death. This annual feast, called the Passover, foreshadowed the death of the Lamb of God, who would be sacrificed at Calvary for the sins of all people. The Passover would remind each succeeding generation of the nation’s deliverance from Egypt, and would mark the beginning of the Jewish religious year.

God gave the Children of Israel a pillar of a cloud by day and one of fire by night so they would know that God was leading and protecting them on their journey to the Promised Land. He directed them to an encampment by the Red Sea—a seemingly defenseless position—and, at the miracle of the Red Sea parting, delivered Israel from the Egyptian military might. The people witnessed a miraculous event, crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, while their enemies perished. After the triumph of escape and victory, they rejoiced in a magnificent song of praise.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1. What did God instruct the Children of Israel to do in order to prepare for the final plague and for the observance that would become the first Passover? Exodus 12:3-13**

*Each household was to take an unblemished lamb, slay it, and put the blood on the two side posts*

## OPENER

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## NOTES

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## Migration and Revelation of the Law

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Exodus 15:22 through 24:11

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for the earth is mine.”  
(Exodus 19:5)

## BACKGROUND

The Children of Israel had just crossed the Red Sea. After experiencing the miracle of the bitter water made sweet, they left the oasis of Elim and were ready to travel through the Wilderness of Sin—a narrow, rocky area that ran parallel to the mountain range which included Mount Sinai. Once again the people were hungry and quick to complain. To meet their need for nourishment, God sent manna—small pearl-like wafers which tasted like honey. Later, in Rephidim, when the Israelites complained of thirst, God gave water from a rock.

The Amalekites, who were descendants of Esau, confronted Israel at this time. These people were nomads who lived in the wilderness around the Dead Sea and raided and killed for both sport and profit. Joshua led Israel to battle against them, while Aaron and Hur stood on a hill with Moses to hold up his hands. As Moses' hands remained lifted up, God gave the victory to Israel.

Following the battle, Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came to visit. After observing Moses working long hours to mediate disputes among the people, Jethro suggested Moses delegate to qualified men the job of judging less important matters. This would free Moses to make decisions regarding critical issues and give others the responsibility to help shoulder the burden of overseeing the people. Moses was quick to take Jethro's suggestion.

After leaving Rephidim, the Children of Israel approached the desert and mountain of Sinai which is found in the south central Sinai Peninsula. It was there God met with Moses and gave His Law, a set of commands and guidelines including the Ten Commandments, which was designed to lead Israel to a life of practical holiness.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1.** Soon after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they came to Marah where the water was bitter (Exodus 15:22-26). What did Moses cast into the water to sweeten it? What lessons can we learn from this?

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## NOTES

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*Moses cast a tree into the water at the Lord's command and the waters were made sweet.*

*Your students may have various thoughts in response to the second question. One lesson is that obedience brings blessing. This concept is reinforced by verse 26. We need to obey even when we do not understand why God has given the instructions He has. Moses probably did not know why God told him to cast a tree into the waters, but his obedience brought the desired result.*

*In the original language the word mar means "bitter." All of us have bitter experiences in life. This account reminds us that God is aware of our problems and will help us if we obey Him.*

*Also, we can see that the Children of Israel murmured but Moses cried out to God. We will be benefited if we pray and do not complain.*

**2.** Why did God allow the Children of Israel to suffer hunger and thirst in the wilderness? Exodus 15:24-25

*God allowed the Israelites to suffer hunger and thirst to prove them. They should have known He would not abandon them. Amplify this question by discussing what types of trials God might allow us to go through for the same reason.*

**3.** When the Israelites ran out of food and complained again, God promised to send them "bread from heaven" (Exodus 16:4). What were some of the characteristics of manna (Exodus 16:14-28)? What was God's purpose in providing it, beyond it being a source of nourishment?

