

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Welcome to Kremer's Vacation Bible School course TEAM JESUS. As with each of the Kremer courses, four goals were set.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. VERSATILE

Team Jesus was designed to be used for large and small congregations. As a reproducible course, churches have the flexibility to use whatever materials they wish, for preschoolers through adults. Student lessons are provided in both King James and New International (1984) versions. Since these courses are not dated, they may be enjoyed throughout the year. Churches are given the right to make copies of any sections they wish, including the music CDs. Churches also have the ability to reuse the course at any time in the future. (Permission is NOT granted for churches to sell this product.)

2. FOCUSED

This course presents the Word of God in all its truth, purity, and simplicity to Christ's lambs. Many congregations consider VBS as their first line of mission work. Consequently, the few hours available during the days that this course is taught must include a clear and concise message. Children must be shown the curse of the law, that they might realize that they are sinners in need of a Savior. They must also be clearly shown the promise of the gospel, that out of God's great love for us, he sent his son Jesus to take our punishment on himself. This gospel message should shine clearly in each of the lessons.

3. ENJOYABLE

Every component of this course is designed to stimulate the class. The stories, activity sheets, crafts, songs, etc. are coordinated to form a very enjoyable and memorable series.

4. USABLE

This course has been designed to be easily followed and well-stocked with ideas and suggestions.

THEME

TEAM JESUS is based on 1 Corinthians 9:24,25: "Run in such a way as to get the prize . . . Do it to get a crown that will last forever."

LESSONS

DAY 1

God's Champions Run with Their Faith
CALEB . . . from detective to disciple

DAY 2

God's Champions Lift the Weight of Others
THE SERVANT GIRL . . . from maid to missionary

DAY 3

God's Champions Exercise Forgiveness
JOSEPH . . . from pit to power

DAY 4

God's Champions Listen to the Coach
ANDREW . . . from fisherman to follower

DAY 5

God's Champions Train More Athletes
TIMOTHY . . . from teen to teacher

DAILY SCHEDULE

Churches are free to schedule their daily routines as best fits the time allotted to this course. This curriculum will work well with either a traditional classroom setting where one teacher remains with the class throughout the

day or with a spoke-like schedule where teachers are assigned a part of the day for their area of expertise. These lessons will also work well to be presented indoors or outdoors.

In designing your daily schedule remember the following sections:

Opening Devotion
Lesson Time
Application Time
Activity Page Time
Games and Contests
Snacks
Crafts
Singing
Closing
Restroom Breaks

THE DEVOTIONS

Those churches that wish to open with an all-school devotion at the beginning of the day may use the prewritten devotions and PowerPoint presentations available. Each devotion sets the theme of the day.

TEACHER'S GUIDES

Each lesson has a brief teacher guide included. This will help the teachers realize the theme, summary, and scheduling for each class. There are also several suggestions included on each guide if teachers wish to add some interesting crafts or discussions. The teacher's guide also provides answers for the days' activities.

BACKGROUND AND APPLICATIONS

A special section is included that gives teachers interesting story background information that may help in one's personal study. Those sheets also include applications that should accompany the story.

ACTIVITIES

Each lesson for preschool through grade six is followed with an activity page. A few of these activities may need additional craft materials, markers, or Bibles.

CRAFTS

This course includes two sets of craft ideas. In keeping with the theme of this course, one set is made up entirely of games that the children can make and take home with them. The second set of craft ideas includes projects that are tied more closely with a religious message. Use one or both sets as your time allows. If you wish to follow your own craft ideas feel free to do so.

SONGS

Champions for Jesus is the theme song for the course. If preferred, children can be taught one verse each day of the course. A second CD with fun Bible songs is included free with this course.

PROMOTION AND FOLLOW-UP

You will find the Promotion and Follow-Up section helpful in both advertising your VBS program to the community and making the follow-up worthwhile.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

The course disk also included a closing service that may be used on the last day or on the Sunday following the VBS week.

GAMES AND CONTESTS

What would a course on athletics be without some great outdoor games for the children to enjoy. The Game section is designed to run three contests each day. It is suggested on day one to divide the entire group into teams of mixed ages. Each day the teams will sit together and participate in the three contests: one for lower grades, one for upper grades, and one for mixed ages. Perhaps scores can be kept throughout the week and prizes given on the last day.

SNACKS

Several yummy snack recipes for both food and refreshment are provided with this course.

DECORATIONS

There is also a helpful list of decoration ideas that will turn your campus into a great sports complex.

YOUTH AND ADULTS

Many churches today conduct their VBS in the evenings and thus prefer to include youth and adults in the lessons. TEAM JESUS includes lessons for both age groups. The stories are designed to coordinate with the same lessons that the children learn for the day.

TEMPLATES

Please search through the files of Templates. Here you will find helpful forms for doorknob hangers (that are even typeable), bulletin inserts, posters, attendance charts, logos, etc.

T-SHIRT DESIGNS

You can make your own t-shirts by using the included designs and by purchasing the T-shirt Iron-on paper available at Kremer Publications. (1-800-669-0887)

WEB IDEAS

On this disk you will find a section that includes a church web site attachment. Feel free to place this attachment on your church web site advertising your VBS.

SUPPORT

If you have any questions regarding this course or content, feel free to contact us at:

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**Run in such a way as to get the prize...
Do it to get a crown that will last forever.**

1 Corinthians 9:24,25

STORY BACKGROUND AND APPLICATION

The purpose of these files is to give teachers additional story background information that will assist them in their lesson preparations. Also included are applications that should be presented for each of the accounts. Simply teaching an interesting Bible story will have little benefit for the children unless it is applied to their lives. Without good application the Bible will become like all other storybooks the children have in their collections at home. God's accounts come with lessons that affect our lives. An equal amount of time and concentration should be put into the application as well as presenting the story account.

