

# Pictures of Jesus from the Old Testament

## Level I and II Teacher's Notes

### Lesson 1 "The Passover"

Exodus 12:1-13, 28-31

#### PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 1 "The Passover"

- \* Read Exodus chapters 1-11.
- \* Read and know the **INTRODUCTION**.
- \* Gather the **MATERIALS** for the **INTRODUCTION**.
- \* Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- \* Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- \* Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- \* Read and know the **APPLICATION**.

**MATERIALS:**-a children's picture book filled with pictures  
-an adult book with no pictures

#### INTRODUCTION

*Show both books to the students.*

- Which book would you like to read? (Children's book)
- Why? (Has pictures in it)
- Why would you want to read a book with pictures in it? (More fun to look at, easy to see what is happening)

*Open up to a picture in the book.*

- Without me even reading a page to you, what can you tell me about this book by just looking at this picture? (Answers vary)
- So pictures are very helpful to tell a story and show us what is happening.
- God uses pictures as well.
- He uses pictures to tell us about His Son, Jesus Christ.
- This week we will talk about five of these pictures that tell us about Jesus and what He has done for us.

#### BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following background information about the Children of Israel in Egypt:

- \* Jacob's family moved to Egypt to live because there was no food.
- \* They had many children and grew to be a large number of people, anywhere from 1 to 3 million people. (Relate this number of people to the number of people living in your city or a big city near you.)
- \* The Bible calls these people the Children of Israel. (Explain who the Children of Israel are.)

- \* Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, wanted to get rid of these people. (Explain that Pharaoh is the king of Egypt.)
- \* Pharaoh decided to make the Children of Israel work, but he did not give them money for their work. He made them slaves.
- \* Pharaoh hurt the Children of Israel by whipping them and beating them if they didn't work hard.
- \* Pharaoh decided to kill all the baby boys by throwing them into the river.
- \* God kept a baby boy named Moses alive.
- \* Moses was to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt.
- \* Pharaoh did not want his slaves, the Children of Israel, to leave.
- \* God sent ten bad troubles (ten plagues) like sicknesses, destroying insects, and storms to show the king and the people of Egypt that God is the True God and the Children of Israel are special to Him.
- \* The last trouble or plague was called the Passover; God killed the oldest child and oldest animal in each family.

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Rom. 3:23 All of us have sinned (done something bad) and need Jesus to take away our sin. (They may not clearly understand the concept of sin. Explain that a sin is something bad we do that God tells us not to do.  
Examples: yelling at others, lying, calling people names, hitting others, saying "no" to mom and dad, not doing what you are told, not sharing.)
- John 1:29 Jesus is called the Lamb of God.
- I Peter 1:19 Jesus was perfect just like the lamb that had no spots or bad marks.
- Rom. 5:8 Jesus died for us just like the lamb died for the Children of Israel.
- I John 1:7 Jesus saved us by shedding His blood on the cross just like the lamb's blood on the doorpost saved God's people.

**Jesus was the Passover Lamb who shed His blood on the cross and died to take away all our sins.**

### **APPLICATION**

- Why did God send those ten troubles or plagues to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and his people?** (To punish Egypt for hurting the Children of Israel; to show that God is real; to show the Children of Israel that they are special to Him.)
- Have you been mean to people?** (Yes)
- What are some bad things that we do?** (Answers vary, but point out to the students that they sometimes yell at others, lie, call people names, hit others, say "no" to mom and dad, don't do what they are told, don't share.)
- We call all of these bad things we do sins.**
- Everyone sins. You sin, I sin, your parents sin, the pastor sins, everybody sins.**
- Who is the only person who did not sin?** (Jesus)
- Because Jesus did not sin, God sent Him to die and shed His blood on the cross to take away all our sins.**
- What saved the Children of Israel from being killed?** (The lamb dying and shedding its blood on the doorpost saved the Children of Israel.)
- What saves us from all our sins?** (Jesus dying and shedding His blood on the cross saved us from our sins.)
- Jesus died and shed His blood on the cross to save us just like the Passover lamb died and shed its blood on the doorpost to save God's people.**
- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?** (To take away all our sins.)
- Jesus died on the cross to take away all those sins, those bad things, we do everyday like: yell, lie, call names, hit others, say "no," disobey, and don't share.**
- Jesus washed all our sins away so we don't have to worry about those bad things we do.**
- We are saved and can go to heaven because of Jesus our Passover Lamb.**

# Lesson 2 “The Scapegoat”

Leviticus 16:2-10, 20-22

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 2 “The Scapegoat”

- \* Read Leviticus 16.
- \* Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- \* Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- \* Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- \* Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- \* Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

## INTRODUCTION

Have two children come to the front of the room.

