

LESSON 11

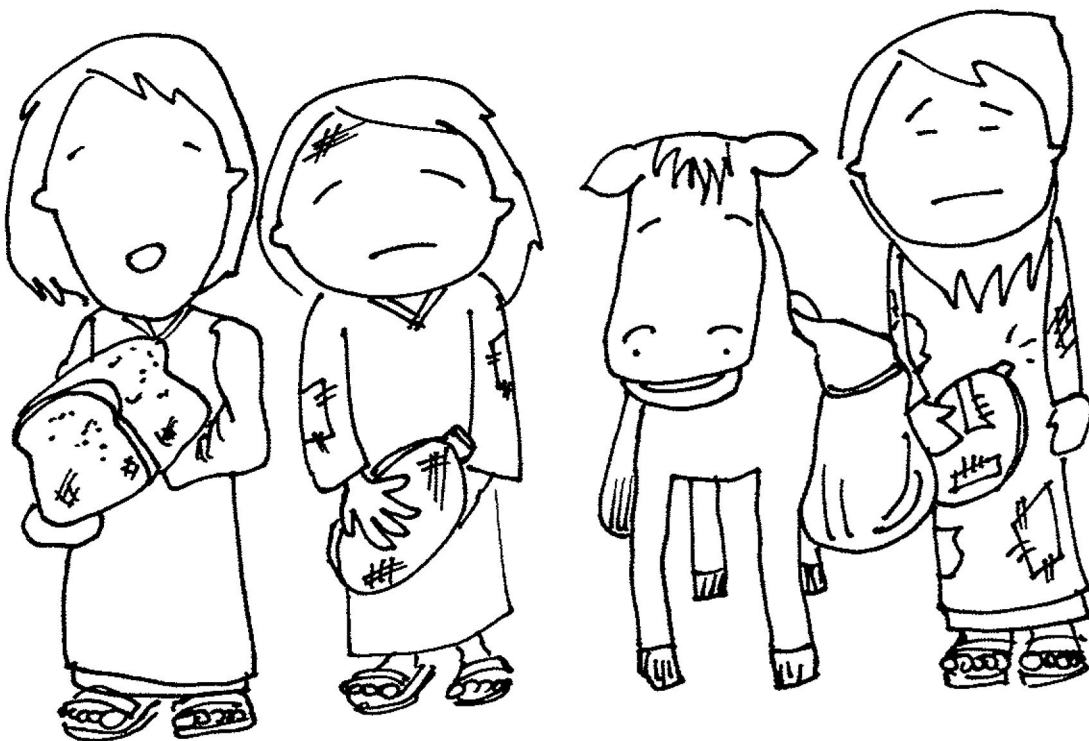
THE GIBEONITES TRICK THE ISRAELITES

Worksheets

- Bible Discovery Worksheet: The Gibeonites Trick the Israelites
- Life Application Worksheet #1, Pages 1 and 2: A Testimony
- Life Application Worksheet #2: Praying Boldly to God
- Homework

The Gibeonites Trick the Israelites

1. "And they took _____ sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins _____ and mended, old and _____ sandals on their feet, and _____ garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was _____ and moldy."
2. "This bread of ours we took _____ for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and _____. And these wineskins which we filled were _____, and see, they are torn; and these our _____ and our sandals have become old because of the very _____ journey."
3. "The men of Israel ... did not _____ of the LORD. So Joshua made _____ with them, and made a _____ with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them."
4. The Gibeonites dwelt in these cities:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. "There were more who _____ from the _____ than the children of Israel killed with the sword."



A Testimony

Our faith in the Lord is not a series of isolated events but a seamless thread that runs from faith to faith. I can relate very well to such a thought because from the day that I believed in God until now, He has blessed me in so many ways that have rooted my faith and allowed me to approach Him better. God has indeed chosen us not because of anything we've done but because of His mercy and grace. He also gives us rich experiences that compel us to return His love and to study His teachings more deeply. The following is a retelling of a fraction of His blessings to me, and each experience anchors my faith deeper and helps me walk with God in Spirit and in truth.

