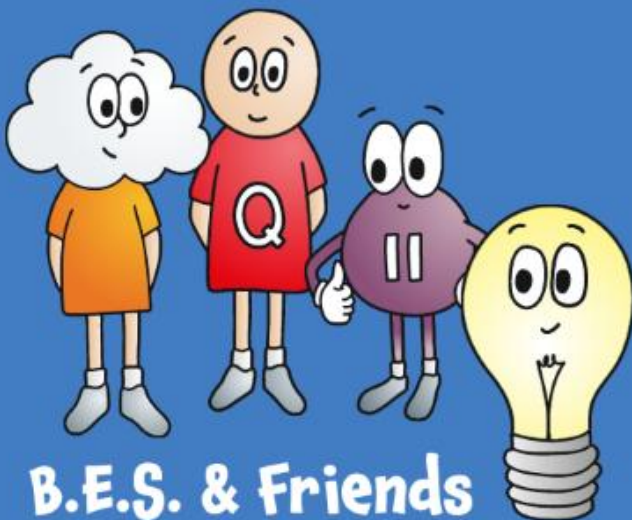


International Teacher Lesson Plans

Bibletime Levels 3 and 4

C Series
C7-C12



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NAME:

B.E.S.

This cloud character is based on **Exodus 13: 21-22** and is a symbol of God's presence. He is a source of wisdom throughout the Bibletime stories, as he guides and teaches the character 'Q' about God. He's a gentle, friendly character who encourages us all to study God's Word, the Bible, in a deep and meaningful way.



NAME:

Q

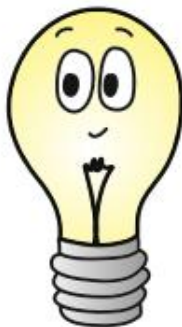
Q is an inquisitive and deep thinking character. He has lots of questions and is brave enough to ask them. He looks to his friends B.E.S. and Beam as wise and encouraging mentors, to help him find answers. In so doing, he helps us all to discover an even greater friend, Jesus.



NAME:

PAUSE

Pause is a happy, cheerful character. He does not speak but his presence indicates a time to pause, so that we can reflect on what has been discovered up to that point. Pause also reminds us to attempt the activity or questions after careful thought.



NAME:

BEAM

This lightbulb character is linked to Psalm 119: 105. He is 'shining his light' for Jesus. Alongside B.E.S., he helps Q and us to understand the Bible as God's instruction manual. He shows us how to live in relationship with God, fellowship with others and as witnesses to the truth of the Gospel.

BIBLE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Registered Charity UK (CIO 1186004)

BES MISSION:

We produce Bible lessons for Partners to take the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation globally.

BES VISION:

Every partner will have our curriculum in their own language and use it effectively to reach the next generation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What Bible Educational Services does:

Bible Educational Services (BES) publishes Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper and Gleaners Bible lessons in English, and supports Postal Bible Schools and similar organisations using BES lessons in the UK and overseas. We do this 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 60 years ago. Bible Educational Services maintains editorial responsibility for Bibletime Lessons in English and 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 Postal Bible School Centre for marking. More recently, lessons for six months have been published in an A4 format, which has made usage in Churches and Schools much easier, especially where there is no effective postal system. Revival Movement Association, print the 6-month booklet in an A5 version to send internationally.

The BES lessons are unique in that they are prepared with home or group (Church / School) study in mind. They follow 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. The age groups may vary according to different levels of ability. The Bibletime resources allow children the opportunity to study the Bible and reflect on its relevance in the lives of people today.

Printed copies of the lessons are available in English from the BES website www.besweb.com or the BES Office in Enniskillen. 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.

BES CONTACT ADDRESSES:

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BT74 6AA

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Email: info@besweb.com

Website: www.besweb.com

LESSON PLANS FOR TEACHERS

Teacher Lesson Plans are produced to equip Teachers using Bibletime lessons with suggestions and ideas for classroom study. In this booklet they are designed for use with Levels 0-4.

Each lesson plan follows the same Bible reference as the Bibletime lesson and are designed to be used on a weekly basis. The April lessons are specific to the Easter story and the December lessons are based on the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Normally the classroom Teacher will work through the monthly A4 lesson each week with the class. They are free to allow time for independent study if this is appropriate. At the end of the month, the Teacher will collect the lesson and do the necessary marking, returning the marked lessons as soon as possible to the pupils.

PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS

Teachers should feel free to use their own ideas and initiatives when using the Bibletime lessons, adapting them as appropriate to their particular pupils. These are suggestions which may help in the use of this 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 Lesson Plans 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 some learning intentions. The children will hopefully have grasped these points after listening to the Teacher's presentation and completing the Bibletime lesson.
- **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. Teachers should not have to refer to these when actually teaching the story, but they are a useful guide. Aim to teach it in an interesting and inspiring way! Help the children to understand the main points by grasping their attention - use the appropriate tone and ask questions to test their learning.
- **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. In most lessons, we have given information about pictures from www.freebibleimages.org (FBI) which are downloadable from their website. These direct links to the story / study are available in Appendix A, B or C at the back of the booklet.
- **Learn It** - There is a Key Verse attached to each story. Hearing and learning these verses should enable pupils to increase their knowledge of Biblical vocabulary.
- **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. Whatever the approach, try to make the lesson enjoyable, and remember to praise the pupils' efforts.
- **Review It** - We have suggested possible quizzes, games, art and drama to assist learning, and as a means of revising the story.
- **Live It** - This section carries the heading 'How does the lesson challenge Christians today?' and also some suggestions for possible group work and individual responses to the challenge of the lesson.

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	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends
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 Lord's 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

Levels 3&4	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: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 16: 7</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. The Bible teaches that 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: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13</p> <p>Key Verse: Acts 13: 22</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 Him. 2. The Bible says that God does not judge by outward appearance. (Appearance does not reveal what someone is really like or what their true values are.)
INTRODUCE IT	<p>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. Most people spend hours maintaining their outward appearance; the Bible teaches that they should be developing their inner character instead!</p>	<p>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 him as king by not allowing any of his family to be King of Israel. He did allow Saul to remain king until his death.</p>
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 God, to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the future King of Israel. Saul had become very arrogant and rebellious and so God rejected him 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 God told Samuel He had not chosen any of them (16: 10). 3. Samuel asked if there were any more sons. Young David was brought in from looking after sheep. God directed 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 pupils to learn it - 1 Samuel 16: 7</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Choosing the King.</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 due to his rebellious and arrogant nature (16: 1). 2. Samuel invited Jesse and his seven sons to the sacrificial feast, looking to find the next King of Israel, but God told him: 'The Lord has not chosen these' (16: 10). 3. Samuel enquired if he had any more sons. David, the youngest, known for his shepherding skills and bravery was brought before Samuel. God told Samuel that David was to be the future king (16: 11-12). 4. David was anointed king, but it was done in secret; David was not publicly anointed until much later. Saul was still the king, but God was preparing David for his future responsibilities (16: 13). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Acts 13: 22</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Choosing the King.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Reflect on this story with the pupils and emphasise the importance of not judging people by outward things such as looks, clothes or riches. The media encourage this misguided outlook by using glamorous people in advertisements, television and magazines. In contrast, the Bible teaches God judges by faith and character. Only He can see on the inside. Therefore, only He can accurately judge people.</p>	<p>Ask pupils to review this study by giving answers to the following questions in their own words:</p> <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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps could we take to improve our 'heart' attitude? 2. It would be years before David was king, but God was preparing him for future service. Sometimes plans, even the ones Christians think God has approved, must be put on hold. How can this waiting time be useful? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</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. How does God bless people today? 2. The Bible says that God is more concerned about our inward appearance - our hearts, than our outward appearance, which is often what society admires. Ask yourself the question - how do you judge others?

