



## Youth Bible Lesson - Lesson 15

### The Early Years

These lessons are going to be chocked full of surprises and valuable lessons. You'll be able to see how God does things. We'll cover kings and prophets, captive people and free people, and miracles that only God could do. You'll laugh and sometimes feel sad, but most of all you'll learn more about God's instruction book, the Bible.

We will cover some things you have studied already. We are going to start with the prophet Samuel, as God talks to him. Samuel was one of many prophets in the Old Testament. Being a prophet just meant that God would use him to tell the people of Israel what they were supposed to do.

God doesn't talk to people today in the same ways He spoke to the prophets of old. God actually spoke to certain people back then and made sure that what He said was written in the Bible for us to read.

Today we can learn how to live our lives by reading the many examples preserved in the pages of this book. These lessons in the Old Testament are still worthwhile today, because God is still the same. God is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Heb. 13:5).

The things you will learn in these lessons will help you in the years to come. By learning these lessons, you can begin to set a good example right now! We need to realize that God doesn't always want us to do what everybody else is doing.

One reads the instructions on a new toy or game in order to learn how to play it to have the most fun. Sometimes, you need help with the rule book, so you ask someone to explain it. In the same way, God's instruction book, the Bible, tells you and me how to live the right way, the way that will make us the happiest. But some things God tells us are hard to understand. If you have some trouble figuring it just ask your father, your mother or one of God's ministers in your area. They can help anytime; and really want to.

"Samuel, "God said, "go to the tribe of Judah and find a man by the name of Jesse. I want you to take your oil and anoint one of his sons as the new king over Israel." Samuel was a little scared."

“I’ll go, but if Saul finds out what I’m doing, he’ll kill me.”

“Take a heifer with you,” God continued, “and offer a sacrifice; that way Saul won’t know what you’re doing. Invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice, then “I’ll show you which one is to be the new king.”

Samuel left the next morning with the best young calf he could find. Within a day or two he arrived in Bethlehem and met Jesse and his sons. God was going to tell Samuel which one to anoint as king. But after looking at Jesse’s sons, God still had not shown Samuel which one to select. Samuel was surprised and asked Jesse, “Are these all of your sons?”

“No,” replied Jesse, “my youngest is down watching the sheep,” Samuel realized that watching over livestock takes a very responsible person. Samuel asked Jesse to get David. When David arrived, Samuel saw he was not as big as his brothers. But he was strong and rugged and a very hard worker.

When Samuel saw him, God said, “This is the one I have chosen to be king. “So Samuel anointed David the new king over Israel.

Samuel didn’t question God’s choice. He knew that God always looks on the heart. Open your Bible to I Samuel 16, verse 7. If you don’t have a Bible, borrow one and fill in the blanks below.

“But the Lord said unto Samuel, look not on his \_\_\_\_\_, or on the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_; because I have refused him for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looks on the \_\_\_\_\_, but the Lord looks on the \_\_\_\_\_.”

Have you ever had anyone tell you that you aren’t trying – when you really were? Have you ever had someone tell you “You’re too short” or “You’re too tall”? Or maybe they picked you last because of the way you looked. God doesn’t choose people that way!

God wants people who have guts – young people who know what’s right and really try to do it! Sure, you may make mistakes from time to time, and sure, it’s tough to tell the crowd you can’t play sports on Saturdays. But that’s what builds the kind of character that pays off with a good job and a happy future.

Just as Samuel didn’t question God, David didn’t question what Samuel was doing, because his father, Jesse, had taught him to always do what God said. David’s father had also taught him to respect his elders and those in authority. The job of being king was a huge responsibility, but David knew God would help him even though he was only a

young man. He asked Samuel why he was selected. Samuel didn't know for sure, but he did know that God wanted someone who would obey Him.

David had always obeyed his parents. He remembered the many evenings his family would sit by the warm fire watching the flickering flames and listen to his father tell of how God had created the universe. He recalled his father saying that God has a plan for everything He does and that He does things in order. Even the creation had an order.

First, God made the light and the darkness. Then the waters were separated, and thirdly, the great God made the land, seas, plants and trees. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day God made the sun, moon and stars appear. Next, the birds and fish were added. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day God made the land animals and man. David knew what the 7<sup>th</sup> day was, because he had been taught to respect God's day. He also knew that God had made the Sabbath for man because he needs the rest and needs to be reminded each week who God is.

