

Growing Up in God's Word

Bible Curriculum

“... from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures...”
(II Timothy 3:15, NKJV)

Numbers

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
How to Use this Curriculum.....	6
Suggested Schedule	9
Lesson 1: Observance of the Passover	10
Lesson 2: Departure from Mt. Sinai.....	17
Lesson 3: Israel Complains.....	24
Lesson 4: Rebellion of Miriam & Aaron	32
Lesson 5: Spies Sent to Canaan	39
Lesson 6: Israel Rebels Against God.....	44
Lesson 7: Korah's Rebellion.....	53
Lesson 8: Aaron's Rod	61
Lesson 9: The Sin of Moses & Aaron.....	67
Lesson 10: The Bronze Serpent	74
Lesson 11: Balaam's Donkey	81
Lesson 12: Balaam & Balak	88
Lesson 13: Death of Moses	95
Answer Key	103
Appendix A – Maps.....	120
Map 1 – Egypt & Sinai Peninsula	121
Map 2 – Mediterranean Sea and bordering countries.....	122
Map 3 – Sinai & Canaan.....	123
Map 4 – Canaan	124
Appendix B – Templates.....	125

Introduction

Why teach children the Bible using only the Bible? Can they understand it? Yes! Is it too boring? No! I have taught a children's Bible class on Sunday mornings for over twenty years and have home-schooled my three children, teaching them the Bible in our home. Guess what? Children are a lot smarter than we give them credit for! There are just a few key things to remember in teaching the Bible to children. First, we need to be enthusiastic about the Bible ourselves. If children see that we think the Bible is boring, they will most likely adopt the same opinion. Be excited about opening the word of God together! Second, don't be afraid to tell them you don't know an answer to their question. There are many things in the Bible that we have questions about; some things we are able to study and find an answer for, others will have to wait until we get to heaven and can ask God. It's okay to let them know you're stumped too, but encourage them to search for the answer with you. Third, set the bar high for them. Please, please, please don't “dumb” the Bible down to “their level”. Children can understand a lot through patient explanation and teaching. For example, if you read a hard word in the Bible that they may not be familiar with, stop and ask them what they think it means, then give them a correct definition. Now they have learned a new word and understand the passage you've just read at the same time. Children like to be challenged and to meet our expectations for them.

The method in this curriculum works because it has been tried among many children of different ages, abilities and levels. Here is the best proof I can offer to you: One of my regular Sunday morning students brought a friend to our class one day. She answered a few questions but mostly sat very quietly, absorbing everything that was going on. Later on, the woman that brought her to church said that the little girl told her on the way home that she wanted to come to our Sunday school class every week because we “*actually teach from the Bible*”. This little girl is not “unchurched” by any means; in fact, she regularly attends a denominational megachurch every Sunday. As the scripture says, “Out of the mouths of babes!”

May your children be like Timothy who, “*from childhood has known the holy Scriptures*” (II Timothy 3:15) and may God bless you as you study His word together.

How to Use this Curriculum

Life began in a garden, so we will be using garden references and symbols throughout this curriculum to designate the different activities. Luke 8:11 says that “*the seed is the word of God*”. Our hearts are the soil that the seed needs to be planted in. We should desire to cultivate the soil of our hearts and the hearts of our children to receive the word so that it will grow and produce good fruit for our Lord.



“Growing In The Word”: Lesson Text & Discussion

This is the most important part of the curriculum – the teaching of God's Word. The lesson text is broken down into manageable sections to be read aloud and then discussed. If children are old enough to read, let them read out loud. If there are several verses to be read as a section, you could take turns reading a couple of verses per person. If it helps your child, let them jot down notes or write down definitions to new words as you discuss the passage. Encourage them to ask questions and ask them leading questions to get them thinking. The discussion section is basically a paraphrasing of what was just read to make sure there is comprehension of the material. Frequently there are questions to be answered during the discussion phase as well. The section of verses often leave off at a “cliffhanger” moment which helps keep the children engaged. You read and discuss and then you're ready to read on to see what happens next. At the end of this section of the curriculum there are review questions. These can be used in several ways: You may ask them at the end of the lesson, at the end of the week for a review, or if you want to have a graded assignment, you can use them as an oral or written quiz.

