

Growing Together!

FOR CHILDREN AGES 4 THROUGH 11
TO BE USED BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

FALL QUARTER 2019
SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER



"CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES"
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A Children's Version of the Adult Lessons

Growing Together!



FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2019

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Union Gospel Press is pleased to present the Fall Quarter 2019 issue of the newest publication in the “Christian Life Series,” *Growing Together!* This quarterly was developed to serve the needs of our customers who desire the adult and children’s Sunday school lessons to be based on the same Scripture passages.

Growing Together! serves both as a learning tool for students ages four through eleven as well as a teaching tool for teachers.

We trust that this resource will help the children and adults in your Sunday school program GROW—together!

DELIVERANCE

God’s Word is filled with many instances of deliverance, all pointing to and illustrating the grand deliverance of our salvation in Christ.

The lessons for this quarter follow the drama of the deliverance of God’s people, Israel, from centuries of slavery in Egypt as recorded in Exodus. You will get a glimpse of how God planned and executed this great deliverance, prepared His people for it, overcame humanly insurmountable obstacles, and revealed His glory through the process.

In the first unit, you will get a sense of the terrible oppression that God’s people were suffering under. Here we will be introduced to the man whom God would shape and use for the great task of deliverance: Moses. You will see the divinely orchestrated circumstances of his birth, a long period with a seeming lack of purpose, and his dramatic call at the flaming bush that did not burn up. Through these lessons, you will see that God takes His time in preparing His servants but moves quickly when the time is right.

The second unit recounts the immediate preparations necessary for the deliverance of an entire nation from its bondage to an oppressing power. These preparations mostly involved bringing those oppressors to a state of willingness to release God’s people from their subjugation. This was accomplished through a series of increasingly severe, supernatural plagues. The pharaoh’s stubbornness was so great, however, that it took the sudden death of every firstborn in Egypt for him to agree to release the Hebrew slaves. The section ends with a massively significant act of preparation undertaken by the Israelites. This was the Passover, the means by which God’s people were spared the judgment of death, which has been yearly celebrated throughout their history ever since. Passover became the great picture of what Jesus would accomplish for His people on the cross.

The third and final unit follows the Israelites as they departed the land of their oppression, only to be pursued by Pharaoh’s army. At the point of seeming hopelessness, God accomplished Israel’s final deliverance at the Red Sea. God opened a miraculous way of escape, leading to the final destruction of the enemy. Even after untold centuries, it is still thrilling to walk with God’s people through this decisive moment.

Let these lessons inspire you to trust our awesome God more fully and help you to see His glory in even the darkest days He may call you to pass through.

Israel's Suffering

GOLDEN TEXT: “The Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage” (Exodus 1:13-14).

Exodus 1:7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

15 And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives,

of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:

16 And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see *them* upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

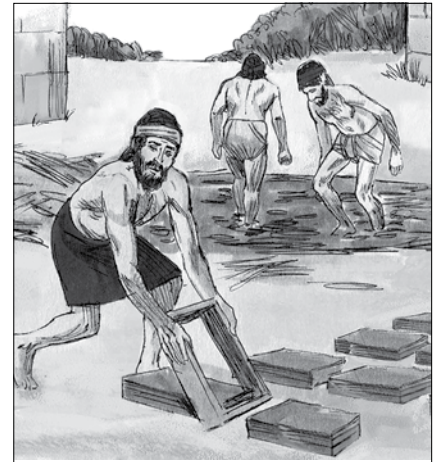
18 And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

19 And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

21 And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

22 And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.



The Egyptians made the Israelites work very hard.



Teacher Helps

The Hebrews had increased in number, leading the Egyptians to seek some way to control them. Pharaoh set taskmasters over the Israelites, and they were forced to build the treasure cities Pithom and Raameses. Later, Pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew children to be killed by the Hebrew midwives who assisted the birthing mothers—something the righteous Hebrew midwives refused to do. As a result, God blessed the midwives.

Ask the children why God blessed the midwives. Ask what they think would have happened if the midwives had obeyed Pharaoh's orders.

This week's Bible story is a simple lesson on faithfulness to God over man.

Themes to Stress

- Believers in God will sometimes go through very trying times.
- Faithfulness to God is a necessity.
- God blesses those who are faithful to Him.

Learn It and Live It!

- Ask: The Israelites were going through a very difficult time. Can you think of a difficult time you went through? How did God bring you through it?
- Ask: Sometimes it is hard to do what is right like the midwives. Describe a time when you had to make the difficult choice to do the right thing. What happened?

Hard Work

A Fictional Story Relating to Exodus 1:7-22

Thema's face soured as her cousin Estella held out her raincoat. "Hang this," she demanded.

