BE YE SEPARATE

Ages
0 - 4

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

"Be Ye Separate"

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 0-4
Written by Sister Michelle Corder

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Choose
Joshua 24:15

We are going to talk about making choices and learn why it is important to choose good things. Our lesson's example is from the book of Joshua.

After Moses died, God put Joshua in charge of the Israelites. Joshua was Moses' friend and helper while the Israelites were in the desert.

Joshua was the man who led the Israelites into the Promised Land. He was very smart and brave. He also had great faith in God and obeyed God's commandments. The Israelites agreed to obey him just as they had obeyed Moses.

When Joshua and the Israelites entered the Promised Land, other people were living there. They were Canaanites, and they did not want the Israelites in their land. The Israelites had to fight their way into Canaan. The Israelites believed that God wanted them to live in Canaan because of the promise He had made to Abraham.

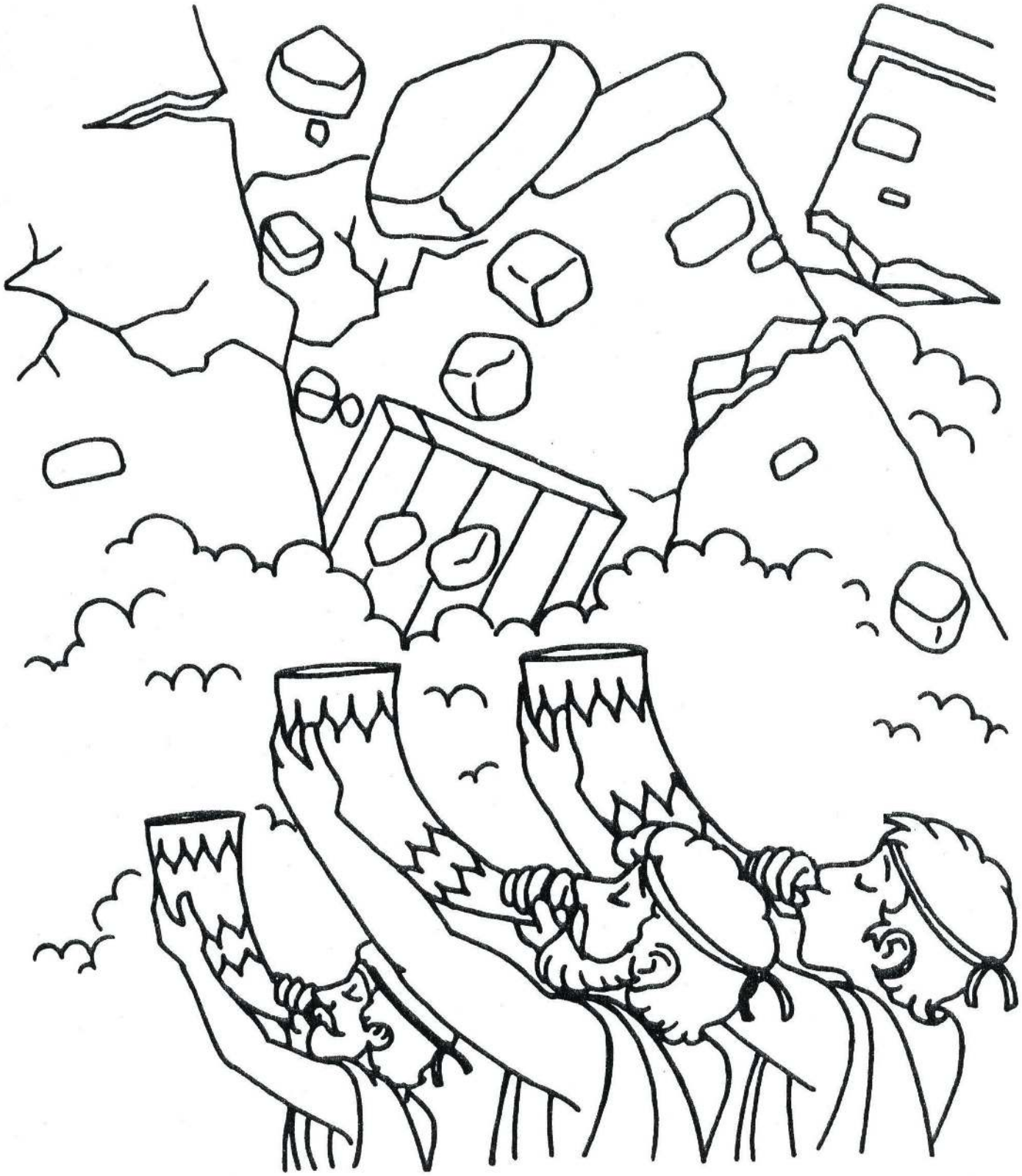
Jericho was a city that the Canaanites lived in. It was going to be very hard for the Israelites to take over Jericho because the city had a huge wall built around it. God told Joshua how to take over the city. The Israelites were to march around Jericho once a day for six days. They were to have seven priests carrying trumpets walk in front of the Ark of the Covenant. (The Ark of the Covenant was the golden box where the ten commandments were kept.) On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times. The priests were to blow their trumpets on the seventh time. When the Israelites heard the sound of the trumpets they were to shout loudly. When the Israelites gave the loud shout the walls of Jericho fell down flat. The Israelites ran in and overtook the city.

