



PRIMARY

B

*Bible
Study
Guide*



**Second Quarter
Year B**

B



Primary Bible Study Guide

Year B, Second Quarter

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Primary Children GraceLink Sabbath School Curriculum

The Writers

Emmanuel O. Abbey
Audrey Andersson
Hilary Baatjies
Carlyle Bayne
Jackie Bishop
Iryna Bolotnikov
DeeAnn Bragaw
Linda Porter Carlyle
Verna Chuah
Sarah Coleman Kelnhofer

May-Ellen Colon
James Dittes
René Alexenko Evans
Douglas Hosking
Patricia Humphrey
Nancy Beck Irland
Noelene Johnsson
Birthe Kendel
Barbara Manspeaker
Vikki Montgomery

Edwina Neely
Lydia Neikours
Rebecca Gibbs O'Ffill
Carole Smith
Aileen Andres Sox
Miriam Tumangday
Denise Valenzuela
Eileen Dahl Vermeer
June Zeeman
Norma Sahlin



WORLD SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORS
GENERAL CONFERENCE ADVISOR
CONSULTING EDITOR
ILLUSTRATIONS
ELECTRONIC MAKEUP
CIRCULATION

Jim Howard, Daniel Ebenezer
Ted N. C. Wilson
Artur Stele
Kim Justinen
Bruce Fenner
Rebecca Hilde

**A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department
General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.**

All Scripture quotations are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Text copyrighted © 2025 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Primary Bible Study Guide* may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Primary Bible Study Guide*, under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. "Seventh-day Adventist," "Adventist," and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference. Art copyrighted © 2003 by Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193, U.S.A.

Primary Bible Study Guide, Vol. 91, No. 2, Second Quarter 2025 (USPS 730-670). Published quarterly and copyrighted by the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A. Printed for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® by Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687, U.S.A. One-year subscription in U.S.A., \$27.92; single copy, \$8.99. One-year subscription to countries outside U.S.A., US\$37.92. All prices at U.S.A. exchange. Periodicals postage paid in Nampa, Idaho, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to PRIMARY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353, U.S.A. When a change of address is desired, please send both old and new addresses.

Printed in U.S.A.



Contents

1	Seventy Times Seven (April 5)	6
2	Payday at the Vineyard (April 12)	10
3	Loving the Unlovable (April 19)	14
4	The Day Jesus Cried (April 26)	18
5	A Cloud Leads the Way (May 3)	24
6	Bitter Waters Made Sweet (May 10)	28
7	God's Choice (May 17)	32
8	Water From a Rock? (May 24)	36
9	Breakfast With the Birds (May 31)	42
10	Food for One More (June 7)	46
11	Fire on the Mountain (June 14)	50
12	God's Gentle Whisper (June 21)	54
13	Up, Up, and Away (June 28)	58

Dear Primary Friends,

These Sabbath School lessons have been written especially for you by people who care very much about you. They want you to know more about God and His love for you and your family. And that's what God wants too. He wants you to know that He loves you very much. And Jesus wants to be your special, forever friend. He wants you to know Him, to know all about Him. He wants you to be His friend too.

As you learn more about God's love in these lessons, think about ways you can show your love to Him. Can you sing a song of praise to Him? Can you tell Him in your prayers how wonderful He is? Can you show His love to others in your family? To your friends and neighbors?

We pray that God will always have a special place in your heart.

General Conference Sabbath School Department

Lessons one through four are about God guiding us as we live with others.

- God wants us to forgive others.
- God wants us to treat others as He treats us.
- God wants us to include others.
- God wants us to care about others.



Lessons five through eight tell us about worshipping God.

- We worship God when we obey Him.
- We worship God with joyful praise.
- We worship God when we respect His authority.
- We worship God when we trust Him.

Lessons nine through thirteen focus on how God cares for us.

- God knows my needs; He cares about me.
- Even though bad things happen, I know God loves me.
- My God listens and answers when I pray.
- I will listen to God's gentle whisper.
- God's grace is the gift of eternal life.

A Message to Parents

Dear Friend,

All *Primary Bible Study Guides* present opportunities to help your child learn from the Bible and to know that what is studied comes from God's word. These Bible lessons link God's amazing grace to your child's everyday life. However, they need **you** to make them come to life in your home, reinforcing the lesson already presented in Sabbath School.

Plan now to make time for daily study with your child. During your family worship time, read the lessons together and share the fun of doing the Bible-based activities.

The entire GraceLink curriculum is developed around four important concepts: grace, worship, community and service—all important to Christian growth. Simply put, these dynamics teach the following: grace, Jesus loves me; worship, I love Jesus; community, we love each other; and service, Jesus loves you too. Each month emphasis is placed on one of these dynamics, but grace is the thread that runs through every lesson and knits them together to form a complete whole.

May God bless you as you and your child enjoy learning more about Him.



Cordially,
General Conference
Sabbath School Department



Seventy Times Seven

Matthew 18:21-35; Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 243-251



Have you ever been so angry at someone that it was hard to forgive them?

One day Peter asked Jesus, "How many times shall I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" In Jesus' time the priests and rabbis taught that people had to forgive a person only three times. So Peter may have thought he was being generous by suggesting the number seven.

Not seven times, Jesus said, but 70 times seven. That's 490 times! Wouldn't it be hard to keep track of that number of times for each person we have to forgive? Jesus said that big number because He does not want us to count the times we forgive someone. Instead, we should be willing and ready to forgive. Then Jesus told a story to make His point.

A certain man worked for a king, managing the king's money. One day the king sat down to look at his accounts. He discovered this man's account was millions in debt, far more than the man could ever repay. The king ordered the man, his wife, his children, and everything he owned to be sold. All the money would help repay the debt.



The man fell on his knees and begged for mercy. "Give me time," he said, "and I will repay everything I owe." The king knew the man could never repay so much money. He felt sorry for

The Message

God wants me to forgive
others from my heart.

Memory Verse

“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart”
(Matthew 18:35).

the man, so he canceled the debt and let him go.

The king's servant was so relieved he rushed away. On his way out he met another servant—one who owed him some money. It was just a little bit, about a day's wages. The king's servant grabbed the second man by the neck. He began choking him. “Pay back the money you owe me,” he demanded.

“Please be patient with me,” begged the second man. “Give me time, and I will pay back everything I owe you.” But the king's servant refused. He had the second man thrown in prison until he could pay the debt.

Other servants of the king saw the whole thing. They immediately reported it to the king. The king called the first servant back. “You wicked servant,” he stormed. “I canceled millions you owed me. Shouldn't you have had the same mercy on someone else? Someone who owed you so little?” And the king had his servant taken away to prison.

We are sometimes like the king's servant. He owed more money than he could ever repay. He wanted forgiveness, but was unwilling to forgive others. But just as the king forgave his servant, God has forgiven our sins. And since God has forgiven us, He asks us to treat others with mercy and kindness and forgiveness.





S A B B A T H

DO Play quiet music as you and your family read the lesson story together. How much is 70 times seven?

DO Think of something for which you need forgiveness. Then think of someone you need to forgive. Talk about it together and decide what to do.

READ Read the memory verse together.

PRAY Pray for someone who has been unkind to you.

The servant owed the king more than \$6 million in American money. The other man owed the servant less than \$12!



S U N D A Y

READ During worship today, read Matthew 18:21-35. Act out the story.

DO Ask your parents to show you the bills they get each month. Think about the money the king's servant owed. Hold up your parents' smallest bill. Think about the amount the second man owed the king's servant. Who owed more?

PRAY Ask God to help your family use money wisely.

M O N D A Y

DRAW Before worship time, draw pictures about the lesson story. Then use the pictures to tell the story to your family during worship.

DO Discuss together: When someone asks you for forgiveness, is it easy to forgive? What if you have to keep forgiving for the same thing? Read and discuss Matthew 18:21, 22 together. Say the memory verse to three different people.

PRAY Pray that God will help you to forgive others.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During family worship, discuss: Why is it often hard to forgive someone? Read Matthew 24:12 together.

DO Take the ice cube tray with the frozen heart out of the freezer. Sin makes our hearts (our attitudes, our lives) cold. People with cold hearts don't want to forgive or treat others well. What could melt this cold heart? (Use a paper or cloth towel. Try to melt the ice and free the heart.) Only Jesus can thaw our cold hearts. As we let Him live in our hearts, we will be forgiving and caring.

DRAW Draw the memory verse with pictures instead of words.

PRAY Pray for a kind, forgiving heart.

T U E S D A Y

DO Before worship, cut out a small heart from an empty plastic bottle. Punch a hole in the heart and thread a six-inch (15-centimeter) length of yarn through it. Put the heart in an ice cube tray with the loose end of the yarn staying out of the tray. Add water. Put the tray in the freezer. Save this for worship tomorrow.

READ During worship, read Matthew 18:23-27 together. Draw a face that shows how you feel when you forgive someone. Draw a face that shows how you feel when you ask for forgiveness.

DO Say the memory verse together. What word could be used instead of "heart"?



T H U R S D A Y

READ

Read Matthew 6:12, 14 for family worship. What was Jesus doing when He said these words? Pray for people who have wronged you. Pray that you will forgive from your heart.

DO

Imagine that you are the king in your lesson. What would you say to the servant who couldn't pay? Compare your answer to Matthew 18:27.

DO

Play, sing, hum, or listen to "He Has Shown Thee (Micah 6:8)" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 125).

F R I D A Y

DO

For worship, do a charade of the lesson story.

DRAW

Write or draw about something wrong you have done. Pray now and ask Jesus to forgive you. Jesus forgives you and gives you a new heart (a new attitude).

DRAW

Make a small red paper heart. Add or draw a picture of Jesus as a symbol of the new heart He gives you. Read Ezekiel 11:19 and Ephesians 4:32 together.

PRAY

Pray for kind hearts that will always be ready to forgive others.

PUZZLE

Directions: Answer the following questions to discover the point of this lesson.

1. A man worked _____ a king.
2. Do not _____ the times you forgive.
3. Priests and rabbis said to forgive _____ times.
4. The _____ discovered a giant debt.
5. The servant owed _____ in debt.
6. " _____ me time," he said, "and I will repay everything I owe."
7. The king _____ the debt.

Payday at the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16; Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 396-404

Lesson
2

John was busy raking leaves in his yard. After an hour, his friend Liam came by and offered to help. John found another rake, and the two boys worked together. Two hours later they were done with the job. John's father was very pleased. He gave each boy some money to say "thank you." John and Liam received the same pay, even though John had worked one hour more. John thought to himself, *This is not fair. Then he remembered a story Jesus told about fairness.*

In Jesus' time, men would gather in the marketplace at 6:00 in the morning. There they would wait for someone to come and hire them. One morning a vineyard owner came looking for workers. At 6:00 he hired some men. He agreed to pay them the usual pay for 12 hours of work.

At 9:00 he came back to the marketplace. He saw men still standing around. "Go work in my vineyard, and I'll pay you what is right," he told them. At noon and at 3:00 he hired more men. Again at

5:00 in the afternoon—just one hour before quitting time—he did the same thing.

At 6:00 in the evening the landowner told his foreman to pay the workers. He should begin with those who were hired last and end with those who were hired first.

First the foreman paid those who had worked only an hour. He gave them a full day's pay. Then he paid those who worked for three hours. He gave them a full day's pay too.

Those who were hired first began to smile.



The Message

God wants us to treat
others as He treats us.

Memory Verse

“God does not
show favoritism”

(Acts 10:34).

They were sure they would receive more. After all, they had worked longer and harder than the others. It would only be fair, wouldn't it? But when they received their pay, their smiles turned to frowns. They got the same pay as everyone else!

“Wait!” they complained. “Those men worked only an hour. You made them equal to us. We did most of the work, and in the heat of the day too.”

“I'm not being unfair to you,” said the landowner. “You agreed to work for the usual pay for a day's work. That's what I'm paying you. I can do what I want to with my money. Don't be jealous because I am generous.”

And then Jesus said it again. “The last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Do you think it's fair? You may not. And that's the point Jesus was making. God does not treat us the way we deserve. God treats us much, much better than that. It is His grace that saves all of us, those who accept Him at the last minute and those who accept Him early. God doesn't have to save any of us. He does it because He loves us.

Do you treat others in God's family the same way God has treated you? When someone is mean to you, do you treat them with love and kindness? Try to treat others as God treats us.





S A B B A T H

READ

If possible, have an adult family member take you to a field or vineyard and read your lesson story together. Imagine that you are in the vineyard in your story, watching the workers.

DO

Read the memory verse in Acts 10:34, last part. Tell what it means. Make six cutouts of a cluster of grapes. Write one word from your memory verse on each. Write the reference on the last cluster cutout.

PRAY

Pray for people who work on farms.

S U N D A Y

READ

During family worship read the lesson story in the Bible (Matthew 20:1-16).

DO

Make a list of some of your favorite things, such as toys, clothes, pictures. Put your most favorite item on top of the list, followed by your next favorite thing, etc. Now make a list of your friends. Put your favorite friend first, your next favorite friend next, etc. Does God have a "people list" like that?

PRAY

Pray for your friends.

DO

Arrange your memory verse cutouts in order. Then read or say the verse.

M O N D A Y

READ

For family worship, read John 13:35 together. Think of ways you can treat your family better. Draw a picture to show how. Put your picture where you can see it every day. Pray as a family that you will treat each other as God treats you.

DO

Arrange your memory verse cutouts in order. Then say the memory verse for your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ

During family worship, think of ways you can treat people at school or church better. Plan how your family can do these things. Read John 13:35 again.

DO

Say your memory verse together.

