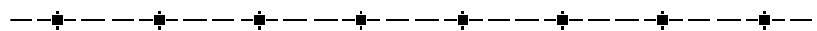


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2010

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Ezekiel, the Shepherds, and the Sheep

Ezekiel 34

Memory Verse

My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping with his wonderful riches that come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19 NIV)

Goals

1. Understand that Israel's leaders had not done what they were supposed to do.
2. Recognize that God planned to punish Israel's leaders.
3. Learn that God promised to provide for and to tend to His sheep.
4. Understand that God promised to send a Shepherd to lead His people.

Last week we learned that Ezekiel was true to his calling. He spoke words of truth. God knew that Israel would not listen because Israel was stubborn. Ezekiel had to take the message to the people. God wants us to take His message to people, too.

Read the Bible

READ: Ezekiel 34:1-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

God told Ezekiel that the leaders of Israel were like shepherds. They were supposed to be taking care of the sheep. But they had not done that. (Ezekiel 34:1-2)

Have you ever met people who only think of themselves? People who only think of themselves don't help others. They don't share. Sometimes people don't care about other people. God said that the leaders of Israel only took care of themselves. They had not helped the weak or sick. They had not looked for those who were lost. So the sheep of Israel were spread across the earth. (Ezekiel 34:3-6)

Then God said that He was against the leaders of Israel because they did not do what they were supposed to do. The leaders were supposed to look for lost sheep. That is what a shepherd does. (Ezekiel 34:7-10) In addition God said, "I will rescue my flock." God said He would take care of the sheep. He would rescue them and bring them from the places where they were scattered. (Ezekiel 34:11-13 NIV)

The Bible promises that God will meet all of our needs. (Philippians 4:19) God wanted to meet the needs of Israel. He said that He would give Israel good pasture for grazing, for lying down, for feeding. "I myself will tend my sheep.... I will search for the lost... and strengthen the weak. I will shepherd the flock with justice." (Ezekiel 34:14-18)

God is a just God. He sees everything that is happening. He knows when we treat people kindly or when we treat them badly. God said that He would bring judgment on the strong sheep because they were not treating the weak sheep right. God said that they ate the best of the

Ezekiel, the Shepherds, and the Sheep – Bible Facts

1. God said that Israel's leaders were like shepherds.
2. God said that Israel's leaders did not help the weak, sick, or lost.
3. God promised to meet the needs of Israel.
4. God promised to send a Shepherd, the Messiah, Jesus.

grass and then trampled it. They drank clean water and then stepped into it to make it muddy. That meant that the weak sheep had nothing to eat or drink. "I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered [no one would steal from them]. I will judge between one sheep and another." (Ezekiel 34:17-22)

And God promised to send a Shepherd to lead His people. This was a promise that God would send a Messiah, Jesus. The Shepherd would come from the family of King David. God said, "He will tend them and be their Shepherd. I the LORD will be their God." (Ezekiel 34:23-24 NIV)

God also promised that Israel would live in peace. He promised to bless them and send rain. "I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. The trees of the field will yield [give] their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. " (Ezekiel 34:25-27 NIV)

God promised to protect Israel from foreign [far off] nations. He promised to make their fields produce lots of crops so that they would never be hungry. "Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people," says the Lord. (Ezekiel 34:28-31 NIV) God sent Jesus so that we can be His sheep, too. When we invite Jesus to be a part of our lives, we become God's sheep.

Review

1. What did God say about Israel's leaders? (God said that Israel's leaders were like shepherds.)
2. What else did God say about Israel's leaders? (God said that Israel's leaders did not help the weak and sick. They did not look for the lost.)
3. What did God promise to do for Israel? (God promised to meet the needs of Israel.)
4. What else did God promise to do for Israel? (God promised to send a Shepherd, the Messiah, Jesus.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus came to be our Shepherd, our Messiah. God loved us so much that He wanted to provide a way so that we could go to heaven. Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead so that that could happen. If we invite Him to be a part of our lives, He will come. We can become God's sheep, His children forever. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Shepherd.
3. Ask God to help you trust His promises.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to trust God's promises.

Application

Israel's leaders had not done what they were supposed to do. They had not helped the weak or sick. They had not looked for the lost. God would punish the leaders of Israel. He promised to provide for and to tend to His sheep. God promised to send a shepherd to lead His people. God promised to send a Messiah, a shepherd. That shepherd would be from the family of David. God wants us to be His sheep, too.

