

WELCOME TO

THE BIBLE

DISCOVERY

MUSEUM



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THE BIBLE DISCOVERY MUSEUM SAMPLE PAGES

Thank you for taking a moment to review this curriculum. We have included 25 sample pages of this course to give you a basic idea of the materials you will receive with this course. (The first page you view will give you a listing of all the files that are contained in this course.) Should you decide to order this program, the course disk (or Internet-sent files) that you would receive comes with nearly 300 pages of materials. Of course, you wouldn't be needing them all, but you can select from those you will use. We're sorry we could not give you the entire program to preview, however because this course is completely reproducible, we could not do that. If you have any questions about contents or materials please call or e-mail. Just a reminder that you can either order this course as a CD or have it sent to you via the Internet. (For details go to the buttons on the bottom of the home page.)

- These course are ideal for a Vacation Bible School program, although they also work well in a Family Bible Night or even for Sunday school classes during the year.
- All preschool to grade 6 lessons come on the disk in black and white or full color.
- All sample and final course pages are in PDF format. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read them. If you do not have this already in your computer, you can download a free program at www.adobe.com.



■ **As you page through these samples, you will notice red “speaking bubbles” like the one just to the left. Just double click on these bubbles and a note will drop down with added information provided by the authors about that page. (These notes will not appear if you print out the copy.) Now click on the bubble to the left.**

- Remember that although you may see a sample page using the KJV or NIV, the disk comes with BOTH versions on it.
- NOT included with these samples is a wide variety of templates for certificates, bulletin inserts, doorknob hanger masters, etc. that are on the disk.
- If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 1-800-669-0887 or e-mail us at info@kremerpublications.com.

The following sample pages are included in this file:

Course Overview (3 pages)

Important Devotion Information

Devotion Sample for Day 3

Story Background and Application for Day 1 (2 pages)

Classroom Museum Presentation (only page one)

Preschool and Kindergarten Teacher Page Introduction and Teacher Guide for Day 1 (2 pages)

Preschool and Kindergarten Lesson for Day 1

Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Page for Day 1

Preschool and Kindergarten Activity Page for Day 1

Grades 3 and 4 Lesson for Day 4

Grades 5 and 6 Lesson for Day 5

Youth and Adult Lesson for Session 4

Snack Ideas (only page one)

Crafts Ideas for Day 4 Grades 3-6

Theme Song Sheet Music

Decorations and Dress (only page one)

Classroom Approach (only page one)

“Things from the Bible” Booklet Pages 3 and 4



HERE IS YOUR **BIBLE DISCOVERY MUSEUM** COMPUTER DISK FILE

A - READ FIRST

COURSE OVERVIEW & CLASSROOM APPROACH

B - PRE/K & KINDERGARTEN

1 - STORY BACKGROUND & APPLICATION
2 - TEACHER GUIDE
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
3a - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
4a - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
5 - PARENT LESSONS - NIV
5a - PARENT LESSONS - KJV
6 - ACTIVITIES
7 - COLOR TEACHING PICTURES
8 - TEACHER CLASSROOM PRESENTATION
9 - EXTRA ACTIVITIES

C - GRADES 1 & 2

1 - STORY BACKGROUND & APPLICATION
2 - TEACHER GUIDE
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
3a - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
4a - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
5 - ACTIVITIES
6 - COLOR TEACHING PICTURES
7 - TEACHER CLASSROOM PRESENTATION
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D - GRADES 3 & 4

1 - STORY BACKGROUND & APPLICATION
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3 - LESSONS B&W - NIV
3a - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
4a - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
5 - ACTIVITIES
6- TEACHER CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

7 - EXTRA ACTIVITIES

E - GRADES 5 & 6

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2a - TEACHER GUIDE - KJV
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
3a - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
4a - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
5 - ACTIVITIES
6- TEACHER CLASSROOM PRESENTATION
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F - YOUTH/ADULT

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G - DEVOTIONS

1 - DEVOTIONS

H - CRAFT IDEAS

1 - CRAFT IDEAS

I - SONGS

1 - THEME SONG
2 - SONGBOOK

J - SUGGESTIONS

1 - DECORATIONS & TEACHER DRESS
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K - PROMO & FOLLOW-UP

1 - PROMOTION & FOLLOW-UP

L - WORSHIP SERVICE

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1a - WORSHIP SERVICE - KJV
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M - TEMPLATES

1 - ATTENDANCE CHART - B&W
1a - ATTENDANCE CHART - COLOR
2 - POSTER - B&W - (Typeable)
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N - HANDOUT BOOKLETS

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11 - WEB LOGO WORDS.gif



COURSE OVERVIEW, INTRODUCTION AND CLASSROOM APPROACH

THEME

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us.” Romans 15:4

ABOUT THE COURSE

Kids love museums! There are science museums, ancient artifacts museums, natural history museums, art museums, and lots of hands-on museums. Museums are places where we can learn all sorts of fun and exciting things and where we can view the old and look at the new. This course is about a museum called the Bible Discovery Museum. Just as its name says, here we make interesting discoveries about the Bible because “everything that was written in the past was written to teach us” (Romans 15:4). This imaginary museum contains five great halls. Each hall teaches us about God's loves and how his children respond to that love. Every day we will enter a different hall where Bible heroes tell their stories, and where interesting Bible artifacts teach us fascinating truths about God and his Word.

We at Kremer Publications are confident that both young and old will make some amazing discoveries as your teachers (our designated museum guides) take you on a guided tour of the Bible Discovery Museum! (Always refer to the staff as the **museum guides**.)

The materials written for the Bible Discovery Museum have been carefully designed to make this curriculum cost-effective, informative, scriptural, exciting, and memorable. This reproducible program has all the ingredients necessary to present your church and community with a complete five-session Bible school course for preschoolers through adults.

Please note that with this course you receive both the King James and New International Versions of the Bible.

LESSONS

To bring out our Bible Discovery Museum theme each day, we visit a different hall of the museum. Each hall includes displays that teach us about our God and about ourselves. You will notice that this year's course includes some lesser known Bible stories.

Day	Museum Hall	Main Item on Display	Bible Story Lesson
1	The Hall of Forgiveness	Joseph's Coat of Many Colors	Joseph Forgives His Brothers
2	The Hall of Faithfulness	Moses' Staff	Moses and the Amalekites
3	The Hall of Kindness	David's Harp	David Strums for Saul
4	The Hall of Dedication	Josiah's Bible Scroll	Josiah Discovers the Lost Bible
5	The Hall of Love	Mary's Jar of Perfume	Mary Anoints Jesus



LEVELS

This course includes five levels of lessons.

- Level 1 Preschool and Kindergarten
- Level 2 Grades 1-2
- Level 3 Grades 3-4
- Level 4 Grades 5-6
- Level 5 Youth and Adult

DEVOTION SKITS

The devotions are a very important part of the total curriculum. It is suggested that each day all the students assemble in a large meeting room for a joint devotion/skit. The devotions set the tone of the day. Students get their hands stamped before they enter the room. (CD orders receive a free hand stamp with this course.) As the students enter the room they are greeted with a huge sign that explains the museum hall they will be entering. (Five hallway signs 22"x28" come with the CD purchased course.) Two pedestals are placed at the front of the hall topped with artifacts for the day. Between them is a “live mannequin” holding the main object of the day. The mannequin stands perfectly still. The devotion is

delivered by a museum guide. (Full text is provided.) When the guide arrives at the part in the devotion that speaks about the main object, he or she presses a red button that turns on a recording explaining the artifact. This recording is run by someone out of sight of the children. (This recording comes free with all orders for the course CD. If ordering the Internet-sent course, the listening CD may be purchased separately from Kremer Publications at 1-800-669-0887.) During the mannequin's recording, the mannequin begins to move slowly, showing the artifact that he or she is holding. When the devotion ends, the mannequin resumes his or her original position.



