

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

¹⁰ A river watered the garden. It flowed from Eden. From there it separated into four other rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first river is the Pishon. It winds through the whole land of Havilah. Gold is found there. ¹² The gold of that land is good. Onyx and sweet-smelling resin are also found there.

¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It winds through the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris. It runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden. He put him there to work its ground and to take care of it.

¹⁶ The Lord God gave the man a command. He said, "You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. ¹⁷ But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die."

¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹ The Lord God had formed all of the wild animals. He had also formed all of the birds of the air. He had made all of them out of the ground. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give them. And the name the man gave each living creature became its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all of the livestock. He gave names to all of the birds of the air. And he gave names to all of the wild animals. But Adam didn't find a helper that was right for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused him to fall into a deep sleep. While the man was sleeping, the Lord God took out one of his ribs. He closed up the opening that was in his side. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman. He made her from the rib he had taken out of the man. And He brought her to him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What type of relationship does it seem like God had with Adam & Eve? (*Discuss together.*)
2. How direct was their contact? (*God was actually able to be with and talk with Adam and Eve.*)
3. In what ways is that contact different from ours today? (*Discuss.*)

Genesis 12:1-7 (NIRV) ~ God Chooses Abram

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family. Go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who calls down a curse on you. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you."

⁴ So Abram left, just as the Lord had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. They took all of the things they had gotten in Haran. They also took the workers they had gotten there. They set out for the land of Canaan. And they arrived there. ⁶ Abram traveled through the land. He went as far as the large tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the people of Canaan were living in the land.

⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said, "I will give this land to your children after you." So Abram built an altar there to honor the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What type of relationship does it seem like God had with Abram? (*Answers will vary. Discuss.*)
2. How direct was their contact? (*God was able to talk with Abram.*)
3. In what ways is that contact different from ours today? (*Discuss together.*)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Exodus 3:1-10 ~ The Lord Sends Moses to Save His People

¹ Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro was the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the western side of the desert. He came to Horeb. It was the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him from inside a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn't burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I'll go over and see this strange sight. Why doesn't the bush burn up?" ⁴ The Lord saw that Moses had gone over to look. So God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am," Moses said. ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground." ⁶ He continued, "I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob." When Moses heard that, he turned his face away. He was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, "I have seen my people suffer in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering." ⁸ "So I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I will bring them into a good land. It has a lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey. It is the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites." ⁹ "And now Israel's cry for help has reached me. I have seen the way the Egyptians are beating them down." ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh. I want you to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. They are my people."

Discussion Questions:

1. What type of relationship does it seem like God had with Moses? (*Answers will vary. Discuss.*)
2. How direct was their contact? (*Discuss.*)
3. In what ways is that contact different from ours today? (*Discuss together.*)

Acts 9:1-8 ~ Saul Becomes a Believer (Remind the children that we are in the New Testament now.)

¹ Meanwhile, Saul continued to oppose the Lord's followers. He said they would be put to death. He went to the high priest. ² He asked the priest for letters to the synagogues in Damascus. He wanted to find men and women who belonged to the Way of Jesus. The letters would allow him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ On his journey, Saul approached Damascus. Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground. He heard a voice speak to him. "Saul! Saul!" the voice said. "Why are you opposing me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus," he replied. "I am the one you are opposing." ⁶ Now get up and go into the city. There you will be told what you must do." ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there. They weren't able to speak. They had heard the sound. But they didn't see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What type of relationship does it seem like God had with Saul (later Paul)?
2. How direct was their contact?
3. In what ways is that contact different from ours today?

Conclusion:

Adam, Abraham, Moses and Saul all had a close relationship with God. But since we are able to read the Bible today, we are able to understand some things that each of these individuals could not, simply because we are able to read about and know the "bigger picture". Studying the Bible is another important Spiritual habit that we need to develop so that we can grow closer to God each day. Develop the habit of reading your Bible! (Message.)

Application to Real Life

If we want a closer relationship with God, we need to develop the habit of reading and studying the Bible. There are a variety of ways that you can begin this habit:

A Proverb a Day (Optional Activity)

Challenge your children to read one chapter of Proverbs for today. This is a book in the Old Testament that is full of wisdom and guidance for our lives. There are 31 chapters of Proverbs. So if you read one chapter a day, by the end of the month you will have read the entire book! One idea is, if it is the 15th of the month, read Proverbs 15, etc. (Give the students a chance to read the chapter for the day of the month you are currently on. Then invite them to share one thing they've learned with the rest of the class.)

A Verse in the Mirror

Pass out some index cards to the children and have them look up and actually write down one or two of their favorite verses. Challenge them to keep one card up each week on their mirror at home, and then replace it with a new one once the first one is committed to memory. Whether you're brushing your teeth or combing your hair everyone spends enough time in front of the mirror that they could read some Scripture while they are there. As you get ready in the morning, repeat the verse in your mind. This is a great way to memorize some Bible verses that have special meaning for you.

Read Slow/Think Slow (Optional Activity)

Have the children do this activity. Pick a Psalm for them to read and have them take it verse by verse, contemplating what they're reading. Then have them share what they learned. They might have different insights, but this practice will show them how easy it is to do this.

Challenge your children to choose one of these ideas and begin practicing it at home this week. Remind them that we want them to develop the (permanent) habit of reading their Bible. We want them to continue to draw closer to God each day.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse. Do you believe what it says? Explain your reasoning.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible! Make it a race!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Journal Reflection Questions

- How much do you read the Bible? How do you think this affects your relationship with the Lord? Write about it.
- Do you now feel the need to change your Bible study habits? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: **Spiritual Habits – Studying the Bible (Part 2)** as well as 1 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 15:4, Acts 2:36-37 and Hebrews 12:11.
- Learn the memory verse: “By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.” --2 Timothy 3:17 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith #____.
- Do you like to read the instructions first or are you one that likes to dive right in without getting instructions? Think about it. Be ready to share with your class.

