

# SEPTEMBER 13-19

## FOR PARENTS

This week we read about God's mighty act of Creation, God's Chosen People, and the birth of Israel. We start at the beginning, when **God created all that is, seen and unseen. And God made us, male and female, in the image of God.** We are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom, and love.

Adam and Eve begin the long line of stories that tell how we **have turned away from God and fallen into sin and often act in destructive and hateful ways.** Sin is closing our hearts to God and disobeying God's law. Sin results in our relationship with God being broken. All our relations with others are confused.

God, however, never abandons his people. God is always present, and through Abraham and Sarah, **God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior. The covenant is an everlasting agreement between God and Israel.**

**When God called Abraham and Sarah, God promised to bless their family, which was later called Israel. Through the people of Israel, God vowed to bless all the peoples of the earth. God**

**promised to be Israel's God, and they promised to be God's people. God vowed to love Israel and to be their hope forever, and Israel vowed to worship and serve only God.**

Through these stories, right up to the time when God's people are trapped in slavery in Egypt, we see God's faithfulness to his people. **God hates our sin, but never stops loving us. God cares for every creature and brings good out of evil, so that nothing evil is permitted to occur that God does not bend finally to the good.**

## KID CONNECTION

Our children will be able to relate to these stories of people making poor choices. Help them see how God forgives God's people and continues to provide ways for them to return to full relationship with God. Children need to hear that you love them unconditionally and that God too loves them with no limits. Children should also hear in these stories that we are created in God's image and, as God's people, we are creative and have a chance to find creative solutions to the issues that face us each day.

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## REMEMBER 1 THING

Just when it seemed the children of Israel were doomed, God made a way for them. God will make a way for you too.

# READING PLAN

Date	Chapter Titles From <i>Read and Learn Bible</i>	Scripture
9/13	The First Seven Days; God's Garden	Genesis 1-2
9/14	The Snake in the Garden	Genesis 3
9/15	The Flood and the Rainbows; The Tower of Babel; Abraham and Three Visitors	Genesis 6-9; 11-21
9/16	A Bride for Isaac; Esau and Jacob; God Comes to Jacob; Esau Forgives; A New Name for Jacob	Genesis 24-25; 27-28; 31-33; 35
9/17	Joseph the Dreamer; Sold!; Joseph and his Brother	Genesis 37; 39-45
9/18	The Baby in the Basket; The Burning Bush; Let My People Go; The 10th Plague	Exodus 1-12
Sunday	Into the Sea	Exodus 14; 15:8-12

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Instructions and discussion tips are available on the church website.

Choose one or more activities that will interest your family as you make this week's stories your own.

**Foil Paintings** — Create a foil depiction of one of the stories read this week.

Supplies needed: aluminum foil, pencils (not too sharp) or small art paintbrush, piece of cardboard approximately 8" by 11".

**Play a Game: Holy Ground Relay** — In Exodus 3 we read about how God called Moses to go back to Egypt to save the Hebrew people from slavery. God called to Moses from a burning bush and told him that the area around the bush was holy ground. Moses was told to take off his sandals because he would meet God on that holy ground.

**Breath Prayer** — Share with your family that God told Moses his name was I Am Who I Am. One name we use for God is Yahweh, which sounds like breath or wind and is the way the Hebrew people referred to "I Am Who I Am." Use this name to say a breath prayer.

**Make Unleavened Bread** — When the Hebrews left Egypt, they didn't have time for the bread to rise. They wanted to leave as fast as possible in case Pharaoh changed his mind. The bread was unleavened, meaning it didn't have yeast to help it rise. Make unleavened bread with your family.

## September 13-19

### Foil paintings:

Supplies needed: Aluminum foil, pencils (not too sharp,) or small art paintbrush, piece of cardboard approximately 8" x 11"

1. Choose one of the stories your family read this week. Invite family members to create a foil painting of that story.
2. Tear off a piece of foil large enough to cover one side of the cardboard. Cover the cardboard with the foil (shiny side out,) wrapping it to the back and taping it. The foil should be smooth.
3. Using the dull pencil or the end of the paintbrush, draw your picture into the foil. Don't worry about too much detail; some detail will be nice but etching too small will make the next step difficult.
4. OPTIONAL: apply a coat of black or brown tempera paint using a dry brush. The colors will appear very vibrant over the foil and will go into the etched lines. (If your family members drew about the crossing the sea, you can use blue tempera paint). Let the paint dry a little then use a paper towel to wipe off the excess of the paint, not wiping too hard. You don't want to remove the paint from the lines but leave some of it off the background foil.
5. Let your artwork dry and hang it somewhere so you can see it to remind you of the stories this week.

### Play a game: Holy Ground.

In Exodus 3 we read about how God called Moses to go back to Egypt to save the Hebrew people from slavery. God called to Moses from a burning bush and told him that the area around the bush was Holy Ground. Moses was told to take off his sandals because he would meet God on that Holy Ground.

Do a relay game with your family. If you are playing outside, mark a tree as the place of Holy Ground. If you are playing indoors, place a tape line or some identifier on the floor to mark Holy Ground. Share these directions:

Each of you will have a turn being Moses. When I say "Go" the first Moses will walk backwards to the line. The next person in line must be watching because when the first Moses reaches the tape line or designated Holy Ground, they need to call out "Holy Ground." Moses stops there, takes off his or her shoes and leaves them on the spot of Holy Ground. Then they skip back and tag the next family member to be Moses. Play continues until every person has had a chance to be Moses and a chance to be the caller.

### Breath Prayer:

Share with your family that God told Moses his name was *I Am Who I Am*. One name we use for God is Yahweh which sounds like breath or wind and is the way the Hebrew People referred to *I Am Who I Am*.

Say, "When we breathe in, we can make the "yah" sound. When we breathe out, we can make the "weh" sound. Practice it a couple of times, then say this prayer, prompting family members to join you breathing in and out God's name, Yahweh.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You were with Abraham and Sarah and with all of our ancestors.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You were with the Hebrew slaves, wiping their tears.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You sent Moses to let freedom ring.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You are with us in happy times and sad times.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You have work for us to do.

Yah-weh, Yah-weh And when the work is hard and we are afraid,

Yah-weh, Yah-weh. You will be with us. Amen.

### **Make Unleavened Bread**

When the Hebrews left Egypt, they didn't have time for the bread to rise. They wanted to leave as fast as possible in case Pharaoh changed his mind. The bread was "unleavened" meaning it didn't have yeast to help it rise.

1. Make unleavened bread with your family.
2. Mix 2 cups of flour and 1 tsp. of salt in a bowl. In a second bowl mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cooking oil,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk and 2 tablespoons honey. Combine the dry and wet ingredients and mix well. (You may want to use gloves and do with your hands.)
3. Divide the dough into 12 pieces and invite family members to knead the dough on a floured surface, with floured hands. Knead the dough until it is soft and elastic.
4. Coat the ball of dough with flour, then flatten with the palm of your hand to create a circle shape about 5 inches in diameter. Pick up the dough and flip it from one hand to the other to remove some of the excess flour and to stretch the dough a little bit. Place the circles on the cookie sheet. Prick them with a fork. Bake for 20 minutes. Eat with honey or butter.