GOD'S CHAMPIONS LIFT THE WEIGHT OF OTHERS

THE SERVANT GIRL . . . from maid to missionary

2 Kings 5:1-15

BACKGROUND

2 Kings 5:1-6

King David at one time had conquered the Syrians (Aramaeans); however, after the death of King Solomon, these people once again regained their power and frequently waged war against Israel. One captive taken by the Syrians was a young girl who was pulled from home and family and forced to serve the wife of Naaman, commander of the Syrian (Aramaean) army. She was on her own, apart from those who had taught her about the Lord. She would have to fend for herself among heathen people. How many of our children would be capable of this today? We pray for our Christian families that they may teach their children well and at an early age. Naaman was a powerful man but someone who also had a fatal flaw—he had leprosy, an incurable and fatal disease.

But the servant girl (who is never named) came forward and told her mistress that she knew where Naaman could find healing. If he would only go to see the man of God in Samaria, he would be healed. Such certainty in her voice makes us understand what a pure childlike faith is. Notice she didn't say that he might be healed or there was a possible cure, but she boldly exclaimed that he would be healed.

Naaman brought the suggestion before his king. If there were a man in Israel with such magical powers, surely the king of Israel (Jehoram) would have him at his disposal. So the king of Aram wrote a letter to the king of Israel. Along with the letter, Naaman brought with him many gifts worth huge sums of money.

2 Kings 5:7-12

When the Israelite king received the letter, he was distraught, thinking that the enemy king was asking the impossible. Yet when Elisha heard this, he told the king to send Naaman to him. When Naaman arrived at the door of Elisha's humble abode, he was directed by Elisha's servant to dip seven times in the Jordan River. This was a huge embarrassment for Naaman because Elisha didn't even see the commander in person. Instead, Elisha sent his servant with a foolish suggestion. Naaman turned and left in disgust. He thought the cure was too easy. No medication? No hands-on treatments? Just a simple bath in a dirty river? Like all unbelievers, the way to eternal life is often dismissed because it is just too simple. "Just believe," is what we say. "But that's too easy," they respond. "Surely we must do some great thing to receive the gift of eternal life." So Naaman left disappointed.

2 Kings 5:13-15

Finally Naaman's servants brought some sense to him and pleaded that he try this simple command to wash seven times in the Jordan River. What did he have to lose? So he dipped himself seven times, and he was cured immediately. Not partially cured! There were no scars, no signs of leprous skin sores. Nothing! God's miracles are always complete. When God silenced the storm on the Sea of Galilee, it was a "great calm." And so Naaman's skin was like that of a young boy.

Naaman's confession was a beautiful tribute that he had not only been healed on the outside but that his soul had also found healing in the words of the Lord. Naaman was a new man. He had replaced the disease of leprosy with a heart filled with belief in the true God . . . and all because one little girl spoke up!

APPLICATION

What if the parents of that servant girl had never taught her the love and power of the Lord? What if that servant girl had dismissed her former teaching and grabbed onto the heathen ways of Naaman's people? What if the girl would have been too timid to tell her mistress about Elisha? What if the servant girl would have forgotten about the prophet Elisha? If any of these things had happened, Naaman would have died a leprous unbeliever. But she did remember the Lord, she did give witness to her faith, and Naaman's body and soul were both healed of sickness and sin. The same questions can be asked of the children. What if you don't share Jesus with those around you? Who will? What if you know where your family and friends can find eternal life, but you forget to or refuse to tell them? We can learn some powerful lessons from this one unnamed, little servant girl. Truly she was a champion willing to lift the weight of those around her!

GOD'S CHAMPIONS EXERCISE FORGIVENESS

JOSEPH . . . from pit to power

Genesis 37:12–26; 42–45

BACKGROUND

Genesis 37:12-36

At age 17, Joseph was apprenticed as a shepherd for the flocks of his father, Jacob. Jealousy grew within the hearts of Joseph's brothers because of several dreams he had in which the brothers bowed down to him and because Jacob showed Joseph exceptional favoritism, an unwise move for any parent. One day when Joseph was with his brothers in the fields, they decided to get rid of their hated brother once and for all. So they dropped Joseph into a deep cistern (a pit from which there was no escape), knowing that in a short time he would die. Eventually it was decided to sell him for 30 pieces of silver to a caravan en route to Egypt. The disgusting report they would tell their father was that Joseph had been eaten by a wild animal. Thus they felt the time had come for them to wash their hands of their little brother once and for all. But that is not the way the Lord works.

Through a long and hard life, Joseph gradually worked his way up from servant to convict to the second in command in all of Egypt. How difficult that climb must have been! Remember that Joseph was cut off from all mention of the true God. Like the servant girl in the story of Naaman, he lived alone in a heathen nation. What his father had taught him during his early years was all that he would know about his Lord. Yet he held true to what he did remember about the Lord.

We pick up our story 13 years later. Joseph now spoke a different language. He no longer wore the clothes of the Hebrews. His face was probably shaven and covered with Egyptian cosmetics. And he sat on a seat as governor, wearing the pharaoh's ring.

Genesis 42:1-8

The famine that Joseph had foretold was now an ugly reality. Its devastation reached from Egypt all the way to Jacob and his family. Death was in the not-too-distant future if no food was available soon. So Jacob sent his sons (minus Benjamin) to Egypt to purchase food. Since it was Joseph's job to interview those who came and asked for food and to keep track of Egypt's supplies, it was only natural that his brothers came into his presence for their request. The script could not have been written any better. First they bowed before Joseph, as was the custom. (Just as Joseph had dreamed so many years earlier.) Joseph recognized his brothers, yet they did not recognize him.