DO

Play, sing, hum, or listen to "The Family of God" (Sing for Joy, no. 139).

W E D N E S D A Y

READ

With your family, read Romans 2:11. How should you treat those you don't know? What can you and your family do for someone you don't know? Remember, God treats everyone better than they deserve.

PRAY

Pray for opportunities to treat others kindly.

DO

Arrange your memory verse cutouts in the right order and say your memory verse out loud.



THURSDAY

DO For family worship, serve grape juice to everyone in your family. While they drink, tell your lesson story in your own words.

READ Read together Luke 23:39-43. Tell how Jesus treated one of the thieves who was crucified next to Him. How is this story like your lesson story?

DO Say your memory verse from memory.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you not to play favorites.

The vineyard owner needed every worker he could get. He had only a little time before rains would ruin his crop.



FRIDAY

DO Make a clay model or draw a picture of three people you have a hard time loving. Why do you feel that way? Discuss your reasons with your family during worship. Pray together for power to treat others as Jesus would. Read John 15:12 together.

SHARE Share your experiences this week in treating others well. How did you feel?

DO Act out this week's Bible lesson. Or draw pictures and use them to tell the story to your family. Close by saying your memory verse.

PUZZLE

Directions: Jesus taught something very important about God in this lesson. To find out what it is, read the message below. Have you figured out how to read the message?
Hint: Read in the opposite direction.



Loving the Unlovable

Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 557-568

When Rafael and his family moved to a new neighborhood, he felt lost. He felt lonely at his new school.

Then one day a student came up to him in the hall and said, "Hi! I'm Karin. I've seen you, but I don't know you yet. Come sit with me and my friends during lunch!"

Someone else included people who were left out—Jesus. He was friends with everyone.

The dinner party at Simon's house was the place to be. Simon was one of the leading Jewish rulers, and Jesus had healed his leprosy. To show his thanks, Simon planned a huge feast for Jesus. Everybody who was anybody came.

Mary was there too. She was the kind of person people talked about, but they did not talk to her. Everyone knew she was a sinner. Everyone knew Jesus had ordered seven demons out of her. She probably hadn't even been invited to the party. But since she followed Jesus everywhere, no one stopped her. They just wanted her to stay quietly in the background.

Mary knew about her reputation. She knew she was not accepted in "polite" company. But she wanted to show Jesus

how thankful she was. She had with her a small alabaster jar of perfumed ointment. When no one was looking, she poured the ointment over Jesus' head and feet. Her tears of love and thanks flowed into the ointment. Quietly she knelt down and wiped Jesus' feet with her long, flowing hair.

Probably no one would have noticed if it weren't for the fragrance. It smelled so good and it quickly filled the whole room. People started talking. "That stuff is expensive!" they whispered to each other. "It cost what a man



The Message

God wants me to include those who get left out.

Memory Verse

“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers”

(1 Peter 2:17).

earns in a whole year! If she had sold it, the money could have been given to the poor. What a waste!”

Simon had a different thought. *If Jesus really were a prophet, He wouldn't let that woman touch Him. She's a terrible sinner!*

Mary was caught; and she was embarrassed.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. He also knew what Mary was feeling. “Leave her alone,” He told the whisperers. “You'll always have the poor with you, but you won't always have Me.

She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

And then Jesus turned to Simon. “Two men owed money to the same moneylender,” He said. “One man owed 500 denari. The other owed 50 denari. The money-lender knew neither man could pay him back, so he canceled their debts. Which one do you think loved him more?”

“I suppose the one who had the bigger debt,” said Simon.

“You're right,” said Jesus. “When I came into your house, you didn't wash My feet. You didn't pour oil on My head. You didn't even give Me a kiss of peace. But this woman did all that and more. She has been forgiven for a lot, and she loves Me a lot.”

Jesus showed respect for Mary, the least-



acceptable person at the party. He had even praised her efforts above Simon's. The last person anyone would have expected became a good example. That kind of respect took Mary by surprise. She was used to being unloved and left out. Now she was being appreciated.

We all know people like Mary—people who get ignored or picked on. Jesus treated Mary kindly. He made her feel wanted and respected. He wants to include every person in His family just as He included Mary. And He wants us to treat one another the same way He treats us.



S A B B A T H

READ

Ask your family to sit as people did in Jesus' day. Remove your shoes. Lie on your left side on a make-believe couch. Hold your feet away from a make-believe table, and lean on your left elbow. While in this position, share some food. Then read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that the people in the story are with you. What are they thinking about? Talk about it together.

DO

Teach your memory verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

DO

Play "musical chairs" for family worship. (Play music, and suddenly stop it. Everyone must quickly find a seat.) Put out only enough chairs for about half of your family. Talk about how it feels to be left out.

READ

With your family, read aloud Luke 7:36-50. How did Jesus make a left-out woman feel included? What can you do to include others as Jesus did? Ask Him to help you.

DO

Say your memory verse from memory.

T U E S D A Y

READ

During family worship, read Mark 14:5 together. Talk about Mary's gift. One denarius was a day's pay in Jesus' time. Mary's perfume cost more than 300 denari. Her gift was worth about a year's wages! What does this tell you about Mary's feelings for Jesus?

DO

Ask an adult to help you find out what a year's wages are today.

DRAW

If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? Draw a picture that tells. How much would you spend?

DO

Say your memory verse. Pray for the homeless in your town.

S U N D A Y

READ

For family worship, sit around a table together. Serve only half of your family a sweet treat. Discuss how it feels to be left out. Then share with each other so everyone has some of the treat. Tell about people you have seen being left out. Talk about what you did or could have done to help them. Read James 3:17 together. What does this text mean to you?

DO

Say your memory verse together before prayer.

The perfume for Jesus cost Mary as much as an ordinary person could earn in a whole year.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE

During family worship, write a happy note to someone who is often forgotten (perhaps a person in a nursing home). Add a message from God, such as Jeremiah 31:3, and draw a picture on your note. Mail it or deliver it yourself. Pray for that person today.

SING

Sing "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, no. 129).

DO

Say your memory verse to three people.



THURSDAY

DO With your family, read Mark 14:1-9. What new things did you learn about this story?

SHARE Recall a time you felt that someone left you out. Share how you felt. What will you do if you see someone left out at school?

DO Tell or write what your memory verse means in your own words. Then pray for students at your school.

FRIDAY

DO Bring at least five different fragrant things to family worship (include good and bad smells). Have everyone take turns smelling them. Ask: Which smells good? Which smells bad? Which would you like to smell most often? Thank God for things that smell good.

READ Read Matthew 7:12 together and talk about it. What is this verse often called?

DO Retell the Bible lesson by sitting in a circle with your family. Ask each to add a sentence to the story. Start at the beginning and go around the circle. Say your memory verse at the end.

PUZZLE

Directions: The following words are hidden in the letters. Look all directions, including diagonally, backwards, and sideways; *respect, forgiveness, kindness, love, appreciated, thankful, included.*



4 Lesson

The Day Jesus Cried

John 11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 524-536

Has someone you loved died? Have you lost a friend or a pet?

One day Jesus visited some friends who shared bad news with Him. What do you think He did then?

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. These two sisters and their brother were close friends of Jesus. He often stayed with them when He was in Bethany. They knew His power, so when Lazarus became sick, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus.

But Jesus did not hurry. He stayed where He was for two more days. Then He started for Bethany. By the time He got there, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

Jesus knew Lazarus would die. He planned to raise Lazarus from the dead. This would prove that He, Jesus, was the Son of God.

But Lazarus' poor sisters didn't know about Jesus' plan. All they knew was that Lazarus had been sick. And they had sent for Jesus, and He hadn't come. When

Martha heard that Jesus was nearing the village, she went out to meet Him. "If You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died," she said. But there was still a glimmer of hope in her. "I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask," she added.

"I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus. "Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes," said Martha. "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God." She had new hope in



her heart, and she ran and got her sister.

"The Teacher is here," she told Mary. "He is asking for you."

The Message

God wants me to
care about others.

Memory Verse

“Carry each other’s
burdens”

(Galatians 6:2).

Mary jumped up and hurried outside the village to meet Jesus. When she saw Him, she fell at His feet and cried the same thing Martha had. “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus looked at His two friends who were heartbroken and crying. His own tender heart was moved, and Jesus cried too. He shared Mary and Martha’s loss. He felt the sorrow they were feeling, and He cried with them.

We should treat others as Jesus did and feel what they are feeling. Just as Jesus shared His friends’ loss, we are to share one another’s joys and sorrows.

But Jesus was not only crying because He felt sorry for Mary and Martha. He was not crying because Lazarus had died, because He knew that he was going to raise him from the dead soon. Some people thought that’s why Jesus was crying, so they said, “See how he loved him!” But Jesus was crying because of them! Many of them would not accept Him as Savior and would eventually die without forgiveness of their sins and the hope of eternal life. It makes Jesus sad when people do not choose to trust Him.

We should show our care for others as Jesus did. We should tell others how much Jesus loves them and wants to give them the best life. Some

people will choose Jesus, and others won’t. We should be sad for those who will die without choosing God’s way.





S A B B A T H

DO Go with your family to a cemetery or other quiet place outdoors. Read your lesson story together. Make believe that you are near Lazarus' burial place. Imagine that you were there when Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb.

READ Read your memory verse to your family.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read together John 11:1-44, each family member reading one verse at a time.

DO Together, think of people you know who are sad. Choose one and plan how your family can show caring to them this week. Pray for them today.

SING Sing together "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126).

DO Teach the memory verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

DO Begin an experiment with your family (to be finished later this week). Put a very ripe piece of fruit in a dark place and leave it there for four days. On Friday, look at it again.

READ How long was Lazarus in the grave? Read John 11:17 to find out.

DO On a big piece of paper, write your memory verse inside a circle. Make it look like the stone that covered Lazarus' tomb. Then read or say the memory verse to an adult. Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

T U E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship, draw a sad or crying face. Read John 11:35. Talk about the verse with your family. If Jesus can cry when He is sad, what does this teach you about crying today? Is it all right for grown-ups to cry too? Do you think Jesus has ever cried for you?

DO Say your memory verse together, then thank Jesus for caring for you.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO With your family, talk about what you can do to show that you really care about each other. Write or draw your loving action on a card, and make a commitment to do this before Sabbath. Read together Galatians 6:10. Is this verse good for families too?

READ Read the memory verse in a different way by inserting the names of the members of your family where it says "each other." Tell how you will carry someone's burden today.

Raising Lazarus from the dead showed that nothing is stronger than Jesus—not even death.





THURSDAY

READ

Discuss with your family: What can Jesus' example teach us about carrying other people's burdens? Read together Matthew 11:28; Psalm 68:19. In your own words, tell what these texts mean.

DO

Name ways you could have lightened Martha and Mary's burden had you been there.

SHARE

Tell your memory verse to someone whose burden or troubles you would like to help carry.

DO

Sing together "Love Is in Your Hand" (He Is Our Song, no. 134). Then pray for that person.

FRIDAY

DO

At the beginning of family worship, look at your piece of fruit from Monday. What does the fruit look like? Can it be restored? Read John 11:25 together. Who alone has the power to restore life?

READ

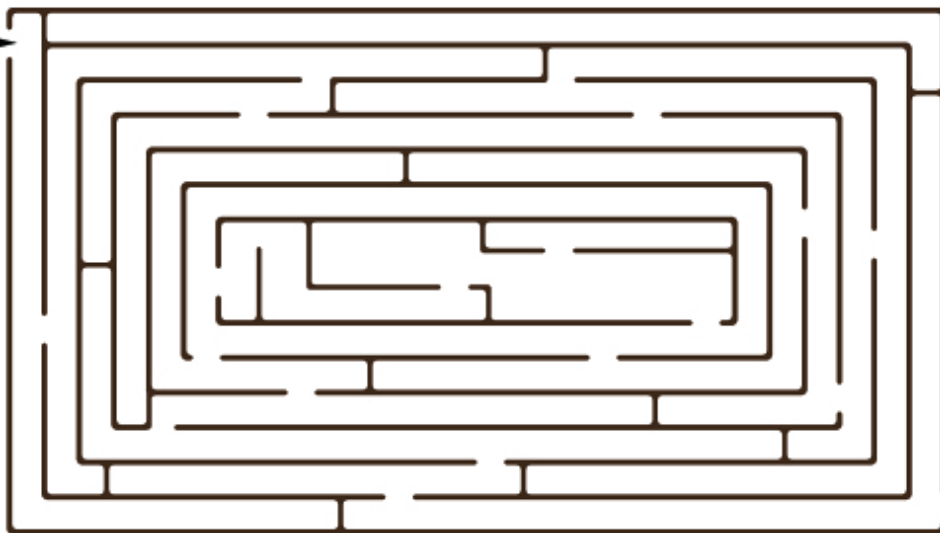
Now read together Romans 15:5. Practice saying words of encouragement as you role play the following situations: a good friend moves away; a pet dies; being sick; bad grades at school; good grades at school; friend gets something new.

SHARE

Report on the caring projects started during Sunday's family worship. Then pray for each person involved.

PUZZLE

Directions: Help Jesus find His way to Bethany to comfort Mary and Martha when Lazarus died.



PRAYER CARD

God is patient and loving with us.
Each day we can pray for others. This chart will help you. Each morning, write a person's name or description in one box, and pray for that person.

