

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is like a _____.
2. There are two main parts in the Bible:
the Old _____,
(with _____ books),
and the _____ Testament,
(with _____ books).
3. The Bible is the written _____ of God.
4. The _____ helps us
understand what the Bible means.
5. This year in Sunday Church School, we will learn about stories
in the _____ Testament.

LESSON 1: THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD

from Genesis 1:1-2:3

In the beginning, there was nothing except for God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

On the first day, God said, "Let there be light!" and there was light.

He said, "What I have made is good."

On the second day, God said, "Let there be sky and water!" and there was the sky and water.

He said, "What I have made is good."

On the third day, God said, "Let there be dry land and plants!" and there was dry land and plants of all kinds.

He said, "What I have made is good."

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky!" and there was the sun, the moon, and stars.

He said, "What I have made is good."

On the fifth day, God said, "Let there be animals in the waters and the sky!" and there were fish and birds.

He said, "What I have made is good."

On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be animals on the land! Let Us make people who are like Us!" and there were animals of all kinds, and a man and woman, Adam and Eve, to take care of the plants, animals, and the whole earth.

He said, "What I have made is very good."

On the seventh day, God rested from His work.

1. What was here before the beginning?

2. How many days did God work to make everything?

3. What did God say at the end of each day?

4. God said, "Let Us make people who are like Us!" Who is the "Us" that He is talking about?

5. What did God do on the seventh day?

6. List three things that you are glad that God made. "I am glad God made..."

EXTRA QUESTIONS

7. After God made people, He said something a little bit different than He said on the other five days. How did He describe His work on the sixth day?

8. How do you feel knowing that God describes people (including you!) in this way?

9. The Orthodox Study Bible uses the words, "Let Us make man in Our *image*..." The word *image* is the same as *icon*. God made people to be icons of the Holy Trinity. You are an icon! The people you don't like very much are icons, too.

How do you treat icons made of wood and paint?

Would you ever hurt an icon made of wood and paint? _____

How should we treat people, who are icons of the Holy Trinity?

10. Whenever we say the Creed, we remember today's lesson. Finish this part of the Creed:

"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, _____ of
_____ and _____, and of
_____ things _____ and _____."

LESSON 2: ADAM AND EVE CHOOSE TO DISOBEY GOD

from Genesis 2:8 - 3:24

God made a beautiful garden called Eden. He put Adam and Eve in the garden to take care of the plants and the animals.

God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from all of the trees except for one tree in the middle of the garden. He told them that they would die if they ate the fruit of that one tree.

One day, the devil came to Eve and told her, "You will not die if you eat fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. You will be like God if you eat it."

Eve saw that the fruit looked good. She believed the devil and ate some of the fruit. She gave some to Adam and he ate some too.

As soon as they ate the fruit, they were ashamed.

When God came to walk and talk in the garden that afternoon, Adam and Eve tried to hide from Him.

God asked Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam said, "When I heard your voice, we were afraid of You, so we hid."

God asked, "Did you eat from the tree that I told you not to eat from?" Adam said, "Eve gave me the fruit, and I ate some."

God asked Eve, "What have you done?" Eve answered, "The devil tricked me, and I ate some of the fruit."

God said, "Now Adam and Eve know about good and evil." He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. They needed to work hard and their lives were difficult.

Later, Adam and Eve had children. When they were old, Adam and Eve died, just as God had said it would happen.

1. What was the name of the beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived?

2. What was the one rule that God gave Adam and Eve?

3. What two lies did the devil tell to Eve?

4. Did Adam and Eve obey God? _____

5. What did Adam and Eve do when God came to the garden that day?

6. Where did God send Adam and Eve?

7. Was life better or worse for Adam and Eve at the end of the story?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

8. How many rules did Adam and Eve have? _____

How many rules do you think that you have? _____

9. List three rules that your parents have for you.

10. Think about a time when you disobeyed one of your parents' rules.

Did you die? _____

The Bible tells us that ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, everyone who has ever lived (except Jesus) has disobeyed at least one of God's rules.

Do all people die? _____

11. Look at an icon of the resurrection that we see at Pascha. (This icon is next to page 1315 in the Orthodox Study Bible, and page 418 in the New Testament/Psalms edition.) Jesus is pulling an old man and an old woman out of their graves. Who are they?

The end of today's story, when Adam and Eve died, isn't the end of their story! When Jesus came back from the dead at Pascha, He brought Adam and Eve with Him to live with Him in Heaven!

12. Find and read 1 Corinthians 15:22. Fill in the blanks.

"For as in Adam all _____, even so in Christ, all shall be made _____."

