UNIT 2

6

GOD WHO CORRECTS

Numbers 22: 21-40

AIM

To understand our need to trust in God and do HIS will instead of ours

21 So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab.

Balaam, the Donkey, and the Angel

22 God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. 24 Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. 25 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. 26 Then the angel of the Lord went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. 27 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 28 Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" 29 Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" 30 But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face. 32 The angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. 33 The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." 34 Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home." 35 The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men; but speak only what I tell you to speak." So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

36 When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at Ir-moab, on the boundary formed by the Arnon, at the farthest point of the boundary. 37 Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send to summon you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" 38 Balaam said to Balak, "I have come to you now, but do I have power to say just anything? The word God puts in my mouth, that is what I must say." 39 Then Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. 40 Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent them to Balaam and to the officials who were with him.

UNIT II

GOD WHO CORRECTS

Numbers 22: 21-40

AIM

To understand our need to trust in God and do HIS will instead of ours

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

Balaam was a prophet of the Lord. Balak, a leader of the Moabites, asked Balaam to come and make the Israelites leave their land, but God wanted Balaam to go to the Israelites and give them a message from God. Lets' see what happens to Balaam.

MAIN IDEA

Today's lesson is taken from the book of Numbers. The book is called 'Numbers' because the Israelites were counted twice in this book. A census of the people were seen taken in the first chapter and in the twenty sixth chapter.

In the Book of Numbers we see Israelites traveling from Mount Sinai and marching to Kadesh -barnea. God asked them to send spies to Canaan to explore the land and they came back and reported that it is indeed a land flowing with milk and honey, but they also reported that it was a land full of giants. When the people heard about the giants they did not want to go forward. Because of this unbelief in God and his power, God judged them and they wandered in the wilderness for forty years.

This lesson teaches us why we should trust God wholeheartedly in every situations in our life and not on our reasons. The Scripture teach us this lesson through the story of 'the way of Balaam'. Balaam was a Babylonian diviner with a reputation through out the region. God used him to show us how we take things into our own hands when we should have listened to God and obeyed Him.

Israelites are on the border of Canaan. To pass into Canaan, they have to pass through the land of the Amorites and the kingdom of Bashan. Israelites asked permission to pass through these lands to their kings Sihon and Og, both of them refused and Israelites fought with them and killed both the kings and captured their land. The next place to go through is Moab and this kingdom was ruled by their king Balak.

MAIN IDEA (continued...)

Balak, the king of Moab, and his whole nation heard stories about the Israelites and their leader Moses. They saw what the Israelites have done to the Amorites and the people of Bashan. Balak realized that he could not fight and win against the Israelites, he was looking for a way out of this situation to save himself and his kingdom. Balak finally decides to get the help of Babylonian diviner (seer or prophetic intermediary) Balaam to pronounce a potent curse against the Israelites. Once this was done he would be able to fight the Israelites, defeat them and save his kingdom. So Balak sent the elders of Moab with gifts for Balaam so that he would come and curse the Israelites.

Balaam saw the gifts and he asked God what to do. God told Balaam that he should not curse the people who God had blessed, so Balaam told the elders of Moab that he would not curse the Israelites and that they should go back to their land. Balak doesn't give up though, he again sends the elders of Moab with even more gifts to give to Balaam and bring him. This time Balaam told the elders that he know that Balak will give him plenty of silver and gold, but he cannot disobey God, but he will find out what more the Lord tells him and asked them to stay the night. What this means is that, in his heart Balaam wants the silver and gold, at the same time he is afraid of God and would like to know whether God will change his mind so that he can have the silver and gold. God was not pleased with what Balaam did, but told Balaam this time to go with the elders but do only what God tells him.