1

Someone you need to forgive

5

Your parents

6

A shut-in

7

Community leaders

8

Your cousin

12

A sad person

13

A person who made you cry

14

Your brother or sister

15

A person who was angry with you

19

A person who is out of work

20

A family that is moving away

21

A person who shouted at you

22

A person who gave you food

26

A grandparent

27

The family of a person who has died

28

The employer of your parent

29

A person who embarrassed you

CALENDAR

<p>1</p> <p>Who you forgive</p>  <hr/>	<p>2</p> <p>A neighbor</p>  <hr/>	<p>3</p> <p>Your teacher</p>  <hr/>	<p>4</p> <p>Quietest kid in your class</p>  <hr/>
<p>5</p> <p>Someone who forgives you</p>  <hr/>	<p>9</p> <p>Someone who owes you money</p>  <hr/>	<p>10</p> <p>Someone who needs a gift</p>  <hr/>	<p>11</p> <p>Your pastor</p>  <hr/>
<p>12</p> <p>Who watches you</p>  <hr/>	<p>16</p> <p>Newest person in your community</p>  <hr/>	<p>17</p> <p>A new baby</p>  <hr/>	<p>18</p> <p>Oldest person you know</p>  <hr/>
<p>19</p> <p>Who grows you</p>  <hr/>	<p>23</p> <p>The newest kid in your class</p>  <hr/>	<p>24</p> <p>A person who made you angry</p>  <hr/>	<p>25</p> <p>A happy person</p>  <hr/>
<p>26</p> <p>Who teased you</p>  <hr/>	<p>30</p> <p>A person who was impatient with you</p>  <hr/>	<p>31</p> <p>For the soon return of Jesus</p>  <hr/>	

A Cloud Leads the Way

Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 282-290

John enjoyed summer camp. He was learning many new crafts. He especially liked leather craft. He followed his counselor's directions very carefully as he worked on a new wallet.

Our Bible story tells about a large group of people who also followed directions. They followed directions from God—unusual directions, but very important.

After 400 years of slavery the Israelites were finally on their way to the Promised Land. But which way should they go? All that stretched before them was the hot, dry wilderness.

God did not leave them to wonder. Instead, He led them personally and in a

way especially fitted for the desert. "By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night" (Exodus 13:21). During the day the cloud gave them shade from the sun's heat. At night when the desert became very cold, the pillar of fire provided heat as well as light. The cloud led the Israelites into the desert and on to the Red Sea. There it stopped.

Soon the Egyptians realized that when the Israelites left, their supply of slaves were gone. In a short time Pharaoh's army raced across the desert. They wanted to get the Israelites back. The Israelites saw a great cloud of dust coming their way. From their camp at the edge of the sea, they could see the chariots racing

toward them. What could they do? A mountain blocked their way on one side. The Red Sea kept them from going ahead. And Pharaoh's army kept coming straight at them. They were trapped, and they were terrified.

"Do not be afraid," said Moses. "Stand firm, and you will see the Lord deliver you today."

The Egyptian army drew closer.



The Message

*We worship God
when we obey Him.*

Memory Verse

*"I seek you with all
my heart; do not let
me stray from your
commands"*

(Psalm 119:10).

But God's cloud of protection did something awesome. It moved up and over the Israelites. Then it came to rest between them and the Egyptian army. On one side it became a cloud that brought darkness to the Egyptians. But on the other side it was fire that provided the Israelites with light.

"Tell the Israelites to move forward, into the sea," God said to Moses. Even though there was nothing but deep water in front of them, the Israelites obeyed. They gathered their things and headed for the water.

"Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea," God commanded Moses. Moses obeyed, and a strong wind began to blow a path of dry ground through the sea. All that night the pillar of fire provided light. And the Israelites walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. The wall of water on their right and left stayed in place.

The Egyptians followed the Israelites into the sea. As soon as the last of the Israelites arrived safely on the other side, the Lord spoke to Moses again. "Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters will flow back together." Again Moses obeyed. And the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea as the waters flowed back together.

What a celebration the Israelites had that morning on the far side of the Red Sea. "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted," they praised. "The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation." What a worship service that was!

That morning the Israelites worshipped God in a special way. They wanted to thank Him for keeping them safe. But if they had not obeyed, there never would have been a victory

celebration. Imagine what would have happened if they had not followed God's command. Their obedience was an act of worship just as much as the celebration they enjoyed that morning.

Worship is honoring God. We can use our voices and our songs to honor God. And our lives can honor Him too, when we do what He asks.





S A B B A T H

READ If possible, go to a lake or river with your family. Find a quiet place and read your lesson story. Imagine how the Israelites felt when the sea parted and they were able to walk through. Do you think they were sometimes scared? What does God want us to do when we are scared?

DO Read your memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 113).

M O N D A Y

THINK For family worship, read Exodus 13:21, 22; 14:19, 20. If possible, go outside and look at some clouds. Imagine following one of them when you go on a trip. Share with your family what you think that would be like. In what ways does God lead you and your family? Are you following Him?

SING Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 119). Tell Jesus that when you pray.

DO In your own words, tell your family what your memory verse means.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ For worship today, read Genesis 6:22 and Genesis 12:1, 4. On the lines below, write the names of the two people who obeyed God.

DO Light a candle. How much light does it give? What would it be like to see a pillar of fire?

S U N D A Y

DO Ask an adult to help you make some cookies. Talk about following the recipe. Read the directions and start mixing things together. If you add extra salt, what difference would it make? If you throw in a handful of sand, will the cookies be good? Why is it important to follow directions? Why is it important to follow God's directions (rules)? Read Proverbs 3:5-8 and Deuteronomy 30:16 together.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

T U E S D A Y

DO During family worship, draw a picture of persons you should obey. What does God say about obeying certain people? Read together Ephesians 6:1-3 and Romans 13:1. Discuss: Why should I obey these people? When I obey them, do I worship them?

SHARE Draw a picture of Jesus and a Bible. Read John 14:15. Write on your picture: "When I obey Jesus, I worship Him." Show it to your family.

The shortest way to Canaan would have taken us into Philistine country and war. So God took us another way.





THURSDAY

DO During family worship, draw a face on each side of a paper plate. On one side, make a smiley face to represent Jesus' happy way. On the other side, make a frowning face to represent Satan's unhappy way. Which kind of face will you choose? Ask your family members to tell about times that are Jesus' way or Satan's way. Show the face on the plate that goes with each.

READ Read John 10:10, last part, together.

DO Say your memory verse together. Ask God to help you always to obey Him.

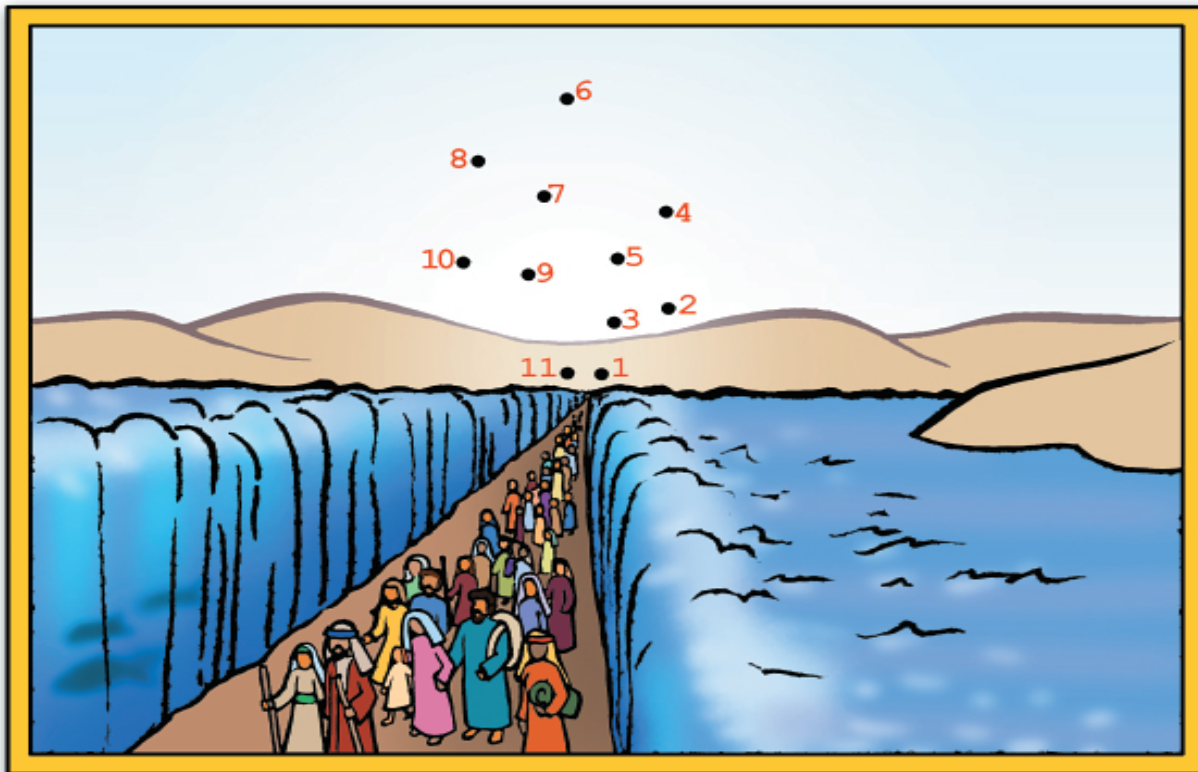
FRIDAY

DO For family worship, act out the lesson story. Then read Exodus 15:1-18 together.

READ Read Psalm 143:10 together. Then pray together as a family. Say your memory verse as part of your prayer.

PUZZLE

Directions: Connect the dots to find out how God led the Israelites through the Red Sea and protected them.



Bitter Waters Made Sweet

Exodus 15:22-27; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 291-294

The Jones family was on a hike in unknown woods. They walked for a long time. Soon they knew that they were lost. Their water bottles were empty, and they were very hot and thirsty. "Let's stop here," said Mother, "and ask God to help us."

After praying together, they began walking again. Before long they found the right trail. And soon they were back at their campsite.

At their campfire that night they worshipped God with joyful praise. Then Mother told the story about a time when the Israelites had water problems too.

The joyful celebration on the banks of the Red Sea was over. The pillar of cloud began to move again. The Israelites knew it was time to move on. So they followed the cloud into the desert. For three days they traveled without finding water. The water they had brought with them was gone. They had to find more if they were to stay alive.

The cloud led them toward Marah, where they expected to find a spring. Moses had herded sheep in that wilderness for 40 years. He knew the place well. He knew the water at Marah was bitter and not fit to drink. But God

had led them to this place.

Just as Moses expected, at the first sight of water the joyful cry went up. "Water! Water!" Men, women, and children rushed to the spring. But as soon as the first of them tasted it, their joy turned to disappointment.

It had been just three days since the Lord had worked the miracle at the Red Sea. Just three days



The Message

*We worship God
with joyful praise.*

Memory Verse

*"I will praise you,
LORD, with all
my heart"*

(Psalm 138:1).

since He had destroyed the Egyptian army. It had not been long since they had left Egypt and their lives of slavery. God Himself, in the pillar of cloud, had led them to Marah. But they forgot all that. "What are we going to drink?" they grumbled to Moses.

Moses did what the Israelites did not do. He turned to the Lord for help. The Lord showed Moses a piece of wood and told him to throw it into the water.

Moses did, and the water became sweet. And then, imagine how the people rushed forward to the water. They had gone from joy at finding water to disappointment after tasting it. Now they were back to joy after God worked the miracle. They were no longer in danger of dying of thirst. They had been saved!

And then God gave them a promise through Moses. "Listen carefully to the voice of the Lord and do what is right in His eyes. If you do what He asks you to do, He will keep you from the diseases of the Egyptians." God would keep them from much of what troubled Egypt. Would they worship God with their lives? Would they honor Him with their obedience? If they did, God would give them happy lives.



God gives you the joy of salvation. Just as the Israelites were saved by the sweet water at Marah, you are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. That is a reason for joy.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). That promise is as true for us today as it was for the Israelites. Praise God with joyful praise!



S A B B A T H

DO With your family, take a long nature walk. When you stop for rest and water, read the lesson story together. Take a big drink of water and thank God that He provides all your needs. Find and read together Psalm 138:1, which is the memory verse. How many ways can you praise Him?

M O N D A Y

READ For family worship, read Exodus 15:22–27. How many days did the Israelites survive without water? (Exodus 15:22).

DO Look in books or on the Internet (with your parents' permission) for information about deserts. Draw a picture based on what you learn.

DO Sing or say your memory verse.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE In worship today, read Exodus 15:24 together.

DO Draw what you think a grumbler looks like. Pray with your family that you will praise God instead of grumbling about life. Should you praise God when bad things happen to you? Talk about it with your family. Then sing a "happy" song together.

DO Find out where your water comes from. Thank God for it.

S U N D A Y

SING During family worship, play "Sing a Scripture." Give each family member a Bible verse to "sing." Each person (or two) makes up their own tune and practices it. Some suggested verses are: Psalm 59:16 or 17; Psalm 66:1, 2; Psalm 66:5; Psalm 67:1; Psalm 121:7, 8; Psalm 138:1 (your memory verse). Use the whole Bible verse, or just part of it and repeat it several times.

READ Read Proverbs 15:13, first part. Practice smiling in front of the mirror. Does it make you happier?

T U E S D A Y

DO With your family, make some popcorn (or enjoy another salty treat). How did it smell? How did it look? How did it taste? Did it make you thirsty? How would you have felt if you had been at Marah when God made the water sweet? Thank God for good water.

READ Read Exodus 15:25 and Isaiah 12:3.

DO Say the memory verse several times, each time a little louder.

T H U R S D A Y

SHARE During family worship, read Psalm 77:14 together. Think of something amazing that God has done for your family. Then make plans to tell it to someone not in your family. Read Exodus 15:26 together.