God's Grace

My family moved to Argentina in 1986 because of my father's work relocation. At that time, I was five years old and the True Jesus Church in Argentina was still at its infancy. My mother brought my siblings and me to worship there, but we were not baptized at the time. It wasn't until 1992 that the church held the first Spiritual Convocation. I remember that the first night of evangelical service was on a Wednesday, and everyone was telling me how wonderful it is to receive the Holy Spirit, and how, without the Holy Spirit, we would not be able to enter the doors of heaven. Back then, I was just an innocent eleven-year-old who did not know too much about salvation, but I was very determined to receive the Holy Spirit.

I remember making a promise to God, during one prayer at the convocation, that if He gave me the Holy Spirit I would offer myself as a living sacrifice to serve Him for the rest of my life. I felt like a child who was trading something precious for an even bigger treasure. After I made this promise to God, I felt a tremendous heat come from above and it filled my body. As the Holy Spirit filled me, a very bright light burst in front of me. It seemed brighter than the sun and it was very warm. I could look straight into it, and there was a soothing feeling of kindness incomparable with any other kind of light. As it got closer to me, I began to trace the lines of a cross that was emerging from the light, which was brighter than the light itself, and the crystal-like cross seemed transparent and very precious. The light and the cross came closer to me, and when it was right before my face, I saw a Man hung on it. He was severely beaten up and emaciated to the point where I could survey His bones. His eyes were shut and I saw the pierced crown on His head, but His countenance was not of a Man who was severely wounded. He had a very kind look—a look that I was drawn to approach, which said, "I love you. This is what it took for Me to save you." This vision compelled me to receive baptism after the convocation that year. But most importantly, I realized how much God loves me and how I should also love Him.

During the years of growing pains that followed, and when my faith was low, this vision reminded me that I had been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ, and that it was by His grace that salvation had come to me. Therefore, I am different from this world. This reminder empowered me to live according to His words, and it continues to empower me today.

God's Cure

I was born with a disease that is much akin to what we know today as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), a disorder of the immune system. The symptoms are like an allergic reaction to winter. Every time the season rolled around, all my joints would swell up to the point where I was physically unrecognizable. I was a frightful sight because of the swelling, perhaps worse than an ogre, and I would scare myself whenever I looked into the mirror. The swellings in my joints would turn blue and green, and they would itch and hurt. My parents took me to the doctor when I was four, and the only inclination they had at the time pointed to a problem with my blood circulation. The chance of survival for the required operation was only fifty percent at best, and the operation itself only had a success rate of fifty percent. The expense was also very high so we didn't go through with it.

This disorder would plague me about twice a year, and it took about one to two weeks for the swelling to die down before I would return to normal. My parents still insisted that I go to school during those times, and I would lower my head as much as possible during class or when I walked down the halls. The kids would even call me "little monster." I had heard testimonies about how baptism not only washes away sin, but also sometimes cures people of their illnesses. After I got baptized, I still had the disease and I wondered why God didn't cure me.

In the same year I was baptized, my family also moved to the United States. And in 1993, during the Winter Student Spiritual Convocation, the allergies struck again and I felt my joints swell up. I was scared that people would be frightened at the sight of me, so I called my mom to pick me up. My mom knew how serious it could get, so she drove to Garden Grove church in the pouring rain. She testified to me later on that while she was driving to the church, she cried to God, "My daughter has had this disease since she was little and we can't help her. Lord, You are the mighty God and You can cure her right now." She picked me up from church, and we went home and prayed. My mom pleaded to God saying, "I entrust her into Your hand. With man it is impossible, but I hope in You because with You all things are possible. If You want to cure her, please stop the swelling." She told me what she prayed about before I went to sleep, and I knew that it was an impossible request because, for the past thirteen years of my life, it always took at least one week for the swelling to go down, and there was no way for things to go back to normal the very next day. Surely enough, after I had gone to bed, God really cured me by the next day—just as my mom had prayed. Twelve years have passed since that incident and the illness has never returned. Praise God!



Discussion Questions

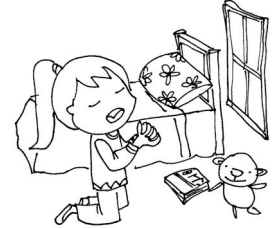
1. How did this sister's faith begin? How old was she?
2. What happened in the vision she saw? How do you think you would react if you experienced something like this?
3. What was her mother's bold prayer? Why do you think she was able to make a prayer like this? How do you think this event strengthened the sister's faith when she faced difficulties later?
4. Everyone's journey of faith is different. Some of us will never see visions like this sister. But what can we do today to start walking on this path?

