

General Church Education



Review of the Five Books of Moses

Genesis-Deuteronomy

Lesson 1

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 4: The Lord Is the Hero

For ages 9-10

Review of the Five Books of Moses

Deuteronomy 31:1-9

Teacher Background

This lesson is a review of the story of the children of Israel told in the five Books of Moses. It starts with Abram in Genesis 11. At the Lord's command, Abram and his wife, Sarai, left Ur and traveled south. There, the Lord promised that Abram's descendants would inherit the Land of Canaan. In making a covenant with him, the Lord changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. Their son, Isaac married Rebekah, and had twins, Esau and Jacob. Jacob, the younger twin, stole his brother's birthright and blessing and fled from his brother's anger. The two reunited many years later. Jacob had twelve sons. He gave Joseph, his favorite, a coat of many colors. Joseph's jealous brothers sold him to the Midianites, who took him to Egypt. The Lord protected Joseph, and he became a ruler. Joseph's family came to Egypt for food during a severe famine. Pharaoh invited them to settle in the land of Goshen.

Several hundred years later the family, now called Hebrews, had become large. The current Pharaoh was afraid they were too powerful. He made them slaves and ordered their babies to be killed. The Lord saved baby Moses, who grew up to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses led the people through the wilderness, where they received the Ten Commandments. The Lord fed them with manna and quail and led them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He also gave instructions for building a tabernacle where Israel would worship Him. Today's reading features Moses' final speech before his death, given as the Israelites prepared to enter Canaan under a new leader, Joshua.

New Church teachings explain that the inner meaning of these stories is about the Lord's development while He was in the world, and also a person's spiritual journey towards heaven. The Lord leads and protects us just as He led and protected the children of Israel. We can choose to listen to the Lord and follow Him or choose to allow evil spirits to lead us to be selfish and worldly.

Key Ideas

- The Lord made a covenant with Abram and his descendants.
- Abram and his descendants were to follow the Lord, and He would give them the land of Canaan.
- The Lord promises that we will inherit heaven when we follow Him.

From the Writings

“‘I will bring you to the land over which I lifted up My hand to give it to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a hereditary possession (Exodus 6:8).’ In the sense of the letter these words mean that the land of Canaan was to be granted to them as a hereditary possession, which did in fact happen. But in the internal sense they mean that heaven was to be granted to those in whom love to and faith in the Lord were present, for as the Lord is represented by ‘Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’ so are love itself and faith itself meant by them, and consequently people in whom love and faith are present, and who accordingly abide in the Lord.” *Arcana Coelestia* 2658.7

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Deuteronomy 31:1-9

Vocabulary

covenant—an agreement between two people or groups of people

patriarch—a male head of a family

inherit—to receive money or property

descendant—a person descended from a specific ancestor

historical—having once lived or existed in the world

The Patriarchs

The historical part of the Word begins with the story of Abram and his wife Sarai. Abram was the first of three fathers or patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In time, Abram's descendants were called the children of Israel. The first five books of the Word tell us how this family grew, came to know the Lord, and to follow Him. This story is also about our lives. It is about how we grow, can come to know the Lord and to follow Him if we choose.

Abram and Sarai

The Lord told Abram and Sarai to leave their home in Ur of the Chaldees. He promised Abram that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky and would inherit the land of Canaan if he followed Him. The Lord promised that if he did this, He would make Abram a great blessing. Later, He changed Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai's name to Sarah. He gave them a son named Isaac.

Esau and Jacob

Isaac married Rebekah, and the Lord gave them twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau, the older brother, was a hunter. He lived in the fields. Jacob the younger brother, was a mild man. He lived in tents. Jacob stole Esau's birthright and then his blessing, even though these were meant for the eldest son. Esau was very angry. The brothers lived far apart for many years. Eventually they became friends again.