Levels 3&4	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: 1 Samuel 17: 12-52</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David volunteers to go and fight Goliath. 2. Just as David was spiritually equipped to meet Goliath, Christians believe they can be spiritually equipped to resist the devil by reading God's Word and applying it to their lives. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Samuel 16: 14-19; 17: 12-52</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David had faith to believe that God would give him the victory when he went out to fight Goliath. 2. Christians believe that they too can know victory over Satan in their lives through Jesus' death on the cross.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind the pupils 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 his power came not from size and strength, but from dependence on God.	When the children of Israel first approached the Promised Land, most of them were afraid to enter because of the giants living there (Numbers 13: 32-33). In Deuteronomy 3: 11 , 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.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (17: 20-24). 2. Read the full description of the weapons and armour of Goliath (17: 4-7). 3. 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 (17: 26-29). 4. David says he will go and fight Goliath. Saul doubts David's ability to kill Goliath but knows the power of God working in his life when he defended his sheep from a lion and a bear. David knows he can rely on God to deliver him (17: 34-37). 5. As David moves towards Goliath and slings the first stone, he hits him on the forehead causing Goliath to fall to the ground. David uses the giant's own sword to kill him and the Philistines flee with the Israelites in pursuit of them! (17: 40-51) 6. God showed His mighty power by giving young David the victory. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Battling with Goliath.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (17: 1-10). Read the full description of the weapons and armour of Goliath (17: 4-7). 2. 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 (17: 26-29). 3. Saul is doubtful, but seeing David's courage gives him his own armour, which David discarded as it was only a hindrance to him (17: 34-39). 4. With five smooth stones, a sling and a staff, David goes to meet Goliath who is very cross that someone as insignificant and small as David was sent to fight him (17: 40-44). 5. David, known for his shepherding skills, bravery and marksmanship brought Goliath down when he slung the first stone and hit him in the forehead. Goliath fell on his face and David used his own sword to kill him resulting in the Philistines fleeing and the armies of Israel pursuing after them (17: 40-52). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Samuel 17: 47</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Conquering the Giant.</p>
REVIEW IT	Read Ephesians 6: 10-17 and explain to the pupils what the 'spiritual armour' was that David was equipped with when he went to fight Goliath. Also explain how Christians need to wear this 'spiritual armour' to fight the battles which they face every day in their Christian lives.	Read 1 Corinthians 15: 57 and ask how David's victory over Goliath can be compared to Jesus' victory over Satan. Read Ephesians 6: 1-18 and ask pupils to discuss the types of 'armour' Christians need to put on to defeat Satan.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What a difference perspective can make. Most onlookers saw only a giant. David saw a mortal man defying God. David knew God would be with him. What or who are the 'giants' you are facing and how do you deal with it? How would these 'giants' look from God's point of view? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criticism didn't stop David. While the rest of the army stood around, David knew the importance of taking action. With God to fight for him, there was no reason to wait. The people around you may be negative and discouraging. How should you respond? 2. Remember to look at everything in perspective and objectively. How does it help you deal with the situation more effectively? Can you think of an example?

Levels 3&4	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"> David was God's chosen king but he had to rely on God to help him overcome many difficulties before this would come about. Just as God protected David in life-threatening situations, so the Bible says that God is always with 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"> 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. David relied on God to help him overcome them. When Christians face trials and difficulties, their faith in Jesus helps them to be overcomers and gives them the strength to carry on living for Him.
INTRODUCE IT	Revise the story so far. When 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.	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.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David came to live with Saul, and Jonathan and David become great friends. Saul didn't know that David was God's anointed king, but it gave David a real opportunity to learn information about leading a nation. Saul gave David high rank but became jealous of David because the women sang: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands' (1 Samuel 18: 1-7). On one occasion Saul threw a spear at David and also tried other ways of having him killed in battle (18: 10-27). Jonathan advised David to hide but also reminds his father, Saul, of David's loyalty and success against Israel's enemies (19: 1-7). Saul only relents for a short period of time before he hatches a plot to have David killed. However, his plans are thwarted by God, and David flees to Samuel in Ramah, for support and security (19: 9-18). God was allowing David to go through difficult times to strengthen his character and his faith. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Samuel 18: 14</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Living with Saul.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David came to live with Saul, and Jonathan and David become great friends. Saul's appreciation of David turned to jealousy as people began to applaud David's exploits and growing popularity (18: 1-7). On one occasion Saul attempted to murder David by hurling his spear at him, and then tried other ways of having him killed in battle (18: 10-27). David behaves wisely (18: 5,15) and God protects him as a result. 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). 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. David escapes for his life to Ramah to see Samuel (19: 1-18). God was allowing David to go through difficult times to strengthen his character and his faith. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them - Hebrews 13: 5 & 6</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Coping with problems.</p>
REVIEW IT	In Psalm 59 , David describes the behaviour of his enemies, especially the men sent by Saul to his house to kill him. Draw the pupils' attention to David's trust in God. Notice how he gives God the praise and thanks for being his 'defence' in such a dangerous situation in verses 9, 16 & 17 .	Read Psalm 139: 7-12 and discuss how it relates to David's circumstances as highlighted in this lesson. Read Psalm 140: 1-8 and discuss who (Saul?) may be on David's mind as he writes this Psalm. Read Romans 12: 17-21 and discuss the qualities that should characterise a Christian e.g. honesty, living peacefully, being kind and forgiving, showing goodness.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jealousy is seen as a sin in the Bible and can lead to people seeking to harm one another through words or actions. What can we do to deal with jealousy? While Saul's popularity made him proud and arrogant, David remained humble, even when the entire nation praised him. Which do you think is the wiser response? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David and Jonathan became close friends. Their friendship was based on commitment to God and sticking together when their friendship was tested. What do you base your friendships on? Your friends may be jealous of your strengths and abilities. How should you respond to them? (Matthew 5: 44)

Levels 3&4	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: 1 Samuel 20: 1-42</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Samuel 20: 17</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 David. Loyalty is a precious quality and we should keep our promises and be true to our friends. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Samuel 20: 12-17, 42; 2 Samuel 9: 1-13</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Samuel 9: 1</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 Bible teaches that Jesus showed kindness to us when He died for our sin on the cross.
INTRODUCE IT	Revise the story so far. David returns 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 asked about 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.	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.
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 boy, who would fetch the arrows near to where David was hiding, would tell David to flee for his life or return to the court for safety (20: 18-23). Saul quizzes 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 weep in each other's arms and go their separate ways – David into hiding and Jonathan into the royal court (20: 41-42). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Samuel 20: 17</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Friends with Jonathan.</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 Ziba, a servant of the late King Saul, that Jonathan had a disabled son, called Mephibosheth. He had been 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. Ziba and his sons were to attend to Mephibosheth, thus fulfilling David's promise to Jonathan many years earlier (2 Samuel 9: 5-11). Remind pupils of Proverbs 18: 24 and discuss its significance in connection with David and Jonathan. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 2 Samuel 9: 1</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Caring for Others.</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 - discuss with pupils the events surrounding the cause of Mephibosheth's lameness.</p> <p>Read Ephesians 2: 1-10 - discuss with pupils 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 God's love and kindness.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is it ever right to disobey your father, mother or guardian, as Jonathan did here? What should a Christian child do if a parent disobeys God's laws? Jonathan was very loyal to David and was willing to suffer for him. What can we learn from their loyalty and friendship to help us understand true friendship? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Years later David fulfilled his promise to Jonathan by taking care of Jonathan's son. Can you think of an example of when you have kept a promise? As we consider David's life, we see his heart was right, and his faith in God was strong. How did this affect his attitude towards others? What can we learn from this?