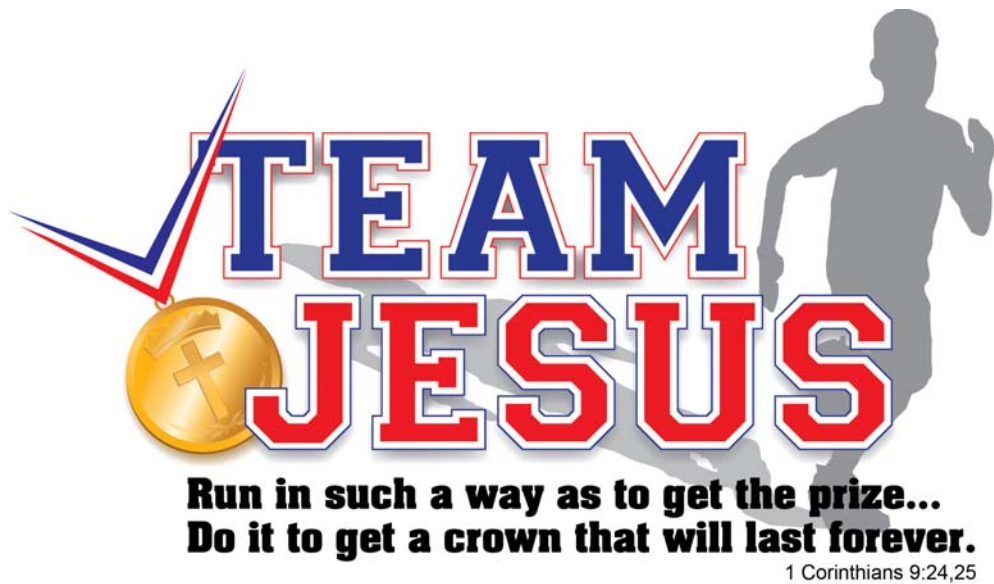
Genesis 42:9–44:34 recalls the accusation that the brothers were spies and Joseph's maneuvering to get his younger brother and father down to Egypt to be with him. You may explain this section to the children if time permits.

Genesis 45

The repeated emphasis on Benjamin may well have been that Joseph wanted his brothers to remember the sale of a younger brother to the Egyptians. He wanted them to assure him that they would not also do that to Benjamin, also a favorite of Jacob's since he was the second child of beloved Rachel. Benjamin was only an infant when Joseph was sold into slavery.

Finally, when the brothers returned, Joseph could take no more. The charade was burning in his heart. He asked the attendants to leave the room. Finally, Joseph broke down. Scripture tells us that he wept so loudly that they heard him outside. Joseph admitted who he was. His first question was if his father, Jacob, was still alive. The brothers, however, were tongue-tied. They were all afraid to open their mouths lest they be accused of the heinous crime they had committed years earlier.

By worldly standards, Joseph's approach to his brothers was unbelievable. The world would have cried revenge against these wicked brothers. Joseph had the power and the motive to make his brothers feel the same pain he had. But instead, he told them not to fear him. It was not they who had put him in this position; it was God. So he commanded his brothers to go back home and bring their aging father down to Egypt so that he could die in peace, knowing that the son he loved was still alive.



DEVOTIONS NIV VERSION

The following pages include devotions that you may use with your VBS program. They can serve as an ideal way to get your entire student body together as they begin each day. The devotions are all part of the Team Jesus theme. These devotions contain an added PowerPoint visual aide that you may wish to use. The showing of these slides will enhance your presentations. (The PowerPoint disk is included as a separate item with this course.)

DAY 4

GOD'S CHAMPIONS FOLLOW THE COACH

Slides: 1- Coach shouting
2- Coach teaching kids
3- Vince Lombardi
4- Pathway

1 Peter 2:21 “*Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.*”

Have you ever played any team sports like baseball, gymnastics, football, or tennis? If you have, you noticed that every team sport includes two groups of people. Do you know what they are? They are the team and the coach. The team is made up of the players, those who do the hard work of playing together and using all their skills as best they can. Like in the sport of football, some teams are large. Other sports like tennis have only a few people on a team.

(Slide 1) The other important person is the coach. He or she is the one who has been chosen to work with the team. The coach trains the team and decides which players to use in each situation. The coach has an important job. **(Slide 2)** His or her decisions often play a part in winning or losing the game. We expect that a coach knows the sport very well. In fact the coach should be an expert in the sport. What would happen if you chose a coach who never played the sport?

Some players don't always like the coach. Some don't feel he or she makes good decisions or knows how to handle certain situations. Yet all the players should understand that what the coach decides is what the team will do. The coach has the last voice in everything. His or her decisions are final. All good team members will follow the coach.

There once was a football coach named Vince Lombardi. **(Slide 3)** The players who were on Coach Lombardi's team said he was a very difficult man to play for. He had very strict rules that his players had to follow. He was always tough on his players, making them practice and practice until they were ready to drop. Many of his players admitted that he was the toughest coach they ever played for. But as tough as Coach Lombardi was, his teams won game after game after game. Finally the players realized that it was because of the tough coach that they became better players than all the other teams in the league. In fact Coach Lombardi led his Green Bay Packers to win the first and the second Super Bowls ever played.

In a way we could say that our lives are like playing a sport. Some games we win, some we lose. Sometimes we get injured and sometimes the going gets very difficult. We have problems that need solving, we suffer from loneliness or broken friendships, and we often have aches and pains when the game gets tough. Yet there is one thing we can always be certain of: we have a coach who will never let us down. Jesus is our coach. That's why we can say we are on Team Jesus. Jesus knows how to play the game. **(Slide 4)** He knows how to win the prize and finally achieve our victory in heaven. We know that Jesus cares for his team so much that he died on the cross for all of us. That's why we should always follow our coach Jesus. We should listen to the words of 1 Peter 2:21 where he writes that, “Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.”

Our lesson today shows us a team player who followed Jesus for many years. We will see when this player first met his coach, and how he followed Jesus from then on.

