



Guidelines for Teachers

Bibletime Levels 3 and 4

C Series
Lessons 7-12

Bible Educational Services

Registered Charity UK (No 1096157)

Mission Statement

Serving you to serve others by producing for worldwide use, consecutive Bible lessons that enable the teaching of the Word of God to the current and next generations.

Vision Statement

To facilitate the production of Bible Educational Resources in many of the world's languages, through various means of communication, in partnership with others who share our core values.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What Bible Educational Services does:-

Bible Educational Services (BES) publish "Bibletime", "New Life" and "Gleaners" Bible lessons in English and support Postal Bible Schools and similar organizations using BES lessons in the UK and overseas, by visiting, networking, advising and training. BES is also currently working in partnership with groups in other countries who are involved in translation, design, publishing and distribution of lessons. Lessons must be provided free of charge to all students.

Bibletime lessons were first used in Southern Ireland over 50 years ago. Bible Educational Services maintain editorial responsibility for Bibletime Lessons in English and in all foreign languages. Bibletime Lessons have been normally published in an A4 format which enables students in some areas, every four weeks, to send the lessons back to a Bible School Centre for marking. More recently, thanks to the Every Home Crusade (Revival Movement) in Belfast, lessons for six months have been published in an A5 format, which has made usage in Churches and Schools much easier, especially where there is no effective postal system.

The BES lessons are unique in that they are prepared with home or group (Church/School) study in view, following a planned syllabus which allows students to continue studying for up to 20 years. Five levels of lessons are available for specific age groups, Pre-school, 5-7's, 8-10's, 11-13's, 14-16's. There is a three year syllabus for each age group. (See page 4) The age groups may vary according to varying abilities. The Bibletime Resource gives children the opportunity of studying God's Word, learning Bible Stories and facing the challenge of the relevance of the Gospel in their lives.

Printed copies of the lessons are available in English from the BES website www.besweb.com or from the International Secretary. They are also available on the website in other languages. BES has documents which may be helpful to you if you are considering partnering with us, which are also available on the website.

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GUIDELINES for TEACHERS

Originally, Bibletime lessons were produced to be used in a postal system with a Postal Bible School Centre but the lessons are increasingly being used where the postal system is unreliable or non-existent especially in Churches and Schools in Africa, India and other locations. Teaching Guidelines are produced for those using Bibletime lessons in such situations. The Teaching Guidelines in this Booklet are designed for use with Level 3 and Level 4 lessons approximate ages 11-16's.

Each Teaching Guide follows the same Bible Reference as the Bibletime lesson. The Bibletime lessons and Guidelines are designed to be used on a weekly basis. The April lessons are particularly related to Easter and the December lessons are related to Christmas.

Some locations will be using an A4 weekly edition of the lessons and others will be using the A5 booklet with 24 lessons included. Normally the teacher or leader will give out the monthly A4 lesson and each week the lesson will be either filled in, in the Church or School or taken home and returned the following week. At the end of the month the teacher or leader will collect the lesson and do the necessary marking, returning the marked lessons as soon as possible to the student.

When using booklets ideally, at the end of each session, the booklets are collected and marked. We realise that in many situations this is impossible. So in the classroom they may be distributed to other students and the teacher or leader will work through the lessons and the students mark their friend's lessons and give a score. At the rear of the booklets there is a place for scores for each month's lesson and a place for a comment about progress that the student has made. There is a certificate also that can be detached and given to the student with an indication of the percentage that the student has obtained for the six months of lessons.

PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS

We do not want to be prescriptive and give no room for teachers to adapt things in their own way with their own ideas and initiatives. These are suggestions which could help in the use of the Bibletime Resource:

- **Be familiar with the story** - Teachers should be as familiar as possible with the Bible Story and also with the Bibletime lesson that accompanies it. Ideally, the Bibletime lesson should be completed by the teacher before the lesson. The Guidelines for each lesson should also be carefully considered as a planning aid for the lessons.
- **Understand the lessons to be learned** - At the top of each lesson plan you will notice the words 'We are learning that', followed by two learning intentions which the children will hopefully have grasped after listening to the teacher's presentation and completing the Bibletime lesson. The first learning intention is to do with knowledge about the story, whereas the second encourages the children to think about the knowledge, apply it and make a response. These learning intentions are a precise statement of the main concepts/truth taught in the lesson and teachers may wish to use them for their personal evaluation of the teaching and learning which has occurred.
- **Introduce it** - With all lessons, we start where the children are with their own experience of the situation. We have suggested various ways that might be used to introduce the story to enable the children to be interactive in discussing the starting point of the story.
- **Teach It** - We have given the Key Points in the story. We would hope that the teachers would not have to refer to these when actually giving the story but would be familiar with the story and be able to teach it in an interesting and inspiring way. The teacher will want the children to understand the main lessons from the story and help them to understand the response they can make from learning the story. As appropriate we have tried to interweave some explanations into the story telling. These are always included in **ITALICS**.
- **Show it** - We appreciate that in some situations, visuals will be very difficult to obtain but wherever possible it is important to focus on pictures or objects to help in the understanding of the story. Visual aids can be a great help in telling the stories. Where appropriate in each lesson we have given the information about pictures from www.freebibleimages.org pictures (FBI) which are downloadable from their website. Another source of visual material is Eikon Bible Art [info@eikonbibleart.com] but their material has to be purchased. Where a photocopier is available, some Bibletime pictures could be enlarged, coloured, and used in teaching.
- **Learn It** - There is a Key Verse attached to each story. On some occasions, there are two Key Verses, since we have added another Key Verse which may be easier for children to learn. We hope that the children can learn the Key Verses and will be reminded of it as often as possible so that they begin to build up knowledge of Key Bible Verses.
- **Complete It** - In a school situation you will be aware of the abilities of children to complete worksheets and the amount of teacher support required. For some, it will be a requirement that the teacher reads over the text of the lesson as the children follow what is now a familiar narrative. Other children may be able to read the

text independently. In either case, it may be an idea to draw the children's attention to specific instructions relating to the questions. If you are using Bibletime in a non-school context, it is important to be available to help so that it is not perceived as a chore or test. It should be enjoyable, and encouragement and praise while working on the task are important.

- **Review it** - We have suggested wherever possible quizzes or acting to assist the learning, and as a means of revising the story.
- **Live it-** This section carries the heading 'how does the lesson challenge us' and also some suggestions of possible group work and individual responses to the challenge of the lesson.

Teaching the Key Verse

- 1) The verse could be written on a sheet of paper or on a board with various words removed as the children repeat the verse until the whole verse is removed and the students can repeat it without the words in front of them.
- 2) To introduce the Key Verse, you could use:
 - a) The Hangman approach with two teams – a number of letters- spaces of the Key Verse are given with no actual letters – the children choose which letters they want until someone is able to recognise the verse.
 - b) Sword Drill where Bibles are available, and the children race to find the verse and the first one to find it reads it out.

Time Plan

- **Order.** We have kept the same order in the Teaching Guidelines for each Lesson but it may be the teachers will want to change this from time to time.
 - The introduction and telling the story - approximately 15 minutes
 - Teaching the Key Verse - 5-10 minutes
 - Completing the worksheet - 20 minutes
 - Quiz and other activities - 5-10 minutes.

Remember the important saying:

“Tell me and I may forget,
Show me and I'll remember,
Involve me and I'll understand.”

Bibletime Syllabus

	LEVEL 0 (Pre-School) LEVEL 1 (Ages 5-7) LEVEL 2 (Ages 8-10)	LEVEL 3 (Ages 11-13)	LEVEL 4 (Ages 14+)
STARTER SERIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starter Lesson - Intro 2. U1 - Luke's Gospel 3. U2 - Luke's Gospel 4. U2 - Luke's Gospel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starter Lesson - Intro 2. U1 - Luke's Gospel 3. U2 - Luke's Gospel 4. U2 - Luke's Gospel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starter Lesson - Intro 2. U1 - Luke's Gospel 3. U2 - Luke's Gospel 4. U2 - Luke's Gospel
SERIES A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Abraham 6. Abraham 7. Peter 8. Peter 9. Jacob 10. Early Christians 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. Prayer 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation & Fall 2. Early developments - Genesis 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. The Christian Life 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Life of Christ 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Parables 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. People Jesus met 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. Gospel Writers 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Jacob & his family 7. Joseph 8. Acts 2: 42 - The way ahead 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. The Law 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. More Miracles 3. People Jesus met 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth & Samuel 6. David 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Jonah 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. People Jesus met 3. More Miracles 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Men used by God - OT 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. The sayings of Jesus 3. The Lords Power 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. More OT Characters 12. The Christmas Story

	C7 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – The Life of David Topic – Choosing the King	C7– LEVEL 4 Study 1 – The Life of David Topic – Choosing the King
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 16: 1-13</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Samuel 16: 7</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saul had failed as the King of Israel so a new king was needed. 2. God is more concerned about the state of our 'hearts' than about our looks and it is only God who really knows our 'hearts'. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 16: 1-13</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Acts 13: 22</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saul was rejected by God from being king of Israel because of his disobedience to God. 2. God judges by faith and character and not by outward appearance.
INTRODUCE IT	Saul was Israel's first king but was more concerned about appearances than obeying God's commands. God rejected him as King of Israel but allowed him to serve as king as long as he lived. He was not, however, allowed to pass his crown on to his sons when he died. Unlike Saul, the next king, King David would be chosen for the quality of his 'heart' and not for his appearance.	Saul had been told by God to destroy the Amalekites and their possessions – this nation had ambushed some of the Israelites when they left Egypt for Canaan. God knew the Israelites would never have peace as long as the Amalekites existed. Saul disobeyed God's command and, as a result, God rejected Saul as king by not allowing any of his family to be King of Israel, although He allowed Saul to remain king until his death.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuel, the prophet, was sent by the Lord, to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the future King of Israel. This was because Saul had been rejected as king. (16: 1) 2. Samuel looked at the seven sons of Jesse who were present at the feast, confident that one of them was the future king of Israel, but the Lord told Samuel He had not chosen any of them. (16: 10) 3. Samuel asked if there were any more sons and young David is brought in from looking after sheep. The Lord directs Samuel to anoint David, for He knew David's 'heart' was right on the inside. (16: 11-12) 4. The anointing oil was poured over David's head and this showed that he was set apart for God's service. (16: 13) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Samuel 16: 7</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Samuel anoints David to be King (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be the future king of Israel. This was because Saul had been rejected as king. (16: 1) 2. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrificial feast and looked over seven of Jesse's sons to find who would be the next King of Israel but God told him: 'The Lord hath not chosen these.' (16: 10) 3. Samuel enquired from Jesse if he has any more sons and is told David, the youngest, is looking after the sheep. Samuel asked for David to be brought before him and the Lord told him, David was to be the future king. (16: 11-12) 4. Samuel anointed David and this showed David was now set apart by God for his future responsibilities. (16: 13) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - Acts 13: 22</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Samuel anoints David to be King (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Reflect on this story with the students and emphasise the importance of not judging people by outward things such as looks, dress and riches. Advise students that the mass media encourage this faulty outlook by using glamorous people in advertisements, television and magazines. In contrast, the Lord judges by faith and character. God has a plan for our lives and can only work it out in us if we have trusted in Him and made Him Lord of our lives.	Ask students to review this study by giving answers to the following questions in their own words: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) What was Samuel commissioned by God to do in verses 1-3? (ii) Why did Samuel come to a false conclusion about Eliab in verses 6 and 7? (iii) Who was God's choice for King of Israel and what did Samuel do that confirmed the right choice in verses 11-13?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whilst everyone can see your face, only God and yourself know what our 'hearts' really look like. What steps should we take to ensure our 'hearts' are pleasing to God? 2. It would be years before David wore Saul's crown but God was preparing him for future service. If we are trusting in the Lord Jesus, we should always pray that God will give us the strength and courage to enable Him to carry out His plan for our lives. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David was different from Saul and the rest of his brothers, in that he obeyed and loved God and God blessed him. If we obey and love the Lord Jesus, He will bless us at home, at school and throughout life. 2. God is more concerned about our inward appearance, our hearts, than our outward appearance. We should not judge people by their outward appearances but by the love they have for Jesus. Ask for examples of this.