Levels 3&4	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Joshua Topic – Leading the people	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Joshua Topic – The new leader
	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 1: 1-11</p> <p>Key Verse: Joshua 1: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Moses' death, Joshua succeeded him as Israel's leader. His task was to bring Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. 2. Like Joshua, Christians need faith and trust in God to begin and continue living the Christian life. 	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 1: 1-11; 16-18</p> <p>Key Verse: Joshua 1: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Moses' death, Joshua succeeded him as Israel's leader. His task was to bring Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. 2. Christians grow by obeying God's Word, and the Bible, and claiming its promises, especially in the difficult days of their 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 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 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"> 1. After the death of Moses, God 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 the pupils that the nation had been wandering for 40 years around the desert since they had left Egypt (1: 1-3). 2. Three times (verses 6, 7 & 9) Joshua is told by God 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. 3. Joshua was also told that to be successful, he must obey God's law and constantly read and study God's Word (1: 7-8). 4. Joshua obeyed God's instruction and ordered the people to get ready to move in three days (1: 10-11). 5. 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 pupils to learn it - Joshua 1: 9</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Leading the People.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua was called by 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 the pupils that the nation had been wandering for 40 years around the desert since they had left Egypt (1: 1-3). 2. 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 to strengthen and encourage them (verses 5 & 6). 3. 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, meditated upon, memorised, obeyed, and acted upon. 4. 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). 5. 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 pupils to learn it - Joshua 1: 9</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C– The new Leader.</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"> (i) God's promise to Joshua of a victory – verses 5 & 6 (ii) God's Word as his safe guide – verses 7 & 8 (iii) God's presence as a sustaining power – verse 9 	<p>Discuss with the pupils 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 Christians in the readings below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) What does Psalm 1 say about the importance of God's Word in our lives? (ii) How are we to 'walk' from day to day according to Proverbs 3: 5-6? (iii) 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Joshua's new job consisted of leading millions of people into a new land and conquering it! What a challenge! Every day we face new challenges, tough situations, difficult people, and temptations. How do you deal with difficult situations? How can the Bible help you?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Many people think that prosperity and success come from having power, influential friends and a relentless desire to get ahead. How was God's strategy towards Joshua different?</p>

Levels 3&4	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Joshua Topic – Spying the land	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Joshua Topic – Sends out the spies
	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 2: 1-24</p> <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 11: 31</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, Christians believe they can be saved by putting their faith in Jesus. 	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 2: 1-24</p> <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 11: 31</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, the Bible teaches that those who have trusted Jesus and put their faith in Him today are also saved.
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 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 God had given the people of Israel and concluded their God must be the true God. So, she 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 under the flax on Rahab's roof. They promised to spare Rahab and her family if she hung a scarlet (bright red) cord in the window of her home and if her family members remained indoors during the attack on Jericho (verses 15-21). 4. The spies escaped down a rope from Rahab's window. After hiding in the mountains for three days, they went across the River Jordan and brought back a helpful report to Joshua (verses 22-24). 5. Ensure the pupils 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 pupils to learn it - Hebrews 11: 31</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Spying the land.</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. Many cities had two walls 12-15 feet apart. It was common for houses to be 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 under the flax on Rahab's roof. Rahab 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 scarlet (red) cord in the window of her home and all the family members had to stay inside (verses 17-20). 5. Because of her faith, her family were kept safe and later on became ancestors of Jesus (Matthew 1: 5). Explain how God was working His purposes out through Rahab, a foreign lady! <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Hebrews 11: 31</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Sends out the spies.</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. What does the Bible tell us about the condition of our lives? (ii) Ephesians 2: 6-8 – These verses emphasise that salvation comes through faith and not works. Rahab's deliverance also came through faith.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Rahab did not allow her past to keep her from the new role God had for her. Do we dislike, prejudice or gauge a person's interest in God by his or her background, lifestyle or appearance?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>It is not right to tell lies, and under pressure, Rahab had to make a choice – she chose to protect these men of God. Did she do the right thing? Are there situations today when a Christian might have to do the same thing?</p>

Levels 3&4	C8 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Joshua Topic – Crossing the river	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Joshua Topic – Crossing the Jordan
	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 3: 1-17</p> <p>Key Verse: Joshua 3: 5</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. 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: Joshua 3: 1-17; 4: 1-24</p> <p>Key Verse: Joshua 4: 24</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. God commanded and then aided. 2. The Bible teaches that God is all-powerful and wants to show His power in the lives of Christians as He works in and through them.
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 rituals. 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 pupils that Israel had obeyed God's instructions and the obstacle which could have been such a problem was removed. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Joshua 3: 5</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Crossing the River.</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. God 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. This would be 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 pupils to learn it - Joshua 4: 24</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Crossing the Jordan.</p>
REVIEW IT	Remind pupils 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 supernatural 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 particularly and explain that the writer is referring to both: (i) the parting of the waters at the Red Sea when Moses and the Israelites passed through safely and the Egyptians were drowned; and (ii) the stopping of the waters of the River Jordan in this study. Explain to pupils 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Joshua made the people stop and listen. We live in a fast-paced world where everyone rushes and it's easy to get caught up in tasks and make errors. Think of the 'rivers' or difficulties in your life. How do you slow down and deal with them?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>The 12 stones were a sign of victory, and a reminder that God had done great things for the Israelites. What signs do you have or use to slow down, and remember great things that have happened in your life?</p>

Levels 3&4	C8– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Joshua Topic – Obeying the Lord	C8 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Joshua Topic –Victory and defeat
	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 6: 1-25</p> <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua obeyed the instructions God gave him exactly, which resulted in victory at Jericho. 2. Christians trust God to give them victory over all kinds of sin. 	<p>Bible Focus: Joshua 6: 1-27; 7: 1-26</p> <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua obeyed the instructions God gave him exactly, which resulted in victory at Jericho. However, disobedience by Achan resulted in defeat at Ai. 2. Christians believe that faith and obedience to God bring peace, joy and happiness in life. Sin and disobedience to God bring serious consequences.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Joshua now had to lead the people in an attack of Jericho which was a heavily fortified city, with gates and high walls. God had a plan to deliver Jericho into the hands of the Israelites, and therefore these heavy fortifications could not keep the Israelites out.</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. 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! They were kept 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 that brought Rahab out alive. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Obeying God.</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, followed by seven priests blowing trumpets; then the Ark. The people followed behind, silently (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 in Jericho (6: 22-23). 4. After their spectacular victory over Jericho, Joshua and his army were confused by their defeat at the small city of Ai. Joshua later 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. God had commanded that everything connected with Jericho was 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 pupils to learn it - Hebrews 11: 30</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Victory and Defeat.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by engaging pupils in discussion about the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was God’s revealed plan to Joshua in verses 3-5? 2. What happened when the priests obeyed the plan He had 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 can be applied to people today. 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does 1 John 5: 5 say about belief in Jesus? 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. How important is faith in God today? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>When Joshua first went against Ai, he did not consult God. What would be the consequences if Christians continually relied on their own strength? What lessons can we learn from this today?</p>

