

YEAR 1 BOOK 4

JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



THEME:

God's Chosen People

The Righteous Heart

“The labor of the righteous leads to life, the wages of the wicked to sin.” (Proverbs 10:16)

*“The Lord hears the
prayer the righteous.”*

Proverbs 15:29

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood
and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When He shall come with trumpet sound. Oh,
may I then in Him be found; dressed in His righteous-
ness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

(Edward Mote)

*“Get all the advice
you can, and you will
succeed; without it
you will fail.”*

Proverbs 15:22

CONTENTS



BIBLE READING FOR THIS QUARTER

1. Num 13, 14; Deut 12, 28
2. Deut 6, 7, 8, 9
3. Josh; Deut 4, 19
4. Judges, Ruth
5. 1 Sam
6. 2 Sam 1, 6, 22
7. 1 Kgs 8, 12, 16–19
8. 2 Kgs
9. 2 Chron 2, 3, 19
10. Ez 3, 9, 10
11. Neh 1, 4, 13
12. Esth 4, 6, 8

YEAR 1 BOOK 4

Unit 1: Out of Egypt into Canaan

1. Introduction to the Holy Land 1
2. The Chosen Israelites 3
3. The Book of Joshua 6
4. The Books of Judges and Ruth 9

Unit 2: The Kingdom of Israel Established

5. The Book of 1 Samuel 13
6. The Book of 2 Samuel 16
7. The Book of 1 Kings 18
8. The Book of 2 Kings 22
9. The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles 25
10. The Book of Ezra 28
11. The Book of Nehemiah 32
12. The Book of Esther 34

God's
Chosen
People

UNIT THEMES:

Unit 1: Out of Egypt into Canaan

After an arduous struggle against the Pharaoh, with God showing His magnificent prowess against the Egyptians, the Israelites finally left the land of bondage. Out in the wilderness, they went through many ups and downs of faith before finally arriving at the banks of the Jordan, with the promised land right before them. In this unit, the students will study about the features of the promised land (Holy Land) and the first wars the Israelites had to fight to secure the land. As with other past experiences, it is through obedience to God's commandments and total reliance on

God that victories can be wrought. This should be the take-home message for the students. The beautiful land of Canaan was promised to the Israelites by God. From the terrain and climate, we can see that indeed, the providence of God is marvelous. The leadership of Joshua and his unwavering faith towards God is worthy of emphasis to the students. The battle of Jericho and the battle at Ai are two contrasting examples that illustrate the importance of unquestioning obedience to God's commandments.

Unit 2: The Kingdom of Israel Established

The choices we make in life can have far-reaching effects on our future and even future generations. It is important therefore to carefully consider all our decisions. God had direct sovereign rule over the Israelites, but they chose to be ruled by a king instead. As it turns out, and as the prophet Samuel forewarned them, they went through much suffering under kings who were wicked. With some kings, the whole nation was even brought to idol-worshiping before the sight of God.

In these lessons, the students will study the works and lives of some prophets and kings. An overarching pattern can be seen: Those who obey

God prosper. Whenever the people turn away from God, they put their own lives and security in jeopardy. From the lives of the good kings who failed (like David) and the deeds of the evil kings, the students should understand the importance of a consistent life of enduring in God's words.

MEMORY VERSES FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

1. "If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'" (Num 14:8)
2. "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." (Deut 7:6)
3. "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it." (Josh 1:8)
4. "Entreat me not to leave you or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, your God shall be my God." (Ruth 1:16)
5. "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams." (1 Sam 15:22)
6. "God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places." (2 Sam 22:33, 34)
7. "Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built." (1 Kgs 8:27)
8. "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments." (Ps 112:1)
9. "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." (2 Chron 15:2)
10. "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." (Zech 4:6)
11. "For if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer" (Ps 66:18, 19)
12. "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esth 4:14)



Have you ever dreamed of going to a place where things would be very different from where you now live, where you believe that things will be even better than what you are now experiencing? What type of a place is that?

How does God feature in this dream of yours? What do you think your relationship with God will be like over there? How would you keep God's commandment or live out His teachings in the new place?

1. Coastal Plains

- Plain of Philistia
- Plain of Sharon
- Plain of Acco
- Plain of Jezreel

2. Central Mountains

- Mount Tabor and the hill of Moreh
- Region of Ephraim/Samaria
- Region of Judea
- Region of Shephelah
- Negeb

3. The Jordan River

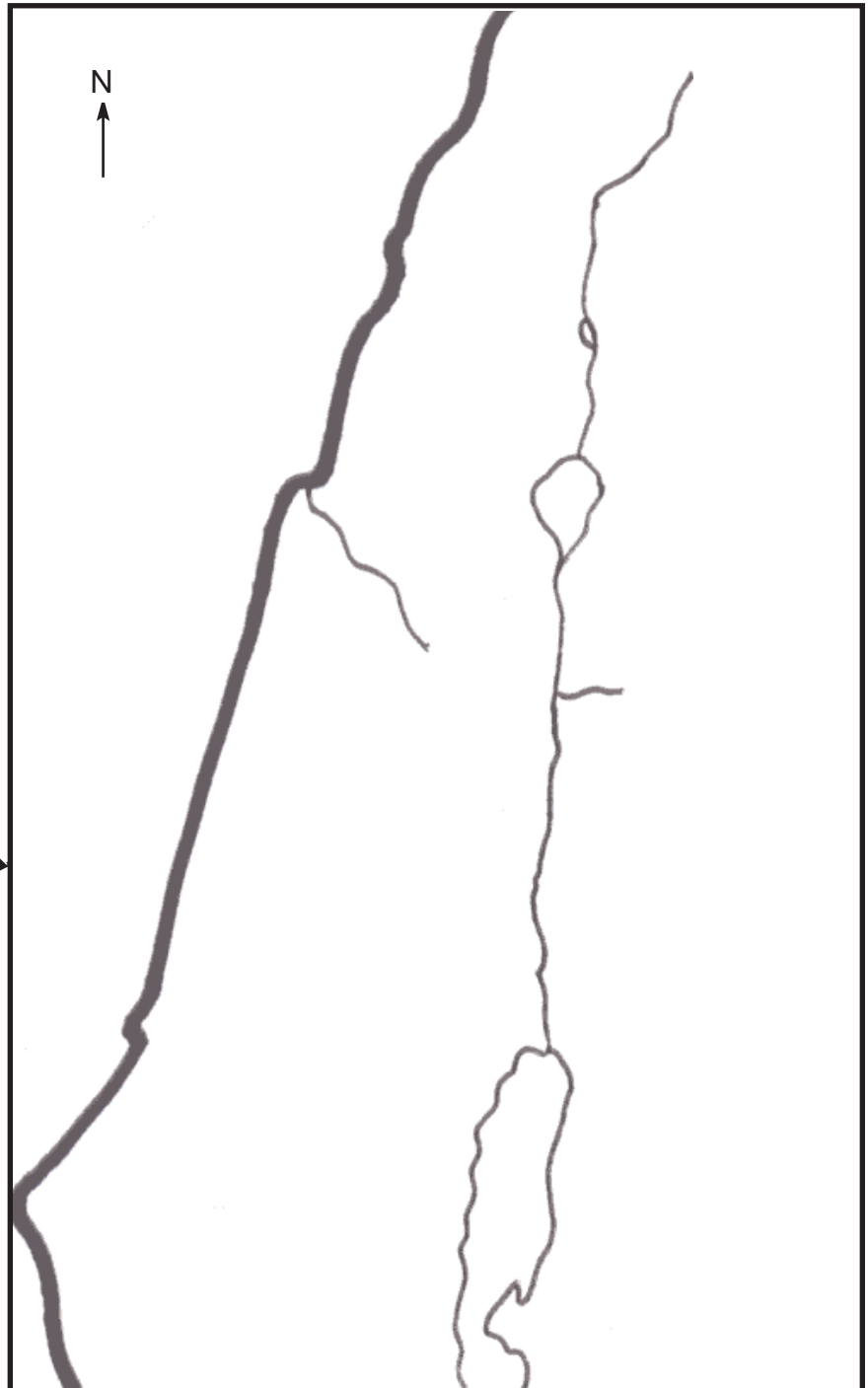
4. East of the River

- Highlands of Bashan
- Gilead
- Moab



Locate and label the following places on the map.

