

Lesson 1: Israelites Prepare to Enter

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Conclude the study of Numbers and begin looking at Deuteronomy
- 2) Understand that Moses repeated the law of God to the Israelites before they entered the Promised land in the Plains of Jordan across from Jericho
- 3) Match events of what took place in Numbers and the beginning of Deuteronomy
- 4) Make a plaque to remember to "Love the Lord", Deuteronomy 6:5

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- Some students at this age will still have trouble writing/reading so during paper activities help ensure children understand by reading instructions aloud so they can follow along.
- Help students who have difficulty sitting for long periods by sitting beside them to help them stay focused.
- Some children maybe too young to write or have a hard time writing, ensure you check on students and if you notice one has difficulty offer to help write part of a sentence or a word for them.

Supplies: Coordinator will ensure these supplies are ready for you in advance. If not discuss with him/her.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Israel Preparing to Enter Across from Jericho – one for class to share
- Israel Match the Events Sheet – one per student
- Plaque (can be one sheet of construction paper, cardstock, piece of wood, etc.) one per student
- Markers that will write on the plaque surface you choose – enough to share

Optional:

- Scrap paper, glitter, beads, sequins, ribbon, etc. enough to share to decorate plaque if time
- Glue and Scissors to share
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Grapes, Figs and/or Pomegranates 1-4 pieces for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write in the name of each student on the chart and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Introduce yourself to the students, and if unfamiliar with their names, ask children to go around the room sharing their name so you can learn them. Say to students:

This quarter we will continue to study the Old Testament and finish the book of Numbers and begin a quick look at Deuteronomy. Numbers is part of the books of Law and is part of the first five books in the Old Testament. This is the book that continues the story of the Israelite people's wandering in the desert after escaping from Egypt. The book is called Numbers because the first part of this book describes the actual population of the Israelites and the fact that God told Moses to take a census or counting of the people. We will also start Deuteronomy today; that is the next book after Numbers. (Show students where both books are in your Bible and theirs) Deuteronomy means "Second Law" or law repeated. The law was first given at Mount Sinai by Moses to the people in Exodus, now Moses will repeat the law before the Israelites enter into the Promised Land. If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now.

2) Israelites in the Plains of Jordan

10 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

We have been spending the past while studying the Old Testament from Genesis through to Numbers. You ended the last quarter looking at Balak and Balaam and how they tried to stop the Israelites from travelling through Moab, but God protected the Israelites. Let's read Numbers 33:50-56. Can I get a volunteer to read? Have someone read Numbers 33:50-56 and thank them when they have finished.

Ask the students:

Where were the Israelites located now? In the Plains of Moab and Jordan across from Jericho.

*Show students map of Israelites across from Jericho and the Jordan River. Show them that they were currently in the land of the Moabites and that they were heading west towards Jericho and would have to somehow cross the Jordan River to get to Jericho and enter Canaan – the Promised Land.

What were they to do once they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land of Canaan?

Drive out all the people that lived there and destroy all their idols and then divide the land between the 12 tribes of Israel for them to live.

What would happen if they did not get rid of the people living in the land? The people would be trouble for the Israelites and God would punish the Israelites as He was going to do to the people they were to drive out.

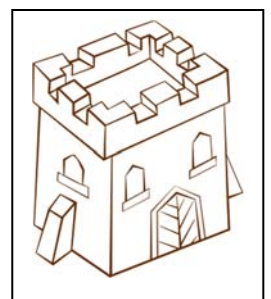
*Remind students **the people they were driving out, were not following God and God was going to punish them for being mean, hurtful and not obedient to God.**

3) Israelites Match the Events Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencil crayons. Tell the students, **"We are going to read through this sheet together as a group. When we are done matching the events we can then color the page.**

Read the directions and help the children match the description on the right, with the picture and description on the left, read the choices to them outloud for those who are unable to read themselves.



Answers: *Explain how each section relates to the Book in the Old Testament

Preparing to Enter	6	Numbers and Deuteronomy
Israel in the Desert	2	Exodus
Rebellion in the Wilderness	5	Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers
Exploring the Land	4	Numbers
Israel in Egypt	1	End of Genesis and beginning of Exodus
Israel at Mount Sinai	3	Exodus

We have just looked through the Israelites from the the time they started in Egypt to now as we study their preparation to enter as Moses repeats the Law for them.

The first five books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Look at my Bible as I show you each book you have studied so far. (Flip through showing each of the first 5 books of the Old Testament as you explain each book for a quick review.)

Genesis: ends with the life of Joseph and he being the second in command to Pharaoh ruling in Egypt. Joseph's family moved to Egypt to escape the severe famine in the land.

Exodus: is the events of Joseph and his brother's families becoming slaves in Egypt when the new Pharaoh forgot that the Israelites (Joseph and his family) were nice people. So, God sent Moses (one of the Israelites) to help them escape from slavery and leave Egypt – that is what Exodus means – exiting or leaving!

