HONORABLE MEN

OF THE BIBLE

AGE 7-9

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 7-9
Written by Sister Susan Collins

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HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

HUMILITY AND PATIENCE

Background Study: Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 1:68-79
Memory Verse: Matthew 3:11

When you think about the qualities needed to live the Christian life do patience and humility come to mind? These are important attributes. Patience to wait on the Lord and humility to put others first before self and God above all. You see, the final objective in life is to bring glory and honor to God-the One who loved us enough to come, as Jesus, and give His life for us.

Let us look at someone in the Bible who exhibited both patience and humility.

John the Baptist was born to elderly parents. His mother, Elizabeth, was long past childbearing age, but as the angel said to Mary, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1: 37.

John’s father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day John was presented at the Temple to be circumcised. He prophesied about Jesus and the role his son John would play. In Luke 1:76 Zacharias says, “And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways”.

From the beginning, John was chosen by God to prepare people for the coming of Christ. He was to preach salvation by the repentance of sins. In fact, long before John was born the prophet Isaiah spoke of him as “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD...” Isaiah 40:3.

What an honor to be chosen to go before the Lord. At least that is how John felt. He said that he was not worthy to even unlatch Jesus sandals. John felt unworthy to baptize Jesus, but was obedient to the Lord’s instructions.

Contrast this with the attitude of Lucifer. He was not content to be a beautiful angel of God, he wanted to actually be God. For his disobedience God cast him from heaven. Lucifer, or Satan, still wants to be #1. He tries hard to get us to have the same attitude. Anytime we are selfish, we follow Satan, not God.

John, in his humility, was bold to preach the truth. He told people it was not enough to say they repented of sin, but they must also bring forth fruit, or evidence, to show it. He also warned against pride. The Jewish people were very proud to be descendants of Abraham, but John said that God was able to make anyone a descendant of Abraham. What did John mean?

Well, John meant that what is in our heart is what is important. Those who repent toward God and trust Jesus for salvation become the children of God just as Abraham and his children were God’s chosen people. Those who do not follow God in obedience are not truly a child of God even though they may have been born from Abraham’s family.

Spiritual birth is what matters!

John went on to say, after Jesus began His ministry, that he (John) must decrease while Jesus must increase. This certainly became true in John’s life. For being bold enough to rebuke Herod for taking his brother’s wife, John was cast into prison. Eventually he was beheaded. However, even facing death, John knew he had eternal life through Jesus Christ.

No greater accolade can be given to a man than the words of Jesus Himself regarding John. In Matthew

11:11 Jesus said, “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen greater than John the Baptist:" But Jesus went on to say that even the person who is least is greater than him. See how important humility is to God? Read Matthew 11:7-19 to know what else Jesus had to say about John,

John had the patience to grow up in a desert, or barren, place living a life of self denial until God was ready for him to preach about Christ. When he began to preach, John was very humble, realizing Christ was the important one not him.

As you grow up, seek to know Christ. Have patience to learn under the teachers God gives you, such as your parents, Sunday School teachers and pastor. When you begin your Christian walk, pray for the humility to put God first in your life. Do not let Satan deceive you into thinking it is ok to think only of yourself. Be concerned for others and their need for salvation.

QUESTIONS:

1 Why was John’s birth special?
2 What was Zacharias prophecy regarding his son John?
3 Did this come true?
4 What did John say about Jesus?
5 Why is it important to put God first in our life?

Unscramble the words from lesson one below.

1. sacrizaha _____
2. eceobidne _____
3. ssuje _____
4. nisdwserel _____
5. inpeetac _____
6. repearp _____
7. tazibep _____
8. mtilhuyi _____
9. telabzieh _____
10. prenet _____

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

Background Study: Genesis 37, 39-45
Memory Verse: Genesis 45:5

Perhaps no one in the Bible, besides Jesus, exemplifies integrity and honesty like Joseph, the much loved son of Jacob. In fact, Jacob favored Joseph above all his sons because his mother, Rachel, was the wife Jacob loved. This made Joseph's brothers jealous. Because of the hatred in their hearts, they sold Joseph to traveling merchants going to Egypt. Joseph was then sold to Potiphar, captain of Pharoah's guard.