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, give me the strength to continue to follow you. When I stray from your coaching and head off in the wrong direction, please bring me back into the locker room where I can again find the guidance and direction to heaven, my final prize. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

TEAM JESUS FOLLOWS THE COACH





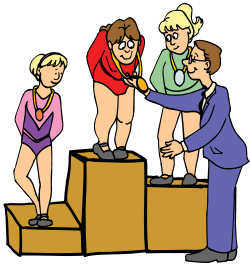






andrew follows jesus

THE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL



After an Olympic event has ended, the first, second, and third place winners are awarded their medals. The three winners are

asked to stand on top of a small stage. The first place winner stands on the highest level, the second place winner and the third place winner stand on his sides. All three winners are very proud of their new Olympic medals because they are considered the best in the world at their sport.

LET'S HAVE A TALK

What do you think it was like to live at the time when Jesus lived? How do you think Jesus looked? What do you think it was like listening to Jesus talk about heaven? What was the most difficult day in Jesus' life, and what was the most glorious day? Today we will hear about someone who was able to live with Jesus, to listen to Jesus, and to follow Jesus.



andrew follows jesus

Did you know that Jesus had a cousin named John? Some people call him John the Baptist. He was an interesting man who liked to live outdoors and eat strange foods. God sent John the Baptist to prepare people for Jesus. John spent long hours teaching the crowds about Jesus, who would come to save all people from their sins.

One day as John was preaching, Jesus happened to come along. John took one look at Jesus and told the crowds, "Look, here is the Lamb of God, who has come to take away the sins of the world."

The next day John was again teaching the people. Among the crowd were two men who had followed John to hear him preach. One of these men was Andrew, a fisherman from Galilee. When John pointed out again that Jesus was God's Son, Andrew decided to find out more, so he began to follow Jesus. When Jesus saw him following, he turned and asked, "What do you want?"

Andrew said he wanted to learn more about who Jesus was and why he was here. So Jesus invited Andrew and his friend to spend the day with him. The two men listened



closely to what Jesus had to say. Although we don't know the exact words Jesus said, he probably told them that he was sent by his Father in heaven to come to earth to die for the sins of everyone. He told them if anyone believes in him, they too will have eternal life in heaven.

That was just what Andrew wanted to hear. He was now convinced that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Happy that he had found Jesus, Andrew quickly looked for his brother, Peter, and told him all about meeting Jesus. Peter also ran to find Jesus, and he decided to become a follower too.

A short while later when Andrew was back at home fishing, Jesus again came to him. This time Jesus told Andrew to drop his nets, leave his home, and follow him. Jesus called Andrew to be one of his special disciples. Andrew gladly left everything to follow his Savior.

Has Jesus ever asked you to follow him? Yes, he has. When you say that you believe that Jesus is your Savior, you promise to follow Jesus, because you know that he will lead you to heaven. How do we do that? We follow Jesus when we obey what he has to say. We also follow Jesus when we tell others about his love and forgiveness. We have many opportunities to be followers of Jesus, just as Andrew did.

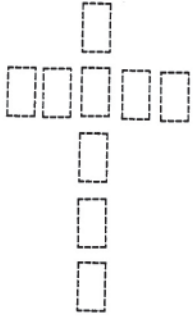
HERE'S WHAT GOD SAYS

"You should follow in his steps." 1 Peter 2:21

Andrew followed Jesus. Color the picture.



Jesus paid the price for our sins. Color the tickets and cut them out. Paste them on another sheet of paper in the shape of a cross.



MY TICKET
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GOD'S CHAMPIONS EXERCISE FORGIVENESS! JOSEPH . . . FROM PIT TO POWER

GENESIS 37:12-36; 42-45

ONCE IN THE OLYMPICS

Have you ever played a game of croquet? It's a great outdoors game. The game is played on a grassy surface where you set up a pattern of wire goals and wooden posts. The object of the game is to take a mallet and hit a wooden ball through the course. The first to complete the course is the winner. Although it is a fun game, it doesn't seem to be much of an Olympic sport for rough-and-tumble athletes. In 1900 the Olympics were played in Paris, France. That was the only year that croquet was considered an Olympic sport. France won all the croquet events, which is not surprising since only the French competitors took part. The spectators didn't like it either. There was only one fan who watched the competition. Since then it has never again been in the Olympics.

Sometimes our busy lives resemble a croquet field. First we have to go left and then to the right. Sometimes we have to do things over and over until we finally reach our goal. That's why God gives us his Word in the Bible. There we can find the right path to take until we gain our victory in heaven.

STRETCHING YOUR MUSCLES

How many of you have brothers and sisters?
How well do you get along with one another?
Are you polite and loving toward one another?
Do you play well together? Do you do things together?
Do you ever argue? Brothers and sisters are blessings God has given us. We should treat them with love and respect, even though we might not always agree with them. Our Bible account today is about a family of 12 brothers who didn't get along at all.



JOSEPH TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS

Of the 12 sons of Jacob, Joseph was the least liked by his brothers. He was often favored by his father, and that made his brothers jealous. Soon they began to hate Joseph and tried to find a way to get rid of him. Before long they had their chance. While the wicked brothers were tending their father's flocks, they decided to grab Joseph and drop him into a deep pit. The plan was to let him die there, but older brother Judah suggested that they sell Joseph to some travelers instead. As they sat down to eat, a caravan of travelers stopped. They were heading toward Egypt. The brothers took Joseph and sold him to the travelers for 30 pieces of silver. Then the brothers returned home and lied to their father by saying that Joseph had been attacked by a wild animal and was killed. What a horrid lie to tell their father!

