

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 19
Joshua Leads the Battle, Aaron and Hur (Exodus 17:8-16)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord is always present with us and watching over us.
- B. We must look to the Lord for help to overcome our temptations.
- C. The long, hard journey through the wilderness to Canaan represents our journey to our heavenly home.
- D. Joshua represents the truth, fighting.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. The children of Israel had a long journey from Egypt through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. They traveled for forty years before they arrived, and it was not an easy journey! There was no food to eat, so the Lord sent them manna each day. Sometimes there was no water to drink. Do you remember the two times the Lord gave Moses the power to bring water out of a rock? (The first time Moses did as the Lord said, struck the rock, and gave the Lord the credit for the miracle; the second time he was only to speak to the rock, but instead he chose to strike it, and he also took the credit for the miracle to himself; so he was not allowed to enter the land of Canaan but eventually died before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River.)
2. As if their journey were not already difficult enough, in our lesson today we learn that the children of Israel had to meet and fight enemies during their journey. Today we will hear about the first battle they fought.
3. The children of Israel were camping at Rephidim when the Amalekites attacked them. Though the children of Israel weren't used to fighting battles (don't forget, they had been only slaves in Egypt, not soldiers), the Lord was on their side and helped them win their first battle.

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B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 17:8-16

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who attacked the children of Israel at Rephidim? (The Amalekites)
2. What did Moses tell Joshua to do? (Choose some men and go out to fight the Amalekites)
3. What did Moses do? (He stood on top of the hill with the rod of God in his hands.)
4. Who went with Moses to the top of the hill? (Aaron and Hur)
5. What happened when Moses held up his hands to the Lord? (The children of Israel won the battle.)
What happened when Moses let his arms sink down? (The Amalekites won the battle.)
6. What did Aaron and Hur do when Moses became tired? (They brought a stone for him to sit on, and they held up his hands for him.)
7. How long did Moses have his hands lifted to the Lord for help? (Until the sun set)
8. Who won the battle? (The children of Israel)
9. How did Moses thank the Lord for His help? (Moses built an altar and called it "The Lord is My Banner.")

D. Further Ideas

1. Joshua was the leader of the army. You will hear more about him. He was a good man, and the Lord made Joshua the leader of the children of Israel when Moses died.
2. The Amalekites stand for evil spirits who attack people who are being led by the Lord to heaven. The children of Israel won the battle because Moses asked the Lord for help.
3. We must do our part in battling evil spirits just as Joshua fought the Amalekites. And we must look to the Lord as Moses did, for it is He who really wins the battle for us.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "As warriors true," HYMNAL #175
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," HYMNAL #169

B. Activities

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1. Have children hold up their arms to see how quickly this becomes tiring. Then have them help each other as Aaron and Hur helped Moses.

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C. Project: Movable Battle Scene

1. Text slip: "When Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed." (Exodus 17:11)

2. Materials:

- a. 9" x 6" sheets of white construction or drawing paper
- b. 9" x 12" sheets of tan construction paper
- c. Paper fasteners
- d. Glue
- e. Felt markers
- f. Figures of Moses to color and cut out (his arms should be separate and able to be attached with paper fasteners) - 2 ½" to 3" tall
- g. (Razor blade or utility knife for teacher)

3. Before Class:

- a. Starting about 1 ½" from the left side, slit the 9" x 12" sheets horizontally about 2 ½" from the bottom of the paper. Stop the slit about 1 1/2" from the right side.

4. In Class:

- a. On 9" x 6" sheets (laid horizontally) children draw the battle between the Amalekites and the children of Israel. Be sure to show Joshua leading the children of Israel. Encourage the children to use primarily one color for the children of Israel and another for the Amalekites so the two armies are easily distinguishable from one another.
- b. Attach a paper "handle" to the back of the picture that will extend through the slit in the 9" x 12" sheet. (The handle will be used for moving the battle scene to the right and left, showing that sometimes the Amalekites prevailed, and sometimes the children of Israel, depending on the position of Moses' arms.)
- c. Children color and cut out the figure of Moses.
- d. On the 9" x 12" tan paper (laid horizontally), draw a hill at the upper right or upper left corner. Glue Moses onto the hill. Attach each arm with a paper fastener so his arms can be raised and lowered.

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(Remind children that the sun was shining that day.)

- e. Insert the battle scene's "handle" through the slit in the larger sheet.
- f. Have children lower Moses' arms and move the battle scene to show the Amalekites winning the battle; then raise Moses' arms and move the scene to show the children of Israel winning.

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D. Project: Drawn Scene

1. Children draw the battle on 12" X 18" tan construction paper with Joshua leading the children of Israel. Show Moses on a hill sitting on a rock with Aaron and Hur holding up his hands to the Lord.

IV. Teaching Aids

A. Illustrations of:

1. Joshua leading the battle against the Amalekites
2. Moses raising his hands to the Lord on the hill top
3. Aaron and Hur supporting Moses' hands
4. The children of Israel on their journey through the wilderness to the land of Canaan

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. The Sower, Vol. 1, "Water Given: Amalek Overcome" (Exodus 17), pp. 272-275.

B. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "At Rephidim" (Exodus 17), pp. 110-123.