*A word about translations. It is important to use a reliable and accurate translation. Some dependable ones are KJV, NKJV, and ASV (American Standard). Many modern translations have compromised the integrity of the Scriptures in trying to put it in “easier to understand” language. All references in this curriculum are taken from the New King James Version.



“Putting Down Roots”: Memory Work

Memory work should be practiced every day for the entire week. Use whatever method works the best according to your child's learning style. Here is a link with a list of aids for memorizing scripture: <http://pryorconvictions.com/memorizing-scripture/> The Psalmist said in Psalm 119:11, “*Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.*” I cannot stress enough how important it is to memorize Scripture. In addition to Scripture, sometimes there are other items included in the Memory Work such as lists of things or categories. A challenge to parents: memorize it with your children!



"Farther Afield": Map Work

There are blank maps provided in Appendix A in the back of the book. These may be photocopied for home use with this curriculum. Most lessons have mapping activities to serve as a visual aid of the places you read about in scripture. To be consistent, you may want to follow a system such as: cities – red, countries – green, bodies of water – blue, wilderness or desert areas – brown, lands or regions – yellow. The map work will indicate different places to be located on the map. Locate and label each item.



"Harvest Fun": Games & Activities

There are games and activities for each lesson to help review and reinforce the material that was covered. It is best to read through these at the beginning of the week to see if any planning ahead needs to be done.



"Digging Deeper": Research

This is primarily for the older students who are able to work independently. If your younger children wish to do these assignments with your help, then by all means, let them! It is a good idea to keep a notebook for these written assignments. These assignments are meant to encourage students of the Bible to learn how to study a topic deeper by using other resources to shed light on the subject. Primarily, books and the Internet will be your sources of information so it's important to do two things: 1) Check the reliability of your source, and 2) Check multiple sources; you might find two or more very different theories or opinions. Some good resources to use are Bible commentaries, concordances (such as Strong's), Bible dictionaries, Bible atlases and Bible software. There are many things we run across in the Bible that we would like to know more about. Have fun exploring!



"Food For Thought": Puzzles

There are at least two puzzles with each lesson to, again, provide review and reinforcement or plain just to have fun! The puzzles may be worked in the book or photocopied. All puzzle answers are provided in the Answer Key in the back of the book.



"Fruits Of Our Labor": Crafts

There are at least two crafts to do with each lesson. They vary in level of difficulty, but are another means of reinforcement of material covered. Crafts are a good activity for the kinesthetic (hands-on) learner as well as a tangible reminder for the visual learner. Please read ahead early in the week to see what materials you may need to gather in advance.

Suggested Schedule

This curriculum is designed to be used five days a week, 30 minutes to 1 hour per day. It is designed to be used with multiple ages with some activities geared toward older children and others geared toward younger. You may use as much or as little of the activities listed as you choose. Please feel free to alter the suggested schedule to fit the time constraints and needs of your family. However, the lesson and memory work portions should be used for all ages.

Begin or end each day's activities with prayer.

- Day 1 – Read “Growing in the Word”: Lesson Text and Discussion. Begin “Putting Down Roots”: Memory Work assignments.
- Day 2 – Continue memory work, do “Farther Afield”: Map Work activities, and “Harvest Fun”: Games and Activities.
- Day 3 – Continue memory work, do “Digging Deeper”: Research activities, and/or “Food for Thought”: Puzzles.
- Day 4 – Continue memory work, do “Fruits of Our Labor”: Crafts, or continue working on previous activities.
- Day 5 – Recite memory work, do lesson Review Questions and finish any assignments or activities from the week that time didn't permit.