SING Sing a song of praise to God for taking such good care of you. (For example, "God Is So Good" [Sing for Joy, no 13].) Then say your memory verse together.



F R I D A Y

DO Repeat your memory verse while you help your family prepare for Sabbath.

SHARE During family worship, tell the Bible lesson story in your own words. Ask your family members to help you act it out.

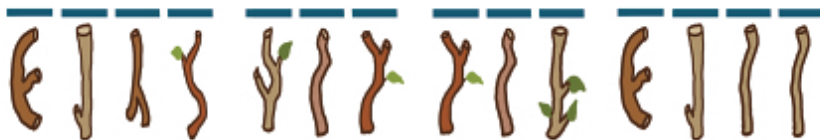
SING Praise God with a "singing relay." One person sings the first line of a familiar praise song, then points to somebody else. That person must sing the second line and then point to another singer, and so on.

PRAY Thank God for His loving care this week.

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks.

A D E F H I J L M N O R S T U V W Y



Donkeys can go four days without water, but cattle need it much more often. They were near death when God made the bitter water sweet.



God's Choice

Numbers 16 and 17; Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 403

Lin and Jacob were playing a word game. Too soon the bell rang and recess was over. "Come, children," called their teacher. "It's time for math class."

Lin sighed. Jacob was not so quiet. "I don't know why we have to go back so soon," he grumbled.

A long time ago some grown men thought they shouldn't have to do as their leader said. They decided to rebel. They wanted to have their own way. But their way was not God's way.

There was trouble in the camp. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were very upset. They didn't think that Moses and Aaron should be the only leaders. Korah also thought it unfair that only Aaron's family served as priests. Korah and other Levites worked in the tabernacle but only Aaron's family were allowed to be priests. *I am a Levite just like Aaron, Korah may have thought. Why can't my family have a chance to be priests too?* The more he thought about it, the more unfair it seemed.

But Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had forgotten something very important. Moses had not asked for the job of leading the Israelites. God had chosen him.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram soon found others who agreed with them. Two hundred fifty other men joined the plot against Aaron and Moses. Together they went to Moses and said, "Why do you set yourself above the Lord's people?"

Moses listened to them. Then he warned them, "It is against the Lord that you and all your



The Message

**We worship God when
we respect His authority.**

followers have banded together.” But they wouldn’t listen. These men refused to accept the leaders that God had chosen. They refused to follow the instructions God had given. God wanted everyone to know that Moses was the leader that He had chosen. God made something happen that had never happened before and Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and the 250 men were destroyed. But that was not enough to stop the grumbling in the camp.

“Get a walking stick from the leaders of each of the 12 tribes of Israel,” God told Moses. “Write the name of each leader on the stick from his tribe.”

Aaron’s name was written on the stick from the tribe of Levi. God told Moses to place the 12 sticks in the tabernacle overnight. “The stick belonging to the man I choose will sprout,” said God. “I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites.”

In the morning Moses and all the people went to the tabernacle. They wanted to see what had happened to the walking sticks. When Moses brought out Aaron’s stick, everyone was surprised to see it had sprouted. It had budded, blossomed, and produced almonds. An old dead stick had come to life.

When Moses showed the sticks to the Israelites, they realized God had indeed chosen Aaron. Moses and Aaron served under God’s authority, and the people were finally willing to respect that.

Moses put Aaron’s walking stick in the ark in the tabernacle as a reminder to respect the authority of God. And that Bible story reminds us to respect those God puts in authority over us.

Memory Verse

**“Worship him who made
the heavens, the earth,
the sea and the springs
of water”**

(Revelation 14:7).



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, take a Sabbath walk with your family in the woods. Find a stick that could be a walking stick and use it. Find a place to rest. Then, together, read your Bible lesson story. Read your memory verse in Revelation 14:7. Take your walking stick home to remind you of the story.

M O N D A Y

READ Read Psalm 96 with your family during worship. Take turns reading different verses. Ask each person: Why do you love and respect God?

DO Review the memory verse. Then draw a picture of four things that God has made. At prayer time, think of something about these four things to thank God for.

DO Sing, play, hum, or listen to "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Sing for Joy, no. 1).

T U E S D A Y

TELL Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had a problem. Tell your family about it. Read Numbers 16:11 together. About whom were these men really complaining? About whom in authority do you sometimes grumble?

PRAY Ask God to help you not to grumble and complain.

DO Write the memory verse on your walking stick, or attach a sign with the verse to the stick. Keep it so you can read it every day.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship, read Numbers 16 and all of 17 with your family. How many staffs did God tell Moses to gather? (Numbers 17:2)

DO Name three people God has put in authority over you. Pray for them today.

DO Take some almonds and attach them to the walking stick that you brought home. You may want to add some artificial flowers and leaves. Keep your stick for this week.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

Only a miracle could make a piece of dried wood have leaves, blossoms, and ripe almonds in one day!



W E D N E S D A Y

DO Tell and explain your lesson story to your family during worship. Did Aaron's walking stick settle the questions about Aaron's right to be priest? Read again Numbers 17:5, 8-11.

READ Read 1 Timothy 6:6. Ask an adult to explain this to you. Talk with your family about learning to accept what happens without grumbling. How will this help when you are playing? Under someone's authority? At other times?

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.



THURSDAY

DO With your family, read Philippians 2:14, 15. Draw a large star and cut it out. On the star, write three reasons not to grumble. Put it where you will see it often.

SHARE Say your memory verse to someone not in your family.

SING Sing "Smile, Smile, Smile" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 107) before prayer. Ask God to help you to keep smiling.

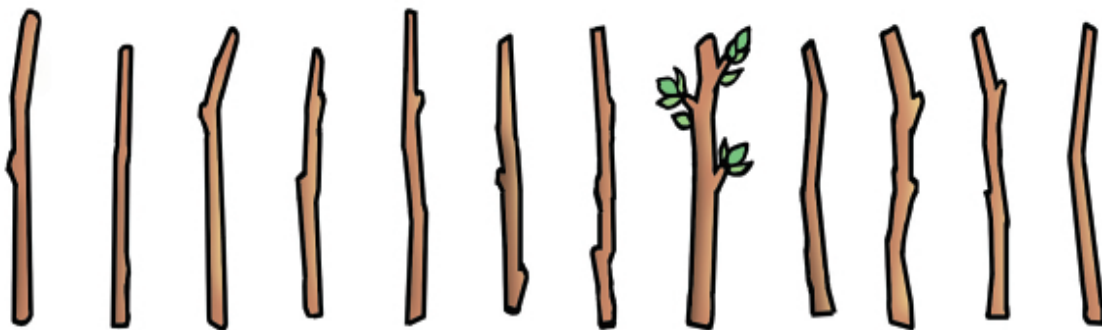
FRIDAY

SING When a president or king arrives to speak to their people, a band usually plays special music. This shows respect. Make music for King Jesus to show love and respect for Him. Sing "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4). While you sing, clap your hands or use rhythm instruments (make some with spoons or sticks).

DO Tell or act out your lesson story for worship. After dark, ask your family to go outside with you to see the stars. Read Philippians 2:14, 15 together. Ask God to help you respect His authority during the Sabbath. Talk about ways to do that.

PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the letters to find out why one stick bloomed.



OGD VOREDP HATT EH SECOH

SSOME DAN ARANO SA AEDLRES.

Water From a Rock?

Numbers 20:1-13; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 411-421

Have you ever run out of water? Imagine how thirsty you would be! You'd probably be upset and cranky.

Years ago God told Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses did. But they had a water problem. This is how it happened.

The Israelites were out of water—again. So they started complaining to Moses—again. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this desert?” they grumbled. “There’s nothing good to eat here. And there’s no water to drink!” They didn’t mumble about this just once or twice. Again and again they complained, their voices growing louder and louder.

How many times had Moses heard that? In fact, the people had complained about having no water 40 years earlier. At that time God had told Moses to strike the rock, and water had gushed out. Gallons and gallons of water had poured out, and it kept pouring out from the rock as long as the people were there.

So here they were again without water. Instead of trusting God to care for their needs, they grumbled and complained. And Moses,

as he always did, turned to God for help. God told Moses to take his staff—his walking stick—and call his brother, Aaron. Then they were to gather all the people together.

“Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water,” God said. (See Numbers 20:6-8.)

Moses had been patient for a long, long time. But after 40 years of listening to the Israelites grumble, he’d had enough. He was



The Message

We worship God
when we trust Him.

Memory Verse

“Trust in the LORD
forever, for the
LORD . . . is the Rock
eternal”

(Isaiah 26:4).

angry. He was tired of their grumbling and complaining. Once more they were showing that they did not trust God. Moses was so irritated that he forgot that it was God who had caused all the miracles to happen. God had caused the water to flow out of the rock 40 years before. Only God could cause it to flow again. But Moses forgot. He felt he was the one who would make the water come from the rock.

“Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” Moses yelled at the people. But he didn’t speak to the rock as God had commanded. He raised his arm and hit the rock twice with his staff. And God made the water gush out.

Moses may have felt quite pleased with himself for a moment. He’d probably wanted to yell at the people for a long time. And it may have felt good to hit that rock. But Moses had given the impression that the power to make the water flow had come from him and Aaron. So, God was dishonored. If Moses had obeyed, it would have reminded the people that although Moses was their leader, he got all his instructions from God.

So God spoke again in His calm, gentle voice. “Moses, you did not trust Me. Not even enough to honor Me as holy in the sight of the Israelites,” God said. “Because of that, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

Immediately Moses realized what he had done. He, too, had forgotten to trust God. He had forgotten for a moment who was really leading Israel.

For 40 years Moses and Aaron had struggled in the wilderness. For 40 years they had led

God’s people. But Moses and Aaron could not go into the Promised Land. The Israelites had to learn that whoever their leader was, that person had to trust God completely and obey all of God’s instructions.

God wants us to honor and worship Him. He wants us to trust Him. He wants us to know that He will be with us every day. We worship Him when we do as He asks. And we worship Him when we trust His leading.





S A B B A T H

READ

God created a waterfall when He provided water from the rock. If possible, sit near a waterfall and read the Bible lesson with your family. Find and read Isaiah 26:4 together.

DO

Ask everyone to tell about a time they were discouraged. Did they trust God to help them? What happened? Ask God to help you trust Him more.

M O N D A Y

THINK

Discuss these questions in family worship: In what situation might you grumble? If you don't like something, what should you do? Read the following verses together: James 5:9; Psalm 142:1, 2; Psalm 37:7; Matthew 18:15; Proverbs 24:6.

DO

Arrange your memory verse "rocks." Read the memory verse aloud five times.

God kept our shoes and clothes from wearing out for 40 years! And we always had manna and enough water.



S U N D A Y

READ

Read together Numbers 20:1-13. With the help of a family member, search the Internet or a book to find out why water is so important. List at least five things that your body uses water for. Find or draw pictures of someone without enough water to drink and someone who's had enough.

DO

Cut some rock shapes from cards or heavy paper. Print a word of the memory verse on each "rock." (Get help, if you need it.) Scramble the "rocks," then put them in order and read the verse to your family.

T U E S D A Y

THINK

In worship today, ask everyone to remember the last time they were angry. Have them tell what they did. Discuss: Why did Moses suffer so greatly because of his anger? (Read Numbers 20:12 together.)

DO

Put your memory verse rock cards in order, then say the verse for your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO

At family worship, make a list of people you trust most, starting with the most at the top. Which of the people on the list are closer to you? Does trusting help you be closer to someone? Read and discuss Proverbs 16:20 together.

SHARE

Say your memory verse to your family.



T H U R S D A Y

TELL

During worship, find Kadesh on a Bible map. Have someone find its distance from Canaan. Measure this distance from your house to a town nearby.

Tell your family this week's Bible story in your own words. What lessons did you learn from this story?

READ

Read Proverbs 3:5 together. Then sing "Trust in the Lord" (Sing for Joy, no. 111).

DO

Show the memory verse rock you made in Sabbath School. Recite the memory verse to the person you show it to.

F R I D A Y

DO

During family worship, play "leading the blind." Before worship starts, help set up an obstacle course somewhere inside or outside your home. When worship starts, blindfold half of your family members. Ask the others to be helpers. Each "helper" will lead the blindfolded partner through the obstacle course. Ask, "Did you trust your 'helper'?" What Helper can you trust most?" Read Psalm 118:6, 7 together. Ask your family to repeat the verse with you.

SHARE

Show the memory verse rock you made in Sabbath School last week. Give each person a rock to hold. Then ask them to tell one way they can trust in God.

PUZZLE

Directions: Do math problems under each line to find out which letter from the code belongs there.

A/B/D/E/G/L/N/O/R/S/T/U/Y
1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13

12-1 6+3 6+6 5+5 12-1

4-3 3+4 2+1

4+4 1+1 2+2 12+1

2+3 9-1 4-1





Nature

God's Second Book

We can find many lessons from God when we study nature. Look closely and listen carefully when you are outside. Ask your parent or teacher about what you see.

Study this picture. Find and circle these objects (some of which are hidden): cloud, fire, stream, Aaron's rod in bud, rock, piece of wood.



Breakfast With the Birds

1 Kings 17:1-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 119-128

Have you ever watched birds eating? What do they eat? If God told you that birds would bring your food, what would you expect? Bird seed? Worms? Some fruit? A long time ago God sent birds to feed a man. Elijah's bird story is about trusting God—always.

Long ago wicked King Ahab ruled the land of Israel. Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any other king (1 Kings 16:30). King Ahab and his queen, Jezebel,

worshipped idols. They led all of Israel to worship idols too. They encouraged the people to disobey the Lord's commands. Jezebel and the prophets of Baal boldly killed the Lord's prophets.