Joshua and the Israelites captured most of the land in Canaan. The land was divided among the 12 tribes of the Israelites. They became farmers and shepherds and were happy to live in Canaan.

After many years when Joshua was very old he called for all of Israel to come before him. Joshua reminded the Israelites how the Lord had always taken care of them and provided everything they had needed. He warned them to obey God's laws and to work for the Lord. Joshua said to the Israelites, "choose you this day whom you will serve, ...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We should all choose as Joshua did and serve the Lord.

COLORING ACTIVITY



JOSHUA AND THE WALLS OF JERICHO

Grace
Genesis 6:8

Have you ever not acted very nice, but your parents were nice to you anyway? God, our Heavenly Father, does good things for us too, even when we do not deserve to be treated well. We call that grace. A man named Noah received God's grace.

The book of Genesis tells us of a time when the earth was full of evil. The people God had made became mean and unkind to each other. God was so angry at most of the people that he decided to destroy the earth.

Noah was not perfect but he was an honest man and he walked with God. God told Noah that He was going to destroy the earth and all of the people. He told Noah that He was going to cause it to rain on the earth. It had never rained on the earth. God told Noah to build a very big boat called an ark. Noah had never built a boat, but he obeyed God.

Noah followed all of God's instructions. The ark was to be made out of gopher wood. Inside the ark were many rooms. The inside and outside were painted with tar or pitch. The ark was at least 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall. The ark had a roof, a door in the side, a window and three levels. Noah worked very hard. It took him 120 years to build the ark.

When Noah was finished building the ark God told him to take two of some of the animals and seven of some of the other animals into the ark. He also had to take enough food to feed all of the animals for many months.

At last Noah had everything just as God commanded. Noah and his family went inside the ark, and God shut the door.

Then God sent the rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water rose higher and higher. It covered the highest mountains. The rain finally stopped and the water slowly went down. The ark came to rest on Mount Ararat.

God told Noah to open the window and send out a dove. When the dove did not return Noah knew the earth was dry. God told Noah to bring his family and the animals out of the ark. Noah and his family thanked God for keeping them safe.

God had promised to keep Noah and his family safe if he followed all of God's instructions. God placed a beautiful rainbow in the sky to show that He always keeps His promise.

It is likely many of the mean people made fun of Noah while he was building the ark. But when it started to rain they knew that God was good to Noah--that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God will always give us the grace we need to do His will.

COLORING ACTIVITY

NOAH AND THE ARK

Love
John 3:16

We all have people who love us, and we love them. This is a wonderful gift from God-God is love. This lesson is about His Son, Jesus, who loves us more than we can measure.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. As Jesus and the disciples were walking toward the city He asked them to go borrow a donkey for Him to ride on. When they found the donkey they laid their coats on its back so Jesus could ride. The road into Jerusalem was very crowded. As Jesus rode along the road some of the people laid their coats on the ground. Other people cut palm branches and laid them on the road. The people were singing praises to Jesus. They loved him very much.

Jesus had come to Jerusalem for the feast called the Passover. It was a special celebration, and Jesus knew that this would be the last time He would be at the feast with His disciples. After they ate, Jesus gave the disciples unleaven bread and a cup. He asked them to remember Him by eating the bread and drinking from the cup. After they had finished eating Jesus talked to the disciples about lots of things He wanted them to know. Then Jesus and the disciples left the upstairs room where they had eaten. They walked through the city into a garden called the Garden of Gethsemane. The garden was in a grove of olive trees on top of a mountain called the Mount of Olives.

When they reached the garden Jesus had his disciples wait at the gate while He went into the garden to pray. He took three disciples, Peter, James and John, with Him a little farther into the garden. Jesus was very sad because He knew He would have to leave His friends soon. He asked the three disciples to sit and watch while He went to pray.

Jesus walked a little farther into the garden and knelt down to talk to His Father in prayer. As He prayed He knew that it was God's plan for Him to die so that the people could be saved from their sins. It was a hard thing to do. Jesus prayed to God, "O, my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done." He was ready to do whatever God wanted Him to do. Suddenly a light appeared in the darkness. A group of soldiers were coming into the garden. Jesus knew they were looking for Him.

