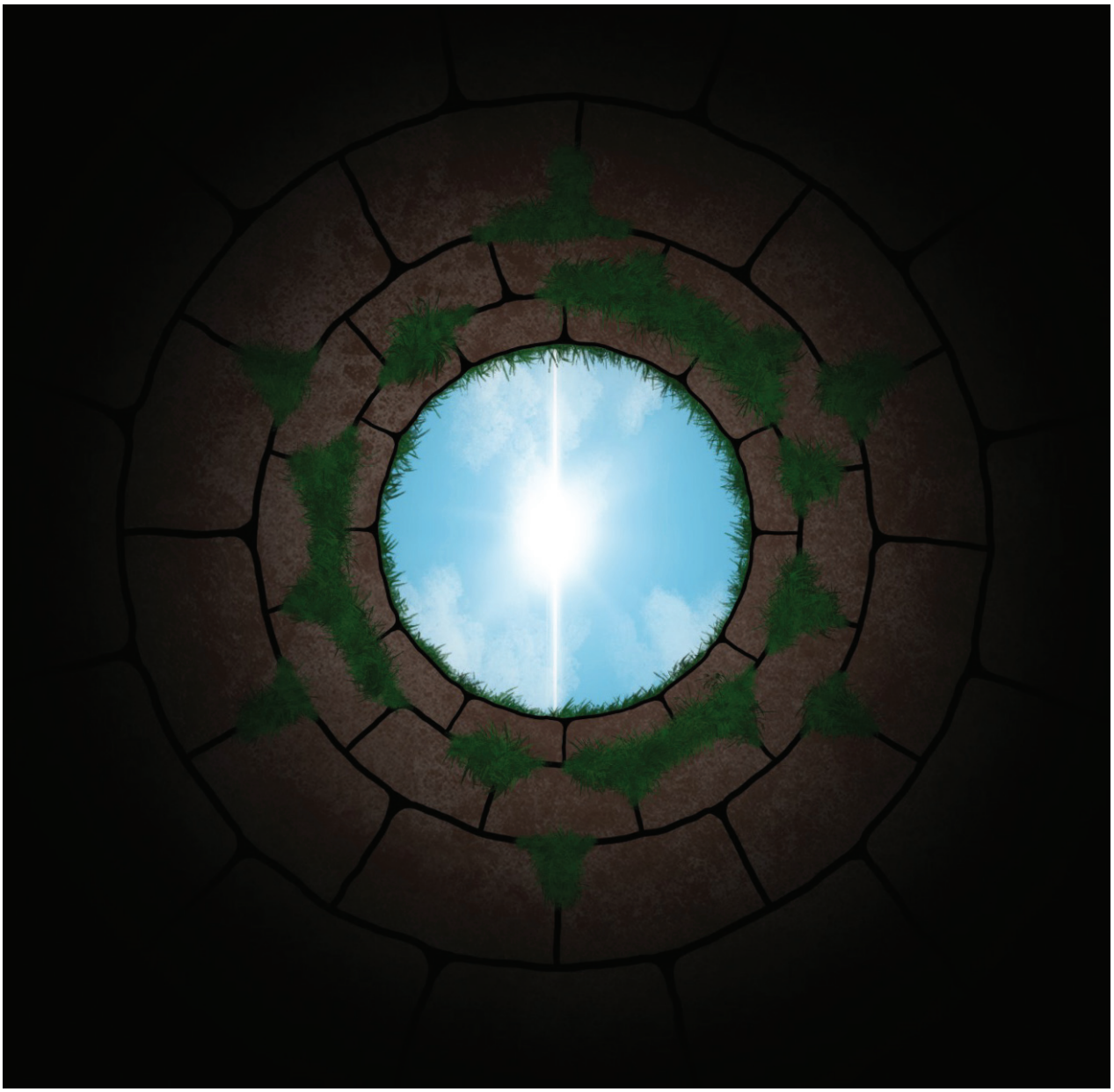
MISSIONARY BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

WILL YOU REMAIN



IN THE PIT?

LESSONS PREPARED FOR STUDENTS AGE 9 AND YOUNGER

THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

WILL YOU REMAIN IN THE PIT?