So Balaam got up in the morning and is on the way to see Balak on his donkey. As God already knew Balak's intentions, God was angry that Balaam was going to see Balak. God sent his Angel who went and stood in the middle of the road with a drawn sword. Balaam's donkey saw the Angel of the Lord and left the road and went into a field, then to a narrow path with walls on both sides and then to a narrow path where there was no space to turn and the donkey lay down under Balaam and Balaam hit the donkey all three times with his staff. God then made the donkey talk like a man and finally opened Balaam’s eyes so that he could see the Angel of the Lord standing in front of the donkey with a drawn sword and the Angel of the Lord told Balaam that, had the donkey not turned away all three times, Balaam would have been killed. Balaam understood that he had gone against the wishes of the Lord and was ready to go back to his home, but the Angel of the Lord asked him to go with the elders of Moab but only say what God would tell him, so Balaam went with the elders to Moab and to Balak.

MAIN IDEA (continued...)

Balak then took Balaam to see the Israelites and Balaam asked to prepare altars for sacrifices and Balaam did the sacrifices on the altars and God gave him the messages and Balaam delivered the messages or oracles and blessed the Israelites four times at four different places, instead of cursing them.

The decision Balaam took to ask God a second time whether he can go with the elders of Moab and disobeying the first instructions God gave him, is called Balaam's way. The way of Balaam was covetousness.

In life's situations, when we have to make decisions and when we ask for the wisdom of God, we should always remember the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and what Jesus did during His time of greatest trial at the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed and finally declared "Not my will, but yours be done". Like our Lord, we should be ready to do God's will and not ours.

Values for Life

God told Balaam to go and do only what God wanted him to do. We should be ready to do God's will and not ours.

MY DECISION

I will try to find more ways of spreading the good news of Jesus all around me. My life is a precious gift from God. Its purpose is to worship and glorify HIM on this Earth with the talents and strengths HE has given me. I will not waste it.

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TIME TO REVIEW!

1. The book of Numbers is called the book of Numbers because _____ .

   A. The Israelites were counted twice in this book.
   B. A census of the people were seen taken in the first chapter and in the twenty sixth chapter.
   C. The number of times the Israelites disobeyed God.
   D. It tells stories about numbers.

2. God judged the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea because

   A. God did not like them.
   B. The Israelites questioned God.
   C. Of their unbelief in God and his power.
   D. The Israelites deserved punishment.

3. Sihon was the King of the _____ and _____ was the king of Bashan.

4. Balak was the king of _____ .

5. Balaam was a _____ .

   A. Magician B. Solider C. Diviner D. Minister

6. Balak wanted Balaam to _____ the Israelites.

   A. Defeat B. Curse C. Bless D. Fight

7. Why did Balaam go a second time to God for an answer?

   A. He was afraid.
   B. He wanted to help Balak.
   C. He wanted the silver and gold.
   D. He wanted to change God's opinion.

8. Why was the Angel of the Lord standing in front of Balaam and his donkey with a drawn sword?

   A. To let know that the Angel of the Lord was not pleased with Balaam's decision.
   B. Angel was angry with Balaam and his donkey.
   C. Angel wanted to protect Balaam and his donkey from danger.
   D. To let know that God was angry with Balaam's decision to go with the elders.

9. What does the lesson teach us?

   A. Trust God wholeheartedly in every situation and not on our reasons.
   B. Obey what seems right.
   C. If we can get good rewards go for it.
   D. God will not punish our disobedience.

10. Who has shown us the best example of obedience to the Lord?

    A. Balaam. B. Donkey. C. Jesus Christ D. The elders.

MEMORY VERSE

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear **LORD**,

Thank you for giving us your word to guide us. Help us to be obedient to you and to your word. Thank you for sending us Jesus Christ to save us. Help us to make wise decisions according to your will and not based on our reasons, likes and dislikes. Be with us and guard and guide us.

In Jesus precious name we pray.

AMEN

UNIT 2

7

SAUL, THE 1ST KING

1 Samuel 11 : 12-15

AIM

To put God first over our prideful ways

12 The people said to Samuel, “Who is it that said, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Give them to us so that we may put them to death.” 13 But Saul said, “No one shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has brought deliverance to Israel.” 14 Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” 15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the Lord, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

When Saul began his rule in Israel, he was humble and spiritual. Those qualities gave him the chance to do good for Israel as their king. Unfortunately, after such a good beginning he became an example of what happens when power tempts a person to replace humility with pride.