Jacob

Jacob had twelve sons. His favorite son was Joseph. Jacob made him a coat of many colors. His jealous brothers put him in a pit. Then sold Joseph to passing Midianite traders who took him to Egypt. The Lord helped Joseph, and he became a ruler in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

During a bad famine, Joseph brought his father and brothers, and their wives and children, to Egypt. Pharaoh gave Joseph's family the land of Goshen to live in. At that time, there were seventy people in Jacob's family.

Slavery in Egypt

Hundreds of year later, Jacob had so many descendants that the family was about a million people! They were now called Hebrews. At that time, the Pharaoh was afraid the Hebrews were becoming too strong. He worried they might join his enemies if there was a war. So he made Jacob's family his slaves. Their taskmasters were cruel, but the family kept growing even bigger. So Pharaoh commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys should be drowned in the river.

The Lord saved a baby named Moses. The daughter of Pharaoh found him in an ark hidden in reeds growing in the river. She adopted him as her son. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house. He learned many things from the wise men in Egypt. The Lord was preparing Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. He would become a great leader.

Moses Flees from Egypt

When Moses was forty years old he had to run away from Egypt. He went to Midian, where he married Zipporah. Zipporah's father was Jethro, the priest and ruler of Midian. Moses lived with Jethro in Midian as a shepherd until he was eighty years old.

The Burning Bush

One day the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush. He told Moses to go back to Egypt and lead the Hebrews to the land of Canaan, the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Moses obeyed the Lord and returned to Egypt. He said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let my people go.'" But Pharaoh refused to let the people go. Finally, after the Lord did mighty miracles and sent ten plagues on the Egyptians, Pharaoh let the people go.



Forty Years in the Wilderness

Moses led the children of Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness to the promised land. It took forty years for them to reach the land of Canaan. The Lord cared for them during their long journey:

- He gave them the Ten Commandments.
- He fed them with manna and quail.
- He led them by a pillar of cloud in the day, and a pillar of fire at night.
- He told Moses to build the tabernacle for the children of Israel to worship Him.

Moses led the children of Israel all the way to the Promised Land. Moses saw the Promised Land from the top of Mt. Nebo, but he was not allowed to enter it. He was 120 years old when he died.

Read Deuteronomy 31:1-9.

The Lord Leads Us

Our lives are like a journey too. We are born loving ourselves and must learn not to be selfish, but to love others and love the Lord by learning true ideas from His Word. The Lord promises that if we do what He teaches, He will lead us to heaven—our “promised land”. He gives us parents and teachers to protect and lead us on our way. Like the children of Israel, we may make many mistakes. But the Lord will always be with us, showing us the way back to Him in His Word.

Discussion Questions

- What promises did the Lord make to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
- What is a covenant? Why are covenants important? What covenant did the Lord make with the children of Israel? How did this covenant bring order to the daily lives of the Israelites?
- The journeys the children of Israel took are like our journey to heaven. How does the Lord invite us to make a covenant with Him, as He did with the children of Israel? How can following the Lord’s laws bring order to our lives?
- The Lord did not force the children of Israel to obey Him. They turned away from the Commandments and disobeyed the Lord many times. Why is being free to choose important?
- The Lord raised up Moses as a leader to bring the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. The Lord leads us from the slavery of selfishness to the freedom of heaven each day.
- Who or what leads us in various parts of our lives? Why is following a leader important?
- Through Moses, the Lord led and protected the children of Israel. Describe ways in which the Lord fights for and protects you. Hint: Think about people in your life who lead you, as Moses did.

Activity Overview | A Review of the Five Books of Moses

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:7)

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Video: A Pictorial Review of the Five Books of Moses
- Qualities of the Lord Paper Folding Activity
- Picture to color—Moses Views the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Sequence the story of Israel using picture cards. Download the activity at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-exodus-story-picture-cards.pdf>. Print the cards and arrange them in the order in which they appear in the Word.
- Play *Family Tree Rummy* to review the families of patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Download the activity at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/sso-topics-03-family-tree.pdf>. Print game cards and board and follow the directions to play the game.
- Match qualities of the Lord depicted in colored pictures of stories from the Word with the Lord's qualities listed in a word bank. Download the activity at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-qualities-of-the-lord.pdf>.

