

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 38

Zechariah

Objects to have:

The sign for this Bible book: ZECHARIAH

Trust God

Paper and pen

A manger scene or picture of one

A sword and/or pictures of horses, etc., to represent the end-time battle

A crown

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Repeat with the children the names of the books of the Old Testament, learned thus far.)

(Choose a leader. Choose a few members of the class to follow him.) Let's play "Follow the Leader." (Instruct the leader to walk in a certain part of the room, to do different things with his arms and hands, and those who follow him to do everything that he does. The purpose of the game will be to guide the children's thinking along the lines of imitating someone, having someone as a hero or a heroine. Have the game last for only a few minutes, completely guide it, and then instruct the children to be seated.)

While playing, "Follow the Leader," these children imitated the leader. Almost everyday we choose people whom we want to copy. We all watch other people. We watch the way someone walks. If we like the way that person walks, then we walk that way. Boys watch men walk—they watch our Preacher walk, they watch their daddies and their men teachers walk. They love daddies, men teachers and Preacher, and they decide that they would like to walk like them. Girls love their mothers and their lady teachers and other ladies. Girls want to be like the ladies whom they love. We all watch other people. We either like or dislike what they do and what they say; and we look at the clothes they wear, and where they go, etc. We play "Follow the Leader" every day of our lives. We need to be very careful to choose to follow or to imitate the right people so that we will do the best and the right.

In our story for today there is a person who wanted to be like his grandfather.

Telling the story:

Zechariah was the name of the person who wanted to be like his grandfather. Say his name with me—Zechariah. Do you know anybody by the name of Zechariah? I don't, but that was a man's name. His name is here in the Bible. (Show the children the book of Zechariah.) The book of Zechariah is the next to the last book in the Old Testament.

Zechariah was a little baby just like anyone else. Zechariah had a daddy. Zechariah's daddy had a daddy. Of course, that means that Zechariah had a grandfather.

How many of you have a grandfather? Raise your hand if you do. (Choose some children to tell what their grandfathers do at work.) Tell me, do you know what kind of job your grandfather has? (After a few have responded, then tell the children they may lower their hands.)

I know what kind of job Zechariah's grandfather had; he was a preacher. Zechariah's grandfather was a prophet. God told Zechariah's grandfather things that would happen in days to come. As Zechariah got bigger, he loved his grandfather, and he wanted to be like his grandfather. Then, one day when Zechariah got even bigger, he knew that God wanted him to be a prophet, also. I'm sure that Zechariah was happy about that. Zechariah would be just like his grandfather; he would be a prophet, too.

God told Zechariah, "Zechariah, I want you to work with another prophet. I want you to work with Haggai." Oh, we know Haggai. (You could spend a few minutes reviewing the story from last Sunday to be sure that the children remember him.) Haggai was an old man when Zechariah started to work with him. Zechariah was a young man, and Haggai was an old man.

Haggai knew a lot of things that Zechariah had to learn. What if Zechariah said to Haggai, "I am young, and my ideas are new and fresh, and I don't have to learn your ideas"? Then Zechariah would not have learned what he needed to know. God wanted Zechariah to learn from Haggai. Everybody should listen to older people, especially older people who love God. Older people know a lot that they could teach us. They have lived a lot longer than we have, and they have learned a lot more than we have. Zechariah knew that. He worked well with Haggai. He let Haggai teach him; he listened to Haggai.

Because Zechariah was doing God's will, God could use him to do His work. God said to Zechariah, "Write down some things, Zechariah. I want to tell you some things that are going to happen many years from now. I want you to write them down so that people will know what is going to happen."

Zechariah picked up his writing materials (pick up your paper and pen), and was ready to write what God wanted him to write. God said, "Some years from now I am going to send My Son to earth. My Son," God said, "is going to come to earth as a baby. He will be in a manger in Bethlehem."

(Put down your paper and pen and pick up the manger.) We know that Bible story! (For a few minutes let the children remember the Christmas story with you.) Zechariah told about Jesus' coming to earth from Heaven. Zechariah wrote down what God told him to write. Many years before Jesus came to earth, many people knew that God's Son was going to come to earth as a baby.

We know that Zechariah's prophecies came true. Jesus did come to earth as a baby. He was placed in a manger in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph were with baby Jesus there.

Jesus grew just as other babies grow. When He became a man, He died on the cross for us. He went back to Heaven. Now Jesus hears us when we pray, and He watches over us.

(Put down the manger and pick up the paper and pen again.) God talked to Zechariah again. He said, "Zechariah, there is going to be a terrible battle. The devil and his army, and Jesus and His army will fight each other. The soldiers will ride horses." (Pick up your picture to illustrate this battle.) "The devil's forces will not win! Jesus and His army will be victorious." Zechariah wrote down what God told him to write.

Children, this battle has not happened yet. It will happen someday. God the Holy Spirit told Zechariah that it would happen, and it is going to happen. Zechariah wrote it down so that we would know that this battle is going to take place.

(Pretend to write again.) "Zechariah," God said, "at the end of that end-time battle, Jesus will become the King of the whole earth." (Put down the paper and pen and pick up the crown.) Everything that God the Holy Spirit has told men to write down is true. It has all either happened already or it will all happen. Jesus will become King over the whole earth. Jesus is not King over all the earth yet. The Devil has not been chained in Hell yet. Jesus has not been crowned King yet. Jesus will be crowned King. Won't that be a wonderful day!

So, we have heard today about another prophet. This prophet's name was what? Yes, Zechariah. Did Zechariah do what God wanted him to do? Yes, he did. He became what God wanted him to become, and then he obeyed God and served Him.

There is one important Bible verse that God told Zechariah to write down, and I want to read that verse for you: Zechariah 1:3, "Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts." God is so loving! He will watch over and care for everyone who trusts Him.

LET'S LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Zechariah 1:3, "Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."

Let's all decide that we will do as Zechariah did, that we will copy him and do what God tells us to do. Let's all do what God wants us to do, just as Zechariah did.