David sat and contemplated the many things his father and grandfather had taught him. He remembered how man had gotten further and further from God's ways. First, Adam and Eve were put out of the Garden of Eden for not obeying God. They could have eaten of the Tree of Life and received God's Spirit which leads to eternal life. But they obeyed Satan and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, bringing nothing but unhappiness and trouble on themselves. Then there was the first murder. Cain killed his brother Abel because he was jealous. God accepted Abel's offering of the lamb but not Cain's offering of some vegetables. Cain knew better. He knew that God expected an animal sacrifice.

God saw how wicked man had become. And so God decided to destroy everything with a great flood and start all over. Noah and his family were the only ones saved. Noah had not intermarried. In fact, his whole family ancestry, all the way back to Adam, had not married any other race.

David remembered many stories he had heard his father tell. David's mind turned to a story that took place just after the time of the Flood.

An evil man named Nimrod became ruler of the people. He was extremely wicked. Besides marrying his own mother, Semiramis, he made the people to observe many pagan holidays, such as Christmas (a pagan custom still carried on today).

Nimrod also organized the people to build a great tower – a tower so high it would reach the clouds! David chuckled to himself as he remembered how God stopped their plans.

God caused everyone to begin speaking in many different languages. The people were so confused that they were unable to continue. In fact, the place of the tower was renamed Babel, which means “confusion.”

God certainly knew how to stop the Tower of Babel project in a hurry. Eventually, everyone was divided and scattered throughout the entire earth according to their particular language.

### How Well Do You Remember?

1. How does God look at a person \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Why did God bring the Flood \_\_\_\_\_?
3. How did God stop the Tower of Babel project \_\_\_\_\_?

David was always held spellbound when his father spoke of their exciting family history. David knew that his ancestors were chosen by God to father a great nation, and he knew why.

Abraham was one of David’s great, great, great grandfathers. He was a very wealthy man, with many possessions and a large family. But when God told Abraham to pack up his belongings and move, Abraham obeyed. Turn in your Bible to Genesis 12:1-4 and read what God told Abraham. Complete the scripture: “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, \_\_\_\_\_ of thy \_\_\_\_\_, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a \_\_\_\_\_ that I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee: And I will make of thee a \_\_\_\_\_ nation.”

Did Abram argue? No! Verse 4 says, “So Abram departed.” This is the kind of obedience God wants from all of us.

David, the new king, often wondered what it would be like to own many thousands of cattle, sheep, goats and horses, like Abraham, to have armies of men and workers of every kind at his command. Abraham’s servants must have been taught obedience too, because when Abraham moved, they had to pack up and move also.

Once, God even gave Abraham the ultimate test. He instructed Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac! Abraham would rather have died than kill Isaac. But Abraham was still willing to obey God!

Let’s see what Abraham’s reaction was, in Genesis 22:10. Complete this verse: “And Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ his hand, and took the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his son.”

But God was only testing Abraham’s obedience. He stopped Abraham just as he was about to kill Isaac.

“David,” his father Jesse would say in a deep voice, “because Abraham did everything God told him to do and because he kept God’s laws, he was blessed greatly.” Turn in your Bible to Genesis where God promised these blessings to Abraham. Complete verses 16 and 17 of chapter 22: “Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine \_\_\_\_\_. That in blessing I will \_\_\_\_\_, and in multiplying I will \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

David’s father also added that God always keeps His word whenever He promises something. This was a valuable lesson that David would never forget.

Abraham’s son was Isaac, and one of Isaac’s sons was Jacob. God kept this promise of a great nation through Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons, which were the 12 tribes of Israel, a people that David knew much about.

David remembered that God had changed Jacob’s name to Israel. Because God gave him a new name, Jacob’s 12 sons became “the 12 tribes of Israel.” David had never had his name changed, but he knew that if God changed it, there must be a very good reason. The blessings promised to Abraham began to come through Israel, his grandson. David took careful note because he was from that same family, the same family that Christ was born into much later. David knew that since God had changed Jacob’s name to Israel, Israel’s 12 sons would later become nations. Do you know the 12 tribes of Israel? Turn in your Bible to Genesis 49 and you will find the children of Israel, list the 12 tribes. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

David remembered his mother telling him that he came from the tribe of Judah. He knew the 12 tribes pretty well and remembered that God had said the tribe of Levi was to be the priestly tribe that would perform the sacrifices. Moses and Aaron were two Levities that God used when He freed the 12 tribes from Egypt. The Israelites had been made slaves to the Egyptians. Because the king of Egypt, the pharaoh, was killing the Israelites male babies, and because God had a special land picked out for Israel, He wanted them to leave Egypt.

God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the people of Israel go. But Pharaoh refused to let them go.