LESSON 3: NOAH OBEYS GOD

from Genesis 5:1 - 9:29

Adam and Eve had children and grandchildren. Nine generations after Adam and Eve, there were a lot of people on the earth.

Just like Adam and Eve, the people disobeyed God. The people were so bad that God was sorry that He had made them.

There was one man, Noah, who did what was right, and God was pleased with him. God told him, "I have seen how bad the other people are. I am going to get rid of them.

"Make a big boat for yourself, your wife, your three sons, and their wives. I am going to send a big flood. Everyone who is not on the boat will die.

"When you go in the boat, bring along two of every kind of bird and animal, one male and one female. Bring along seven of some kinds of animals. Bring along enough food for your family and the animals."

Then Noah did everything that God asked him to do.

When the boat was ready, and Noah's family and the animals were ready, it started to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water rose until it covered the whole earth, even the mountains.

Noah and his family, and the birds and animals were safe on the boat. All the people, birds, and animals outside the boat died.

After 150 days, the waters started to go down. Noah sent out a bird three times. The first time the bird came right back because there was no place to land. A week later, he sent the bird again; this time the bird brought back a leaf from a tree. The third time, a week later, the bird did not come back. It had found a new home! It was time to leave the boat.

God promised Noah, his family, and all the birds and animals that He would never send a flood to get rid of everyone again. He put rainbows in the sky to remind Noah and us of His promise.

1. In this story, who did not obey God?

2. What were three things that God asked Noah to do?

3. Did Noah obey God?

4. What did God send in the middle of the story?

5. How many people were safe?

6. What was God's promise?

7. What is the reminder of God's promise?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

8. Find and read Matthew 24:36-44. Who is talking? (If you're not sure, read Matthew 24:4 to see who is talking in this chapter.)

9. He said that Someone will come suddenly, just like the flood. Who did He say will come? (See Matthew 24:39).

The _____ of _____,
which is one of the names of Jesus.

10. Finish this verse (Matthew 24:44): Therefore you also be _____,

for the _____ of _____ is coming at an hour you do not

_____.

11. Find and read I Peter 3:20-21, which talks about Noah and the people who were saved in the flood. There are a lot of big words in this passage. What one word can you find that relates to water?

This can help to save us from bad things, just like the boat saved Noah and his family from the bad people and the flood.

12. The part of the church building where we stand during the Divine Liturgy is called the Nave. The word Nave means Boat.

Can you think of some words that start with Nav- that relate to boats?

Just like the boat saved Noah and his family, we have a boat ("Nave") where we can come to be saved from the bad things of the world. When we come to Church, we leave behind all the bad things and are safe.

LESSON 4: THE BEGINNING OF LANGUAGES

from Genesis 11:1-9

Noah and his wife had children who had children who had children until there were many people on earth again after the flood.

Everyone spoke the same language. The people found some land near Shinar and lived there.

They said to each other, "Let's make bricks and mortar. Let's make a huge city. Let's build a tall tower, so tall that it will reach to Heaven."

The people made bricks and mortar. They began to make the city and the tower.

They said, "See how important we are! We can do anything all by ourselves." They forgot about God.

God saw the tower. He said, "The people have one language and they are doing what they said they would do. They will be able to do anything they want to do, good or bad."

God confused the languages, so that there were many languages. The people did not understand each other. They could not work together anymore.

The people moved away from Shinar and went to many places on the earth. They did not finish the tower or the city. The name of the tower is Babel.

1. At the beginning of the story, how many languages were there on the earth?

2. There are more than 6,000 languages in the world today. What languages do the people in our class speak?

3. What did the people do to show how important they thought they were?

4. What did God do so that the people could not finish their project?

5. What happened to the people? What happened to their project?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

6. The people in this story wanted to live together in unity, but without God. What is unity? If you don't know, ask an adult.

7. God wants us to live in unity with everyone. Another word for unity is union. Where have you heard this prayer before? "For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for **the union of all men**, let us pray to the Lord?"

Unity is only possible with God, not by building a city or a tower or doing any other project.

8. Working together with other people goes best when you speak the same language and can understand each other. God said about the people in the story, "They will be able to do anything they want to do."

Who do you know who speaks a language other than English?

Try to learn some words in their language, so you can work together better.

9. What do you think would be possible if everyone in the world tried to learn to speak the same language as, and understand, people who are very different from themselves?

LESSON 5: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

from Genesis 11:10 - 21:7

Noah's great-, great-, great-, great-, great-, great-, great-, great-grandson was a man named Abraham. Abraham and his wife Sarah did not have any children.

