

## Teen Scene 2Q 2017

### Lesson 1

What does it mean that the Lord is my Shepherd?

Shepherd was David's metaphor for God in Psalm 23. Just as a shepherd leads, protects, provides for sheep, God does the same for His people. David was once a shepherd boy—tending to his father's sheep. He knew what the job of a shepherd entailed; it was an experience that was personal to him. David knew that it was not an easy job. He himself had fought off wild animals to protect his sheep. David called God "my Shepherd" because he understood that it was God that was protecting him and making provision for him.

### Lesson 2

How would you describe being born again?

Being born again is a spiritual experience, which is why Nicodemus did not understand it. He was thinking about it from the physical perspective. He tried to imagine a person entering into his or her mother's womb again, which is impossible. Being born again as spiritual experience is not physical but is still very real. When you are born again, the Spirit of God renews you from the inside out. The Holy Spirit does the work. He changes your nature from sinful to holy.

### Lesson 3

How can you share the Good News with someone?

Sometimes people can be afraid to share the Good News about Jesus Christ because they feel like they don't know enough about the Bible. Although it is important that every believer know God's Word, you do not have to know every detail about the Bible in order to spread the Gospel. Everyone has a testimony about what Jesus has done for them. So even though you might not know everything that Jesus did according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you do know what Christ has done in your life. Share your story about the positive changes Jesus has made in your life. That is how you can share the Good News.

## Lesson 4

What does it mean that Christ died for us even though we are sinners?

There are not that many people who are willing to die for another person, especially another person who does not appreciate that kind of sacrifice. However, Jesus Christ came to earth from His home in heaven and was willing to face death for the whole world. He not only died for His disciples and other close followers, He also died for the Roman soldiers that beat Him and nailed Him to the cross. That is an amazing sacrifice! Jesus looked beyond their hate and evil and sacrificed His life for them. Christ looks beyond our faults too. Jesus lived about two thousand years ago. Jesus died way before you or your parents were born. He died back then for the sins we commit now. He died without any guarantee that we would accept His sacrifice.

## Lesson 5

What other analogies are used to describe Jesus?

There are so many other titles for Jesus in the Bible: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Bread of Life, Son of Man, Son of God, Savior, Master, Rabbi, Redeemer, Lord, the Word, Living Water. In more modern history, people have developed more names for Him: a bridge over troubled water, our soon coming King, the Great Liberator, and so many more.

## Lesson 6

Why did Jonah try to flee from God?

Jonah was commanded by God to warn the people of Nineveh of their impending destruction. Jonah ran because he wanted to have no dealings with Nineveh. It was the capital of the Assyrian Empire—an empire, which was a hostile neighbor to Jonah's people in Israel. The Assyrian Empire began attacking the Northern Kingdom of Israel and fully conquered it by 722 B.C. The prophet Nahum also spoke of Assyria's oppression of Israel.

## Lesson 7

Why did Jonah thank God?

Jonah thanked God because even though Jonah disobeyed God, God never left him. Sometimes we make terrible choices, and consequences can be hurtful. But God is with us throughout it all. Just as God sent a fish to swallow Jonah and save him from the sea, God will take care of you during hardships, even if the hardship is because of your own disobedience. We can learn valuable lessons from our mistakes, and like Jonah, we can learn to thank God for always being there for us.

## Lesson 8

Why did Jonah obey God this time?

Jonah did not hesitate to follow God's command because God had given him another chance to get it right. He did not run this time or even ask God could he go preach somewhere else. He went straight to Nineveh. It was supposed to be a three-day journey, but he made it in one day. Jonah was serious about obeying God this time around. He obeyed God with haste. Similarly, we should be quick to obey God when we are given a second chance to do the right thing. Jonah went to Nineveh and warned them of their destruction.

## Lesson 9

Why was Jonah angry?

Jonah was angry because God did not destroy the Ninevites. When Jonah preached doom and destruction to the people of Nineveh, they heard his warning loud and clear. They believed Jonah's message and the God that sent Jonah. All of the people repented of their evil—from the king down to the poorest person in the kingdom. They showed their remorse by fasting, or abstaining from eating, and putting on sackcloth.

## Lesson 10

Why might it have been shocking for a female to lead an army into victory?

In biblical times, women did not have many opportunities for leadership in the community. Deborah was one of the few mentioned female leaders in the Bible. Matter of fact, she was the only female judge of Israel. Deborah was a wise woman. Many came to her for advice. Not only was she wise, but she was also a prophetess—meaning she was a female prophet, who heard from God and spoke on behalf of God. She not only had human wisdom, she had supernatural knowledge. She heard directly from God. Barak, one of Israel's military leaders, knew who to take with him when he needed help. He asked Deborah to accompany him during a military fight. She consented but told him God would not give him the claim to victory. It would go to a woman. So not only did Barak need Deborah's advice and support, he would also need a woman to defeat Israel's enemy. The central roles of women in this story shows that God can use those who society does not appreciate or value.

## Lesson 11

Do you think it's okay to ask God for a sign? Why or not?

Yes, it is acceptable to ask God for a sign. God understands that we sometimes doubt Him and even doubt ourselves. Signs from God can boost our confidence and faith. Gideon needed a boost of confidence and asked for a sign. The angel granted Gideon's request for a sign. The angel lit a fire on a rock with the tip of a staff. The fire burned Gideon's sacrifice of meat and bread. After that, the angel vanished. Gideon now had his sign.

## Lesson 12

Why was Jephthah skeptical of the elders' offer?

Jephthah was rejected by his family and community because of who his mother was. She nor her son deserved to be treated like that. Nevertheless, the adults in Jephthah's community did not treat him right, but one day they needed his help. When the elders of Gilead came to Jephthah, he gave them a bit of a hard time. He asked why they would come to him after they rejected him. It was right for Jephthah to bring up their wrongdoing; they needed to be held accountable for their poor decisions and actions. Jephthah asked to be made the leader over the people of Gilead. They agreed and he became a judge.

## Lesson 13

What is a Nazarite vow?

In the Bible, a Nazarite was someone—male or female—who took a vow of separation from the world and special service for God. Nazarites did not drink wine, eat unclean foods, or cut their hair. Women who gave birth to Nazarites from birth had to follow some of the same restrictions: no drinking wine and no eating unclean food. Nazarite vows could last for a short-term or they could be for a lifetime.