MAIN IDEA

Years before Saul’s rule, Samuel the prophet was Israel’s religious leader. In fact, Israel was ruled by judges who presided over domestic squabbles. They were not, however, equipped to rule in times of war.

God’s people wanted a king instead of God to lead them. God heard their cries. It became Samuel’s task to anoint a king from among the people. Saul was secretly anointed the first king of all the tribes of Israel.

Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin, one of the smallest tribes in all Israel. From a tribe seeming to have little significance, God chose the first King of Israel. His name, **Saul**, means “prayed for” and he was said to be young and handsome. He was a tall man and size and beauty were highly valued in rulers as signs of manly strength.

MAIN IDEA (continued...)

Samuel told Saul that God chose him to rule over Israel. Saul was surprised and humble. He did not come from a powerful family and he did not of himself as a king. God changed Saul's heart and he became a great leader of God's people. Samuel advised Saul that he must obey God if he wanted to be successful as the king of Israel.

Slowly, Saul stopped relying on God and started doing things the way he thought it should be done.

Values for Life

God must be the Lord of our life and we must make God's will our will. We should lead our lives such that we bring glory and honor to God.

MY DECISION

I believe that God is all I need in this world.

I will seek to make God happy.

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TIME TO REVIEW!

1. Who ruled, judged, and fought for Israel?

2. How did this make the Israelites different from all other nations?

3. Why did the Israelites say they wanted a King?

4. What did God say was the real reason they wanted a human King?

5. After God warned the people, through Samuel, of what would happen if they had a human King, did the Israelites still want one?

MEMORY VERSE

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear **LORD**,

Thank you for giving us your word to guide us. Help us to make your will our will. Lead our lives so that we may bring glory and honor to you, O Heavenly Father. Thank you for sending us Jesus Christ to save us. Help us to make wise decisions according to your will and not based on our reasons, likes and dislikes. Be with us and guard and guide us.

In Jesus precious name we pray

AMEN

ACTIVITY

Find the words in the given word bank.

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

BENJAMITE
COMMANDMENT
HANDSOME
HEART
HEEDED
KING
LEAST
LORD
MIZPAH
OIL
SAMUEL
SAUL
TALLER

UNIT 2

8

LIVE BOLDLY FOR GOD

Daniel 3: 1-30

AIM

To open up our hearts to God and his laws in obedience and see what God can do for us when we are faithful

The Golden Image

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue
whose height was sixty cubits and whose width
was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in
the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchad-
nezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the
governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the
justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of
the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedi-
cation of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar
had set up. 3 So the satraps, the prefects, and the
governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the
justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of
the provinces, assembled for the dedication of
the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
When they were standing before the statue that
Nebuchadnezzar had set up, 4 the herald pro-
claimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples,
nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the
sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum,
and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall
down and worship the golden statue that King
Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not
fall down and worship shall immediately be
thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."
7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the
sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum,
and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, na-
tions, and languages fell down and worshiped the
golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set
up.
8 Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans
came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They
said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forev-
er! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that eve-
ryone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe,
lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical en-
semble, shall fall down and worship the golden
statue, 11 and whoever does not fall down and
worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing
fire. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have
appointed over the affairs of the province of Bab-
ylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These
pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve
your gods and they do not worship the golden
statue that you have set up."
13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage com-
manded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
be brought in; so they brought those men before
the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it
true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that
you do not serve my gods and you do not wor-
ship the golden statue that I have set up? 15 Now
if you are ready when you hear the sound of the
horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire
musical ensemble to fall down and worship the
statue that I have made, well and good. But if you
do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown
into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god
that will deliver you out of my hands?"
16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered
the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need
to present a defense to you in this matter. 17 If
our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from
the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand,
O king, let him deliver us.