Planning for Next Week

Ezekiel and the Dry Bones — Ezekiel 37

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Ezekiel 34:1-18 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Make sheep using cotton balls. You may draw a sheep or bring a picture and add the cotton balls.

God told Ezekiel that the leaders of Israel were like shepherds. They were supposed to be taking care of the sheep. But they had not done that.

Have you ever met people who only think of themselves? People who only think of themselves don't help others. They don't share. Sometimes people like that don't care about other people.

God said that the leaders of Israel only took care of themselves. They had not helped the weak or sick. They had not looked for those who were lost.

Then God said that He was against the leaders of Israel because they did not do what they were supposed to do.

The Bible promises that God will meet all of our needs. God wanted to meet the needs of Israel. He said that He would give Israel good pasture for grazing, for lying down, for feeding. "I myself will tend my sheep.... I will search for the lost... and strengthen the weak. I will shepherd the flock with justice."

And God promised to send a Shepherd to lead His people. This was a promise that God would send a Messiah, Jesus. God sent Jesus so that we can be His sheep, too.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Shepherd.
3. Ask God to help you trust His promises.

Memory verse for younger children

My God will meet all your needs. Philippians 4:7

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Cut out sheep and write the Bible verse on the sheep. Hide the sheep in different areas of the room. Ask the children to find the lost sheep. When they have found the lost sheep, ask them to practice the verse. Make a set of sheep with the Bible verse for each child.

•**Test your memory** — Bring cut out pictures of shepherds. Write key phrases on the shepherds. Place the shepherds on a wall or poster as you tell the story. Let the children retell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring animal crackers.

•**Think about it** — God was against the leaders of Israel because they had not done what they were supposed to do. Talk about our responsibility as believers. (Use Scripture like Micah 6:8; James 1:27, etc.)

•**Touch activity** — Make sheep using cotton balls. You may draw a sheep or bring a picture and add the cotton balls.

Bring coloring pages of sheep and shepherds.

•**Run and play** — Play a game where the children walk around in a circle saying, “Baa,” like sheep. One child is blindfolded. He will say, “Sheep.” The sheep will respond with “Baa.” If the blindfolded child touches one of the sheep then that sheep becomes the shepherd.

Play a counting game. The shepherd will hold a staff. The sheep must cross under the staff and be counted. While they are passing under the staff, the sheep must say the Bible verse. Those who cannot say the verse will be goats. (You may help the goats become sheep by helping them say the Bible verse.)

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to believe His promises.

•**Sing** — Sing “All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray,” “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Me,” “Only Believe,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the sheep with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

My God will meet
all your needs.
He will meet them
in keeping with
his wonderful riches
that come to you
because you belong
to Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