When Abraham was 75 years old, God said to him, "Leave your country and go to a place that I will show you."

Abraham and Sarah obeyed God. They traveled and traveled. When they arrived in Canaan, God said, "I am going to give this land to your children and their children and their children."

But Abraham and Sarah still didn't have any children. One night, God told Abraham to look at the sky. "I will give you so many children and grandchildren that they will be like the number of stars in the sky."

When Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89 years old, they still didn't have any children. God told them that they would have a son and they would name him Isaac. Abraham laughed at the impossible idea that he and Sarah could have a child at their age.

Soon after that, when Abraham was sitting outside his tent, he saw three men. He ran to them and welcomed them. He and Sarah made a big meal to give to the men.

The men ate the meal outside the tent, under the shade of a tree. They told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son. Sarah, who was inside the tent, laughed when she heard the men. "We are too old to become parents now," she said to herself.

The men said to Abraham and Sarah, "Is anything impossible for God to do?"

Nine months later, when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, they had a son and named him Isaac. God kept His promise!

1. What did God tell Abraham to do near the beginning of the story?

2. God kept promising Abraham and Sarah that something special would happen. What was it?

3. Who is the oldest person you know? Can you imagine that person having a baby now?

4. Look at the icon across from page 162 in the Orthodox Study Bible. What part of today's story does this icon show?

5. Did Abraham and Sarah think that God would keep His promise? How do you know?

6. Did God keep His promise? How do you know?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

7. Read part of Abraham's story in Genesis 22:1-14. Ask a parent or another adult what is meant by "offer him there as a whole burnt offering" in verse 2.

Earlier, God had asked Abraham to leave his country. What hard thing is God asking Abraham to do now?

8. If Abraham obeys God, this would seem to stop God's earlier promise. How do you think Abraham felt? Did he obey?

Read Genesis 22:15-19 to see how this part of the story ends.

9. Look up these versions in the Bible. Others wrote about Abraham as an example many years later. Fill in the blanks.

Romans 4:3 - Abraham _____ God

Galatians 3:6 - Abraham _____ God

James 2:23 - Abraham _____ God

10. Look up these verses in the Bible.

Romans 4:12

Romans 4:13

Romans 4:16

Galatians 3:7

Galatians 3:9

Galatians 3:14

Hebrews 11:8

What five-letter word beginning with F describes something that Abraham had?

LESSON 6: JACOB AND ESAU

from Genesis 24:1 to 27:45

Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac grew up. He married a woman named Rebekah. They had twin sons, Esau and Jacob.

The twins did not get along with each other. Isaac liked Esau the best and Rebekah liked Jacob the best. Esau was hairy and spent most of his time outside. Jacob was smooth-skinned and liked to stay inside. Esau was the oldest of the two which meant that he would be in charge when their father Isaac died. This is called a birthright.

One time when the boys were grown up, Esau came home from hunting and was very hungry. Jacob had just made some soup. He wouldn't share the soup until Esau promised that Jacob could be in charge when their father died. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup.

Another time, when Isaac was very old and couldn't see well, he told Esau to bring him some special food and that he would give him a special blessing. Rebekah, the boys' mother, heard this. While Esau went hunting to find a wild animal to kill and prepare, she helped Jacob cook a sheep. Rebekah told Jacob to wear Esau's clothes and to put animal skins on his arms and neck so that he would be hairy.

Jacob took the cooked sheep to his father Isaac. "Here I am, Father," he said. Isaac asked, "Are you Esau? You sound like Jacob."

"I am Esau," Jacob lied. Isaac said, "Come close so that I can hug you." When they hugged, Isaac said, "You sound like Jacob, but you feel and smell like Esau." And Isaac gave a special blessing to Jacob.

As soon as Jacob left, Isaac came in with his cooked meal. "Here I am, Father," he said. Isaac said, "Who are you?" Esau said, "I am Esau." Isaac trembled and said, "Then who was just here? I already ate and gave a blessing to him."

Esau realized that Jacob had tricked him. He became very angry and decided to kill Jacob as soon as their father died. Rebekah heard about his plan and sent Jacob far away.

1. How were Jacob and Esau different?

Esau was: _____

Jacob was: _____

2. Which twin was supposed to get the birthright and the blessing?

3. Which twin ended up with the birthright and the blessing?

4. Why did Jacob leave his family?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

5. At the end of today's story, the brothers were enemies.

How do you think Esau felt? _____

How do you think Jacob felt? _____

6. After many years, the brothers met again. Read Genesis 32:4 to 33:16 to find out what happened. What are some things Jacob did to show that he wanted to make things right between them?