- Plain of Sharon
- Plain of Philistia
- Sea of Galilee
- Salt Sea/Dead Sea
- Region of Judea
- Negeb
- Samaria (Ephraim)
- Bashan
- Gilead
- Moab



God's Deliverance

Write down some of your personal experiences with God that parallel the deliverance of God for the Israelites. What type of "Egyptian bondage" were you in? What kind of "land flowing with milk and honey" were you delivered into? After writing it down, share your experiences with your classmates. Below are guidelines for you:

Personal experiences of God's deliverance

You can talk about physical deliverance such as being saved from a car accident. You can also talk about emotional and spiritual experiences such as deliverance from anxiety, worry or sadness.

Deliverance from "Egyptian bondage"

Egypt is often likened to the secular world that entices Christians with many pleasures of this life. Talk about some of the present-day Egyptian bondage that you see around you. You may also want to talk about those that you are currently struggling with, such as the lure of TV, parties, Internet games and chat rooms.

Land flowing with milk and honey

If we walk closely with the Lord Jesus Christ, we can experience "heaven on earth." Talk about some of your experiences of "heaven on earth" or "land flowing with milk and honey," where you felt very close to God and could savor the sweetness of the closeness with Him.

Personal experiences of God's deliverance

Deliverance from "Egyptian bondage"

Land flowing with milk and honey

The Chosen Israelites

How do you think the Israelites were different from other people, in terms of their religious and moral codes? What about their daily aspects of living? In what ways were they likely similar, and in what ways were they different?

Religious Aspects

- ✓ Monotheism
- ✓ The Priesthood
- ✓ The Feasts
- ✓ The Holy Sabbath

Daily Practical Living

- ✓ Nomadic pasturing, farming
- ✓ Wheat was the most basic crop; grapes, olives and figs were the most representative fruits

Moral and Familial Codes

- ✓ Close relatives were not to be married (Lev 18:7-18).
- ✓ Not to intermarry with gentiles (Deut 7:3, 4).
- ✓ Divorce was permitted only in circumstances of sexual immorality (Deut 24:1, 2).
- ✓ Children were esteemed as an inheritance from God (Ps 127:3).
- ✓ The eldest man would be the head of the tribe.
- ✓ Each family would share a tent, with the parents and the unmarried children living together.

1. In what ways were the Israelites separated as a distinct people from the rest of the peoples?

2. List the seven major feasts.

3. What were the two most important reasons for keeping the Sabbath (Ex 20:11; Deut 5:15)?



4. What were some of the things that the Israelites did for their livelihood?



God's Love

An article in the National Geographic, entitled "Under His Wings" provides a penetrating picture of God's wings of protection: After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived

and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live. "He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge" (Ps 91:4). Being loved this much so should make a difference in your life. Remember the One who loves you and then, be different because of it.

The story we've just read draws a parallel between the love of God and the love of the mother bird. Indeed, God's love for us is one that brings Him down from His glorious throne to come into the world to save us through His own death. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows . . . He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities" (Is 53:4, 5). God loves us so much, that in order to save us from the Evil One, from death, He bore our sins and suffered in our stead. It is a love almost unfathomable, and it's so amazing, for God became a human being and died for us!

What is Crucifixion? (A medical doctor provides a physiological description)

The crossbeam is placed on the ground and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square wrought iron nail through the wrist deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arm too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement. The beam and the man are then lifted into place on the upright timber. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified.

As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain – the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of his feet.

As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through his muscles, knotting them with deep relentless and throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath.

Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. There are hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, and searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down against rough timber. Then another agony begins: a crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart.

It is now almost over. The loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level. The compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues. The tortured lungs are making frantic efforts to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues. Finally, he allows his body to die.

The Bible describes the crucifixion of Jesus in simple words: "they crucified Him" (Mk 15:24). This is the pain and suffering that God brought upon Himself when He chose to come and die as a human being for us. What wondrous love is this? Write a paragraph each for the following questions, and then share it with the rest of your class.

1.

Knowing that we're being loved this much should make a difference in our lives – what are some of the things we want to do so our Lord Jesus would have not suffered in vain for us?

2.

Have we ever realized the great love behind our election as His special chosen people? What can we do to stand out as His special people in today's world?

3.

In which aspects of our lives and to what extent can we adopt the ways of our peers at school and in society?

4.

How can we tell this great story of love to the rest of the world? How do we do it in our immediate spheres of influence, such as our schools and homes?

Part 1. An Outline

a. Conquest of Canaan (1–12)

- Prologue and account of God's designation of Joshua as Moses' successor (1)
- Spies in Jericho (2)
- Crossing of the Jordan and camping at Gilgal (3–5)
- Fall of Jericho (6)
- Achan's sin and conquest of Ai (7–8:29)
- Covenant on Mt. Ebal (8:30–8:35)
- Treaty with the Gibeonites (9)
- Conflict with the Amorite kings and the southern campaign (10)
- The northern campaign (11:1–15)
- Summary of the occupation (11:16–12:24)

b. Division of the land (13–21)

- Prologue and account of the unconquered lands, as well as a summary of the territory on the other side of the Jordan (13)
- Allotments of Judah, Ephraim and (Western) Manasseh (14–17)
- Allotments of Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan (18–19)
- Cities of refuge and Levitical cities (20–21)

c. Final words of encouragement (22–24)

- Dismissal of the 2 1/2 tribes east of the Jordan (22)
- Covenant at Shechem (24:1–28)
- Graves of Joshua, Joseph and Eleazar (24:29–33)

Part 2. A Comparative Study- Jericho and Ai

- a.
 - i. Outline the instructions given by God regarding the daily marches around Jericho. What were some of the difficulties that might have made complete obedience to these instructions difficult?
 - ii. Compared to the instructions given for the battle of Jericho, what was God's requirement for the Israelites at the battle of Ai?
- b.
 - i. Rahab and Achan can be contrasted. In what ways was Rahab a wise woman? In what ways was Achan a foolish man?
 - ii. What happened to each of these two people?
- c. What parallels can we see today in our lives compared with those of Rahab and Achan when they were faced with a choice to obey or disobey God?

Part 3.

Further Conquests

Part 4.

Division of Land

Part 5.

Cities of Refuge

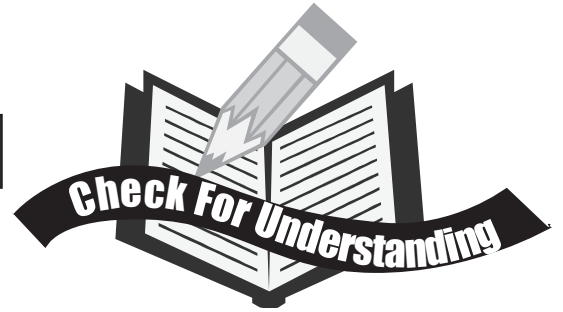
The Book of Joshua

1.

Which books in the Bible are conventionally classified as history books? What are their main contents?

2.

Recapitulate the main contents of the book of Joshua.



3.

What were the human factors that contributed to the success of the conquest of Jericho?

4.