	C7 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – The Life of David Topic – Battling with Goliath	C7 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 - The Life of David Topic – Conquering the Giant!
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 17: 12-52</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Samuel 17: 47</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David volunteers to go and fight Goliath. Just as David was spiritually equipped to meet Goliath, so we can be spiritually equipped to resist the devil by reading God’s Word and applying it to our private and public lives. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 16: 14-19; 17: 12-52</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Samuel 17: 47</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David had faith to believe that the Lord would give him the victory when he went out to fight Goliath. If we know the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour, we too can know the victory over Satan in our lives for the Lord Jesus defeated him when He died on the cross.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Remind students that David had been anointed the next King of Israel. The killing of Goliath clearly illustrated why he was God’s choice. When this Philistine giant threatened the army of Israel, Saul and his army cowered in fear. However, David trusted in God and was successful, showing that true power is not from size and strength but from dependence on God.</p>	<p>When the children of Israel first approached the Promised Land, most of them were afraid to enter because of the giants living there. (<i>Numbers 13: 32-33</i>). In <i>Deuteronomy 3: 11</i>, the Bible tells us King of Bashan needed a bed over thirteen feet long! Now Goliath, over nine feet tall, taunted Israel’s soldiers on one side of the valley of Elah.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David brings supplies to his three brothers at the battlefield and sees the fear on the faces of the Israelite soldiers as the giant Goliath (over 3 metres tall) taunts them. (<i>17: 20-24</i>) Read the full description of the weapons and armour of Goliath. (<i>17: 4-7</i>) David asks what the reward would be for the person who killed Goliath but his brother Eliab is very critical of him for coming to the battlefield. (<i>17: 26-29</i>) David says he will go and fight Goliath. Saul doubts David’s ability to kill Goliath but knew the power of God working in his private life when he defended his sheep from a lion and a bear. David knew he could rely on God to deliver him. (<i>17: 34-37</i>) As David moves towards Goliath and slings the first stone, he hits him on the forehead and he falls to the ground. David uses the giant’s own sword to kill him and the Philistines flee with the Israelites in pursuit of them! (<i>17: 40-51</i>) God showed His mighty power by giving young David the victory. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI - David and Goliath (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Philistine armies and the armies of Israel gather on opposite sides of the Valley of Elah for battle. Goliath was heavily armed and for forty days defied the armies of Israel to send someone to fight him. (<i>17: 1-10</i>) Read the full description of the weapons and armour of Goliath. (<i>17: 4-7</i>) David saw this situation and the fear of the Israelites when he brought food to his brothers at the battlefield. David knew that God had been with him in the past and offered to fight Goliath, knowing God would ensure he was victorious. (<i>17: 26-29</i>) Saul is doubtful but, seeing David’s courage, gives him his own armour, which David discarded as it was only a hindrance to him. (<i>17: 34-39</i>) With five smooth stones, a sling and a staff, he goes to meet Goliath who was very cross that someone as insignificant as David was sent to fight him. (<i>17: 40-44</i>) David was an expert marksman and brought Goliath down when he slung the first stone and hit him in the forehead. Goliath fell on his face and David uses his own sword to kill him resulting in the Philistines fleeing and the armies of Israel pursuing after them. (<i>17: 40-52</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI - David and Goliath (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Read <i>Ephesians 6: 10-17</i> and explain to the students what the ‘spiritual armour’ was that David was equipped with when he went to fight Goliath. Also explain how, as Christians, when we trust the Lord, we need to wear this ‘spiritual armour’ to fight the battles which we face every day in our Christian lives.</p>	<p>Read <i>Psalms 108: 12-13</i> and ask students to explain how these verses were true of David when he killed Goliath. Read <i>1 Corinthians 15: 57</i> and ask how David’s victory over Goliath can be compared to the Lord Jesus’ victory over Satan. Read <i>Ephesians 6: 1–18</i> and ask students to discuss the kinds of armour a Christian needs to defeat Satan.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord Jesus won the greatest battle when He died for sinners and defeated Satan. Because He was victorious, He can give us the power to overcome the temptations of Satan. Criticism did not stop David from taking action for he knew God was with him and for him. We should continue to do what is right knowing we are pleasing God – the One whose opinion matters most. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David knew God would fight for him when he faced Goliath. When we face temptations from Satan, the Lord will fight for us when we put our trust in Him. David’s trust in God was strong because God had preserved him in the past. When you face problems, recall how God helped you in the past to meet the difficulties of the future.

	C7 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The Life of David Topic – Living with Saul	C7 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – The Life of David Topic – Coping with problems
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Samuel 18: 1-17; 19: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 18: 14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even though young David was God’s chosen king, there were difficulties in his life he would have to face before becoming King of Israel, but David relied on his God to help him overcome them. 2. Just as God protected David in life-threatening situations because he ‘behaved wisely’, so the Lord protects those who trust Him in the most difficult and dangerous situations. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Samuel 18: 1-23; 19: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verses: Hebrews 13: 5 & 6</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even though young David was God’s chosen king, there were difficulties in his life he would have to face before becoming King of Israel, but David relied on his God to help him overcome them. 2. Christians face trials and difficulties, their faith in the Lord Jesus will help them to be over-comers and give them the strength to carry on living for Him.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Revise the story so far. David came to live with King Saul, a close friendship developed between Saul’s son Jonathan and David. Jonathan was the natural heir to the throne but was willing to forego this right to see David crowned king. David was very successful when fighting the Philistines and this won him great popularity with the people but Saul became very jealous of him and sought ways to kill him.</p>	<p>Revise the story so far. Despite Saul’s jealousy of David, Saul’s son Jonathan developed a close friendship with David, even though Jonathan knew David would eventually be King of Israel. Although Saul tried to kill David on a number of occasions, Jonathan was used by God to advise and protect David against Saul’s evil intentions.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David came to live with Saul and Jonathan and David become great friends. Saul gave David high rank but became jealous of David because the woman sang: ‘Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousand’s’ (1 Samuel 18: 1-7) 2. On one occasion Saul threw a spear at David and also tried other ways of having him killed in battle. (18: 10-27) 3. Jonathan advised David to hide but also reminds his father, Saul, of David’s loyalty and success against Israel’s enemies. (19: 1-7) 4. Saul only relents for a short period of time and hatches a plot to have David killed but his plans are thwarted by God, and David flees to Samuel in Ramah, for support and security. (19: 9-18) 5. God was allowing David to go through difficult times to strengthen his character and his faith. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Samuel 18: 14</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Jonathan and David promise friendship (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David came to live with Saul and Jonathan and David become great friends. Saul gave David high rank but became jealous of David because the woman sang: ‘Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousand’s’ (18: 1-7) 2. On one occasion Saul threw a spear at David and also tried other ways of having him killed in battle. (18: 10-27) 3. David behaves wisely (18: 5; 15) and God protects him as a result. 4. Saul’s youngest daughter, Michal, was given to David as his wife because he killed Goliath, but Saul’s hatred of him still grew. (18: 20-28) 5. War breaks out again with the Philistines, and even though Jonathan tried to advise Saul not to kill David, his rage overcomes him and he tries a third time to kill him and David escapes for his life to Ramah to see Samuel. (19: 1-18) 6. God was allowing David to go through difficult times to strengthen his character and his faith. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage students to learn them - Hebrews 13: 5 & 6</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Jonathan and David promise friendship (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>In <i>Psalm 59</i>, David describes the behaviour of his enemies, especially the men sent by Saul to his house to kill him. Draw students’ attention to David’s trust in God and to how he gives God the praise and thanks for being his ‘defence’ in such a dangerous situation in verses 9, 16 & 17.</p>	<p>Read <i>Psalm 139: 7-12</i> and discuss how it relates to David’s circumstances as highlighted in this lesson. Read <i>Psalm 140: 1-8</i> and discuss who (Saul?) may be on David’s mind as he writes this Psalm. Read <i>Romans 12: 17-21</i> and discuss the qualities in them that should characterise a Christian e.g. honesty of life, living peacefully, being kind and forgiving, showing goodness.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonathan was very loyal to David and was willing to suffer for him. What can we learn from their relationship to help us understand true friendship? 2. David’s continued military successes made it clear to others that the Lord was with him. If you are a Christian, do your friends see that you love the Lord and live to please Him day by day? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your friends may be jealous of your strengths and abilities, and whilst it would be a natural response to retaliate, a better response is to pray for them. (Matthew 5: 44) 2. Although Saul wanted to kill David, God saw to it that he was unable to harm him. His mercy to all who trust Him is just the same as it was towards David.

	C7– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – The Life of David Topic – Friends with Jonathan	C7– LEVEL 4 Study 4 –The Life of David Topic – Caring for Others
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 20: 1-42</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Samuel 20: 17</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David continues to face problems with Saul but Jonathan is loyal to him. Loyalty is one of life's most precious qualities and we should keep our promises and be true to our friends. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Samuel 20: 12-17, 42; 2 Samuel 9: 1-13</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Samuel 9: 1</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David was keen to keep his promises to show kindness to Jonathan's family. Just as David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the Lord Jesus showed kindness to us, when He died for our sin on the cross.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Revise the story so far. David returned from Ramah and comes to Jonathan to try to find out why his father is so intent on killing him. A test was proposed that would make it plain as to whether David was in danger or not. Instead of coming to the monthly feast, David would stay away. If Saul inquired as to his absence, Jonathan was to say he was in Bethlehem for the yearly sacrifice. If Saul was happy with this reason, David was safe. But if he became angry that David had slipped out of his hands, David's life was in great danger.</p>	<p>Revise the story so far. David came to Jonathan and tried to find out why Saul was so intent on killing him but Jonathan was unaware of his father's attempts on David's life. David knew Saul would not share his plans with Jonathan because he and David were so friendly. A test was devised to show if David was in danger or not. Instead of attending the monthly feast in the royal court, David would remain absent. If Saul did not object to this, David was safe. But if he became angry, then David was in danger.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David makes Jonathan aware that he fears for his safety at the hands of Saul. (20: 1-3) Jonathan promises to let David know how Saul reacts to his absence from the feast, by means of a prearranged sign. When Jonathan had discovered what the situation was he would come to an arranged spot and shoot three arrows. The directions he called to the lad, who would fetch the arrows, near where David was hiding, would tell David to flee for his life or return to the court for safety. (20: 18-23) Saul quizzed Jonathan as to David's whereabouts and flies into a rage and throws a spear at his own son! (20: 28-33) The planned sign is given to David and his fears are confirmed. Both men wept in each other's arms and go their separate ways – David into hiding and Jonathan into the royal court. (20: 41-42) Remind students of Proverbs 18: 24 and discuss its significance in connection with David and Jonathan. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Samuel 20: 17</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: No suitable FBI illustrations.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan warned David by a sign that his life was in danger. Before David went into hiding, both men wept in each other's arms, knowing they could no longer enjoy each other's company. (20: 35-42) David knew he may never see Jonathan again, so he made a promise to look after Jonathan's family when he eventually became king. (20: 42) When David was king he remembered the promise he made to Jonathan that he would show love to Jonathan and his family. (2 Samuel 9: 1) It was reported by Gibeon, a servant of the late King Saul, that Jonathan had a disabled son, called Mephibosheth who was lame since he was five years old through a fall, and he was living in Lo-Debar. (2 Samuel 9: 2-4) David had him brought to Jerusalem, ordered the family property be returned to him, and arranged for him to eat every meal at the royal table. Gibeon and his sons were to attend to Mephibosheth, thus fulfilling David's promise to Jonathan many years earlier. (2 Samuel 9: 5-11) Remind students of Proverbs 18: 24 and discuss its significance in connection with David and Jonathan. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 2 Samuel 9: 1</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: No suitable FBI illustrations.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review and summarise this lesson by asking pupils to explain in their own words the following, with the help of the verses indicated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was David's worry? (verses 1-3) What was Jonathan's response? (verse 4) What was the plan that Jonathan and David agreed? (verses 5-23) What was the message David received? (verses 24-40) How did Jonathan and David part? (verses 41-42) 	<p>Read 2 Samuel 4: 4 and discuss with students the event surrounding the cause of Jonathan's lameness. Read Ephesians 2: 1-10 and discuss with students that just as Mephibosheth came into blessing as a result of David's love and kindness, so Christians have inherited much greater blessings as a result of the love and kindness of the Lord Jesus.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider whether students are 'loyal' to parents, family and friends. If so, what does this loyalty 'look like'? Christians, who love the Lord Jesus, have many ways of showing their loyalty to Him. Name some of these. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan's wish, when leaving David, was that God would watch over both of them and their families. Christians should do all they can to help and support their family and friends. As we consider David's life, we see his heart was right, and his faith in God was strong. He trusted God in every situation, good or bad, and expressed His love towards others in any way that he could. We should know and serve the Lord Jesus in a similar way.

	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Joshua Topic – Leading the people	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Joshua Topic – The New Leader
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 1: 1-11</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Joshua 1: 9</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moses has died and Joshua had succeeded him as Israel's leader. His task was to bring Israel into the Promised land of Canaan. Like Joshua, we need faith to begin and continue living the Christian life. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 1: 1-9; 16-18</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Joshua 1: 9</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moses has died and Joshua had succeeded him as Israel's leader. His task was to bring Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. We grow as Christians by obeying God's Word, the Bible, and claiming its promises, especially in the difficult days of our lives.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce Joshua. The Israelites had encamped on the plains of Moab, east of the River Jordan. As commander in chief, Joshua would lead the Israelites over the River Jordan into the Promised Land. Although Joshua had great military skills, it was his faith in God that equipped him to replace Moses as the head of the nation of Israel. It was Moses who trained him and, at ninety years of age, it was God who gave him the authority to be Israel's leader.</p>	<p>Introduce Joshua. After Moses died, God told Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land (also called Canaan) and conquer it. Earlier, God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants and He had also promised to help them drive out the wicked Canaanites. The Israelites were to completely destroy the Canaanite altars so that nothing would distract them from worshipping the one and only true God.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> After the death of Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to lead the Israelites, more than two million people, into a strange new land which He had promised to them. Remind students that the nation had been wandering for 40 years around the desert since they had left Egypt. (1: 1-3) Three times (verses 6, 7 & 9) Joshua is told by the Lord to be strong and very courageous because the task ahead of him would not be easy. God also promised that as He had been with Moses so He would be with Joshua. Joshua was also told that, in order to be successful, he must also obey God's law and constantly read and study God's Word. (1: 7-8) Joshua obeyed God's instruction and ordered the people to get ready to move in three days. (1: 10-11) Discuss how Joshua knew what it was to listen to God's Voice and to act obediently, doing God's Will. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Joshua 1: 9</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Moses dies and Joshua becomes leader (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua was called of God to be Israel's new leader. He had been a personal assistant to Moses for 40 years and was well prepared for the challenge of leading more than two million people into a strange land to conquer it. Remind students that the nation had been wandering for 40 years around the desert since they had left Egypt. (1: 1-3) God not only promised Joshua He would give the Israelites the land of Canaan (verses 3 & 4) but He promised His presence would be with them in order to strengthen and encourage them. (verses 5 & 6). God explains to Joshua (verses 7-9) that the secret of true success is the place that God's Word has in a Christian's life. It should be read and meditated upon, memorised, obeyed and acted upon. Joshua obeyed God's commands and the people, in turn, recognised Joshua's authority as their chosen leader and obeyed his instructions. (verses 16-18). Discuss how God had not only prepared Joshua for the great task that lay ahead, but He had also prepared the people too. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Joshua 1: 9</i></p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Moses dies and Joshua becomes leader (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by discussing with pupils the three good reasons for Joshua to be strong:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God's promise to Joshua of a victory – verses 5 & 6; God's Word as his safe guide – verses 7 & 8; and God's presence as a sustaining power – verse 9. 	<p>Discuss with the students the similarities between God's instructions to Joshua, in verses 8 & 9, about the importance of 'the book of the Law' in his life and God's instructions to us in these further readings for our daily lives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What does Psalm 1 say about the importance of God's Word in our lives? How are we to 'walk' from day to day according to Proverbs 3: 5-6? According to James 1: 22-25 our obedience to God's Word is seen in the things we do.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>True success in a Christian's life is the priority he/she places on reading and obeying the Bible. Challenge the students that if they are Christians, what priority do they give to reading and obeying the Bible in their lives?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge the students as to whether they have obeyed God's Word and put their personal trust in the Lord Jesus for salvation. If so, do they read and trust the promises God has given them to strengthen and encourage them as Christians? Do they put what they read into action in their daily lives?