Thema narrowed her eyes, but she hung the coat anyway.

Estella lived in a mansion. Usually, she had her nanny to boss around. But Estella's nanny had just quit, and her parents had gone overseas on business. So Estella had to stay with Thema.

Mom had told Thema to do anything Estella wanted. Mom was the head chef and Dad was the groundskeeper at Estella's mansion. They were afraid that if Estella complained about her stay, they would lose their jobs.

"What an ugly house," Estella muttered. "Would you go get my luggage? It's on the curb."

Thema went out in the pouring rain and picked up Estella's heavy bags. She huffed and puffed as she dragged them back inside, sopping wet.

"Oh, good," said Mom, who was now working in the kitchen. "Would you take Estella's things to your room?"

"My room?" Thema cried. "She's staying in the guest room!"

"She didn't like it," said Mom.

Thema dropped the bags on the floor. "Mom! This isn't fair!"

"I know," said Mom. "Your father and I are looking for other options for us, but right now these jobs are all we have. We need to trust that God will free us at the right time."

"I hope that time is soon," Thema sighed.



Estella made life difficult for Thema. But it was even worse for the Israelites when the Egyptians made them slaves and forced them to do hard work.

Bible Doctrine Link: God's Glory Through Suffering—I Peter 4:13

Despite their suffering in Egypt, God's blessing was on the children of Israel. He was keeping His promise to Abraham that his descendants would be as large in number as the "stars of the heaven" (Genesis 22:17). The New Testament church suffered persecution in Jerusalem. Christians scattered away from the city, but everywhere the believers went, they told people about Jesus (Acts 8:4). God's kingdom increased, and God received the glory (I Peter 4:13). God blessed Israel when they were being oppressed, and He received the glory that is due His name. As you tell others about the Lord, He desires to use your life to glorify Himself too!

BRICKS, BRICKS, AND MORE BRICKS!

You will need:

- rectangular prism template (available online)
- markers
- scissors
- tape



Instructions:

1. Cut out template, careful not to remove any necessary tabs.
2. Color and decorate each side of brick.
3. Fold as template directs. Tape any tabs down.
4. If there is extra time, try building bricks as a group.



Bible Lesson

Would you ever forget about someone who saved you, your family, and your entire country from starving to death? That sounds like someone who should surely be remembered and honored.

Abraham's great-grandson Joseph had been used by God to do just that. God had given Joseph the ability to understand the meaning of a strange dream that the king of Egypt had. Joseph instructed the pharaoh about what his dream meant and what he should do. Joseph's advice kept the people of Egypt and the surrounding lands from starving.

Pharaoh was very grateful to Joseph and his family. But eventually Joseph died, and a new pharaoh came to power.

New pharaoh, bad news (Exodus 1:7-14). Seventy members of Joseph's family had come to live in Egypt during the great famine. This group included his eleven brothers and his father, Jacob, to whom the Lord had given the new name of Israel. They were all Abraham's promised descendants through his son Isaac.

Their family continued to grow until they became the nation of Israel. The people of Israel are also sometimes called the Hebrews. Joseph and his brothers all died, but the number of their descendants continued to multiply.

The new pharaoh became worried. *What if the children of Israel join forces with one of our enemies and fight against us in battle?* he thought. Pharaoh came up with an evil plan. He decided to enslave the children of Israel and to treat them badly. He put taskmasters in charge of them and made them build the two cities that later became known as Pithom and Raamses.

The Egyptian taskmasters were very harsh toward the

people of Israel. But the worse they were treated, the more God caused Israel to increase in number. The Egyptians were afraid of how many of them there were.

Pharaoh's ruthless plan (Exodus 1:15-19). When Pharaoh's first plan did not work, he came up with a new plan that was even more cruel. He would stop the children of Israel from growing in number by having all the Hebrew boys killed when they were born.

Shiphrah and Puah were the women in charge of helping the Hebrew women deliver their babies. Pharaoh instructed them to kill all the baby boys as soon as they were born but to let the girls live. But the two women feared God more than Pharaoh, even though he was the king of Egypt.

Pharaoh's plan was still not working. He asked Shiphrah and Puah why they were not killing the Hebrew boys as instructed. They told him that the Hebrew women gave birth to their babies before they could arrive to help them.

God's kindness prevails (Exodus 1:20-22). God showed kindness to Shiphrah and Puah. He blessed them with families of their own. He also caused Israel to continue growing in number. Pharaoh did not like this and commanded all his people to drown the Hebrew boys that were born by throwing them into the Nile River.

Even though the evil pharaoh tried to stop the people of Israel from increasing, their number kept on growing. Through all their hard work and suffering, God gave Israel strength.