*The characteristics of manna include:*

- It came in the morning, was visible when the dew evaporated, and melted in the sun.*
- It was white and like a coriander (cilantro) seed.*
- It tasted like wafers made with honey.*
- It could be cooked.*
- The people were to gather a specified amount for each person.*
- They were to gather only enough for one day.*
- If they tried to keep it until the next day, it became wormy and stank.*
- The day before the Sabbath, they were to gather twice as much, and it did not spoil.*
- No manna appeared on the ground on the Sabbath day.*
- Manna nourished the Children of Israel (with all the necessary vitamins and minerals) during the forty years they were in the wilderness.*

*In response to the second question, your group should conclude that while God was showing His care and concern for His people, verse 4 brings out that He also wanted to "prove them, whether they will*

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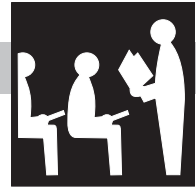
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## The Establishing of Israel's Worship

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Exodus 24:12 through 40:38

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.” (Exodus 39:32)

## BACKGROUND

This final portion of the Book of Exodus focuses on Israel's worship. Moses had been on the mountain with God, where he received the covenant which was to be established with the people (Exodus 19:3-7). Chapter 24 details the people's promise to obey the covenant and its ratification. Moses built an altar with twelve pillars (representing the twelve tribes) and there the people vowed obedience to God. After sealing the covenant with blood, the spiritual and political representatives of the people ascended the mount with Moses, where they saw a visible manifestation of God. Following that, Moses was commanded to come again to the mount to receive further instructions for God's special people and establish the rites and ceremonies that would define their worship.

In Chapters 25-31, God gave Moses specific directions regarding the construction of a tabernacle where His Spirit would dwell. While at first glance these instructions may appear to be merely ancient and complicated structural details, they are in fact a rich treasure trove of symbolism. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Tabernacle and its furnishings were a picture of God's great plan for the salvation of humanity—God's new and better way, described in the New Testament in the Book of Hebrews.

Chapters 32-34 record how Israel turned to idolatry while Moses was on the mountain. We are told of God's punishment for the people's rebellion and their subsequent restoration to God.

In chapters 35-40, we read how God's plans for a place of worship were carried out by those who built the Tabernacle. Much of this material is a repetition of the details given earlier to Moses in chapters 25-31, witnessing to the fact that God's instructions were carried out precisely. On the appointed day, almost a year after leaving Egypt, Moses set up the Tabernacle and all the furnishings just as God had directed. When he finished the work, "a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34).

## OPENER

[illegible]



## NOTES

- *The Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10)*
- *The Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:17)*
- *The table of shewbread (Exodus 25:23)*
- *The golden candlestick (Exodus 25:31)*
- *Bowls (Exodus 25:33)*
- *Lamps (Exodus 25:37)*
- *Curtains (Exodus 26:1)*
- *Taches of brass (Exodus 26:11)*
- *The tent covering (Exodus 26:14)*
- *The boards (Exodus 26:15)*
- *Sockets of silver (Exodus 26:19)*

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*your class an acronym that spells out how God shapes us for ministry:*

*S—Spiritual qualifications*

### *H—Heart involvement*

## *A—Abilities*

*P—Personality*

## *E—Experiences*

*Your class could offer examples from their own knowledge or experience of times when God imparted one of the items in the acronym to enable them to accomplish a specific task.*

**6.** Chapter 36 gives details regarding the construction of the Tabernacle. What might be the significance of the following facts?

There was only one sanctuary, not many.

The Tabernacle was located at the center of Israel's encampment.

The Tabernacle and its furnishing were portable.

*There may be more than one answer. However, you could direct your students to these thoughts:*

- *There is only one approach to God, and that is through His Son, Jesus. This also stressed the importance of spiritual unity.*
- *This was a picture of the fact that the nation's life must revolve around God, and that He was dwelling in its midst for worship and fellowship.*
- *The Children of Israel were traveling toward their goal through a land that was not their permanent dwelling place.*

**7.** Aaron and his sons were chosen to minister inside the Tabernacle (see Exodus 28:1-3). The first 31 verses of chapter 39 describe the preparation of the holy garments to be worn by Aaron. Why do you think God required special clothing for Aaron?

*Class discussion may bring out several thoughts. Obviously, the garments were designed to give Aaron dignity and grandeur, for the appearance of the high priest was to convey the beauty and authority that belonged to God himself. Each piece also had a functional role. However, perhaps the most important reason was the symbolism involved. The Tabernacle was a holy place because God's presence was there. It necessitated the ministers to be separated for the work and consecrated to it by ceremony (Exodus 29). The clothing was specially made to distinguish Aaron and his sons.*

**8.** The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle when it was completed (Exodus 40:33-34). What can we expect to happen if we do everything God asks of us?