7. Did Jacob know that his brother Esau wasn't going to kill him? How do you know?

Is there someone that you don't get along with? Be encouraged that someday you and this other person may be friends again.

8. Read Genesis 35:10. What is the new name that God gave to Jacob?

Where have you heard or seen this name before?

Jacob's influence is important, even to today!

LESSON 7: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

from Genesis 37:1 to 50:26

After Jacob left home, he married and had 12 sons and 1 daughter. His favorite children were his two youngest, Joseph and Benjamin. He gave Joseph special gifts, including a colorful coat.

Joseph told his brothers about dreams that he had. In the dreams, Joseph's brothers always bowed down to Joseph.

His older brothers were jealous. They did not like Joseph. One day when the older brothers were taking care of sheep far away, their father sent Joseph to check in on them.

When the older brothers saw Joseph coming, they decided to kill him. They threw him in a hole in the ground. Then some travelers came. The brothers pulled Joseph out of the hole. They took off his special coat and sold him to the travelers for 20 pieces of gold.

The brothers ripped up the coat and put goat blood on it. They took it to their father and said, "Look, a wild animal killed Joseph." Jacob was very sad and cried for his son.

The travelers took Joseph to Egypt where they sold him to an important man named Potiphar. Joseph was a slave who worked very hard for Potiphar. The Lord was with him. Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph, so Joseph was put in prison.

In prison, the Lord was with Joseph. He worked hard and soon was put in charge of the other prisoners. In prison with him were some of the servants of the king. When they had dreams, Joseph told them what the dreams meant, and what would happen to the servants. Everything happened just as Joseph had said. One of the servants was released from prison to serve the king again.

Later, when the king had dreams, the servant remembered Joseph and told the king that Joseph could tell him what the dream meant. The king sent for Joseph. Joseph told the king that there would be seven years with lots of crops and seven years with no crops. He suggested that the king save food during the good years, so there would be food for the bad years.

The king put Joseph in charge of the crops for the whole country. Joseph was almost as important as the king. When the bad years came, people ran out of food. They came to Joseph to get the saved food.

Joseph's brothers came to get food but they did not recognize Joseph. They bowed down to him, just like in Joseph's dreams when he was a boy. Joseph told them who he was and forgave them. He told them to go back and bring their father.

When Jacob found out that Joseph was still alive and an important man in Egypt, he did not believe them at first. But then he went with them to see Joseph in Egypt. The whole family moved to Egypt where there was food. The family was together again.

1. Joseph's older brothers did not like him. Why?

2. It was not fair that his brothers sold him and that Potiphar's wife lied about him. How did Joseph respond?

3. When Joseph worked in Potiphar's house and when he was in prison, who was with him?

4. In Egypt, Joseph could have been mean to his brothers for what they did to him. Instead, what did he do?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

5. Read Genesis 50:15-21, especially verse 20. Read Romans 8:28. Look for a word that is in both readings.

Even though evil things happen in our lives, God works them out for

6. Joseph did the right thing, but others were mean to him. Can you think of any other people in the Bible (or other saints) who did the right thing, but were not treated well? Who?

7. Turn to Matthew 1, which includes a list of Jesus' ancestors. (The word "begot" means "had a child.") In verse 2, you will see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whom we have talked about in previous lessons. Judah is one of Joseph's brothers. Now read verse 16. There is another Jacob and another Joseph. This Joseph is the husband of Mary, the Theotokos, who gave birth to Jesus! Joseph in today's story was the great-great- great- great- (and a whole bunch more greats) uncle of Jesus.

If Joseph in today's story had not given food to his brothers in Egypt, or had killed Judah, the rest of the people in the list would not have been born! His decision to forgive is important to the history of Jesus' family.

8. If you come to the Bridegroom Matins service on Holy Monday, the week before Pascha, you will hear how Joseph's name. "Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a pit, and sold into slavery by them. In the same way, our Lord was rejected, betrayed by His own, and sold into the slavery of death." (from www.antiochian.org/1175027131). Both stories had happy endings. What happened to Joseph? What happened to Jesus?

LESSON 8: MOSES
from Exodus 1:1 to 2:15

Joseph and his brothers grew old and died in Egypt. Their children had children, and their children had children, until the land was full of Israel's descendants. (Israel is another name for Jacob, who was Joseph's father.)

By now, there was a new king who had never heard of Joseph and how Joseph had saved all the people of Egypt when there were seven years without crops. The new king said, "There are more of Israel's people than there are of our people. They might try to take over our country. I don't want them to become greater than us."

