

GOD'S CREATION

Find the words and phrases to the right in the puzzle below. They may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

K R A D A E S D N A D N A L
 N M O U N T A I N S A A N L
 E S C R E A T U R F M N I S
 S N O I T A D N U O F F L S
 S E A C R E A T U R E S A E
 T A A D N I K N A M D S N N
 T R S A S B O U L L E E R K
 H T E D H T D R I E A S E R
 G H E A R T N S K S T L D A
 I S P I R I T A E S H A N D
 L A N D A T B O L U O M U S
 G B O U N D A R Y P N I H K
 H S U N A N D M O O N N T Y
 T P A Y D U A S N E V A E H



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- Animals
- Birds
- Boundary
- Darkness
- Death
- Earth
- Formless
- Foundations
- Heavens
- Land and sea
- Life
- Light
- Mankind
- Mountains
- Plants
- Sea creatures
- Sky
- Spirit
- Sun and moon
- Thunder

MIGHTY WORKS

Complete the acrostic below by writing a word or phrase that begins with each letter in the word *creation*. Choose words that praise God for his provision and sustaining power. One is given to get you started.

C
 R
 E
 A
 This is my Father's world!
 I
 O
 N



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MATCH THE PHRASES

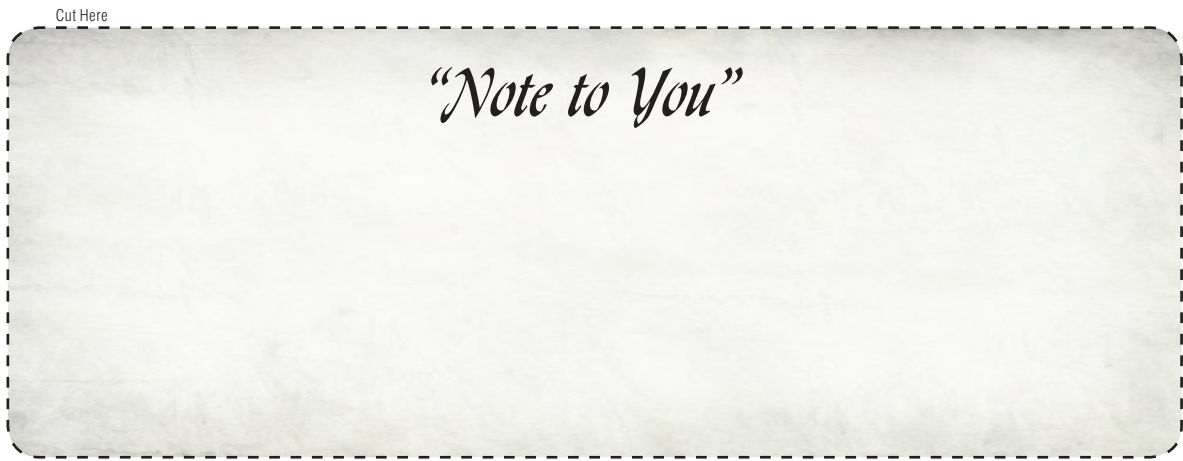
Draw a line to match the beginning of the verse from today's text to another part of that verse.

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.
Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky.
So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.
So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep;
Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man,
The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
That is why a man leaves his father and mother
Adam and his wife were both naked,

and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.
I will make a helper suitable for him."
and he brought her to the man.
But for Adam no suitable helper was found.
and they felt no shame.
He brought them to the man to see what he would name them.
and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.
she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MARRIAGE

Write a note to a couple in your church who has been married for more than 25 years, acknowledging what you appreciate about their marriage. Or write a note to a newlywed couple, encouraging them to make their marriage a lifelong commitment. You may want to use some of the Scripture thoughts below in your note:



The power of a godly example
1 Peter 3:1-7

Husband and wife belong to each other
1 Corinthians 7:1-5

The honor and purity of marriage
Hebrews 13:4

Mutual love and respect
Ephesians 5:21-33

MIXED-UP CONSEQUENCES

Unscramble the words below to see the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin in Genesis 3. Try not to look too quickly at the Scripture references!

- A. dhi mfro dog (v. 8) _____
- B. heyt rewe draafi (v. 10) _____
- C. maad damelb vee (v. 12) _____
- D. eev lamedb streenp (v. 13) _____
- E. clawr no leibly (v. 14) _____
- F. apin ni dirhitlbhc (v. 16) _____
- G. sharphid ni korw (v. 17) _____



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NO MORE SECRET SINS

Complete the card below and put it in a prominent place to help you remember your commitment.