In Egypt, Joseph was a good servant to Potiphar. Potiphar saw that God prospered Joseph. Potiphar trusted Joseph so much that he made Joseph overseer of his household. But Potiphar's wife had an evil heart. She desired to have Joseph for herself. When Joseph refused to act dishonorably with his master's wife, she accused him of attacking her. Potiphar, taking her side, had Joseph put in prison.

Twice now, others have treated Joseph in a shameful way. Did Joseph become angry and rebellious? Amazingly the answer is no.

Now God had given Joseph a great gift. This gift was the ability to interpret dreams. One of the dreams he interpreted showed that he would one day rise above his brothers, even though he was younger than them. When Joseph told the dream to his brothers, their jealousy overflowed. This was when they sold Joseph into slavery.

Now, in prison due to the false accusations of Potiphar's wife, Joseph once again rose to a position of great responsibility. Because of his honesty, Joseph was put in charge of the other prisoners. Once again God caused all that Joseph did to prosper. Also in the prison for offending the king were his baker and butler. One day they told Joseph about troubling dreams. After giving God the credit for knowing the interpretation, Joseph was able to explain what each dream meant. First, the butler was to be restored to freedom but the baker was to be put to death.

Sure enough, the dreams came true. When the butler was released, Joseph asked to be remembered to Pharoah, explaining that he was stolen from his people and later wrongfully imprisoned. The butler, however, forgot about Joseph until two years later when Pharoah had troubling dreams. Then the butler remembered Joseph and his ability to interpret dreams. Sending for him, Joseph was able to warn Pharoah that after seven years of plentiful harvest there would be a seven year famine. He advised Pharoah to store all the excess grain from the years of plenty, in storehouses to tide the land over during the seven years of famine.

Pharoah was so pleased with Joseph that he put Joseph in charge of the storehouses. Joseph was given the highest authority in the land next to Pharoah. Once again God has caused Joseph to prosper. Do you think God would have done this if Joseph had been an angry vindictive man?

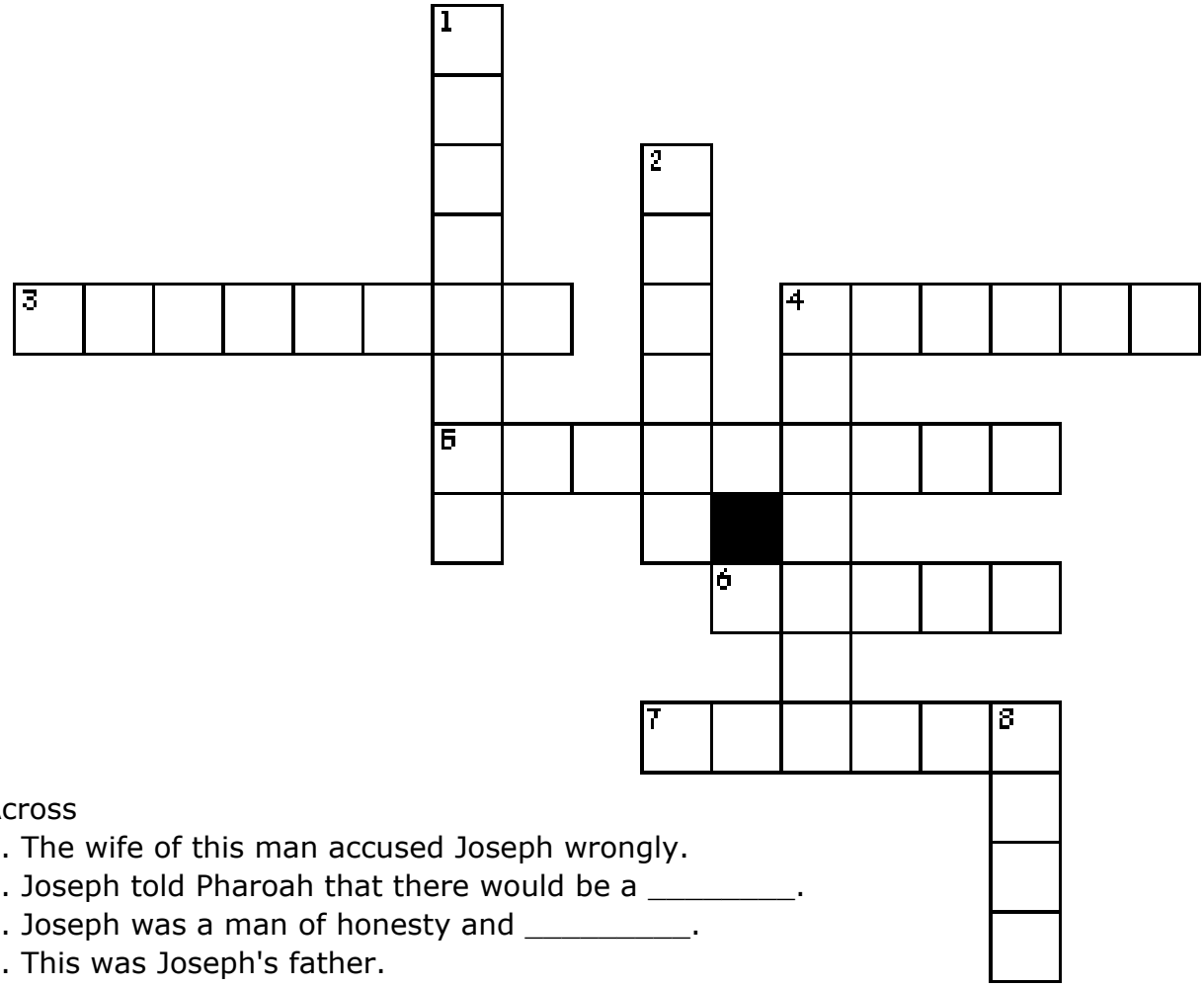
Remember that Joseph once dreamed he would be put in authority over his brothers? No one, even Joseph, could have predicted the way this would be fulfilled. God's work is amazing and just because we cannot see the way forward does not mean He is not in control. At this time great famine came upon the area. Those outside Egypt began to go hungry. Jacob at this time sent his sons to Egypt to buy food. Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not know him. How could they guess their younger brother would rise from a slave to such a high position? Read the rest of the story of Joseph in Genesis to see what happens next. It is a wonderful story of forgiveness. Joseph's brothers show great remorse and