	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Joshua Topic – Spying the land	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Joshua Topic – Sends out the spies
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 2: 1-24</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 11: 31</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua sent spies to Jericho who were hidden by Rahab from the king. 2. Just as Rahab was saved from certain death when she put her faith in God, so we can be saved by putting our faith in the Lord Jesus. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 2: 1-24</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 11: 31</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua sent spies to Jericho who are hidden by Rahab from the king. 2. Just as Rahab was saved from certain death when she put her faith in God, so we can be saved by putting our faith in the Lord Jesus.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Now that Israel had reached the Jordan, the next obstacle they faced would be the city of Jericho. Joshua sent two men to spy out the city of Jericho which was a heavily fortified city. He needed information about the city before he and his men would move into battle against it.</p>	<p>Jericho was the first major city in the land of Canaan that the Israelites set out to conquer. Joshua sent two spies across the River Jordan to spy out the city and bring him back information for the forthcoming battle.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The spies arrived in Jericho. God had directed them to Rahab's house. It was in an ideal place for a quick escape. In Joshua's day, it was common to build houses on city walls. Many cities had two walls 12-15 feet apart. Houses were built on wooden logs laid across the tops of the two walls. Rahab may have lived in such a house with a window that looked out over the outside wall. (verses 1-2) 2. Rahab had heard of the great victories the Lord had given the people of Israel and concluded their God must be the true God and put her faith and trust in Him. (verses 8-11) 3. Rahab's house would have had a flat roof upon which flax was piled high to dry, making a good hiding place for the spies. The spies hid from the King of Jericho in the flax on Rahab's roof and promised to spare Rahab and her family if she hung a scarlet (brilliant red) cord in the window of her home and if her family members remained indoors during the attack on Jericho. (verses 15-21) 4. They escaped down a rope from Rahab's window. After hiding in the mountains for three days, the spies went across the River Jordan and brought back a helpful report to Joshua. (verses 22-24) 5. Ensure the students understand Rahab risked her life to save the lives of the spies because she had placed her faith in their God – the God of Israel. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - Hebrews 11: 31</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – The spies and Rahab (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The spies arrived in Jericho. God had directed them to Rahab's house. It was in an ideal place for a quick escape. In Joshua's day, it was common to build houses on city walls. Many cities had two walls 12-15 feet apart. Houses were built on wooden logs laid across the tops of the two walls. Rahab may have lived in such a house with a window that looked out over the outside wall. (verses 1-2) 2. Rahab recognised there is a God in Heaven who is all-powerful and she believed in Him. She knew the false gods of the Canaanites could not save her, or the city from the fate about to befall them. (verses 8-11) 3. Rahab's new-found faith gave her the courage to hide the spies. The spies hid from the King of Jericho in the flax on Rahab's roof; but she took the risk because she realised the God of the Israelites was worth trusting. 4. Rahab was concerned about her family's safety when the Israelites attacked and the spies worked out a plan for their safety. She was to tie a red cord in the window. (verses 17-20) 5. Because of her faith, her family was preserved and later on became ancestors of the Lord Jesus. (Matthew 1: 5) Explain how God was working His purposes out through Rahab, a foreign lady! <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - Hebrews 11: 31</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – The spies and Rahab (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson using the following verses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Hebrews 11: 31 (Key Verse) – Why was Rahab saved from death when the Battle of Jericho took place? (ii) James 2: 25 – How did Rahab prove her faith in God? (iii) Hebrews 11: 6 – What does this verse tell us about faith? 	<p>Review the study using the following verses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Romans 5: 5-8 – Rahab's life was 'ungodly' until she put her faith in God. However, we are all classed as 'ungodly' until we come to Jesus for salvation. (ii) Ephesians 2: 6-8 – These verses emphasise that salvation comes through faith and we cannot work our way to Heaven. Rahab's deliverance came through faith. (iii) James 2: 25-26 – Rahab's faith was demonstrated by her works – she hid the spies and she was concerned that her family would be saved.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus who bore the punishment for your sin? 2. If you are a Christian, do your 'works' show that you belong to the Lord Jesus? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>In Hebrews 11, Rahab is one of only 2 women listed in the 'Hall of Faith'. When you trust the Lord completely, He will bless us too. Our motto in life should be: Forsaking All I Trust Him – that's FAITH!</p>

	C8 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Joshua Topic – Crossing the river	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Joshua Topic – Crossing the Jordan
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 3: 1-17</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Joshua 3: 5</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God commanded Joshua to take the Israelites over the River Jordan and enabled him to do so – When God commands, He always helps. 2. Humanly it would have been impossible for such a large crowd of people to cross the River Jordan when it was in flood. God did a great miracle. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 3: 1-17; 4: 1-24</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Joshua 4: 24</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God commanded Joshua to take the Israelites over the River Jordan and enabled him to do so – When God commands, He always helps. 2. God is all-powerful and wants to show His power in our lives as He works in and through us.
INTRODUCE IT	Israel needed to be reminded that God was with them in crossing the Jordan. They could not see God but the Ark of the Covenant which went before them was a symbol of God’s presence and power. In this special case the priests were to carry it (verse 3).	Explain that the River Jordan was a major obstacle in taking the Israelites into the Promised Land. Israel had faced the Red Sea when they had left Egypt. Under the leadership of Moses, God had given them a passage on dry land in a miraculous way. So, under Joshua, God does another miracle and the people pass over the river in safety.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua gathered the Israelites together to tell them what God had commanded and how He had promised to do wonders amongst them. (verses 1-5) 2. The people of Canaan were wicked and God wanted them driven out as He did not want the Israelites following their wicked ways and practices. 3. The Israelites were anxious to cross the River Jordan but God gave them specific instructions as to how to cross. 4. When the priests’ feet touched the River Jordan a miracle occurred. The River stopped at the city of Adam (ten miles north of it) and the waters piled up in a heap and whatever water was left drained into the Dead Sea, letting the Israelites cross over on dry ground. (verses 14-17) 5. Explain to the students that Israel had obeyed God’s instructions and the obstacle which could have been such a problem was removed. They did nothing, God did everything. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Joshua 3: 5</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Crossing the Jordan (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The time had come to cross the River Jordan which was now in flood stage. The priests were instructed to go ahead carrying the Ark. This was a symbol of God’s Presence and Power, and the people were to follow at a distance. (3: 1-4) 2. When the priests’ feet touched the Jordan, a miracle occurred and the water was stopped upstream at the city of Adam and the remainder drained into the Dead Sea. The priests walked to the middle of the river bed and stayed there until all the people crossed over on dry ground. (3: 14-17) 3. The Lord directed that a man from each of the twelve tribes should carry a stone from the riverbed and that a memorial be set up, using the 12 stones, at a place called Gilgal, in remembrance of God stopping the waters of the River Jordan. (4: 1-9) 4. When the people had crossed, Joshua also set up a memorial of 12 stones in the middle of the riverbed where the priests were standing and when they crossed to the west bank with the Ark, the waters of the River Jordan began to flow again. (4: 9) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Joshua 4: 24</i></p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Crossing the Jordan (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Remind students that just as God parted the waters of the Red Sea to let the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 14), so He parted the River Jordan to let them enter the Promised Land of Canaan. God’s presence and faithfulness to the Israelites made the journey from Egypt to Canaan possible. God chose the time when the river was highest to show His super-natural power. This gave them a great reputation amongst their enemies (verse 10) who greatly outnumbered them.	Review this study by referring to – Psalm 114 . Discuss verse 3 especially and explain that the writer is referring to both: (i) the parting of the waters at the Red Sea when Moses and the Children of Israel passed through safely and the Egyptians were drowned; and (ii) the stopping of the waters of the River Jordan in this study. Explain to students how there was almost 40 years between these events. What can we learn about God from these two events?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Israelites obeyed God’s instructions and God delivered them. If we obey God’s Word and receive the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour, He will guide us through life and take us to Heaven. 2. Think of ‘rivers’ or difficulties in our lives. How would this lesson encourage us to deal with them? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just as the Israelites were assured of victory when they kept the Ark in view, so Christians should always keep the Lord Jesus in view. 2. Just as the 12 stones were a sign of victory for the Israelites, so Jesus’ death on the cross will be a sign forever of His love for us.

	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Joshua Topic – Obeying the Lord	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Joshua Topic –Victory and Defeat
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 6: 1-25</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 11: 30</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua obeyed exactly the instructions God gave him which resulted in victory at Jericho. 2. We can trust Him to give us victory in our lives if we put our faith in the Lord Jesus and trust Him at all times. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Joshua 6: 1-27; 7: 1-26</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 11: 30</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua obeyed exactly the instructions God gave him which resulted in victory at Jericho. However, disobedience by Achan resulted in defeat at Ai. 2. Faith in God and obedience to Him bring peace, joy and happiness in this life and in eternity. Sin and disobedience to God bring serious consequences in our lives.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Joshua now had to lead the people in an attack of Jericho which was a heavily fortified city but its gates and walls only served to keep the people living there inside for judgement! They could not keep the Israelites out! God had a plan to deliver Jericho into the hands of the Israelites.</p>	<p>Now the Israelites were in the Promised Land they faced two challenges. The cities of Jericho and Ai both served as valuable lessons to the Israelites as they began to take possession of the land of Canaan. When they trusted God and obeyed Him completely, they were assured of victory. However, when they disobeyed God and relied on themselves, they suffered defeat.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fear of the Jews caused Jericho to be barricaded before Joshua and his army arrived. (6: 1) 2. The Israelites marched around Jericho once a day for six days. First there was an armed guard, then seven priests blowing trumpets followed by the Ark. The people followed behind but they had to be quiet. (6: 3- 14) 3. On the seventh day, they marched around it seven times and when the priests blew a loud blast on their trumpets, the Israelites let out a great shout and the walls fell flat. They were now able to enter the city. (6: 20) 4. The inhabitants and their livestock were destroyed and only Rahab and her family were saved alive because she had protected the spies and also obeyed their instructions. (6: 22-23) 5. In the Key Verse, we are taught it was 'faith' in God that brought the walls down and in Hebrews 11: 31 we are also taught it was that same faith brought Rahab out alive. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it- Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Walls of Jericho (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although God had told Joshua that Jericho was already delivered into his hands, He gave him instructions for the battle, reminding him victory would come from God alone. Jericho was a wicked city and had to be destroyed. (6: 2-5) 2. The Israelites marched around Jericho once a day for six days. First there was an armed guard, then seven priests blowing trumpets followed by the Ark. The people followed behind but they had to be quiet. (6: 3- 14) 3. Rahab and her household were saved from destruction because she had faith in God and because she hid the spies sent to spy out Jericho. (6: 22-23) 4. Joshua and his army were confused by their defeat at the small city of Ai after their spectacular victory over Jericho, but soon Joshua learned that it was caused by sin in the camp. (7: 6-12) 5. Achan disobeyed God by taking some of the enemy's belongings which had been forbidden as God commanded that everything connected with Jericho had to be destroyed. (6: 18-19 & 7: 11-12) 6. Achan confessed his sin and he and his entire family were stoned to death in order that no trace of his sin would remain in the land of Canaan. (7: 20-26) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Walls of Jericho (I) also Achan disobeys and brings defeat (i)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by engaging students in discussion about the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Lord's revealed plan to Joshua in verses 3-5? 2. What happened when the priests obeyed the plan the Lord revealed to Joshua in verse 20? 3. Discuss how that victory followed obedience to God's plan for the Israelites. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read James 1: 12-16 and discuss how (i) verse 12 can be applied to Rahab; (ii) verses 13-15 can be applied to Achan; and (iii) verses 12-16 should be applied to us all. 2. Discuss how Achan's sin had serious consequences for his family and some of his fellow soldiers, pointing out how one wrong step leads to another.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does 1 John 5: 5 say about how we can be victorious as Christians? 2. This lesson teaches that Joshua's faith in God gave the Israelites the victory and Rahab's faith in God resulted in her being saved from death. If we have put our faith in the Lord Jesus, He will help us to be victorious in our lives. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>Whilst disobedient people bring sadness into their own lives, and the lives of others, obedient people bring happiness and blessings into theirs. If you are a Christian, how to you demonstrate obedience to God in your life?</p>