ALL LESSONS PREPARED FOR CLASSES FOR PERSONS AGED 9 YEARS AND YOUNGER

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OVERVIEW OF THEME AND LESSONS

"Will You Remain in the Pit?"

Those that have travelled a good portion of life's pathway understand through personal experience that there are challenging periods, difficult times, and low points that must be navigated. Looking in our rear-view mirror, we may see past individual decisions and choices that brought us straight-forward to those obstacles. Other times, however, we awaken to a new day whose events suddenly and unexpectedly bring us down off of a mountain and place us solidly in the deepest valley.

It is a worthwhile endeavor to teach our children about life's ups and downs. More importantly though, because of the unreliability of life, is knowing the One True and Living God who spoke in Malachi 3:6 "*For I am the LORD, **I change not**, therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

And so, this series of lessons begins with an evangelical message contrasting two pits. The psalmist in Psalms 40 uses the allusion of a pit to describe his condition of being lost and separated from God. Being in this pit was not a unique situation to him. Every person who has ever been saved by our Lord Jesus has found themselves in this pit. Likewise, every unsaved person is now abiding in the same pit. Thus, the theme in the form of a question: **"Will You Remain in the Pit?"**.

We who have been saved by God's grace no longer remain in this pit, and the unsaved do not have to linger on in this sinful condition either. But if they are never delivered from that pit and die as a sinner, they will find themselves in the Bottomless Pit spoken of in the book of Revelation. And from that pit, there is no escape.

The subsequent lessons introduce us to individuals who have been cast into either literal or symbolic pits. **Spoiler Alert: None of them remained in the pit.** What can we learn from their lives of service? What examples can we take from this study to help us when we too shall have no where else to look but up.

Lesson One: WILL YOU REMAIN IN THE PIT?

Written By: Sister Michelle Corder

LESSON TEXT: PSALMS 40:1-3; REVELATION 9:1-2; REVELATION 20:10, 14-15

The Testimony of Salvation – Heaven
Revelation – The Bottomless Pit – Hell

Have you ever wondered about Heaven? Where is it? What is it like? Who lives there? In the Bible, God gives us some hints about what it will be like but a lot of it is still a mystery because God is still preparing it for us.

God told the disciples before he went up to Heaven that he was preparing a place for us with many mansions or rooms. It took God only 6 days to create everything in the world, how amazing will heaven be since He has been working on it for many years?

God can use whatever He wants to prepare Heaven for us. He can use gold and silver, maybe even diamonds, pearls and other jewels and other amazing things we haven't even seen. The Bible does not give us complete description of Heaven because we wouldn't be able to understand how beautiful it really is. Not only will everything be beautiful, but there will be no pain, no sadness, no crying and no death. No one will get hurt. There will be more fighting.

We won't need to pack a suit case. We won't need our favorite doll or truck; we won't even need a change of clothes. God will give us everything we need plus much more.

How will we know the way to Heaven? Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples asked Him how to get to Heaven. Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." This might seem like strange directions. Jesus is asking us to believe that He is God's son and that He died on the cross for all our sins.

Heaven is going to be a beautiful place.

Have you ever wondered about Hell? Where is it? What is it like? Who lives there? Hell is a real place just like Heaven. Hell was created for the devil and his demons. God doesn't want anyone to go to Hell. Hell will not be a pleasant place. The Bible describes Hell as a blazing fire and furnace, sadness, suffering and crying. That is why He provided a way of escape, so that no one has to go there.

Many people think that if they are good they will go to Heaven, and bad people will go the Hell. This isn't true. No one is good enough for Heaven. Everyone deserves Hell. Jesus died on the cross so that we can go to Heaven and escape Hell. Jesus is the only way to salvation and to Heaven.

Hell is a terrible, terrifying place. It is a pit of darkness and its duration is eternal. The suffering has no end. It is only by repentance and faith in Jesus that we can be saved form this deep, dark pit.

COLOR THE SCENE

Lesson Two: JOSEPH CAST INTO A PIT

Written By: Sister Michelle Corder

LESSON TEXT: GENESIS 37:23-24; GENESIS 45:4-8

Jacob, Joseph's father, had 12 sons. He loved all of them, but Joseph was special and he loved him the most. Jacob had a very special coat made for Joseph. The coat was made of many colors, and whenever Joseph wore it all of his brothers very jealous. They didn't think it was fair that Joseph got a beautiful coat and they got nothing.