God brought 10 terrible plagues on Egypt so they would know who the true God was. Finally, God killed all of the firstborn of Egypt. Pharaoh then knew that the Israelites were God’s people and let them go. God did not want anyone to forget that He had freed His people from slavery. He called that night the Passover. It sent chills up David’s spine to think that the death angel passed over the Israelites’ homes, but all the Egyptians’ firstborn died. The Israelites put blood from slain lambs on their door posts, just like God had told them to do, and none of their firstborn died.

It must have been quite a sight to see – all those people leaving Egypt. God opening the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross, the pillar of fire at night and the cloud by day to show them the way, the manna that God gave them for food while they traveled, and a promised land that they were to be given!

After the Israelites had left Egypt, God gave the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Look up Ex. 20 in your Bible and put the Ten Commandments on the lines below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make sure you get them in the proper order. You will memorize them in a later lesson, so writing them down now will help you. David could see why God gave the Ten

Commandments. He knew that everyone would be happy if they obeyed the Ten Commandments.

God was also concerned about everyone's health and told Moses which animals were okay to eat. God's instructions are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Do you know which animals are clean and which animals are unclean? David knew.

Test your knowledge with the activity on the last page of this lesson. You will have fun with this one. Perhaps your father, mother or your brothers and sisters would like to see how many they can get right too.

Jesse, David's father, taught him God's laws, just as God had taught the Israelites. God did not want His people to forget who He is. After all, God was blessing them because of Abraham's obedience. God wanted all the many Israelites to see His plan for mankind.

You and I can know God's plan today even better than David did. God's Holy Days are written down for us in Leviticus 23. God's Holy Days tell what He has in store for us.

Listed below are the meanings of the seven festivals. (But they won't be in the order of God's plan.) Take a separate sheet of paper and write down the seven festivals of God in order. Then match them to the proper description. When you're finished, you will have the complete plan of God.

God's plan is very simple. He wants to make His family larger. He needs more Spirit Beings to help Him do His Work. If we obey God, He will make us into spirit and bring us into His Family. Then our name will be God also.

#### Put God's Festivals In Their Proper Order

This day pictures the Death Angel passing over the Israelites, as well as Christ's death for our sins. Baptized adults in God's Church take wine, unleavened bread and have the foot-washing ceremony on this evening.

If baptized adults put sin out of their lives and obey God with the help of the Holy Spirit, they will be born into God's Family whenever Christ returns. Those people who are changed to spirit at this time will be the first to enter God's Family. So God calls them the "first fruits," just like the first grain harvested at reaping time. This day pictures the first fruits of God's spiritual harvest.

After Christ comes, everyone will be at one with God and doing what He wants. Satan will not be around, so this day pictures Satan being put away.

Since Christ died for our sins, this period of time pictures putting sin out of our lives. Just as a little bit of leavening leavens a whole loaf of bread, a little sin corrupts a persons' life. So God has us put all leavening out of our homes to show us we need to put all sin out of our lives.

Those who qualify will be changed into Spirit Beings at Christ's return. Only baptized members of God's Church who obey him will qualify. These spirit beings will meet Christ in the air at the last trump. So this day looks forward to Christ's Second Coming.

After the Millennium, those who never knew of God's true way of life will be resurrected. These people will be given their first chance to learn God's laws and live their lives His way. For 100 years they will be judged accordingly.

While Satan is gone, you, the youth of God's Church, will be given the opportunity to help rebuild the world. There will be 1,000 years of happiness and prosperity. You will be able to help make the world a super place to live.

#### How Well Do You Remember?

1. From whom did the nation of Israel descend? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did God promise to bless His servant Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God punish the Egyptians for not letting the Israelites go?  
\_\_\_\_\_

David knew that the rules his parents had given him were for his own good, just like the rules God gave to Israel. He had often heard about the 12 spies who scouted Canaan, the promised land, He knew about Joshua and Caleb's obedience and about what God did to the other 10 spies and the rest of Israel for not obeying.

Occasionally, a sheep would stray into someone's vineyard and begin eating the large clumps of grapes. David could just imagine Joshua and Caleb carrying a bunch of grapes so large that it took both of them just to carry it.

"Moses, Moses," Joshua and Caleb exclaimed. "God has given this land for our very own! Let's go in there and kick those trespassers out!"

The other spies laughed and jeered: "We'll be the ones to get kicked out! Those people are giants and there are lots of them!"

"No," said Joshua and Caleb, "God has given us the land – so let's go in and take it. With God on our side, who cares if they are bigger?"

Caleb added: "Besides, look at the size of those grapes! One man can't even carry them. You should see the size of the other produce over there!"



Joshua and Caleb were only two men against the testimony of the 10 other spies. The Israelites believed the 10 and were afraid to take the land. God was angry that they didn't trust Him and believe that He would give them the land.

