

## Church School Lessons: Fall 2009

### **September 13:**

Title: God offers refuge and protection

Scripture Text: Psalm 91

Bible Story: Like an eagle's wings protect its young, God's faithfulness is the psalmist's shield. God offers refuge and protection when people call out in times of trouble.

Faith Focus: We take refuge in God through prayer.

### **September 20:**

Title: A new covenant

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 31:31–40

Bible Story: Jeremiah speaks of a new covenant, which will be written on the people's hearts. All will know God. Jerusalem will be rebuilt and enlarged for the Lord.

Faith Focus: Younger: We want to follow God. Older: In the new covenant we will know God in our hearts.

### **September 27:**

Title: The valley of dry bones

Scripture Text: Ezekiel 37:1–14

Bible Story: Ezekiel has a vision of a valley filled with dry bones coming to life. This symbolizes the restoration and new life God plans for Israel, even in Israel's darkest hour.

Faith Focus: God breathes life into us.

### **October 4:**

Title: God's messenger brings assurance

Scripture Text: Isaiah 40

Bible Story: Isaiah comforts the people with a message of hope. God is coming to gather Israel as a shepherd gathers lambs in his arms. Those who wait for the Lord will not grow weary.

Faith Focus: God comforts and strengthens.

### **October 11:**

Title: Job suffers

Scripture Text: Job 1–2

Bible Story: God allows Satan to test Job. Job remains faithful to God despite losing his wealth and children. Even when he is physically afflicted, he refuses to curse God.

Faith Focus: Younger: Good and bad things happen to God's children. Older: There is no simple explanation for suffering.

### **October 18:**

Title: God responds to Job

Scripture Text: Job 38–42

Bible Story: God answers Job in a whirlwind. Job affirms that God can do all things. He asks for forgiveness for his friends. Job's fortunes are restored.

Faith Focus: Younger: God listens to us. Older: God's ways are mysterious.

### **October 25:**

Title: Returning to Jerusalem

Scripture Text: Acts 25-26

Bible Story: King Cyrus of Persia sends the Israelites back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Cyrus returns to them the temple items carried off by the Babylonians.

Faith Focus: Younger: God brings us back. Older: God keeps covenant in unexpected ways.

**November 1:**

Title: Rebuilding the temple

Scripture Text: Ezra 4–6

Bible Story: The rebuilding of the temple is halted but later King Darius decrees that the work may continue. The temple is completed and dedicated to God with joy.

Faith Focus: Building together is cause for celebration.

**November 8:**

Title: Reading God's word together

Scripture Text: Nehemiah 8

Bible Story: The priest Ezra reads to the people from the book of the law. The people worship God, weeping and rejoicing. The community celebrates the Festival of Booths.

Faith Focus: Listening to God's word changes us.

**November 15:**

Title: Renewing the covenant

Scripture Text: Nehemiah 9–10

Bible Story: The people confess their sins before God. They affirm God as just, faithful, and loving even when they went astray. They renew their covenant with God.

Faith Focus: Younger: We say thank you to God. Older: We respond to God's faithfulness with confession and gratitude.

**November 22:**

Title: Sing to the Lord

Scripture Text: Psalm 98

Bible Story: The psalmist praises God's steadfast love and faithfulness to all of creation. God has brought victory to the people and is to be praised with lyre, trumpets, and horns.

Faith Focus: Younger: All creation sings to God. Older: All creation rejoices in the renewed covenant.