Joseph was much younger that all of his brothers except Benjamin. Sometimes, Joseph would see his older brothers doing things he knew were wrong and he would run to his father and tell on them. This made the brothers even angrier. They began to have very bad feeling toward their brother.

Jacob had a huge flock of sheep. All of the older brothers had taken them out to find food and water. One day Jacob sent Joseph out into the fields to check on his brothers. His brothers saw him coming from a long way away because of his very colorful coat. They began to talk about him and plan what they could do to him because they hated him so much. When Joseph got close they grabbed him and pulled off his coat. They threw him into a deep dark pit. Joseph was very scared. All he could see was darkness.

Soon the brothers saw a big group of men passing by who were on their way to Egypt. The brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the men who took him to Egypt as their slave. They thought they would be rid of him forever.

The brothers couldn't go back home without a plan. They decided to kill a goat and smeared the red blood all over Joseph's beautiful coat.

They took the coat home and told their father that Joseph had been attacked by a wild animal and his coat was all that was left. This made Jacob very sad. He thought his beloved son was gone forever. He cried and grieved for his son for a long time.

In Egypt Joseph had to work very hard because he was a slave. He did his work well and soon was given an important job. He soon earned the favor of the king by explaining a dream that the king had. Joseph told the king that there was going to be seven years of harvest and seven years of famine. The king put him in charge of gathering and storing all the food. When the famine came, people travelled from far way to buy food.

One day Joseph's brother's cam to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize him

but Joseph knew who they were. When Joseph told him who he was, they were very ashamed. They were afraid Joseph would punish them but he didn't; he forgave them. He told them that it was God's plan that he was thrown into the pit so that he would be able to take care of them.

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

No matter how bad the trouble or how deep the pit, God has the power to save.

COLOR THE PICTURE.

Lesson THREE: DANIEL CAST INTO THE LION'S DEN

Written By: Sister Michelle Corder

LESSON TEXT: DANIEL 6:16-23

God chose the nation of Israel to be His chosen people. He promised to always love and protect them if they would obey Him. When the Israelites disobeyed God, He allowed them to lose a battle and they all became prisoners.

One of the prisoners was a man named Daniel; he was a humble hardworking, Godly man. Daniel loved God very much. God knew that Daniel had a very strong faith and belief in Him; God also knew that Daniel would give all the glory to Him for whatever happened in his life. He prayed to God three times a day.

Daniel was very smart and wise. King Darius like him, so he was given a job in the palace. The other leaders in the kingdom did not like that Daniel had a better job than they did because he was a captive from Israel. There were many other wise men in the palace who were jealous of Daniel. These men wanted to get him in trouble and get rid of him. They couldn't come up with a plan because Daniel obeyed all the laws and rules in the kingdom. The only way they could get him in trouble was by tricking the king in to passing a new law. The law said that everyone had to pray to King Darius and no other god or they would be thrown into the lion's den.

Daniel heard the law read in the palace one day, but that did not keep him from serving God. He went home and opened his window and prayed. The jealous men had followed Daniel home and heard him pray, they went back to the palace to tell the king that Daniel had broken the law.

The king was very sad because he did not want to hurt Daniel. He knew that Daniel would have to be thrown into the big pit where the lions were kept because of the selfish law he made. He worried about Daniel all night and he hoped that Daniel's God was powerful enough to protect him from the lions.

Early the next morning before anyone else was awake the king hurried out to the lion's den. He called out to Daniel and asked him if his God had kept him safe. Daniel answered saying, "My God hath sent His angel and hath shut the lion's mouths." The king was so happy and he immediately had Daniel removed from the lion's den. When Daniel was lifted out of the pit, there wasn't even a scratch on him.

Daniel was kept safe in the pit with the lions because he loved God. He had faith that God would hear his prayer.

No matter how bad the trouble or how deep the pit, God has the power to save.

COLOR THE PICTURE.

Lesson FOUR: JEREMIAH CAST INTO THE DUNGEON

Written By: Sister Michelle Corder

LESSON TEXT: DANIEL 38:4-6; DANIEL 38:11-13

Jeremiah was born into a religious home in the kingdom of Judah. His father, Hilkiah, was a priest. Maybe Jeremiah's parents thought he would also become a priest. But God had other plans.