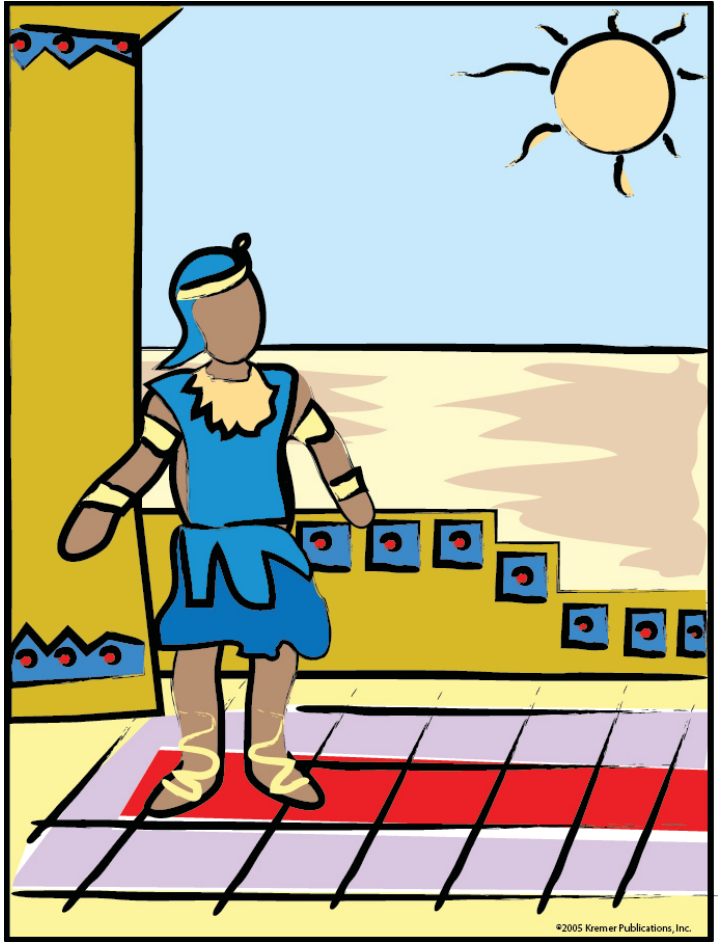
In Egypt, Joseph worked his way up to becoming very important. He became the right-hand man to the pharaoh of Egypt, the ruler of all the people. Knowing there would be a terrible famine in the land, Joseph was put in charge of storing food for the people. Joseph became well liked by the people and the pharaoh. But Joseph never forgot the lessons

his father had taught him when he was a young lad. His father told Joseph about a loving God who would always be with Joseph and guide him.

The famine became so terrible that there was no food even in faraway Israel where Jacob and his sons still lived. So Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt and buy some food for them to stay alive.

The sons traveled many miles to Egypt. When they arrived, they were told to see the overseer of storing the food. Who do you think that was? There sat Joseph, right in front of his brothers. What a picture that must have been. Although Joseph immediately recognized his brothers, they did not know that it was Joseph. Why?

If you had been Joseph, what might you have done? Would you have locked your brothers up in prison? Would you have ordered them put to death just as they wanted to put you to death? Would you have punished them for what they did to you? Joseph did none of those things. The Bible tells us that Joseph looked at his brothers and said, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living? Do not be angry with yourselves for sending me here because God had a purpose for placing me in Egypt."



AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

What a lesson we can learn from Joseph! He was a real champion because real champions forgive those who do wrong to them. Joseph didn't seek revenge against his brothers. Instead he showed them love. That is just what God does for us. Every day we sin against God. Does God take revenge against us or does he forgive us? What a loving God we have. He has promised to put our sins away as far as the ends of the earth. He has promised to bury our sins at the bottom of the ocean. God forgives us again and again. Jesus loves us so much that he suffered and died on a cross because of all the sins we commit. Truly God is love. God is forgiveness. That's why God tells us that we should forgive others who sin against us. Joseph did just that! Joseph was a real champion because real champions exercise forgiveness!

WORDS FROM OUR COACH

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Luke 11:4 NIV



Put the events in proper order by placing the correct letters on the lines.

- _____ A Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt.
- _____ B Joseph was placed in a pit.
- _____ C Joseph's brothers hated him.
- _____ D Joseph forgave his brothers.
- _____ E Joseph stored up food for the coming famine.

WHAT'S UP?

Answer these questions from the story.

1. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? What does God say about loving our brothers and sisters?
2. What mean lie did Joseph's brothers tell his father?
3. Did Joseph complain about his life in Egypt? What can we learn from that?
4. What could Joseph have done to his brothers when he met them? What did he do instead?
5. How does the memory verse speak to this story and to us?

CODE WORDS!

Cross out each "X" and find out what the code says.

XFXOXR XGXIXVXEXXOXNXEXXAXNXOXTXHXEXR

FORGIVENESS!

We need to be forgiven for the sins we do. Make a list of some of the times you've needed forgiveness. Begin each item with a letter from the word FORGIVENESS. The first one has been done for you.

Forgot to do my homework

**O
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BIBLE SEARCH

Read Acts 7:59,60. Who also forgave those who did evil?

GOD'S CHAMPIONS RUN WITH THEIR FAITH!

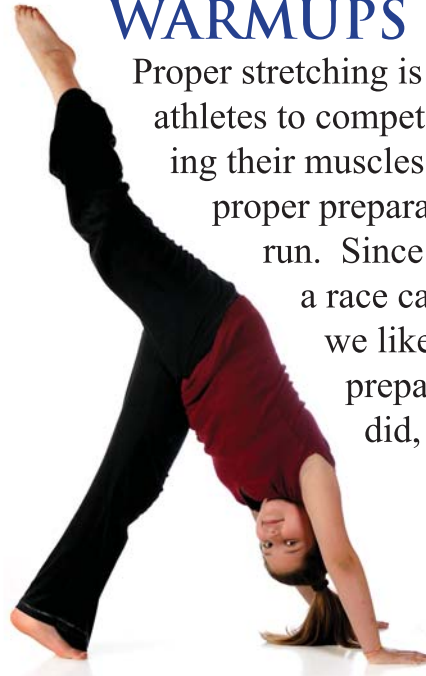
CALEB . . . from detective to disciple
Numbers 13, 14

OLYMPIC DID YOU KNOW. . . ?