What was the main reason why the Gibeonites succeeded in deceiving the Israelites into establishing a treaty with them? What can we learn from this historical incident?

5.

How can we gain spiritual wisdom?

6.

Where were the six cities of refuge located? What was the purpose of these cities?

Worksheet #3

Here's an excerpt from *Manna* (Issue 35), where one sister shares how she sets time aside for God.

Many times, we feel that there isn't enough time in the day to get everything done. Time – it is something we all treasure, something we wish we had more of, but it just seems to slip so quickly through our fingers.

As students, we are often burdened with so much work that we tend to let go of things that are vital to our well-being: God and our faith. How many times have we pushed God away because of our busy schedules? How many times have we rushed off to school without first giving thanks to God for another day to live and just mumbled a few words of thanks seconds before jumping into bed?

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Eccl 3:1). According to the words of Solomon, there is a time for everything: a time to study, a time to play, a time to learn worldly knowledge and a time to gain spiritual wisdom. But, it is up to us to set out that time, to use our time wisely and devote part of it to God.

Question: How to schedule God in our lives?

Answer: Make an appointment with God and offer the best time in your day.

A good way to put God in our lives is to make an appointment with Him each day. We should examine our lives and determine when the best time is for us to communicate with Him and to meditate on His words. We need to choose a time when we're not too tired and when our mind is clear to offer our best to Him.

I finally managed to figure out the best routine for myself by my second year of university. Although I prayed morning and evening, they were usually short prayers. I felt I needed to find a better time when I could really pray in-depth and meditate on the words of God.

I discovered that the best time for me was around 8 p.m. I studied and ate dinner and then it was time for God. Even if I were working on a paper, I would drop everything and give an hour to God. During that time, I would sing hymns,

read the Bible, and then end with a prayer. It was time well spent and I truly treasured it.

Once we place God first, we will experience an immense difference in our lives. I noticed that when I made time for God by scheduling a period of time with Him each evening, I always completed my work within a shorter amount of time. I would often receive inspiration from Him when I was stuck on a paper.

Moreover, the time that I set out for God also became a stress reliever for me. For that hour, I would forget about my studies and concentrate on the Lord. Amazingly, during the most stressful days, the lyrics of a hymn or a Bible verse would always touch me and lift my burdens. I truly felt immense peace and joy in my heart during those times. During my final year of university, whenever I was completely overwhelmed with work, God provided me with the sanity I needed.

I encourage you to give it a try, even if you can only afford to give up twenty minutes. Use that time to meditate on His words and to tell Him what a stressful day you've had. You'll definitely feel the difference in your life. As long as we truly put God first in our lives, we truly don't have to worry about anything – everything will fall nicely into place.

The Bible says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt 6:33). We have read how the sister makes time for God and experiences God's blessings. Other than setting aside a daily session for God, there are other choices in our lives that we have to make. As the saying goes, "Faithfulness in little things is a great thing." There are often many little choices that we have to make for God, and for the sake of maintaining our faith. The following is but a conservative list of possible choices stand-

ing between you and God:

- a part-time job (in school or outside of school) or a class in school that requires hours on a Saturday, making it hard for you to get to church on time, or worse still, totally conflicts with service times (Read Ex 20:8-11; Heb 10:25)

- computer games or social activities on the Internet, such as emailing and aimless online chatting, that seem to develop a stronger hold on you as you spend your time on them (Read Ps 119:37)

- social activities that, more often than not, fall on Saturdays (Read Is 58:13, 14)

- certain activities which will cause God to turn His face away from you (Read Ps 119:11, 101).

Discussion:

Together with your classmates, discuss what other things may stand between you and God. Then, discuss what the difficulties are in overcoming them. After that, generate and share among yourselves Bible verses that apply to those situations cited and discuss how you may overcome them, so as to choose God over these things. Recall also the choices you have made in your life, how you chose God over other things that distracted you. Share with your classmates what the choices were, how you went through the decision-making process and what the results were.

Worksheet #1

Have you experienced times when you felt that you were really close to God and that all that you did was acceptable in the sight of God? Were there times when you sinned against God and realized that you felt really lousy and things just didn't seem to go right?

Ruth

The book consists of only four chapters, which can be summarized as follows:

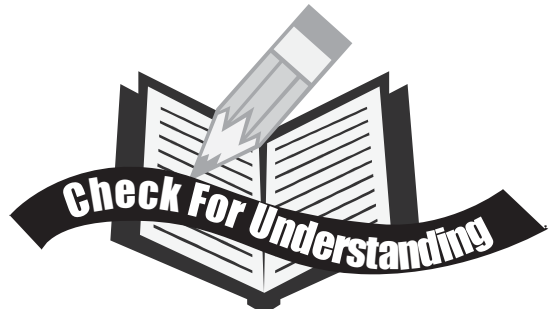
- a. Elimelech fled the famine in Judah and went to dwell in Moab. His sons married Moabite women there. In the end, all the men in the family died. Only Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, were left.
- b. Ruth made the decision to go to Judah with her lonesome mother-in-law. She went to glean the fields so as to find food for the two of them.
- c. Ruth proved herself to be a submissive woman. God blessed her and Boaz agreed to speak for her.
- d. Boaz married Ruth according to the Law, and they became the great-grandparents of King David.

The Judges

- a. **Othniel (3:7–11)**
He defeated the king of Mesopotamia whom God allowed to oppress the Israelites as a result of their worshiping the Baals and Asherahs.
- b. **Ehud (3:15–30)**
By using a ruse (pretext of going to pay tribute), he killed the king of Moab and the other warriors of Moab.
- c. **Shamgar (3:31)**
He killed 600 men of the Philistines with an ox goad.
- d. **Deborah (4, 5)**
She was a prophetess as well. She had the courage to lead the Israelite army against the army of Jabin, king of Hazor. The general of the Canaanite army was Sisera, who died also at the hand of a heroine, by the name of Jael.
- e. **Gideon (6–8)**
When the Israelites sinned once again, the Lord gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Gideon was then called to deliver the nation. Gideon asked God twice to show him a sign that he was really chosen to save Israel, and God performed the sign of the dew on the fleece (6:36–40). When they were going into battle, God instructed Gideon to choose only three hundred men and strengthened his confidence by allowing him to overhear the dream of one of the enemy soldiers. Another note-worthy, and praise-worthy episode about him is the way he appeased the Ephraimites who were offended that they were not involved in the battle (cf. paragraph on Jephthah).
- f. **Abimelech (9)**
He was the son of Gideon. He killed seventy of his brothers and established himself as king. He reigned for three years, after which God sent His punishment upon him; he was killed by a woman who dropped a millstone on him and crushed his skull.
- g. **Tola and Jair (10)**
- h. **Jephthah (11–12:6)**
In the battle against the Ammonites, he foolishly made a vow that unnecessarily sacrificed his daughter. He later caused forty-two Ephraimites to be slain, which is a great contrast to the wisdom exhibited previously by Gideon in a similar situation.
- i. **Ibzan, Elon and Abdon (12:7–15)**
- j. **Samson (13–16)**
He was brought up a nazirite (read Num 6:1–7). Even though he was designated to become a nazirite before his birth, he did not fulfill any of the nazirite requirements. In fact, he did not even live a life as part of the nation of God. He frivolously attended drinking feasts (14:10) and touched the carcass of a lion (14:8, 9). He lusted after women and ultimately, revealed his secret to Delilah, allowing his hair to be cut (16:15–19). He lost the abidance and help of God and finally, died tragically with the Philistines.