TEACHER GUIDES

Teacher pages for the museum guides (classroom teachers) are provided for each of the lessons. These include a brief schedule and information regarding the activity pages. There are also special files on the course disk titled "**Story Background and Application**," which give teachers much more information about the story. Be certain each museum guide receives a copy of this file.



STORIES

Fun and interesting stories are provided for each day at the museum. The preschool/kindergarten level also comes with an extra story page called the Parent Page. These may be sent home so moms and dads can review the day's lesson. The text of the Parent Page differs from the page the children receive in the classroom. Story pages are printable in either black and white or full color. Use whichever suits your needs and equipment. The youth/adult stories follow the same daily theme as the lower grade materials.

CLASSROOM MUSEUM PRESENTATIONS

In addition to the presentation given with the devotion, there is a classroom artifact demonstration available for each day's lesson. This is a fun learning time when the children see how a clay tablet was used, how to seal a letter with a signet ring, how to make a clay oil lamp, how to make a flute, and how to properly tie a cloth belt. These may be performed by the classroom teacher, or another person may travel from room to room demonstrating these items.

ACTIVITIES

Each story for levels 1-4 also has an accompanying activity page. If more material is necessary, consult the file "**Extra Activities**." Some activities in levels 3 and 4 make use of a Bible.

DECORATIONS

The course CD gives detailed suggestions for both museum guides' dress and hallway decorations. Those who purchase the CD receive a set of five hallway posters free. (Those who order the Internet-sent course may order the posters separately at 1-800-669-0887.) Inexpensive pre-printed chest T-shirt iron-ons are available for both the museum staff and the children.



CRAFTS

This course comes complete with daily craft suggestions made with simple items found around the home. This disk includes templates and photos of completed crafts.

SNACKS

What would Bible school be without snacks! Each of the snacks recommended for this program follows the Bible story for the day. Photos of the snacks are also provided.

SONGS

The course comes with three song files: The theme song, a printed songbook, and a Bible songbook. Feel free to make copies of these materials and give them to the children to take home. The songbook songs are also found on the listening CD. You have permission to make copies of the CD.

TEMPLATES

The "**template**" file is designed for you to make copies of doorknob hangers, bulletin inserts, small posters, attendance charts, certificates, etc. Note that some of the templates are called typeable. These are designed so you can type in the information on your computer screen and then print that information.

BOOKLETS

There are booklets with this course that may be printed out and given to the children to take home. These include a songbook and a fascinating little booklet titled *Things from the Bible*.



ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Each CD ordered comes with a FREE music CD, devotion museum presentations, five large hallway posters, and a hand stamp. Those who order the Internet-sent course may purchase the hand stamp and hallway posters separately at 1-800-669-0887. Preprinted chest T-shirt iron-ons are also available from Kremer. Full-color 11" x 17" posters for the course may also be purchased as a separate item. To order, call 1-800-669-0887.

THANKS

We wish to acknowledge the help of Charles Cushinery, who arranged and orchestrated the songs.

TEACHING STYLE

Some churches prefer to teach in the traditional classroom method, and others prefer a departmental or wheel-and-hub style. The following pages provide schedules and helps regarding teaching styles.

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IMPORTANT DEVOTION INFORMATION READ FIRST!

The devotions play a very enjoyable and informative role in this VBS course. It is suggested that each day begins with a group devotion where the students will enter a different hall for the theme to be established. The devotion will be delivered by a museum guide. In front of the assembly there will be three museum items on display. The left and right items will be placed on pedestals or columns (church flower stands). Standing between the columns will be a person dressed in Bible clothes, holding the item for the day and standing perfectly still, just like a museum mannequin. Next to this individual will be a small stand with a box on top. On this box will be a large red button. (You should also have a person hidden somewhere out of sight from the assembly with a CD player. That person waits for a cue to play a recording for the audience.)

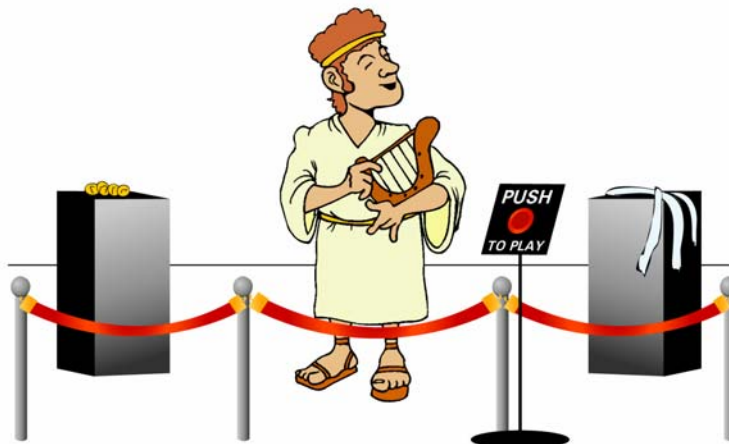
The museum guide will begin reading the devotion. The devotion will first tell about the two side displays. Then the devotion will tell about the center person. At that point the museum guide presses the large red button and the display will begin to speak to the assembly. (You received a listening CD with the spoken dialogue on it. When the guide presses the button, the hidden person begins the CD recording for that day.) At that moment the mannequin begins to move in slow motion showing the assembly the item he or she is holding. After the recording, the mannequin resumes his or her original position.



Displays include the following:

KINDNESS

Day 3 Two side displays include a few pennies for the kind widow's mite and some strips of cloth used by the kind good Samaritan. The main display has kind David dressed in Bible clothes and holding a harp.



DEVOTION DAY 3

THE HALL OF KINDNESS

Visual: Two side displays include a few pennies for the widow's mite and some strips of cloth used by the good Samaritan. The main display has a young man dressed in Bible clothes holding a harp as shown on the craft instruction page. This person should be "mannequin still" except during the recording.

Guide: Hello once again and welcome to the Bible Discovery Museum. I hope you've enjoyed your visit so far. Today you are visiting the third hall here at our museum. It's called The Hall of Kindness. In this hall we discover not only that God is very kind to us but also how we Christians can show kindness to those around us. We can see that God is kind simply by looking at all of the wonderful blessings he has given us. Our food, our clothes, our homes and our families, our health, and our churches, are just a few of the wonderful things our kind God gives to us.

Here in The Hall of Kindness we will discover things that people in the Bible used to show kindness to others. First, on our left, we see displayed a number of coins. These Bible coins remind us of the story of the poor widow who out of kindness and love gave her last penny to God. On this side we see some strips of cloth or bandages. You see, many years ago people did not have Band-Aids available to dress a wound. So instead they tore thin strips of clean cloth and wound them around the injury. That is precisely what the good Samaritan did when he found a poor man that was beaten and robbed. Out of kindness he bandaged the wounds and took him the man to the nearest shelter where he could recover.

And finally, here in the center we see a very kind young man holding an instrument. This instrument isn't used too often today. It's called a harp. The harps we see in orchestras today are much too large to hold in one's arms. Instead they are set on the floor and then strummed by a harpist who is seated on a chair. But we are interested in this particular kind of harp and the boy who played it.

(PUSH RED BUTTON AND BEGIN CD) L

(Recording script) "Hello. I'm David. Perhaps you've heard of me and some of the things I've done. Yes, I was the one who shot the stone that killed Goliath. I was also the one who became king over all Israel. Some of you might remember me as the writer of over 70 psalms in your Bible. I still remember the day I sat down and began writing my most famous psalm that begins, "The LORD is my shepherd."

"Music was very precious to me. I loved to play all sorts of musical instruments, and I wrote many songs. I have with me one of the instruments that I played. This is called a harp or a lyre. These instruments came in different shapes, but they all were strung with six to eight strings. The harp was played by plucking the strings with the fingers, a stick, or a piece of metal. Although I played it as a hobby, it was also one of the instruments used in the temple orchestra. It had a very pleasing sound.

