

Summer Quarter 2019

Adults, Teens, and Growing Together!

Faith and Providence

A Call to Faith

June 2	Abram Called by God	<i>Genesis 11:31—12:9</i>
June 9	Dwelling in Canaan	<i>Genesis 13:10-18</i>
June 16	Abram Blessed by Melchizedek	<i>Genesis 14:1-2, 11-20</i>
June 23	Abram’s Exemplary Faith	<i>Genesis 15:1-17</i>

Maturing Faith

June 30	Abram’s First Son	<i>Genesis 16:1-11, 15-16</i>
July 7	An Everlasting Covenant	<i>Genesis 17:1-8, 15-21</i>
July 14	The Son of Promise	<i>Genesis 21:1-10</i>
July 21	Hagar and Ishmael Cast Out	<i>Genesis 21:11-21</i>
July 28	A Test of Faith	<i>Genesis 22:1-14</i>

Providential Blessings

August 4	God’s Choice for Isaac	<i>Genesis 24:10-20, 26-28</i>
August 11	Isaac and Rebekah	<i>Genesis 24:50-54, 59-67</i>
August 18	Sons for Isaac and Rebekah	<i>Genesis 25:19-28</i>
August 25	Isaac’s Abundant Blessings	<i>Genesis 26:1-5, 12-14, 20-25</i>

These lessons on faith and providence look into the lives of the patriarchs Abraham and Isaac. Unit I, entitled “A Call to Faith,” looks at the earlier days of Abraham’s life. In lesson 1 we study his call by God to leave Ur for a new land God would show him. After his time in Haran, he moved south to the land of Canaan. In lesson 2 we find Abram and Lot in Canaan separating and going different ways. God then affirmed to Abram that the land would belong to him and to his many descendants after him.

Lesson 3 introduces Melchizedek and his relationship with Abram. A lopsided battle preceded the meeting of these two men. This is followed in lesson 4 by God’s promise to Abram of many descendants and the land of Canaan. God sealed this promise through a special ritual.

Unit II shows us a more mature Abram, but one who was still learning God’s ways (“Maturing Faith”). Lesson 5 describes his attempt to “help” God give him his promised descendants. Lesson 6 describes God’s appearance and His promise of a covenant with Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham. In lesson 7 we finally get to the birth of Abraham’s son Isaac, the son of promise. Isaac was born when Abraham was one hundred years old.

Abraham faced some painful situations. First, he had to cast Hagar and Ishmael out of his home, as described in lesson 8. Second, he was severely tested by God, who told him to sacrifice the promised son Isaac, as we see in lesson 9. This test is a clear demonstration of how God has provided the Lamb of God to die in our place.

In Unit III, “Providential Blessings,” we pick up with Isaac and follow him through several incidents. In Lesson 10 we read about Abraham’s plan for finding Isaac a wife and how his servant carried out his instructions. Lesson 11 lets us look into Rebekah’s home and see her family’s reactions to the news of her coming departure and then describes the meeting of her husband. Forty years later, after serious prayer by Isaac, Rebekah gave birth to twin sons. Lesson 12 describes the struggles leading to their births.

Isaac’s life was uncertain when he faced a famine similar to one in his father’s day. Lesson 13 recounts his plan to leave for Egypt and God’s plan for him to stay put. Isaac obeyed and was very blessed.

Summer Quarter 2019

Beginners, Primaries, and Juniors

Flaws and Faith

Surprising Events

June 2	A Special Child Promised	<i>Judges 13:1-14</i>
June 9	The Birth of Samson	<i>Judges 13:15-25</i>
June 16	Unseen Guide	<i>Judges 14:1-9</i>
June 23	Samson's Clever Riddle	<i>Judges 14:10-20</i>

Samson's Victories and Failure

June 30	Samson Defeats the Philistines	<i>Judges 15:1-8; 16:1-3</i>
July 7	Mighty in the Spirit of the Lord	<i>Judges 15:9-20</i>
July 14	Samson Fools Delilah	<i>Judges 16:4-14</i>
July 21	Samson Tells His Secret	<i>Judges 16:15-21</i>
July 28	Samson's Final Victory	<i>Judges 16:22-31</i>

Changes of Heart

August 4	Jonah Tries to Run from God	<i>Jonah 1:1-13</i>
August 11	Jonah and the Big Fish	<i>Jonah 1:14—2:10</i>
August 18	The People of Nineveh Turn to God	<i>Jonah 3:1-10</i>
August 25	God's Love for People	<i>Jonah 4:1-11</i>

What an exciting opportunity awaits you! You have the great privilege of teaching God's Word to juniors! Your students are beginning to think logically; they are reading to learn (not simply learning to read); they are inquisitive; they are spiritually sensitive. Many salvation decisions are made during the junior years. I have included the plan of salvation two different times in the student book. Be alert for students who may be ready to receive Christ. Decisions to serve Christ are also made during these years. Model for your students that there is joy in serving Jesus.

The two main characters in this quarter's studies were flawed men, yet God chose to use them. What an encouragement!

These lessons present some difficult concepts: God's providence, the Spirit of God coming upon someone and also leaving that person, God's "repenting" of something He planned to do. I have provided some explanation as these truths present themselves in the various lessons, but you may want to know more. Talk to your pastor. He can help you and perhaps provide further material for you to read and study.

You may not be able to answer all the questions to the full satisfaction of your students. That is all right. I had a Bible college professor who often answered perplexing questions with these words from Scripture: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). He is infinite; we are finite.

Your students may be familiar with both Samson and Jonah. However, they will not know all the details Scripture provides about these two men. These are the areas you will probe in teaching the lessons.

The first two lessons about Samson concern the promise of his birth and the fulfillment of that promise. Samson had a good start! Lesson 3 introduces the subject of God's providence. This carries through several lessons as God uses Samson to defeat the Philistines time and again. Someone described Samson as one of the most puzzling characters in the entire Bible. You may feel that way as well as you watch him make bad decisions, go contrary to his Nazarite vow, and finally end up in disgrace. But God gave him a great victory at the end of his life, and you will celebrate that in lesson 9.

Lessons 10 through 13 focus on Jonah. Your students will probably know the facts of lessons 10 and 11 well, so go deeper. Why would Jonah not want to go to Nineveh? What do we learn about Jonah by the way he prayed in Jonah 2? Lessons 12 and 13 may be new to some students, especially Jonah 4. Jonah was selfish and self-centered. God was gracious and merciful.

Enjoy these lessons! Enjoy your students! May God bless you as you teach His Word to eager minds!