Cut Here

A "secret" sin I need to confess is

Someone who can hold me accountable for not repeating this sin is

Confess this sin to God, repent of it, and thank God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Contact your accountability partner to discuss this situation.

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RE-CREATION

Following the flood, God gave instructions to Noah and his family on how to re-create life on earth. Mark out the sentences below that do *not* describe the re-creation in Genesis 9.

1. God told humans to populate the earth.
2. Both plants and animals are to be food for humans.
3. There was an image of the tree of life in the middle of the rainbow.
4. God established a covenant with humanity and all living creatures.
5. Humans took care of the garden.
6. God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his covenant.
7. God created the rainbow in his own image.



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A SACRED PROMISE

God used a rainbow as a symbol of his promise to Noah—and to us. What symbol would you use to represent your promise back to God of your commitment to be faithful to him? Would your symbol feature one or more hands? feet? animals? banners? buildings? trees? something else? Sketch your symbol below.

The Symbol of My Promise to Be Faithful to God



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BRINGING ORDER TO CONFUSION

God brought confusion on the order the people of Babel were trying to create. Your task is to bring order to the confusion of the sequence below. Place the events from Genesis 11 in the correct time sequence, from the first (1) to the last (9).

- _____ A. God confuses the language so people can't understand one another.
- _____ B. God comes down to see what the people are doing.
- _____ C. Everyone speaks the same language.
- _____ D. The people agree on a plan and begin to make bricks.
- _____ E. God says that if the people are left to their own devices, there will be no limit to the harm they can do.
- _____ F. The people settle in a plain of Shinar.
- _____ G. The place was named Babel.
- _____ H. The people begin to build a city with a tower to reach to Heaven.
- _____ I. God scatters the people over all the earth.



MY OWN BABEL

Was there ever a time when you exhibited the same attitude as the people of Babel in attempting to “make a name” for yourself? If so, how did things turn out? Read the proverb below, then fill in the scroll as a confession to God.



“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee. . . . So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.” Proverbs 3:3, 4

One time I engaged in self-promotion was

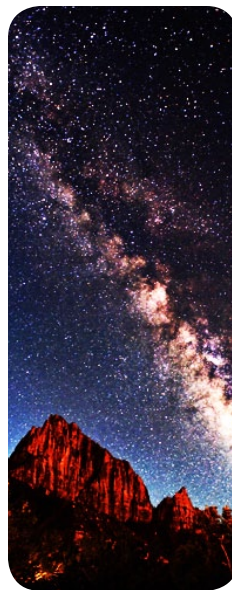
This realization motivates me to

To God be the glory!

ABRAM AND ME

In the following word search puzzle are 12 words from today's text in Genesis 15. Find those 12 in the puzzle, then discover a message in the unused letters

G O D C O H U N P E T S B E L
 I E F A E S R S V E I G H T E
 O U S I N E T E S S E G O D C
 O U F N T R I S B E L L I E P
 F E A S A L R I G H T E S O I
 R U S N E N C O V E N A N T G
 E S G B S G O P D C O U N T E
 S E B E L I E F R A S R R D O
 R I G H T E O U T O S A N A N
 E S S G O D C A O U M N T R S
 S S E N S U O E T H G I R K B
 E R L I E G F A S R I G S N H
 T E A O U S N E S S G O D E C
 O U N T T S B E L I E F A S S
 R I G H S T E O U S N E S S S



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- believe
- covenant
- darkness
- goat
- heifer
- pigeon
- promise
- ram
- righteousness
- sleep
- stars
- stranger

Now copy the unused letters (left to right, top to bottom) on the lines below to see a biblical truth to carry through the week:

THE DESPERATE FATHER AND ME

Read Mark 9:17-26, the story of a father seeking help for his son. What are three areas in your life right now where you most feel like saying, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (v. 24)? Jot your concerns below. If these prayer concerns are not too personal, exchange your list with someone else so you can pray for each other in the week ahead.

Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief about _____

Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief about _____

Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief about _____

WHAT MAKES IT FUNNY?

Philosophers and comedians have long discussed what makes something amusing. Circle the following that you usually find funny.



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- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Slapstick | Puns | Incongruity |
| Clowns | Irony | Humiliation |
| Caricature | Freudian slips | Foolish responses |
| Satire | Understatement | Telling “tall tales” |
| Mistaken identity | Pranks | Unexpectedness |

BELIEVING GOD

Both Abraham and Sarah were confronted with believing that God could do an “impossible” task. But the God who established the laws of nature also can set those laws aside. Which of the following “impossibilities” do people find most laughable and difficult to believe? Check off the ones below that most unbelievers would consider to be absolutely impossible.