"I liked to play it to pass the time of day while I watched my sheep grazing in the fields. Sometimes late at night when the sheep were sleeping, I would also take out my harp and play it for many hours. But one day I was asked to play it for a very important man and for a very special reason. Listen to today's lesson and see if you can discover more about me and my famous instrument." (End CD)

Guide: There you've heard from David, a very faithful man of God and one who loved God very much. You'll hear more about him in our story today, and you'll also find out why he is such a good example of showing kindness to others no matter what situation we are in. After all, that's why we have David with us here in The Hall of Kindness.

Closing Prayer: *Lord God, you show your kindness to us through the countless blessings that you give us. We thank you for each and every one of them. Help us in turn to show kindness to those around us; to our families and friends, classmates and neighbors. We want to be kind to others, just as you are kind to us. Amen.*



STORY BACKGROUNDS AND APPLICATIONS

The five stories we will study express different qualities of God's children: forgiveness, faithfulness, kindness, dedication, and love. As believers, we gladly make these attributes a way of life, not because God commands it but in return for his great blessings of forgiveness, faithfulness, kindness, dedication, and love toward us. Be certain to emphasize each day how these responses flow from hearts that are grateful for the beautiful gospel message, namely, that Jesus loves each of us so much that he died to save us from our sins and that he rose from the dead to show us that he is our living, victorious Savior.

STORY 1: JOSEPH'S COLORFUL COAT

Genesis 37 and 45

BACKGROUND

Jacob was the last of the patriarchs. His life was not a happy one. He was forced to flee his home (and especially his mother, Rebekah) after deceiving his father, Isaac, for a birthright. He never again saw his mother. Jacob also had problems in his married life, being tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel, the one he loved. And, of course, he never forgot about Rachel's death while giving birth to Benjamin. His only daughter, Dinah, also brought much shame to his house, and as we see in today's account, 10 of his 12 sons were deceitful and mean.

Joseph (which means "may God add") was 17 years old when this story took place. He was now considered old enough to tend sheep and run household errands.

STORY

Genesis 37:1-4

The sons of Jacob are mentioned here. You can find the complete list in Genesis 35:23-26. Jacob played favorites with his sons, an unwise decision for any parent. His love was greater for Joseph, because he was born to Jacob when he was advancing in years and because he was a son of his beloved Rachel. This love prompted Jacob to give Joseph a beautifully colored coat, the type usually reserved for royalty. This favoritism caused great jealousy among his brothers, even to the point of sinful hatred and avoidance.

Genesis 37:5-11

The classroom story includes little or no mention of Joseph's dreams. Joseph had two dreams, each with his brothers bowing down to him, each sent directly from God, and each inciting even more hatred when told to his brothers. These dreams, of course, did come true when Joseph's brothers bowed down to him in Egypt.

Genesis 37:12-35

Jacob decided to send Joseph on a fact-finding mission. Joseph was to locate his ten older brothers who were grazing their sheep, see that all was well with them, deliver some goods, and report back home. After a considerable search that took Joseph many miles from home, he found his brothers at Dothan. Scripture tells us that his brothers plotted to kill him as soon as they saw him coming. Point out to the class how sin grows: first envy, then hatred, and finally murder, all to be covered up with lies. This is the very same road taken by Cain and many more cold-blooded killers.

The plan was to kill Joseph and drop his body into a dried-up cistern. (Cisterns were deep pits used to catch rainwater. They were shaped like a wine bottle, with a narrow neck, or top. The idea to place enemies there wasn't new. This practice was common. Once a person was dropped into a cistern, there was little hope for escape. Fortunately, Joseph's cistern was dry.

Reuben pled with his brothers not to kill the young boy but, rather, to drop him into the cistern. His hope was to eventually rescue Joseph and let him return home, thus soothing his conscience and saving his own head. Reuben was the eldest son and ultimately responsible for Joseph's well-being.

The brothers sat down to eat—still enjoying a great appetite even after their evil deed. Meanwhile, a caravan traveling from Damascus to Egypt happened to come by. Judah suggested a quick sale of Joseph for some silver (about \$20 worth)—much like Judas' sale of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. After the deed was done, they dipped Joseph's coat into animal blood and planned to tell their father a heartless lie.

Genesis 45

About 20 years later, Joseph, now an important part of the Egyptian government, finally was reunited with his brothers. They were in search of food and traveled to Egypt for help. Joseph immediately recognized his brothers and led them on for a long time, studying their movements and comments. Finally, Joseph could no longer bear the weight of the moment. His brothers had just bowed to him for a third time. Joseph's feelings burst out. Ordering his attendants in the room to leave, Joseph finally admitted who he was. This led to a very private moment with his brothers, telling them about his life in Egypt. Eventually, he also planned a way to move his father, Jacob, down to Egypt to live out the rest of his life.

Can you imagine the startled looks on the faces of Joseph's brothers when he admitted he was the brother they had sold and left to die. The words "I am Joseph" are some of the most chilling words found in all of Scripture. Talk about this moment with your students.

Finally, Joseph kissed and hugged his brothers, promising never to repay their wickedness with retribution but, rather, to show them love and forgiveness.

APPLICATION

Today the students are spending time in The Hall of Forgiveness. The story of Joseph and his brothers is a wonderful story to illustrate the forgiveness God shows to us and the forgiveness we show to one another. Discuss the first reaction your children would have had when Joseph saw the brothers who hated him. Retribution? Repayment? Revenge? The heart of God's child is free of that. Joseph chose to show forgiveness to those who wronged him, just as we should do. Remember Christ's first words on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

Ask your class, "What if God would repay us for the wrong things we have done to him? What would our lives be like?" Instead we have a loving and merciful God. He loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to the cross to die for our sins just so we would be forgiven.



CLASSROOM MUSEUM PRESENTATIONS

For added enjoyment, have each teacher make these museum artifacts right in the classrooms during the class session. These presentations are centered around easy-to-prepare items that enhance the theme of each story. They may be used at the beginning of the lesson or at another scheduled moment during the session. (After a snack break would also work well.) If students eat their snacks in a common hall or outdoors together, perhaps a leader could do these presentations for all the children at that time. Another suggestion would be for one individual to travel to each classroom making the items.

STORY 1 . . . A SIGNET

In Bible days important documents were often sealed with a stamp called a signet. A signet usually belonged to a king or wealthy person. The purpose of this seal was to put one's mark on an item. Sometimes a person would press the seal onto a wax or clay tablet, just like we sign our letters. Sometimes a person would seal a scroll or letter shut so no one could open it. Sometimes a person put his seal on a door so that no one could tamper with it. A signet design was often on an individual's ring. The ring was pressed into clay or soft wax. We know after Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, the door was shut and sealed. Likewise the stone that covered the doorway on Jesus' grave was sealed. We also know that the great pharaoh of Egypt gave Joseph his signet ring to use whenever he needed it.

Materials

Candle (Gift card or stationary stores also carry sealing wax sticks.)

Ring with raised image (You may use costume jewelry, a plastic ring, or simply a rubber stamp.)

Letter or scroll to seal



Directions

Fold the letter or scroll. Drip a small blob of wax (about the size of a quarter) on the edge. Press the ring into the wax making an impression. Let cool.

STORY 2 . . . A LINEN BELT

Moses was used to carrying a staff with him because he was a shepherd. Shepherds also wore belts around their inner robes or tunics. The belt was made of a long strip of cloth that was wound several times around the waist and tied in front. The sides of the belt could be rolled up to form a small pocket. Often the shepherd would keep a small coin bag in the belt. Perhaps Moses was wearing such a belt when he watched the battle against the Amalekites. Daniel once had a vision of a man dressed in fine clothes wearing a gold belt around his waist.

Materials

Heavy linen or burlap about 72 inches long and 6 inches wide.