	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Elijah Topic – Commanded by God	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Elijah Topic – God’s Punishment
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 16: 29-33; 17: 1-7</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Kings 17: 5</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever the Israelites were passing through dark times, God had a man who would speak for Him. Elijah was God’s man chosen to speak against King Ahab and all his wickedness. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 16: 29-33; 17: 1-7</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Kings 17: 5</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever the Israelites were passing through dark times, God had a man who would speak for Him. Elijah was God’s man chosen to speak against King Ahab and all his wickedness. Obedience to God and His Word is crucial for our lives in this world.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>In this set of lessons, we are introduced to Elijah one of Israel’s greatest prophets. Elijah lived at the time when King Ahab was on the throne of Israel. Ahab was a very wicked king, married to an even more wicked woman called Jezebel. She worshipped an idol called Baal and influenced her husband to promote idol worship at the time The Israelites turned away from the one and only true God.</p>	<p>Elijah was the first in a long line of important prophets God sent to Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom). God therefore, called prophets to rescue Israel from its spiritual and moral decline. Over the next 300 years, these men and women would encourage the people and their leaders to return to the only true God.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ahab was more evil and wicked than any of the kings who went before him. (<i>1 Kings 16: 30 -33</i>) God sent Elijah to confront the people of Israel about their idolatry and sinful lives and encourage them to repent. Elijah courageously announced to Ahab there would be a drought and there would be no rain for three years and six months. (<i>James 5: 17</i>) This was God’s punishment against their idolatry. (<i>17: 1</i>) God told Elijah to leave Samaria and go east to the brook Cherith where he would be fed by the ravens and sustained by the water in the brook. After a while, however, the brook dried up. (<i>17: 2-6</i>) Elijah believed God’s Word and obeyed the instructions and God provided for all his needs. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (I) and Elijah fed by Ravens (I & P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ahab’s evil wife, Jezebel, came from the Phoenician city of Tyre, where her father Ethbaal, was a high priest and king. She worshipped Baal and in order to please her, Ahab built an altar of Baal. (<i>1 Kings 16:30-33</i>) This promoted idolatry and let the nation of Israel into sin. Baal worshippers believed it was Baal who brought the rain and harvests. When Elijah courageously told Ahab there would be no rain for three years and six months (<i>James 5: 17</i>), Ahab was shocked. (<i>17: 1</i>) Elijah told Ahab of a power far greater than any pagan god – ‘the Lord God of Israel’. (<i>1 Kings 17: 1</i>) When rebellion and idolatry were at an all-time high in Israel, God intervened and sent the drought. However, He told Elijah to leave Samaria and go east of the Jordan River to the Brook Cherith. Here he would be sustained by water from the brook and food brought by the ravens. (<i>17: 2-6</i>) Elijah believed God’s Word and obeyed the instructions and God provided for all his needs. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (I) and Elijah fed by Ravens (I & P)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Ask students to summarise in their own words:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The background setting of this lesson; Elijah’s prophecy to Ahab; and God’s promise for Elijah. 	<p>Read Deuteronomy 4: 13 and discuss how this verse related to King Ahab. Read Deuteronomy 7: 1-6 and discuss how God told the people of Israel that they were not to enter into marriage, or relationships, with God’s enemies. God warns them that such relationships would result in His people turning away from the true God. Read verse 6 and discuss how God saw Israel as ‘special people.’</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst it is God’s will we repent of our sin, He will punish us if we continue to live sinful lives. Just as it took courage by Elijah to tell the wicked Ahab there would be judgement for sin, so it takes courage to live the Christian life when many we know don’t know the Lord as their Saviour. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah was a powerful witness for God in a very dark and sinful day. He directed the people to the Lord. We should copy his example if we are Christians (see Luke 1: 17). Elijah was known for being a man of God and for his obedience to God. Is obedience to God a priority for us?

	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Elijah Topic – Cared for by God	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Elijah Topic – God’s Provision
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 17: 7-24</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Despite the serious drought, God looked after Elijah. 2. Those who put God first never lack the necessities of life. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 17: 7-24</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God keeps His promises. 2. God promises us eternal life when we put our faith in His Son for salvation and can make us men and women of God.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind students of the previous lesson how that during the drought, God was looking after Elijah but now the brook Cherith had dried up. God did not forget Elijah but told him to go to Zarephath. Zarephath was on the Mediterranean Coast between the cities of Tyre and Sidon, a considerable distance away.	Remind students of the previous lesson. God now directed Elijah to go to Zarephath after the water dried up in the brook Cherith. In this study we learn how Elijah turned to the Gentile widow for help and, as a result, she was blessed beyond her expectations!
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In obedience to God, Elijah travelled to Zarephath, as God had arranged a Gentile widow would feed him there. (17: 7-9) 2. Elijah asked her to make him some bread, but she hesitated as she only had enough flour left for her son and herself. Elijah said that God would ensure that the flour and oil would not run out. The widow obeyed and the flour and oil lasted until the drought finished. (17: 12-16) 3. Later, the widow’s son became ill and died. Elijah prayed to God that the boy might live again and God answered his prayer and he handed the boy back to his mother alive. (17: 17-23) 4. The widow of Zarephath acknowledged that Elijah was ‘a man of God’. (17: 24) 5. God turned to ravens, unclean birds, and to a poor widow to supply Elijah’s needs. God has help where we least expect it and provides for His children in ways that go beyond our expectations. (See Matthew 6: 25-35) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (I & P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In obedience to God, Elijah goes to Zarephath where a Gentile widow is preparing, what she believes, is the last meal for herself and her son. (17: 7-12) 2. Elijah tells her to make him some bread first even though she had so little left. She trusted Elijah and by doing so was giving God first place and her bin of flour and jar of oil never failed. (17: 12-16) 3. Later, the widow’s son became ill and dies. Elijah took the boy to his bedroom, stretched himself out on the child three times and prayed to the Lord to revive him. The boy revived and was taken down to his mother in normal health. (17: 17-23) 4. This Gentile widow was convinced, beyond all doubt, because of both these miracles, that Elijah was a man of God and that the Lord’s word was the truth – not the idolatry being promoted by Ahab and Jezebel. (17: 24) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (I & P)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by asking students questions which will help them fill in the answers to the nine questions asked in Lesson 2.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read Matthew 6: 31-34 and discuss how verse 33 relates to the Gentile widow’s experience; (ii) Read Hebrews 11: 32-35 and point out that in verse 35 the widow of Zarephath is one of the people being referred to;
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah’s life was characterised by prayer. He believed he would receive what he prayed for. When we pray, do we expect God to answer? 2. Elijah was obedient to the Lord and had his needs met. We should obey the Lord by reading the Bible and praying to Him for guidance. 3. Elijah was known as ‘a man of God’. Discuss exactly what that means. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The widow put her faith in God’s Word and was richly blessed. What can we learn from her example? 2. Elijah was a man of God who obeyed God and had his needs met despite living in a difficult time. God can bless each of us if we are prepared to trust Him completely with our lives as Elijah did.

	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Elijah Topic – Challenging Baal’s Prophets	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Elijah Topic – God’s Power
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 18: 1-2, 16-46</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Kings 18: 39</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah showed on Mount Carmel that his God was the true God. There is only one true God and only He can hear and answer our prayers. He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 18: 1-46</i></p> <p>Key Verses: <i>James 5: 17 & 18</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah showed on Mount Carmel that his God was the true God. God hears and answers the prayers of those who live obedient and faithful lives for Him.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>God instructed Elijah to appear before King Ahab. One day Elijah met Obadiah, a steward of King Ahab’s and asked him to arrange a meeting with King Ahab. Elijah challenged Ahab to assemble his idols on Mount Carmel in order to show who the true God was. Elijah showed great courage on this occasion as King Ahab and his wife Jezebel hated him.</p>	<p>There were many false prophets in Elijah’s day who were an obstacle in bringing God’s Word to the people. They brought messages which contradicted the words of the true prophets. They gave ‘messages’ which appealed to the people’s sinful way of living and spoke only what the people wanted to hear. The true prophets, such as Elijah, told God’s truth.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When a great crowd assembled on Mount Carmel, Elijah accused the people of Israel of wavering between two opinions and advised them that they had to choose God or Baal and he set up a contest to determine who the true God was. (18: 20) Elijah told Ahab to have a meal before returning to Jezreel for rain was coming and he would need to leave Mount Carmel. Elijah ran before Ahab’s chariot, in pouring rain, demonstrating his loyalty as a faithful subject to Ahab even though Ahab hated Elijah. (18: 45-46) Two bulls were to be sacrificed, one by the prophets of Baal and one by Elijah, and the God who answered by fire was the true God. The 850 prophets cried to their god all day but there was no response. (18: 22-29) Elijah rebuilt an altar of 12 stones and laid the sacrifices on it. He covered it with water. Then he prayed to God to send down fire from Heaven. Immediately this happened and the people had to admit Elijah’s God was the true God. All the prophets of Baal were then killed. (18: 30-41) Explain that we also should turn away from false gods and trust the true and living God. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 18: 39</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the prophets of Baal (I & P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah was instructed by God to appear before King Ahab and he met Obadiah, a senior member of Ahab’s staff. Obadiah was a faithful believer and told Elijah Ahab was looking for him. Elijah told Obadiah to tell King Ahab he wanted to see him. (18: 3-15) Elijah met Ahab and told him he was disobeying God’s laws and leading Israel into idolatry. Elijah proposed a contest between himself and the 850 false prophets to determine who the true God was. (18: 18-19) Two bulls were to be sacrificed, one by the prophets of Baal and one by Elijah, and the God who answered by fire was the true God. The 850 prophets cried to their god all day but there was no response. (18: 22-29) Elijah rebuilt an altar of 12 stones and laid the sacrifices on it. He covered it with water. Then he prayed to God to send down fire from Heaven. Immediately this happened and the people had to admit Elijah’s God was the true God. All the prophets of Baal were then killed. (18: 30-41) Elijah prayed for rain and continued doing so until the rain appeared. He told Ahab to return to his palace in Jezreel as quickly as possible and he ran before his chariot in drenching rain. God had worked a miracle in defeating the prophets of Baal. Explain that we also should turn away from false gods and trust the true and living God. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage students to learn it- James 5: 17 & 18</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the prophets of Baal (I & P)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by asking students to summarise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What did the Lord tell Elijah to do (verse 1)? What was Obadiah doing, and why, when Elijah met him? What did Elijah suggest to Ahab so that they would find out who was the true God? How did God answer Elijah’s prayers? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Joshua 24: 15 and compare it with 1 Kings 18: 21. Discuss how Elijah and Joshua challenged the people to take a stand for God and that there is not such a thing as just ‘drifting along’ in life. Read Isaiah 45: 21-22 and discuss what these verses tell us as to who is the only true God.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah believed in God and was not afraid to stand up for Him. As Christians, we should stand up for God when others disown Him. Elijah prayed, in times of great difficulty, to the true God and his prayers were answered. We should follow his example. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The people in Elijah’s day had to decide whether they would obey God or idols. We have to decide who we will obey. If we have chosen to obey God, we should try to live in obedience to His Word each day.

	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Elijah Topic – Confused by Fear	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Elijah Topic – God’s Presence
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 19: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 19: 10</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Elijah’s triumph, now his faith is tested and he goes through a difficult time. 2. We must not allow fear and worry to take the place of our trust in God, because God can help us overcome all our problems so that we are useful in His service. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 19: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verse: James 4: 8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Elijah’s triumph now his faith is tested and he goes through a difficult time. 2. When we are feeling discouraged and depressed, God understands, and we need to ask God to help us.
INTRODUCE IT	In the previous lessons, we have learned Elijah predicted the beginning and end of a 3-year drought, he was used by God to restore a dead son to his mother and represented God in a showdown with the priests of Baal. Despite all these achievements, Elijah gives in to feelings of fear and depression when Jezebel threatens to have him killed because he had ordered the death of her prophets.	Jezebel was enraged because of the death of her prophets. Elijah, who caused the prophets’ deaths, was ‘a thorn in her side’ because he was always predicting doom and gloom. Since Jezebel could not control his actions, she wanted to kill Elijah and so he flees for his life. As long as Elijah was about she could not carry out all the evil that she wanted to do.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah flees from Jezebel to Beersheba in the desert and sits down under an evergreen tree wishing he could die. (19: 1-5) 2. God provided rest, food and drink for Elijah and he then travelled for 40 days from Beersheba to a cave on Mount Sinai (Horeb). (19: 5-9) 3. God asked him what he was doing there. Elijah said he was the only one who remained true to the Lord, as the children of Israel had fallen into idolatry. Elijah was told to stand outside of the cave where he had spent the night. (19: 9-11) 4. God visited the mountain with wind, and an earthquake and a fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice and the Lord revealed Himself to him. (19: 11-14) 5. The Lord told him to return north to the Desert of Damascus where he would anoint three people. Despite his fears, God gives Elijah an important job to do. He was to anoint; (i) Hazael to be king over Syria; (ii) Jehu as king over Israel; and (iii) Elisha as his own successor. (19: 15-18) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 19: 10</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah flees to Horeb (P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After achieving great spiritual victories, Elijah becomes discouraged and depressed. He flees into the wilderness of Beersheba. (19: 1-5) 2. God looked after his physical needs by providing food and drink. Elijah travelled on to Mount Sinai (Horeb) after being refreshed thinking he was the only person left who was still true to God. He forgot others had remained faithful too, during the nation’s wickedness. There were 7,000 in Israel who did not bow down to Baal. (19: 5-9 and 18) 3. Elijah was told to stand outside of the cave where he had spent the night. (19: 9-11) 4. God visited the mountain with wind, and an earthquake and a fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice and the Lord revealed Himself to him. (19: 11-14) 5. The Lord told him to return north to the Desert of Damascus where he would anoint three people. Despite his fears, God gives Elijah an important job to do. He was to anoint; (i) Hazael to be king over Syria; (ii) Jehu as king over Israel; and (iii) Elisha as his own successor. (19: 15-18) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it – James 4: 8</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah flees to Horeb (P)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review the lesson by asking the students to summarise, in their own words; (v) What was Jezebel’s threat? (vi) Describe Elijah’s experience on Mount Sinai; and (vii) What were the important tasks God gave him?	(i) Read Isaiah 40: 29-31 and discuss with students how these verses describe Elijah’s experiences at both the beginning and end of this Study. (ii) Read Hebrews 13: 5-6 and discuss with students that, instead of becoming discouraged and depressed, Elijah should have trusted God to meet all his needs.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are never alone because the Lord is always near you. See Psalms 56: 3. 2. Despite our failures and weaknesses, the Lord can make us to be useful servants for Him. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When we feel discouraged, we should always remember the Lord does not forget us if we belong to Him. 2. God speaks to us through the Bible more often in ‘whispers’ than in ‘shouts’ as indicated by ‘gentle whisper’ in this Study.