Levels 3&4	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Elijah Topic – Commanded by God	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Elijah Topic – God's punishment
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 16: 29-33; 17: 1-7</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When the Israelites turned away from God, Elijah remained true to Him. God chose Elijah to speak out against King Ahab and all his wickedness. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 16: 29-33; 17: 1-7</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah was God's man chosen to speak out against King Ahab and his wickedness. Christians believe that obedience to God's Word is essential for daily living.
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 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 (1 Kings 16: 30 -33). 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 (James 5: 17). This was God's punishment against their idolatry (17: 1). 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 (17: 2-6). Elijah needed to continue to trust God. Elijah believed God's Word and obeyed His instructions. God provided for all his needs. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Commanded by God.</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 (1 Kings 16:30-33). This promoted idolatry and led the nation of Israel into sin. Baal worshippers believed it was Baal who brought the rain and harvests. When Elijah courageously told Ahab that there would be no rain for three years and six months (James 5: 17), Ahab was shocked (17: 1). Elijah told Ahab of a power far greater than any pagan god – 'the Lord God of Israel' (1 Kings 17: 1). 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 (17: 2-6). Elijah believed God's Word, obeyed His instructions and God provided for all his needs. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 5</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God's Punishment.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Ask pupils to summarise in their own words:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The background setting of this lesson. Elijah's prophecy to Ahab. God's promise for Elijah. 	<p>Read Deuteronomy 4: 13 and discuss how this verse relates 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 a 'special people.'</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If God chose to overlook sin, what would be the consequences? What would this tell us about His character? Just as it took courage by Elijah to tell the wicked Ahab there would be judgment for sin, so it takes courage to live the Christian life. Can you think of examples when Christians need courage? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elijah was a powerful witness on a very dark and sinful day. He directed the people back to God. How can Christians follow his example? (See Luke 1: 17) Elijah was known for being a man of God and for his obedience to God. Why should obedience to God be a priority for Christians today?

Levels 3&4	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. Christians believe that it is God who provides 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. The Bible teaches that God keeps His promises. 2. Christians believe that God can bring hope into the most desperate situations.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind pupils of the previous lesson. 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 pupils 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 to 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. God answered his prayer and he handed the boy back to his mother alive (17: 17-23). God had used Elijah to perform an amazing miracle! 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. Christians believe that God can help when 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 pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Cared for by God.</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. Consequently, her supply of flour and oil never failed (17: 12-16). 3. Later, the widow's son became ill and died. Elijah took the boy to his bedroom, stretched himself out on the child three times and prayed to God 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 God's Word was the truth – not the idolatry being promoted by Ahab and Jezebel (17: 24). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 17: 24</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C– God's provision.</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by asking pupils to recap the circumstances Elijah found himself in, and how God supplied his needs.	<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 Christians today? Discuss.</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 God and had his needs met. What does it mean to be obedient to God? 3. Elijah was known as 'a man of God'. Discuss exactly what that means. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</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. He obeyed God and had his needs met, despite living in a difficult time. Does God still bless people today who are struggling in difficult circumstances?

Levels 3&4	C9 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Elijah Topic – Challenging Baal's prophets	C9 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Elijah Topic – God's power
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 18: 1-2, 16-46</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 18: 39</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah proved on Mount Carmel that his God was the true God. 2. Christians believe that there is only one true God and only He can hear and answer prayer. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 18: 1-46</p> <p>Key Verses: James 5: 17 & 18</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah proved on Mount Carmel that his God was the true God. 2. Christians believe that God hears and answers prayer.
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"> 1. When a great crowd assembled on Mount Carmel, Elijah accused the people of Israel of wavering between two opinions. He 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). 2. Elijah told Ahab to have a meal before returning to Jezreel because 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). 3. Two bulls were to be sacrificed, one by the prophets of Baal and one by Elijah. 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). 4. 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). 5. Christians today believe that things like power, status, appearance or material possessions can become false gods. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 18: 39</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Challenging Baal's prophets.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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). 2. 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). 3. Two bulls were to be sacrificed, one by the prophets of Baal and one by Elijah. 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). 4. 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). 5. 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. 6. Christians believe that when something or someone takes the place of God it becomes a false god. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them - James 5: 17 & 18</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God's Power.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by asking pupils to summarise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) What did God tell Elijah to do (verse 1)? (ii) What was Obadiah doing, and why, when Elijah met him? (iii) What did Elijah suggest to Ahab so that they would find out who was the true God? (iv) How did God answer Elijah's prayers? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 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. (ii) Read Isaiah 45: 21-22 and discuss what these verses tell us about the only true God.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah believed in God and was not afraid to stand up for Him. How should Christians react when people disown God today? 2. Elijah prayed, in times of great difficulty, to God and his prayers were answered. Why should Christians follow his example? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The people in Elijah's day had to decide whether they would obey God or idols. What idols do people today worship? 2. If Christians don't take a stand for God, who are they really worshipping?

Levels 3&4	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, his faith is tested, and he goes through a difficult time. 2. Christians believe that God can help them overcome their problems so that they 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. Being a servant of God did not make Elijah immune to human worries and concerns. 2. The Bible teaches that God understands when we face times of discouragement and depression.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 fled for his life. As long as Elijah was about she could not carry out all the evil that she wanted to do.</p>
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 God, 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, an earthquake and a fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice and God revealed Himself to him (19: 11-14). 5. God 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 pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 19: 10</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Confused by fear.</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. He thought that 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 the cave where he had spent the night (19: 9-11). 4. God visited the mountain with wind, an earthquake and a fire. After the fire, Elijah heard a still, small voice and God 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 pupils to learn it – James 4: 8</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God's Presence.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by asking the pupils to summarise, in their own words:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (v) What was Jezebel's threat? (vi) Describe Elijah's experience on Mount Sinai. (vii) What were the important tasks God gave him? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read Isaiah 40: 29-31 and discuss with pupils 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 pupils that, instead of becoming discouraged and depressed, Elijah should have trusted God to meet his needs.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Psalm 56: 3 and discuss how this relates to the story of Elijah, and to people facing difficult circumstances today. 2. Elijah had failures and weaknesses, but God used him in powerful ways. How can this encourage Christians today? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that God speaks through the Bible more often in 'whispers' than in 'shouts' as indicated by 'gentle whisper' in this Study. What does this mean practically in the life of a Christian? 2. Times of difficulty are inevitable at different points in life. What should a Christian's response be?