1. *Why is the period covered in the book of Judges a period of darkness? What were some of the sinful things that the Israelites did?*

2. *Why did God raise the judges?*



3. *Were all the judges wise and God-fearing? Name those who were and those who were not.*

4. *Why did Ruth become one of the most blessed women in the course of history?*

Obedience to Our Parents- Part A

The following is a story about how a little girl realizes her mother's love for her. How many of us are like her, thinking only of what we have done, and never pausing for a moment to remember the many unsaid acts of love our parents have done for us?



A girl came up to her Mommy one day and handed her a list.

"What's that, honey?" Mommy asked.

"It's the money you owe me," the little girl replied.

Mommy took the list and her heart ached as she read:

For clearing up the toys - \$1

For washing dishes - \$5

For putting baby brother to sleep - \$2

Total: \$8

Paid in Full!

Mommy put aside her apron and started to write a list of her own.

"May I see what you have written, Mommy?" the little girl asked. She took the note from Mommy and read:

For carrying you nine months in my tummy – **FREE**

For staying up to care for you during the nights when you were ill – **FREE**

For wiping your nose when it ran – **FREE**

For hugging you when you were in tears – **FREE**

The little girl's eyes filled with tears and quietly, she took her list from her Mommy. She scribbled on it and returned the note. Over the list was written – **PAID IN FULL.**

After reading the story, do you see some traces of yourself in this little girl? Write down five things that your father or mother has done for you which you have always simply taken for granted. Then, write down some of the ways (directly or indirectly) in which you can show them that you do appreciate them and are grateful to them.

1

2

3

4

5

Obedience to Our Parents- Part B

One phenomenon in this technological age that has gained the scrutiny of sociologists and psychologists is the subtle reversal of roles in many families. Children seem to have gained more and more social advantages over their parents. It is not totally surprising to find families in which the children have more technological knowledge than the parents. The children are completely at ease with computer-related tasks while many a parent may be struggling to catch up with new software and computer gimmicks out on the market. With immigrant families, we often see the children wielding more power to function well in society with the one advantage they have over their parents – they speak the language of the society much more flu-

ently.

Many of us today live against such a sociological backdrop. Unfortunately, not many people realize the hidden harms in this phenomenon. Wisdom, emotional stability and strength of mind to handle the ups and downs of everyday life do not come with education or technological adeptness. They are acquired over the years through life experiences, and most importantly, from a consistent and faithful walk with God. The strength of character in parents and their pivotal role in sustaining the family are often neglected. Many teenagers fail to see the wisdom of their parents until much later in life. As a result, many teenage problems could actually have been circumvented, had the teenagers heeded the advice of their elders.

1. *Discuss as a class your views about this phenomenon. How might this phenomenon affect the life of faith of teenagers and young adults?*

2. *Recount some of the wise advice you have received from your elders.*

3. *What are some things you can do to show your respect for your parents now and in the future?*



What exactly does it mean to obey God and to trust in God? Other than giving definitions, can you think of biblical characters who obeyed and trusted in God wholeheartedly? Under what kinds of circumstances did they obey and trust? How were they rewarded?

1. Hannah, an Exemplar of Prayer with Faith

2. The Downfall of Eli and His Sons

- Eli neglected to teach his sons in the way of the Lord
- Eli was lax in disciplining his sons when they did wrong

3. Samuel, Faithful to God and to Man

- The Philistines were defeated through prayer (7:1–13)
- Israel asked for a king (Ch 8)

4. Saul- His Rise and Fall

- Superseded his own authority and offered sacrifices (13:13, 14)
- Unreasonably put the Israelites under oath (14)
- Disregarded God's command and took of the spoils of the conquest (15)

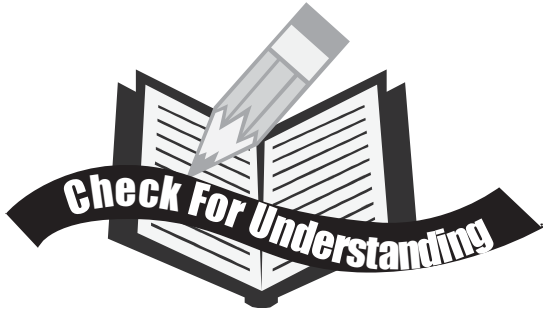
5. David- His Tumultuous Rise to Kingship

- Nob** – he was given the holy bread from the table of the showbread in the temple to stave off hunger (21)
- Achish** – he had to feign madness before the king of Gath to preserve his life (21)
- Adullam** – he hid himself in a cave. Many came and pledged allegiance to him (22)
- Keilah** – he had to flee from Keilah because Saul sought to kill all the men there unless they turned David in (23)
- Ziph, Maon, En Gedi** – these were among the places that David fled to but could not hide himself for long (23)
- En Gedi** – David had an opportunity to kill Saul but he refrained from harming the Lord's anointed (24)
- Carmel** – at Carmel, David sought help from Nabal but was turned down. It was the wise Abigail who came to the rescue and prevented bloodshed between David's men and Nabal's men (25)
- Wilderness of Ziph** – David had a second opportunity to kill Saul but he spared him again (26)
- Achish** – David went to Achish again, and pretended to be an ally of the king of the Philistines (27, 29)
- Ziklag** – the Amalekites attacked David's camp and destroyed the city, taking away the children and wives, including those of David. David managed to fight back and recover all that belonged to him and his men (30)

Worksheet #2

1. *In what ways is the prayer of Hannah considered an exemplary prayer of faith?*

2. *What were some of the sins committed by the sons of Eli? How do you think Eli could have prevented or restrained them from their irreverence?*



4. *What were the weaknesses of Saul?*

3. *What were some of the strengths of Samuel as one dedicated to the service of God?*

5. *Recount some of the incidents in the life of David in which he showed himself to be a faithful and obedient servant of God.*

Let us take a look at some Bible verses that encourage us to fend off sin. For each of them, write down one practical application that works for you in your life.

1. "Test all things; hold fast what is good." (1 Thess 5:21)

How I would apply it in my life

The Bible teaches us to examine all things carefully. Today, we are bombarded by ideas and standards of behavior from the media, from our peers at school and many other possible sources. Not all of them are in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. What are some ideas or codes of behavior that you think you should examine carefully and guard against?

2. "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." (Ps 119:11)

How I would apply it in my life

We are not fighting a physical battle. Our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a lion ready to devour us. We cannot but be equipped with God's armor. How can we fortify ourselves with the word of God?

3. "Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor 10:12)

How I would apply it in my life

We have often heard that pride goes before a fall. Pride blinds one to one's own weaknesses. One needs to be extra careful when one is successful. What are the situations that may cause you to feel confident or proud of yourself?

4. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:1, 2)

How I would apply it in my life

The Bible teaches us to watch out for one another. Who are the people in your life that you feel you should keep a lookout for? Are there people who are keeping a lookout for you? Do you fall into the devil's trap of isolating yourself? What are some ways to encourage brothers and sisters to stay strong as one body with members taking care of one another? (Read Eccl 4:9-12)

5. "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way." (Ps 119:37)

How I would apply it in my life

Many times, sin creeps into our lives very slowly. It may start off as something that catches our attention. Slowly, it grows on us and we become more and more attached to it and ultimately, we forget and lose sight of the teachings of the Bible. What are some things that are considered "worthless" (or even harmful) that we should turn our eyes and attention away from?

What do you think are the most important qualities of a successful walk in our life of faith, qualities that will lead us to the heavenly kingdom?

1.

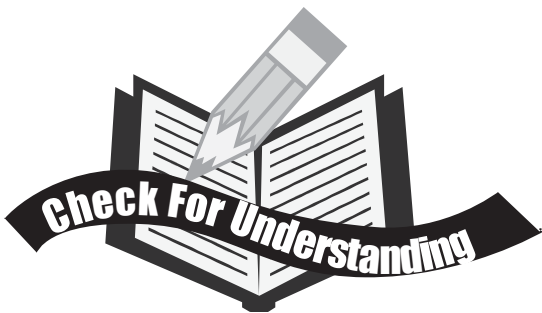
David's Kingdom

2.