So the king made all the people of Israel work hard at building big cities and in the fields. The bosses used violence to make the people work hard. The people of Israel kept having more children. They were becoming a big nation, and the people of Egypt did not like them.

The king told the nurses to kill the baby boys when they were born. The nurses did not obey the king, but let the baby boys live. The king then told all the people of Egypt to throw the baby boys into the river.

A man named Amram and a woman named Jochebed had a baby boy. They loved him and did not want him to be killed. They hid him in a basket in the river so that he would not be found.

The king's daughter found the basket. She did not kill the baby as her father had commanded, but she felt sorry for him. She adopted the boy, named him Moses, and raised him as a prince.

When Moses was grown up, he saw how the people of Egypt were mean to the people of Israel. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his relatives of the people of Israel. Moses looked around and when he thought no one was looking, he killed the Egyptian.

The king found out what Moses had done, and wanted to kill Moses. Moses ran away.

Circle all correct answers.

1. The new king of Egypt did not like the people of Israel because:
 - A. The people of Israel were mean to the people of Egypt.
 - B. He was afraid the people of Israel would take over his country.
 - C. He was jealous of Joseph, the hero.
 - D. He had a dream about crops and was hungry.

2. In Egypt, the people of Israel:
 - A. Were forced to be slaves.
 - B. Worked in the fields.
 - C. Built big cities.
 - D. Had lots of children.

Fill in the blanks.

3. What did the king tell the nurses to do?

4. Did the nurses obey the king? _____

5. What did the king tell all the people of Egypt to do?

6. Who found the baby in the basket?

7. Did she obey the king? _____

EXTRA QUESTIONS

8. Read Acts 5:29

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey

_____ rather than _____."

9. Who in today's storied disobeyed the king?

10. Moses ran away after he killed the Egyptian. Some other people in the Bible also ran away or hid when they did something wrong.

Who lied to his father, tricked his brother, and then ran away to another country?

Who tried to hide in the garden after they ate fruit that they were commanded not to eat?

LESSON 9: FINDING A NEW HOME

from Exodus 3:1 - Joshua 34:26

When Moses ran away from Egypt, he lived in the desert, taking care of sheep. One day, he saw a bush that was burning and wouldn't stop burning.

He heard God say, "Moses, I have seen how hard life is for my people in Egypt. I am sending you to go to the king of Egypt and tell him to let my people leave. I will give my people a land of their own."

Moses was afraid, but obeyed God. He went back to Egypt and spoke with the king. "Let the people of Israel leave." The king said, "No! If I let the people leave, who will work for me?"

The king made the people work harder so that would not have time to think about leaving. For many days, Moses went to the king and asked again. Each time the king said, "No! I will not let them leave."

God sent many miracles to show the king that He was God. He turned all the water into blood. He sent frogs until they covered everything. He sent lice, flies, bugs, sores, and hail. The cattle got sick and died. The sky went dark in the middle of the day. Each time, the king said, "No!"

Finally, God said that the oldest child in each family would die. He told Moses to tell the people of Israel to put lambs' blood on the doors of their houses. That night, the first child of each family died, except in the houses where there was blood on the doors. Even the king's son died. The king finally told Moses to take all the people and leave.

Moses led the people out of Egypt toward the new place God was preparing for them. As they traveled in the desert, God provided for them. He gave them rules to live by. He showed them how to build a place to worship him. It took more than 40 years to arrive, because the people did not trust God to lead them.

Moses died, but his helper Joshua led the people into the new place that God had promised for them.

Circle all correct answers.

1. What strange thing did Moses see in the desert?
 - A. A talking donkey.
 - B. A man who was dead come back to life.
 - C. A bush that was burning and didn't stop burning.
 - D. Joseph's special coat.

2. What was the message that God asked Moses to give to the king?
 - A. Build more pyramids.
 - B. Join the people of Israel in their work.
 - C. Build a place of worship.
 - D. Let the people of Israel leave Egypt.

Fill in the blanks.

3. God sent many miracles to Egypt. List three of them.

4. Which miracle would have been the hardest for you if you lived during that time?

5. What finally convinced the king to do what Moses was asking?

6. Where did the people of Israel go?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

7. How do you think Moses felt each time the king told him “No!”?

Why do you think Moses did not quit asking after hearing “No!” so many times?

8. God asked the people of Israel to remember the special time when death “passed over” the people when they were in Egypt. Every year, they celebrated a feast called the “Passover.” We celebrate a special time when Jesus “passed over” from death to life. What is the word we use to describe this special day each year?