God had a prophet whose name was Elijah. He was from Tishbe, in the land of Gilead, on the other side of the Jordan River. Elijah served God and taught others to worship Him. God was troubled by the idol worship he saw in the land. He knew it encouraged wickedness in Israel.



The Message

God knows my needs;
He cares about me.

Memory Verse

"I am your God. I will
strengthen you and help
you"

(Isaiah 41:10).

The priests of Baal taught the people that Baal sent the rain and dew. They believed Baal also controlled the rivers and streams. Elijah knew that it was God who controlled nature and not Baal. God asked Elijah to deliver a message to King Ahab.

Elijah knew that Ahab didn't want a message from the Lord. He knew, too, that the palace guards would recognize him as a prophet of God. They might try to arrest him. They might even turn Elijah over to Jezebel and her wicked priests of Baal. But in spite of the dangers, Elijah didn't hesitate. He went to Samaria and, without stopping for the guards, marched right into the palace. He walked right up to the king and delivered God's message.

"As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word," Elijah proclaimed. And then he quickly turned and left.

Elijah was not alone when he marched in to see Ahab. Without God's protection he surely would have been stopped by the guards and put to death. But God was with him when he went in. And God was with him as he left.

"Leave here, at once," God told Elijah. "Go eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine. You will find water in the brook there. And I have ordered the ravens to feed you."

And that's exactly what happened. Elijah found a safe, quiet place on a hillside above the brook. Every morning and evening the birds brought food to Elijah. And for many months, Elijah drank water from the brook. As long as the brook flowed, he had water to drink.

Elijah felt safe in God's care. Every time the ravens swooped down, bringing food, Elijah knew that God was giving him the gift of life. And Elijah knew that his life was precious to God.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go to a quiet stream with your family and read the Bible lesson together. Ask: What do ravens look like? Take some bird seed for the birds with you. Thank God for birds.

READ Read the memory verse in Isaiah 41:10.

SING Sing together "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, no. 13)

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, discuss: What kind of person was King Ahab? Read 1 Kings 16:33. Why do you think Elijah needed to hide after giving the king God's message?

DO Play hide-and-seek with your family. Pretend that the person who is "it" is King Ahab or Jezebel. Describe how Elijah hid from the real Ahab and Jezebel. Why couldn't they find him?

DO Cut memory verse words from a magazine or newspaper. Glue them in the right order to a piece of paper. Read the verse aloud.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO During family worship, look at a Bible map that shows Samaria and Kerith Ravine (Cherith Brook). How far might Elijah have traveled before reaching Kerith Ravine? How do you think he felt by this time? Make a picture to show Kerith Ravine and Elijah.

READ Read 1 Kings 17:6. Imagine Elijah drinking from the brook and getting food from the ravens. Talk about the ways God takes care of your family.

DO Say your memory verse together.

S U N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read 1 Kings 17:1-6. Talk about a bad time in your family, and how God cared for all of you.

DO Read your memory verse together. What two things does your memory verse say that God has done or will do for you? Write them here:

1. _____

2. _____

T U E S D A Y

DO During worship ask your family: Have you ever been in a dangerous situation? How did you feel? How do you think Elijah felt? Read Jeremiah 1:19 together.

DO Write the name of someone you know about who is in danger: _____ . With your family, pray for that person. Say or read the memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "You Are My Hiding Place" (He Is Our Song, no. 96). Then thank God for protecting your family.



THURSDAY

DO For family worship, sit in a circle. Tell your family to take off their shoes without bending their elbows. Give them a minute to try. Then choose partners to help each other remove their shoes. What was different this time? Why do we need God's help? Read Psalm 46:1 together. Plan to do something to help someone else today.

DO Say the memory verse out loud, taking one step for each word. How far did you go?

The name Elijah means "Jehovah is my God." All his life Elijah fought for God against Baal.



FRIDAY

SHARE Ask a family member to read Elijah's story (1 Kings 17:1-6) while you act it out.

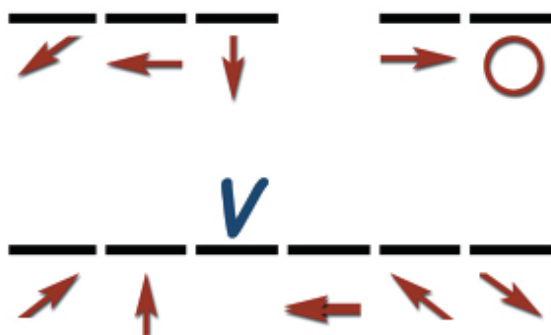
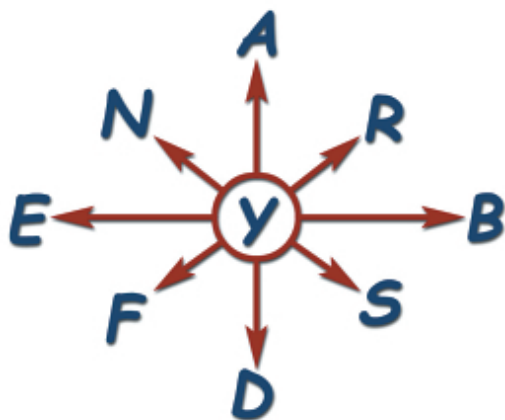
DO Say the memory verse with your family.

SING Sing a song about God's love for you.

DO Ask each family member to tell how God took care of them this week. Then thank God for His care.

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the letter wheel to find out how Elijah received his food for many months. Start in the center of the wheel and follow the direction of the arrows to identify the letters.



Food for One More

1 Kings 17:7-24; Prophets and Kings, pp. 129-131

Kerah was hungry. His family was hungry too. They had not had any food for three days. Their father had gone to try to find something. But he came back with nothing. "I'm sorry," he said. "There is no rice left in our village. It has not rained for many months. Without rain, things will not grow. We may not have any food for a long, long time."

Just when they thought they would die, God sent help. A truck with a sign that said ADRA came to their village. "Rice, rice!" the driver called. "Each family may have one bag of rice!"

Soon each family in the village had enough rice to last for several days. More trucks came during the long months until rain came again.

A long time ago God took care of Elijah in a special way too.

It hadn't rained in Israel in months. The fields were brown and dead. Bare trees stood like skeletons against the hot sky. The rivers and streams had dried up. And finally, even the Brook Kerith, where Elijah had been hiding from



King Ahab, ran dry. But God was still caring for Elijah.

"Go to Zarephath," God said. "I have told a widow there to take care of you." So Elijah left Israel and traveled more than a hundred miles away, to another country. There, at the gate to Zarephath, a widow was gathering sticks.

"Would you please bring me a little water in a jar?" Elijah asked her. "And would you please bring me some bread too?"

The woman had turned to go get the water. But she stopped when Elijah asked for bread. "I don't have any bread," she said. "All I have are a handful of flour and a little oil. I'm gathering

The Message

Even though bad things may happen, I know God loves me.

Memory Verse

*“The God of all
grace . . . will
himself restore
you and make you
strong”*

(1 Peter 5:10).

firewood so I can bake some bread for my son and me. And after we eat that, we will die.”

“Don’t be afraid,” said Elijah. “Go home and make me a small piece of bread. Then make something for yourself and your son. For God says the oil and the flour will not be used up until He sends rain on the land.” (See 1 Kings 17:14.)

This woman was not an Israelite. But she believed in God and placed her faith in Him. She decided to trust God to take care of her needs.

It happened just as Elijah said it would. He went home with her, and she made some bread for him. After that day, whenever she went to bake bread, there was just enough flour and oil. The flour and oil never ran out. The miracle God worked to save Elijah also saved the lives of this woman and her son.

Some time later this woman’s son became sick and died. Her first thought was that God was punishing her. “What do You have against me?” she cried out in her sorrow. “Did You come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

Of course God had not caused the boy to die. God’s grace brings the gift of life. God’s grace had kept all three of them from dying during the famine.

Elijah had been staying in an upstairs room at the widow’s house. He took the boy to that room and cried to God, “O Lord, my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” God answered Elijah’s prayer. At once the boy came back to life.

God cares about the problems in your life too. Even though bad things sometimes happen, God still loves you. He wants you to trust Him. He will take care of your needs, just as He cared for Elijah and for the widow of Zarephath.



S A B B A T H

DO Put some flour in a jar and some cooking oil in another jar. Put these on your dinner table. Set the table with a plate and cup for each person. Put bread on each plate and water in each cup. As you read your Bible lesson together, imagine that you are visiting the widow—eating her bread, drinking water, looking at her miracle oil and flour.

READ Read 1 Peter 5:10 together.

SING Sing “God Is So Good” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13), then thank God for your food.



News that Elijah raised the widow’s son to life spread everywhere. This was something Baal couldn’t do. Now people knew Baal was a false god.

T U E S D A Y

READ During worship, read 1 Kings 17:15. What good thing happened because the widow was willing to share her food? Think of a time you shared with someone and received a blessing yourself. Tell your family about it.

DO Teach these motions to your family as you say the memory verse. God—point up; grace—point to your heart; restore—wave your hands from the top of your head down your body; strong—flex muscles.

PRAY Thank God for your health and strength.

SHARE Find someone with whom to share your grace coupon that you were given in Sabbath School or write on a piece of paper, “Ask me to do something for you,” then sign your name to it.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read 1 Kings 17:7-16. Then make the bread you started in Sabbath School. (In a sealable plastic bag mix together a half cup of flour, a pinch of salt, one teaspoon of water, and two teaspoons of oil. Roll or pat flat. Fry in oil or bake until brown.)

DO Make and decorate a cutout of a big oil jug like the one in your story. Write your memory verse on it. Put it where you will see it every day.

PRAY Thank God for good bread.

M O N D A Y

READ In worship today, read 1 Kings 17:17-24 together. Draw a face to show how the widow felt when her son died. Draw another face to show how she felt when he lived again.

DO Imagine that you have only one slice of bread left. You won’t get more for three days. If someone asks you to share, what will you say?

DO Say your memory verse in your own words. What does the word *grace* mean? Ask God to help you show His grace to others.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO Tell your family the part of your Bible story about the widow’s sick son (1 Kings 17:17-24). Discuss together: Where do bad things such as sickness and death come from? (One of Jesus’ stories in Matthew 13 helps to answer this question. See verses 24, 25, 38, and 39.) Ask your family to explain these verses.

READ Read the memory verse (1 Peter 5:10), but say your name in place of “you.”

PRAY Pray for someone you know who is sick.



THURSDAY

READ

During worship today, read 1 Kings 17:22, 23. Imagine that you are the boy who came back to life. What is the first thing you would say to God? What might you say to your mother?

PRAY

Thank God for giving you grace and life.

DO

Say your memory verse out loud, clapping your hands on each word.

SING

Sing a "Thank-You" song before prayer.

FRIDAY

DO

During worship today, ask your family: In what ways does God's grace make each of us strong? Then read together 2 Corinthians 9:8.

DO

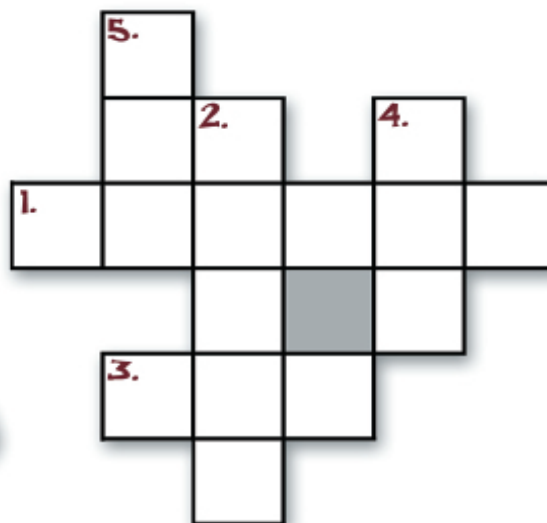
At the top of a piece of paper, write: "I know God loves me." Under that write: "God's grace provides . . ." Then ask each person to list or draw a picture of something God's grace gives you. Across the bottom of the paper, write: "God cares for you and me."

PRAY

Thank God for His many blessings to your family.

PUZZLE

Directions: After looking at the pictures, write the word in the crossword puzzle.



Fire on the Mountain

1 Kings 18:1-39; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 137-154

Jack and Mary were spending a week at camp. They missed home so much. If only they could speak to Mom and Dad, they were sure they would feel better. They called home from the camp office. When Mom answered the phone, they were very happy.

And that's how Elijah felt when God heard his prayer.

Obadiah ran down the path. His robe flapped behind him. "Elijah is here!" he shouted to King Ahab.

King Ahab's face turned red with anger. Elijah was just the man he was looking for! It hadn't rained in Israel for three years. There was almost no food to eat. And it was Elijah's fault. The king hurried to meet Elijah. "There you are—Israel's troublemaker!" he shouted.

Elijah stood tall and unafraid. "I have not made trouble for Israel," he replied.

"You are the troublemaker. You and your family worship Baal's idols instead of the Lord.

"Bring all the people of Israel and all the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel," Elijah went on. "There we will see which is the true God—Baal or the Lord."

So King Ahab called all the people and all the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel.

Elijah stood



The Message

God listens and
answers when I pray.

Memory Verse

**"The LORD hears
when I call to him"**

(Psalm 4:3).

before them. "The prophets of Baal will sacrifice a bull," he said. "They will put it on top of the wood on their altar but not set fire to it. I will sacrifice a bull, too, and put it on top of the wood on my altar. I will not set fire to it either. Baal's prophets will call on the name of their god. I will call on the name of the Lord. The one who answers by setting the wood on fire is the true God."