Directions

Choose a child and wrap the belt around the child's waist several times. Tie it in front. Fold the belt upward forming a pocket on the side for carrying little things.





TEACHER'S PAGES

FOR THE PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

MUSEUM GUIDE

Welcome to the Bible Discovery Museum. As you can tell by the title, you will be both a teacher and a museum guide during this program (see “**Decoration/Dress**” file). This five-session course is designed to teach your class Bible truths through the presentation of various Bible artifacts. In doing so, we will attempt to establish a museum-like atmosphere in your Bible school. This tone will be set in your decorations, devotions, and class presentations.

First, we strongly suggest you begin your days with a joint group opening devotion/skit. During this devotion the children will enter a different museum “hall” each day (example: On day one they enter The Hall of Forgiveness). In that hall they discover several Bible items that relate to the topic for the day. There is even a CD included with this course that tells the assembly the historic significance of the main artifact—just like the taped messages we hear given at local museums. (See “**Devotion**” file and “**Decoration/ Dress**” file.)

Following the devotion the children move to classrooms, where teachers may begin each session by making a facsimile of a Bible artifact that again introduces the day’s story. (See “**Classroom Museum Presentations**” file.) Some Bible schools may prefer designating an individual who travels from room to room with these presentations.

If you would like to have something to take home beside the stories and activities, we have included a small pocket booklet teaching more about Bible artifacts titled **Things from the Bible**. You may wish to distribute these to your children to take home.

To help you prepare for each lesson, please consult the file “**Story Backgrounds and Applications.**” This will give you a wealth of background information and suggested story applications.

Each lesson comes with an activity page. If you feel you might need more activities, there is an additional file, “**Extra Activity Sheets Preschool to Grade 2.**”

The following pages of this teacher guide are designed to provide brief suggestions for you. Kremer Publications prefers not to overburden teachers with pages upon pages of materials that only become confusing. We simply provide you with the aim, truth, gospel connection, and summary of the story, plus a class schedule outline and activity page answers where they apply. No amount of teacher coaching can take the place of your personal Bible study and classroom preparation. Be certain you are prepared to teach and have all materials that you will need ready and waiting.

Preschool and kindergarten children are eager to hear Bible stories. Be prepared for some who might not wish to leave Mom behind. Also be certain to acquire all home contact information on day one. This information should include parent names, address, phone number, and information on baptism. Make a special effort to get to know each child’s name by the end of this first session. Begin each session with the silent prayer in your teacher guide, and end each session with a prayer with your children.

NOTE: The Preschool/Kindergarten file comes with two lesson sheets—one for class time and one for parents to reread at home.

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us.” Romans 15:4

LESSON 1

Our first lesson takes us to The Hall of Forgiveness in our Bible Discovery Museum. Today the children will learn about Joseph’s colorful coat and how it led to Joseph forgiving his brothers.

BIBLE REFERENCE: Genesis 37 and 45

AIM: What did Joseph teach us about forgiveness?

TRUTH: Joseph taught us that no matter what others do to us, we should be ready to forgive everyone.

SUMMARY: Joseph showed himself as a type of Christ, for just as Christ loved us and forgave all our sins, so we should be willing to forgive others when they sin against us.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: We gladly forgive others because Jesus forgave us.

APPLICATION: See detailed application in the **“Story Background and Application”** file.

PREPARATION PLAN

1. Begin your planning with prayer: *Lord God, Heavenly Father, you have blessed me with the opportunity to share your precious words with your little lambs. Be with me during these classes, that I might be used as your tool to spread your loving Gospel message. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.*
2. Read over the lesson in the Bible and consult the **“Story Background and Application”** file.
3. Practice telling the story aloud to gauge your introduction, time, and presentation.
4. Practice making the **“Classroom Museum Presentation”** item for the day (signet ring) if you plan on using that file.
5. Review the activity pages and gather necessary materials. There are extra activities in the **“Extra Activity”** file.)
6. Learn the music for the day. (Remember there are additional songbooks in the course files.
7. Become familiar with the memory passage.
8. Have the Parent Page ready to distribute at the close of class.

OPENING DEVOTION INFORMATION

In today’s opening devotion, children will learn about forgiveness as they see the stones used in the death of Stephen, a man who forgave his enemies, and the cross where our forgiveness was purchased by Jesus’ death. The main museum display item is Joseph’s coat of many colors. (Emphasize to the children that these are only representations of the real artifacts.)

SCHEDULE PLAN

1. Welcome the students and get to know their names.
2. Complete the registration card. This is important not only for follow-up after VBS but also in case there is an emergency and you need to make parent contact. (See **“Template”** file.)
3. Introduce yourself.
4. Discuss the title of the series, “The Bible Discovery Museum.” Mention how each day the children will discover more fun things to see and do in the museum.
5. Introduce and teach the Bible lesson. (You may use the full-color picture included with the file.)
6. After telling the story, you may wish to read it to them.
7. Do the activity with the children. (See **“Extra Activity Sheets”** file if you need more material.)
8. Discuss and practice the Bible memory passage.
9. Have recess and snack.
10. Sing and practice songs.
11. Make crafts.
12. Clean up/recap lesson/close with prayer/dismiss.
13. **Be certain** to send home Parent Page.

ACTIVITY PAGE

Read directions. You will need crayons or markers for this project.



Joseph's Colorful Coat

Genesis 37 and 45

I Have A Question

What would you do if someone
was really mean to you?
Would you be mean back?
What does God want us to do?

STORY:

A boy named Joseph lived many years ago. He had 11 brothers. Most of the brothers were shepherds, but Joseph was too young to help. Joseph's father loved Joseph more than all his brothers. He gave Joseph a colorful new coat. But Joseph's brothers didn't like that. They became angry with Joseph, so they decided to harm him.

One day Joseph went to meet his brothers out in the fields. "Now is our time to get Joseph and hurt him," they thought. So they grabbed Joseph, took his beautiful coat, and threw him into a deep pit. There Joseph sat until his brothers had the chance to give him to some travelers going to a faraway country.

Joseph was frightened, but he believed God would protect him.

For many years Joseph lived in a land called Egypt. There he became a leader over the people. One day his brothers traveled to Egypt looking for food. They stood in front of Joseph. They didn't recognize him, but Joseph knew who they were. Now Joseph had his chance to get even with them. What do you think he did? Tears came to Joseph's eyes, and he went to each brother and hugged him and forgave him for what he had done to Joseph. Joseph did what God wanted him to do. Jesus won forgiveness for everyone when he died on the cross. Now he wants us to forgive others also.



**GOD WANTS ME TO
FORGIVE OTHERS JUST
AS JESUS FORGIVES ME.**

**"You are a forgiving God."
Nehemiah 9:17**



Dear Parent,

Today in Bible school the children heard the story about Joseph's colorful coat. They learned that Joseph's brothers were jealous of his new coat and tried to get rid of him by selling him to some travelers going to Egypt. Many years later Joseph's brothers once again stood before him, and Joseph had the ideal opportunity for revenge. However, he forgave them instead. God wants his children to forgive others, just as Jesus always forgives us.

The following story is slightly different from the one the children followed in class. Please read it to your child, and spend time learning the memory passage at the end.

JOSEPH: A MAN OF FORGIVENESS Genesis 37 and 45

Has anyone ever been mean to you? Has anyone ever said bad things about you or hit you or teased you? What should you do if someone is mean to you? Should you be mean back to them? Let's hear what the young man in our story did.

A man named Jacob lived many years ago. He had 12 sons. They tended his flocks of sheep. Often they would spend many days at a time out in the fields watching the sheep.

Jacob's second youngest son was named Joseph. He was a pleasant boy who wanted to please God and his parents. Joseph was too young to spend days and nights watching the sheep. Jacob loved Joseph so much that he gave him a brand-new, colorful coat. It was better than any of the coats his brothers had. Soon the brothers grew jealous of the coat and wanted to harm Joseph.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to see how his older brothers were doing. When they saw him coming, they wanted to get rid of him. They took his colorful coat and dropped him into a deep hole. In a short while, a caravan of traders came passing by. Joseph's brothers had an idea. They would sell Joseph to the travelers and be rid of him forever.