Jesus was arrested and He was taken before the leaders of the people. They treated Him very badly. Most of the leaders did not believe any of Jesus' teachings or that He was God's son. They thought that Jesus should be crucified. Jesus was led out of the city to Calvary. There He was nailed to a wooden cross. Jesus died that day. All the people that loved Jesus were very sad. But Jesus had told them that He would rise again.

God loved all of us so much that He gave us His only son. Jesus came to earth to tell us about the truth that comes from God. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to do everything that God wanted Him to do. Jesus loves us so much that He died so that we could be saved and live in Heaven.

We can show Jesus that we love Him by believing His teachings and obeying God.

COLORING ACTIVITY

JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH.

Action
Proverbs 20:11

When we are born our parents start teaching us what is right (good) and what is wrong (bad/evil). The first people God made, Adam and Eve, learned about good and evil, too.

Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden that God had made especially for them. Adam and Eve were God's friends. He came each evening when the air was cool to visit with Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve loved the garden. They had plenty of delicious food to eat. There were beautiful flowers and plants all around them. God had let Adam choose all the names of the animals. They had everything they needed. God had only given them one rule. They could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was easy for them to obey God beause they had plenty of other things to eat.

All of the animals loved Adam and Eve. They were not afraid of each other. But God's enemy, Satan, was not happy. He was not happy that Adam and Eve were friends with God. One day when Eve was in the garden Satan asked her why she didn't eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He asked her if God had not told them that they could have anything they wanted. Eve told the sly serpent that they could eat the fruit of any tree but if they ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would die. The sly serpent told Eve how foolish she was to believe that she would die. He told her that if she ate the fruit she would be as wise as God.

Eve went to the tree. The fruit looked good. She thought it would make her wise so she picked the fruit and ate part of it. Eve gave Adam a bite of the fruit. Adam and Eve were suddenly very afraid. They knew that when God came He would know that they disobeyed Him. They made clothes out of fig leaves to cover themselves and they hid from God.

When God came in the evening He called for Adam and Eve. They slowly came out of their hiding place. God asked them why they had eaten the forbidden fruit. Adam blamed Eve, and she blamed the sly serpent. God told Adam and Eve that they would have to leave the garden because they had disobeyed Him. From now on they would have to work very hard, they would feel pain, and they could never meet with God in the garden again.

Adam and Eve were very sad that they had disobeyed God. Their actions were evil and God was unhappy with them. All of our actions should make God happy. We should obey all of God's rules.

COLORING ACTIVITY

ADAM AND EVE.

Reward
Luke 6:35

We all like to get a reward. Good behavior often brings us a reward. Did you know that God gives rewards for good behavior? A man named Joseph earned God's reward.

Jacob, Joseph's father had 12 sons. He loved all of them, but Joseph was special and he loved him most. Jacob gave Joseph a coat made of many colors, and this made all of his brothers very jealous.

Joseph was special to God, also. God sent messages to Joseph in his dreams. In the dreams, Joseph's family bowed down to him. This made his brothers very angry. Jacob was very upset when he heard about the dreams. He wanted Joseph to stop talking about the dreams.

Jacob had a huge flock of sheep. All the brothers had taken them out to find food and water. One day Jacob sent Joseph out to find them. The brothers saw him coming. They decided to catch him and throw him into a big hole in the ground. Soon they saw a big group of men walking by. They knew that they were going to Egypt, so they sold Joseph to them. They thought they would be rid of him forever. The brothers took Joseph's coat of many colors and dipped it in blood and tore holes in it and told their father a beast had killed him. Jacob was so sad. He thought Joseph was gone forever.

In Egypt Joseph had to work very hard. He was a slave. He did his work well and soon was given an important job. But Joseph got put in jail for something he didn't do. While he was in jail he explained one of the prisioner's dreams. When the prisioner got out of jail he went to work for the king. One night the king had a dream that no one could explain. The man remembered Joseph. So the king sent for Joseph.

The king told Joseph what he had dreamed. Joseph explained that the dream meant that Egypt was going to have seven years of harvest and seven years of famine. The king was very pleased with Joseph. He put him in charge of gathering and storing all the food. When the famine came, people came from far away to buy food. One day Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize him but Jospeh knew who they were. When Joseph told them who he was, they were very ashamed. They were afraid that Joseph would punish them, but he didn't-he forgave them. Joseph did not want them to be sad. He told them that God had sent him to Egypt so that he would be able to take care of them.

Joseph sent them back to get his father and their families. Joseph was so happy to see his father. Joseph and his family lived together in Egypt for many years. They were thankful that God had taken care of them.

God had rewarded Joseph by giving him the power to save his family. Joseph had to work very hard, but God was always with him. God will also reward us when we do His work.

COLORING ACTIVITY

JOSEPH EARNED GOD'S REWARD.

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