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

The Fiery Furnace

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, 20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. 21 So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. 22 Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." 25 He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

What would you do? Think about the situation for a moment. Away from your parents and loved ones, on your own, sad, scared, don't know what is next. What will you do? Don't get scared, these young friends are going to show you how they dealt with the situation and overcame it with faith in their God and won. You can do it too. Remember the promise Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:20, ..."Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

MAIN IDEA

Introduction to the Event

In the book of Daniel, 1st chapter we see how these young men decided to deal with their situation. Before captivity these young men were brought up in families which depended on God for everything and followed the commandments strictly, which included daily prayer times, selecting and eating food according to what they were taught by their parents and their faith. They followed the same pattern at Nebuchadnezzar's palace. They were offered and ordered to eat rich and sumptuous food and drinks from the kings table, they refused and ate and drank only vegetables and water. They held on to their faith and practices and depended on the God of Israel for their sustenance and proved stronger and wiser than anyone else.

The Event

In today's lesson, the faith of the three young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in their God is again literarily tested by fire.

King Nebuchadnezzar erected a gold statue in the plain of Dura in Babylon which was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. The King then issued orders to all leaders and officers in his kingdom to come to the dedication of the golden statue. The leaders and officers came and stood in friend of the golden statue. The man who make announcements then announced in a loud voice that when they hear the sound of musical instruments, they should fall down and worship the gold statue, if anybody who does not fall down and worship the statue will be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. The musical instruments sounded and all the leaders and officers of the kingdom fell down and worshiped the statue except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The Babylonians reported this to King Nebuchadnezzar and he became so angry.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be brought to him and he asked them, is it true that you did not worship the gold statue? I am going to give you a second chance, when the musical instruments sound you should fall down and worship the statue or else you will be thrown in to the blazing furnace and no god can save
you. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered O' Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves to you. You can throw us into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from the furnace and your power and even if he does not save us, we will not worship your gods or worship the golden statue.

King Nebuchadnezzar became so angry and furious, he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter and commanded his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to throw them into the fire. The soldier's tied Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and went and threw them into the blazing furnace and they fell into the fire and the fire was so hot and fierce the fire killed the soldier's who went to carry out the order.

MAIN IDEA

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fell into the fire and then King Nebuchadnezzar saw to his surprise, untied Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego getting up and walking in the fire along with a fourth man who looked like a god. King and his officers couldn't believe what they were seeing. King went to the opening of the blazing furnace and called out to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the fire and they came out of the fire and the King and his officers were surprised and astonished to see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not harmed in anyway and even their clothes were not burned and they didn't even smell of smoke.

King Nebuchadnezzar then praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who sent his angel to save His servants who trusted in Him and refused to obey the command to worship and serve other god's including the golden statue and were ready to die for their faith. King Nebuchadnezzar then issued a proclamation that people of any nation or language should not say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and if any one does that, they will be torn apart and their house will be turned to ruins. No other God can save His people like this. The King then promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to even higher positions than they were before in Babylon.

Our young friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were just following the first commandment God gave to Moses and the people of Israel and the blessings which followed those who obeyed it, in Exodus 20:3-6 - "You shall not have no other gods before me.....but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments".

Be faithful to God and His laws.

TIME TO REVIEW!

1. Who captured Jerusalem and took captives from Judah?

2. What were the Hebrew names of Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

3. King Nebuchadnezzar erected the golden statue in _____ a province of Babylon.

   A. Nineveh B. Joppa C. Edom D. Dura

4. What kind of food and drinks did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah took to survive in the Palace of Nebuchadnezzar?

   A. Bread, meat and wine
   B. Any food the palace cooks gave them
   C. Vegetables and water
   D. Pasta, vegetables and soft drinks

5. Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not fall down and worship the golden statue?

6. How did God save Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fire?

7. By the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the God of Israel, what did they teach King Nebuchadnezzar and his countrymen?

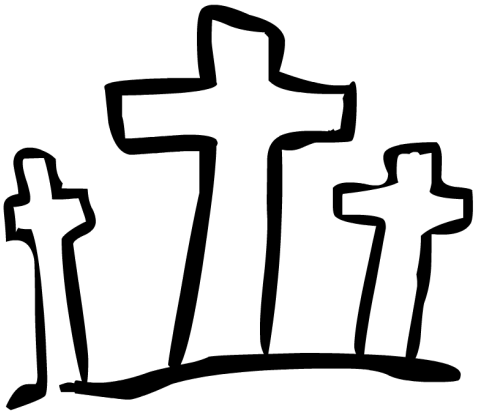
MY DECISION

I will learn and obey God's laws and will practice it in my daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O King, let him deliver us.