- God created the physical universe from nothing.
- The whole world was covered by a flood as God’s judgment on evil.
- The nation of Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt by many mighty miracle
- Servants of God in the Old Testament raised several people from the dead.
- God’s Spirit enabled men to speak and write his words with absolute accuracy.
- God became a man in the person of Jesus.
- Jesus demonstrated power to know all and do all during his life on earth.
- Jesus, killed by crucifixion, rose from the dead bodily.
- A person who is forgiven by God will inherit eternal life in Heaven.



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Read John 20:24-29. What similarities do you see between the disbeliefs of Sarah and Thomas?

How do unbelievers become part of us who “have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29)?

“GOD BLESS YOU!”

When “God bless you!” becomes no more than an automatic response to a sneeze, it suffers a great loss in meaning. Before considering today’s texts in Genesis 21 and 26 regarding blessings on Isaac and Ishmael, look up the texts noted below and fill in the blanks.

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WHO CALLED FOR A BLESSING?

1. _____ Genesis 14:18-20
2. _____ Genesis 27:27-30
3. _____ Deuteronomy 33:1, 13-17
4. _____ Ruth 2:19, 20

WHO WAS TO BE BLESSED?

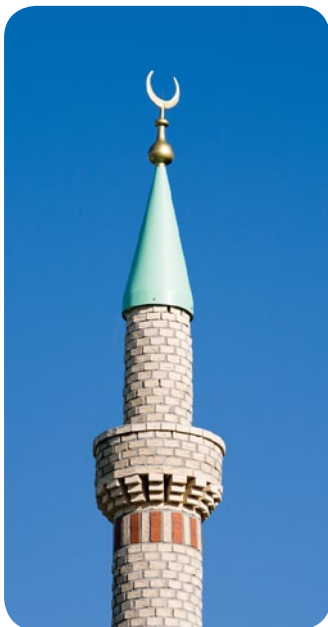
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Be prepared to compare and contrast the four blessings above with the two blessings in today’s text! Jot your initial impressions below.



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WITNESSING TO THE DESCENDANTS OF ISHMAEL



Hemera

Muslims (who are adherents of the religion of Islam) claim Abraham’s son Ishmael as their legacy (1 Chronicles 1:29). To improve your ability to present Jesus Christ as the Son of God to Muslims, do some Internet or library research on the following questions in the week ahead.

1. How does Islam’s view of *Jesus Christ* contradict the Christian understanding?
2. How does Islam’s view of *works of law* contradict the Christian understanding?
3. How does Islam’s view of *grace* contradict the Christian understanding?

WHEN AND WHERE

Jacob, surprised by God at Luz, decided that *Bethel* (meaning “house of God”) would be a better name for the place. Although we know that God is not limited to place or time (John 4:21-24; Acts 17:24), there seem to be times when and places where we sense the presence of God in special ways. Recall some of those as you jot your recollections below.

Time(s):

Place(s):



WHY AND HOW

What has been your personal experience regarding why and how you have sensed God’s presence in a special way? The possibilities below may help your recall. How did your life change as a result?

Sensing God’s confronting you for wrong thinking or wrongdoing (compare Job 38:1, 2; Acts 9:4).



Sensing God’s calling you to serve (compare Exodus 3:10; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:6).

Sensing God’s holiness (compare Isaiah 6:5; Revelation 4:8).

Sensing God’s power (compare Mark 4:41).



As a result of this personal experience, my life changed this way:

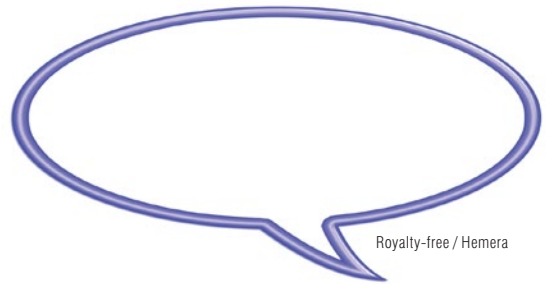
TALKING WITH GOD

Today's text in Exodus 3 is a record of an important conversation between God and one called to serve him. In the top two dialogue balloons, summarize what God said to Moses and what Moses replied to God.

God said



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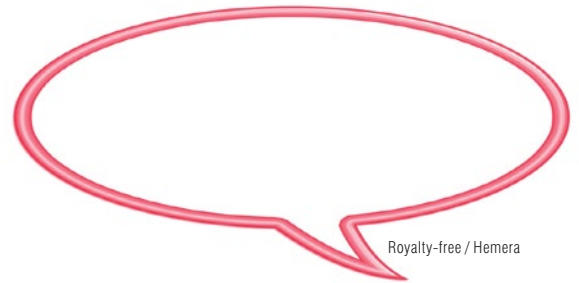
Moses replied

Now ponder what you think God has been saying to you most intensely of late. Write in your response.