- *The Winter Olympics have four indoor sports: curling, hockey, speed skating, and figure skating.*
- *Norway has won the most Winter Games medals with 303.*
- *The United States has won the most Summer Games medals with 2,296.*
- *The first televised Olympics were the 1960 games in Rome, Italy.*
- *Traditionally the Olympic flame in Olympia, Greece, is rekindled every two years using the sun's rays and a concave reflective mirror.*

WARMUPS

Proper stretching is necessary for good athletes to compete without injuring their muscles. They must take proper preparations before they run. Since we are also running a race called life, shouldn't we likewise make proper preparations for it? Caleb did, wholeheartedly!

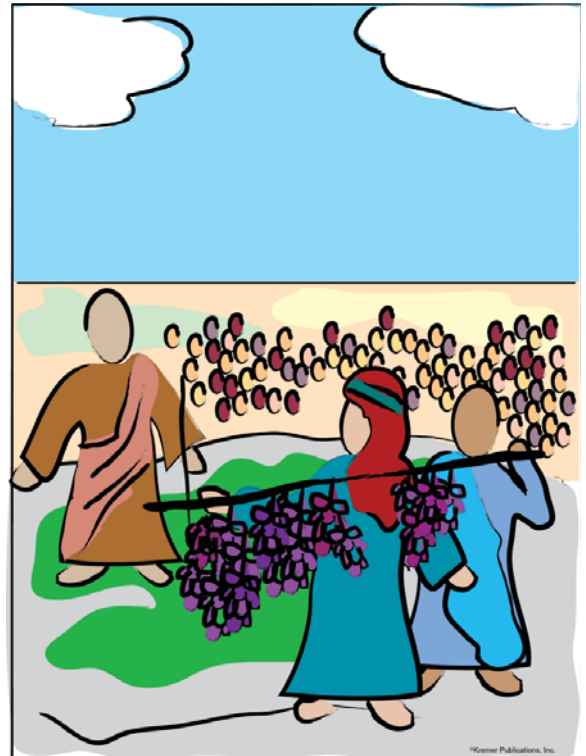


CALEB STANDS THE TEST

The Israelites served as slaves for the Egyptian pharaoh for hundreds of years. Their days were filled with hard labor in the hot sun making bricks for lavish Egyptian buildings. But God had plans for his people. God led them out of Egypt across the Red Sea to safety. However, once they crossed the Red Sea, they found themselves in a hot and dry wilderness, not a good place for thousands of people. God told their leader, Moses, to send some spies into the land of Canaan, the land God was going to give his people.

Moses chose 12 men and gave them instructions to report back with information about the land. He wanted to know how strong the people were and if the land was good for crops. Moses even asked them to bring back samples of some of the food grown in Canaan.

The 12 spies sneaked into Canaan and searched the land for 40 days. They looked like detectives trying to learn everything they could. They even brought back with them a huge bunch of grapes that was so heavy it took two men to carry it!



When they arrived back at the Israelite camp, they began to tell Moses and the people some remarkable things about the country. But their stories didn't all agree. Ten of the spies reported that the land was frightening and that the people were as tall as giants, leading armies much mightier than theirs. There was no way they wanted to go back there!

Faithful Caleb and Joshua disagreed. These two spies saw things quite differently. They shouted to the crowd that they should indeed march into Canaan and take it just as God had told them to. They told the people there was no need to fear the Canaanites because God was on their side and he would give them the victory.

Who do you think the people listened to? All that night the people cried and worried, thinking they would never be able to enter Canaan and have their own land. They even begged Moses to take them back to Egypt. They thought living as slaves was better than trying to enter the Promised Land. They listened to the ten spies who were frightened by the Canaanites, not to Joshua and Caleb.

This made the Lord very angry. "How long will these people grumble?" God asked Moses. "Now I will send punishment on them because they don't believe in my promises."

God told Moses to tell the people that because they didn't place their trust in the Lord, they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years—one year for each day the spies were searching Canaan. Plus, God said that no one over 20 years old would ever step foot in the Promised Land. Only their children would do that. But God made two exceptions to this punishment. God said that Joshua and Caleb would live long enough to enter the Promised Land and see the beautiful land they had spied many years earlier.

A RACE TO REMEMBER

Why do you think Joshua and Caleb were confident that the Lord would give them the victory? Their trust in God serves as an example for us today. The race of life that we are running is filled with many obstacles. Pain and problems, hatred and sadness, loneliness and disappointment are all part of our daily lives. Yet the Lord tells us that we need only trust in him and he will give us the victory. No matter what the problem, where we go, or what we do, we should always do our walking with God. He has promised to help us wherever and whenever. Team Jesus doesn't run away from God; they run with him!



WHAT THE COACH SAYS

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and who walk in his ways. Psalm 128:1 NIV

FACTS!

1. Why did God rescue the Children of Israel from Egypt?
2. What did God promise the Children?
3. What were the men supposed to search out on their spying mission?
4. What was the report of Joshua and Caleb?
5. Why did God become angry with the people?



THOUGHTS!

1. If the people knew that it was God who delivered them from Egypt, why didn't they think he would also give them the land of Canaan?
2. What were the ten unbelieving spies looking for in Canaan?
3. What were Joshua and Caleb searching for?
4. What gives God the right to become angry with his people?
5. What can we learn from the great faith of Caleb?

THE REST OF THE STORY

Read about Caleb after he entered the Promised Land in Joshua 14:6-15 and 15:13-19.

CALEB'S SECRET

Read these Scripture passages about Caleb. What one word is in all of them? Does that tell us something about Caleb?