Activity 1 | Video: A Pictorial Review of the Five Books of Moses



Review stories in the Word from the five books of Moses, Genesis through Deuteronomy, by viewing a video picturing major events. Each image appears on the screen for approximately five seconds. Use this time to identify the people and the story. If you need more time, pause the video.

choose to.

Materials Needed

- a computer or other device for viewing a video on the internet
- a copy of the Bible or Word

Do Ahead of Time

Cue up *A Pictorial Review of the Five Books of Moses*, online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-five-books-of-moses/>

Video Review

Watch the video, pausing to identify each picture. If you need to stop often to refresh your memory, turn on the CC feature. The CC feature gives the name of the story and a reference from the Word. (Note: CC subtitles may be translated into many languages.) Then turn off the CC feature and watch the video again. See how many stories you recognize.

Activity 2 | Qualities of the Lord Paper Folding Activity

Each level of Jacob’s Ladder focuses on a particular quality of the Lord. The first four levels focus on the Lord as our Provider, Creator, Shepherd and Law-giver. Students will create a paper “fortune-teller” featuring these names of the Lord, and then partner with another child or an adult to answer questions about ways the Lord provides, creates, leads and teaches.

Materials Needed

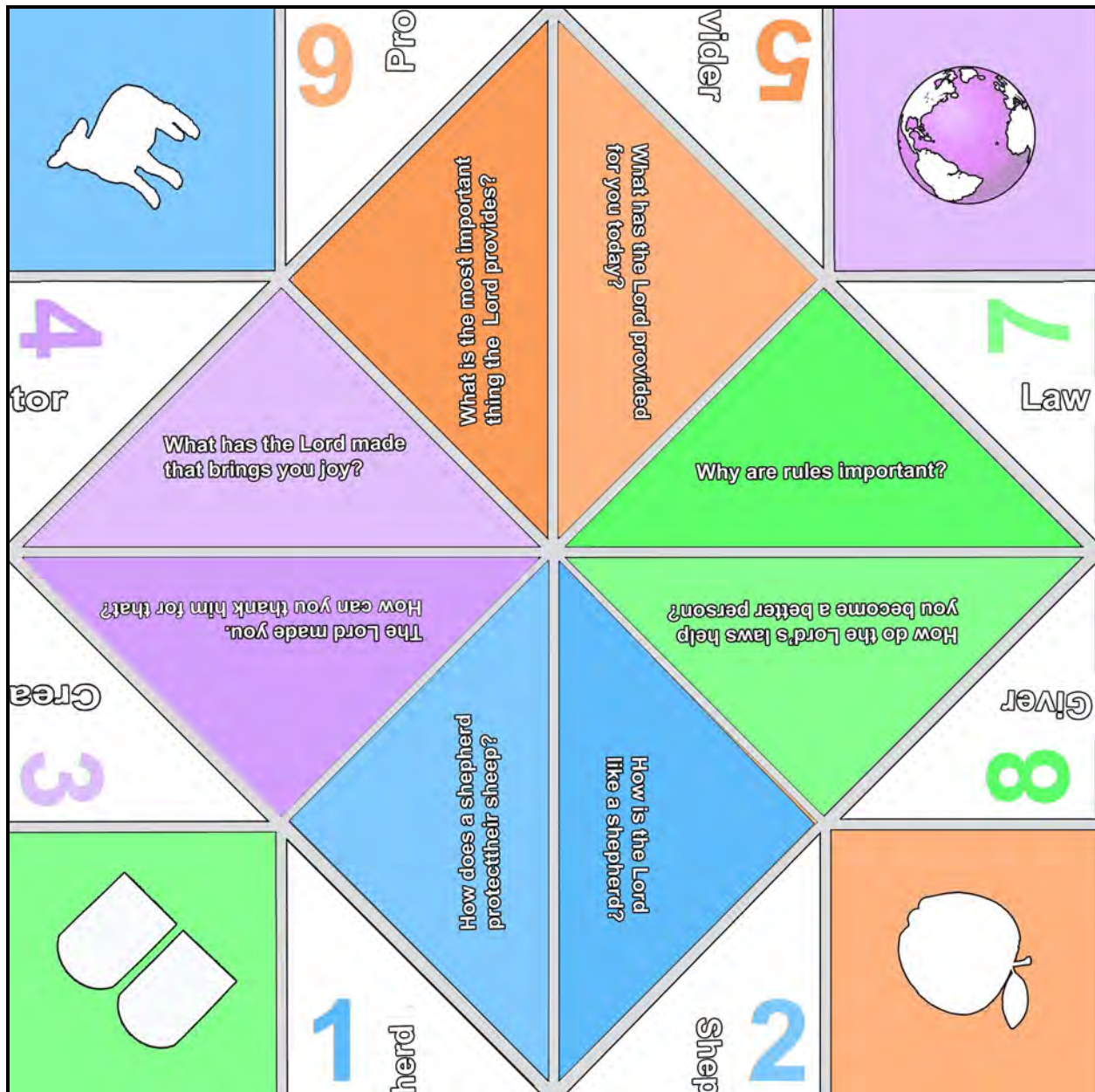
copy of *Qualities of the Lord Paper Folding Activity* p. 9
copy of paper folding directions, p. 10
scissors