David's Sins

3.

David in His Old Age



1. How long did David reign in Hebron before he became king over all Israel and reigned at Jerusalem?
2. After David became king over all Israel, did he forget God? Name at least two incidents which showed that he honored God even after he was made king.
3. What was the result of David's complacency after his kingdom became settled as a superpower in the region?
4. Although God forgave David, what were the immediate consequences that he had to bear?
5. List some of the subsequent calamities that befell the house of David.

PSALM 51

Psalm 51 is a psalm of repentance, the prayer of David when Nathan the prophet went to see him and made him realize his grievous sins. Read the psalm once through. Then, answer the questions that follow:

1. In verse 1, David directly asks God to “have mercy upon” him. Locate other verses in which he also asks for forgiveness of his sins, even though he does not explicitly say “forgive me” or “have mercy upon me.”
2. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” This tells us that to receive forgiveness at all, we must first confess our sins. Does David confess his sins before God in this prayer? In which verses can we find his confessions?
3. David asks God to create in him a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within him (v. 10). What does it mean for a sinner to have a clean heart and a renewed spirit?
4. In verse 17, it is written “the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit . . . and a contrite heart”. What are some other attitudes that one should have before God when asking for forgiveness?

CONTRASTING EXAMPLES

David sinned greatly against God. But, he repented sincerely and accepted God’s punishment. In contrast, there are others in the Bible who did not repent of their sins, nor did they turn back even when given another chance. Below are a few examples. Do you harbor any of the attitudes present in these characters?

1. Cain and Abel were the offspring of Adam. When each of them made an offering to God, Abel’s offering was found acceptable whereas Cain’s was not. In his jealousy, Cain killed Abel, his very own brother. When God asked him where his brother was, did Cain confess his sin? How did Cain reply? (Read Gen 4:9)
2. Balaam was a prophet. Balak, the king of the Moabites, hired him to curse the Israelites, seeing that they were expanding in number and power. God specifically told Balaam that he was not supposed to go according to the commands of King Balak (Num 23:12). But Balaam did not heed the words of God. What happened to him finally, which managed to stop him from going on to curse the Israelites? (Read Num 23:22–31)
3. Saul was one who always tried to explain himself when found guilty of committing sin. When he unrightfully offered the sacrifices at Gilgal instead of waiting for Samuel to arrive, what was his excuse? (1 Sam 13:12) When he once again did not keep God’s instructions and spared the king of Amalek and kept back animals, what was his excuse? (Read 1 Sam 15:15)
4. Judas Iscariot succumbed to the lure of money and betrayed the Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Before he committed the sin that would smear his name for eternity, the Lord Jesus showed him His love and kindness. What was this great deed of love? (Read Jn 13:1–5)

FINAL THOUGHT:

In your own life, do you ever make excuses for yourself when you do something wrong? What were some of those situations? Discuss how you felt after the incident. What could you have done differently?

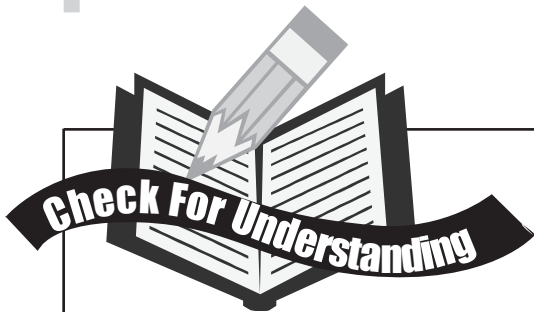


We've often heard about the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. Do you know how the people of God divided themselves into two kingdoms? And, how many of the kings of each kingdom do you know about? Can you name at least a few of them? In addition, who were the prophets who existed during the times of the kings? Can you name a few of them and state what some of their great works or messages were?

Part 1. Solomon's Reign

Part 2. Rehoboam and Jeroboam

Part 3. Ahab and Elijah



1. In what ways was Solomon a good king?
2. Why do you think Solomon did not keep his faith towards the latter part of his life?
3. What were some of the miracles in the life of Elijah which proved that he was indeed a prophet of God, with God's abidance?
4. What similarities do you see in Solomon and Ahab?

Case I

Kirsten, a church sister, got into a very well known college. Unfortunately, the college was rather far from church and she could only attend services when she had her semester breaks, because that's when she returned home. There were no other brothers or sisters at her college, so she could not have any fellowship with them.

Kirsten found herself constantly surrounded by friends who did not share the same interests as her, being of different faiths and hence having different ways of life. In the first few months, she found herself struggling really hard, trying not to be an outcast and at the same time keeping the Christian teachings she was brought up to observe. It was hard to be a loner and the odd one out all the time. Slowly Kirsten gave in. It started with compromising on Sabbath Day observance. Her friends always asked her to hang out with them on Saturdays. Even though she didn't get to go to church for Sabbath services, she had resolved to keep the Sabbath by listening to the

dozens of sermon cassette tapes she brought from home. However, over time, she gave in to the invitations. Then soon enough, she found herself looking forward to the weekend as a time to go out with friends.

Gradually, she found that Bible reading just didn't shed any new light on matters of faith anymore. A heavy school work load and socializing were enough to occupy her time. She slowly began to lose touch with God. Prayers became shorter and lacking in content. She remembered God, but found it hard to include or feel God in her life. She picked up the ideas and ways of her friends; she enjoyed all types of movies, she loved going to parties and dressing up like she had never dared to . . . she embraced many ideas which were contrary to the teachings of the Bible. At the time of graduation, Kirsten had become completely changed. She decided that she could no longer see herself as a Christian anymore, simply because the faith she used to have had become something she could not visualize having in her life again.



1. *What options about her lifestyle (activities) and friends did Kirsten face from the time she applied to college to the time she graduated from college?*

2. *Kirsten started out with the strong intention to worship God and keep her faith amidst people who did not know God. Why do you think she failed to keep her resolution?*

3. *What are some of the things she could have done to help herself maintain her life of faith even though she was far from church members or a church to go to for regular services?*

4. *What are some of the things her peers from the church, or other church members, could have done to prevent her from falling away from the faith?*

5. *Imagine yourself in the shoes of Kirsten when she was in her senior year in high school and when she was in college. What would you have done differently?*

Case 2

Sam was recently baptized in the True Jesus Church after a neighbor introduced him to the gospel. When he decided to accept baptism, he looked back on many of his old ways and realized that those were rather senseless things. He resolved not to go back to those activities after baptism. He attended services diligently and led a life of Bible reading and prayer. Soon he also received the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, many of the friends Sam used to do things with were reluctant to give up on this friend so easily. They continued to ask him out often and hoped that Sam would join them like he used to. Even when Sam would go out with them the occasional time, he always wanted to go home early. He was no longer interested in partying late into the

night. Neither was he keen on checking out cute girls anymore. Sam's friends could not understand what had come over him, that he had become "so holy."

For Sam, it was a big dilemma. On the one hand, he wanted to start life afresh after baptism. However, it was just not possible to completely cut all ties with his friends just because he had converted to Christianity. He wanted to be able to keep his old friends while he made new ones in church. He hoped that he could bring his friends to know God. Yet, he knew that if he were to continue with his old buddies, he might go back to his old ways. He just didn't feel he could win them over to Christ.