God seems to be saying to me



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I will respond

OPPRESSION AND DELIVERANCE

As you read the following four passages, consider the Christian's role in deliverance from oppression today:

"The Spirit of the Lord . . . has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18, 19).

"God anointed Jesus . . . with the Holy Spirit and power, and . . . he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

"That by [Jesus'] death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Hebrews 2:14, 15).

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code" (Romans 7:6).

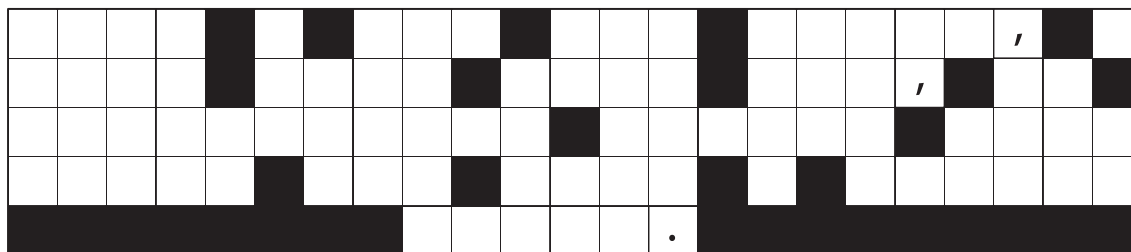
What role is God calling you to fill as a messenger of his deliverance? Who are the "oppressed" for whom you have opportunity to be this messenger? What is keeping you from the work? Jot ideas below.

EGYPTIANS FALL, PART 1

Today’s text anticipates “part 1” of the falling of many Egyptians: the deaths of their firstborn. (We will see part 2 in next week’s text.) Reconstruct the “fallen phrase” below to reveal the Lord’s intentions in this regard. The letters arranged vertically below the puzzle can be used ONLY in the squares directly above them, one each. Do not put letters in the three squares that have punctuation marks.



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I P

W H U N O E E V T N G S

T I S T P A S U E Y P E L I O E W N L E

D E L C R U C S S G W H E E Y U O O D I O I

W O E L H I Y T E V O Y H R A B L U T R I K L

A NEW DAY, A NEW WAY

Paul spoke of the “yeast” of sin that needed to be addressed when he said, “Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7). What “leaven” do you need to rid yourself of *right now*?

Cut Here



I hereby will use this image as a visual aid in the coming week to remind myself of the need to “purge out” attitudes, speech, and behavior that are inconsistent with my new life in Christ.

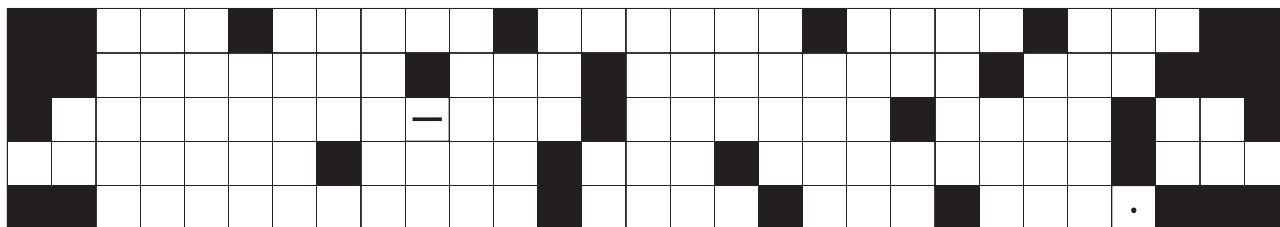
signed _____

EGYPTIANS FALL, PART 2

We saw part 1 of the falling of the Egyptians in last week's lesson. They fall again in this week's study. Reconstruct the "fallen phrase" below to reveal what happened. The letters arranged vertically below the puzzle can be used ONLY in the squares directly above them, one each. Do not put letters in the two squares that have punctuation marks.



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O O A H D T A D O A
 T H R E M E T R T E H T I I H E C W E D
 I R S O E L N E T H E L N N O R O B L A R A N D
 H A S V E W E I T E S E I O W E F R L T O K M Y N T F
 P H C R E A R A T H A H F H C T A D T E A S S E A D O H E

A TIME TO SING



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Immediately following the events in today's text, Moses led the Israelites in a song of joy and praise. See Exodus 15:1-18. Our own salvation in Jesus should always elicit this kind of joyful praise! During your devotional time over the next seven days, select a hymn, song, or chorus to parallel each of the following expressions from Moses' song. Sing it to the Lord your Savior!