Tell the two children that they are going to pretend to be related: brothers, sisters, or brother and sister.

Tell them that you are going to pretend to be their parent.

Pick one child and tell that child that he or she walked into your room and stole \$10 from you. Have them act it out.

Have the other child just stand there and watch.

Tell them that you knew what he or she did.

**-If I found out what happened, what do you think I will do? (Punish that child.)**

**-Why? (Because that child did something wrong.)**

**-But I’m not going to do that. I’m going to punish the other child.**

Let them think about this for a little bit.

**-What would you think if I punished the other child? (NOT FAIR!)**

**-Why wouldn’t it be fair? (That child didn’t do anything wrong.)**

**-This is exactly what God did.**

**-We do bad things all the time. We lie, say “no” to our parents, make fun of other children, say bad words, try to hurt other people, or don’t share.**

**-What do we call these bad things we do? (Sins)**

**-But God doesn’t punish us for our sins. He punished Jesus instead, but Jesus didn’t do anything wrong.**

**-Who do you think the child who stole the money is? (Us, people who sin.)**

**-Who do you think the child who didn’t do anything wrong is? (Jesus)**

**-God is going to show us a picture today of just this.**

**-A picture about Jesus being punished for our sins and taking all our sins away even though He didn’t do anything wrong.**

**-Let’s listen today to a story about another picture God gives to show us about Jesus.**

**-This picture is a scapegoat.**

## BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about a special day called the Day of Atonement:

- \* The Day of Atonement was a special day for the Children of Israel, God’s people.
- \* This day was like a holiday that we celebrate today.
- \* God told the Children of Israel to do certain things on this day.
- \* We will talk about one of those things that God told the Children of Israel to do on the Day of Atonement.

- \* Discuss with students what the term Scapegoat means. Relate it back to the introduction (someone taking the punishment for someone else even though that person didn't do anything wrong.)

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Rom. 3:23 All of us have sinned (done something bad) and need Jesus to take away our sin. Review with the students what sin is and ask for some examples of sin in their life to see if they understand what was discussed yesterday.
- Micah 7:18-19 Jesus has taken our sins and gotten rid of them, He has thrown them into the ocean where we can't find them anymore.
- Psalm 103:12 Jesus has taken our sins and moved them as far away as possible.
- Jer. 31:34 Jesus has forgiven our sins, and He doesn't remember what we did anymore.
- II Cor. 5:21 Jesus who never sinned once, took all our sin and was blamed for it so we wouldn't be punished.
- John 1:29 Jesus is the lamb or goat who died to take our sins away, but He is also the lamb or goat who was sent away to take our sins away from us.

**Jesus was the Scapegoat who was punished for all our sins even though He didn't do anything wrong. He took them all away from us so we won't get punished. Our sins are gone.**

### **APPLICATION**

- Raise your hand if you have ever done something bad or sinned.**
- When your mom or dad finds out about what you did, what do you do sometimes?** (Blame someone else or say, "I didn't do it.")
- Why do we blame others or say, "I didn't do it" when we really did do it?** (Don't want to get in trouble.)
- Do we deserve to be punished for those bad things we do?** (Yes)
- Why?** (We did them, we disobeyed.)
- If we get punished for something we didn't do, like in the play we acted out at the beginning (refer to the introduction), what do we usually say?** (It's not fair!)
- That is what it was like for Jesus.**
- It was not fair that Jesus had to take all our sins and die for them on the cross.**
- Why not?** (He didn't do anything wrong.)
- If He didn't sin or do anything wrong, why did He get punished for all our sins?** (He loved us and willingly took our place in order to save us from getting punished for them.)
- Jesus loved us so much that He didn't want us to be punished for all the sins we do.**
- He wanted to be punished for us so we wouldn't get punished.**
- What did Jesus do for us?** (He died on the cross to take away our sins.)
- Jesus' punishment was to pay for all our sins.**
- He paid for them instead of us paying for them.**
- He is our Scapegoat who took all our sins away from us.**
- He got blamed for our sins and we didn't.**
- What do we receive because Jesus took away all our sins?** (Forgiveness of sins and we will go to heaven when we die.)

