



**CORRESPONDING LEVEL WEB #s**

Defenders: 041105



Detectives: 041105



Developers: 041105



## GOD'S WORK – PAST AND PRESENT



### MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible; Teacher Preparation Guide  
*(optional supplements: K4T songbook and PowerPoint files of lyrics)*



### SUGGESTED ORIGINAL KIDS 4 TRUTH SONG

"His Great Master Plan"

### SUGGESTED HYMNS

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past!"; "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

### OTHER SONG SUGGESTIONS

*Older kids:* "Draw Me Nearer," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

*Younger kids:* "He Lives!"; "Amazing Grace"



## THE BASICS

### PRIMARY TRUTH

God has always aimed to magnify His glory through a group of people He sets apart as specially belonging to Him. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were God's chosen people.

### PRIMARY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

**Jeremiah 13:11**

### WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD

God's plan has always been to glorify His greatness and His goodness specially in the lives a group of people He chooses. He does not pick out these certain people because they are better than others or because they did something good to make God pick them. In the Old Testament, the Israelites (or Jews) were God's chosen people. Even though they were far from perfect, God set His love upon them, delivered them out of trouble time and time again, rebuked them, showed them mercy, and made Himself known to them. He called them His people and said that they should consider Him their God.

In the New Testament, we discover that the group of people God sets apart to bring glory to Him in a special way is the Church. The Church includes more than just the Jews who believe Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. It is a larger group of people, because it is anyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and belongs to God in that special way. If you are saved, then you are part of the Church!

Today, God shows Himself mighty and merciful through the people He has chosen for eternal life. The history of the nation of Israel and the history of the Church have a lot of things in common. We can see that even though the Jews had their up-and-down times of rebellion and obedience to God, and even though the Church is full of believing people who still fail and fall short of God's glory – God Himself has always been at work to show His faithful, unchanging gloriousness through the lives of His unfaithful, changing chosen people.

**KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...**

- The child will be reminded again that God has had His plans forever.
- The child will learn that God has always been setting a group of people apart to glorify His name in a special way.
- This lesson will better prepare the child to understand the next lesson (about God's work in His people today).
- The child will understand that people in the Old Testament were saved in the same way people in the Church today get saved – through personal repentance and faith in God's promised Messiah!

**ATTITUDE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...**

- The child will be in awe of God's faithful love and glorious work throughout history.

**PRAYER****TEACHING PHASE – INTRO**

(about 5 minutes)

**OPENER\***

Part of what God wanted to show us about Himself through the Old Testament was that He chose a people (the Jews, the nation of Israel) to glorify His name. He brought glory to Himself by preserving, protecting, forgiving, and being kind and gracious to His people. God was faithful in showing His love and power for the Israelites, whether or not they were trusting and obeying Him faithfully.



**BIBLE DRILL (#1)** – What does this verse teach us about God's purpose for the nation of Israel?

**• Jeremiah 13:11**

Since God is an invisible Spirit, He has chosen to demonstrate His character through a group of people He has set apart to belong to Him. In the Old Testament, this chosen group was the Israelites, or Jews. Israel was a small nation in comparison to others at the time, but because it was specially chosen by God, Israel's position was better than any other nation on Earth. Israel belonged to God in a special way. He loved His people because He wanted to love them. He wanted to showcase His awesome character through them, and He did. In God's dealings with Israel, He has magnified His greatness and His goodness in front of all the nations of the world.

**Deuteronomy 14:2** – For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

But the children of Israel did not faithfully obey God. The Bible says they constantly distrusted Him, complained against Him, rejected Him, rebelled against Him, and provoked Him to anger. God was continually gracious to them (and still is, to this day). Time and time again, God glorified Himself through them, but they failed to glorify Him.

Because God is merciful, He showed His people mercy over and over again. They would fall into sin, so God would judge them by letting their enemies attack and abuse them. Sometimes it took years and years, but eventually the Israelites would repent and seek after God again, calling upon them to help them out of the troubles that their own sin had brought upon them. Over and over again, this would happen. Over and over again, God's response would be to answer the Israelites with mercy, deliverance, forgiveness, and restoration. Then they would forget His goodness and His greatness again. They would sin against Him again and start the whole cycle over again – proving their own FAITHLESSNESS and proving again God's FAITHFULNESS.

**DISCUSSION**

What can we learn from Israel's repeated sinning against God – and God's repeated forgiving of Israel?

\*NOTE: In the intro, we want to recap the primary truth and set the stage to use the primary truth to point the learners back to God.

**INSTRUCTION & REINFORCEMENT**

(about 10-20 minutes)

**COMMENTARY – In Old Testament days, how were people saved?**

Did you know that **people in the Old Testament were saved by faith – not by obedience to the Law?**

**Their knowledge** of Jesus Christ was not as full as ours – since they looked forward to the promised Messiah's coming instead of being able to look back on it. They did not know exactly Who the Messiah was going to be or how exactly everything would happen. But **their faith** in a Savior Who would come in the future was just as full and worked just as well for them as our faith in a Savior Who already came in the past.

Jesus Christ is eternal – He's the same yesterday, today, and forever! The plan of salvation always has and always will work the same way. The Law shows people how short they fall of really glorifying God, and shows them they desperately need a real Savior. Nobody (except Jesus) can keep the Law perfectly, and God says in His Word that the blood of animal sacrifices could never really cover for the sins of human beings. No sinner has ever been saved without repenting of sin and trusting Jesus Christ as the promised Savior, the only Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world.