Theme

My Song

- Monday "He hath triumphed gloriously" (Exodus 15:1)
- Tuesday "He is my God, . . . and I will exalt him" (Exodus 15:2)
- Wednesday "Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power" (Exodus 15:6)
- Thursday "Thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee" (Exodus 15:7)
- Friday "Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people" (Exodus 15:13)
- Saturday "The [pagan] people shall hear, and be afraid" (Exodus 15:14)
- Sunday "The Lord shall reign for ever and ever" (Exodus 15:18)

“ON THE GO” WORSHIP

Today’s text in Exodus 40 pictures the final preparation for a focal point of worship as the people of Israel were “on the go.” The portable tabernacle was ideal by God’s design. What does this have to say about your own “on the go” worship?

- A. How do you prepare yourself for worship when “on the go”?
- B. How do you deal with distractions to worship while you’re traveling?
- C. What reminds you of God’s presence when “on the go”?
- D. How do you go about finding places suitable for worship while traveling?
- E. How can you do better in reflecting God’s presence when “on the go”?



AS THE LORD COMMANDED

Today’s text records the phrases “all that the Lord commanded” or “as the Lord commanded” seven times. This speaks of Moses’ diligence in obeying God’s instructions precisely. What about your level of obedience? See if you can recall seven things you have done exactly as the Lord commanded from Scripture.



As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

As the Lord commanded, I _____.

Next to each, write a Scripture reference that speaks to the specific demand that the Lord makes on your life concerning what you have written. Finally, what is one area where your obedience is not as complete as it should be? Jot that problem below, and think of a Scripture that can help you complete your obedience.

Lesson 1

God's Creation

K R A D (A E S D N A D N A L)
 N (M O U N T A I N S) A A N L
 E S C R E A Q U R F M N I S
 S N O I T A D N U O F F L S
 S E A C R E A T U R (E S) A E
 T A A (D N I K N A M) D S N N
 T R S A S B O U L L E E R K
 H T E D H T D R I E A S E R
 G H E A R T N S K S T L D A
 I S P I R I T A E S H A N D
 L A N D A T B O L U O M U S
 G B O U N D A R Y P N I H K
 H S U N A N D M O O N N T Y
 T P A Y D U A (S N E V) A E H

Lesson 2

Match the Phrases: Consult the Bible for correct matches.

Lesson 3

Mixed-up Consequences: A. hid from God; B. they were afraid; C. Adam blamed Eve; D. Eve blamed serpent; E. crawl on belly; F. pain in childbirth; G. hardship in work.

Lesson 4

Re-Creation: Sentences 3, 5, and 7 should be marked out.

Lesson 5

Bringing Order to Confusion: 1-C, 2-F, 3-D, 4-H, 5-B, 6-E, 7-A, 8-I, 9-G

Lesson 6

Abram and Me

G O D C O H U N P E T S B E L
 I E F A E S R S V E I G H T E
 O U S I N E T E S S E G O D C
 O U F N T R I S B E L L I E P
 F E A S A L R I G H T E S O I
 R U S N E N C O V E N A N T G
 E S G B S G O P D C O U N T E
 S E B E L I E F R A S R R D O
 R I G H T E O U T O S A N A N
 E S S G O D C A O U M N T R S
 S S E N S U O E T H G I R K B
 E R L I E G F A S R I G S N H
 T E A O U S N E S S G O D E C
 O U N T T S B E L I E F A S S
 R I G H S T E O U S N E S S

Hidden message: God counts belief as righteousness

Lesson 8

"God Bless You!"

1. Melchizedek, king of Salem / Abram; 2. Isaac / Jacob ended up with the blessing although Esau was the one intended to be blessed; 3. Moses / "Joseph," referring to the descendants of that man, who constitute the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. 4. Naomi / Boaz.

Witnessing to the Descendants of Ishmael

1. Muslims do not accept the fact that Jesus was God incarnate and that he was crucified and rose from the dead. 2 & 3. Since Muslims do not recognize Christ's payment of sin's penalty through his death, the Christian concept of grace (as in Romans 5:12-21; etc.) is absent from Islam. Therefore the Muslim's understandings of the basis of God's mercy, the effects of humanity's works of lawkeeping, etc., are very different from those of the Christian.

Lesson 11

Egyptians Fall, Part 1

When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. [Exodus 12:13]

Lesson 12

Egyptians Fall, Part 2

The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. [Exodus 14:28]