At the time of Jeremiah's birth, God's people were not living according to God's Word. Nearly everybody, from the king down to the most humble servant worshiped false gods – even in the holy Temple.

When Jeremiah was a young man, about 24 years old, when God spoke to him. God said, "I knew you before you were born and I planned then that you will speak for Me." God's call seemed to scare Jeremiah. He told the Lord that he couldn't speak for him. Jeremiah didn't think he could speak out for God against all the wickedness that was going on all around him.

God told Jeremiah to not be afraid; He said go where I send you and say whatever I tell you to say. I will be with you and I will take care of you. God touched Jeremiah's mouth and gave him strength and courage and wisdom. Jeremiah was able to speak out boldly, reminding the people that God loved them and wanted to help them. Nobody listened to him; not even the king.

Now the people of Judah, the southern kingdom, were turning their back on God. Their enemies were already on the march! Would God allow his people to be conquered and taken into exile? These people trusted their idols. They thought the idols could save them from the enemy. Jeremiah tried again to warn the people of Israel. They wanted to kill Jeremiah. But God protected his servant.

God told him to gather the elders together and smash a clay jar in front of them and tell them that Jerusalem will be smashed just like this jar. The elders got very angry. They beat Jeremiah and threw him in prison. Even in prison, Jeremiah just kept on preaching and trusting God. God told Jeremiah to stop praying for the people. He said He would not hear them when they cried out for help.

After he got out of prison, Jeremiah again preached to the king and the people that they should turn back to God and put their trust in Him. This time the king was so angry he turned Jeremiah over to the princes of his of his court and they had Jeremiah

thrown in to a deep muddy pit. He began to sink into the mud; he knew there was no way out. But God was at work in the king's heart. He secretly had Jeremiah rescued.

Jeremiah obeyed God even when it was hard and God protected him. God will protect us when we are seeking to obey Him.

No matter how bad the trouble or how deep the pit, God has the power to save.

COLOR THE SCENE

Lesson FIVE: PAUL AND SILAS CAST INTO PRISON

Written By: Sister Michelle Corder
LESSON TEXT: ACTS 16:16-34

Paul and Silas were on their missionary journey into Macedonia. The Holy Spirit gave directions to Paul and Silas as they traveled to share the good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit told them when to stop and made it clear when and where they were to go.

When Paul and Silas entered a new city they went to the local synagogue as a place to being sharing the exciting news about Jesus. Philippi did not have a synagogue because there were not many Jewish people living there. Since there wasn't a synagogue, Paul and Silas knew that the Jewish people would meet for prayer by the water. They talked to the women who had come to pray. They told them about Jesus.

In this group of women, there was a lady named Lydia. She made purple cloth and sold it. It was very hard to make and worth a lot of money. Lydia listened to Paul and Silas and knew that their message about Jesus was true. She believed in Jesus and was baptized. Lydia invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house while they were in Philippi. Her whole family believed in Jesus and were baptized.

One day while they were walking to the river to meet for prayer, a slave girl began to follow them. The girl was acting strange. She had an evil spirit living inside her. The evil spirit helped the girl to predict the future. The men that owned her made a lot of money from her because many people paid them to have her tell them their future. The girl followed them for days, shouting out that "these men are from the Most High God and they can tell us the way to salvation!"

One day Paul was very irritated with the girl. He turned around and told the evil spirit that wan in her to come out. The evil spirit went out, and the men who owned her were very mad. They had Paul and Silas arrested because they could no longer make any money from her fortune telling. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison.

The jailer was told to keep them securely locked. He wanted to make sure they couldn't escape, so he had them put in an inner cell and chained to the wall. Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. The foundation of the prison shook and all the doors opened and all the chains were free from everyone. The prison guard woke up and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The

guard called for light and ran to Paul and Silas and asked: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They told him that he had to believe in Jesus.

The jailer believed in Jesus. He took Paul and Silas home with him and washed their wounds and gave them food to eat. The jailer along with his whole household were saved and baptized.

No matter how bad the trouble or how deep the pit, God has the power to save.

COLOR THE SCENE

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