9. In the desert, God gave Moses rules to live by. Read Exodus 20:1-17. These are called the Ten Commandments.

Read Matthew 19:16-19. How many of the Commandments did Jesus talk about in these verses?

10. Close your Bible. How many of the Commandments can you remember? Which ones?

LESSON 10: JUDGES

From Joshua 1:1 to 24:36 and Judges 1:1 to 21:25

Joshua led God's people, the Israelites, into the land that God had promised to give to them. There was a lot of land. There were many towns and cities there. Joshua helped the people find new homes. Each of the family groups had their own place to live.

After Joshua died, judges led the people. Whenever there was a problem, God raised up a judge to lead and protect them. There were thirteen judges in about 300 years.

One of the judges was Deborah. She would sit under a palm tree and make decisions whenever there was a quarrel between the people. She also led the people into battle. She and her helper Barak sang a song of praise to God, "May those who love God be like the sun coming out with warmth. And let the land be at peace for forty years."

Another judge was Gideon. One time, the Midianites attacked God's people. There were 135,000 Midianite soldiers and only 32,000 Israelites. God told Gideon that he would win, but that he had too many soldiers. Gideon sent all but 300 soldiers home. At night, Gideon led groups of soldiers to go on three sides of the Midianites. They blew trumpets, shone torches, and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites were so surprised and confused that they ran away!

One of the judges was Samson. God told him to never cut his hair. Because he obeyed God, Samson was stronger than any other man. He kept the enemies away. One time, a beautiful woman named Delilah, who was sent by the enemy, asked Samson to tell the secret of his strength. At first, he didn't tell her, but she said, "If you love me, you will tell me." So Samson told his secret. While he was sleeping, Delilah had someone cut his hair. When Samson woke up, he was as weak as any other man. The enemies captured him, took out his eyes, and put him on display so everyone could make fun of him. After a long time, when his hair grew back, he cried out to God and repented. He became strong again. One day in a temple of the idols, he pushed the pillars down. He and 700 of the enemies died that day.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Who was in charge of the people of Israel after they settled in the land that God had promised them?
 - A. Presidents.
 - B. Governors.
 - C. Judges.
 - D. Mayors.

2. What was the job of these leaders?
 - A. Protect the people.
 - B. Take the people back to Egypt.
 - C. Make decisions for the people.
 - D. Build a palace to live in.

Match the judge to what he or she is known for.

3. ___ Deborah A. Let himself be tricked by a beautiful woman.
4. ___ Gideon B. Sat under a palm tree making decisions.
5. ___ Samson C. Led 300 soldiers against an army of 135,000

6. How many judges led God's people?

7. For about how many years did judges lead the people of Israel?

8. Here are the names of the other judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon.

EXTRA QUESTIONS

Read more of the story of Gideon in Judges 6:11 to 7:25.

9. Which part of the story shows that he was humble?

10. What was the first thing Gideon did to show that he was brave?

11. What part of the story shows that Gideon wanted proof?

12. Why did God want only 300 soldiers to help Gideon?

LESSON 11: THE KINGS

From 1 Kingdoms 8:1 to 4 Kingdoms 25:30

Samuel the Prophet choose his two sons to be the next judges. These two sons were bad; they did not obey God. The people of God, the Israelites, did not like his two sons and did not want them to be in charge.

The people said to Samuel, “We don’t want judges anymore. We want a king, just like all the other countries have.” Samuel did not think having a king was a good idea, but the people kept asking. Samuel prayed to God.

God said, “I want to be their King. The people don’t want to follow me anymore. Give them a king, but warn them about how a king will treat them.”

Samuel told the people that a king would take their land, their sons and daughters, and their crops. He warned them that they would become like slaves of the king. The people insisted that they wanted a king. “We want to be like all the other countries.”

Saul was the first king. Samuel told him and the people, “Obey the Lord and serve him with all your heart.”

Saul did not obey God, so God chose David as the new king. Before he was king, David was a young man who took care of sheep and played music on his harp. As king, David loved God and tried to lead the people in obeying Him. When he did something wrong, he asked God to forgive him.

David “was a man after God’s own heart.” God promised that one of David’s descendants would always a king.

After David died, his son Solomon became the next king. Solomon started out as a good king. He had many wives and he tried to make them happy instead of obeying God. He ended up worshiping his wives’ idols.