	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Elisha Topic – The prophet Elijah meets Elisha	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and Elijah
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 19: 19-21; 2 Kings 2: 1-15</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Kings 19: 21</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah's work is now complete, its time for him to go and for Elisha to take over. Just as Elisha wanted to be Elijah's 'double' by serving God like him, so we should be imitators of Jesus Christ in every way that we can. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>1 Kings 19: 19-21; 2 Kings 2: 1-22</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Kings 2: 14</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah's work is now complete, its time for him to go and for Elisha to take over. Just as Elisha wanted to be Elijah's 'double' by serving God like him, so we should be imitators of Jesus Christ in every way that we can.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Remind students of C9 Lesson 4 and God's instructions to Elijah. The time had now come for Elijah to finish his work for God on earth and Elisha was to succeed him. They had worked together for sometime but then God's plan was to take Elijah to Heaven.</p>	<p>Remind students of C9 Study 4 and God's Instructions to Elijah. The time had now come for Elijah to finish his work for God on earth and Elisha was to succeed him. They had worked together for sometime but then God's plan was to take Elijah to Heaven. There are many parallels between the ministry of Elijah and Elisha. However, although Elisha performs many miracles and told Israel to return to God, they persisted in living sinful and wicked lives.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah did as instructed and called Elisha to follow him and he became his assistant for many years. (<i>19: 19-21</i>) Then the time came for Elijah to go. Before leaving, Elijah visited four places; Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and Jordan, and Elisha faithfully insisted on going to all of these places with him. (<i>2 Kings 2: 1-7</i>) Then they came to the River Jordan. When Elijah struck the Jordan River with his cloak, the waters parted and both went over on dry land. Elisha made a request for a 'double portion' of the spirit of Elijah, indicating he wanted to be his worthy successor. (<i>2 Kings 2: 8-10</i>) As they walked on, they were separated by a chariot and horses of fire and Elijah was taken up into Heaven in a whirlwind. (<i>2 Kings 2: 11-13</i>) In sadness, Elisha returned to the River Jordan and struck it with the cloak Elijah had left. The waters parted again and he crossed back on dry land. When the sons of the prophets saw the parting of the Jordan, they understood Elisha was Elijah's true successor. (<i>2 Kings 2: 13-15</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 Kings 19: 21</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the chariot of fire (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah is soon to be taken up to Heaven and he transferred his authority to Elisha by putting his cloak on Elisha's shoulders. A cloak was the most important garment a person could own in those days. Elisha kills his oxen, showing he would not be returning to his life as a wealthy farmer, and says goodbye to his parents. (<i>19: 19-21</i>) The time had come for Elijah to finish his ministry, visiting Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and Jordan for the last time. Elisha faithfully insisted on going with him to these places. Elijah strikes the River with his cloak, the waters part, and both go over to Gilead on dry ground. It is here Elisha asks for a 'double portion' of Elijah's spirit, which God gives him. Elijah was then taken up to Heaven. (<i>2 Kings 2: 1-12</i>) Elisha crosses back over the Jordan and uses Elijah's cloak to strike the waters. Again they part and Elisha crosses over on dry land – showing the transfer of authority was now complete. The 'sons of the prophets' at Bethel, who were really disciples supporting the recognised prophets, were witnessed the transfer of Elijah's ministry to Elisha. (<i>2 Kings 2: 13-15</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 2 Kings 2: 14</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elijah and the chariot of fire (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking students the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What were the last four places Elijah visited before being caught up to Heaven? What do verses 2, 4 & 6 tell us about Elisha's faith? What was the question Elijah asked Elisha and what was his reply? How was Elijah taken to Heaven? 	<p>Read Matthew 6: 24 – we learn that God alone deserves to be our Master. Discuss how this was true of Elisha. Read Romans 12: 1-2 – God wants us to give ourselves as living sacrifices and turn our backs on worldly living. Discuss how Elisha did this.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah's life had a strong spiritual influence on Elisha. Ask students to think of people who have had a good spiritual influence on their lives e.g. parents, teachers, etc. God can use us to have a good influence on others when we trust and follow Him. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God granted Elisha's request for a double portion because his motives were pure and he wanted to achieve more for God. Christians should ask God to do great things for Him with their lives. Elisha kept close to Elijah, recognising him to be a great spiritual mentor. Ask the students to think who have been their spiritual mentors.

	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Elisha Topic – The prophet Elisha helps two women	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and the Poor
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 4: 1-37</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Ephesians 3: 20</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha's ministry was helping other people. In this lesson, he is involved in helping both the poor and the rich. God wants us to give our lives to Him so that His power can work through us when we serve Him. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 4: 1-44</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Kings 4: 33</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God used Elisha in a remarkable way. Elisha trusted in God to perform mighty miracles. We must show genuine care and concern for others as Elisha did.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind the students that Elisha has now taken on Elijah's role. Both Elijah and Elisha attended to the needs of the people around them. Whilst Elijah spent much of his time denouncing idolatry and the wickedness of the day, Elisha spent much of his time showing care and compassion to those around him, as illustrated in this lesson.	Elisha, unlike Elijah who spent most of his time confronting the idolatry and evil, spent most of his time showing compassion to needy people. This study is about four of God's miracles through Elisha: (i) the provision of money for a poor widow; (ii) the raising of a dead boy to life; (iii) the purifying of poisonous food; and (iv) the provision of food for 100 men.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha helps the poor widow of one of the godly prophets by miraculously supplying her with a large amount of oil. This enabled her to pay off her debt and support her two sons who were at risk of becoming slaves if the debt was unpaid. (<i>2 Kings 4: 1-7</i>) Elisha also helped a rich woman, who showed him hospitality by providing him a special room. Elisha wanted to return her kindness to her. She had no family, and he told her she would have a son. Although she did not believe at first, in time she gave birth to a son. (<i>2 Kings 4: 8-17</i>) Years later the boy was taken ill and died. His mother went to Mount Carmel to find Elisha and told him she did not want to be deceived by being given a son and having him taken away. (<i>2 Kings 4: 18-28</i>) Although Elisha sent Gehazi initially to bring the boy back to life, Elisha had to go himself, as the dead boy did not waken. When Elisha breathed his own life into him, the boy came alive. God has blessed this mother, through the prophet Elisha, by raising her son from the dead. (<i>2 Kings 4: 31-37</i>) These two miracles remind us that nothing is impossible with God. (<i>See Luke 1: 37</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Ephesians 3: 20</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elisha – a dead boy raise to life (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The widow woman was in debt and afraid of losing her two sons as slaves. She collected jars from her neighbours as instructed by Elisha. She poured olive oil from her one jar and filled as many jars as she could find. When they were sold her debts were paid. (<i>2 Kings 4: 1-7</i>) Elisha also helped a rich woman, who showed him hospitality by providing him a special room. Elisha wanted to return her kindness to her. She had no family, and he told her she would have a son. (<i>2 Kings 4: 8-17</i>) Years later the boy as taken ill and died. His mother went to Mount Carmel to find Elisha, believing that he could raise her son from the dead. (<i>2 Kings 4: 18-28</i>) When Elisha breathed his own life into him, the boy came alive. God has blessed the mother, through the prophet Elisha, by raising her son from the dead. (<i>2 Kings 4: 31-37</i>) At this time, there was a famine in the land and one of Elisha's servants, when making stew put some poisonous gourds into it. Elisha threw some flour into the pot and made it safe to eat, and nobody was hurt. (<i>2 Kings 4: 38-41</i>) Finally, Elisha fed 100 men with 20 small loaves and there was enough and more to spare. These four miracles remind us that nothing is impossible with God. (<i>See Luke 1: 37</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>2 Kings 4: 33</i></p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elisha – a dead boy raise to life (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by asking students the following: 1) How did Elisha use the great power God had given him? 2) Consider whether God still does miracles today.	(i) Read <i>Ephesians 3: 20-21</i> . Discuss how this prayer of praise to God is true of the four miracles in this study. (ii) Read <i>Philippians 4: 13</i> . Discuss how God supplied the needs, through Elisha, of the people mentioned in the four miracles in this study.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> These miracles show us that it is important to show kindness and care to others. How can Christians help others? If you are a Christian, do you ask God to let His power work through you so that you may serve Him faithfully? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The woman from Shunem was kind to Elisha because she sensed a need to do so. How sensitive are we to the needs of others? When we do what Elisha did, and unselfishly give to others, God will always reward us.

	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Elisha Topic – The Prophet Elisha helps a Soldier	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and an Army Officer
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 5: 1-16</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Kings 5: 15</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha's miracle ministry continues with the healing of a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a picture of sin. It separates us from God and makes us unclean in His sight. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our sin. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 5: 1-27</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Kings 5: 15</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elisha's miracle ministry continues with the healing of a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a picture of sin. It separates us from God and makes us unclean in His sight. Jesus Christ is the only answer to our sin.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind the students how God used Elisha in so many different situations. In this lesson, Elisha's miracle – working power is extended to a commander in the Syrian army, called Naaman. He had what many people today would believe gave him complete satisfaction in life. He had position, power, good character, he was brave but he was a leper! That spoiled it all!	In this study we continue to learn how that God worked miraculously through Elisha in the cleansing of Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army from his leprosy. We also learn how a captive Jewish girl, who was loyal to God and of no importance in the eyes of the world, was used by God to help bring about Naaman's cleansing.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Naaman's wife had a maid, who was a captive from the land of Israel, and who had faith in the true God. She advised her mistress that Elisha could heal Naaman of his leprosy. (<i>2 Kings 5: 1-3</i>) Naaman made a number of mistakes before he eventually took the maid's advice. He went to the wrong person, King Jehoram an idolater, he went to the wrong means of healing – his gold, silver and clothes and went with the wrong idea; "I thought....!" (<i>2 Kings 5: 4-11</i>) Naaman rejected Elisha's advice, initially, to wash in the River Jordan seven times. But when he got rid of his pride, and dipped seven times in the River Jordan, he was cleansed of his leprosy. (<i>2 Kings 5: 12-14</i>) After he was cleansed, he said "I know". He knew his obedience to God's Word, through Elisha, resulted in him being a new man! (<i>2 Kings 5: 15</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Naaman- The army general with leprosy (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Syria conducted raids on Israel and Israelite captives were often taken i.e. Naaman's servant girl. She had faith in the true God and advised her mistress that Elisha could heal Naaman of his leprosy. (<i>2 Kings 5: 1-3</i>) The king of Syria requested healing for Naaman from the king of Israel, Jehoram, who was angry, suspecting Syria was going to attack Israel. (<i>2 Kings 5: 7</i>) Elisha became aware of Naaman's problem and sent word to him to dip in the River Jordan seven times for cleansing. Naaman was outraged when treated like an ordinary person – he expected royal treatment! Eventually Naaman was persuaded by his servants to obey Elisha's instructions and was cleansed! Naaman was filled with gratitude, thanked Elisha and declared he now knew the true God. (<i>2 Kings 5: 8-15</i>) Unfortunately, Gehazi, Elisha's servant saw an opportunity to get rich by asking Naaman for the reward Elisha refused and lied about his motives to Elisha. This resulted in God's judgement and Gehazi becoming a leper. (<i>2 Kings 5: 20-27</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn them - 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Naaman- The army general with leprosy (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Naaman had to learn that he could do nothing to change his life. We have to learn that it is only Jesus who can change our lives- (<i>2 Corinthians 5: 1</i>) Naaman came from a country where there were many gods; he had to learn that there is only one true God. (<i>2 Kings 5: 15</i>) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>2 Corinthians 5: 17</i>. Discuss how this verse sums up the change in Naaman's life after he was cleansed, and the change God can make to us. Read <i>Numbers 32: 23</i> and <i>Galatians 6: 7</i> Discuss how these two verses sum up the actions of Gehazi.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the midst of idolatry, the maid shone for God. Christians should be prepared to speak out and show their faith whenever they can. Naaman knew he was cleansed and left idolatry and served the true God. He showed the change in his life by his conduct. Christians should show their inner life change by their outward conduct. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We do not know much about the maid but do know God placed her in Naaman's house for a purpose, and she was faithful. God used her to spread His Word to others. Naaman found it hard to obey God's word from Elisha but when he did his life was completely changed.