Lesson 1: Observance of the Passover

Text: Numbers 9



"Growing In The Word": Lesson Text & Discussion

Read Numbers 9:1-5. As the book of Numbers opens, the Israelites are still encamped at Mt. Sinai where Moses received the 10 commandments as we read in the book of Exodus. It is the first month of the second year since they have been delivered from the land of Egypt. What feast does the Lord command them to keep? (Passover) What day of the month was it to be celebrated? (14th) The Israelites were to observe Passover as a remembrance of what God had done in the land of Egypt during the 10th plague. Do you remember what the 10th plague was? (Death of the firstborn) When God struck the land of Egypt with the 10th plague, God passed over the homes of the Israelites and spared them if they had obeyed God's command to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts and lintels. God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to keep a Passover feast as a memorial of this event every year. During this second year of their freedom, the first occasion arises for them to keep this feast even though they are in the wilderness. Did the people obey and keep it as commanded? (Yes)

Read Numbers 9:6-14. A situation comes up that Moses and Aaron have to deal with. There were certain men who were kept from keeping the Passover because of something they had done. What had they done? (Come into contact with a dead body) Does your Bible say they were "defiled" by the dead body of a man? What do you think defiled means? It simply means to make unclean. It's possible that these men had been assisting at a funeral and had come in contact with a dead body that way. Whatever the case, there were those who thought they were now "unclean" and should not be allowed to keep the Passover. Before answering them as to what should be done, what does Moses do first? (Asks the Lord) Moses doesn't take matters into his own hands and make a decision, but he asks the Lord what is the right thing to do. This is a great example to us as well. When we're faced with making a decision, we should first pray to the Lord about it, that He will guide us to do the right thing. What was the Lord's decision about this? Were the men still allowed to keep the Passover? (Yes) What was to be eaten at this feast along with the Passover lamb? (Unleavened bread and bitter herbs) How much of the roasted lamb was to be left until the next day? (None of it) What did the Lord say would happen to a man if he was on a journey but did not take the time to keep the Passover as he should? (He would be cut off from his people.) If a stranger was staying with the Israelites and wanted to keep the Passover, would he be allowed to do so? (Yes) This may seem like God is giving a lot of rules here, but remember, the people have been living in Egypt all of their lives as slaves. They do not have any type of scripture written down for them to learn from. All of this is new to them: new laws, ceremonies, rituals, and feasts that the Lord wants them to learn about and obey. It will take a lot of time and teaching for them to know what to do.

Read Numbers 9:15-23. When the Israelites pitched camp, the tabernacle would be

set up in the very middle of the camp with the different tribes pitching their tents all around it in a certain order. What would appear above the tabernacle on the day it was set up? (Pillar of cloud) Another name for the tabernacle is given here. What is it? (The tent of the Testimony) A testimony is also a witness. The tent contained the ark of the covenant which was sometimes called the ark of the testimony. In the ark were the two tablets of stone that the 10 commandments were written on. These served as a witness or testimony to the people of what God wanted them to do and how He wanted them to live. During the day, the pillar of cloud hovered above the tabernacle, but what hovered over it at night? (Pillar of fire) It was still the same pillar of cloud, but its appearance changed into one of fire when it grew dark at night. In this way, the people could always see a sign of God's presence, day and night. How would the people know when they were supposed to break camp and move on? (The pillar of cloud would move.) How would they know when it was time to stop and set up camp again? (When the pillar of cloud settled back down and didn't move, they knew it was time to stop.) The people of Israel didn't stay camped the same amount of time at each location. Sometimes they would camp for just a short time such as two days, while other times they would stay encamped for a month or a whole year without moving on. Whatever the time limit, wherever the location, the point is that the Lord was the one leading the people. When He directed them to go, they went. When He directed them to stop, they stopped. They journeyed at the command of the Lord.

Review Questions:

(Answers are in the Answer Key.)