**BIBLE DRILL (#2)** – The Bible shares the amazing fact that Moses (who lived in Old Testament times) viewed his sufferings for Christ as greater riches than all the wealth and power that had come with being the “son” of Pharaoh's daughter. What is even more amazing is that this verse mentions that Moses' faith was in Jesus Christ.

• **Hebrews 11:26**

**DISCUSSION**

Why is our knowledge of God's Son fuller than the knowledge of the Old Testament believers?

[Because they were looking ahead to the promised Messiah to come, and we can look back to the One Who came.]

Why is our faith the same (just as good, just as full) as the faith of the Old Testament believers?

[Because we and they are all placing our faith in the same God-Man, only One Who can save: Jesus Christ the Messiah.]

**COMMENTARY**

Also, it is important to understand that **God saves people other than the Jews**. He always has. Even in the Old Testament times, *Gentiles* (non-Jews) were sometimes saved by grace through faith in God. In Hebrews, we learn that God saved Rahab (a Gentile who had once been a wicked woman) because of her faith in Him.

The New Testament makes it clear in several chapters that “salvation belongs to the LORD” and not just to certain people groups. The Jews had a difficult time understanding God's acceptance of Gentile believers – but if we remember that it has always been GOD doing the choosing, and that His choices have always been based on HIS OWN GLORY (not on some people being better than others or impressing Him more), then it is easier to understand why God desires “that the Gentiles would glorify Him for His mercy” just like the Jews could.



**BIBLE DRILL (#3)** – What can we learn about Rahab from this verse?

• **Hebrews 11:31**

**COMMENTARY**

In the Old Testament, one of the most beautiful illustrations of God's grace to people of *Gentile* (non-Jewish) nations can be seen in the story of Ruth. Ruth was not an Israelite, but she married one. When he died, she left her land and trusted in the God of her dead husband's family. She gave up her life and her own people to join her mother-in-law in a strange land. She lived in obedience and faith, and eventually a God-fearing man took her into his family and married her. Boaz and Ruth were blessed with a son, who became the grandfather of King David. When we read through the records of Jesus Christ's ancestors, we find that Ruth is one of a few Gentiles listed amidst the Jews in the lineage of the Messiah! Just look at **Matthew 1:5** – And Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse [the father of David].



**BIBLE DRILL (#4)** – Look up the following Old Testament verses, and discuss how these verses show God's intentions in Old Testament times to glorify Himself through **a specific group of people** set apart as specially belonging to Him:

- Deuteronomy 14:2
- Deuteronomy 26:19
- Exodus 19:5
- 2 Samuel 7:23
- 1 Chronicles 17:21
- Zechariah 13:9



**(Now might be a good time to draw from the curriculum a few Q&A on the topics of whether God has stopped being gracious to the Jews, whether any Jews are born again, what the failures of the Israelites meant for the rest of us, etc..)**



**(Here would be a great place to insert what you learned from your Teacher Truth Study.)**

**GETTING BACK TO GOD\***

{Recap **WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD:** God's plan has always been to glorify His greatness and His goodness specially in the lives a group of people He chooses. He does not pick out these certain people because they are better than others or because they did something good to make God pick them. In the Old Testament, the Israelites (or Jews) were God's chosen people. Even though they were far from perfect, God set His love upon them, delivered them out of trouble time and time again, rebuked them, showed them mercy, and made Himself known to them. He called them His people and said that they should consider Him their God. In the New Testament, we discover that the group of people God sets apart to bring glory to Him in a special way is the Church. The Church includes more than just the Jews who believe Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. It is a larger group of people, because it is anyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and belongs to God in that special way. If you are saved, then you are part of the Church! Today, God shows Himself mighty and merciful through the people He has chosen for eternal life. The history of the nation of Israel and the history of the Church have a lot of things in common. We can see that even though the Jews had their up-and-down times of rebellion and obedience to God, and even though the Church is full of believing people who still fail and fall short of God's glory – God Himself has always been at work to show His faithful, unchanging gloriousness through the lives of His unfaithful, changing chosen people.}

In the Old Testament times, the Israelites were not *chosen* because they were *special*. They were *special* because they were *chosen*! Because it pleased God to do so, He chose the Jews and set them apart to be "a peculiar people" all His own. In the New Testament, that group of chosen people clearly includes all believers. All believers are called to be "a peculiar people" belonging specially to God. Why? Because God has always had a plan to glorify Himself through a group of special, chosen people. God still wants a people through whom He can show His glorious faithfulness!

\*NOTE: Teachers, please remember that this section should include the fruit of your Teacher Truth Study and one or two personal illustrations or anecdotes from the "Personalize It!" activity in the Teacher Preparation Phase.



## APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT

**"INTERNALIZE IT!"** from Teacher Preparation Phase

(about 5-10 minutes)

You might begin this section with:

"Boys and girls, as I've been preparing for this TruthTime Lesson, here's what God has been showing me...."

You might continue by saying:

"Because of what God is teaching me, here's what is going to be different in my life during this next week...."

You might conclude with something like this:

"Finally, here's what God has taught me about Himself through these truths...."



## DISCUSSION TIME QUESTIONS

- Why are the ways God dealt with Israel in the Old Testament important for us to study today?
- When other non-Jewish nations observed the Jews, what do you think their impression of God might have been?
- Why is it important to remember that sinners who lived before Jesus were saved the same way as sinners who have lived after Him?



## APPENDICES OR "IF TIME"

(optional)

**NONE SUGGESTED AT THIS TIME**