Levels 3&4	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Elisha Topic – Elijah meets Elisha	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Elisha Topic – Elijah meets Elisha
	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 19: 19-21; 2 Kings 2: 1-15</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Kings 19: 21</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah's work is now complete, it's time for him to go and for Elisha to take over. 2. Just as Elisha wanted to be Elijah's 'double' by serving God like him, Christians try to imitate Christ. 	<p>Bible Focus: 1 Kings 19: 19-21; 2 Kings 2: 1-22</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 2: 14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha was willing to follow and learn from Elijah in order to do the work which God had called him to. 2. Elisha desired to do God's will and God used him powerfully.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind pupils 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 some time but then God's plan was to take Elijah to Heaven.	Remind pupils 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 some time but then God's plan was to take Elijah to Heaven. There are many parallels between the ministry of Elijah and Elisha. Elisha performs many miracles and tells Israel to return to God, but they persist in living sinful and wicked lives.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah did as God instructed and called Elisha to follow him. He became his assistant for many years (19: 19-21). 2. 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 (2 Kings 2: 1-7). 3. Then they came to the River Jordan. When Elijah struck the 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 (2 Kings 2: 8-10). 4. As they walked on, they were separated by a chariot and horses of fire and Elijah was taken up into Heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2: 11-13). 5. 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 (2 Kings 2: 13-15). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 Kings 19: 21</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The prophet Elijah meets Elisha.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah is soon to be taken up to Heaven and he transfers 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 (19: 19-21). 2. 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 is then taken up to Heaven (2 Kings 2: 1-12). 3. 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, witnessed the transfer of Elijah's ministry to Elisha (2 Kings 2: 13-15). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 2 Kings 2: 14</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Elisha and Elijah.</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by asking pupils the following: (i) What were the last four places Elijah visited before being caught up to Heaven? (ii) What do verses 2, 4 & 6 tell us about Elisha's faith? (iii) What was the question Elijah asked Elisha and what was his reply? (iv) How was Elijah taken to Heaven?	Read Matthew 6: 24 – Discuss how this was true of Elisha. Read Romans 12: 1-2 – Discuss how Elisha lived according to these verses.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elijah's life had a strong, spiritual influence on Elisha. Ask pupils to think of people who have had a positive influence on their lives. 2. Knowing that it is possible to have both a positive and negative influence on those around us, how should a Christian live? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God granted Elisha's request for a double portion because his motives were pure, and he wanted to achieve more for God. Is it right to ask for this sort of thing today? 2. Elisha kept close to Elijah, recognising him to be a great spiritual mentor. Ask the pupils if they have experienced the help of a spiritual mentor.

Levels 3&4	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Elisha Topic – Elisha helps two women	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Elisha Topic – Elisha provides help
	<p>Bible Focus: 2 Kings 4: 1-37</p> <p>Key Verse: Ephesians 3: 20</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha's ministry was helping other people. In this lesson, he is involved in helping both the poor and the rich. 2. Elisha's obedience to God resulted in God using him greatly in his service to Him. 	<p>Bible Focus: 2 Kings 4: 1-44</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 4: 33</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God used Elisha in a remarkable way. Elisha trusted in God to perform great miracles. 2. It's important to show genuine care and concern for others as Elisha did.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Remind the pupils 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.</p>	<p>Elisha, unlike Elijah who spent most of his time confronting 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.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (2 Kings 4: 1-7). 2. Elisha also helped a rich woman, who showed him hospitality by providing him with 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 (2 Kings 4: 8-17). 3. Years later the boy took 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 (2 Kings 4: 18-28). 4. 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 had blessed this mother, through the prophet Elisha, by raising her son from the dead (2 Kings 4: 31-37). 5. These two miracles remind us of the Bible's teaching that nothing is impossible with God (See Luke 1: 37). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Ephesians 3: 20</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The prophet Elisha helps a woman.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 jar and filled as many jars as she could find. When they were sold her debts were paid (2 Kings 4: 1-7). 2. Elisha also helped a rich woman, who showed him hospitality by providing him with a special room. Elisha wanted to return her kindness to her. She had no family, and he told her she would have a son (2 Kings 4: 8-17). 3. Years later the boy took ill and died. His mother went to Mount Carmel to find Elisha, believing that he could raise her son from the dead (2 Kings 4: 18-28). 4. When Elisha breathed his own life into him, the boy came alive. God blessed the mother, through the prophet Elisha, by raising her son from the dead (2 Kings 4: 31-37). 5. At this time, there was a famine in the land and one of Elisha's servants, when making stew, put some poisonous fruit into it. Elisha threw some flour into the pot and made it safe to eat, and nobody was hurt (2 Kings 4: 38-41). 6. Finally, Elisha fed 100 men with 20 small loaves and there was enough and more to spare. 7. These four miracles remind us that nothing is impossible with God (See Luke 1: 37). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 2 Kings 4: 33</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Elisha and the poor.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking pupils the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How did Elisha use the great power God had given him? 2) Consider whether God still does miracles today. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read Ephesians 3: 20-21. Discuss how this prayer of praise to God is true of the four miracles in this study. (ii) Read Philippians 4: 13. 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These miracles show us that it is important to show kindness and care to others. How can Christians help others? 2. Elisha was obedient to God and so God used him powerfully. What can Christians learn from his example? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The woman from Shunem showed kindness to Elisha because she sensed a need to do so. How sensitive are we to the needs of others? 2. The Bible teaches us to be kind and compassionate to others. What effect does this have on us? On them?

Levels 3&4	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Elisha Topic – Elisha helps a soldier	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and an army officer
	<p>Bible Focus: 2 Kings 5: 1-16</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elisha's miracle ministry continues with the healing of a man with leprosy. 2. In the Bible, leprosy was a contagious skin disease which brought shame and isolation upon those who suffered from it. 	<p>Bible Focus: 2 Kings 5: 1-27</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God worked through Elisha to miraculously heal Naaman from leprosy. 2. Leprosy is a picture of sin. In the same way that the disease causes separation, the Bible teaches that sin separates us from God and makes us unclean in His sight. Jesus Christ is the only answer.
INTRODUCE IT	Remind the pupils 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 God worked miraculously through Elisha in the healing 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"> 1. 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 (2 Kings 5: 1-3). 2. 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 he went with the wrong idea: "I thought....!" (2 Kings 5: 4-11) 3. Naaman rejected Elisha's advice initially, to wash in the River Jordan seven times. But when he got rid of his pride, and obeyed Elisha's instructions, he was healed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5: 12-14). 4. 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! (2 Kings 5: 15) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The prophet Elisha helps a soldier.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (2 Kings 5: 1-3). 2. The king of Syria requested healing for Naaman from the king of Israel, Jehoram, who was angry, suspecting Syria was going to attack Israel (2 Kings 5: 7). 3. 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 (2 Kings 5: 8-15). 4. Unfortunately, Gehazi, Elisha's servant, saw an opportunity to get rich. He asked Naaman for the reward Elisha had refused and lied about his motives to Elisha. This resulted in God's judgment and Gehazi becoming a leper (2 Kings 5: 20-27). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it – 2 Kings 5: 15</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Elisha and an army officer.</p>
REVIEW IT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Naaman had to learn that he could do nothing to change his life. The Bible teaches that it is only Jesus who can change our lives (2 Corinthians 5: 1). (ii) Naaman came from a country where there were many gods; now he learned that there is only one true God (2 Kings 5: 15). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17. Discuss how this verse sums up the change in Naaman's life after he was cleansed, and the change God can make in a Christian's life. (ii) Read Numbers 32: 23 and Galatians 6: 7. Discuss how these two verses sum up the actions of Gehazi.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the midst of idolatry, the maid spoke up for God. When should a Christian speak up? 2. Naaman left idolatry and served the true God. He showed the change in his life by his conduct. How can Christians show their inner life change by their outward conduct? Give examples. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We do not know much about the maid, but she was placed in Naaman's house for a purpose, and she was faithful. God used her to spread His Word to others. How can this encourage faithful service today? 2. Naaman found it hard to obey God's Word from Elisha but when he did his life was completely changed. Are there areas of obedience that are difficult today?