After Solomon, God’s people were split into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. All the kings of Israel disobeyed God and led the people to sin. Some of the kings of Judah obeyed God and led the people to do what was right.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Why did the people say they wanted a king to lead them?
 - A. All the other countries had kings.
 - B. The people did not like the new judges.
 - C. The new judges were bad.
 - D. They wanted God to be their king.

2. Samuel warned the people that having a king might not be a good idea. Which of these were reasons he gave?
 - A. A king would take land, children, and crops from the people.
 - B. A king would make the people serve him like slaves.
 - C. A king might have a mean queen.
 - D. A king would take the people back to Egypt.

3. Which of these statements about David are true?
 - A. He was a “man after God’s own heart.”
 - B. He was the first king of Israel.
 - C. He became king of the whole world.
 - D. He was a shepherd and played the harp before he was king.

Fill in the blanks.

4. Who was David’s son who became the next king?

5. Was David’s son a good king or a bad king? Explain your answer.

6. What happened to the kingdom after King Solomon?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

7. David wrote many of the psalms in the Bible. Read Psalm 50 in the Orthodox Study Bible (it may be Psalm 51 in some other Bibles), especially the last couple of verses that may be more familiar to you. Where have you heard this psalm before?

8. God promised that one of David's descendants would always be king. As we will learn in the next lesson, the kings only ruled for several hundred years. Read Matthew 1:1 to see how God kept his promise. Who is David's descendant who is King forever?

9. The people begged God for a king. The kings did make the people like slaves, and took their land, sons and daughters, and crops. Having a king wasn't a good idea. Have you ever begged your parents for something that didn't turn out to be as good of an idea as you thought? If so, what happened?

Read these words of St. Evagrius of Pontus. "I have often prayed and asked God for what seemed good in my own estimation (opinion). Like a fool, I kept on at God to grant me this; I would not leave it to Him to arrange as He knows best for me. Then, having obtained the thing I had prayed for so stubbornly, I have often been sorry that I did not leave it to the will of God, for the reality often turned out very different from the way I had imagined it."

10. You can find a chart of the kings of Judah and Israel at <http://www.vtaide.com/gleanings/Kings-of-Israel/kings.html>.

LESSON 12: FAR FROM HOME

From Daniel 1:1 to 22:42

The kings of Israel and Judah disobeyed God. Armies from other countries attacked and took many of the people far away from their homes.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, took the strong young men to work for him. The young men were taught the new language and given a good education.

The king gave the young men fancy food and fine wine. Four of the young men, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, said, "We will not eat the king's fancy food and drink his fine wine. We will eat only vegetables and drink only water." After ten days, they were stronger and looked better than the young men who ate the king's food. So, all the young men were given vegetables and water.

After three years, the king said that these four young men were the smartest and wisest men in his kingdom.

One night, the king had a dream but could not remember it. He asked all the smart people in his kingdom what he had dreamed and what the dream meant. Only Daniel, with God's help, could tell the king his dream and what it meant.

Many years later, the king built a tall statue of himself. He told all of the people to bow down and worship the statue. Whoever did not worship the statue would be put into a big and hot oven. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did not bow down to the statue because they loved and obeyed God. The king was angry. He made the three young men go into the hot oven. The flames of the oven did not hurt the young men. They walked around in the fire and sang songs to God. The king said, "Didn't we put three men in the fire? Look, there is a fourth man with them!" And the king made a law that everyone should worship God.

Later, when another king was in charge, some men became jealous of Daniel. Even though Daniel was far from home, he prayed to God three times a day. The jealous men told the king to make a new law that no one could pray to God, but only pray to the king. The punishment was that anyone who prayed to God would be fed to hungry lions. Even though the king made the new law, Daniel continued to pray three times every day. The jealous men told the king that Daniel continued to pray. The king put Daniel in with the lions, but the lions did not hurt him! The king was surprised. He made a law that everyone should worship God.

Circle all correct answers.

1. What did the armies do to the people?
 - A. They took them to the temple.
 - B. They took them to a place far away from their homes.
 - C. They made them build an ark.
 - D. They made them go back to Egypt.

2. How were the four young men different from the other young men?
 - A. They were stronger.
 - B. They looked better.
 - C. They only ate fancy food.
 - D. They were wiser.

3. How did Daniel help the king?
 - A. He taught him to speak his language.
 - B. He took him to the temple to worship God.
 - C. He told him what his dream meant.
 - D. He gave him his recipe for vegetable stir fry.

4. When did Daniel stop praying to God?
 - A. When the armies took him away from home.
 - B. When the king gave him vegetables to eat.
 - C. When the king made a new law that no one could pray to God.
 - D. When he saw the lions.

Fill in the blanks.

