LESSON 6

FOUR LEPERS BECOME BEARERS OF GOOD NEWS



Aim: **To show the children that when God provides deliverance we need to share it with others.**

Scripture Reading: **2 Kings 7:3–20**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:5 (the Ten Commandments)**

"You shall not bow down to … [other gods] or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me …"

Review last week's memory verse and complete verse 5 this week.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What happens when people receive good news? Give the children time to respond. They run about, quickly sharing the news with everyone they can find. **You could demonstrate this with a little play. Use three or four people. Practise beforehand!**

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Today's story is about four men who shared some good news with others. However, the story begins when they were still miserable. They suffered from leprosy, and lepers were not allowed to come into contact with other people because the illness spread very easily. During the siege of Samaria these men were shut out of the city. **Show Picture 5 and use it to review the story of Lesson 5.** The lepers discussed this and finally decided they might as well go to the Syrian army camp to beg for food (2 Ki 7:3–4). It was early evening when they set off.
2. Meanwhile the Syrians heard a tremendous noise like a great army coming. This frightened them so much that they ran away, leaving everything behind. God had sent the powerful Syrian army running home (7:6–7)!
3. When the four lepers reached the camp they found no-one there. They were amazed. **Show Picture 6. Describe how they went from one tent to the next, taking anything they wanted (7:5, 8).**
4. Then the four lepers suddenly thought of all the people still starving inside the city of Samaria. They knew they had to share the good news of the Syrians' departure with those in the city. Even though it was night-time they quickly returned to Samaria and shouted out the news to the town guards, who spread the good news further (7:9–10).

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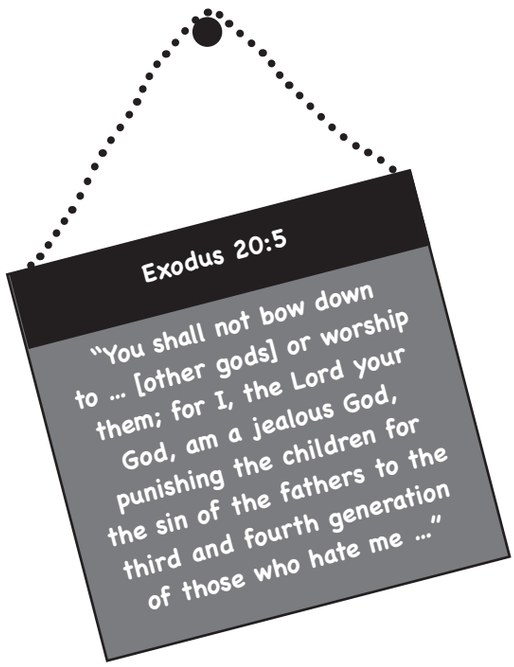
5. The king even got out of bed to hear what was being reported, but he thought it was a trick by the Syrians to get the people to leave the safety of the city walls. He sent some men to find out what had happened. They found that the four lepers' story was true (7:12–15).
6. Soon the people of Samaria were selling food from the Syrian camp at very low prices, just as God had promised through Elisha. **Refer to Lesson 5.** God had saved Israel according to his own plan (7:16).
7. But the king's unbelieving officer did not live to share in the joy, as Elisha had prophesied. **Refer to Lesson 5.** He was trampled to death when the starving people rushed at the food (7:17–20).

Our Response to the Story

A town in Africa once was so short of food that aeroplanes dropped packets of grain to the people. An elderly woman had gone outside the town, walking several kilometres to gather firewood. That was a dangerous thing to do, for there were landmines. Suddenly she saw a big pile of grain. She couldn't believe her eyes. She looked around to check if someone was playing a trick on her, but it just was grain that had missed the dropping zone. She hurried back to the town, carrying as much grain as she could. Everywhere she went she showed people what she had found. All shared in the good fortune and praised God for providing for them.

We can trust in God. He will provide according to his plan, as the people of Samaria and of this town in Africa found.

God's perfect and complete provision is to save people from sin through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ (Rom 5:8). This is good news we really should share with everybody we meet!



Instil the Memory Verse

Review all the verses of Exodus 20 learnt so far.

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