Levels 3&4	C10 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Elisha Topic – Elisha promises victory	C10 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Elisha Topic – Elisha and the Syrian Army
	<p>Bible Focus: 2 Kings 6: 24-25, 7: 1-20</p> <p>Key Verse: 2 Kings 7: 2</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: 2 Kings 6: 24-25; 2 Kings 7: 1-20</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 15: 57</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the King of Aram surrounded the city of Samaria there was such a severe famine that cannibalism was taking place. 2. Israel's king blamed Elisha – he knew he was a man of God and he was frustrated at having to wait for a solution.
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 God 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 (2 Kings 6: 32-33, and 7: 1-3).</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 Deuteronomy 28: 49-57, it was predicted such a famine would happen. The King of Israel blamed Elisha for the famine, as 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. He 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 (2 Kings 7: 1-3). 2. The four men who had leprosy left and went to the camp of the Syrians to try and get food but found the camp abandoned. God had caused the Syrians to hear the noise of a coming army, so they were scared and retreated (2 Kings 7: 3-7). 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 (2 Kings 7: 8-11). 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 (2 Kings 7: 12-15). 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 (2 Kings 7: 16-20). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 2 Kings 7: 2</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The prophet Elisha promises victory.</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 (2 Kings 7: 1-3). 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. God had caused the Syrians to hear the sound of a mighty rushing army and so they fled (2 Kings 7: 3-7). 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 (2 Kings 7: 8-11). 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! (2 Kings 7: 8-11). 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 foretold (2 Kings 7: 16-20). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it – 1 Corinthians 15: 57</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Elisha and the Syrian army.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Discuss with pupils how God was in control throughout the famine by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ensuring the king did not kill 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 Luke 4: 17-19 – What do these verses teach about Jesus? 2. Read John 6: 1-15. Discuss how 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. Can Christians trust God to meet all their needs? See Matthew 6: 25-34.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The men with leprosy needed to share their 'good news'. How can Christians apply this to their lives? 2. The Bible teaches that God is always in control – even in the most difficult situations in our lives. How should a Christian respond to this? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that it is God who provides our daily food and all other daily blessings. Why then should Christians not give in to worry and despair? 2. Is there a difference between carefully planning ahead and worrying about tomorrow?

Levels 3&4	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: Judges 6: 11-23; 7: 12-22</p> <p>Key Verse: Judges 6: 16</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At a difficult time in Israel's history, Gideon is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites. 2. Christians believe that God uses all sorts of people to do His work despite their weaknesses and failures. 	<p>Bible Focus: Judges 6: 1-23; 7: 1-23</p> <p>Key Verses: Judges 6: 23 & 24</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gideon, a reluctant deliverer is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites. 2. If Christians trust and obey God, He will give them the strength to serve Him, even though they may not feel adequate for the tasks He calls them to.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>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.</p>	<p>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. The Midianites were making the production of food impossible for the Israelites.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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). 2. Gideon wanted a sign to show that God was really going to use him. He prepared an offering and brought it to the angel who touched it with his staff and it was burned up (6: 13-22). 3. Later Gideon went to the camp of the Midianites and heard 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). 4. The Midianites were defeated as God had told Gideon (Judges 6: 14). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Judges 6: 16</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Gideon.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Midianites had been oppressing Israel for seven years, resulting in the Israelites turning back to God. A prophet was sent by God to explain to the Israelites that they were being punished because of their idolatry (6: 7-10). 2. 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 was confirmed - the food he placed on the rock was burned up by the angel of the Lord (6: 13-22). 3. 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). 4. 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). 5. 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 pupils to learn them - Judges 6: 22 & 23</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Gideon.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking the pupils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Who was the messenger? What was his message? (ii) Why was the dream Gideon overheard a source of encouragement to him? (iii) What was the strategy God gave Gideon and his men to defeat the Midianites? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read Judges 6: 24-40. Discuss how Gideon put his life at risk for signs of proof that God would use him. (ii) Read 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29. Discuss how God uses ordinary people in His service.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before Gideon went to war he worshipped God (Judges 7: 15). How can a Christian reflect this attitude? 2. Gideon could not see how God was going to work through him. Instead of making excuses, what should a Christian do? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Like Gideon, Christians are called to serve God in specific ways. Discuss some examples. 2. Read 2 Timothy 3: 16-17. What do these verses teach about God's guidance?

Levels 3&4	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: Judges 16: 6-31</p> <p>Key Verse: Judges 16: 28</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: Judges 13: 1-25; 16: 4-31</p> <p>Key Verses: James 4: 7-8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manoah's wife was told by the angel that her son would 'begin' the deliverance of Israel from Philistine oppression. 2. God was able to use Samson despite his many mistakes.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>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. (If time allows review for pupils the main events in Judges chapters 13-16.)</p>	<p>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 (Judges 13: 5). Before he died, Samson acknowledged it was only God who could give him strength. God answered his prayer and destroyed the temple and Philistine worshippers.</p>
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 (16: 4). 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 (16: 6-15). 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 (16: 17-20). 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 killed all present, including himself (16: 21-30). 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 pupils to learn it - Judges 16: 28</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Samson.</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 (13: 3-5). 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 (16: 6-20). 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 (16: 21-30). 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 pupils to learn them - James 4: 7-8</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Samson.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by referring to the purpose of Samson's birth, announced by the angel of the Lord (Judges 13: 5). When Samson died, God turned his failures into victory by bringing about the deaths of the Philistines (Judges 16: 30).</p>	<p>Read Judges 14: 1-20; 15: 1-20. Explain to the pupils that these two chapters not only show Samson's strengths but show significant weakness in his life.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>When Samson strayed from God he realised his weakness and his need for dependence on God. How is this same principle still true for Christians today?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samson allowed Delilah to influence him for wrong. How important is it for a Christian to choose positive relationships? 2. The New Testament makes no comment in Hebrews 11: 32-33 of Samson's failures, just some of his achievements. What does this teach us about God's patience and willingness to keep no record of wrongs?

Levels 3&4	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: Jonah 1: 1-7; 3: 1-3</p> <p>Key Verse: Jonah 2: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonah disobeyed God and learnt the lesson of obedience the hard way. 2. The Bible teaches that we cannot hide from God; He knows all about us. 	<p>Bible Focus: Jonah 1: 1-17; 2: 10 -3: 2</p> <p>Key Verse: Jonah 2: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If Jonah had obeyed God immediately he would not have experienced such difficulty. 2. Christians read the Bible in order to receive direction from God.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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 (Jonah 1: 1-3). 2. The storm at sea – There was a mighty storm and the ship and crew were in danger. They 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 (Jonah 1: 4-10). 3. 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 (Jonah 1: 13-17). 4. Jonah goes to Nineveh – Jonah acknowledged that salvation is of the Lord Jonah 2: 9 and the fish vomited him out on dry ground. God told him again to go to Nineveh. He obeyed and warned the Ninevites about their danger, resulting in the people of the city repenting and being spared from judgment (Jonah 2 & 3). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Jonah 2: 9</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Jonah</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonah's call and commission – God called Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites because of their great wickedness (Jonah 1: 1-2). 2. 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. He was swallowed by a great fish and was in its belly for three days and three nights (Jonah 1: 3-17). 3. 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' (Jonah 2: 1-9). 4. 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 judgment. However, Jonah was angry that Israel's Gentile enemies had been spared! (Jonah 3 & 4) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Jonah 2: 9</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Jonah.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by discussing with the pupils John 3:16. 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>	<p>Jonah 2: 1-9 – Discuss how Jonah was saved after his prayer. Jonah's prayer was thankful, but also included his repentance 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Jonah showed a lack of compassion for the people of Nineveh. God, however, showed grace and love. How should a Christian treat others?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Jonah was given a second chance to serve God. How should this encourage those who feel unworthy of serving God? Do past mistakes or lack of ability, rule out a role in service?</p>