5. Who was in the fire?

6. True or false: today's stories take place in the land that God had promised to give to His people.

EXTRA QUESTIONS

7. Daniel and his friends had lots of challenges in their lives. List some of them.

8. Give two examples of how God was with Daniel and his friends.

9. At the Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning, we read the story of Daniel's friends in the hot oven. The Church fathers teach that Jesus was the fourth man in the fire with the three young men. Can you make a connection between what happened to the three young men and what happened to Jesus when He died and came back to life again?

Here is the troparion (song) for Daniel and his friends:

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
For the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames
As though in the waters of rest;
And the prophet Daniel appeared,
A shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

LESSON 13: RETURNING HOME

From Nehemiah 1:1 to 13:31

While the people of God were far away from Israel, the land that God had given them, there was no one to take care of it. The walls were broken down and the temple had been destroyed. Most of the people who were left there, and the ones who were far away, forgot about God.

Nehemiah worked for the king in the land far away. When Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem, the main city in Israel, was in ruins, he cried, fasted, and prayed. The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad. The king asked, "Why are you sad?"

Nehemiah explained that the place where his ancestors had lived and were buried was now rubble. The king asked, "What do you want me to do about it?"

Nehemiah said to the king, "Give me permission to go back and rebuild the city. Give me wood and the supplies to make the city great again."

And the king did just that!

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he gathered together other men and their families to rebuild the wall and the homes. Almost everyone was excited and willing to help, but some men made fun of Nehemiah and tried to stop him from his work.

When the wall was finished, more families came back from far away to live in Jerusalem.

A priest, named Ezra, knew that the people did not remember how to worship God. They had forgotten God's laws. So, he gathered together the people and read God's laws to them. He taught them how to worship God.

The people confessed their sins. Ezra helped them follow God's rules of tithing, honoring the Sabbath, offering sacrifices, taking care of the temple, and celebrating the festivals. The people signed a covenant that they would follow God and obey all of God's commandments.

Circle all correct answers.

1. Why was Nehemiah sad?
 - A. The king had a dream that no one could interpret.
 - B. The city of Jerusalem was in ruins.
 - C. The king did not let him go back to Jerusalem.
 - D. He did not like working for the king.

2. What did the king give to Nehemiah?
 - A. Permission to go to Jerusalem.
 - B. Wood and supplies to rebuild the city.
 - C. The Ten Commandments.
 - D. Five loaves and two fish.

3. What did Ezra do?
 - A. He made fun of Nehemiah and the workers.
 - B. He read God's laws to the people.
 - C. He stayed far away from Jerusalem.
 - D. He only ate vegetables and drank water.

4. The people signed a covenant that they would:
 - A. Leave Jerusalem.
 - B. Make Nehemiah their new king.
 - C. Build an ark.
 - D. Obey God's commandments.

Fill in the blanks.

5. What were two of God's rules that the people said that they would obey?

OLD TESTAMENT REVIEW

Fill in the blanks.

1. The Bible is like a _____.
2. God created the world. What did He do on the seventh day?

3. Who was on the ark?

Circle all correct answers.

4. Who left his country when he was 75 years old and had a son when he was 99 years old?
 - A. Adam
 - B. Eve
 - C. Abraham
 - D. King David
5. What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's twins?
 - A. Cain and Abel
 - B. Jacob and Esau
 - C. Peter and Paul
 - D. Mary and Joseph
6. What happened to Joseph?
 - A. His dad gave him a colorful coat.
 - B. His brothers put him in a pit.
 - C. He was a prisoner in Egypt.
 - D. He was almost as important as the king.

7. Who led God's people out of Egypt, received the Ten Commandments, and built a place to worship God?
- A. Noah
 - B. Nehemiah
 - C. Samson
 - D. Moses

Fill in the blanks.

8. What job did Deborah, Gideon, and Samson have?
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Circle all correct answers.

9. Which of these statements about King David are true?
- A. He was a "man after God's own heart."
 - B. He was the first king of Israel.
 - C. He became king of the whole world.
 - D. He was a shepherd who played the harp.
10. After he was taken far from home, how did Daniel help the king in his new country?
- A. He taught him how to speak his language.
 - B. He took him to the temple to worship God.
 - C. He told him what his dream meant.
 - D. He gave him his recipe for vegetable stir fry.
11. When Ezra and Nehemiah went back to Jerusalem, they saw that the city was in ruins. What did they do?
- A. They helped to rebuild the city.
 - B. They taught the people God's laws.
 - C. They built an ark.
 - D. They built a tower that reached to the sky.