*We can expect to be filled with God's Holy Spirit, and enjoy His presence with us and in us as we go through life. You may wish to refer your class to Luke 24:49 for additional Scriptural support.*

## CONCLUSION

God delineated minute details regarding the place and methods of worship for the Children of Israel, showing us the care we must take in our worship of Him if we desire His blessing upon our lives.

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## Overview and the Assault on Job

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Job 1:1 through 37:24

### KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” (Job 23:10)

## BACKGROUND

The suffering of faithful Job took place in the land of Uz, believed to have been a large valley located along the border of Palestine and Arabia, about fifty miles east of Edom. Job lived in an era when wealth was measured primarily in terms of property, animals, and servants, and Job had all three in abundance. He knew, however, that his wealth came from God. We learn from Scripture that he was faithful, highly respected as a judge and benefactor, and widely regarded as wise and generous.

The beginning of the Book of Job (chapters 1-3) and the end (Job 42:7-17) relate the circumstances of Job's life. The main body of the book is a dialogue between Job, his three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar), a younger bystander (Elihu), and God. Job's "comforters" (Job 2:11) were convinced his suffering was caused by hidden sin. Job insisted he was innocent, and challenged the supposition that sin and suffering are linked in a cause-and-effect relationship.

It is vital to compare the statements made in the Book of Job with the full message of Scripture. In Job 42:7, God states that Job's friends had not spoken "right" about Him. Thus, it cannot be assumed that every statement they made is correct. Job himself was in a dark and confusing place in life, so even his statements do not give an accurate picture of God or reflect Job's enduring sentiments. While he expressed feelings of being overwhelmed and isolated from God at times, his faith was still anchored in God.

The Book of Job does not offer solutions to all of life's troubles, but it depicts patience in the midst of trials and shows us that a godly person can love God because of who He is, even in the absence of good health and material benefits. This lesson explores God's refining process in believers, which is necessary to our spiritual growth.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1.** From the outset of the Book of Job, we are made aware of God’s regard for Job’s integrity. In the opening discussion between God and Satan, God identified Job as “a perfect and an upright man, one

## OPENER

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## NOTES

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*You may wish to expand your class discussion by pointing out that the “prosperity Gospel” of our day is based upon the same concept: if a person lives right, he is somehow guaranteed a prosperous and trouble-free existence. However, that viewpoint is not supported by Scripture. This is a good opportunity to bring out the importance of day-by-day obedience, for then we can have confidence before God, whether or not we prosper temporally.*

**4.** Scripture gives us insight into the thoughts of Job’s heart during his time of trial and accusations by his friends. Review the following passages and briefly summarize the “nuggets” of Scriptural truth that Job proclaimed even though he was in the midst of terrible suffering. Job 1:21; 13:15-18; 14:14-15; 19:25-27; 23:8-12.

- *Job 1:21 — Everything we have is from God, and it is His prerogative to take it away.*
- *Job 13:15-18 — No matter how extreme our circumstances, we can maintain our trust in God.*
- *Job 14:14-15 — Some day our physical bodies will be resurrected.*
- *Job 19:25-27 — We have a personal and living Savior, and because of Him, there is a glorious future ahead.*
- *Job 23:8-12 — Testing will refine us, and we will emerge triumphant when the trial is over.*

*After your class summarizes these verses, you may wish to point out that in spite of his terrible suffering, the fact that Job was anchored in his trust of God was revealed in the trial. It is often made plain in the trial where one has been with God before the trial. In the midst of his questions and discouragement, the truth in Job’s heart was irrepressible.*

**5.** In Job 28:1-28, Job speaks on the topic of wisdom, leading up to the key question of the chapter, which is found in verse 12. In essence, Job was asking, “What is wisdom?” What are some of the points he makes about wisdom, and what was his eventual answer to the question?