Daniel 3: 17



CLOSING PRAYER

Dear **LORD**,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn about your faithfulness to those who obey your commandments. Through Jesus Christ you taught us that we are your sons and daughters and we can come to you any time. You are the God who saves us. Teach us your truths and show us the right path and help us to follow it. Help us to abide in you every day.

In Jesus precious name we pray.

AMEN

ACTIVITY

UNIT 2

9

WALKING WITH GOD

Genesis 5: 21-24

AIM

Understand ways to build faith and the steps to master the Christian way of life.

21 When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after the birth of Methuselah three hundred years, and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. 24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

What do you think it means to 'walk with God'? How would you describe the relationship? Would you want to 'walk with God'? What would you do differently if you had this type relationship with God. Today's lesson is about one person who walked with God for many years.

MAIN IDEA

Importance of Faith

"Walking with God" is a phrase capturing intimate friendship with God that some righteous people in Bible had. Hebrew 11:1,2 says "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval". It explains how our ancestors obeyed God's call and pleased Him. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Samuel etc were able to act on faith to find God's favor.

As a Christian, our focus (hope) on life is to enter in eternity with God. Holy Spirit should reside in you to build faith to love you Lord with all your heart, all your soul, your entire mind and all your strength. Hebrew 11:6 says "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek him."

MAIN IDEA (Continued...)

How can you please God?

1. Submit to God in faith
2. Pray passionately; i.e. have open communication with God.
3. Allow Holy Spirit to live in you
4. Communicate to Holy Spirit that is guiding you
5. Learn righteous deeds from Bible
6. Self-denial to the temptations of the world
7. Be at service to others like Jesus; "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45).

What defines a Christian walk? The ability to listen to the Holy Spirit is essential for Christian life. Be prepared for the Lord to reveal himself through surprising circumstances; God will guide you through pastors, parents, friends, or family members. Seek His guidance on what he is expecting from you. Listen to His words submissively with anticipation.

MY DECISION

I will seek God daily through reading the Bible and praying. I will live a life where others will see God through me.

TIME TO REVIEW!

Fill in the blanks

1. Enoch lived for _____ years.

2. Enoch was the father of _____.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is Faith? Why is it important for a Christian?

2. How can you "walk with God"?

MEMORY VERSE

You must follow exactly the path that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you are to possess.

Deuteronomy 5: 33

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear LORD,

Please teach us how to pray and have more communication with you. Help us to gain more faith and obey your teachings to be a true Christian. Help us walk in the right path and avoid temptations of the world. Enable us to listen to the Holy Spirit to please you.

AMEN

UNIT 2

10

MOSES & THE AMALKITES

Exodus 17: 10-16

AIM

Moses' faith in God and his intercession helps Israelites win against Amalakites

10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. 13 And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.
14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." 15 And Moses built an altar and called it, The Lord is my banner.
16 He said, "A hand upon the banner of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

Do you know that God is in control? Do you sometimes doubt it? In today's lesson, we see God totally in control of war the Israelites were fighting. We need to have faith in God at all times.

MAIN IDEA

In this lesson, we see the battle between Israelites and Amalekites in Rephidim. Moses told Joshua to pick his best men to fight and Moses went up the hill with Aaron and Hur to hold the staff of God in his hands.

Faith and Intercession

Deep faith, humbleness, obedience to God's commands and intercession for others are the main characteristic that stands out about Moses. Moses was not convinced on assuming the leadership

MAIN IDEA (Continued...)

for delivering Israelites from slavery in Egypt. However God used the staff as an instrument representing His presence to give him confidence and power to perform in front of elders of the Israelites and Pharaoh. Just as the presence of God boosted his confidence, Moses is inspiring Joshua to fight with Amalekites by promising to hold the staff of God.

