



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for June 21, 2009
Released on Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

"Bricks Without Straw"

**Lesson Text: Exodus 5:1-9, 22-6:1.
Background Scripture: Exodus 5:1-6:1.**

Memory Verse—"Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1).

Exodus 5:1-9, 22, 23

1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.

3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

4 And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

5 And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

6 And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8 And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labor therein; and let them not regard vain words.

.....

22 And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?

23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

Exodus 6:1

1 Then the Lord said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Finally Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh and delivered the message God had given them. Moses might have felt that God would deliver the Hebrews quickly and without a struggle.

Such was not the case. They spoke in the name of God, but Pharaoh did not recognize God's authority. He flatly refused to let the people go, in spite of the fact that they initially asked not for total freedom but only for permission to take time off for a trip into the desert to observe a feast to the Lord.

Pharaoh refused every part of their offer totally. He refused to let them go, he refused to give them time off, and he refused to recognize God in any way.

He even gave the Hebrews more work and devised a plan to make their work harder and more time-consuming. Instead of providing the straw needed to make bricks, he would now require them to seek it out on their own, thus greatly increasing their burden. Moses and Aaron obeyed God, but things seemed only to get worse.

The Israelites blamed Moses and Aaron as their leaders, and Moses complained to God. He complained that God had done evil to them and had not delivered them at all according to His promise. He could not see that things could get better for them or that God could use this for His glory and larger purposes. In future weeks we will see how God did keep His promise and did eventually deliver His people.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW

Teach that although sometimes conditions seem to be getting worse, God is still working.

TRUTHS TO STRESS

1. Sometimes when we are trusting and obeying God, conditions seem to get worse.
2. We should not complain but should keep trusting and obeying God.
3. Even if conditions seem worse for a time, God will still help us.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of Moses and Aaron speaking to Pharaoh.

For Helping to Remember, bring construction paper, pencils, crayons, and safety scissors (blunt tip). Make 4-inch circle templates of cardboard. Cut off one side of each circle about a half inch from the rim.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Mattie was having a hard time in school. She worked very hard. She listened to her teacher when other children seemed to be daydreaming. She always did her homework. She studied hard. When she was doing school-work, she really concentrated. Still she did not do very well. Mattie felt discouraged. She felt like complaining to God, "Why did You not make me smart like other children?" Some days she just wanted to give up and stop trying.

One week Mattie worked especially hard on her math, but during the test she got mixed up. Her grade was even lower than usual. *Why should I try?* Mattie thought. *I asked God to help me, and still I did not do well. I guess there is no use trusting God.*

She thought all those things. But even as she thought those complaining thoughts, she knew they were not true. She knew it was God who was helping

her keep trying. And although her grades were not good, she knew she was learning.

What do we do when we are trying to trust God and do what He wants but things seem to only get worse? That very thing happened to Moses.

TELLING THE LESSON

God had called Moses, and he had answered. God had said Moses could take his brother, Aaron, along to speak for him. Then it was time for them to go talk to Pharaoh. (Show picture of Moses and Aaron speaking to Pharaoh.)

Moses and Aaron did not begin by asking for everything they wanted. At first they asked for just a little thing. They did not ask Pharaoh to let their people go free forever. First they just asked him to let the people go into the wilderness to hold a feast to the Lord. They probably thought that surely Pharaoh would allow that. If he allowed that, at least they would get a rest. At least things would be a little better for them.

Pharaoh did not allow it, though. "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?" (Exod. 5:2), Pharaoh sneered. Then he simply refused to let them go, even for a short time. Pharaoh said he did not know the Lord.

He was right about that. Pharaoh worshiped many idols and wanted people to worship him as if he were God. He did not know the Lord who made him.

Moses and Aaron did not back down. They insisted that God had met with them. They told Pharaoh that God wanted them to go three days' journey into the wilderness. He wanted them to offer a sacrifice to Him. If they did not do it, God said bad things would happen to them.

Pharaoh's heart was stubborn. He would not listen. He said they were just trying to get out of work. He told them to get back to the work he had given them. It was heavy, hard work. There were many Israelites, and they all were working as Pharaoh's slaves. He knew he would miss a lot of work if he gave them time off.