Directions

1. Cut out the square on p. 9.
2. Follow the folding directions provided to create a “fortune-teller” about the qualities of the Lord.
3. You will need a partner for this activity. One person will ask questions and move the fortune-teller, the other person will make choices and respond to the questions.
4. To work the fortune-teller, place both thumbs and index fingers inside the four spaces under the fortune teller. Practice opening the fortune teller so a diamond-shaped space appears in the middle. Reposition your fingers and thumbs so the space opens in the opposite direction.
5. The person moving the fortune teller starts the activity by closing the fortune teller so the apple, lamb, world and Ten Commandments show. Ask your partner to choose a symbol or color. Move the fortune in each direction as you spell the name of a symbol (e.g. a-p-p-l-e) or color (e.g. o-r-a-n-g-e). Finish with the fortune teller open, showing two of the names of the Lord.
6. Now have your partner choose one of the two names of the Lord that is showing. Move the fortune teller back and forth to spell the chosen name (e.g. p-r-o-v-i-d-e-r).
7. Invite your partner to choose one of the two names of the Lord again. This time you will open the fortune teller and read one of the two questions inside the fortune teller that relate to that quality of the Lord. Your partner can share their answer aloud, or silently think of an answer.
8. Switch places and play again.

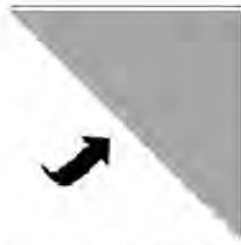
Activity 2 | Qualities of the Lord Paper Folding Activity



Activity 2 | Qualities of the Lord Paper Folding Directions



Trim the paper to the square project.



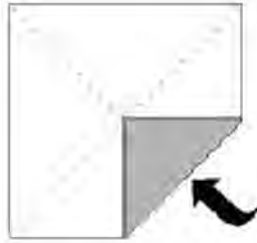
Fold the corner of square up til it meets the other side.



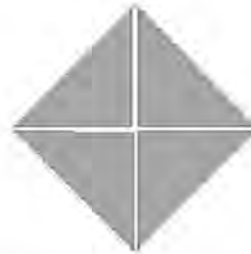
Fold the other corner up til it meets the other side.



Unfold it and place it printed side down.



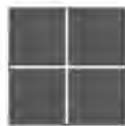
Fold up all four corners so that the points meet in the middle.



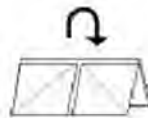
It should look like this. Flip it over.



Fold up all corners so that the points meet in the middle. Turn it over.



It should look like this.



Now fold the top back. Open and fold back the top in the other directions.



Work your fingers into the four corners by sticking your two thumbs and two forefingers into each of the four flap pockets from the folded side. It is now ready for use.