1. What month and year is it after the deliverance from Egypt?
2. What feast did the Lord command the Israelites to keep?
3. What did this feast commemorate?
4. Where were the Israelites encamped at this time?
5. What had some of the men done that the people thought would prevent them from participating in Passover?
6. How did Moses handle the situation?
7. What appeared above the tabernacle by day?
8. What appeared above the tabernacle by night?
9. Where was the tabernacle positioned in the camp of Israel?
10. How long did the Israelites camp at each location?
11. When did the Israelites break camp and journey on?
12. When did the Israelites stop and pitch camp to stay?
13. Who directed the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness?



"Putting Down Roots": Memory Work

- Memorize Exodus 12:14
- Memorize Numbers 9:23
- Memorize the divisions of the Old Testament: Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy (Major prophets, Minor Prophets)



"Farther Afield": Map Work

Map 1

- Locate the country of Egypt
- Locate the land of Goshen
- Locate the Wilderness of Sinai
- Locate Mt. Sinai



"Harvest Fun": Games & Activities

- Follow the Cloud - This is a scavenger hunt game where the kids will follow clues around the house culminating in a treat at the end. At each clue location will be a cloud containing the next clue. You may use the small cloud templates in Appendix B if you'd like. Copy the template onto card stock or light blue paper as many times as needed. Write the following clues on the clouds, one clue per cloud. Clue #1 - If you're in a hungry mood, go here first to find some food. (Kitchen pantry) Clue #2 - Now you're on your second clue, these go on before your shoes. (Sock drawer) Clue #3 - If you want your teeth to shine, pick this up and spend some time. (Toothbrushes) Clue #4 - If you want to learn and grow, turn the page, get in the know. (Tucked inside a Bible) Clue #5 - Someone visits everyday and leaves things to read and bills to pay. (Mailbox) Clue #6 - This is where you lay your head each night when you climb into bed and turn out the light. (Pillow) Clue #7 -

This is where you get all wet, wash behind your ears, don't forget! (Bathtub) Clue #8 - Is your hair a mess? We can fix that; it's also where your next clue is at. (Hairbrush) Clue #9 - This is where we gather to eat; rest yourself and pull up a seat. (Dining room table) Clue #10 - We've come to the end, but don't be sad, look in the freezer and you'll be glad. (Have ice cream or a frozen treat ready in the freezer.) While everyone enjoys their treat, explain how the children of Israel went exactly where God wanted them to go by following the pillar of cloud. Ultimately, God led His people to the land of Canaan - a wonderful land flowing with milk and honey.

- Bake unleavened bread - Unleavened bread was served at the Passover feast. This bread would be very flat since there was no leaven to make the dough rise.

Unleavened bread

1 cup all-purpose flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt, or as needed (optional)
1/3 cup water, or more if needed	1 tsp. olive oil, or as needed

Move an oven rack near the top of the oven and preheat oven to 475 degrees. Preheat a heavy baking sheet in the oven. Set the timer for 16 minutes (18 max). Dust a clean work surface and a rolling pin with flour. Place the flour into a mixing bowl. Pour the water into the flour one tablespoon at a time and stir with a fork until the dough forms a rough ball. Remove the dough to the prepared work surface, knead rapidly and firmly until smooth, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Divide the dough into four equal pieces; cut each piece in half again to get 8 pieces total. Swiftly roll each piece into a ball. Roll each piece of dough out into a 5-inch pancake, dusting the top and rolling pin with flour as needed. Gradually roll the pancakes out to a size of about 8 inches, increasing the size of each by about 1 inch, then letting the dough rest for a few seconds before rolling again to the finished size. Roll from the center out. The bread rounds should be very thin. Using a fork, quickly pierce each bread all over, about 25 times, to prevent rising. The holes should go completely through the bread. Flip the bread over, and pierce each piece another 25 times with the fork. With at least 5 minutes left on the timer, remove the hot baking sheet from the preheated oven and place the dough rounds onto the baking sheet. Place the baking sheet onto the rack near the top of the oven and bake for 2 minutes; turn the rounds over and bake for 2 minutes more, until the bread rounds are lightly browned and crisp. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Lightly brush olive oil onto each round and, if desired, sprinkle with salt.