# Lesson 3 “The Bronze Snake”

Numbers 21:4-9

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 3 “The Bronze Snake”

- \* Read Numbers 21:4-9.
- \* Read John 3.
- \* Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- \* Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- \* Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- \* Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- \* Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

## INTRODUCTION:

Materials: -a small rubber snake,  
-a stick or two popsicle sticks glued in the shape of a cross

Show the snake to the children.

- What is this?**(Snake)
- Is it real?** (No)
- If it were real what could it do?** (Bite somebody.)
- Some snakes are poisonous. What does that mean?** (Have poison so if they bite you, you can die.)
- Are snakes something that can help you or hurt you?** (Hurt you.)
- If you see a snake, what should you do?** (Leave it alone.)
- Why?** (It might bite you.)
- Today we are going to talk about another picture God gives to us.**
- This picture is a snake.**
- This snake didn't hurt people so they would die, but it saved people from dying.**
- This snake was put up on a pole for the people to see.**
- We will see how this picture is just like Jesus.**

While teaching the story wrap the snake around the stick or popsicle sticks to show what the people would have to look at in order to be saved from the poisonous snakes.

## BACKGROUND

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about the Children of Israel leaving Egypt:

- \* Briefly remind students of Lesson 1's story about the Children of Israel leaving Egypt.
- \* God promised He was going to take the Children of Israel to a new place to live called Canaan, or the Promised Land.
- \* God helped His people by giving them special food, water, and protection during this trip.
- \* God sent bread from heaven called Manna for His people to eat.
- \* The Children of Israel just had to go outside and pick up the bread.
- \* God showed Moses where to go, and they made it to the Promised Land of Canaan.
- \* When they got there, Moses sent 12 men to check out the land to see what it was like.
- \* Two men said the land was good and with God's help they could defeat the enemies and live in the land.

- \* The other 10 men said the enemies were too strong, and they couldn't live in the land.
- \* The Children of Israel didn't want to go into the Promised Land of Canaan.
- \* Since they didn't trust in God, God told them they couldn't go into the Promised Land of Canaan, but they would die in the wilderness. Their children, however, would live in the Promised Land.
- \* The Children of Israel walked from place to place through a desert for 40 years. (That is longer than your parents have been alive.)
- \* The Children of Israel complained (saying "I don't like this" or "I don't want this") about the food God gave to them.
- \* God gave them this Manna to eat for the 40 years they walked in the desert. (Imagine eating the same food everyday for a week, a month, a year, your whole life, and then for 40 years!)
- \* God sent poisonous snakes to punish the people for their complaining, but then God showed them His love by saving them by a special snake Moses made.

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Rom. 3:23 We sin just like the Children of Israel when we complain. We complain about going to bed, brushing our teeth, doing jobs our parents tell us to do, eating foods we don't like, and not getting toys that we want to have, sharing our toys with others.
- I Cor. 10:9-10 God doesn't want us to complain about anything. It is a sin.
- John 3:16 God sent Jesus to this earth to die to take away all our sins so we can be saved.
- Mark 16:16 All who believe in Jesus will be saved and go to heaven, those who don't believe won't be saved but will go to hell.
- John 3:13-14 Jesus was put up on the cross just like the snake was put up on the pole. Jesus saves all those who believe in Him just like the snake saved those who were bit by the poisonous snakes.

**Jesus was hung on the cross to save us from our sins just like the Bronze Snake was hung on the pole.**

### **APPLICATION**

- What did you eat for lunch yesterday? (Answers vary.)
- How would you feel if you had that same thing for lunch today? (Answers vary.)
- How would you feel if you had that same thing for supper tonight? (Answers vary.)
- How would you feel if you had that same thing for breakfast tomorrow? (Answers vary.)
- How would you feel if you had that same thing for each meal: breakfast, lunch, and supper for the rest of the week? (Answers vary.)
- How about the same thing for next week, the week after, all of this month, the rest of the year till Christmas time, till you are 20, till you are as old as your parents? (Won't like it.)
- What would you think of that food? (Wouldn't want to eat it.)
- What would you start to do? (Complain about it.)
- That is what the Children of Israel did.
- Would we complain just like they did? (Yes.)
- We complain all the time about things.
- What are some things that we complain about? (Answers vary but discuss each one as they respond. Some should include: We complain about going to bed, brushing our teeth, doing jobs our parents tell us to do, eating foods we don't like, and not getting toys that we want to have, sharing our toys with others.)
- When the Children of Israel complained, what did God do to them? (He sent poisonous snakes to bite them, and they died.)
- What does God call it when we complain? (Sin.)
- What did God do to save the Children of Israel from the poisonous snakes? (He had them look at the

Bronze Snake, and they would be saved.)