compassion on Joseph's only other brother by Rachel, Benjamin. It is obvious that they are not jealous of Benjamin even though he is now the favored son. Judah even offers himself as surety for Benjamin. Joseph's tender heart can no longer hold out. He reveals himself and assures them of his forgiveness. Not only that, he instructs them to go home and bring Jacob and all his household to Egypt to live under Joseph's care.

The story of Joseph is a beautiful picture of the forgiveness of Christ. Even though Jesus was without sin, he was willing to be shamefully treated for our sake. Unlike Joseph, Jesus was put to death for our sins, dying a cruel death on the cross to purchase our forgiveness from God.

QUESTIONS:

1 Who was Joseph and why were his brothers jealous of him.
2 What did Joseph's brothers do to him?
3 Where did Joseph go next and what happened to him there?
4 What wonderful ability did God give Joseph?
5 How did this ability work to make all turn out well for Joseph and his family?



Across

3. The wife of this man accused Joseph wrongly.
4. Joseph told Pharoah that there would be a _____.
5. Joseph was a man of honesty and _____.
6. This was Joseph's father.
7. Joseph interpreted these for Pharoah.

Down

1. This is the name of Joseph's youngest brother.
2. This is the name of Joseph's mother.
4. Joseph _____ his brothers.
8. Joseph's brothers _____ him to merchants.

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

FAITH AND WISDOM

Background Study: Acts
Memory Verse: II Timothy 4:11

Although the Bible does not tell us much about Luke, his life was far from insignificant. Sometimes the actions of a person tell his story. So it is with Luke.

Just who was Luke and what did he do?

The Bible does tell us that Luke was a physician. The apostle Paul calls him, “the beloved physician”. We also learn from Paul in II Timothy 4 :11 that at the end of his life everyone had left him but Luke.

Luke wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He actually wrote them as one long treatise. Historians later divided the book into two. The first, called the Gospel according to Luke, or just Luke, follows the birth of Christ through his death and resurrection. Luke took the time to record the history of Jesus life and recorded this knowledge in a factual and interesting way. We all owe Luke a debt of gratitude for being obedient to God’s inspiration.