1. *Sam was caught between his resolution to be a good Christian and his friendships with his non-Christian friends. What were some of his struggles and what choices did he face?*
2. *Sam had good intentions in wanting to bring his friends to know God. Do you think that by joining them in their activities Sam could have succeeded in winning them over? If you had been Sam, what would you have done?*
3. *If you were one of the brothers in church who knew Sam and his struggles, what advice would you give Sam? What are some things you would do to help him?*

Case 3

Jim has always been a very good youth in the church and a good son at home. At school, he's also an exemplary student. One of his favorite pastimes is to chat and play games online with people from all parts of the world. One summer, when he had a lot of free time, he spent many hours a day in front of his computer. Soon, he found that he could not tear himself away. He loved some of the games so much

that he even sacrificed his quiet time with God just to wait for the right opponents online. He never thought that he would be addicted to the Internet. There were even times when he got out of bed when the whole family had gone to sleep just to play another round. He found that he could not concentrate in his prayers anymore. He even skipped Bible reading. He knew that the situation had to be stopped, but he didn't know how.

Questions To Think About



1. *What do you think could be some of the causes of Jim's pre-occupation with chatting and playing games online?*
2. *Is there anything that friends or RE teachers or his parents could have done to prevent his addiction?*
3. *If Jim confides his problem to you, how would you advise him to stop?*
4. *What are some of the things that friends in church can do to help Jim?*

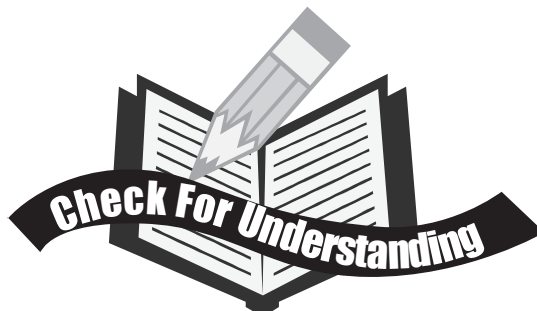
Now that you have read the stories about others, think of your own situation. Are there internal struggles that you have that are similar to those described in the case studies? Write your own case study, incorporating your own struggles. Then, come up with some questions. After that, share your stories with the class and see if they can come up with solutions to your questions.

Case 4

Part 1. Elijah and Elisha

Part 2. The Kings of Judah and Israel

- ✓ Athaliah – Mother of Ahaziah (Ch 11)
- ✓ Joash (Jehoash) (Ch 12)
- ✓ Jehoahaz and, later, Jehoash ruled in Israel (Ch 13)
- ✓ Amaziah
- ✓ Ahaz, the son of Jotham, did not keep the ways of the Lord when he became king (Ch 16).
- ✓ Hoshea, the king of Israel, did evil in the sight of the Lord (Ch 17)
- ✓ Hezekiah was one of the last kings of Judah (Chs 18, 19)
- ✓ Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, was probably the most evil king of all the kings of Judah (Ch 21)
- ✓ Josiah was a king who walked in the ways of God (Chs 22, 23)
- ✓ Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah were the last kings of Judah (Chs 24, 25)



1. What did Elisha ask of Elijah before Elijah was taken up to heaven?

2. Describe at least three miracles performed by Elisha.

3. Without referring to the notes in this workbook, or the Bible, could you name some of the kings who were (a) evil and did not walk in God's ways, (b) good and walked in the ways of God?

4. Which empire conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and in which year did Israel fall?

5. Which empire conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah and in which year did Judah fall?

Remaining Watchful

From the lives of the many kings mentioned in this lesson, we have seen how some of them walked in the ways of God and how some did not. One does not become evil or good overnight. Human beings are social animals. The environment a person is in often shapes the person. One should therefore always examine his or her weaknesses. Here's a verse that warns us about the things to watch out for in ourselves:

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

How much truth do you see in this short verse?

Have you seen it happening to you?

Take a moment to reflect and meditate on your thoughts, words, actions and habits.

Then write down the things you think you ought to watch out for in these areas.

The form consists of four vertical columns of dotted lines, each starting with a downward-pointing arrow at the top. The columns are intended for writing reflections on the text above.

Trials & Temptations

In this exercise, we will look at some of the areas in our lives where we may face temptations or trials that may draw us away from God. Write down the things that may draw you away from God and how you can help yourself, and how church brothers and sisters can help too. After that, you may want to discuss your answers as a class.

Areas in your life	Temptations/ trials that may draw you away from God	How you can help yourself/ How brothers and sisters in church can help	Which specific Bible verses can help you?
Friends outside church			
Ideas or theories learned in school or from the media			
Problems in family			
Problems with people in church			
Other <hr/>			

Are there books in the Bible that seem hard to read through from beginning to end because the accounts seem so repetitive and even boring?

A. Genealogy

- a. Adam to Abraham: This list gives us information on who the close relatives of the Israelites are (1)
- b. The descendants of Jacob:
 1. The tribe of Judah (2) and David's descendants (3)
 2. The tribe of Simeon (4:24-43)
 3. The tribes of Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh (5)
 4. The tribe of Levi, temple musicians and descendants of Aaron (6)
 5. The tribes of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Ephraim and Asher (7)
 6. The tribe of Benjamin mentioned again, and the life of Saul (8)
- c. Those who returned from exile (9)

C. The Reign of Solomon

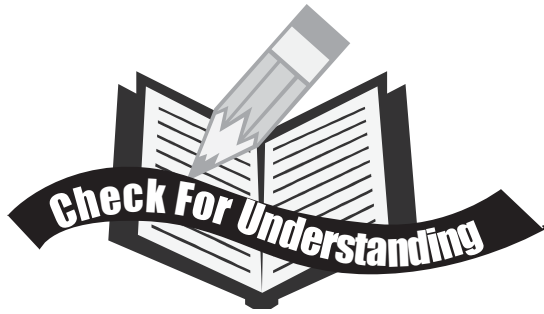
- a. Solomon offered sacrifices to God and also asked for wisdom (1)
- b. Preparations for the temple/Help from the king of Tyre (2)
- c. Architecture of the temple (3-5)
- d. Completion and dedication of the temple to God (6)
- e. God accepted the offerings of the people and the dedication of the temple (7)
- f. Solomon's many building projects for his own pleasure (8)
- g. Visit of the Queen of Sheba/Solomon's great wealth and wisdom (9)

B. The Reign of David

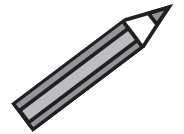
- a. Fall of Saul and why (10): His failure to obey God's teachings and dabbling with sorcery
- b. David's early years as king/leader and a list of heroes who served him (11, 12, 14)
- c. David arranged to have the ark of the covenant transported back to Jerusalem. The incident with Uzza, however, instilled fear in David and the people. Thus, the ark was left in the house of Obed-Edom (13)
- d. The Levites were assigned to take charge of the ark (14, 15)
- e. David's prayer of thanksgiving and desire to build a temple for God (16, 17)
- f. David's further conquests (18-20)
- g. David sinned when he took a census of the people (21)
- h. David instructed Solomon to build the holy temple (22)
- i. Further records about the duties of the Levites and the various governing divisions in the kingdom (23-27)
- j. Details of David's plan for the temple-building project (28, 29)

D. The Davidic Monarchy

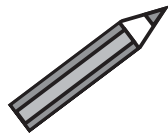
- a. Asa (14-16)
- b. Jehoshaphat (17-20)
- c. Joash (23, 24)
- d. Uzziah (26)
- e. Hezekiah (29-32)



List the twelve tribes of Israel from memory.



What are the four main categories of events dealt with in 1 & 2 Chronicles?



What are some of the key events in the life and reign of Solomon?



Name at least three kings of the Southern Kingdom and write down their good deeds.



“The Touch of the Master’s Hand”

It was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to auction off the old violin, but he held it up with a smile.

“What is the bid for the old violin? Who will start the bidding for me?”

“One dollar. One. Who’ll make it two? Two dollars. Who’ll make it three? . . . Going for three.” But, wait, from far back in the room, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow.

Wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening up its strings, he played a melody pure and sweet, as sweet as an angel sings. The auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said, “What is the bid for the old violin?” as he held it up with the bow.

“One thousand.”

“Two thousand.”

“Three thousand.”

“Three thousand going once, twice, going, gone.”

The people cheered, but some of them cried, “We don’t quite understand what changed its worth.”

Quick came the reply, “The touch of the Master’s hand.”

Many a man, with a life out of tune, battered and torn by sin, is auctioned off to a thoughtless crowd, much like that old violin. A mess of pottage, a glass of wine, a game, and he travels on. He’s going once, he’s going twice, he’s going . . . he’s almost gone. Then, the Master comes, and the thoughtless crowd can never quite understand. The worth of a soul and the miracle that’s wrought by the touch of the Master’s hand.

Author unknown

Think about this:

As we look at the lives of many kings in the history of the Israelites, we cannot help but marvel sometimes at how some kings could persist in doing so much evil. Yet, there are those whose good deeds are impressed upon us. To head for good, or dash down the path of evil? This often is separated by a thin line, a very thin line, of whether we submit ourselves to the “touch of the Master’s hand.” The following are the lyrics of a very well-written Christian song. The message is similar to the one in the story that we have just read:

**“Something beautiful, some-
thing good,
All my confusion, He under-
stood,
All I had to offer Him, was
brokenness and strife,
But He made something
beautiful of my life.”**

Surely at one or more points in time, we have been like the old violin – battered, torn, almost worthless. But, when God came into our lives, with a touch of His hand, He made something beautiful of our lives. How often do we reflect on how great it is that we have God in our lives? Think about your experiences of how God has made something beautiful of your life, by giving you many beautiful things in your life!

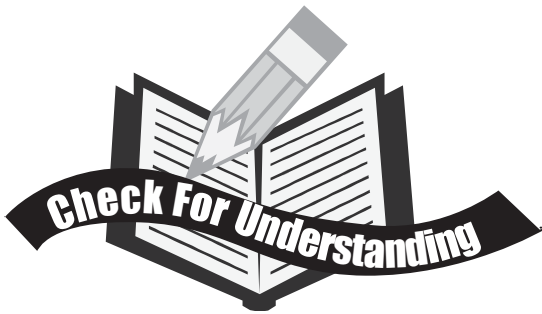
The Book of Ezra

1. The First Return (Ezra 1-6)

- a. The decree of Cyrus (Ch 1)
- b. The Israelites return to their homeland (2-3:7)
- c. Rebuilding the temple (Chs 3-6)
 - 1. Laying the foundation
 - 2. Obstacles arose
 - 3. The work resumed
 - 4. Help from King Darius
 - 5. The completion of the rebuilding of the temple

2. The Second Return (Ezra 7-10)

- a. Ezra, the scribe who was full of zeal (7:1-10)
- b. Help from the palace (7:11-28)
- c. The safe return by the help of God (8)
- d. Prayer of penitence on behalf of the people (9)
- e. Cutting ties with their pagan wives (10)
- f. Conclusion



1. Who first led the people of God back to the land of Israel/Judah to rebuild the temple?

2. What did this first batch of people bring back with them to Jerusalem?

3. Why was the work of rebuilding the temple halted for a long time?

5. What did the people do to show their repentance?

4. When Ezra led the people of God back to Jerusalem, what was the big sin he discovered among the people?

The Importance of Marrying Within the Lord

Case 1

Ken was baptized as an infant. As he was growing up, he went through well-structured religious education both at home and in church. As a teenager, he was one of the best students in his RE classes, knowing the Bible very well. He showed great respect for the elderly and was a good influence on the younger kids in church. When he was in college, he was even a leader in his campus fellowship. After graduation, he worked for a year before going on to graduate school. It was there that he got to know Ashley, who was a Christian from another denomination.

Their friendship developed into a romantic relationship and Ken knew that he had to try to bring Ashley to our church. Out of her love for him, Ashley accompanied him to our church services on the Sabbath. She was not used to our mode of prayers at first but soon got accustomed to it. She even enjoyed some of our sermons, which she found were true to biblical teachings. However, she could not bring herself to accept our church doctrines. Whenever Ken was with her, he found it hard to bring doctrinal issues into their conversation as it would always end in some form of tension or disagreement. Ken decided that all he could do was to pray for her.

When the church members started to see that Ashley was more than just a friend to Ken, they started to feel that Ken had "regressed" in his faith. Such an attitude was no help at all for Ashley to feel accepted in the church. Some sisters tried to talk with her, but somehow, being Ken's girlfriend, the conversations remained superficial and cordial. She only continued to join Ken in attending our services because of her love for him, but deep inside her, she felt like a stranger in the church.

After Ken and Ashley got married, the situation continued for two more years. However, Ashley's sense of alienation did not go away, and Ken could really sense it. Her unhappiness in coming to our church, coupled with the increasing responsibilities of life after marriage, finally led Ashley to decide that she would go back to her own church. Soon, Ken tried to make peace and often joined the community in the other church and today, he does not even come to our church services.

Questions to think about:

1. **It is said that affairs of the heart are beyond one's control. Do you think Ken could have avoided getting himself romantically involved with Ashley? Explain your answer.**
2. **Were there telltale signs for Ken that Ashley might not ultimately come to accept the doctrines of salvation, even though he tried really hard and she tried her best to come with him to church?**
3. **If there had been greater support from church members, do you think Ken and Ashley would have become a happy couple in our church today? What are some of the things they did not handle well? What are some things they could have done, which they did not do?**
4. **After their marriage, what could Ken have done differently so that Ashley would not lead him away from the faith?**

.....

The Importance of Marrying Within the Lord

Worksheet #3

Case 2

Mandy was brought up to know that she should strive to marry in the Lord. However, she had always wondered in her mind if she would ever find her spouse in church. She knew she was not the prettiest or smartest girl in church, and somehow, all the happily married couples seemed to be perfect matches. She felt she just didn't fit in. But, she hoped to be married in church someday.

When she was of marriageable age, she started to feel as if her fears were coming true. One by one, she saw her peers getting married, and it seemed as though she was the only one left. So, one day, when one of her non-believing boyfriends started to show interest in her, she found it really hard to turn him down. After all, she didn't want to end up all alone.

After a short courtship, she married her non-believing friend. She made some points very clear though. She told her husband that she would like to continue worshipping God in the True Jesus Church after marriage, and that their children had to be baptized in our church. He agreed to it all.

Today, Mandy has been married for eight years. Her two children are baptized. Unfortunately, they come to services an average of once or twice a month. Her children do not enjoy being in the children classes at all because they do not know anything about the Bible stories that the teacher teaches. Mandy often wonders if things could have been better had she not married her husband, for there were simply too many things that they could not connect at the emotional and spiritual levels.

We know that it is a very risky thing for us to even consider marrying non-believers. It is almost like playing with fire in our life of faith. Unfortunately, today, we still see many youths getting married to people outside of the faith. A small portion of these youths managed to bring their spouses to the Lord. But the majority of them were simply led away. As high-school students, we are definitely not of marriageable age yet. So, such an issue may seem too far in our future for us to think seriously about now. However, it is important that we develop certain principles in our lives at a young age. Otherwise, we will be easily swayed by the many ideas in the world. May God guide all of us, that we will be preserved in His saving grace.