*Class discussion should bring out the following thoughts: Man has not found wisdom in his search for wealth (Job 28:1-12); man cannot buy wisdom with his wealth (Job 28:13-21); and God alone knows the place of wisdom (Job 28:22-27). The answer to the question in verse 12 is found in verse 28: to fear God and depart from evil is wisdom.*

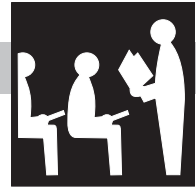
*This may be a good time to discuss the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge can result from the acquisition of information, but wisdom (or understanding) is learning how to apply knowledge, and is based on a correct view of God and His principles for living.*



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## The Power of God and the Meekness of Job

## SOURCE FOR QUESTIONS

Job 38:1 through 42:17

## KEY VERSE FOR MEMORIZATION

“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.” (Job 42:5)

## BACKGROUND

In the lengthy dialogue between Job and his friends, recorded in chapters 4 through 37, Job had frequently expressed his longing to have God respond to his questions. In these chapters, Job's wish was granted and God's silence was broken, though not in the manner Job had expected.

By refraining from cursing God at the loss of his loved ones, health, and material advantages, Job had disproved Satan's contention that he would not serve God without reward. By persisting in his assertion that sin and suffering are not linked in a cause-and-effect sequence, he had silenced his friends' accusations. However, in defending his own integrity, he had questioned the integrity of God and characterized Him as being unjust. He felt God had not been consistent in His moral jurisdiction of the world, and that God had an unjustifiable enmity against him.

Job seemed to presume that his own finite mind could comprehend and even challenge the infinite mind of God. It was this presumption that God addressed in His approach to Job, chiding him for his empty words about a subject far beyond his knowledge. With poetic beauty, God presented Job with a series of hard questions related to His work as the Creator of the universe.

Job's repentance and submission concluded the dialogue between God and Job, and the final verses of the narrative (Job 42:7-17) record the restoration of Job—an inspiring conclusion to this account of true worship and integrity in the face of extreme adversity.

## SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

**1.** In chapters 38 and 39, God referred to the grandeur of creation, and by implication pointed to the power and wisdom of the One who could create such a universe. In one or two sentences, summarize the essence of the questions that God asked Job in chapter 38. Why do you think God said what He did and why in this tone?

*Class summary should bring out that God's series of questions were pointed toward helping Job understand where he stood in relation to God. In*

## OPENER

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## NOTES

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*Discuss why these qualities, and any others your class may bring out, are important virtues in the Christian life.*

**5.** While Job had a new understanding of his insignificance compared to the majesty of God, God was not yet finished. In Job 40:6 through 41:34, He again spoke out of the whirlwind, challenging Job to demonstrate his power if he thought he was equal to the Omnipotent Creator. God had spoken glowingly of Job in Job 1:8 and 2:3, so what did Job mean when he responded by saying he would “repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6)?

*Job saw he should not have questioned God, and openly and honestly faced God and admitted he had been foolish. “Repent” in this case means a complete turnaround from the former perception. Job was not asking forgiveness for sins, but for questioning God’s sovereignty and justice. He recognized that he had spoken without understanding. Clearly his thinking had been transformed by his personal encounter with God.*

**6.** At the conclusion of the dialogue between God and Job, God still had not answered all of Job’s questions. Should a Christian always have to know the reasons God does what He does? Why or why not?

*It is natural to desire an answer, but we will not always receive one. The point should be made that although we may not understand an event or circumstance, if we are to gain spiritually rather than become embittered and confused over the lack of an explanation, we must choose to believe that the divine hand of God has permitted what has come our way. Acceptance can lead to spiritual growth instead of despair; blessing instead of bitterness.*

**7.** As we conclude our study of Job, what key lessons stand out to you from this book?

*This question should provide an opportunity for a good wrap-up to the lesson. Your students will likely offer several thoughts. These may include:*

- *Satan may be allowed to try our faith, but He cannot proceed beyond the limits God sets.*
- *Serving God does not guarantee a life without trials.*
- *Prosperity is not a sign of God’s favor.*
- *It is vital to trust God even when circumstances might tempt us to doubt.*
- *Suffering is not always because of sin. We should be careful not to judge others who are suffering.*
- *We love God because of who He is, whether He allows blessings or trials to come to us.*
- *We must accept that we will not always understand God and His ways.*

- *We may experience physical, emotional, and mental symptoms as a result of extreme trials, but these do not necessarily indicate a spiritual problem.*
- *God's assurance may come in a variety of ways, and it is always invaluable to our faith.*

## CONCLUSION

Job despaired about life when his troubles seemed the worst and God was silent. However, he refused to curse God and became an encouraging example of one who held onto God without knowing the specific end of his trial. Can we also trust God with our unanswered questions?