Numbers 14:24 Numbers 32:11 Deuteronomy 1:36
Joshua 14:8 Joshua 14:9 Joshua 14:14

THE SPY'S CODE

Using the following code, fill in the blanks and discover the message.

A = 26,29	F = 27,33	M = 37	S = 19
B = 12,24	H = 2,17,35	N = 22	T = 1,16,23,34
D = 7,20,31	I = 9,15,30	O = 5,21,32	U = 18
E = 3,13,25,36	L = 4,10,11	R = 6,28	W = 8,14

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37!

TWO DIARIES

In Diary #1 write the thoughts of Caleb after returning from Canaan. In Diary #2 write an entry for one of the faithless 10 spies.

Diary #1

Diary #2

THEME: ANDREW FOLLOWS JESUS

BIBLE REFERENCE: John 1:29-42

STORY SUMMARY: Andrew was searching for the promised Savior. When he found Jesus, he left everything to follow Jesus.

APPLICATION: Just as Andrew knew in his heart that Jesus was his Savior, and thus followed him as a faithful disciple, so we should follow Jesus for we know that he will lead us to everlasting life.

PRIVATE PEP TALK: In today's society there are many voices calling for us to follow them. Many are sinful and lead down paths of destruction. Likewise our children have many people and thoughts influencing them as well. We must show them the right path that will lead to eternal joy.

PREPARATION

1. Open your study with prayer: *Heavenly Father, there are many pathways that lead us in many directions, but you have taught us that only you are the Way. Help me to teach these children how important it is to follow you, their source of true joy and happiness. Give them strength to fight off influences that will take them down destructive paths. I ask this in the name of Jesus, my Savior and my Way. Amen.*
2. Read and study the story from the Bible. Also consult the Story Background and Application sheet.
3. Practice teaching the lesson. Perhaps you might like to bring a roadmap to class as a story starter.
4. Be prepared for the activity page.
5. Remember the memory passage.

PRESENTATION

1. Group devotion/sports contests.
2. Discuss the Let's Have a Talk.
3. Tell the story and then read it to them. This would be a good story to act out for them pretending you are Andrew.
4. Use the lesson full color picture.
5. Be certain to apply the story.
6. Activity page.
7. Recess and refreshments.
8. Singing practice.
9. Craft time.
10. Clean up and recap the story. Close with prayer.

OTHER ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Bring a roadmap to class and stress how important it is to follow the right path.
2. Make a boat shape on the floor with masking tape. Have the children sit inside as you tell them the story.
3. Serve "Goldfish" crackers as a snack.
4. Play follow-the-leader as you repeat, "I follow Jesus every day, that's because he knows the way."
5. Show a picture of the Last Supper and name the twelve apostles—including Andrew.

ACTIVITY PAGE

TICKET PRICE PAID IN FULL: Have the children color and cut out the tickets. Then have them paste them on a sheet of construction paper in the shape of a cross. Discuss the significance of Jesus paying the price of our ticket to heaven.

THEME: JOSEPH . . . FROM PIT TO POWER

BIBLE REFERENCE: Genesis 27:12-36; 42–45

STORY SUMMARY: Joseph's brothers hated him and treated him cruelly, yet Joseph saw in his heart that they were to be forgiven for their thoughts and actions.

APPLICATION: Just as Joseph forgave his brothers for their terrible treatment, so we must also forgive those who wrong us.

PRIVATE PEP TALK: Today we see another way in which we can be an example to others: we can forgive. Revenge is a common problem in today's society. We see it in politics, on the athletic field, in television programs, and on the evening news. We must teach our students to seek help and strength from the Lord that we might rise above the sinful act of vengeance and forgive.

PREPARATION

1. Today's opening prayer: *Dearest Lord, help us to follow the example of forgiveness you set for us on the cross. Teach us to always be ready to forgive those around us. Forgive my personal thoughts of revenge against those who have wronged me. Be with my presentation today that I may pass this truth along to the lambs you have given me. In the name of Jesus, the one who has forgiven me, Amen.*
2. Plan your introduction to this story.
3. Read the material from the lesson sheets, the Bible, and the Story Background and Application files.
4. Have materials ready for the activity.
5. Review the song for the day.
6. Remember to discuss the memory passage.

PRESENTATION

1. Group devotion/sports contest.
2. Discuss the Stretching Your Muscles section on the lesson page.
3. Tell the lesson and stress the application.
4. Do the activity sheet.
5. You may wish to cut out the activity pictures and pin them to the classroom bulletin board.
6. Recess and refreshment.
7. Singing practice.
8. Craft time.
9. Clean up and recap the story of the day.
10. Close with prayer.

OTHER ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Discuss revenge and how it can destroy us.
2. Discuss what a caravan was.
3. Discuss times when it is difficult to forgive someone.
4. Show children a picture of the cross and explain to them that this is where God forgave us all our sins.
5. Briefly listen to a CD of a foreign language. Discuss how difficult it must have been for Joseph to get accustomed to Egyptian life.
6. Make a "spin the story" (tag board circle with a spinner and 5 pre-drawn pictures from the lesson.)

ACTIVITY PAGE

LINE UP: C,B,E,A,D

WHAT'S UP?:

1. They were jealous of him.
2. They told their father that Joseph was dead.
3. Like the servant girl in the previous lesson, Joseph accepted his lot in life as from the hand of God.

4. Joseph could have had them put to death, but he loved them and forgave them instead.
5. Jesus taught us this passage.

CODE WORDS: FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

FORGIVENESS: Answers will vary.

BIBLE SEARCH: Stephen forgave those who hated him, even while he was being stoned to death.

SESSION 1

YOUTH



JUGGLING OUR LIVES

Which way should we go?

Some of you would probably say that our first sport isn't a sport at all, but just a pastime. The object is to keep several balls or other objects in the air at any given time. This is done by tossing them in the air and passing them from hand to hand while keeping them in flight. It's called juggling, and it dates back to ancient Egypt. Drawings of jugglers have been discovered on the walls of some Egyptian tombs. Later references were found in Europe and Mexico. Today there is even an International Juggling Association that holds annual contests.

