

# Men Who Trusted God

**Lesson 24a — Noah and the Ark**

**Lesson 24b — Abraham — Father of Many Nations**

**Lesson 24c — Two Brave Spies**

**Lesson 24d — Joshua Leads Israel to Jericho**

**Lesson 24e — John the Baptist**

## OVERVIEW

The concept of trust is one that is very important for the primary child to develop. Little ones naturally have trust in their parents or those who care for them. But it is necessary to plant the seeds for trust in God, and then nurture and encourage that seed to grow. Sunday school is one of the primary places where this is done. And we know that the knowledge that we **can** trust God is an invaluable belief to carry through life.

With this thought in mind, the current unit has been designed to emphasize the blessings and benefits that came to those in Bible times who put their trust in God. As you consider each story, think about the things that might have made it difficult for the person involved to have trust. Remember, Noah built an ark before there was ever a flood. Abraham followed God to an unknown land, leaving all that was dear and familiar, be-

hind. Caleb and Joshua stood before the leader of their nation and took a stand directly opposed to that of the other ten spies who had been sent out. Joshua was told to conquer a city by marching quietly around its walls. And John the Baptist preached the message of a coming Messiah without fear or regard to man's opinions.

Every one of these men trusted God in spite of the circumstances surrounding him. And this should be the message you get across to your students — we can trust God no matter what. God will never fail us if our confidence is in Him. Use specific examples and details related to events and situations in their lives to help them understand that God will be with them at all times if they purpose to serve Him and do His will.

## GAMES FOR REVIEW

Joshua and Caleb spin game. Make a crooked path and mark off into various types of spaces (see Patterns). Use a spinner to indicate number of spaces to move. This can be played girls against boys, right side against left side, etc. The winning team could be rewarded with grape candy or a piece of Bit O'Honey.

Choose students to act out the Bible stories without speaking and let the others tell what they are doing, by raising their hand. Correct answers are rewarded.

Assign a symbol to each of the five lessons of the unit: 24a — ark, 24b — star, 24c — cluster of grapes, 24d — walls, 24e — sign (see Patterns). Cut out a quantity of each symbol from construction paper, and write lesson questions on the back of each symbol. Divide your group into teams. Team members take turns going for-

ward and selecting a question from any of the symbols. If their team can answer the question correctly, they may pin the symbol under their team name on a board in front of the group. When all the questions have been answered, the team with the most symbols under its name is the winner.

## CONTEST IDEAS

Make a Jericho wall with removable stones. Stones could be removed (torn down) for various things; such as, bringing a new child to Sunday school, knowing the memory verse. Boys could compete against the girls, class against class, etc.

Draw a map of water and a big island. Each member of your class gets a paper boat with a flag with his name on it. They move their boats a certain amount for attendance, bringing Bible, bringing back filled-out paper,

knowing the memory verse, and receive an extra move for bringing a new student. It should take three to four weeks to get to the island. They have to answer questions on the month's lessons, and for each correct answer they get a clue. They discover a treasure at the end of at least four to five questions. Have several questions under each clue. Example: Move two spaces and look under rock, etc.

## BULLETIN BOARDS

Title the board BRING A NEW ONE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HELP BUILD THAT ARK! or LET'S PUT THE ANIMALS IN THE ARK! Draw or cut from construction paper an ark either in one piece or several, and animals (see Patterns). Add pieces to the ark, or put animals in, as new students are brought to Sunday school.

From black construction paper make two men carrying the grapes. Use real branches and plastic grapes hanging from them (see Patterns).

Make a bulletin board in the form of the map of the Holy Land (see Patterns). Emphasize the main places that will be studied during this unit. The children will have a better understanding of the location of each place in relationship to the next one.

Center the words MY TRUST IS IN GOD on your board. Run five streamers of ribbon or colored paper from the words to the top of your board, where space should be allowed for five sketches: Noah, Abraham, the brave spies, Joshua, and John the Baptist. Run other streamers to the bottom of the board, where you have allowed space for a picture of each of your students. Let the students draw the five Bible characters. They may also wish to draw self-portraits for the lower pictures, or you could use photographs.

## NOTES

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## UNIT SONGS

- "Dare to Be a Daniel"
- "Trust and Obey"
- "The Lord Knows the Way"
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

## UNIT PROJECTS

Put a question about the lessons in each of the cups in a muffin pan. Then have the children toss a button or penny into a cup and answer the question from that cup.

## CHART IDEAS

Fold a piece of brown construction paper and cut an ark from it, having the top on the fold. Make an additional bottom piece and glue it around the bottom edge of the ark (see Patterns). Fill with animal crackers.

Use animal stickers to fill up Noah's ark. The last Sunday the children could open the door on the ark.

Make a graph divided into four spaces across and five spaces down for each child. Use I'M A SUCCESS for the heading (see Patterns). They are given one point each for attendance, bringing Bible, knowing memory verse, bringing lesson paper, and missionary work. Keep the charts current to the end of the month so they can see their progress.

Draw a brick wall of five rows (see Patterns) with the name of the Bible character studied at the end of each row. Each Sunday put a smiley face in each block for the following: attendance, bringing Bible, bringing lesson booklet, doing missionary work, knowing memory verse.

## UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Miracles of the Old Testament — Classroom Activity Book, 8 each of 6 pictures, Standard Publishing