All the people agreed that this was a fair test.

Elijah looked at the 450 prophets. "You may go first," he said.

The prophets sacrificed their bull and laid it on their altar. Then they began to pray. They called and shouted to Baal all morning, but there was no answer. They began to dance wildly. They even cut themselves with knives to get Baal's attention. But still there was no answer.

In the evening Elijah said, "Now it's my turn." First he repaired the altar and dug a ditch around it. Then he sacrificed his bull and laid it on top of the wood. "Fill four large jars with water and pour them over the offering and the wood," he directed.

People rushed to do as he asked.

"Do the same thing again," Elijah said.

More water was poured over the altar.

"Do it a third time!" Elijah ordered.

This time water ran all over the altar and overflowed the ditch.

Then Elijah bowed his head and prayed. "O Lord, prove today that You are the God of Israel!"

Instantly fire flashed down from heaven. It burned up the bull. It burned up the wood. It even burned up the stones of the altar and the water in the ditch!

The people of Israel fell down on their faces and shouted, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"





S A B B A T H

DO Go with your family to the top of a hill or mountain and read your Bible lesson. Imagine the scene with the two altars and the crowd. Try to build an altar like Elijah's. (See 1 Kings 18:31.)

READ Read Psalm 4:3 together. Teach the verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

SHARE During worship today, ask your family: How do we usually pray? ("Help me"? "Give me"?) Talk about other parts of prayer:

1. Praise (Saying what God is like—merciful, loving.)
2. Confession (Saying that you are sorry for doing wrong.)
3. Thanks (Thanking God for something.)
4. Requests (Asking God to help with something.)

DO Make a prayer booklet. Draw a picture or cut out pictures from magazines to illustrate the four parts. Write the words to Jeremiah 33:3 on the cover. Pray a prayer using all four parts. Say your memory verse to God to end your prayer. Thank God for hearing you.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read 1 Kings 18:1-39. Ask family members to read Elijah's, Ahab's, and the crowd's words. Have someone read the narrative—the part that tells what's happening.

DO If possible, build a bonfire. As you watch the flames, imagine what it was like when God sent fire from heaven.

DO Figure out how many months it hadn't rained. How many days.

SING Make up a tune and sing your memory verse.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:36, 37. What was Elijah's request? Say or sing your memory verse. Then pray together, praising God, confessing your mistakes, thanking God, and finally, presenting your requests.

DO Write or draw a picture of a prayer request you have. Decorate a "prayer box" and put your requests and your thanks there each day.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read 1 Kings 18:38. God has three types of answers to our prayers: 1. Yes. 2. No. 3. Wait. How did God answer Elijah's prayer?

DO With your family, discuss a time God said "Yes" to a prayer request, a time God said "No," and a time He said "Wait." Ask God to help you understand when He is saying yes, no, or wait.

SING Sing "A Little Talk With Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 98).



THURSDAY

READ

With your family, read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. When do you usually pray? When are good times to pray? In what places have you prayed? List three places here:

DO

Draw a clock face on heavy paper and put it where you will see it every day. Let this symbol help you remember that you can talk to God any time and any place. Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (Sing for Joy, no. 96).

DO

Sing or say your memory verse together.

FRIDAY

DO

Role-play Elijah on Mount Carmel for family worship. God answered Elijah's prayers in two different ways. Read 1 Kings 18:38, 45. First, He sent _____ from heaven, and then He sent _____ from heaven.

DO

Say your memory verse. Then set an empty chair in your family circle. Pretend that Jesus is there. Open the prayer box that you made on Tuesday. Each family member can take a request and tell it to Jesus. Talk to Him like a friend.

PRAY

Close with Jesus' special prayer. Say or read the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

PUZZLE

Directions: Find out why Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Color the picture. Then write the letters that have a dot on the lines.



Maybe Elijah got water from springs on Mount Carmel that never dry up even in a drought. Maybe he sent for water from the nearby sea.



God's Gentle Whisper

1 Kings 19:1-18; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 167-176

One night Shanika was alone in her bedroom trying to go to sleep. Every shadow seemed to move. She felt afraid. Then her mother came into the room. Her gentle voice helped Shanika calm down.

A long time ago God's prophet Elijah became frightened too. Then God spoke to him in a quiet voice.

Elijah was running for his life. King Ahab's wife, the wicked Queen Jezebel, was trying to kill him. Elijah was so scared that he had forgotten that God could protect him from the wicked queen. Instead, for 40 days he ran hundreds of miles into the desert. Finally he came to Mount Horeb. There he hid in a cave.

"What are you doing here?" God asked him. You can tell Elijah felt sorry for himself by the way he answered God. "I have worked very hard for You, Lord," he said. "The Israelites have rejected You. They have broken down Your altars and killed Your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me too."

Elijah was telling God: "I worked hard for You. See how tired and discouraged I feel?"

So God replied: "Go stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." This was God's way of saying, "Elijah, come here. I want to talk to you."

Elijah did as God said. Then a great wind tore through the mountains and shattered the



The Message

*I will listen to
God's gentle whisper.*

Memory Verse

*"Your ears will
hear a voice . . .
saying, 'This is the
way; walk in it'"*
(Isaiah 30:21).

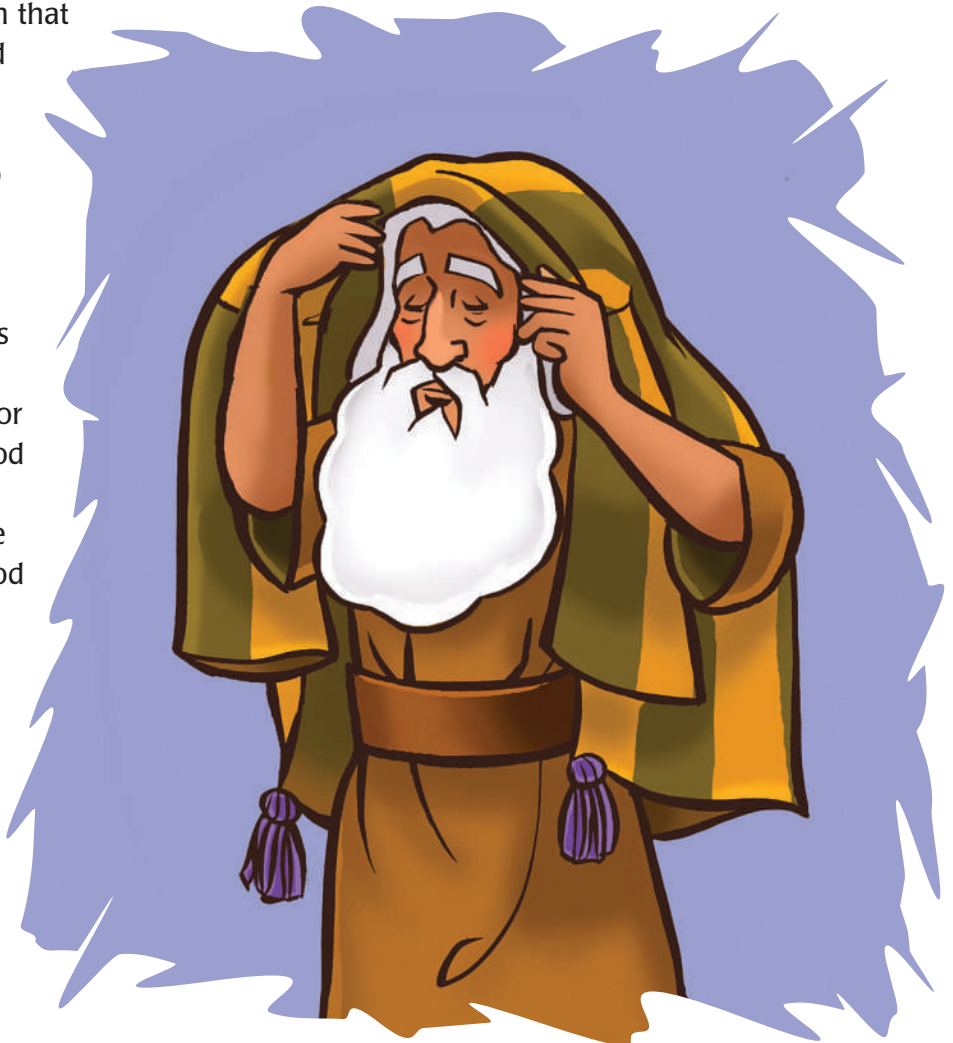
rocks. But Elijah didn't get up, because he didn't hear God's voice in the wind. God was not in the strong wind.

Next an earthquake shook the mountain. But Elijah still didn't get up. He didn't hear God in the earthquake. After the earthquake a terrible fire swept by. But still Elijah didn't hear God's voice. God was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire.

After all those powerful forces of nature, a gentle whisper came. Some Bible translations call it a "still small voice." And in that gentle whisper Elijah recognized God's voice. He pulled his coat over his face. Then he stood at the cave entrance to listen to God.

Again God asked Elijah the same question. "What are you doing here?" And Elijah gave his same "poor-me" answer.

God wasn't angry at Elijah for giving up and running away. God wasn't angry because Elijah forgot to trust Him. God's gentle whisper spoke of God's love. God loved Elijah, even when he felt sorry for himself. Gently God encouraged the tired prophet. Then He sent him back to work. And God assured Elijah that he was not alone. And he wasn't, for God still had 7,000 faithful worshippers in Israel.



S A B B A T H

READ Go outdoors with your family to a quiet place. Have someone read the lesson story in a quiet voice. Imagine Elijah listening to God's gentle whisper.

DO Then walk down a path together. Ask someone to walk behind you and read your memory verse aloud (Isaiah 30:21). If you were lost, how would your memory verse make you feel?

SING Sing together "Anywhere With Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 45).

M O N D A Y

READ What question did God ask Elijah—twice? With your family read it in 1 Kings 19:9 and 13.

DO Make a question mark (?) shaped cutout and write God's question on it. Read Elijah's answer (1 Kings 19:10) with sadness and crying in your voice. Continue Elijah's sad tale of pity in your own words (see 1 Kings 19:11-14).

DO Listen to your recorded memory verse with the volume on low—to remind you of God's still, small voice. Whisper it from memory.

T U E S D A Y

DRAW With your family, read 1 Kings 19:11-13 again. Draw pictures of the four great things that happened while Elijah was in the cave.

DO Discuss together: If you were Elijah, what would you rather hear? A loud voice or a soft voice? What does God's way of speaking in this story tell us about His love?

DO Whisper your memory verse together.

S U N D A Y

SHARE During family worship, read the lesson story in 1 Kings 19:1-18. Why did Elijah feel afraid and sorry for himself? What did God do to help him feel better? (verses 5-7).

DO Think of a time you felt afraid or sorry for yourself. How did God help you? Act it out. Draw a face of someone who has suddenly heard a loud voice.

DO If possible, record your memory verse. If not, whisper it to yourself. Teach the verse to your family.

When Elijah was afraid and ran, God wasn't angry. God still took very good care of him. God even sent Elisha to work with Elijah so he wouldn't feel alone anymore.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During worship today, think of God's gentle whisper. Tell three ways you can hear His voice. Talk about conscience. What is it? How can it help you? Who speaks through your conscience? Does it ever tell you to do wrong? Read in Acts 24:16 what Paul said about his conscience.

DO Draw the shape of an ear and write the memory verse inside it. Then thank God that you can hear His voice.

THURSDAY

READ

Sometimes God speaks in a big way. With your family, read one example in Exodus 19:16-19. Discuss: Do you think God will speak to you in a loud voice? Why? How can you make sure you don't miss God's voice? Have you heard His voice or felt His presence? When and where? Read 1 Kings 19:15-18 together.

DO Write or draw about something you heard and acted on today.

DO Ask your family to whisper your memory verse with you. Then thank God for speaking gently to you.

FRIDAY

DO

Start family worship by acting out this week's Bible story. Talk about things that keep you from hearing God's voice. Read together Psalm 46:10. Then play soft music. Ask everyone to close their eyes and say, "Be still, and know that I am God." Pay attention to thoughts God puts in your mind. After a while, stop the music. What did you learn from this quiet time? Was it easier to listen to God's voice? Why?

DO

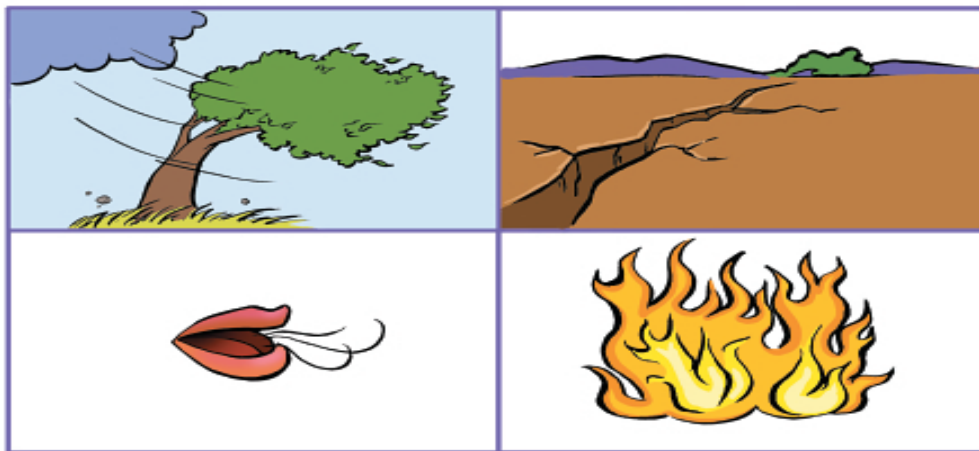
Ask your family to whisper your memory verse with you.

