

# **Sunday School Lesson Summaries**

## **UNIT 5 GOD LEADS HIS NATION**

### **WINTER 2020-2021**

#### **December 6**

The lesson this week is “The Idle Idol.” Atop Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Law from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites grow impatient and convince Aaron to create a golden idol. When God sends Moses down from the mountain, Moses sees the people’s wanton worship and smashes the stone tablets. The people are punished for their idolatry. Moses returns to Sinai to plead God’s mercy for the people.

#### **December 13**

Today, we will study “A Tent for God.” Moses begins the process of building a portable house (called a tabernacle) for the Lord by gathering offerings from the Israelites. God provides detailed instruction for the creation of the ark of the covenant as well as the other fixtures of the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is finally assembled, the glory of the Lord descends on the tabernacle in the form of a cloud. As long as the presence remains, the people remain in that place.

#### **December 20**

In today’s lesson, “The Fall-Short Report,” students will learn how Moses chooses one man from each of the twelve tribes and sends them to spy on the land God has promised. The spies report a land of great plenty but occupied by mighty, fearsome people. Despite Caleb and Joshua’s pleas to seize the land promised to them, the people rebel. Moses pleads for mercy, and God promises to care for His people. At the same time, He condemns the Israelites to forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Of all the adults, only Joshua and Caleb will live to enter the Promised Land.

#### **December 27 (No classes)**

#### **January 3 (Two Lessons)**

In today’s lesson, “The Unlikely Ally,” the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land. Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later she helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city.

“The Downfall Wall” is the title of this week’s lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God’s unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

### **January 10**

The account of Deborah serves as today's lesson, "The Palm-Tree Judge." Judge Deborah urges Barak to gather 10,000 troops to go up against Sisera's army of 900 iron chariots. When the battle turns against Sisera, he flees on foot, seeking refuge in Jael's tent. Snoozing beneath a rug, Sisera meets his end at the hand of Jael as she pegs him through his temple to the ground.

### **January 17**

Today, we will study "The Weakened Judge." God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God's people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time she tries to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his power. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house's supporting pillars, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone.

### **January 24**

Today's lesson, "The Faith-Full Family," tells of Ruth's loyalty to her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi. Returning to Naomi's ancestral home in Bethlehem, Ruth gleanes Boaz's fields to provide food for herself and Naomi. Ruth finds favor with Boaz, who purchases Naomi's land and redeems Ruth from her widowhood. Having married Boaz, Ruth bears a son, Obed, the grandfather of King David.

### **January 31**

As we gather today, we will study "The Chosen King." Desiring to be like all the other nations, the elders come to Samuel asking him to appoint a king over Israel. Samuel vainly tries to warn them against their plan, telling them the consequences the people will face. God reveals to Samuel that he will encounter the handsome Saul, whom Samuel anoints as king over Israel.

### **February 7**

"The Fearless Shepherd" is the title for today's lesson. As their armies remain encamped against one another, the Philistines send for their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites. The Israelites fear to challenge the giant. Young David expresses dismay at the soldiers' lack of trust in God. Confident that the Lord will give him victory, David uses his sling and knocks Goliath to the ground before cutting off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword.

### **February 14**

Today, we will study "The Faith-Full Friends." The Bible tells us David and Jonathan were such close friends that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" (1 Samuel 18:1). Saul's insane jealousy of David tests their friendship to the limit. David and Jonathan establish a plan to alert David if Saul continues to seek his life. Sadly, Saul's anger remains unchecked. Jonathan, faithful to God's will, warns David to flee from the king.

### **February 21**

"The King of Glory" is the title for this week's lesson. King David prays, thanking God for His blessings and seeking His guidance. As David worships and acknowledges the true God, he asks God's blessing on his household and nation. David's psalm praises and glorifies God as it looks ahead to the coming of the glorious Savior and King.

**February 28 (Two Lessons)**

In today's lesson, "The Wise King," when God invites Solomon to ask for what he desires most, Solomon prays for wisdom to carefully lead the people. Pleased with this selfless request, God grants Solomon great wealth and honor in addition to his desired wisdom. Solomon wrote and collected many of the wisdom writings that make up the Book of Proverbs.

"The Unwise Wise King" is the title of today's lesson. Solomon gathers the supplies and artisans to begin the most important construction project of his reign—building a house for God. Using the very finest materials and most skilled craftsmen, Solomon builds a temple so glorious that none to come after it would ever compare. Later in his life, Solomon's many wives and concubines lead him away from the true God. In His anger, God vows to take the kingdom away from Solomon's descendants.