The traders took Joseph to the country of Egypt where he grew up and became very famous. The Egyptian people looked up to Joseph as a wise and helpful man.

Many years later Joseph's brothers came to Egypt searching for food. When they stood before Joseph, they did not recognize him. But Joseph knew right away who they were. Now Joseph could get even with them for being so mean to him. What do you think he did?

Joseph forgave each of his brothers and said he was no longer angry. Because he loved God, he said he would also love his brothers.

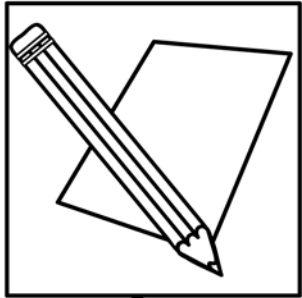
We can learn a lesson from Joseph. God does not want us to get even with anyone. Just as Jesus forgave us when he died on the cross, so we should forgive those who do wrong to us.





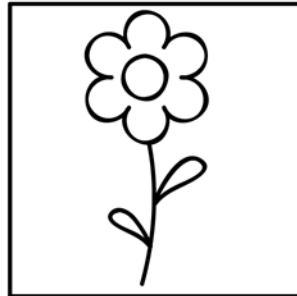
Be Kind!

Directions: With a crayon, follow the dotted line from numbers 1-10.
Each time you stop at a box tell how you can show kindness to someone using the item
in the box. Then you can color the pictures.



1

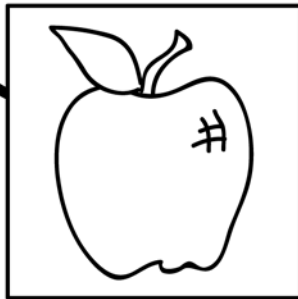
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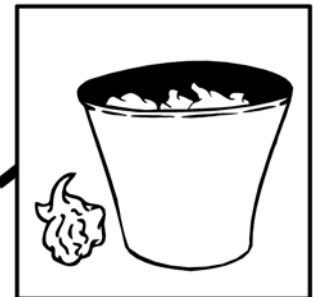
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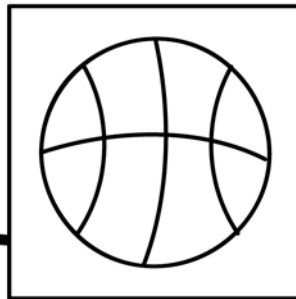
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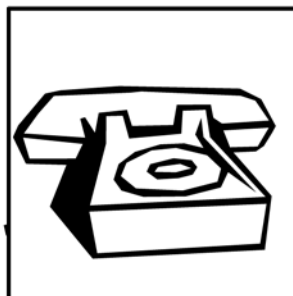


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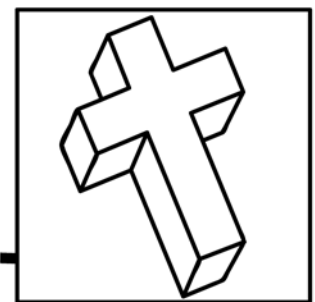
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9



10





THE HALL OF DEDICATION

Do you know what it means to be dedicated? It means to be faithful and to give yourself to a cause. Some people are dedicated to helping the poor. Others have dedicated themselves to saving our forests and wildlife. Our story today leads us back to Jerusalem where we find a very dedicated young man. See if you can discover how he dedicated his life to God.

JOSIAH: DEDICATED TO SERVE GOD

2 Chronicles 34 and 35; 2 Kings 22 and 23

Following King David, there were many other kings that served over God's people. Some were faithful to God, but many were very wicked and worshiped idols. Josiah was one of the best kings who would serve God's people. Josiah was crowned the new king when he was eight years old! How do you think you would do as a king at your age? Do you think you would be ready for such a great responsibility? While he was very young, Josiah received much help making his kingly decisions. He was a wonderful young believer who loved God and wanted to serve him any way he could. When Josiah was 16, he had all the idols torn down and burned and insisted that the temple of God be cleaned and repaired so it could once again be used for worshiping the true God.

While the temple was being repaired, the priests spent time cleaning out some of the temple rooms. In one of the rooms they discovered a scroll that had been hidden for many years. When they opened it, they discovered that it was the Bible, the books written by Moses. They had been missing for many years.



Josiah was excited when he heard about the discovery and asked the priests to read the entire scroll to him. This was the first time Josiah heard God's words from the Bible. He heard how God promised to be with his people if they trusted and obeyed him. Josiah became concerned that God was angry with his people since they had forgotten about him for so long.

Josiah called for a huge celebration in Jerusalem. He invited people from everywhere to come and hear the Word of God read to them once again. On that great day, many dedicated their lives to God just as Josiah had done.

When Josiah was 31 years old, he was killed in a battle against the Assyrians. The people mourned for him because they missed him so much. Josiah was a man who dedicated his life to serving the Lord. We too can dedicate our lives to God. Because God loved us so much by taking away all our sins, we want to live our lives for him. We can make serving him the most important thing in our lives as well. A life that is dedicated to God is a truly happy life!

***“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices,
holy and pleasing to God.”*** Romans 12:1

MARY: SHE LOVED JESUS

Some people say they love pizza. How about you? Some say they love their pets, while others claim they love the work they do. Have you ever loved to listen to a certain song, loved to go on a very special vacation, or loved to go out and play instead of cleaning your bedroom? There are many different kinds of love. Certainly love for pizza is not the same as the love a husband has for his wife or a mother for her child. Our story today is about another special love that someone had for God.

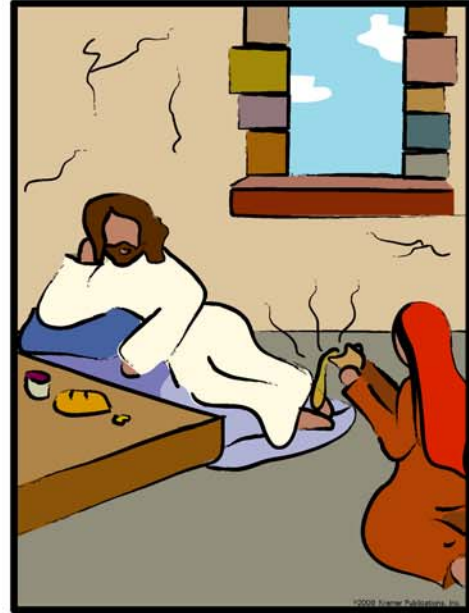
When Jesus traveled, he often visited the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Perhaps you remember when Mary and Martha served a fine meal for Jesus and when Jesus raised their brother, Lazarus, from the dead. It was always a special occasion when Jesus came to their small village of Bethany for a visit.

Just a few days before Jesus would be arrested, tried, and crucified, he came to Bethany. When news got around that Jesus was in town, a man named Simon quickly invited Jesus and his disciples to his house. Simon was grateful to Jesus for curing him of his leprosy. Lazarus was invited, and Martha went to help serve the meal.

When Mary heard Jesus was coming, she tried to think of a special way she could show her love for him. She decided to bring with her a very expensive jar of perfumed oil. The Bible says it was equal in price to about a year's wages. That was a lot of money in those days, just as it would be today. When she saw Jesus, she took the jar of perfume and poured it on his head and feet. Then she wiped Jesus' feet with her long hair. It was her way of showing Jesus that he was very special in her life and she loved him very, very much. Jesus meant more to Mary than her precious perfume.

When Judas saw this, he became angry and complained that the perfume could have been sold for a lot of money to be given to the poor. He did not understand what it meant to love Jesus more than everything. Jesus told Judas to leave her alone. Jesus said that Mary would always be remembered for this one act of kindness that she showed to him. Jesus enjoyed seeing Mary's love.