	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Elisha Topic – The Prophet Elisha promises victory	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and the Syrian Army
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 6: 24-25, 7: 1-20</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>2 Kings 7: 2</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The King of Aram had surrounded the city of Samaria. There was no food in the city, and the people were desperate. 2. Elisha told the people God was going to give them a great victory. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>2 Kings 6: 24-25; 2 Kings 7: 1-20</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 Corinthians 15: 57</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The King of Aram had surrounded the city of Samaria. There was no food in the city, and the people were desperate. 2. Elisha told the people God was going to give them a great victory.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>The King of Syria (Aram) was trying to take control of Israel. His army surrounded the city of Samaria so food was scarce and expensive. The King of Israel acknowledged that only the Lord could help in such a time. People were even practising cannibalism to satisfy their hunger. They blamed the king for failing to do anything about it. He blamed Elisha and went to see Elisha to kill him, but Elisha had a message from God for him. (<i>2 Kings 6: 32-33, and 7: 1-3</i>)</p>	<p>The Syrian army invaded Israel and surrounded Samaria leaving it cut off and facing a serious famine. Israel was constantly rejecting God's leadership and in <i>Deuteronomy 28: 49-57</i>, it was predicted such a famine would happen. The king of Israel blamed Elisha for the famine, for the prophets often predicted doom because of the evil of Israel's kings. He also knew Elisha was 'a man of God' and may have thought he could do any miracle he wanted and was angry that Elisha had not come to Israel's rescue.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha informed the king that the next day barley and flour would be on sale at low prices and told the king's unbelieving officer that he would not enjoy the blessing of cheap food because he had not believed Elisha's words. (<i>2 Kings 7: 1-3</i>) 2. The four men who had leprosy deserted to the camp of the Syrians to try and get food but found the camp abandoned. The Lord had caused the Syrians to hear the noise of a coming army so they were scared and retreated. (<i>2 Kings 7: 3-7</i>) 3. The four men with leprosy helped themselves to the food, money and clothing left behind by the Syrian army and reported this 'good news' back to the king. (<i>2 Kings 7: 8-11</i>) 4. The king suspected the Syrians of an ambush but agreed to send out scouts who found the Syrians had actually fled and left all their belongings behind them. (<i>2 Kings 7: 12-15</i>) 5. Famine was over and Elisha's prophecy had come to pass. Flour and barley was now cheap, and the unbelieving officer of the king was trampled to death by the people at the city gate. (<i>2 Kings 7: 16-20</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 2 Kings 7: 2</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elisha and the siege of Samaria (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha prophesied God's deliverance to the king but the army officer said it couldn't happen. (<i>2 Kings 7: 1-3</i>) 2. According to the law, lepers were not allowed in the city and depended on charity outside the city gate. However, their situation was so desperate they deserted to the Syrian camp to get food and found it abandoned. The Lord had caused the Syrians to hear the sound of a mighty rushing army and so they fled. (<i>2 Kings 7: 3-7</i>) 3. The lepers kept the 'good news' about all they had found and forgot about their fellow citizens starving in the city. However, they realised the need to report their findings to the king. (<i>2 Kings 7: 8-11</i>) 4. The king suspected the Syrians of laying an ambush for the Israelites; he agreed to send a few scouts to check out the land. They confirmed the Syrians had fled and the people of Israel plundered the tents of the Syrians – the famine was over! (<i>2 Kings 7: 8-11</i>) 5. Although the king's officer was a witness to the end of the famine, he never enjoyed the blessings which followed as he was trampled to death at the gate of the city –because of his unbelief, just as Elisha had promised. (<i>2 Kings 7: 16-20</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn them - 1 Corinthians 15: 57</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Elisha and the siege of Samaria (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Discuss with students how God was in control throughout the famine by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Defeating the purposes of Satan and ensuring the king did not kill him. (Elisha) (ii) Using Elisha to show the people of Samaria that God was an all-powerful God who could supply their needs – something the false gods could not do. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read <i>Luke 4: 17-19</i> – Discuss the Lord's ability with regard to the deliverance of those held captive by sin. 2. Read <i>John 6: 1-15</i>. Discuss how the Lord Jesus met the needs of the people in the feeding of the five thousand and compare with the miracle of the famine in this study. Discuss how we can trust God to meet all our needs - <i>Matthew 6 : 25-34</i>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just as the men with leprosy needed to share the 'good news', so those who follow Jesus should seek to share the 'good news' of salvation. 2. God is always in control – even in the most difficult situations in our lives. We must never doubt His ability to enable us to live victorious lives for Him, if we belong to Him and trust Him. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just as the men with leprosy needed to share the 'good news', so those who follow Jesus should seek to share the 'good news' of salvation. 2. God provides our daily food and all other daily blessings. When Satan tempts us to doubt God, remember God can bless us beyond our expectations.

	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Men used by God Topic – Gideon	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Gideon
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Judges 6: 11-23; 7: 12-22</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Judges 6: 16</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At a difficult time in Israel's history, Gideon is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites. God uses all sorts of people to do His work. Despite our weaknesses and failures, he can use us if we are Christians. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Judges 6: 1-23; 7: 1-23</i></p> <p>Key Verses: <i>Judges 6: 22 & 23</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At a difficult time in Israel's history, Gideon is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites. If, as Christians, we trust and obey God, He will give us the strength we need to serve Him, even though we may not feel adequate for the tasks He calls us to.
INTRODUCE IT	Once again, the Israelites had forgotten God and turned to false gods. God punished them by allowing the Midianites to attack them. God sent a special messenger to speak to Gideon to show him how he would defeat the Midianite army. Although Gideon felt he was not able for this task, he eventually obeyed God and God made him victorious.	Once again, the Israelites had forgotten God and turned to false gods. God punished them by allowing the Midianites to attack them. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon he was threshing wheat in a pit hidden from the view of the Midianites, who were making the production of food impossible for the Israelites.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites and when they cried to God for help, a prophet was first sent to remind them of their idolatry. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, and told him God was going to use him to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. (6: 7-12) Gideon wanted a sign to show that the Lord was really going to use him and he prepared an offering and brought it to the angel who touched it with His staff and it was burned up. (6: 13-22) Later Gideon went to the camp of the Midianites and hears a Midianite tell his friend a dream which assured Gideon of victory. He returned to the Israelite camp to prepare them for war. Gideon divided them into three companies of 100 each and gave each man a trumpet and a pitcher with a lamp inside. When Gideon's men marched towards the Midianites camp, the blazing lights, the deafening noise of the trumpets and the breaking of the pitchers caused the Midianites to panic and flee. (7: 8-22) The Midianites were defeated as the Lord had told him. (Judges 6: 14) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Judges 6: 16</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Gideon and the Midianite army (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Midianites had been oppressing Israel for seven years, resulting in the Israelites turning back to God. A prophet was sent by the Lord to explain to the Israelites that they were being punished – because of their idolatry. (6: 7-10) The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and promised to give him the strength needed to defeat the Midianites. Gideon made excuses about his limitations but eventually obeyed when the 'sign' he asked for became - the food he placed on the rock was burned up by the angel of the Lord. (6: 13-22) God reduced the army of the Israelites from 32,000 to 300 so there could be no doubt the victory was from God. They were only armed with trumpets, clay pitchers and lamps and instructed by Gideon as to what to do when they reached the Midianites. (7: 1-8, 16) The noise of the Israelites blowing their trumpets, along with the noise of the clay pitchers breaking and the sudden appearance of light from the lamps, terrified the Midianites, causing them to panic and retreat. (7: 17-22) Although surprised by the challenge of the Lord, Gideon accepted the task he was called to do, which resulted in victory over the Midianites. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage students to learn them- <i>Judges 6: 22 & 23</i></p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Gideon and the Midianite army (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who was the messenger? What was his message? Why was the dream Gideon overheard a source of encouragement to him? What was the strategy God gave Gideon and his men to defeat the Midianites? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read - <i>Judges 6: 24-40</i> - Discuss how Gideon put his life at risk for signs of proof that God would use him. Read - <i>1 Corinthians 1: 26-29</i> Discuss how God uses ordinary people, like you and me, in His service.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We all have our weak moments and failures but, like Gideon, God can still use us. Before Gideon went to war he worshipped God (Judges 7: 15). We should always ask God for guidance especially in difficult situations. Gideon wanted to lead by example. Is that how we try to live out our Christian faith? (Judges 7: 17) 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Like Gideon, Christians are called to serve God in specific ways. Do we spend time doing what God wants us to do or instead making excuses? When we want God's guidance in our lives, we get it by studying the Bible? (2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Men used by God Topic –Samson	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Samson
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Judges 16: 6-31</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Judges 16: 28</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samson was born to rid Israel of the Philistines who had taken over their country. 2. Despite Samson’s many weaknesses, God used him to overcome the Philistines on several occasions. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Judges 13: 1-25; 16: 4-31</i></p> <p>Key Verses: <i>James 4: 7- 8</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samson was born to rid Israel of the Philistines who had taken over their country. 2. Despite Samson’s many weaknesses, God used him to overcome the Philistines on several occasions.
INTRODUCE IT	Once again Israel was in the grip of the Philistines which lasted some forty years. Samson was born to Manoah and his wife and God’s plan for his life was to rescue Israel from the Philistines. He was a judge in Israel for twenty years. Review for students the main events in <i>Judges chapters 13-16</i> .	The story of Samson is the sad record of the weakest, strong man of the Bible. However, in spite of his failures he accomplished the purpose announced by the angel who visited his parents before his birth. (<i>Judges 13: 5</i>) Before he died, Samson acknowledged it was only God who could give him strength and, God answered his prayer and destroyed the temple and Philistine worshippers.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman called Delilah. (<i>16: 4</i>) 2. The Philistines are scared of Samson because of his great strength. Delilah is bribed by the Philistines and offered a great money reward if she could find the secret of Samson’s strength. Delilah tried three times to find out the secret. Each time Samson lied to her and overcame those who attacked him. (<i>16: 6-15</i>) 3. Samson finally breaks down and reveals to her the secret of his strength. When he was asleep, the Philistines shaved off his hair and his strength left him but Samson did not realise the Lord had left him. (<i>16: 17-20</i>) 4. The Philistines seized him, took out his eyes and placed him in prison. They held a giant celebration of their god, Dagon, compelling Samson to entertain them. Samson took hold of the two middle pillars in the temple, called on God for strength, pushed down the pillars and kills all present, including himself. (<i>16: 21-30</i>) 5. When we think of Samson, we tend to think of his undoubted strengths. However, he had many weaknesses because he disobeyed God, and in the end, was the author of his own violent death. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Judges 16: 28</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – The secret of Samson’s strength is revealed (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The angel of the Lord told Manoah and his wife they would have a son called Samson who was to be a Nazirite, a man set aside for God’s service as a Judge, in Israel. (<i>13: 3-5</i>) 2. Eventually Samson formed a relationship with a Philistine woman, called Delilah, and she influenced him to betray his calling from God. He revealed to her the secret of his strength. His long hair wasn’t the source of his strength but rather showed that he was a Nazirite. It was his relationship with God that made him strong. When his hair was cut, he was powerless. (<i>16: 6-20</i>) 3. The Philistines capture Samson, took out his eyes and put him in prison. Now he was blind and weak. The Philistines crowded into one of their temples, built to an idol god, to make fun of Samson. In spite of his past, Samson prayed to God for strength and one more time God answered his prayer. Samson pushed down the two pillars supporting the temple and killed all present, including himself. (<i>16: 21-30</i>) 4. When we think of Samson, we tend to think of his undoubted strengths. However, he had many weaknesses because he disobeyed God, and in the end, was the author of his own violent death. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage students to learn them- <i>James 4: 7- 8</i></p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI - The secret of Samson’s strength is revealed (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review the lesson by referring to the purpose of Samson’s birth, announced by the angel of the Lord (<i>Judges 13: 5</i>). When Samson died, God turned his failures into victory by bringing about the deaths of the Philistines. (<i>Judges 16: 30</i>)	Read <i>Judges 14: 1-20; 15: 1-20</i> . Explain to the students that these two chapters not only show Samson’s strengths but show significant weakness in his life.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>This story warns Christian of being tempted away from the Lord, and of the terrible results that can happen. However, we need to remember that the Lord never forgets us and is always willing to forgive us when we repent of wrong doing.</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We should not let friends influence us to do things displeasing to the Lord. It is our responsibility to influence <i>them</i>. 2. The New Testament makes no comment in <i>Hebrews 11: 32-33</i> to Samson’s failures, just some of his achievements. Samson turned to God before he died and turned his failures into victory. He can do this for us, even when we fail.