The second section gives a history of the early church and the missionary journeys of the apostles, particularly Peter and Paul. This second book is called the Acts of the Apostles, or just Acts. In this book we are given a clear picture of the early church and its administration. Many topics are touched upon including the call for deacons to help meet the needs of the church, freeing the preachers to spread the gospel. Also we get a picture of a praying, singing, worshipping group of people who loved each other and sought the good of others.

The Day of Pentecost is described, as are miracles and healings performed by the apostles. We are also told of Peter’s calling to minister to the gentiles and the controversy that grew between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians. We are told of the council of elders who met to deal with this situation.

The death of Stephen and Paul’s part in that are recounted as well as Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. We are able to “follow along” with Luke as he describes Paul’s missionary journeys.

But Luke did not just write about these events, he also lived them, going on many journeys with Paul. How do we know this? If you read carefully you will often see the small word, “we”. In Acts 16:10-11 Luke says, “And after he (Paul) had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, … Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia …”

Read about the travels of Paul if you want to get a picture of what Luke’s life was like also. Paul was beaten and put in prison more than once and Luke ministered to him in his capacity as a physician.

It must have taken great faith for Luke to follow the Apostle Paul in the work of spreading the gospel. Luke also exhibited great wisdom in collecting the history of these events and following the inspiration of God in recording them. Because of this, Christian church members have insight into the early church and guidance for the work of the church even today.
Luke did not brag on himself. In fact he is mentioned by name only three times in the Bible and all of these are in the letters of the Apostle Paul. (Colossians, II Timothy, Philemon) But as the old saying goes, “Actions speak louder than words."

Do you know any missionaries? Do you know about their personal struggles and their dedication to spread the gospel to others? Do you know anyone who has visited a missionary? Would you like to some day visit a missionary? I encourage you to pray for the missionaries your church supports. Like Luke, you may be called some day to help in missionary work.

QUESTIONS:

1 Who was Luke?
2 What are the names of the two books written by Luke?
3 What are these books about?
4 How was Luke wise and faithful?
5 Name at least one of the missionaries your church supports.

N Q E Y R T G O Z J N X F D G V E J H T

U M R P Q W B O C O F X C I T W P E U S

Q X W A A P F Y S U W A B A S F L S A O

N U B N I O E D Q P H H D B C Z F U R C

W H I S T O R Y F Y E G F B Y A P S B E

Y R A N O I S S I M N L W O K R D U V T

F G N O N G B T S I U A S T C A A Q F N

W O T X R R Y C W K G A I Z V U N M M E

U V X P O E K S E O M K Q C D U M W O P

M U T Q N P S M L J Q B K V I D K C W V

X C T R T T S I R U A C C W F S N A Y T

Y W U E C A R Y N Y A Q I Z X Y Y E H P

F O H J F X V C H D A P B E R E Q H O E

J U P K T D P U T U A O R T G P M P P A

W H U Z J T Q S N N B T T C V B G R C P

ACTS
GOSPEL
HISTORY
JESUS
JOURNEY
LUKE
MISSIONARY
PAUL
PENTECOST
PHYSICIAN

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

ZEALOUSNESS AND LEADERSHIP

Background Study: I Timothy 4:12-16; II Timothy 4:1-5
Memory Verse: I Timothy 6:20

Timothy was a young pastor of the church in Ephesus. He came to know Christ under the influence of his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois. The name Timothy means “honoring God” or “honored by God”. Timothy traveled with the Apostle Paul through Macedonia. He was encouraged by Paul to stay in Ephesus that he might “command” or charge some to teach no other doctrine but Christ. It seems that false teachers had already slipped into the church there, and were leading members astray.

The Apostle Paul loved Timothy like a son. He called him “my own son in the faith”. He saw Timothy’s zeal for God’s work. Paul, however, wanted to be sure Timothy’s energy stayed focused on teaching the truth. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy giving him pastoral instructions. Paul wanted Timothy to show wisdom in dealing with church issues. He knew Timothy would have many challenges as a young pastor. Paul cautioned Timothy not to let others despise his youth, but to keep a firm hold as the leader of his flock.

Below are some of the instructions Paul gave Timothy:

1 Teach only sound doctrine.
2 Pray for the salvation of all men.
3 The role of men and women in the church.
4 The qualifications of pastors and deacons.
5 How to treat church members.

Paul concluded with these admonitions to Timothy: Be loyal to the faith, be strong in grace and PREACH THE WORD!