Levels 3&4	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: Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 6-23</p> <p>Key Verse: Nehemiah 4: 6</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. Christians believe that God hears and answers prayer – the first step in any venture is to pray. 	<p>Bible Focus: Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 8-23</p> <p>Key Verse: Nehemiah 4: 20</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nehemiah was a man of character, persistence and prayer. 2. God worked through Nehemiah to accomplish what seemed like an impossible task.
INTRODUCE IT	<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 cupbearer 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>
COMPLETE IT	<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 had 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 pupils to learn it - Nehemiah 4: 6</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Nehemiah</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. He 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. The king noticed Nehemiah's sad appearance (2: 2). It was dangerous to show sadness before the king, but Nehemiah wasn't ashamed to admit his fear. Instead, he prayed. 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 pupils to learn it - Nehemiah 4: 20</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Nehemiah</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Read Colossians 3: 23-24 and discuss with the pupils how these verses 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 Nehemiah 2: 11-20 – 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 depended on God in verses 18 and 20 to achieve the rebuilding of the city walls.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>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. How can a Christian learn from his example?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is it important for Christians to share vision with others? 2. Nehemiah was a trusted servant of the king and this gave him the opportunity to intercede for his people. Do Christians today have to be in positions of authority to achieve God's work?

Levels 3&4	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: Genesis 3: 13-20; Isaiah 7: 14-16</p> <p>Key Verse: Isaiah 7: 14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Bible teaches that 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: Genesis 3: 1-24; Isaiah 7: 14-16</p> <p>Key Verse: Isaiah 7: 14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The relationship between God and people was broken when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.2. God promised that the birth of Jesus would result in the relationship between God and people being restored. This would be fulfilled through Jesus' death on the cross.														
INTRODUCE IT	<p>The Bible teaches that 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 people. The entire Bible is the story of how God's plan of salvation unfolds, ultimately leading to the birth of 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 was then passed on to all people. The Bible teaches that Jesus' sinless life and death made it possible for God to offer forgiveness to all who ask for it.</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. God had come to find them (Genesis 3: 6-9).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 (Genesis 3: 15).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 (Genesis 3: 16-19).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 Isaiah 7: 14. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Isaiah 7: 14</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – In the Beginning.</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. After she sinned by disobeying God's warning in Genesis 2: 16-17, she involved Adam in her wrongdoing. When God asked Adam about his sin, he then blamed Eve (Genesis 3: 11-13).2. Adam and Eve learnt by painful experience, that God is holy and hates sin. He must punish sinners.3. God revealed his plan to defeat Satan. In Genesis 3: 15, the phrase 'you will strike his heel' refers to Satan's attempts to defeat Jesus while on earth. However, the phrase "He will crush your head" refers to Jesus' 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 Jesus Christ.4. Adam and Eve's disobedience, and fall in Eden's garden, affected all creation (Romans 5: 12). Many years later, God, through the prophet Isaiah gave another promise regarding the birth of Jesus to be the Saviour of the world (Isaiah 7: 14). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Isaiah 7: 14</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Promises Given.</p>														
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by discussing how Romans 5: 12 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 Genesis 3: 13-20, tells us this?(iv) Sin also brings spiritual death and separation from God. What promise did God give to the serpent that Jesus would defeat sin and make it possible for our sins to be forgiven?	<p>Use Romans chapter 5 to discuss the following:</p> <table><tr><td><u>Adam's children:</u></td><td><u>God's children:</u></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>Judgment</td><td>Deliverance</td></tr><tr><td>Law</td><td>Grace</td></tr></table>	<u>Adam's children:</u>	<u>God's children:</u>	Sin	Righteousness	Death	Eternal Life	Separation from God	Relationship with God	Disobedience	Obedience	Judgment	Deliverance	Law	Grace
<u>Adam's children:</u>	<u>God's children:</u>															
Sin	Righteousness															
Death	Eternal Life															
Separation from God	Relationship with God															
Disobedience	Obedience															
Judgment	Deliverance															
Law	Grace															
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How could you answer someone who said the Christmas story started in Bethlehem?2. Read Isaiah 7: 14 and Matthew 1: 23. Jesus was God in the flesh and He literally walked among His creation. How do Christians experience the presence of God today?	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When Adam and Eve sinned, their guilty consciences made them want to hide from God. Is this true of Christians today?2. Old Testament prophecies about Jesus' birth were confirmed. How should this encourage Christians today?														

Levels 3&4	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: Matthew 1: 18-25</p> <p>Key Verse: Matthew 1: 21</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birth of Jesus was unique and fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament. 2. He was to be called Jesus which means Saviour. 	<p>Bible Focus: Matthew 1: 18-25</p> <p>Key Verse: Matthew 1: 21</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that Jesus needed to be born in order to begin the fulfilment of God’s plan of salvation for the world. 2. When Christians face difficult situations in life, they look to God as their source of help.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce this lesson by reminding pupils that many prophecies in the Old Testament pointed to the coming of Jesus Christ. In Lesson 1, we were reminded that Jesus would defeat Satan on the cross. Isaiah spoke of Jesus as being ‘the mighty God’ (Isaiah 9: 6), showing us He was God in human form. Micah also prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5: 2).</p>	<p>Introduce this study by reminding pupils that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His birth is referred to as the ‘Virgin Birth’, which is a central teaching of the Christian faith. The Bible teaches that He was born holy and because He could not sin, He was therefore able to die for our sins and make us acceptable to God. Jesus was a human being, but He was also 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"> 1. The birth of 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 (Matthew 1: 20). 2. 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah foretold His unique birth and that He would be called Immanuel meaning ‘God with us’ (Matthew 1: 22-23). 3. This child would ‘save His people from their sins’ (Matthew 1: 21) by going to the cross to die in their place. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Matthew 1: 21</p> <p>Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – God’s Messenger.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph faced a difficult choice when he discovered Mary was expecting a baby. Although Joseph seemed to be doing the right thing by wanting to break the engagement, God’s guidance from the angel in a dream helped him make the right decision (Matthew 1: 19-21). 2. Jesus came to earth to save us from the power and penalty of sin, as indicated in the meaning of the name Jesus – ‘Saviour’ (Matthew 1: 21). 700 years earlier Isaiah prophesied He would be born (Isaiah 7: 14) 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. 3. Joseph obeyed God and went ahead with his marriage plans and married Mary. He was the earthly Father of Jesus whilst God was His Heavenly Father (Matthew 1: 24-25). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Matthew 1: 21</p> <p>Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Problems faced.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by referring to the fact that the birth of 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"> (i) Read Galatians 4: 4 & 5. Discuss how these two verses summarise this Study. (ii) Read 1 Timothy 1: 15. Discuss how this verse summarises the reason for Christ’s birth. (iii) Read 1 John 4: 9, 14. Discuss how in verse 9, Jesus is referred to as 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <p>Joseph’s task was not easy but like Mary, he trusted in God and left everything in His hands. Think of some examples of difficult situations which Christians face. How can they rely on God in these times?</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph obeyed God and proceeded to marry Mary, even though others may have disapproved. Do we avoid doing right because of what others may think? 2. Mary and Joseph were ordinary people, but God used them for extraordinary purposes. How might this encourage a Christian who thinks they have nothing to offer in service to God?