"Digging Deeper": Research

- Passover Feast - What was the purpose of the Passover Feast? What month and day was the Passover to take place? What foods were eaten and how were they prepared? What other name was this feast known by?
- Tabernacle - The tabernacle was the portable tent of worship which the Jews used until the temple was built by Solomon. Find some illustrations of what the tabernacle might have looked like and how it was set up. How many divisions did the tent itself have? What were they called and what pieces of furniture were located in each division? What are some other names for the tabernacle?
- Jewish Calendar - What were the names of the 12 months of the Jewish calendar? Which of their months correspond to ours? How was their civil calendar different from their sacred calendar? In which month did Passover take place?



"Food For Thought": Puzzles

- True or False? - Read the following statements and decide if they're true or false. Write the answer on the line. Answers are in the Answer Key.
 - ___ 1. Wherever the pillar of cloud settled, Israel would pitch their tents.
 - ___ 2. The Passover Feast was to be kept on the 14th day of the first month.
 - ___ 3. The people were to eat leavened bread and sweet herbs.
 - ___ 4. The Israelites always camped the same amount of time at each location.
 - ___ 5. The pillar of cloud had the appearance of fire at night.
 - ___ 6. The people were allowed to save the leftovers of the Passover meal.
 - ___ 7. The pillar of cloud would rest above the tabernacle.
 - ___ 8. If you were unclean because of a dead body, you could still keep the Passover.
 - ___ 9. Joshua told the people of Israel they should keep the Passover.
 - ___ 10. This Passover was observed in the Wilderness of Sinai.

- Set up camp! - The Israelites didn't just pitch their tents wherever they wanted. There was a certain order in which they entered camp, set up camp, and broke camp. Read the following scriptures and place the tribes in their correct positions. Answers are in the Answer Key.

Scriptures: East side of the camp - Numbers 2:1-9; South side of the camp - Numbers 2:10-16; Middle of the camp - Numbers 2:17; West side of the camp - Numbers 2:18-24; North side of the camp - Numbers 2:25-31

TABERNACLE



"Fruits Of Our Labor": Crafts

- Pillar of Cloud/Fire - The Lord led the Israelites by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. For this craft you will need: a clear regular-sized plastic cup, batting or Poly-fil, glue, and orange glow stick necklaces or bracelets. Paint a thin layer of glue all over the outside of the plastic cup. Take the batting or Poly-fil and stretch it out so it's wispy and thin, but will still give a cloud effect. Press

it all over the glue on the cup until the cup is completely covered and cloudy! Turn the cup upside down on a table to serve as the pillar of cloud by day. At night, turn your cup back over, activate two or three orange glow sticks and bend them to fit down inside the cup. Turn the cup back over, turn off the lights, and behold your pillar of fire!

- Camp of Israel Diorama - A diorama is simply a scene in miniature and it can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like! There are books and several internet sources that have great illustrations of dioramas as well as tips for different techniques such as how to make realistic-looking water. To make this diorama, start with a large sturdy base. What goes in the middle? Right! The tabernacle. Then the tents were pitched on each of the four sides around it, three tribes per side. And there were a lot of tents! Sometimes they camped near mountains, brooks, palm trees and rocky areas. Make your diorama reflect the landscape. They also traveled with their flocks and herds so they will need to be included in the outer areas where they could graze. Be creative and have fun with this!
- Pillar of Fire - This is really cool to look at but too dangerous to do yourself so I've included links to some videos to watch other people make this. These are videos on making fire tornadoes which might look similar to what the Israelites saw. Remember that the Lord led the Israelites by night with a pillar of fire in the sky.

www.sciencekids.co.nz/videos/experiments/firetornado.html

video.about.com/chemistry/How-to-Make-a-Fire-Tornado.htm

*Always use adult supervision when viewing videos on the internet.