Because of their attitude, God didn't let any of them go into the promised land, except Joshua and Caleb. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until everyone of that generation was dead. Only Joshua and Caleb survived to see the promised land.

Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites followed God, and He worked some great miracles. For example, the Israelites were told to take over the city of Jericho. But there was no way to conquer the town because of the giant wall that surrounded it.

The king of the city had all the gates closed tight. The people had plenty of food and water, and the archers wouldn't even let the Israelites get close. God told Joshua: "I'm going to give you the city and all those who live in it. I want you to surround the city with all your soldiers and then march around it once each day for six days. Have seven priests go before the Ark of the Covenant and with seven trumpets blowing. Then, "God continued, "on the seventh day, march around the city of Jericho seven times. On the last time around. Blow the trumpets with one long blast, and at the same time everyone will shout."

David knew what happened next, because he had gone over the story again and again. When the trumpets blasted and the people shouted, the walls fell down! The Israelites then conquered the city. God will really help you if you are obeying Him. All you have to do is just ask Him.

Sometimes God does things and doesn't say why. David knew that he must be obedient to his father and to God, even if he didn't always understand why.

David knew what it was like to do something wrong. Sometimes when he was younger, he had been spanked for doing something he shouldn't have done. He always said he was sorry and tried to never make the same mistake again. He remembered well the example of the Israelites during the time of the judges.

When the Israelites were obedient, God would bless them. But when things were going good, they forgot who was blessing them and began to follow their own ways and disobey God. Then God would have to punish them.

Eventually, the Israelites would repent and start obeying God. Then God would bless them again. But they never seemed to learn their lesson.

The period of the judges came after Joshua. During that time many different people led Israel. On one occasion, David recalled, an angel told the wife of a man name Manoah that she was going to have a son. He could never cut his hair, nor could he ever drink wine or whiskey. Manoah's wife called his name Samson.

At that particular time the Israelites were being ruled by the Philistine people. But God was going to help Samson give His people their freedom again!

Samson could neither drink wine nor cut his hair because he had taken a Nazarite vow. God was with him and gave him great strength. One time he killed a lion with his bare hands!

Another time, he caught 300 foxes. He tied their tails together in pairs and put torches on their tails. The foxes ran through the Philistines' fields of ripe corn, which soon burned up. He also killed 1,000 Philistine soldiers in one afternoon!

The Philistines hated Samson and plotted to kill him. But God was with Samson, making him invulnerable to the Philistines. Finally, they paid a Philistine woman, who was close to Samson, to learn the secret of his strength.

This woman, named Delilah, finally learned of Samson's Nazarite vow. Then she cut off his hair when he was sleeping and betrayed him to the Philistines.

The Philistines caught Samson and put him in prison. They put his eyes out and brought him to their pagan temple for all the Philistines to jeer at him.

But enough time had passed that Samson's hair had begun to grow again. He prayed for strength from God just once more. Then God gave Samson the awesome power to break the pillars that supported the entire temple. Thousands of idol worshippers were crushed in the wreckage that day.

Although Samson died with the Philistines, the people of Israel were free once again. But only for a short time.

The Israelites soon forgot God's great deliverance from the Philistines. They began to stray from God's ways, and the whole cycle of obedience/ blessings or disobedience/ punishment was started again.

Gradually, the Israelites became more and more influenced by the pagan peoples around them. Finally, they began to demand a king, just like all the other nations. But that's a story for the next lesson, a king for Israel.

### How Well Do You Remember?

1. Why did the Israelites wander 40 years in the wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the 12 spies wanted to take the land? \_\_\_\_\_

Clean or Unclean?

Circle the animals that you think are clean to eat. Then check your answers to see how many you got right.

Here is how to check your answers: Put a mark in the box if the animal has the characteristic found in that column. You may even need to use a dictionary or encyclopedia or maybe take a trip to the zoo. If both boxes are checked, then that animal is clean. But if a box is empty, write "unclean" on that line.

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	Chews Cud	Cloven Hoof	Clean or Unclean
Dromedary	_____	_____	_____
Buffalo	_____	_____	_____
Giraffe	_____	_____	_____
Zebra	_____	_____	_____
Chamois	_____	_____	_____
Wildebeest	_____	_____	_____

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	Fins	Scales	Clean or Unclean
Carp	_____	_____	_____
Sheepshead	_____	_____	_____
Barracuda	_____	_____	_____
Sole	_____	_____	_____
Marlin	_____	_____	_____

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	Goes On all Fours	Legs Above Feet	Clean or Unclean
Clam	_____	_____	_____
Snail	_____	_____	_____

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Grasshopper

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Locust

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Japanese Beetle

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bumblebee

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_