That very day, Pharaoh sent out an order that made the Israelites' lives even harder. They had been making bricks for Pharaoh's buildings, and Pharaoh had been giving them straw to put in the bricks to make them stronger.

Pharaoh was looking for a way to make their work even harder. So he sent an order that no more straw should be given to them. They would have to go out and gather their own straw in the fields. They would still have to make just as many bricks as they had before, but gathering the straw would take a lot of extra time. Pharaoh must have thought that would keep them so busy that they would forget all about going into the wilderness.

What was wrong? Moses and Aaron had done exactly what God asked them to do, but things had not become better for the people. In fact, things had become a lot worse.

Moses did not feel God had treated him fairly. He had expected things to get better right away, but they did not. They only got worse. Moses began to complain to God. Moses thought that God had promised He would cause Pharaoh to let God's people go right away, but He had not.

God was not finished with Pharaoh, though. God told Moses that even though Pharaoh had refused, God was still going to cause him to let the Israelites go. He was not going to just let them go or allow them to go. No, God was going to work in Pharaoh's heart so that he would actually chase them out of his land.

The situation looked worse at that moment, it is true; but God was still going to work. He was going to show how strong He was. Moses and Aaron and all the people could count on that.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

When we pray, God always answers. But He does not always answer right away. We may ask Him to help us in a hard situation at school or at home. Then the situation may actually get worse.

God does not want us to give up praying. He does not want us to lose faith in Him. He has His own reasons for waiting. Even when things seem to get worse, we can still trust the Lord. God is still able to help us.

Do you remember our story about Mattie, the girl who was praying God would help her in school? She kept praying and working hard. Little by little, she began to do better in school. She learned to keep going in hard times, and that helped her all the rest of her life.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children fold a piece of construction paper in half. Have them position a circle template on the paper with the flat portion on the fold. Let them trace the circle and then cut it out, not cutting the fold. When completed, two circles should be attached at the fold so that they open like a card. On one side the children will draw a smiling face with the word "Trust." On the other side they will draw a frowning face with the word "Complain." See whether the children can use their craft to explain to you the main point of the lesson: When things go wrong and even seem to get worse, we should not complain but trust God.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE- "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1).

These are the words Moses and Aaron said to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt who was causing God's people to suffer as his slaves. Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh that the idea to go into the wilderness was not their own idea. God had spoken to them and had commanded them to do this.

God was sending a message to Pharaoh, God told Pharaoh to let His people go so that they could hold a feast to Him in the wilderness. If only Pharaoh had obeyed!

Pharaoh did not obey, even though the request at first was only for a short time off. Since he did not listen to God, Egypt had to go through a time of terrible disasters so that Pharaoh would learn that it is not a smart thing to say no to the Lord God or be cruel to His people.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for being there for us even when things seem to get worse for us at times. Help us to remember that You alone can deliver us from our circumstance. We will learn to be patient, for we know that Your word says "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5,6). This we do believe, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Next week's lesson is "Protected and Delivered." The Lord delivered Israel by dividing the Red Sea so that they could go through. Study Exodus 14:15-25,30.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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WORKS CITED

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

Lesson Activity:

"Bricks Without Straw" (Exodus 5:1-9, 22-6:1)

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

AARON
DESERT
ISRAEL
LAND
OBEY
STRAW

BRICKS
FEAST
JOURNEY
LORD
PHARAOH
STRONG

BURDENS
HAND
LABOUR
MOSES
SACRIFICE
TASKMASTERS

"Bricks Without Straw" Solution (Exodus 5:1-9, 22-6:1)

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

(Over, Down, Direction)

- AARON (11, 2, S)
- BRICKS (14, 6, N)
- BURDENS (8, 4, S)
- DESERT (6, 8, NW)
- FEAST (8, 2, W)
- HAND (6, 9, E)
- ISRAEL (10, 12, W)
- JOURNEY (1, 1, SE)
- LABOUR (1, 12, NE)
- LAND (12, 12, NE)
- LORD (4, 5, NW)
- MOSES (10, 7, SE)
- OBEY (11, 15, N)
- PHARAOH (7, 8, SW)
- SACRIFICE (1, 11, E)
- STRAW (15, 7, SW)
- STRONG (2, 1, E)
- TASKMASTERS (10, 11, N)
- WILDERNESS (1, 10, NE)