Levels 3&4

	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The Christmas Story Topic – The special star	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Christ's birth Topic - Prophecies fulfilled
	Bible Focus: Matthew 2: 1-12 Key Verse: Matthew 2: 11 We are learning that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The young child born 'King of the Jews' was so special that men came from the east to worship Him. 2. The Wise Men were guided to Jesus by a special star. 	Bible Focus: Matthew 2: 1-12 Key Verse: Matthew 2: 6 We are learning that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birth of Jesus was predicted by the prophet Micah (Micah 5: 2) approximately 700 years before it happened. 2. The Wise Men travelled thousands of miles to see Jesus. When they found Him they responded with joy, worship and gifts.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>In this lesson, we learn that wise men from the east came in search of the 'King of the Jews' (verse 2). This star somehow made them aware of Jesus' birth. The course of this star was highly irregular as it led the Wise Men right to the house where Jesus was (verse 9) and then stopped! Point out that this event was so unusual that Christians explain it 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 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 (Isaiah 9: 6).</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When Jesus was born, Herod, a very wicked man, was king. He was troubled because he heard that this baby was to be the King of the Jews - a threat to his position (2: 3). 2. Herod sent for the religious leaders of the day to ask where the 'new-born' King could be found, and they quickly quoted Micah 5: 2 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 (2: 4-8). 3. The Wise Men were guided by the star to the house where they saw Jesus. They fell down and worshipped Him. They brought Him presents and each of these presents tells us something about this special child. 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 (2: 9-11). 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! (2: 12) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Matthew 2: 11</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The Special Star.</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? (2: 1-2) 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 (2: 3-8). 3. Jesus was probably one or two years old when the Wise Men found Him. They were overjoyed (Matthew 2: 10) 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 (2: 9-11). 4. The Wise Men, warned by God, returned home by another route, avoiding any contact with the evil Herod (2: 12). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - Matthew 2: 6</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Prophecies Fulfilled.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by emphasising the point that the Wise Men were full of trust and worship. They gave expensive gifts because they knew these were worthy of this future King.</p>	<p>Review this Study. Show how Isaiah 9: 6 and Micah 5: 2 have already been fulfilled in this Study and how John 14: 1-6 is yet to be fulfilled.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wise Men diligently sought for Jesus and found Him. How can a Christian diligently seek after God today? 2. When the Wise Men entered the house, they worshipped Jesus. What does it mean to worship? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Wise Men gave Jesus their very best gifts. What can Christians learn from their devotion? 2. After the Wise Men found Jesus they were warned to return home by a different route. The Christian life isn't always straightforward. What can a Christian do to maintain a sense of divine protection?

Levels 3&4	C12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – The Christmas Story Topic – The nighttime escape!	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Christ's birth Topic – Persecution begins
	<p>Bible Focus: Matthew 2: 13-23</p> <p>Key Verse: 1 John 3: 8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The birth of Jesus and His protection was carefully carried out by God as prophesied by the prophets many years earlier. 2. Satan was unable to destroy Jesus; God had promised in the Garden of Eden that Jesus would defeat him when He died on the cross. 	<p>Bible Focus: Matthew 2: 13-23</p> <p>Key Verse: Hebrews 2: 14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. 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 and becoming refugees in other countries. From infancy, the threat of death hung over 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 anyone has 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 who 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"> 1. 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). 2. 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. 3. 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 pupils to learn it – 1 John 3: 8</p> <p>Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The Nighttime Escape.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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). 2. Herod was afraid this new-born King would take his throne one day; he ordered that all the boys of two years old and under in Bethlehem and its surrounding districts, should be killed. However, God was in control and Herod could not harm Jesus. Herod misunderstood the reason for the coming of Jesus – He did not want Herod's throne; He wanted to be King of Herod's life (Matthew 2: 16-18). 3. 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, and so he directed him to go northwards to Nazareth in Galilee (Matthew 2: 21-23). 4. 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 pupils to learn it - Hebrews 2: 14</p> <p>Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Persecution Begins.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Why did Joseph, Mary and Jesus have to flee to Egypt? (ii) Why did Herod kill the baby boys in Bethlehem? (iii) Why did this family settle in Nazareth? (iv) Why is the Christmas Story one of sadness as well as joy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Read Genesis 3: 15 – Ensure pupils understand that this verse was pointing forward to the time when Jesus would die and rob Satan of his power. (ii) 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 Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Luke 2: 11, when the angel announced the birth of Jesus, he referred to him as both 'Saviour' and 'Lord'. Do some research on what these two titles mean. 2. How have these lessons helped in understanding the importance of the Old Testament? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph looked for God's guidance for his life. How can a Christian do this? 2. After Jesus' birth, Herod caused severe persecution. However, God was in control and protected the new-born King. How can this encourage a Christian facing persecution today?

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C7	David	Choosing the King
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/samuel-david-anointed/
		Battling with Goliath
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-goliath/
		Living with Saul
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-jonathan/
C8	Joshua	Friends with Jonathan
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-jonathan/
		Leading the people
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-joshua/
		Spying the land
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-rahab-spies/
		Crossing the river
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jordan/
		Obedying the Lord
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jericho/

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C9	Elijah	Commanded by God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-brook/
		Cared for by God
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-widow-boy/
		Challenging Baal's prophets
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-carmel/
C10	Elisha	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-prays-rain/
		Confused by Fear
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-elisha/
		The prophet Elijah meets Elisha
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-elisha/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-chariot/
		The prophet Elisha helps two women
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-boy/
		The prophet Elisha helps a soldier
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-naaman/
		The prophet Elisha promises victory
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-siege/

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C11	Men used by God	Gideon
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-fleece/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-midianites/
		Samson
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/samson-hair/
		Jonah
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jonah-disobeys/
		Nehemiah
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/nehemiah-1/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/nehemiah-2/
C12	The Christmas Story	In the beginning
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/adam-eve-fall/
		God's Messenger
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-jesus-birth/
		The Special Star
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-wisemen/
		The Nighttime Escape!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-wisemen/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C7	David	Choosing the King
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/samuel-david-anointed/
		Conquering the giant
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-goliath/
		Coping with problems
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-jonathan/
		Caring for others
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-mephibosheth/
C8	Joshua	The new leader
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-joshua/
		Sends out spies
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-rahab-spies/
		Crossing the Jordan
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jordan/
		Victory and Defeat
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-jericho/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joshua-achan/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C9	Elijah	God's Punishment
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/elijah-brook/
		God's Provision
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-widow-boy/
		God's Power
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-carmel/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-prays-rain/
C10	Elisha	God's Presence
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/elijah-horeb/
		Elisha meets Elijah
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-chariot/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elijah-elisha/
		Elisha and the Poor
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-boy/
		Elisha and an Army Officer
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-naaman/
		Elisha and the Syrian Army
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/elisha-siege/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
C11	Men of the Old Testament	Gideon
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-fleece/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-midianites/
		Samson
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/samson-riddle/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/samson-hair/
		Jonah
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jonah-disobeys/
		Nehemiah
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/nehemiah-1/
C12	Christ's birth	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/nehemiah-2/
		Promises given
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/adam-eve-fall/
		Problems faced
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-jesus-birth/
		Prophecies fulfilled
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-wisemen/
		Persecution begins
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/christmas-wisemen/

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 crosswords 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 4 Studies

- These are a harder edition to Level 3 lessons.
- More complex questions and answers are 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."

"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. 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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