Most jugglers are satisfied with juggling balls, rings, clubs, or boxes in the air. Some take it a step further and juggle knives, flaming torches, or other dangerous objects. The Chinese enjoy watching vase juggling; not something you would necessarily like to try at home in the family room.

Juggling can be great fun for anyone who has mastered it. For the rest of us who have not, we're satisfied with sitting on the sidelines and watching others do the juggling.

Yet each of us really does some form of juggling. We juggle our schedules to meet deadlines. We juggle our friends to keep our popularity afloat. We juggle our careers to find ways of doing everything we want to in life. We also have been known to juggle our diets, juggle our wardrobes, and juggle our bank accounts. In short, we all juggle our lives every day!

But there is one type of juggling that should never be attempted. We should never juggle our faith, our God, or our eternal future. Those are areas that need to be rock solid, firm, never swerving, never changing, and above all, never up in the air!

Introducing CALEB: A Team Jesus Great

In our account today, we'll meet the first real champion in our series. We will discover that this particular man was a great example in keeping our focus on the Lord. His faith never swayed. He never juggled with God's promises. He knew who he was, why he was here, and where he was going. Do you know who you are, why you are here, and where you are going? Perhaps this non-juggling champion can show us the way.

The Account

Setting the stage: The Israelites left their oppressed home in Egypt, crossed the opened Red Sea, and camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai. While there, Moses received the Ten Commandments and destroyed

the golden calf that the people had worshiped. They were heading north and were camped at Kadesh Barnea, quite literally on the doorstep of the land God promised to give them. They could move into their new home within a few months. Instead, something went horribly wrong!

Numbers 13:1-15

1. Who made the request to spy out the land of Canaan?
2. What do we learn about this new land right from the beginning? (Numbers 13:2)
3. Why did Moses select one leader from each of the twelve tribes?
4. List the names of those chosen.

Numbers 13:16-20

1. Exactly what were they to find out? List each item on the board.
2. Why were they asked to bring back some of the fruit?

Numbers 13:21-25

1. On a map find the areas the spies visited.
2. Who were the Anakites? (Deuteronomy 1:28, 2:10 and Joshua 11:21-23)

Numbers 13:26-33

Discuss the two different reports given when the spies returned.

Numbers 14:1-4

1. How did the community react?
2. What did the people regret?
3. How far did they wish to carry their complaints?

Numbers 14:5-19

1. Which four men stuck together in their argument?
2. What did their message have to do with the people's confidence in the Lord?
3. Did the people listen then? (v. 10)
4. What did the angry Lord have to say about it? (Numbers 14:11-12)
5. What was the argument Moses used to protect the people?
6. What suggestion did Moses make? (Read carefully Numbers 14:18a. Here is a beautiful explanation of the use of law and gospel.)

Numbers 14:20-45

1. What promise did God make to Caleb and Joshua?
2. What curse did the Lord make upon the people? (Numbers 14:30-33)
3. Why did the Lord choose the number 40 as the number of years of wandering ahead of the Israelites?
4. What became of the ten spies who gave the bad report?
5. In verse 41 the people decide to try to enter the land of Canaan now. What happened?
6. What was the result, and why?

The Dilemma

1. Put on the sandals of the ten spies after returning to the camp of the Israelites. Name as many reasons that you can WHY NOT to enter the land. Next put on the sandals of Joshua and Caleb. Name reasons WHY you can enter the land.

2. Read Numbers 14:1-4 again. What does this tell us about people's sinful human nature? Read Exodus 14:11,12; Exodus 15:24; Exodus 16:2; Exodus 17:3; Numbers 11:1. Did it make a difference after the spy episode? See Numbers 20:3 and 21:5.

My Part

In this story we can learn from two very different sources. We can learn how to complain and grumble, or how to carefully lead our lives to fit every situation, even giants in a strange land. Just as the ten spies and the whole assembly of Israel complained about their sad destiny, so we often become upset with what seems to be the "poor judgment the Lord is using" at the time.

We can also learn from Caleb and Joshua, that if we walk with the Lord, he will always keep his promises to be with us, to protect us, and to give us every blessing possible. The problem is that it takes faith. It was a lack of faith that led to the death of thousands during the forty years in the wilderness. It was faith however, that led to life for Joshua and Caleb.

Take a Breather

During the break discuss this question with one another: Wasn't the Lord being a bit touchy by reacting so harshly to the Children of Israel? What would you have done?

Crowd Pleaser

(See Teacher Guide for instructions)

Closing Prayer

Prayer: Lord, there are times we grumble and complain, just like the Children of Israel. Have mercy on us and forgive our selfishness. Help us to see in your servant Caleb the unswerving trust and confidence he placed in your promises. When I begin to juggle my priorities and waver in my faith, mercifully lead me back to you, for I know that the place I truly belong is by your side. Amen.

LESSON 1 INVESTIGATION

THE REST OF THE STORY

Caleb was truly a champion. Use your Bible to fill in the following amazing facts about Caleb:

Read Numbers 34:18-20. Who showed up after the people were in the Promised Land and were about to divide up the territory?

Read Joshua 14:10-12. How old was Caleb, and what was he still able to do? He even asked for the hill country where which tribe lived?

Now read Joshua 15:13-19. Did Caleb accomplish all that he set out to do?

CALEB'S UNWAVERING CONVICTIONS

Make a character study of Caleb. Check any of the following terms that describe him. Be prepared to give a reason for each of your choices.

Faithful	Honest	Frightened
Foolish	Focused	Bold
Leader	Humble	Whimpy
Brave	Weak	Unstable
Trusting	Happy	Content

What would it take for you to become a Caleb?

Do you know anyone quite like Caleb?