

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

LESSON 5a (Teacher Guide)

[Assigned Reading: Joshua 1-6, 1 Samuel 15-18]

[Themes to Teach: Repentance]

After receiving the Law of God at Mt. Sinai, Israel journeyed toward the Promised Land (Canaan). They came to a place called Kadesh. From there Moses sent spies into the land to help them prepare for the conquest of Canaan.

(Read Numbers 13:1-2, 25-33)

- **GOOD REPORT VS. EVIL REPORT:**

Ten spies brought back an evil report.

Two spies brought back a good report. Their names were Joshua and Caleb.

Israel allowed the giants and strongholds ahead of them to blind them to the power of God they had witnessed in Egypt. They focused more on the challenges than they did on the promises.

- **ISRAEL & THE WILDERNESS:**

Because of Israel's unbelief, God disciplined them by causing them to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

Numbers 14:34 (KJV 1900)

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

God disciplined Israel, but He never abandoned them. (Read Deuteronomy 8:1-5)

After 40 years in the wilderness, Moses died on Mt. Nebo. (Read Deuteronomy 34:1-8)

- **THE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT OF CANAAN:**

- God called Joshua to lead Israel. (Read Deuteronomy 34:9-12)
- God was with him just as he had been with Moses. (See Joshua 1:1-7)
- Israel crossed the Jordan river on dry ground. (See Joshua 3:9-13)
- Israel demonstrated faith and obedience when they marched around the walls of Jericho. Sometimes, God's instructions do not make sense to us.
- God empowered them to drive out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan just as He had promised.
- At the end of his life, Joshua gave a powerful final charge to the people:

Joshua 24:14-15 (KJV 1900)

14 Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

- **THE TIME OF JUDGES:**

- For more than 400 years Israel lived in the Promised Land without a king. During this time, God raised up judges to lead them against their enemies.

Judges 2:16 (KJV 1900)

16 Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

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- Othniel
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah & Barak
- Gideon
- Tola
- Jair
- Jephthah
- Ibzan
- Elon
- Abdon
- Samson
- Eli
- Samuel
- During this time, Israel frequently drifted from God and often slipped into idolatry.

Judges 17:6 (KJV 1900)

6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

-
- **GOD ESTABLISHES A UNITED KINGDOM:**

1 Samuel 8:5 (KJV 1900)

5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

The last judge of Israel was also a prophet and the high priest. His name was Samuel.

When he was old, Israel asked Samuel to anoint a king to lead them. God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.

- **THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL: SAUL**

- Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin.
- Saul was head and shoulders above others.
- Saul was rejected by God because of his disobedience and pride. (Read 1 Samuel 15:10-30)
- Saul's response to his sin.

- Denied: "I have obeyed the Lord" (1 Samuel 15:20)
- Blamed: "The people took of the spoil" (1 Samuel 15:21)
- Excused: "We did it to sacrifice to the Lord" (1 Samuel 15:15)
- Minimized: "I've sinned, but honor me now" (1 Samuel 15:30)

- **THE SECOND KING OF ISRAEL: DAVID**

- David was anointed to be the next king of Israel when he was just a shepherd boy. (1 Samuel 16:10-13)
- David rose to fame when he killed Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:23-26, 45-51)
- David was a man of worship and wrote many of the Psalms.
- David was called "a man after God's Own Heart."

Acts 13:22 (KJV 1900)

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

- David received the Davidic Covenant. God promised that David's seed would forever sit on the throne in Jerusalem. (Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17)
- This covenant would be fulfilled in Jesus: "Jesus, thou son of David..."

Matthew 1:1 (KJV 1900)

1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, *the son of David*, the son of Abraham.

- David sinned with Bathsheba: (Read 2 Samuel 11:1-9)
 - He committed adultery and murder
- David repented of his sin and God restored him. (Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13)

2 Samuel 12:13 (KJV 1900)

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

(Conclude by reading Psalm 51)

Compare David's attitude toward his own failure with that of Saul. David was restored because he was humble before God.

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