We can also show our love for Jesus in many ways. We show him love whenever we do what he wishes and say what he would have us say. We also show love in how we treat those around us, how we enjoy worshiping him, and how we tell others about him. And why do we love him so much? We love Jesus because he first loved us! He showed us that love when he died on the cross to save us.



A MUSEUM UPDATE

The sign of love that Mary showed to Jesus also had a hidden meaning that only Jesus knew. That type of perfume was often used to anoint the body of a dead person before being placed in a tomb. Jesus said that her anointing him with perfume was a sign that in a few days he would also be anointed and his body would be laid to rest in a grave.

REMEMBER THIS

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Deuteronomy 6:5

John 12:1-11; Matthew 26:6-13



BIBLE NAMES

There are several different names that can be used for the Bible. Look up each passage, and write the name on the line.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Word | B Scroll or Book |
| C Book of the Law | D Holy Scriptures |
| E Scriptures | F Word of God |

_____ **Deuteronomy 31:26**

_____ **Romans 1:2**

_____ **Psalms 40:7**

_____ **Matthew 24:35**

_____ **John 5:39**

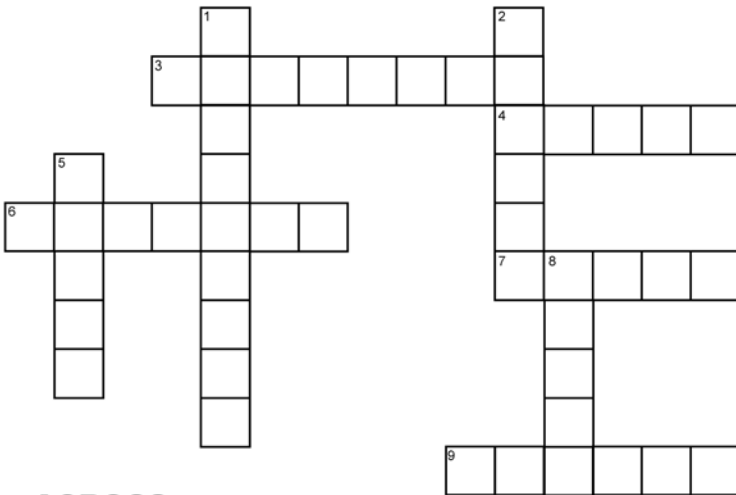
_____ **Hebrews 6:5**

TRUE OR FALSE

Place a T before the statement if it is true and an F before the statement if it is false.

1. _____ Josiah was a very good king.
2. _____ Josiah became kind when he was very old.
3. _____ Josiah had the idol alters destroyed.
4. _____ While cleaning the church, some priests found a scroll.
5. _____ The scroll contained the Word of God.
6. _____ Josiah liked to hear the Bible read even before they found the scroll.
7. _____ Josiah called for a huge celebration in Bethlehem.
8. _____ Josiah dedicated his life to serving God.
9. _____ We should never dedicate our lives to God.

JOSIAH'S CROSSWORDS



ACROSS

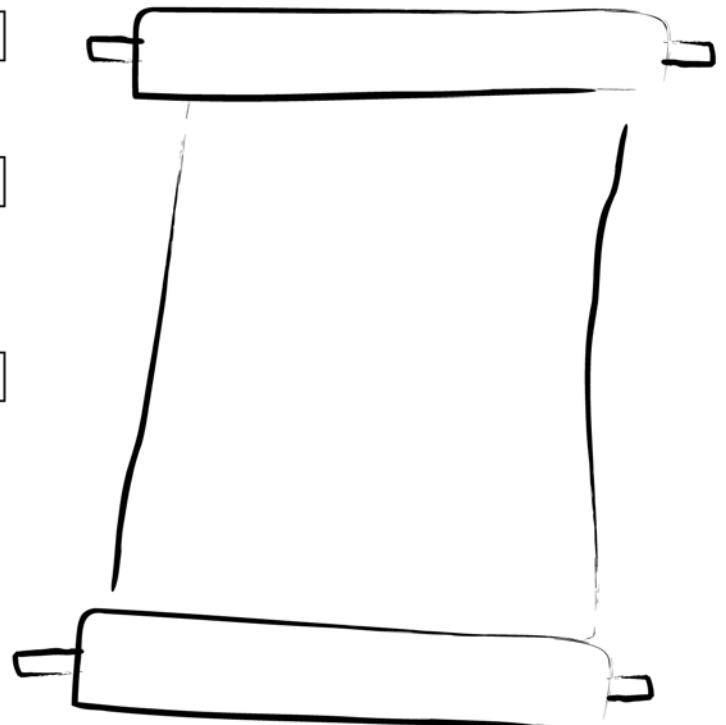
3. to give ourselves to God
4. writer of the books Josiah heard read
6. the men who found the scroll
7. age that Josiah became king
9. a good young king

DOWN

1. place for a huge celebration
2. where the scroll was found
5. Josiah's headpiece
8. false gods

USE YOUR BIBLES

Turn to the book of Proverbs. Find one that you especially like, and write it on the scroll.





THE HALL OF DEDICATION

2 Chronicles 34 and 35; 2 Kings 22 and 23

Let's continue our visit to some of the most fascinating museums in America. Today our trip will take us to the metropolises of French Lick, Indiana, and Hesperia, California, for both the Wild Hair Museum and the Banana Museum. Both are sure to make your travel time worthwhile.

TONY KENDALL'S WILD HAIR MUSEUM

448 S. Maple Street

French Lick, IN

Open Tuesdays through Saturday

Free admission

The Wild Hair Museum is touted as a one-of-a-kind museum that is housed in Tony's beauty salon, Body Reflections, in French Lick, about a hundred miles southwest of Indianapolis. As you comb through the museum, you find shelves and shelves of vintage razors, shears, combs, hairbrushes, permanent machines, and even hair. Tony claims to have hair-raising items from nearly every state. He even has an exhibit of curling irons that used kerosene, not electricity.



Some of his most popular exhibits include an authentic lock of Elvis Presley's hair and a framed antique hair wreath. Prior to 1900 many families wove an individual's hair into a wreath in a horseshoe shape. More hair was added as new members were added to the family. Many homes had a hair wreath displayed somewhere. They are a rare find today because in the early 1900s they were thought to carry disease, and thus they were destroyed. (To see a huge display of hair wreaths, you'd have to visit Leila's Hair Museum in Independence, Missouri.)

THE BANANA MUSEUM

16367 Main Street

Hesperia, CA

Open Tuesday, Thursday, and the first Saturday of each month

Free admission

Billed as the world's first and largest Banana Museum, this museum was started in 1976 by Ken Bananister TB (Really Ken Bannister—Top Banana) to display his collection that had grown to mammoth proportions. The museum boasts bananas made of brass, glass, lead, wood, ceramic, cement, soap, and gold. There's even a petrified banana and a gold-sequined banana. You can enjoy the yellow banana-shaped couch or the hundreds of soft banana plush toys. You will even see Ken's banana tent and banana beach mats. The walls are covered with photographs picturing famous people eating bananas.

To top it off, the Banana Museum was mentioned in *People* magazine and on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. Certainly this is the one place you can feel free to just simply go bananas!

Undoubtedly both Tony Kendall and Ken Bannister have to be dedicated to their work. Each has found his niche in society, and each plays a role (however small it may be). Our Bible account today is also about dedication. But we will see a dedication that far outweighs a hair dresser or a top banana. This individual had the deck stacked against him, and yet he was a valuable asset to the Lord's kingdom. His name was Josiah. Not a common Bible name like Moses or David, yet this young man can certainly teach us all a thing or two about being dedicated children of God.