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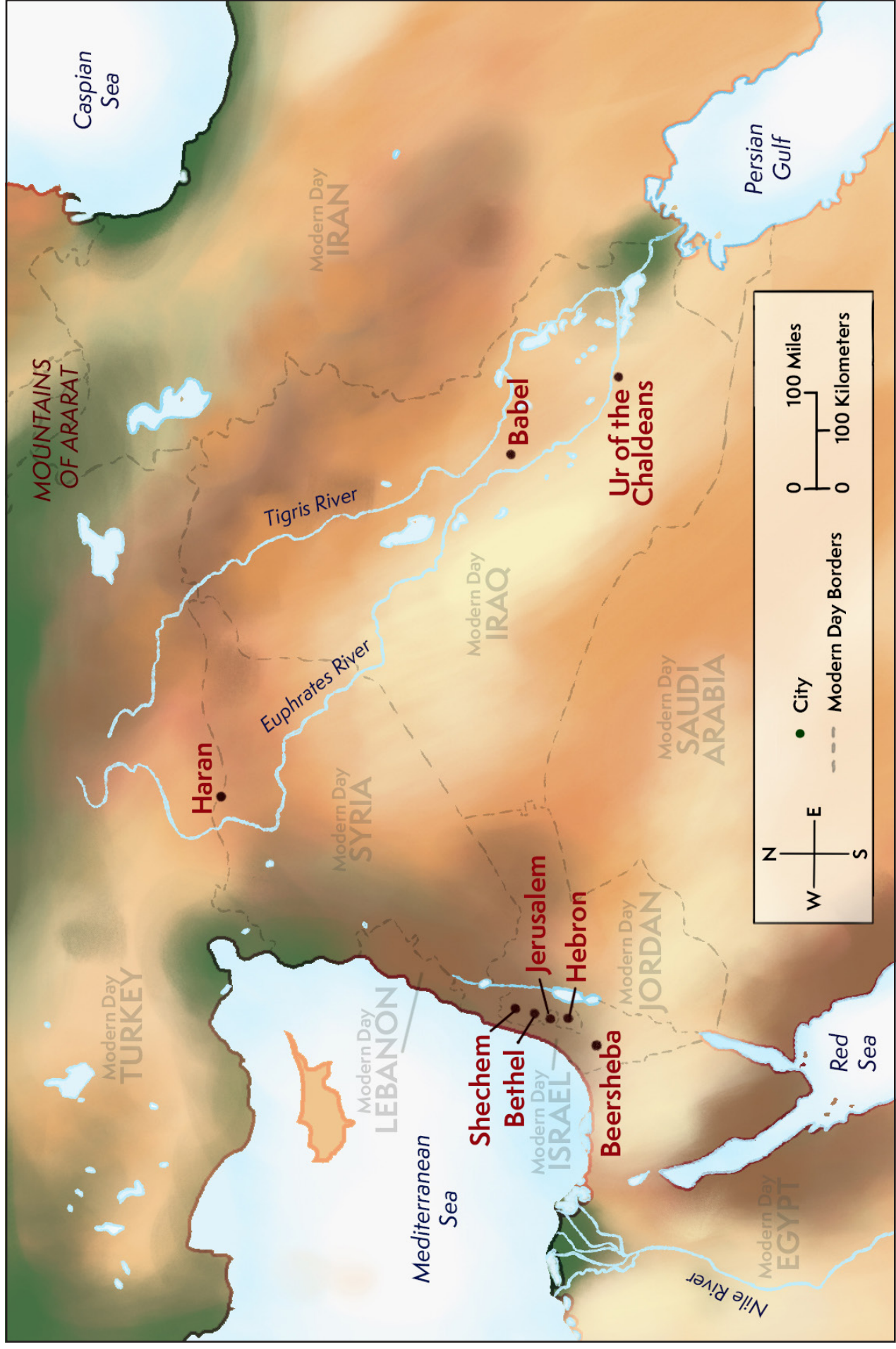
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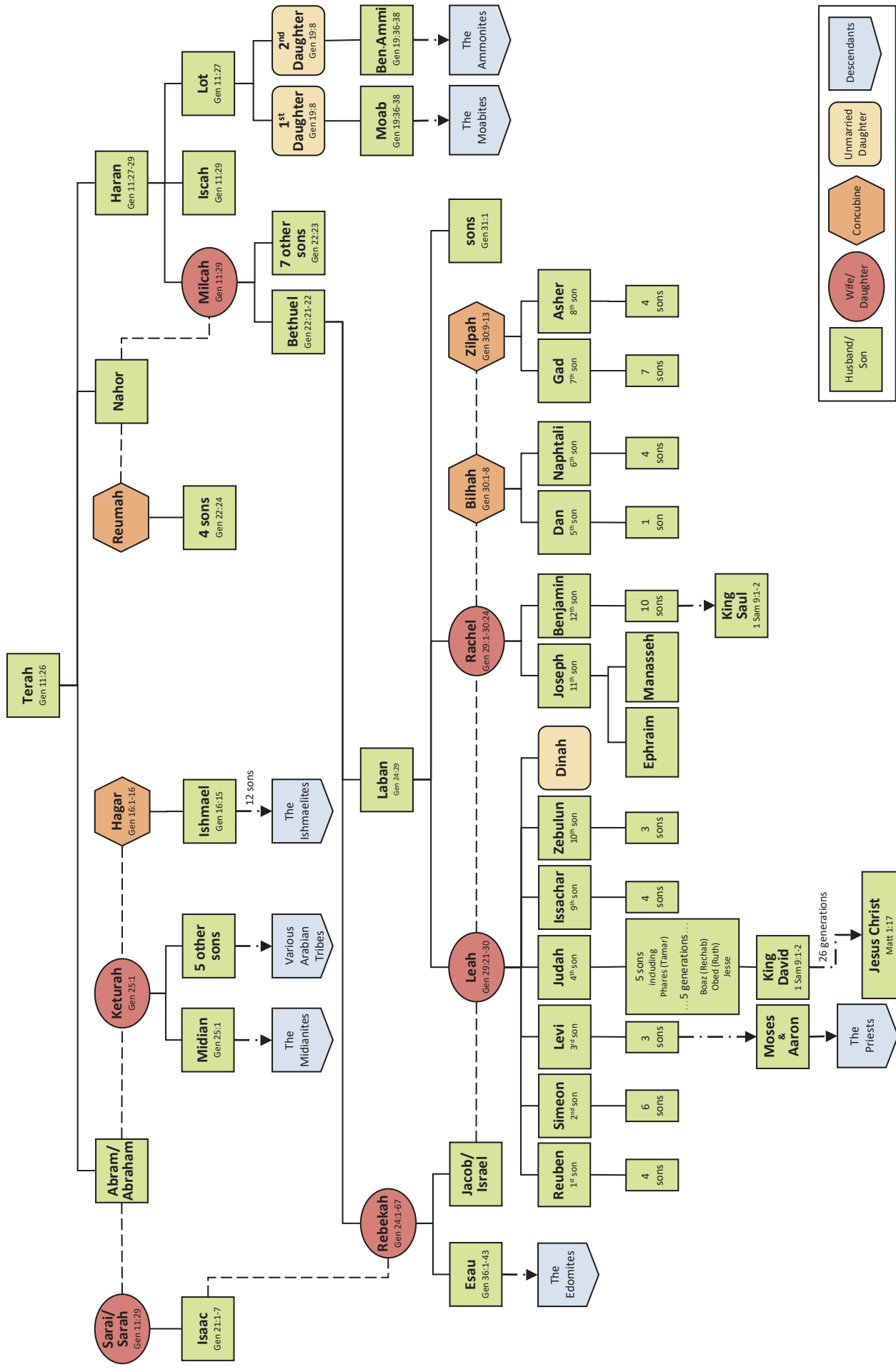
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## Key Locations in Genesis



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# Key Locations in Exodus



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