promised

to send a

Shepherd

Word Search

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

SHEPHERDS

SICK

WATER

AGAINST

SHEEP

LOST

GRASS

PROMISE

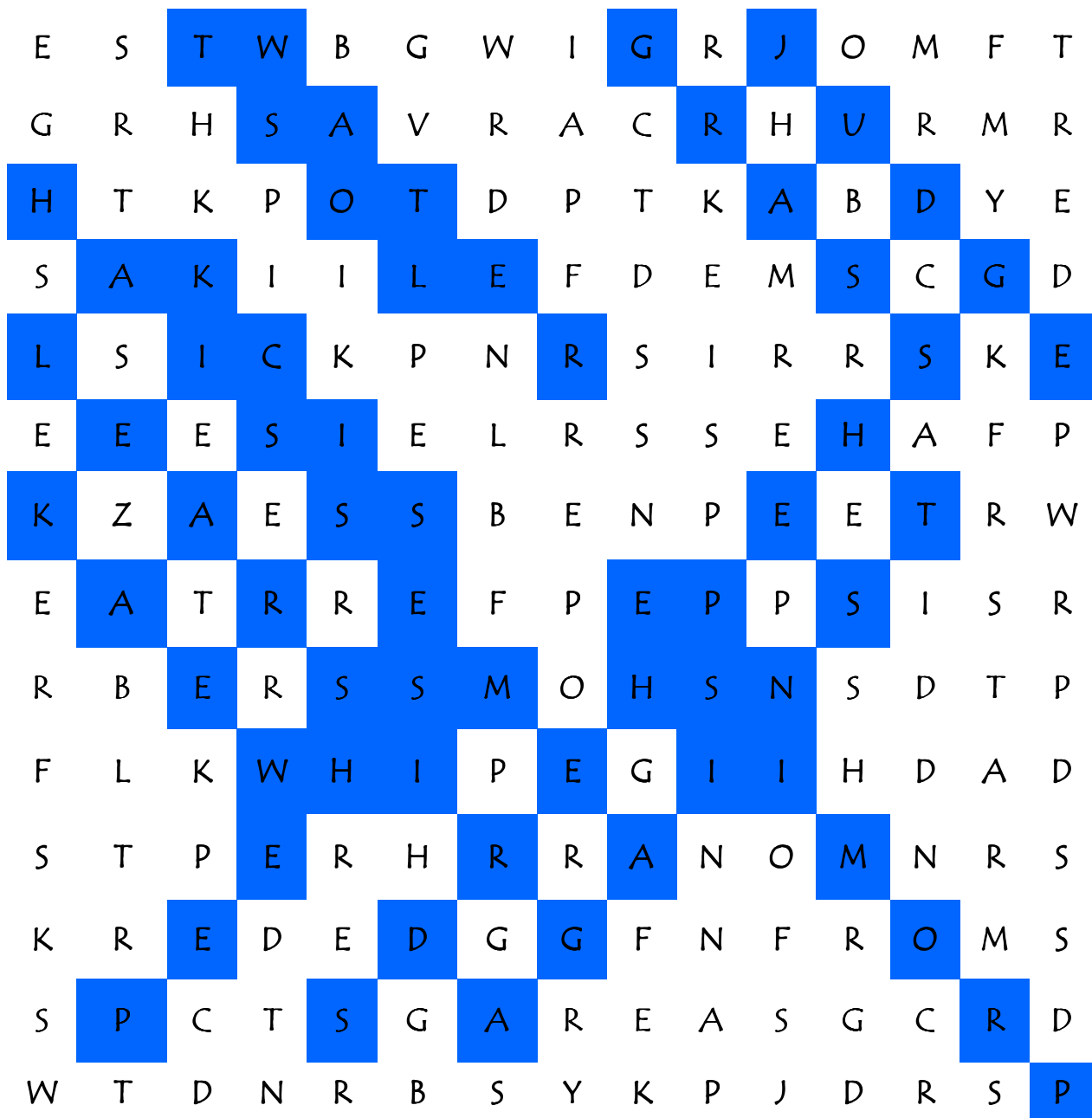
WEAK

ISRAEL

JUDGE

MESSIAH

Word Search



SHEPHERDS

SHEEP

WEAK

SICK

LOST

ISRAEL

WATER

GRASS

JUDGE

AGAINST

PROMISE

MESSIAH

Word Search

D S P R K M L D R N B C T
D L R O S F G D P G C R C
T V D L R K H M P F P B C
C M L O S T M R H N W T S
G K S H E E P D T S R B M
R M T S C N G F B M S D H
M R S I C K F D P R S A F
S P W E A K B K M R D G S
M N P K M D H R T D F S R
S D S H E P H E R D S B D
N N P R O M I S E F A G S
H F P B M C K H S M R T S

SHEPHERDS

SHEEP

WEAK

SICK

LOST

PROMISE

Word Search

D S P R K M L D R N B C T
D L R O S F G D P G C R C
T V D L R K H M P F P B C
C M L O S T M R H N W T S
G K S H E E P D T S R B M
R M T S C N G F B M S D H
M R S I C K F D P R S A F
S P W E A K B K M R D G S
M N P K M D H R T D F S R
S D S H E P H E R D S B D
N N P R O M I S E F A G S
H F P B M C K H S M R T S

SHEPHERDS

SHEEP

WEAK

SICK

LOST

PROMISE

Anagram

GDO

EMET

LAL

DESEN

RNDFLUEOW

CHSEIR

NLGEOB

RHSTIC ESSJU

SLHNIIIAPPP

Anagram

GOD

MEET

ALL

NEEDS

WONDERFUL

RICHES

BELONG

CHRIST JESUS

PHILIPPIANS