Leviticus: Next, we have the book of Leviticus – that is the book that describes all the laws the Israelites were to follow including the 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses in Exodus.

Numbers: is the book that describes the Israelites as they wander the desert for disobeying God and not trusting him and for complaining against Him. That is where we are now – the end of Numbers.

Deuteronomy: is the book that repeats all the laws that God wanted the Israelites to follow before they entered into the Promised Land. That is the book we will begin to focus on now and for a few lessons.

*Repeat the correct order for the students so they understand. Remind them that we are studying the Israelites now preparing to enter Canaan. Have them color the pictures in the boxes if time before moving on to the next activity.

4) Plaque Craft Deuteronomy 6:5

10-15 minutes

Have students turn in the Bibles to Deuteronomy. Share with them, **“As I said earlier, The Israelites were preparing to enter the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering in the desert for not obeying God. They now were going to enter in the rich, wonderful land God had promised them – the Promised Land of Canaan. In Deuteronomy Moses repeats the law he had given the Israelites some 40 years earlier at Mount Sinai. Now the people were to hear the law so it would be fresh in their minds before moving on to Canaan. We are going to read a part of Deuteronomy - Can I have you turn to Deuteronomy Chapter 6**

Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-12**

Discussion Questions:

What did God say the Israelites needed to do as a number one rule in Deuteronomy 6:5? Love the Lord with all their heart, soul and strength and to then teach this command and all others to their children and to not forget.

What does it mean love God with all your heart? Let students answer

What does it mean love God with all your soul? Let students answer

What does it mean love God with all your strength? Let students answer

God wanted the Israelites complete devotion and love. God had shown them love and was now going to bless them with a wonderful place to live and raise their families. He wanted them to not forget what He had done for them and was continuing to do for them. We need to remember to love God too! Turn to Mark 12:30 – What does Jesus say we need to do? Read Mark 12:30
Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength!

How important was this command to God? Extremely important – He said it was the most important and that the Israelites needed to remember it and teach their children. And as we just read, Jesus said it is extremely important for us today too!

To help us remember, I am going to hand out a plaque to each of you (hand out one sheet of construction paper, wood piece or something in a plaque shape for each child.) (For children who have difficulty, help them write out the verse from Deut 6:5.)

I want you to write the verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 on your plaque as neat and nice as you can with markers. Look at your Bible at verse 5 to see what exactly to write. (Hand out markers or pencil crayons)

When you are done writing on your plaque, you can then decorate your plaque with a picture, or with decorations (hand out decorations if using and glue and scissors to share)

Go around the room helping the students and making sure they realize the importance of the Israelites and us always remembering this very important command!

While they are decorating, have them repeat this verse 3 times as a class to help them remember it.

5) Optional: The Israelites March Activity Game

5-10 minutes

Tell the students that you are the leader (like Moses). Tell them that they are the Israelites and they need to follow the leader and do what you do. *Make sure you have some room to play this game either outside or in.

Call out the event and have students follow:

The Israelites are captive in Egypt! (Form a big huddle and don't let anyone out.)

The Israelites escape thanks to God and run from Pharaoh! (Everybody runs to a certain place you decide.)

The Israelites cross the Red Sea! (March with knees high through the dry sea.)

The Israelites gather manna. (Everyone bends towards the ground and pretends to gather manna from the ground in their baskets.)

The Israelites wander around because they are lost. (Have group walk around in circles.)

The Israelites enter the desert. (Have everyone pant and fan themselves because of the heat.)

The Israelites reach the Promised Land. (Have the group hug and cheer and be happy.)

6) Optional – Snack: Grapes, Pomegranates, and or Figs

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water. Explain that: **Last quarter we studied that Moses sent 12 spies to Canaan and when they returned they brought grapes, figs and pomegranates back to the Israelites. Now 38-40 years later they are entering the land that was promised and will again be able to eat these wonderful fruits. Let's snack on these and remember how excited the Israelites must have been after wandering for so many years to be able to enter in the rich, fertile land that was going to give them so much wonderful food!**

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember the names of the two faithful men who were going to enter Canaan along with all the people who had been 20 years and younger 40 years previous to the time they are now going to enter. See if the students can also remember the fruit they all brought back.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible** – *to the tune of the Alphabet song – A,B,C,D*

2) **We will Listen and Obey** (*to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm*)

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there

Here a Yes, There a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, help us as we study Your perfect Word in the Old Testament to understand it, use it and see the examples of faithful people that followed You. Help us to remember that Your commands are important and need to be followed to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help us all too always love You with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul! Help us this week as we go from our church family – we pray that you will be with us and our families, help us share the good news of Your love to every one we meet and help us to remember to pray and study the Bible every day.

Thank you God for Your love. Thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can know how to live and learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!