BACKGROUND

During the judgeship of Samuel, just as all their heathen neighbors had done, the people begged for a king to lead them. The Lord consented, but first he gave them a solemn warning. (Read the warning in 1 Samuel 8:6-21). The first three kings (Saul, David, and Solomon) each served 40 years. At the end of Solomon's reign, however, the kingdom broke into two pieces, the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Of the 19 kings that ruled in the north (about 250 years), none were godly. Of the Southern Kingdom's 20 kings, about eight followed the true God (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah).

2 Chronicles 33:21-24

1. Who was Josiah's grandfather?
2. Who was Josiah's father, and how long did he reign?
3. How would you rate these two men as to their faithfulness to the Lord?
4. Without reading any further, how would you assume Josiah would reign?

2 Chronicles 34:1,2

1. How old was Josiah when he was anointed to be the next king?
2. Open your Bibles to 2 Kings 22. This is another telling of the same events. Although it is just speculation, why do you think Josiah's mother is named in 2 Kings 22:1?
3. Instead of following his grandfather Manasseh's evil ways or his father Amon's wickedness, who would Josiah rather emulate?
4. What does "not turning aside to the right or to the left" mean? Compare this with Isaiah 30:21.

2 Chronicles 34:3-8

1. How old was King Josiah now?
2. List the many ways Josiah tried to do away with idol worship.
3. How popular a decision do you think this was with the people?

2 Chronicles 34:8-13

1. How old was King Josiah now?
2. What was King Josiah's next project?
3. The temple was now about 385 years old. What type of work needed to be done?

2 Chronicles 34:14-21

1. What did the priest find as he was cleaning out the temple?
2. Why did this seem unusual?
3. What did Shaphan do with the book?
4. Was the king pleased to hear what was written in the Book of the Law? Why or why not? (Could Shaphan have possibly read Deuteronomy 28?)

2 Chronicles 34:22-31

1. Who interpreted the meaning of the part read to Josiah?
2. What does 2 Chronicles 34:22-25 mean?
3. What does 2 Chronicles 34:26-28 mean?
4. What destruction was spoken about? (See the end of 2 Chronicles 36. Note that Josiah's reign ended in 610 BC. How close was Josiah from the destruction?)
5. What did Josiah do for the people at the temple? (verses 29, 30)
6. What did Josiah do for himself at the temple? (verses 31)
7. What great comment was made about Josiah?

THE REST OF THE STORY

2 Chronicles 35

1. How large was Josiah's celebration of the Passover?
2. How old was King Josiah at the time of the Passover celebration?
3. How did Josiah die?
4. How old was King Josiah when he died? (See 2 Chronicles 34:1)
5. Who wrote laments for Josiah?
6. Read Jeremiah 1:1-3. Could the laments of Jeremiah for Josiah have had any connection with Jeremiah's book of Lamentations?

JOSIAH'S AGE

Divide into small groups to discuss these questions. Then report back to the entire group.

1. What is so astounding about the age of Josiah?
2. What message does Josiah's dedication to the Lord give to teens today?
3. Make a short list of ways Christians can serve their Lord from 0-5 years old, 6-12 years old, 13-20 years old, 20-40 years old, 40-62 years old, 63 plus years.
4. Many Christians today feel they have an especially difficult time serving the Lord because of all the evil around us today. How does the story of Josiah destroy that myth?
5. List ten words that you think describe Josiah's personality.

THE LOST BIBLE

It is unlikely that this story means that there simply were no other copies of the Bible around. The lost copy that was found was likely the temple copy, perhaps one of the oldest copies around in that day. However, it does give us an idea of how little the Word of God was used then.

1. Do you think that Bibles could ever be nearly impossible to find in the United States? Discuss.
2. Are there countries today where the Bible is forbidden? Where?
3. What would you do if you lived in one of those countries?
4. What would you do if the government forbade ownership of a Bible?
5. Why is it easy to speculate what we would do?

DEDICATION

Define what it means to be dedicated to God.

SILENT PRAYER

It is time to close with a silent prayer about yourself and your current level of dedication to the Lord.



SNACKS



JOSEPH'S COLORFUL COAT

Supplies: Gingerbread man cookie cutter, sugar cookie or gingerbread cookie recipe and ingredients, piping gun, blue, red and yellow frosting.

Instructions: Bake simple gingerbread cutout cookies using the gingerbread man cookie cutter. Use a piping gun to lay down half-inch vertical ribbon strips in blue, red, and yellow frosting, just like Joseph's coat of many colors.

MOSES' AMAZING STAFF

Supplies: Pretzel rods, melted chocolate.

Instructions: Make Moses' amazing staff by dipping half of each pretzel into melted chocolate.



DAVID'S MELODIOUS HARP

Supplies: Bagels with large holes in the middle, red licorice shoelaces, cream cheese.

Instructions: Cut the bagels in half (top to bottom.) Next, cut each half in half widthwise (so each finished bagel is a half of a bagel with a flat surface). Lay licorice shoelaces parallel on the flat side across the halfholes. Then replace the other half so the strings become sandwiched between the two halves. Secure both halves together with cream cheese.

JOSIAH'S LOST SCROLL

Supplies: Graham crackers, yellow frosting, tube of dark frosting, small pretzel sticks.

Instructions: Break graham crackers into quarters. Set horizontally and frost with yellow frosting. Place a pretzel stick on both right and left ends to resemble scroll posts. You may put jibberish writing on the cracker with the tube of dark frosting.



OR

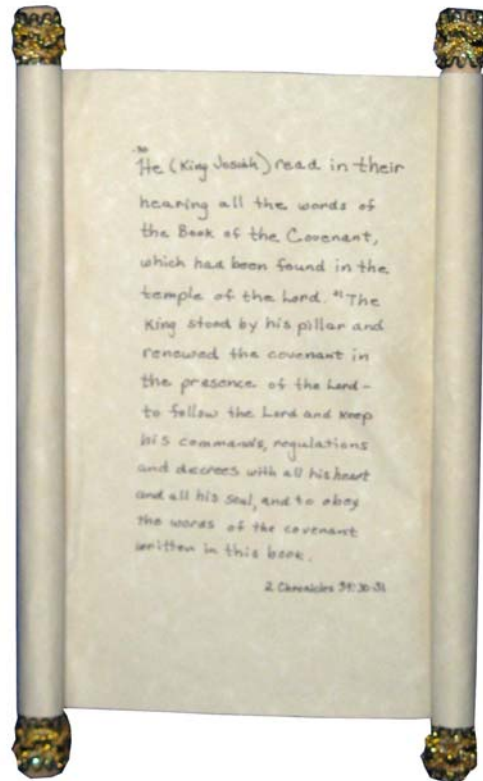
Supplies: Pretzel rods or bread sticks, Fruit Roll-Ups.

Instructions: Place two pretzel rods (bread sticks) inside a Fruit Roll-Up and roll it like a scroll.





JOSIAH'S SCROLL



Materials:

- Preprint template in center of sheets. (Template #6)
- One 8 1/2" x 11" piece of heavy parchment-like paper. (Ivory will work.)
- Glue
- Tape
- 4 pinch clothespins
- 2 dowels 1/2" diameter x 12" long
- Decorative ribbon (4 pieces each about 1 1/2" each.)
- Fine markers (Red and Black are very effective.)

Directions:

1. Tape ends of paper to each dowel.
2. Roll ends and glue.
3. Hold glue with pinch clothespins until dry.
4. Wrap decorative ribbon on the ends of each dowel.
5. Color in the fancy letters.



Open the Bible

Words and Music by R. Kremer

Voice

O-o-o

1. O - pen the Bi - ble, O - pen the book; Read a - no - ther sto - ry,
 2. O - pen the Bi - ble, read the stories too, God wrote eve - ry word that he
 3. O - pen the Bi - ble, find the savior dear; learn how he has saved us,
 4. O - pen the Bi - ble, O - pen the book; Read a - no - ther sto - ry,

Piano

3

4

take a - no - ther look. You can go on an ad - ven - ture you can meet a - no - ther friend, if you
 meant for me and you. You can read a - bout some her - oes, and some kings and child - ren bright, they all
 and promised to be near. You can see just how he loved us when he died on Cal - va - ry, Yes, —
 take a - no - ther look. You can go on an ad - ven - ture you can meet a - no - ther friend, if you

Pno.