	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Men used by God Topic – Jonah	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Jonah
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Jonah 1: 1-7; 3: 1-3</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah was the prophet who disobeyed God and learned the lesson of obedience the hard way. It is much more important to obey God than to go our own way. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Jonah 1: 1-17; 2: 10-3: 2</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah was the prophet who disobeyed God and learned the lesson of obedience the hard way. When the Lord Jesus gives those who follow Him directions from His Word, it is always best to do what God asks in the first place.
INTRODUCE IT	Jonah came from Galilee and was told to go to Nineveh in the reign of King Jeroboam, the mightiest king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. God sent Jonah to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, a wicked city, and capital of the Assyrian Empire at the time. The Assyrians were a very cruel Gentile nation. Jonah, a Jew, didn't want to take the message of repentance and salvation to the Ninevites. So God had to deal with his disobedience.	In 2 Kings 14: 25 , we learn that Jonah was the son of Amittai, a prophet in Galilee. God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh during the time when King Jeroboam II was ruling in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire and was not only a Gentile nation but a cruel one. Jonah was reluctant to share God's love and mercy with the Ninevites because they were not Jews and he had grown up hating the Assyrians so God had to deal with his disobedience.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah's missionary call – God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh but he disobeyed and took a ship to Tarshish in the south of Spain. He was sent on a 500-mile journey east but disobeyed and took a dangerous 2000-mile journey west on a ship, to try and flee from God's presence and power. (<i>Jonah 1: 1-3</i>) The storm at sea – There was a tremendous storm and the ship and crew were in danger and cast lots to see who was responsible and Jonah was identified as the culprit. The sailors were terrified and didn't know what to do. (<i>Jonah 1: 4-10</i>) Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish – The crew reluctantly threw Jonah overboard and he was held captive by the great fish for three days and three nights. (<i>Jonah 1: 13-17</i>) Jonah goes to Nineveh – Jonah acknowledged that salvation is of the Lord and the fish vomited him out on dry ground. God told him again to go to Nineveh and Jonah obeyed and warned the Ninevites about their danger, resulting in the people of the city repenting and being spared from judgement. (<i>Jonah 2 & 3</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Jonah and the large fish (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah's call and commission – God called Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites because of their great wickedness. (<i>Jonah 1: 1-2</i>) Jonah's disobedience and its consequences – Jonah attempted to flee from God and headed for Tarshish on the southern coast of Spain. While Jonah was asleep on the ship, a storm raged, endangering the lives of all on board. After the casting of lots it was clear that Jonah was the problem. Jonah confessed his sin and was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish and was in there for three days and three nights. (<i>Jonah 1: 3-17</i>) The great deliverance and renewed commission – Jonah prayed from inside the great fish and God delivered him onto dry land when he acknowledged: 'Salvation is of the Lord'. (<i>Jonah 2: 1-9</i>) Jonah is re-commissioned to go to Nineveh – Jonah obeyed and went to Nineveh and preached the message God gave him, resulting in the people of the city repenting and being spared from judgement. However, Jonah was angry that Israel's Gentile enemies had been spared! (<i>Jonah 3 & 4</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Jonah and the large fish (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by discussing with students how that God loves the world (<i>John 3: 16</i>). Remind them He not only loves the Jews, but the Gentiles. Jonah was of the Jewish line and the Ninevites were of the Gentile line. God showed His love by forgiving both Jonah and the Ninevites when they repented.	<p>Jonah 2: 1-9 – Discuss how Jonah was saved after his prayer. Jonah's prayer was thankful, but also repenting to God.</p> <p>Jonah 4: 1-11 – Discuss Jonah's prayer and how he was happy when God saved him but angry when He saved the Ninevites. God taught Jonah forgiveness wasn't only for Israel but for all who repent and believe.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>Salvation is not found in anyone else other than the Lord Jesus for 'Salvation comes from the Lord.' (<i>Jonah 2: 9</i>) If we trust in the Lord Jesus for salvation we must obey Him by reading the Bible and finding His plan for our lives.</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>Jonah was given a second chance to serve God. If we feel unworthy serving the Lord because of our mistakes or lack of ability, God will still ask us to try again.</p>

	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Men used by God Topic – Nehemiah	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Nehemiah
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 6-23</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah was a great man of God who was used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. 2. God hears and answers prayer – the first step in any venture is to pray. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 8-23</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah was a great man of God who was used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. 2. God hears and answers prayer – the first step in any venture is to pray. We show God we are serious when we mix prayer with thought, preparation and action.
<p>INTRODUCE IT</p>	<p>Nehemiah worked in Persia and was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes which was a very influential position. However, he left this comfortable job to go and help the people of Jerusalem rebuild the city's walls, which had been destroyed years before. In Nehemiah's day city walls were essential to the safety of the city protecting it from raids by Israel's enemies. Nehemiah was not only a man of prayer, but a great leader who could decide on a plan of action and motivate others to help him carry it out.</p>	<p>Nehemiah was prepared by God to accomplish what seems an 'impossible' task. Nehemiah was cup bearer to King Artaxerxes, the Persian King and the king trusted him. He was also a man of God, who was concerned about the Jews and the fact that Jerusalem's walls were in ruins. As he prayed to God about this situation he was guided about his role in the rebuilding of the city walls leading him to leave Persia and head to Jerusalem. From beginning to end, he prayed for God's help and the wall around the city was rebuilt in record time, despite resistance from his enemies.</p>
<p>COMPLETE IT</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah's brother brings him a report that the Jews who have returned from exile to Jerusalem were having a difficult time and the city's walls needed to be rebuilt. (1: 1-3) 2. Nehemiah was very concerned about the problem and he prayed and asked the king to release him to go to help rebuild the city's walls. The king agreed which was obviously an answer to Nehemiah's prayers. (2: 1-6) 3. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and inspected the walls. (2: 11-13) 4. When the walls were half built, they began to face opposition, but Nehemiah continued to pray about the problem and put men on guard in case of attack. (4: 7-9) 5. Nehemiah, and those working with him, continued to pray, watch and work and their enemies abandoned their plan to attack them. (4: 16-19) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah was deeply concerned about the condition of Jerusalem, prayed to God and looked for ways to improve the situation by putting all his resources, knowledge, experience and leadership into working out what should be done. (1: 1-10) 2. Nehemiah was very concerned about the problem and he prayed and asked the king to release him to go to help rebuild the city's walls. The king agreed which was obviously an answer to Nehemiah's prayers. (2: 1-6) 3. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and inspected the walls. (2: 11-13) 4. When the walls were half built, they began to face opposition, but Nehemiah continued to pray about the problem and put men on guard in case of attack, half the men worked while the other half kept guard. (4: 7-19) 5. Nehemiah encouraged the builders by assuring them 'God shall fight for us' and eventually the wall was finished, with God's help, in 52 days. (4: 20 & 6: 15) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (I)</p>
<p>REVIEW IT</p>	<p>Read <i>Colossians 3: 23-24</i> and discuss with students how they can be applied to Nehemiah in this lesson. Also discuss the number of times Nehemiah prays to God and tells the builders to depend on God with regard to the rebuilding of the walls. (Chapter 1: 4, 2: 4, 4: 9, 4: 14 & 4: 20)</p>	<p>Read <i>Nehemiah 2: 11-20</i> – Discuss how Nehemiah surveyed the walls by moonlight and came up with a plan of action which he shared with those who would build the walls. Point out how Nehemiah was depending on God in verses 18 and 20 to achieve the rebuilding of the city walls.</p>
<p>LIVE IT</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah prayed to God and brought God into the everyday affairs of life as we should. 2. As Nehemiah and his men prayed and worked, they also watched in case the enemy would attack them. As a Christian, we should be alert to Satan who is the enemy of Christians and who tries to disrupt our lives. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah's service for God included talking with Him in prayer and walking with Him by putting what he learned from God's Word into action each day. We should pray and read our Bibles every day, and put what we read into action. 2. Nehemiah prayed to God and brought God into the everyday affairs of life as we should.

	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – The Christmas Story Topic – In the Beginning	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 1– Christ’s Birth Topic – Promises given														
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Genesis 3: 13-20; Isaiah 7: 14-16</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Christmas story did not start in Bethlehem but right at the beginning of history. 2. God’s plan was to deal with the sin of Adam and Eve by sending His Son to die. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Genesis 3: 1-24; Isaiah 7: 14-16</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The relationship between God and man was broken when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. 2. God promised that the birth of the Lord Jesus would result in the relationship between God and man being restored, by His death on the cross. 														
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God already had a plan in place to deal with their disobedience. The sin of Adam has been passed on to all mankind. The entire Bible is the story of how God’s plan of salvation unfolds, ultimately leading to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God. They were convinced their way was better than God’s way and so disobeyed Him. Once they did that, they hid themselves. When God spoke to them, they tried to excuse and defend themselves. The sin of Adam has been passed on to all mankind. The entire Bible is the story of how God’s plan of salvation unfolds, ultimately leading to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>														
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, when they disobeyed God’s commands. God searched after them, asking them where they were and what they had done, showing that man was sinful and God had come to find Him. (<i>Genesis 3: 6-9</i>) 2. God punished the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve (Satan) and told him that even though he would oppose the coming Messiah, he would be defeated by the death and resurrection of the Messiah, in a coming day. (<i>Genesis 3: 15</i>) 3. God explained to Adam and Eve that their sin would have consequences in that the woman would suffer pain when having children and the husband would have to work hard to provide for the family. He also told them they would now die and return to dust because of their sin. (<i>Genesis 3: 16-19</i>) 4. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden but, in the meantime, God continued to promise the Saviour’s birth through the prophets, especially <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i>. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: FBI- Prophecies about the birth of Jesus (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Satan tempted Eve by getting her to doubt God’s commands and after Eve sinned by disobeying God’s warning in <i>Genesis 2: 16-17</i>, she involved Adam in her wrongdoing. When God asked Adam about his sin, he then blamed Eve. (<i>Genesis 3: 11-13</i>) 2. Adam and Eve learned by painful experience, that God is holy and hates sin and must punish sinners. 3. God revealed his plan to defeat Satan. In <i>Genesis 3: 15</i>, the phrase ‘you will strike his heel’ refers to Satan’s attempts to defeat the Lord Jesus Christ when on earth. However, the phrase ‘He will crush your head’ referred to the Lord’s victory at the cross. A bruised heel is not deadly but a bruised head is. This all foreshadowed Satan’s defeat and the offer of salvation to the world through the Lord Jesus Christ. 4. Adam and Eve’s disobedience, and fall in Eden’s garden, affected all creation (<i>Romans 5: 12</i>) Many years later, God, through the prophet Isaiah gave another promise regarding the birth of the Lord Jesus to be the Saviour of the world. (<i>Isaiah 7: 14</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: Prophecies about the birth of Jesus (I)</p>														
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by discussing how <i>Romans 5: 12</i> sums it all up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who is the ‘one man’ in the verse? (ii) Where did this sin take place? (iii) Sin has brought physical death. Which verse in <i>Genesis 3: 13-20</i>, tells us this? (iv) Sin also brings spiritual death and separation from God. What promise did God give to the serpent that the Lord Jesus would defeat sin and make it possible for our sins to be forgiven? 	<p>Use <i>Romans chapter 5</i> to show what we are as Adam’s children, before we trust in Jesus, and what we have as God’s children, when we have trusted in Him.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Adam’s children:</td> <td>God’s children:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sin</td> <td>Righteousness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Death</td> <td>Eternal Life</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separation from God</td> <td>Relationship with God</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disobedience</td> <td>Obedience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judgement</td> <td>Deliverance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Law</td> <td>Grace</td> </tr> </table>	Adam’s children:	God’s children:	Sin	Righteousness	Death	Eternal Life	Separation from God	Relationship with God	Disobedience	Obedience	Judgement	Deliverance	Law	Grace
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LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just as Adam and Eve were separated from God by sin, so the same is true of everybody else. Emphasise the importance of this. 2. How could you answer someone who said the Christmas story started in Bethlehem? 3. Read <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i> and <i>Matthew 1: 23</i>. The Lord Jesus was born about 750 years after Isaiah prophesied His birth. Jesus was God born as a baby and so Immanuel means ‘God with us’. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When Adam and Eve sinned, their guilty consciences made them want to hide from God. Our conscience makes us aware of our sin so we can then ask for God’s forgiveness. 2. Like Adam and Eve, we have all sinned but the Lord Jesus died to take away our sin and save us from its eternal consequences. 														