It was Paul’s desire that Timothy grow in wisdom and knowledge. He cautioned Timothy not to fall into error concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul did not want Timothy to make “shipwreck” as other preachers had before him. The apostle Paul, having physically been in a shipwreck, used this example to show what happens spiritually to a preacher who leaves the truth taught by Jesus Christ and the Apostles.

Paul wanted Timothy to be like a sound ship sailing safely to his destination, guiding others also to arrive safely into the port of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS:
1 Who was Timothy?
2 Who influenced Timothy to become a Christian?
3 Why do you think the Apostle Paul loved Timothy like a son?
4 What was Paul’s desire for Timothy?
5 What did Paul call it when a preacher falls from the true faith?

Complete the cryptogram for a message from lesson four.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
							26							5											

			O		H			,						O		O			H						
3	2	18	5	3	26	7			22		3	24	4	1		21	5	9		5	23		3	26	1

					H	.
23	22	2	3	26		

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

COURAGE AND OBEDIENCE

Background Study: Luke
Memory Verse: John 3:16

Why would God, who owned the world, choose to come down in the form of man and suffer pain, hunger, temptation and loneliness? Can you think of even one reason? The Bible says in John 3:16 that God so loved the world He sent His only Son to die that all who believe on Him might have everlasting life. Love is the reason He came into the world, but not just any love…love for US!

Through the life of Jesus we see Him heal the sick, perform miracles and raise the dead. We see His gentle side when He is dealing with children. We see His harsh side when He deals with the moneychangers in the Temple.

Jesus was also a wonderful storyteller who incorporated important lessons in His picture illustrations or parables. He often gathered before a crowd, teaching them. Many people called Him rabbi or good master. But Jesus also came to people one on one and changed their life from despair to hope. Zaccheus, Matthew (Levi) and the woman at the well are only three examples of those whose lives were radically changed.

Jesus was so much more than a teacher, healer, miracle worker and storyteller. He was, and still is, the Savior, Counsellor and Prince of Peace, Almighty God! It is through Him that we have eternal life.

Though God Himself, He did not think it beneath Him to come into the world as a baby and live a common life for the purpose of bringing us salvation. Though many of the religious leaders of the day tried to trick Jesus into saying the wrong thing He always answered questions with scripture and held His heavenly Father above Himself.

Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, though Jesus was in such great distress he sweated great drops of blood, He cried to His Father, “not my will, but thine, be done.”He was obedient and courageous enough to die a cruel death on the cross, becoming victorious over death by His resurrection bringing hope of eternal life for all who believe.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? We are separated from God by sin. When Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden he brought sin into the world. Sin brought death. All people since that time are sinners who have broken God’s law. The Bible teaches that if we have broken even one law we have broken all the law. The penalty for sin is death. God is righteous. Only a sinless sacrifice can bring us back to Him and only Jesus lived a sinless life. That is why God’s plan, made before the foundation of the world, was to come as Jesus and die for us. How awesome is that? When you realize you are a sinner, that you are lost and separated from God, repent and turn to Him and be saved. It was God’s will that man always live with Him in the Garden of Eden.

By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we can be united with Him once again, when we die, through all eternity.

QUESTIONS:

1 Who is Jesus?
2 What are some of the things Jesus did while on earth?
3 What are some of the names Jesus has been called?
4 Why did Jesus choose to die?
5 How can you be saved?

P B I B L E S P F W G O D N C M T R U Q

V G E T H S E M A N E B D H T E X J S G

F I B A O M F A I G S E H E A H J W Q G

R R C R K T B T K B Q D C C H S C S O J

R P C T L K S U S Z J I H E G A R U O C

M H O W O A H Y M A P E A P W W I Q B M

Y K B T L R L I I Z R N S D L S Z W G L

U X E R X P I W F E A C U K P G J R Y B

Q F E R H E D O J R T E S C P W Z N G E

T V P G T H C L U I O O E W Q J Q F J N

E O M P S I G D U S G I J I U K F J B X

V I D Z B S X W T Q M O V A F Q M C K Y

F H W R U G E L Q N I Q Q A F I J L F J

P C G R S U L J V A G W Z W S E Z C N J

A L H W J G N M C R W V X U C P K C T Z

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OBEDIENCE SAVIOR TEACHER

VICTORIOUS