Going through tough times and dealing with pain and suffering is a part of life. In your tough times, you can always turn to God to receive strength. More tough times lay ahead for Israel, but God would still be with them.

A Bitter Load

Even though God was blessing the children of Israel with big families, they were forced to do all the hard work for the Egyptians, building things and working the fields. The Hebrews' lives were made bitter. To help illustrate what bitterness is, you will need a bag of 85 percent (or higher) cacao chocolate chips. Divide the class into two groups. With each group in a line on opposite sides of the room, facing the other group, have one child carry a heavy object (within reason, such as a stack of books or light hand weight) to the child opposite him. That child will carry the object to the second child on the first side and so on. Once every child has carried the weight once, start over again. This time, give each child two or three of the chocolate chips to eat as he carries the weight.

Fill in the Blanks

Read Exodus 1:7-22. Choose the correct word or words from the following list to complete each sentence.

AFFLICTED BURDENS COMMANDED EGYPT FAMILIES FEARED HEBREW
JOSEPH MIDWIVES MULTIPLIED PITHOM RAAMSES TASKMASTERS

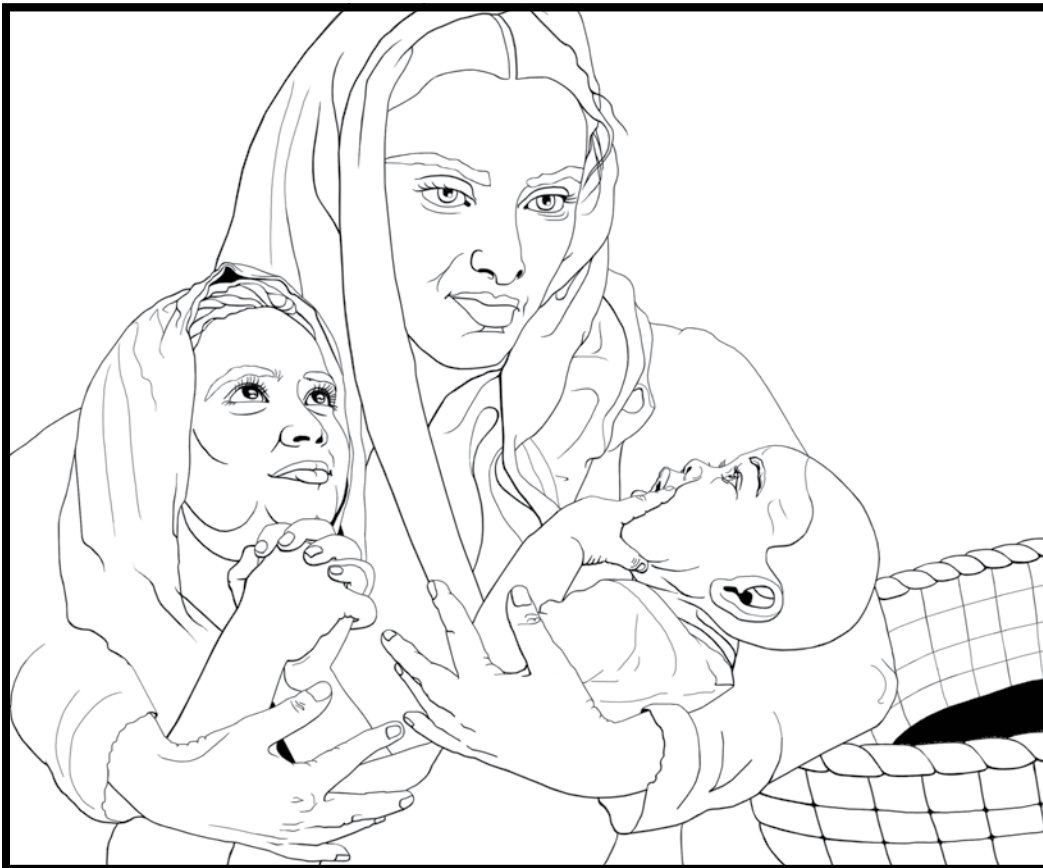
1. A new leader arose in _____ who did not know _____.
2. The Egyptians set cruel _____ over the Israelites to afflict them with heavy _____.
3. The Israelites were forced to build the Egyptian treasure cities of _____ and _____.
4. The more the Egyptians _____ the Israelites, the more they _____.
5. Pharaoh instructed the _____ to kill all the infant _____ boys as soon as they were born.
6. The Hebrew midwives _____ God and did not do as Pharaoh had _____. As a result, God blessed them with their own _____.

BIBLE PICTURES TO COLOR



Lesson 1

The Egyptians made the Israelites work very hard.



Lesson 2

Moses' mother put him in a basket to float on the river.