Praying Boldly to God

Read the following scenarios and think about what it means to “pray boldly” to God in each scenario. Discuss your answers with the class.

Scenario 1

For the past two years, Abby has been praying to God to give her the precious Holy Spirit. She prays very hard during special church convocations and during the monthly prayer sessions with all of the RE students. At home, however, Abby finds it difficult to concentrate when she prays. Even when praying at regular church services or RE classes, Abby does not always have the energy or focus to pray her hardest. At least, not every single time she prays. The more time passes, the more Abby wonders if she will ever receive God’s promised Holy Spirit. Deep down, she feels disappointed and is starting to believe that maybe she is not good enough in God’s eyes. Abby’s heard the same message from her parents, RE teacher, and different pastors: not to give up and to keep praying with faith. Does this situation require Abby to “pray boldly to God and with full faith”?



Questions

1. What does Abby need to do so she can “pray boldly to God and with full faith”?
2. What challenges do/did you face when praying for the Holy Spirit?

Scenario 2

Tyler has always been a quiet student who does not like to talk much in class. Sure, Tyler chats with his friends and likes to joke around with them, but he prefers to do so only with his closest friends. Most of all, Tyler does not like to argue with anyone, even with his friends. When people at school say something that he disagrees with, Tyler prefers to listen and to keep his opinions to himself. But for three weeks now, Tyler has grown increasingly uneasy during math class. A classmate sitting behind Tyler has been picking on Kevin, another student that Tyler doesn’t know very well. Tyler can hear the name-calling and teasing. No one seems to want to help Kevin. Even worse, everyone just giggles or snickers at the situation. Tyler is horrified that this is happening without the teacher’s awareness! Still, he prefers to keep quiet and not get involved, but keeping silent this time does not seem quite right to him. Yet, Tyler does not feel brave enough to speak up against the bully. What should he do?



Questions

1. As a Christian, does Tyler need to take any actions?
2. What spiritual actions should Tyler take?
3. Does this situation require Tyler to “pray boldly to God and with full faith”? Who does he need to pray for?

Scenario 3

Helena is having a miserable week. She broke her arm last week during a basketball game and she has been in pain all week. The pain medicine she takes has helped a little, but she can still feel the sharp aches, especially at night. A few times, the pains woke her up from her sleep and put her in tears. During the day, the cast she needs to wear often gets in the way and nothing feels right. To make matters worse, Helena’s doctor told her parents that she will need a second surgery to fix her arm because it is not healing properly. Helena doesn’t think she can handle any more pain. Despite her entire family and church members praying for her and comforting her, Helena is feeling depressed and helpless. She wonders why God is letting her go through such suffering and why she does not seem to feel better, even when she prays.



Questions

1. Does this situation require Helena to “pray boldly to God and with full faith”?
2. What does Helena need to do so she could “pray boldly to God and with full faith”?
3. How can Helena’s experience help her to deepen her faith as a Christian?

E2 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 11—The Gibeonites Trick the Israelites

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

1. How did the Gibeonites trick the Israelites into forming a covenant?
2. Look up Hebrews 4:15-16 and fill in the blanks.
 "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our _____, but was in all points _____ as we are, yet without _____. Let us therefore come _____ to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Life Application: Good vs. Bad Choices

In this homework assignment, we will try to practice telling the difference between good and not-so-good choices regarding media, as we need to make these choices at home every day. We want to be aware of what we are truly allowing to influence our thoughts and minds.

A. Choose one of the following:

- o A half hour TV show/cartoon that you normally watch
- o An interesting Internet video that you saw recently
- o A song (with lyrics) that is really popular right now
- o A video game you spend most of your time playing

B. As you are watching/playing/listening to whatever you have chosen, have this worksheet in front of you.

3. What do you think is the overall message that the TV show/song/video/game is trying to tell you?
4. Was there anything you saw or heard that broke any of the Ten Commandments? If so, which ones?
5. Was there anything you saw or heard that served as a good example for you and encouraged you?
6. Do you think you should watch or listen to this less or more based on the analysis you just made?