	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 - The Christmas Story Topic – God’s Messenger	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Christ’s Birth Topic – Problems faced
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The birth of the Lord Jesus was unique and fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament. He was to be called Jesus which means Saviour. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The long promised birth of the Lord Jesus Christ was a necessity in order that men could be forgiven of their sins. When we face difficult situations in life, we can be assured of God’s help if we obey and trust His Word.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce this lesson by reminding students that many prophecies in the Old Testament pointed to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Lesson 1, we were reminded that the Lord Jesus would defeat Satan on the cross. Isaiah spoke of the Lord Jesus as being ‘the mighty God’ (<i>Isaiah 9: 6</i>), showing us He was ‘God in human form. Micah also prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. (<i>Micah 5: 2</i>).</p>	<p>Introduce this study by reminding students that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and, as such, His birth is referred to as the ‘Virgin Birth’, which is fundamental to our Christian faith. He was born holy and because He could not sin, was therefore able to die for man’s sins and make us acceptable to God. Jesus was born of a woman and was a human being but He was the Son of God, born without any trace of sin.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The birth of the Lord Jesus was different from any other birth – his mother was Mary but His father was God. Mary’s pregnancy was a miracle of the Holy Spirit. As a result of the angel’s message to Joseph, he married Mary. (<i>Matthew 1: 20</i>) 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah foretold His unique birth and that He would be called Immanuel meaning ‘God with us’. (<i>Matthew 1: 22-23</i>) The child born would ‘save His people from their sins’ (<i>Matthew 1: 21</i>) by going to the cross to die for our sins. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – An angel visits Joseph (P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph faced a difficult choice when he discovered Mary was expecting a baby. Although Joseph seemed to be making the right decision by wanting to break the engagement, God’s guidance from the angel in a dream helped him make the right decision. (<i>Matthew 1: 19-21</i>) Jesus came to earth to save us from the power and penalty of sin, as indicated in the meaning of the name Jesus – ‘the Lord saves’. (<i>Matthew 1: 21</i>) 700 years earlier Isaiah prophesied He would be born (<i>Isaiah 7: 14</i>) and would be called Immanuel, meaning ‘God with us’. Jesus was literally ‘with us’ when here on earth and is present in the life of every Christian today. Joseph obeyed God and went ahead with his marriage plans and married Mary. He then was the earthly Father of the Lord Jesus whilst God was his Heavenly Father. (<i>Matthew 1; 24-25</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – An angel visits Joseph (P)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by referring to the fact that the birth of the Lord Jesus is also recorded by Luke. Read Luke 1: 26-35 and discuss the similarities between this passage and Matthew 1: 18-25. Both writers wrote around the same time, 60AD, and whilst Matthew was writing to Jews, Luke wrote to the Gentiles. God was ensuring this important message of the birth of Jesus would be spread throughout all the people of the world, including those doing this lesson!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Galatians 4: 4 & 5. Discuss how these two verses summarise this Study. Read 1 Timothy 1: 15. Discuss how this verse summarises the reason for Christ’s birth. Read 1 John 4: 9, 14. Discuss how in verse 9, Jesus is referred to God’s only Son. Only Jesus enjoys this unique relationship with God. Verse 14 also summarises the reason for Christ’s birth.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <p>Joseph’s task was not easy but like Mary, he trusted in God and left everything in His hands. If we love the Lord Jesus and are His followers, we too must trust God and obey His Word.</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph changed his plans when he learned from the angel that the child conceived in Mary was by the Holy Spirit. He obeyed God and proceeded to marry Mary, even though others may have disapproved. Do we avoid doing right because of what others may think or do we obey God? Do we let our feelings guide us as to whether our actions are wrong or right or do we obey God’s Word and take our guidance from Him?

	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The Christmas Story Topic – The Special Star	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Christ’s Birth Topic – Prophecies fulfilled
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 2: 11</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birth of Jesus was predicted by the prophet Micah (<i>Micah 5: 2</i>) approximately 700 years before it happened. 2. The young child was someone so special - the one born the King of the Jews - that men came from the east to worship Him. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 2: 6</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birth of Jesus was predicted by the prophet Micah (<i>Micah 5: 2</i>) approximately 700 years before it happened. 2. The young child was someone so special - the one born the King of the Jews - that men came from the east to worship Him.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>In this lesson, we learn that wise men from the east came in search of the ‘King of the Jews’ (<i>verse 2</i>). This star somehow made them aware of Jesus’ birth. The course of this star was highly irregular for it led the wise men right to the house where Jesus was living (<i>verse 9</i>) and then stopped! Point out that this event was so unusual that it can only be explained as a miracle.</p>	<p>Discuss how the birth of Jesus was prophesied by both Micah and Isaiah. Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem and would be ‘Ruler in Israel’. Isaiah also used names to describe the coming Lord Jesus: Wonderful meaning exceptional, Counsellor meaning giving right advice, Mighty God meaning God revealed as man, Everlasting Father meaning timeless, and Prince of Peace meaning His government is just and peaceful. (<i>Isaiah 9: 6</i>)</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the Lord Jesus was born, Herod, a very wicked man, was king. He was troubled because he heard the Baby born was to be the King of the Jews and that was a threat to his position. (<i>2: 3</i>) 2. Herod sent for the religious leaders of the day to ask where the ‘new born’ King could be found and they quickly quoted <i>Micah 5: 2</i> which said in Bethlehem. Herod asked the Wise Men (Magi) to let him know when they found the baby, pretending he wanted to visit him as well. (<i>2: 4-8</i>) 3. The Wise Men were guided by the star to the house where they saw the young child with Mary His mother and they fell down and worshipped Jesus. They brought Him presents and each of these presents tells us something about this special Baby. Gold speaks of the fact He is really God; Frankincense speaks of His perfect life; and Myrrh speaks of the sufferings He would endure when He would be crucified. (<i>2: 9-11</i>) 4. The Wise Men were warned in a dream not to go back to the evil Herod but to go home by another route. God was in control! (<i>2: 12</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it- <i>Matthew 2: 11</i></p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Wise Men worship Jesus (P)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wise Men, who travelled thousands of miles to see the new born King saw ‘His star in the east’. Whatever the explanation for this star, couldn’t God who created the heavens have created this special star to signal the greatest birth ever – the arrival of His Son? (<i>2: 1-2</i>) 2. Herod the Great was not the rightful heir to the throne and was troubled at the news that the ‘King of the Jews’ was born! Herod did not want the Jews to unite around a Jewish King, who would swing the balance of power away from Rome and himself! Although he told the Wise Men he wanted to worship Jesus, he was lying. His plan was to kill Jesus. (<i>2: 3-8</i>) 3. The Lord Jesus was probably one or two years old when the Wise Men found Him. They were overjoyed (<i>Matthew 2: 10</i>) when they found Him and fell down and worshipped Him! They gave Him expensive gifts only fit for a future King and gifts that were to be symbolic of His life. Gold because He was God, Frankincense for His perfect life and Myrrh was a spice for anointing a body for burial. (<i>2: 9-11</i>) 4. The Wise Men, warned by God, returned home by another route, avoiding any contact with the evil Herod. (<i>2: 12</i>) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Matthew 2: 6</i></p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: FBI – Wise Men worship Jesus (P)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking questions to make sure that they have understood it. Questions should in turn, be closely related to those in Lesson 3 so that the students are able to complete it as correctly as possible.</p>	<p>Review this Study. Show how <i>Isaiah 9: 6</i> and <i>Micah 5: 2</i> have already been fulfilled in this Study and how <i>John 14: 1-6</i> is yet to be fulfilled.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wise Men diligently sought for Jesus and found Him. It is often said that “Wise men still seek Jesus”. 2. When the Wise Men entered the house they worshipped Jesus, not Mary or Joseph. It is only Jesus, the Son of God who deserves our praise and worship. Discuss what this means to the students. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Herod and everyone in Jerusalem were troubled when Christ was born and He still disturbs people. We should worship Jesus for who He is and give Him our very best! 2. The fulfilment of Christ’s birth, as in the prophecies of Micah and Isaiah, help to strengthen our faith in the Bible as God’s Word and help Christians to look forward to the promise of His return, because there are many predictions that He will come again.

	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – The Christmas Story Topic – The Night-time Escape	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Christ’s Birth Topic – Persecution begins
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 13-23</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>1 John 3: 8</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The birth of the Lord Jesus and His protection was carefully carried out by God as prophesied by the prophets many years earlier. Satan was unable to destroy the Lord Jesus for God had promised in the Garden of Eden that the Lord Jesus would defeat him when Jesus died on the cross. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 13-23</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 2: 14</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Herod was king appointed by the Romans but Jesus was the true King, so God’s place for His Son could not be thwarted by anyone. The Lord Jesus became a man so that He could die and rise again in order to destroy the devil’s power over death as foretold in Genesis 3: 15.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discussion could centre on people in the world today who are facing persecution in places such as Syria and becoming refugees in other countries.</p> <p>From infancy, the threat of death hung over the Lord Jesus and, although born to die for sinners, it would be at God’s appointed time. Joseph was warned by an angel of the Lord to flee to Egypt with his family – he would become a refugee to escape Herod’s wrath. We do not know how long they stayed.</p>	<p>Introduce this Study by asking if any have heard of the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids in Egypt. Explain that they were as much part of Egyptian culture in Jesus’ day as they are today. Also, at that time there were colonies of Jews in several of the large cities of Egypt and were also under Roman rule, just like the people in Judea and Galilee. These circumstances would have made it easier for Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle temporarily in Egypt.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For the Fourth time, in Matthew 2, we are reminded of another prophecy being fulfilled by Hosea (Hosea 11: 1) who said that Jesus would be called out of Egypt. This prophecy was fulfilled when Joseph and his family returned to Israel from Egypt. (2: 15) When Herod realised his plot had failed to locate the young child Jesus, he ordered the death of all male children under the age of two in Bethlehem and in the districts around it. This wicked act caused much grief to the parents concerned but his young ‘Rival’ was safe in Egypt. (2: 16-18) It was part of the devil’s plot to destroy Jesus but, of course, it failed. An angel of the Lord told Joseph when it was safe to return to the land of Israel after Herod had died. However, Joseph knew Herod’s son had become king and he decided to avoid Judea and travelled north to Galilee and settled in Nazareth. God was guiding the young child’s movements as the prophets said He would! (2: 19-23) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - 1 John 3: 8</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI- Escape to Egypt (I)</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the first dream or vision Joseph received from God he was told Mary’s Son would be Jesus. (Matthew 1: 20-21) In this second dream or vision he was told how to protect the child’s life by fleeing to Egypt. Joseph again obeyed God’s Word. (Matthew 2: 13-15) Herod was afraid this new-born King would take his throne one day and so killed all the boys of two years old and under in Bethlehem and its surrounding districts. However, God was in control and Herod could not harm Jesus. Herod misunderstood the reason for the coming of the Lord Jesus – He did not want Herod’s throne; He wanted to be King of Herod’s life. (Matthew 2: 16-18) When Herod died in 4BC his son Archelaus, a very evil ruler, was in charge of the regions of Judea and Samaria which included places such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. God did not want Joseph to return to this area, nor did Joseph, and directed him to go northwards to Nazareth in Galilee. (Matthew 2: 21-23) Jesus grew up in the despised town of Nazareth and that meant He too would have been treated with scorn like all the other Nazarenes. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - Hebrews 2: 14</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: FBI- Escape to Egypt (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why did Joseph, Mary and Jesus have to flee to Egypt? Why did Herod kill the baby boys in Bethlehem? Why did this family settle in Nazareth? Why is the Christmas Story one of sadness as well as joy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Genesis 3: 15 – Ensure students understand that this verse was pointing forward to the time the Lord Jesus would die and rob Satan of his power. Read Acts 10: 38-43 – Discuss how Peter’s powerful sermon in these verses sum up this Study.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In Luke 2: 11, when the angel announced the birth of Jesus, he referred to him as both ‘Saviour’ and ‘Lord’ Christians believe He is the personal Saviour and Lord. Discuss with the students how these lessons have helped in understanding the importance of the Old Testament? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Like Joseph, we should seek God’s guidance for our lives. If we are trusting the Lord Jesus, remember God has a plan for our lives. We should make sure we allow His teachings to influence this plan by reading the Bible and praying regularly for His guidance.

Guidance for Teachers Marking Lessons

Level 3 lessons

- The students cannot complete these lessons without referring to the Bible and may have to refer to one or more Bible Readings.
- Questions are in various forms including cross words and word grids, missing words, etc.
- They have been particularly designed to be answered by the NIV, Good News, RSV New King James, Authorised Version and Common English Bible versions.
- Our aim is that all students, whatever Bible they possess, will be able to answer the questions.
- Twenty marks are allocated for each week with a maximum of 80 for the month, when the lessons are completely correct.
- Level 3 - Usually 1 mark per answer required, as indicated.

Level 4 Studies

- These are a harder edition to Level 3 lessons.
- More complex questions and answers required.
- Twenty marks per week and 80 for the month, when the lessons are completely correct and the questions have a full answer.

MARKING HINTS

The teachers are asked, first to:

- Check through each lesson and mark the answers correct or incorrect.
- Award the necessary points as instructed.
- Always mark in a contrasting colour, and TICK each correct answer.
- Put in the correct answer, where necessary and correct any spelling errors, though NO marks are deducted for these.
- Give fewer marks for partially correct answers.
- Add the total for the month and write this on the back page in the space provided.

It is necessary to be fairly generous and to do everything possible to encourage the students with their Bible Study. It is helpful, where possible each month for the teacher to write a word of encouragement to the student and there is a space provided on the lesson sheet for this to be done. Comments can be made about good colouring, neatness, marks attained, the student's understanding of the lesson, etc.

We try to keep comments as varied as possible. Questions, statements, observations, encouragements, etc. can all be used to maintain variety. It requires thought, but it is important to keep the interest of the student alive. If the same statement or question is being repeated every month, it loses its impact.

LEVEL 3

General comments

"Great work! You obviously read the questions very carefully. I especially liked your answer to the last question which was very well worded."

"Hi Jonathan. Thank you for all your hard work. It was great that you managed nearly all the answers. I have filled in the missing ones for you."

Spiritual comments

"Moses had some difficult times with the children of Israel, but God didn't leave him to sort out all the problems by himself."

"Joseph never forgot that his father had taught him to love God. He remembered this even when he was far away from home."

"Bartimaeus was determined to get to the Lord Jesus. He wasn't disappointed for he was now able to see and he now knew the Lord Jesus was someone really special."

LEVEL 4

General comments

"Another excellent set of lessons. You seem to have a good grasp of these Bible stories and I really hope you have enjoyed them. Thank you for taking the time to do the lessons carefully. It would be easy to rush through them, so I appreciate all your effort."

"A very good try, Rachel. I think by your answers, you may not fully have understood the story. Perhaps you could try reading it through again."

Spiritual comments

"Parables are sometimes called earthly stories with heavenly, or deeper, meaning. Can you think what the deeper meaning is in the parable in study 3?"

"Stephen died a cruel death and yet he was not afraid to die, for he knew that God was still in control and he knew he would be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven."



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