**-What did God do to save us from our sins of complaining?** (He sent Jesus to die on the cross to save us.)  
**The Children of Israel were saved from the poisonous snakes by looking at the Bronze Snake on the pole.**  
**We are saved from our sins by believing that Jesus died on the cross for us.**

## **Lesson 4 “Jonah and the Fish”**

Jonah 1:1-5, 10-2:10

### **PREPARATION**

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 4 “Jonah and the Fish”

- \* Read Jonah 1 and 2.
- \* Read Matthew 12:39-41.
- \* Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- \* Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- \* Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- \* Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- \* Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Materials:-a marble-an action figure toy  
-a piece of bread-a book

**-Raise your hands if you have gone fishing.**

**-What is the biggest fish you have ever caught?** (Answers vary.)

*Hold up each item as you ask the following questions:*

**-Could any of those fish you caught be able to swallow a marble?** (Yes)

**-Could any of those fish you caught be able to swallow a piece of bread?** (Yes)

**-Could any of those fish you caught be able to swallow an action figure toy?** (Maybe)

**-Could any of those fish you caught be able to swallow a book?** (Maybe, but probably not.)

**-Could any of those fish you caught be able to swallow a person?** (NO!)

**-In today’s story we are going to talk about a fish that was so big it swallowed a man.**

**-Let’s find out what this picture from God has to do with Jesus.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about Jonah:

- \* Nineveh was a big city that had a lot of people.
- \* Those people didn’t believe in God but worshiped other gods.
- \* God told Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh and tell them about the true God.
- \* God told Jonah that the people needed to say they were sorry for their sins and God would save them.
- \* Jonah didn’t want to go to Nineveh and preach.
- \* Jonah didn’t want the bad people of Nineveh to be saved.
- \* Jonah got into a boat and tried to sail away from God.
- \* This was sinful for Jonah to do.
- \* God knew where Jonah was.
- \* God used a fish to show Jonah how good God’s love is.

### **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Rom. 3:23 We sin just like Jonah by not doing what God wants us to do. We don't listen to our parents when God says we should. We don't share with others when God says we should. We don't always want to go to church when God wants us to worship Him. We sometimes do not want to tell others about Jesus even though we know they don't know Jesus as their Savior.
- Matt. 16:21, 17:22-23, 20:17-19 Jesus had to suffer and die but then rise from the dead to save us from our sin.
- I Cor. 15:14, 17-20 If Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, then we would not be saved.
- John 10:17-18 Jesus died on the cross, but He had the power to come back to life.
- Matt. 12:40 Just like Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and nights, so Jesus was in the grave for three days.

**After being in the tomb for three days, Jesus rose from the dead to save us from our sins just like Jonah was inside the fish for three days and then was spit out on dry ground.**

### **APPLICATION**

- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?** (To save us from our sins.)
- Did He stay dead?** (No, He rose from the dead.)
- Is Jesus still alive today?** (Yes)
- Where is Jesus?** (In heaven.)
- Jesus is in heaven, but Jesus is with us here on earth. He is everywhere.**
- Will we ever get to see Jesus?** (Yes)
- When?** (When we die, we will get to see Jesus in heaven.)
- Since Jesus rose from the dead, He promises us that we will rise from the dead.**
- When will that happen?** (On Judgment Day) *They may not know this, so an explanation of Judgment Day would be important. This is the day Jesus will come back to earth. He will raise all people from the dead, and He will take all the believers to be with Him in heaven.*
- Should we be afraid to die?** (No)
- Why not?** (Jesus will take us to heaven after we die, and that is the best place to be because He is there.)
- We should want to tell everyone we know that Jesus is alive. He rose from the dead.**
- Why should we want to tell others about Jesus being alive?** (So they can go to heaven.)
- Jesus is alive and saved us from our sins.**



# Lesson 5 “The Shepherd Psalm”

Psalm 23

## PREPARATION

Suggested helps in preparing for Lesson 5 “The Shepherd Psalm”

- \* Read Psalm 23.
- \* Read John 10:14-18.
- \* Read and know the **INTRODUCTION** well.
- \* Familiarize yourself with the **BACKGROUND** information.
- \* Study the story so you can tell it to the children without reading it.
- \* Read the passages in the **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT** and study the key thoughts.
- \* Read and know the **APPLICATION** well.