SING

Sing "Teach Me, Lord" (Sing for Joy, no. 110) before prayer

PUZZLE

Directions: First, circle the picture that best shows how Elijah heard the voice of God. Then finish drawing Elijah's face when he finds out how many other people also love God.



Up, Up, and Away

2 Kings 2:1-15; Prophets and Kings, pp. 225-228

But I've prayed about it and asked God to give it to me," Burt complained to his older sister. "You know we don't always get what we want. If it's God's will for you to have it, you'll get it," Martha explained.

"How do you know?" asked Burt.

"Let me tell you what I read in the Bible about Elijah and Elisha. Then you will understand too."

God had something wonderful planned for Elijah. God wanted to take him straight to heaven without dying first. This was a special honor that God had given to only one other person—Enoch.

Elisha was Elijah's assistant. Elisha knew that soon the prophet Elijah would end his work and it would be Elisha's time to carry on. Many of the prophets who worked with them also knew that Elijah would soon be leaving them. God's gentle voice had told them so.

One day Elijah took Elisha on a last journey to visit God's schools of the prophets. The prophets in these schools were asking Elisha, "Did you know God is going to take Elijah today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha said. The thought of losing Elijah the

prophet filled Elisha with sadness. He was probably a little nervous about taking over Elijah's work too.

Elijah also knew he would soon be leaving Elisha. So he gave his helper a test. At each school they visited, Elijah told Elisha, "Stay here. I need to go on."

But each time Elisha insisted on going too.



The Message

God's grace is the
gift of eternal life.

Memory Verse

*"The wages of sin
is death, but the
gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus
our Lord"*

(Romans 6:23).

He didn't want to let Elijah out of his sight. He wanted to be with him till the last moment. "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you," Elisha said. So the two of them walked on.

Soon they came to the Jordan River. Elijah took off his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water with it. The water parted, and the two men walked across on dry ground. On the other side it was time to say goodbye. "What can I do for you before I am taken from you?" Elijah asked Elisha.

Elisha could have asked for a lot of things. He could have asked for money. He could have asked to be famous. But instead he asked for a special blessing. "Let me inherit a double portion of your Spirit," he answered. He knew that the only way he could do the work he had been called to do was with extra help from God.

"If you see me when I am taken up from you, it will be yours; otherwise not," Elijah said, and they kept walking.

Then suddenly a chariot and horses of fire appeared and separated the two men. Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha called after him, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" But Elijah was gone. Elisha tore his clothes to show his sorrow at losing his teacher and friend.

Then Elisha saw Elijah's coat where it had fallen. He picked it up and walked back to the Jordan River. Rolling up the coat, Elisha hit the water with it, just as Elijah had done. Again the waters parted, and Elisha walked across on dry ground. God had indeed given Elisha the gift of His Spirit.

God wants to give us good gifts too. His very best gift is the gift that He gave Elijah, the gift

of eternal, forever life. And like Elisha, we have to ask for the gift. We have to keep our eyes on Jesus. And we have to believe our prayers have been answered and act in faith. We have to believe just as Elisha did when he hit the water with Elijah's coat.



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, read the Bible lesson story with your family near a river. Try acting it out. Elisha stayed with Elijah everywhere he went. Whom should we follow today?

SING Sing together "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 119). Then ask Jesus to help you follow Him.

READ Read Romans 6:23 together and teach the verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

DO For family worship, wrap a gift box with pretty paper and a bow. Label it "Forever Life." Leave it where you can see it all week. Let it remind you of God's gift of eternal life to all who love and follow Jesus.

READ In your Bible find and read 1 John 5:11. Together, thank God for offering you such a wonderful gift.

DO How many round things can you find in your house? How do they remind you of eternal life?

DO Play "Beanbag Toss."

T U E S D A Y

DO During worship today, read 2 Kings 2:6, last part. How many times did Elisha repeat his promise, "I will not leave you"? (See 2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6.) Say the promise to each member of your family. Put each person's name at the beginning.

SHARE Discuss with your family: What seems longer to you, an hour doing chores or an hour with your friends? How would you like to be with your friends forever? Eternal life will be like that. Tell God that you choose to be with Him forever.

DRAW Draw a circle. How does a circle remind you of "forever" and "eternal life"? Write the memory verse inside your circle.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read the lesson story in the Bible (2 Kings 2:1-15).

DO Divide a large piece of cardboard into the number of squares equal to the number of words in the memory verse. Have a family member help you print one word of the verse in each square. Print the reference in a square of its own. Now you can play "Beanbag Toss." Toss a beanbag onto the squares in the correct order of the memory verse. Let your family members have a turn. Play this game all week.

When Elisha asked for a double part of Elijah's spirit, he was asking for the power he needed to be God's prophet.



W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship, take turns telling about a time when someone gave you a wonderful gift. Discuss: Why did they give it to you? What kind of a gift does God offer us? Read 1 John 5:11 together. What does this tell you about God? Read 1 John 4:9.

DO Play "Beanbag Toss" to review your memory verse.

SING Sing "John 3:16" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 24).

THURSDAY

READ

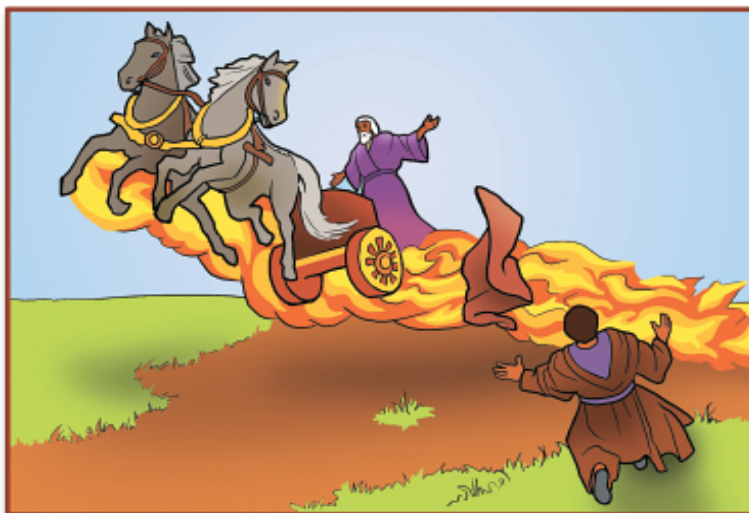
Use today's family worship time to celebrate the reason that we have the gift of eternal life. Read John 3:16 and Philippians 2:8-11. What did you learn about God's greatest gift to us? Sing "O, How He Loves You and Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 28).

DO

To review the memory verse, snap your fingers or clap your hands in rhythm with the words.

PUZZLE

Directions: Find the five things that are different in the second picture.



FRIDAY

DO

For Friday evening worship, give each other a special love gift. Stand in a circle and rub each other's backs. Then turn inward and hug each other. While still in this position, say the memory verse.

READ

Read 2 Kings 2:11 together. Imagine what Elijah did when he first arrived in heaven. Pass the "gift" you made on Monday to a family member. Ask that person to tell what he/she wants to do when first arriving in heaven. That person passes the "gift" to the next person, who does the same thing.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for His forever gift of forever life.

SING

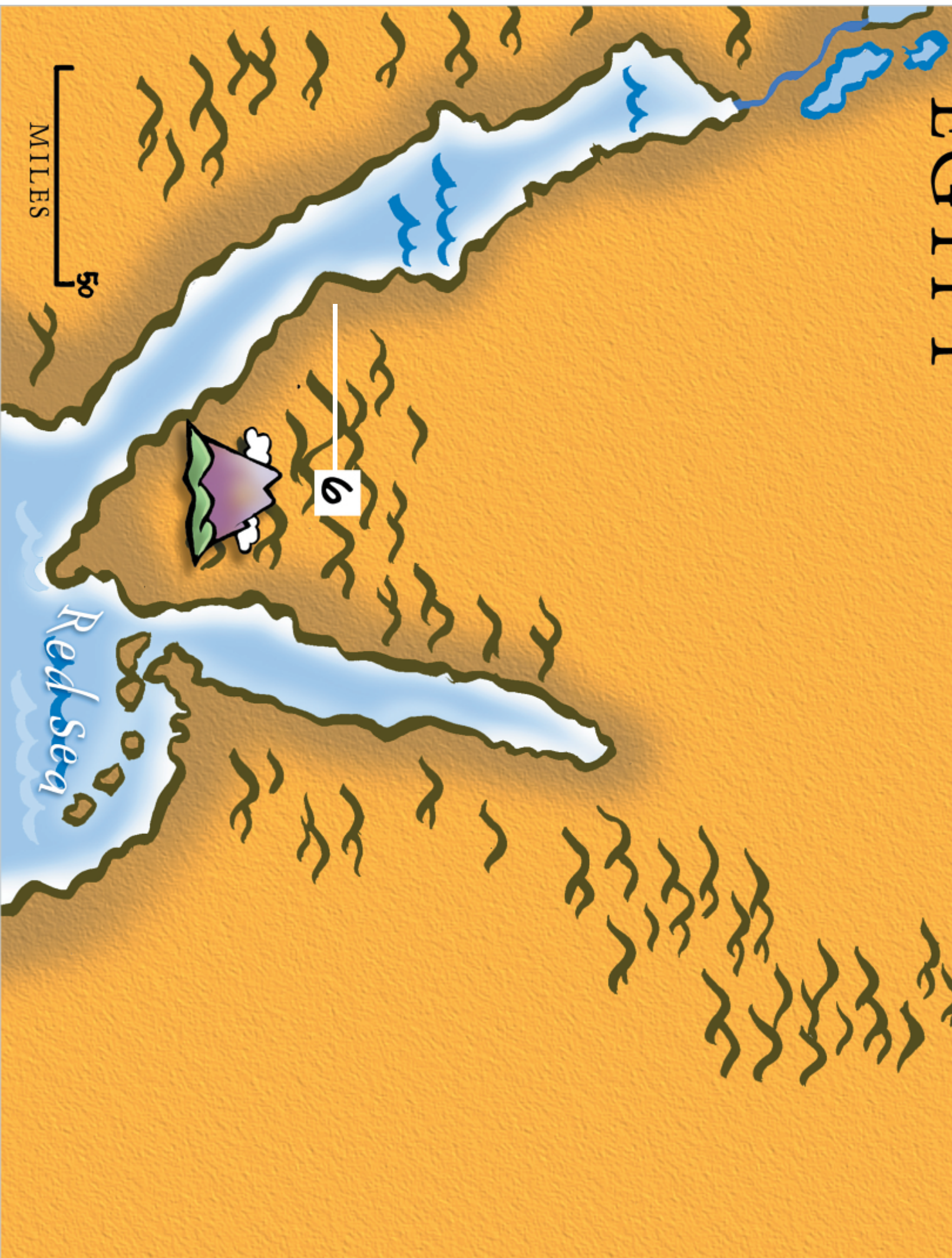
Sing "For God So Loved the World" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 26).

EGYPT

50
MILES

6

Red Sea



Mediterranean Sea

In Elijah's Footsteps

As a prophet of God, Elijah traveled throughout Israel and Judah. He urged people to turn from pagan gods. Elijah's experience teaches us that grace is the gift of life.

Directions: Find seven places that Elijah visited. Read the Bible texts listed below and match them with numbers on the map. Write the names of the places beside the number on the map.

1. 1 Kings 17:1
2. 1 Kings 16:29
3. 1 Kings 17:2-4
4. 1 Kings 17:7-9
5. 1 Kings 18:19
6. 1 Kings 19:8
7. 2 Kings 2:11-15



EGYPT

B



My Memory Verses



1. "Forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35).
2. "God does not show favoritism" (Acts 10:34).
3. "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers" (1 Peter 2:17).
4. "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).
5. "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands" (Psalm 119:10).
6. "I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart" (Psalm 138:1).
7. "Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" (Revelation 14:7).
8. "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD . . . is the Rock eternal" (Isaiah 26:4).
9. "I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10).
10. "The God of all grace . . . will himself restore you and make you strong" (1 Peter 5:10).
11. "The LORD hears when I call to him" (Psalm 4:3).
12. "Your ears will hear a voice . . . saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).
13. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

