

## Lesson 2: God's Angel and Preparing the Way

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 23 and see that God was preparing and warning the Israelites
- 2) See that God had a plan for the Israelites and He would take care of them, if they obeyed.
- 3) Make a craft to remind students to obey God and choose to follow Him for it is wise.
- 4) See where the Israelites were to go and conquer and see what nations were to be removed.

### Supplies:

#### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Maze Activity – God's Angel Prepares the Way – one per student
- Map Showing Israelites Exodus From Egypt – one page to share with class
- Map Showing Canaan and the Places Israelites were to Conquer – one page to share with class
- Wise Owl Template – one template per child
- Hole punch – to share
- String – one 10 inch piece per child
- String – 3 various length pieces – 4, 6 and 8 inches per child
- Glue Sticks or Tape to share
- Scissors to share

#### Optional:

#### Snack:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| - Trail Mix (check for nut or gluten allergies first) | handful 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). Once children are seated say:

**We are continuing our study of the Israelites today and the account of Moses as they camped at Mount Sinai. Today we are going to study Exodus Chapter 23 – God warns the Israelites to obey and sends an Angel to prepare the way for the Israelites.**

**But first, can anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied more laws that God gave the Israelites to help them live at peace with each other and with God. This included helping even enemies.

##### 2) God's Angel Prepares the Way

15 minutes

Have students turn in the Bibles to **Exodus 23:20-32** and ask for volunteers to read the 12 verses.

#### Questions:

**Who was God going to send ahead of the Israelites?** An Angel.

**The first time in the Old Testament we see the word angel – was in Genesis 16:7 when an angel appeared to Hagar – Sarah’s maidservant who had run away into the desert.**

**Angels also appeared to Abraham and Lot, God sent an angel ahead of Abraham’s servant so he could find a wife for Isaac, and angels appeared to Jacob and to Moses while he was at the burning bush. An angel also was the one who lead the Israelites with the cloud by day and fire by night safely through the wilderness.**

**What were the Israelites to do in verse 21 in regards to the Angel?** Pay attention to and listen to what he says. Not to rebel against him since God’s Name was in him.

**What did God say He would do for the Israelites in verse 22?** If they listened – God would be an enemy to their enemies and oppose those who would oppose them.

**What were the names of the nations the Israelites were to drive out with the power of God from the land of Canaan?** \*Show map of conquering nations and pass it around and help students find each nation God mentions in verse 23. Show how as each nation would be removed, how much land would be opened up for the Israelites to have.

**What did God warn the Israelites not to do in verse 24?** Do not bow down to the other nations god’s or worship them and to break their idols and stones.

**If the Israelites obeyed how would God bless them in verse 25 and 28?** Bless their food, water, health, full life, and children. God would also send His terror or hornet ahead of the Israelites so that they would not have to do anything but follow God and God would remove the nations before them.

**\*Hornet is listed three times in the Old Testament. We are not sure what exactly God meant by that other than something terrifying and capable of driving out the nations before the Israelites.**

**Why would God not drive out all the other nations right away in verses 29-32?** Because the land would become desolate and the wild animals would increase too quickly for them.

**What was God’s final warning in verses 32-33?** Do not make a promise with the other nations or their gods, and do not let them live in the land because they would cause the Israelites to sin against God and be a snare to the Israelites.

**How do you obey God today?**

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

### **3) Map Showing Canaan and the Places Israelites were to Conquer 5 minutes**

Pass around map to each child as you discuss Exodus 23:23 and the nations the Israelites would conquer thanks to God wiping them out.

Find Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites.

\*The Gergesenes are shown on the map, but not mentioned as ones to be conquered. They are only mentioned in Matthew 8:28 when Jesus passed by the country. In the NIV they are called the Gadarenes instead of Gergasenes.



### **4) Map Showing Israelites Exodus From Egypt 5 minutes**

Pass around map showing where the Israelites had travelled and where they were now in Exodus 23 – Mount Sinai.

Show the area they were to travel to and take over in Canaan so the students can see the “big picture”.

Match the Dead (Salt) sea with the Dead (Salt) sea from the other map to show the approximate area they were to conquer and live as they travelled North.

### 5) Be Wise and Obey God Owl Mobile

20 minutes

Hand out one owl template to each child along with crayons. Read and do the directions that follow.

1. Color the Owl and Patterns
2. Cut out the pieces
3. Punch holes on all the dark circles on the leaves, apples, etc.
4. Apply glue or tape to the tab and fasten together to make a cylinder shape.
5. Use yarn to tie a handle and yarn to tie each apple to the holes at the bottom of the branch areas with holes. (See picture)



Remind the students to look at the picture if they need guidance and go to the verse in James to read what James says about wisdom.

Today we learned the God warned the Israelites and was willing to prepare the way for them. We know what God wants for us in the New Testament. Let's hang up our mobiles somewhere so we can be reminded that it is wise to obey God!

**How do we become wise?** Obey God and ask for wisdom, read God's Word and follow it. Knowledge is knowing what to do, wisdom is actually doing what you know you should!

**What area will you focus on this week to become increasingly wise?**

### 6) God's Angel Prepares the Way Maze

5 minutes

Hand out one maze sheet to each student along with a pencil. Read the title and show the students where to start and finish. Let students find the way through the maze.

### 7) Optional - Snack: Trail Mix

5 minutes

Hand out some trail mix to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. \*Ensure no child has a nut or gluten allergy beforehand. Say: **"Let's talk about what we learned today while we snack on some trail mix - a typical hiking or walking food. This reminds us that the Israelites were wanderers and travelers in the wilderness.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

### 8) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you; choose from the songs in the front of your binder.

### 9) 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.

Thank God that He took care of the Israelites and He will take care of us too! Thanks also to God for giving us good examples in the Bible to learn from and to learn that we need to obey God and follow Him and in return God will care for us and bless us and prepare a way for us just as He promised the Israelites if they obeyed! Pray that we can share this wonderful message with our family and friends. In Jesus loving name, Amen.