4

7

1, 2, 3

get to know the Bi - ble from be - gin - ning to the end. O - o - o
 point the way to hea - ven show - ing how to live right — O - o - o
 o - pen up your Bi - ble and then read it faith - ful - ly. O - o - o
 get to know the Bi - ble from be - - - - - gin - ning to the end.

Pno.

7

1, 2, 3

4

3



DECORATIONS AND TEACHER DRESS

DECORATIONS

There are several ways you can turn your campus into your own Bible Discovery Museum.

ENTRANCE . . .

HAND STAMP

As the children enter the building, they will get their hand stamped for that day. Those who order the CD will get a FREE hand stamp.

WALL SIGN

Included on the CD is a template for you to make a HUGE sign with the course logo. The template can be printed onto a clear transparency. Take the transparency and project it onto large paper. Color.

HALLWAYS . . .

FREE MUSEUM SIGNS

Those who order the CD of this course will also receive five FREE large hallway signs (22" x 28") that show the various lessons of this course.

LARGE GROUP DEVOTION MEETING ROOM. . .

(Church entrance, gym entrance, wherever you will meet for the opening devotions)

ENTRYWAY

Above the doorway or on an easel sign next to the door should be the name of the hall for the day. They are:

Day 1 THE HALL OF FORGIVENESS

Day 2 THE HALL OF FAITHFULNESS

Day 3 THE HALL OF KINDNESS

Day 4 THE HALL OF DEDICATION

Day 5 THE HALL OF LOVE

FRONT OF THE MEETING ROOM

THREE ITEM DISPLAY (see "DEVOTIONS" file)

The opening devotions will take place in a hall of the museum. The front of the room should look like a museum display. For the opening devotion each day, there should be three items on display at the front of the assembly. These may be placed on three pedestals. (Church plant stands work well, or you may rent these inexpensively from a local florist.) The left and right pedestals have objects placed on them. (See text of devotions.) A "human mannequin"—a person dressed in Bible clothes holding an item standing perfectly still—will stand between these two pedestals. (See Human Mannequin Costumes on the following page.)



CLASSROOM APPROACH—TWO METHODS

Since the inception of VBS in the 1950s, a noticeable shift has occurred in the process of presenting the curriculum. Years ago the traditional VBS program was a five-day or even ten-day morning course taught at the church. Since then more and more congregations are finding it difficult to break into both the kids' and the teachers' schedules. Consequently, some congregations now hold an evening family Bible night or one session a week for five weeks. For this reason Kremer Publications has seen fit to include youth and adult lessons with each course. Kremer courses are also undated materials that can be used anytime during the year.

There are two main ways of approaching the teaching of a course such as this. As we view these two approaches, we realize that each church is unique in its workers' abilities and strengths. We also realize that these two approaches can be combined by using parts of each—depending especially on the church's physical makeup.

THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM APPROACH

The traditional classroom approach places different levels of students in their own self-contained classrooms. This often calls for the same teacher to teach the story, do the activities, teach the songs, and work with the crafts. Classroom helpers can be of great assistance in this setting. One advantage to this approach is that because of the longer periods of contact, the teacher becomes more familiar with the individual students, often forming bonds. A notable downside is that one teacher needs to be gifted in teaching the lesson, leading the singing, becoming a craft teacher, and so on.

THE STATION APPROACH

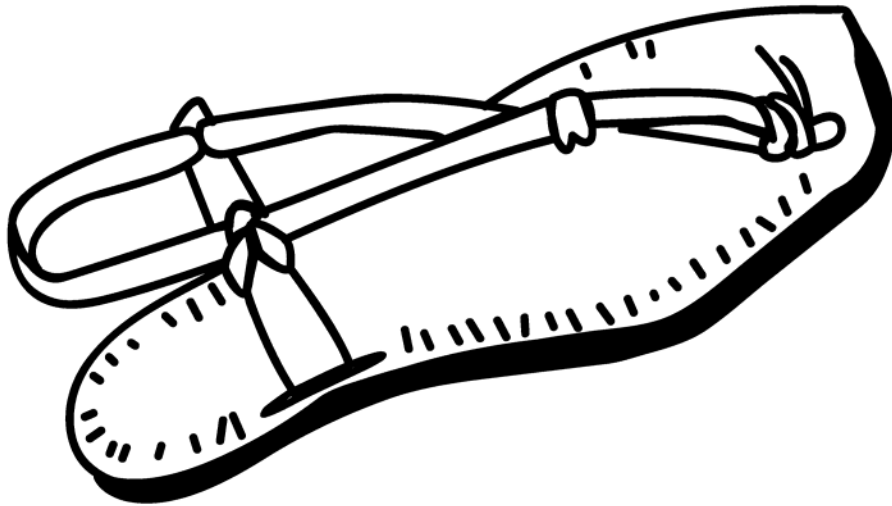
Because many volunteers feel gifted only in certain areas, the station approach is another option. One advantage to this situation is that no individual is overwhelmed with responsibility. This approach also works best with small groups and uses fewer classrooms. Teachers can also be recruited only to prepare the daily lessons. They can gather for teacher meetings strictly for the purpose of studying each Bible story. Others gifted in art or music can meet and prepare for that activity alone. Another team can be recruited to handle the snacks, outdoor play, crafts, decorations, etc. Often this approach makes it easier to recruit teachers and helpers because they know their responsibility is only in a few areas.

To make this approach work well, either the children or the teachers must move from room to room. (It may be easiest for the children to move. That way the art room remains the art room, etc. *However*, if the children move from room to room, it is vital that an adult accompany them.) Often this movement can cut down on discipline concerns because the children are constantly changing their learning area. It is, however, necessary that everyone adheres strictly to the clock. The following chart gives you suggested ideas to begin planning the station approach:



SANDALS

THE TYPICAL SANDALS IN THE BIBLE WERE MADE OF LEATHER.

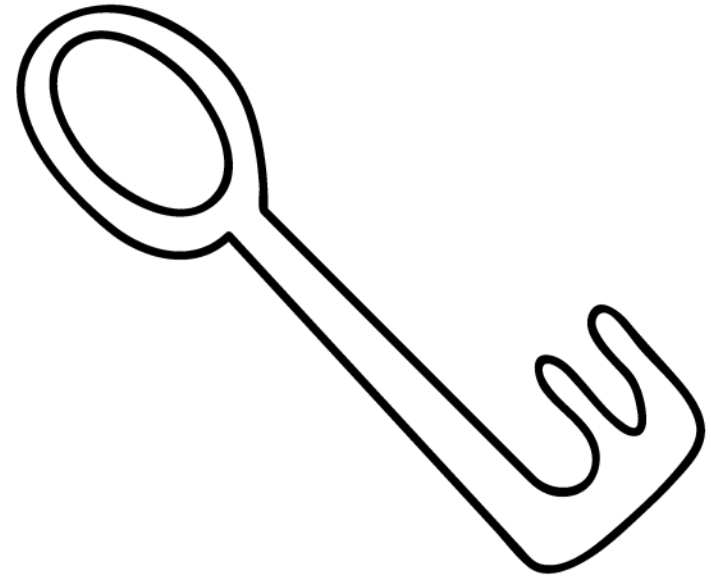


John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry."

(NIV Matthew 3:11)

KEYS

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE USED KEYS MADE OF WOOD OR IRON. THEY WERE QUITE LARGE AND SHAPED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE KEYS WE USE TODAY.



Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

(NIV Matthew 16:19)