B



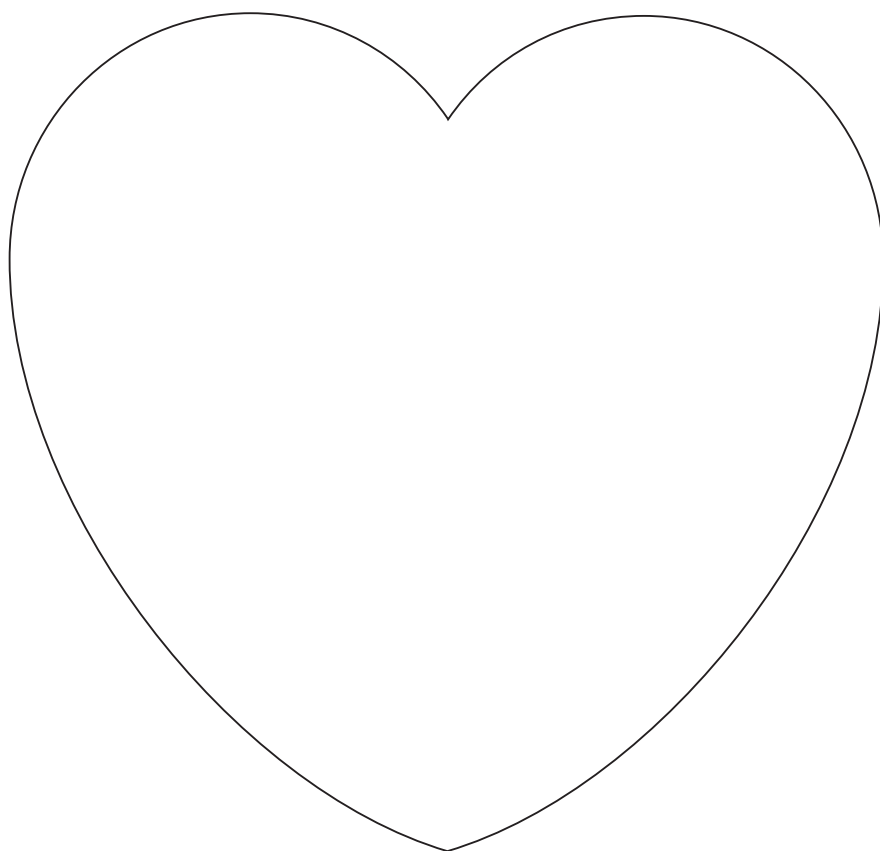
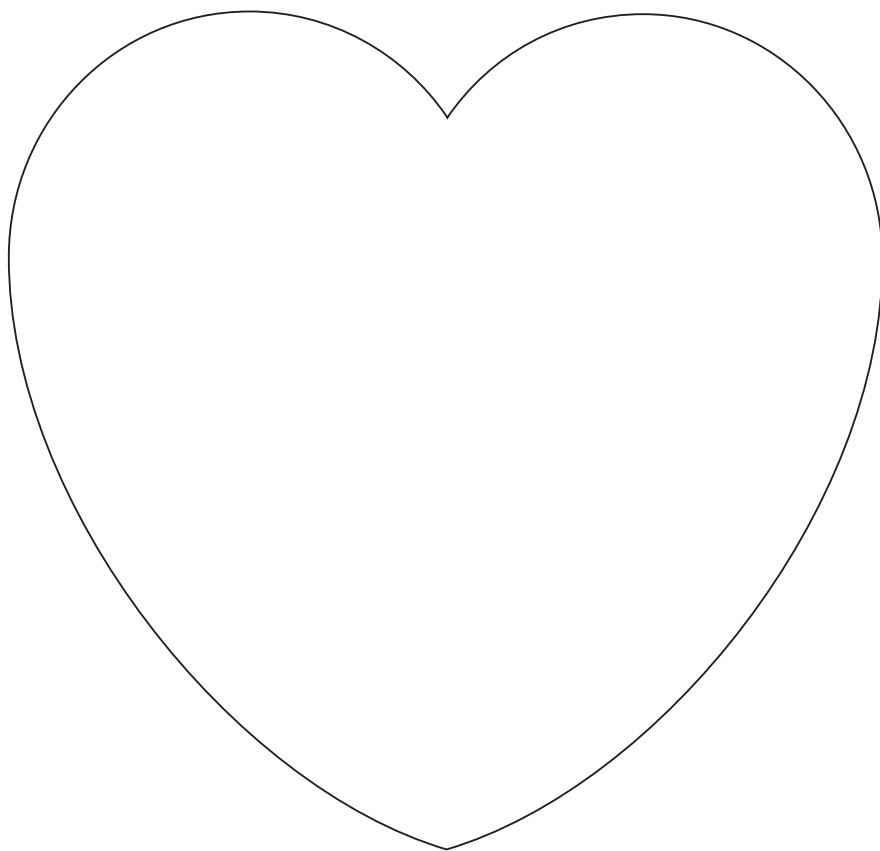
SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH



EPQ250401



For Lesson 1, page 12—Readiness Activity A; page 17—Sharing the Lesson.



Because I want to treat you as God does, this coupon entitles you to ask me to do the following for you when you have other things you need or want to do: _____.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Because I want to treat you as God does, this coupon entitles you to ask me to do the following for you when you have other things you need or want to do: _____.

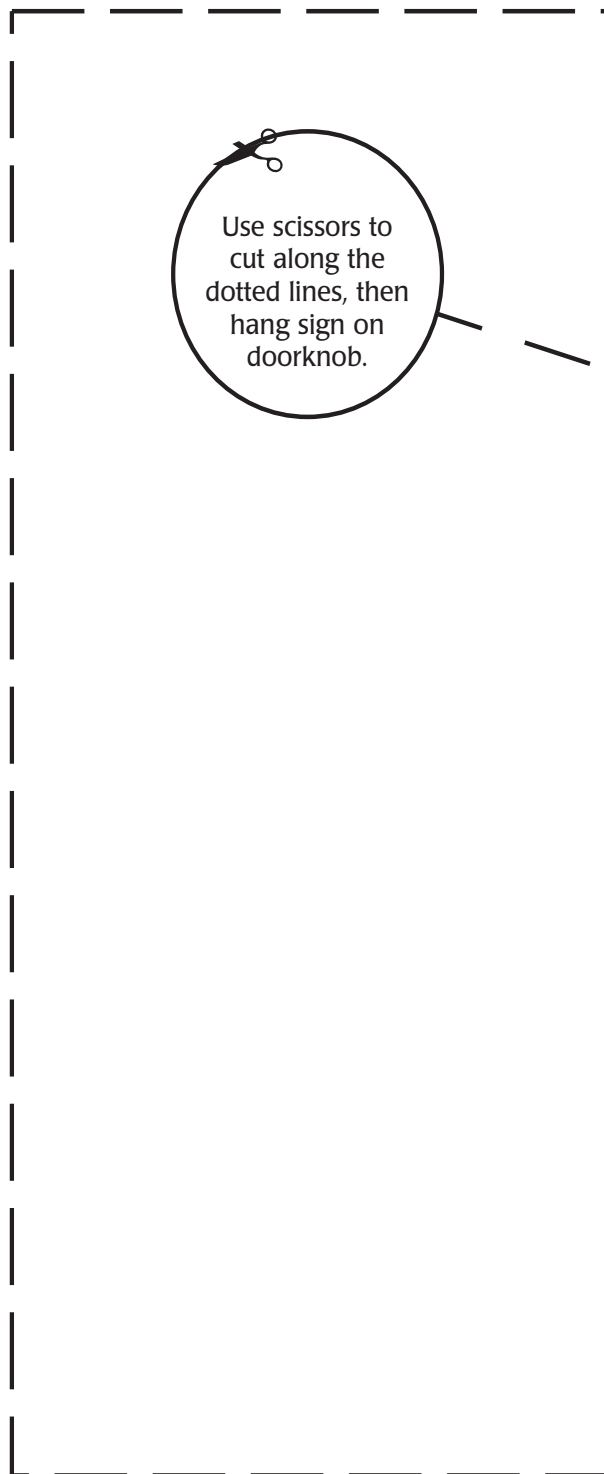
Signed: _____

Date: _____

Because I want to treat you as God does, this coupon entitles you to ask me to do the following for you when you have other things you need or want to do: _____.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



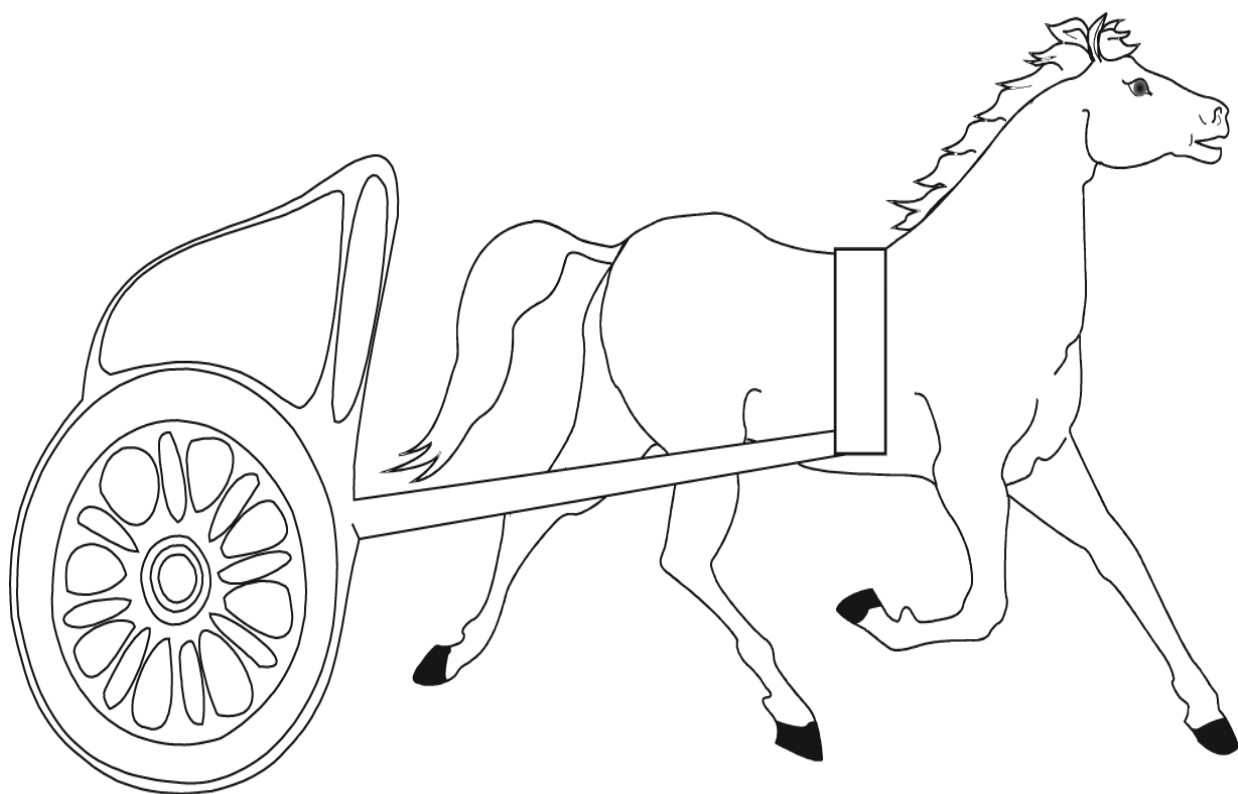
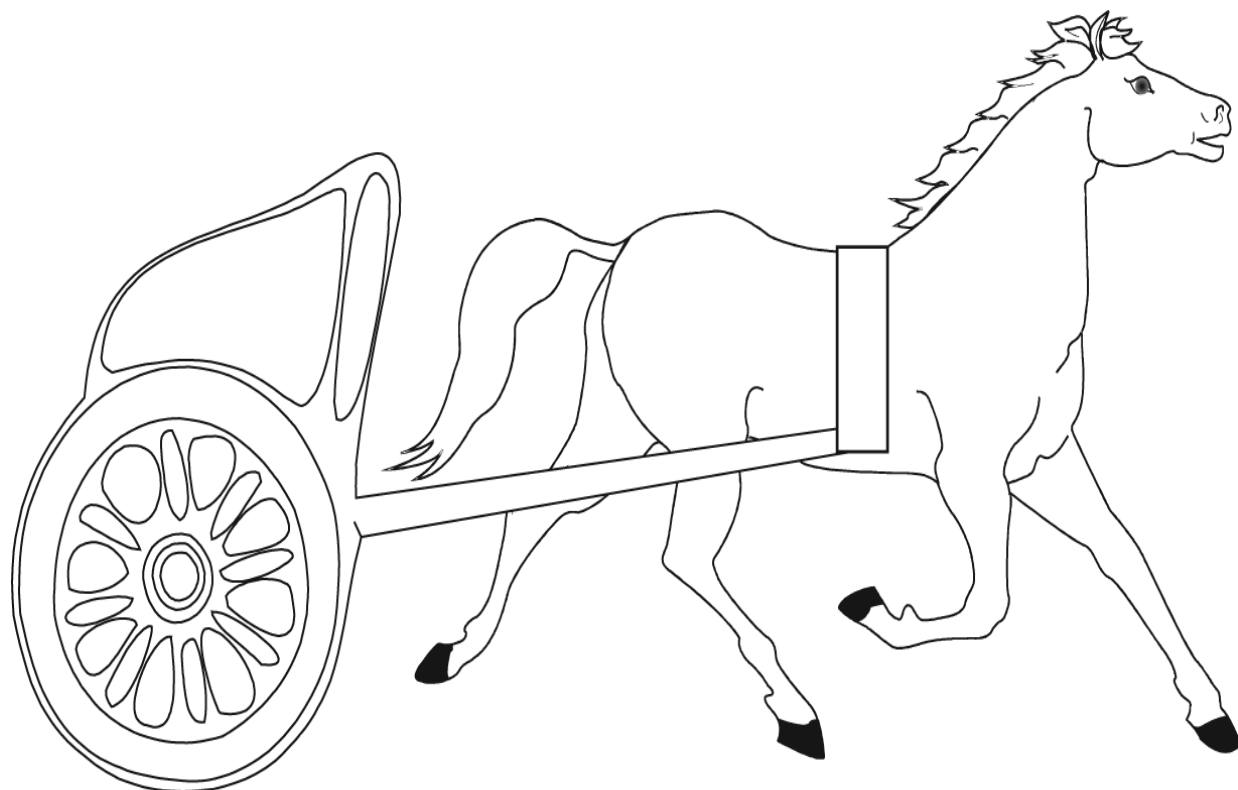
Grace Coupon

This entitles you to _____, a service offered willingly and without price by me. This service and God's grace are free.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Lesson 13, page 133—Prayer.



For Lesson 13, page 136—Applying the Lesson.



For Lesson 6, page 63—Prayer.