God helped Joshua seeing the faith of Moses. Exodus 17:11"As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning". When Moses was tired of holding the staff, Aaron and Hur helped him by moving in a stone for Moses to sit. They also helped Moses by holding up both his hands on either side. There were only a few among those Israelites who truly believed in God that he is the deliverer for them. Through the faith and intercession of just a few leaders (Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb), God spared the lives of sinful and disobedient Israelites.

God's enmity with Amalekites for generations

God's wrath on Amalekites is explained in the Bible in Deuteronomy 25:17-19. 17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, 18 how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget."

Obedience to God's commands

Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Joseph etc were leaders who found favor in God since they were faithful and obedient to God's commands. Israel thrived to be a great nation as God promised to Abraham through faithful and obedient leaders. However, over generations, Israeli leaders gradually fell into disobedience to the Lord's commandments provoking the wrath of God on Israelites.

In 1 Samuel 15:3 God instructs Saul "Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey." Saul's army destroyed most of the people, but left King Agag and healthy livestock alive (1 Samuel 15:8-9) against God's command. God appeared to Samuel and regretted his decision to make Saul as the king since he didn't follow the command for complete destruction of Amalekites. God's wrath fell on Saul and his sons and the Israelites into the hands of the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:19).

Values for Life

Intercession is when someone pleads with God on behalf of others who desperately need God's help. When God was displeased with the 600,000 Israelite men and women, intercession of Moses kept them alive from His wrath. Faith of Canaanite woman changed the decision of Jesus on blessing Gentiles (Mathew 15: 22-28). Same way, Jesus was touched by the belief of the Centurion who interceded for his ill servant, immaterial of the background of his servant (Mathew 8: 5-13). So be persistent in your faith and intercede for the salvation of the multitude of sinners around you.

MY DECISION

I will have faith in God and accept that He is in control. I will intercede on behalf of others.

MEMORY VERS

And Moses built an altar and called it, The Lord is my banner.

Exodus 17: 15

TIME TO REVIEW!

Fill in the blanks

1. Moses went up the hill with _____ and _____ to hold the staff of God in his hands during the battle between Israelites and Amalekites in Rephidim.

2. Exodus 17:11"As long as Moses held up his hands, the _____ were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the _____ were winning".

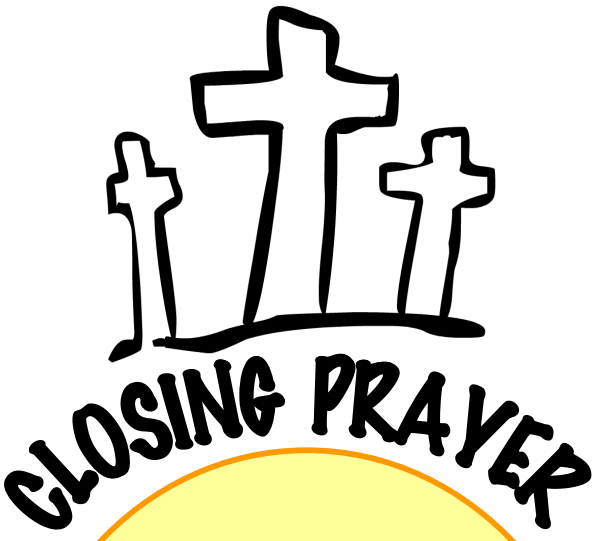
3. God appeared to _____ and regretted his decision to make _____ as the king

Essay Questions

1. Who was in charge of fighting Amalekites? And what was he told to do?

2. What could be the reason for Moses to think that holding the staff will help the fight against Amalekites?

3. What was the reason for God's enmity with Amelakites for generations?



Dear LORD,

Please give us the strength to be obedient and faithful to you like Moses. Bless your servants to understand the needs of others and intercede for them in prayers. Enable us to spread the Gospel to fulfill your will.

AMEN

Group Debate

Discuss the relevance of this commandment in Exodus 20:12 in this modern era when every new generation think they are superior in knowledge to their past generation.

Ephesians 6. 1Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—this is the first commandment with a promise: 3 “so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.