## INTRODUCTION:

Materials:-a shepherd’s staff (if possible) or a picture of a shepherd’s staff  
or draw a shepherd’s staff on the board

Show the shepherd’s staff or picture of the shepherd’s staff to the children.

- What is this?**(Shepherd’s staff.) If they don’t know, give them some hints about sheep or lambs.
- Who uses this?** (A shepherd.)
- What does a shepherd use it for?** (To move or guide the sheep where he wants them to go and for protection.)
- Raise your hand if you have seen a sheep or lamb before.**
- Lions have sharp teeth and claws to protect themselves.**
- Bears are big and strong so they can protect themselves.**
- Birds can fly to get away from animals that want to eat them.**
- Rabbits are fast so they can run and hide from their enemies.**
- What do sheep have to defend themselves?** (Nothing)
- Do they have sharp teeth?** (No)
- Do they have big claws?** (No)
- Are they strong?**(No)
- Can they fly away?** (No)
- Can they run fast and hide?** (No)
- That is why a shepherd has to watch over his sheep to protect them from wild animals like bears, lions, and wolves.**
- A shepherd will use his staff to fight off these wild animals to keep them from eating his sheep.**
  
- Today we will talk about one last picture that God uses to show us something about Jesus.**
- This picture is a shepherd.**
- Who do you think the shepherd is a picture of?** (Jesus)
- We are going to hear why Jesus is called our Good Shepherd.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Simply and briefly tell students the following information about sheep, shepherds, and the Psalms:

- \* A psalm is a song that was written for the Children of Israel to sing.
- \* David (the man who killed Goliath the giant) wrote this song.
- \* David was a shepherd who watched sheep (I Samuel 17:34-37).
- \* This psalm or song is written about a shepherd and sheep.
- \* Sheep have no way of protecting themselves: no claws, no sharp teeth, they can't fly or run fast.
- \* Sheep like to walk where they aren't supposed to.
- \* Sheep need to be shown where they can eat and drink.
- \* Sheep need a shepherd (a person who watches the sheep) to protect them, feed them, and care for them.
- \* A shepherd uses a staff to protect the sheep and to show them where they can walk.
- \* Jesus is called our Good Shepherd because He takes care of us just like a shepherd takes care of sheep.

## **KEY THOUGHTS TO PRESENT IN THE STORY**

- Isaiah 53:6 We like to do what we aren't supposed to do, just like sheep like to walk where they aren't supposed to. But Jesus died to take away all these sins.
- I Peter 5:8 Lions like to eat sheep. We need protection against the devil who is pictured as a lion. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is stronger than the devil and will protect us.
- John 10:14-18 Jesus is our Good Shepherd who knows each one of us, His sheep. He takes care of us just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Jesus protects us, feeds us, forgives us, and saves us. Jesus died for us so we could be saved.

**Jesus is the Good Shepherd who protects us, feeds us,  
and loves us so much that He died to save us, just like a  
shepherd protects, feeds, and loves his sheep.**

## **APPLICATION**

- Tell me a time when you were afraid or scared?** (Answers vary. Give multiple children time to respond but make sure their stories stay on track and don't get off the subject.)
- Why was this a scary time for you?** (Answers vary.)
- What did you do to stop being scared?** (Answers vary but probably will include going to mom and dad.)
- Who was watching over you the whole time you were scared?** (Jesus)
- Jesus was watching over you and protecting you while you were scared.**
- He protects you just like a shepherd protects his sheep from danger.**
- When we are scared or when we are in trouble we should pray to Jesus for help.**
- Jesus our Good Shepherd will hear our prayer and help us.**
- Jesus does many good things for us.**
- Tell me some things He has done for us.** (Gives us food, parents, friends, school, church, ability to run and play and think, home, toys, etc.)
- Jesus gives us all these things just like a shepherd gives things to his sheep.**
- What is the most important thing Jesus has done for us?** (He died to save us.)
- Jesus saved us just like a shepherd saves his sheep from danger.**
- Who did Jesus save us from?** (The devil and our sin.)
- Since Jesus is our Good Shepherd, what does the Bible call us?** (Sheep or little lambs.)
- It is good to be a sheep or little lamb because then Jesus can take care of us, help us, and protect us.**
- Do you know the name of a song that calls us little lambs and Jesus our Shepherd?** (Answers vary, *I Am Jesus Little Lamb*; *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*; *The Lord My Shepherd Is*; *Shepherd of Tender Youth*.)
- Let's sing *I Am Jesus Little Lamb* to Jesus our Good Shepherd.**