Questions to think about:

1. **While we often hear people say "you should have faith" or "just pray and God will send you a spouse," we know that fears of loneliness and peer pressure can be strong forces for those who cannot seem to find someone from church. Imagine yourself in the shoes of Mandy before she met her husband.**
 - a. **What were some of her fears?**
 - b. **Are those fears legitimate?**
 - c. **How could she have overcome such fears?**
2. **If you were friends with Mandy, what would you have done for her so as to circumvent what ultimately happened?**
3. **What were some things that Mandy could have done in order to bring her husband and children to know the true God?**

Building Up the Temple of God That Is Within Me

In the book of Ezra, we see that Ezra resolved to study and teach the word of God (7:10). The people were also diligent in listening to Ezra when he taught. Then they immediately carried out what they knew were the right things to do. These are all very important factors in the rebuilding of the temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 says, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Today, what are you doing to build up the temple of God that is inside you? Write down at least four ways in which you can build up the temple of God, that is YOU!

After writing down four ways to build up the temple of God within you, share them with your class.

Notes:

1.

2.

3.

4.

1. Nehemiah returns to the land of Judah (1-2:8)

- ✓ Grieving for the holy temple
- ✓ The king granted him permission to return

2. The city walls are rebuilt (2:9-7)

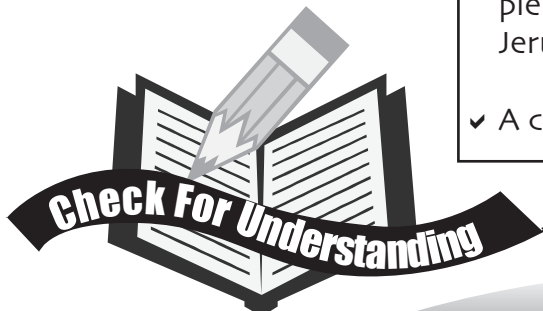
- ✓ Arriving in Judah
- ✓ Delegation of tasks in rebuilding the city walls
- ✓ Obstruction from enemies and how they circumvented it
- ✓ Nehemiah rebuked the nobles for usury of their fellow Jews
- ✓ Completion of the city walls
- ✓ Nehemiah arranged for people to take charge of Jerusalem
- ✓ A census was taken

3. Revival of faith (8-12:26)

- ✓ The Book of the Law was read
- ✓ The people of God repented of their sins
- ✓ Resolutions were made
- ✓ Jerusalem

4. Offerings upon the completion of the city walls (12:27-13)

- ✓ Offering the sacrifices
- ✓ The final clean-up



1. Who was Nehemiah?

How would you describe his role in the history of the Israelites in the post-exilic era?

2. What were some of the sins the people of God had committed, and what were some of the things that they had neglected to do for many generations?

3. How did the enemies try to obstruct the work of rebuilding the city walls?

Making and Sticking to Resolutions

Worksheet #2

I often resolve to...	But this is what I end up doing...	Here's how I can help myself...
Spend more time reading the Bible		
Attend church or family services more often		
Participate in church work		
Preach to friends at school/work		
Other _____		

There are many resolutions that we make to improve our lives – our relationships with people, our own character, our service to God, etc. Often, we end up being like the Israelites, finding it hard to keep up with the resolutions. In the section above are some common resolutions that we make. Write down some of the things that distract you from holding fast to your resolutions. Then, write down what you can do or what type of support you need from people around you so that you can keep your resolutions.



When you think about the word sacrifice, what are the first impressions that come to your mind? What constitutes sacrifice?

1. Esther crowned Queen of Persia (1-2:18)

- A. The feasts of King Ahasuerus
- B. Vashti lost her royal position
- C. Esther chosen as the next queen

2. The loyalty of Mordecai (2:19-3:4)

- A. Mordecai saved the king
- B. Refusal to bow down to Haman

3. Haman's Ploy (3:5-3:15)

- A. The ploy was laid out
- B. The edict to have all the Jews killed

4. Esther saves her people (4-10)

- A. Mordecai persuaded Esther to meet with the king
- B. Esther invited the king and Haman to a dinner
- C. The king could not fall asleep
- D. Esther unveiled the evil plot of Haman
- E. Esther pleaded with the king to revoke the earlier edict against the Jews
- F. Purim
- G. Conclusion

1. *What do you think was so special about Esther that she obtained the favor of the custodian and stood out from among all the candidates?*
2. *What do you think was going through the mind of Esther when she approached the inner court to see the king without being summoned?*
3. *Mordecai did the king a great favor but was not rewarded. In today's world, people are so used to making sure others know what they have done. What do you think was in his mind when he quietly continued to serve the king faithfully?*



Values and Convictions

Esther was faced with some difficult choices. At the most crucial point, she had to choose between life and death. It's not a decision that anyone would want to make, but it is also during these times that we learn what we really feel convicted about. Below is an excerpt of a testimony written by a brother. After sharing his answers, ask the students to think about the same questions and have them write down their thoughts. Be sure to ask them to share their answers so that all the students can be edified.

A conviction is a fixed belief you regard so highly that you are willing to uphold it at all costs. One conviction that I uphold is sexual purity. I am very adamant against sexual relations before marriage. Thank God for giving me a fearful heart of Him so that I may obey this important commandment.

In college, it was uncommon to hear of someone who hadn't already "done it." These days, a person is considered inexperienced and prude if he or she has not performed sexual intercourse with at least one partner. As the world becomes more "liberal" and corrupt, it is harder to find good friends that hold the same values and beliefs as you. Many are tempted and many will fall. Those who are with Christ Jesus can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, control themselves from falling in. I've had friends in high school and college who proclaim themselves as "Christians" yet they regard fornication as something that can be compromised.

My conviction was tested a few times during my college years. I can recall an incident my junior year. One night a classmate and I were studying for an exam in the dormitory study lounge. We went through some old tests, reviewed our notes and chatted. Unexpectedly, my classmate proposed a question that took me by surprise. She asked me if I wanted to sleep with her that night. I thought I had misheard her so I casually played it off as if I didn't know what she meant. She reiterated her question and awaited my response. She had told me stories before of her ex-boyfriends, so that made it very easy for me to decline. It was scary to think how easy I could have just agreed with it and nobody would have known. Just one night, no strings attached. How many young people of this modern time would pass on that? Thank God for His omnipresence and for imparting to me a conscience where I understood the severity of the matter and that my entire life would have changed had I accepted that simple proposal. I was convicted not to fall into the lust of the flesh.

I realize that feelings and lustful desires can spur up at any moment, even for Christians. As Christians, however, we possess spiritual knowledge and the Holy Spirit to restrain our thoughts and control our actions to guide us away from eternal death. We must make a conviction for Christ and guard our bodies.

1. Write down one conviction that you have had for a long period of time. Please explain why by backing it up with an example.





Values and Convictions

2. If you were to teach one value to your peers, what would that be? Explain in steps how you would teach it (4 to 5 steps).

3. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. Pick one value that you also share from the passage. Explain how you would teach this value to your class (4 to 5 steps).

Memory Verse Test

For the following Bible references, write out the memory verse, and explain how each verse relates to your life today. Some parts of the verses have been given to you as hints to help you.

1 Kings 8:27 (Lesson 7)

"Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot _____
_____."

Relation to my life today:

Deuteronomy 7:6 (Lesson 2)

"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; _____
_____ on the face of the earth."

Relation to my life today:

Joshua 1:8 (Lesson 3)

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from _____
_____. For then you will make your way prosperous, _____
_____."

Relation to my life today:

Zechariah 4:6 (Lesson 10)

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not _____
_____, ' says the Lord of hosts."

Relation to my life today:

1 Samuel 15:22 (Lesson 5)

"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings _____
_____ than the fat of rams."

Relation to my life today:

Psalms 66:18, 19 (Lesson 11)

"For if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He _____
_____."

Relation to my life today:

“Turning away from doing what you know is wrong isn’t always easy. Every time you turn away from things that can hurt or harm you mentally, physically, or spiritually, you are turning toward your loving heavenly Father.”

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

2 Timothy 2:22



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16

J2 YEAR 1 BOOK 4