

EXODUS

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Exodus 1

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we are breaking down Exodus Chapter 1.

This chapter starts with recapping all of Israel/Jacob's sons, who were in Egypt. They were Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. These 12 sons became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

Now Joseph and his brothers and all the people of that generation died, but the Israelites continued to grow in number at a very fast rate. There were so many Israelites that the land of Egypt was filled with them. Then a new king of Egypt came into power, otherwise known as a pharaoh, who didn't really care too much about Joseph or what he did for the land of Egypt. He said to the Egyptians, "Look at how numerous the Israelites have become. We must do something about this or they will become even greater in number, and if war breaks out, they could join our enemies and fight against us."

The new Pharaoh really wasn't a nice guy, so he made all the Israelites into slaves and forced them to work really hard. He made them build cities so they could store things in them, such as Pithon and Rameses. No matter what he did, the Israelites continued to grow in number and spread so that the Egyptians started to really dislike the Israelites; they worked them very cruelly. They forced them to make bricks and build all kinds of things with them, and worked them very hard in the fields. The Egyptians were not at all kind to them.

Do you know how we talked about different types of slavery and how a lot of people back in those days chose to be an indentured slave for a set amount of time to pay for things? Well, this is not that type of slavery. This type of slavery was very cruel, and the people were not working to pay off something or to have a better life. The Egyptians were just being very mean and life was very hard for the Israelites.

Since making the Israelites into slaves did not stop them from growing in such large numbers, the king of Egypt told two Hebrew midwives, which are women who helped other women have babies, that anytime they helped an Israelite baby be born, if it was a boy, they were to kill the baby, but if it was a girl, they were allowed to let the baby live. These two Hebrew midwives were named Shiphrah and Puah, and they feared God more than they did the king of Egypt, so they let all the babies live regardless of if it was a boy or a girl. When the king of Egypt realized they were not killing the baby boys as instructed, he called them and asked them, "Why have you let all the baby boys live?"

The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women. They are vigorous and give birth before we can arrive."

I find it amusing that these women were able to come up with an excuse that got them out of trouble with Pharaoh while kind of insulting Egyptian women at the same time by basically saying they were weenies compared to Israelite women. But God was with the midwives and the Israelites became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, which is just a reminder, this type of fear means they respected God, not that they were scared of Him, God gave them families of their own. But Pharaoh wasn't giving up. Since the midwives wouldn't kill the Israelite baby boys, Pharaoh ordered the Egyptians to throw every Hebrew baby boy that was born into the Nile River, but to let the Hebrew baby girls live.

Some people might read about how the midwives lied to Pharaoh and say, "How is that okay? I thought lying was a sin?" In this case, the women chose to lie to Pharaoh to save many lives. And clearly it was a God approved action because God rewarded them. However, this does not give us permission to go around lying to people. We are to be trustworthy and respectful to others. If you are known as a liar, then why would anyone trust or believe you when you tell them about our forgiving and loving God and how we can be forgiven from our sins; which is what we are called to do by the way. God tells us to share the good news about Him and what Jesus did on the cross. So before speaking non-truths, we need to check in with God and make sure it's got His approval.

Also, obviously Pharaoh is an awful and mean person. Not anyone I would want as the leader of my country. But this is a good time to talk about how God instructs us to deal with our leaders, which could be a teacher or a parent or anyone in a position of authority. Throughout the Bible, we will see that we are instructed to treat our leaders with respect and follow what they say to do UNLESS what they are telling us to do goes against what God tells us to do. Then we are always to do what God tells us to do instead of our leaders. We should also be praying for our leaders and asking God to use them to make God approved decisions. Even if they are not godly people, God can still use them. Everything is within His power and control because as we are seeing with every chapter, He's an amazing God.

Exodus 2

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 2.

The last chapter left off with the horrible new king of Egypt enslaving the Israelites and ordering the Egyptian people to throw all Hebrew boy babies into the Nile river.

Before we move on, the Bible uses the word Hebrew and Israelites interchangeably. So anytime you hear either, they are talking about Israel/Jacob's descendants.

So a man in the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman and she became pregnant and had a baby boy. He was a healthy baby boy so she hid him for 3 months. But when she couldn't hide him anymore, she got a basket and covered it with pitch and tar, which made it able to float in water. Then she put her baby boy inside and put it among the plants along the bank of the Nile river. The baby's sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

The Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile River to bathe. She and her servants were walking along the river bank when she saw the basket among the plants and had one of the servants go get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying and she felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies." The baby's sister approached Pharaoh's daughter and asked, "Do you want me to go and get a Hebrew woman who can feed the baby for you?" Pharaoh's daughter answered, "Yes, go." So the girl went and got the baby's mother and Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and feed him for me and I will pay you."

Look at God at work!! Not only was her baby saved, she is now going to get paid to feed her own baby! But when the child got older and no longer needed milk, she had to take him back to Pharaoh's daughter and the boy became her son. Pharaoh's daughter named her new son Moses, which means "to pull out of", because she pulled him out of the river.

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where the Egyptians were forcing his people to work hard and he watched them. He saw one of the Egyptians beating a Hebrew. Moses knew he was born to a Hebrew woman and that his Egyptian mom had adopted him. So he wasn't happy about one of his own people being beaten and treated so poorly. Moses looked around and he didn't see anyone around him, so he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day, he went out and he saw 2 Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The

man said back to him, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? What are you gonna do? Are you gonna kill me like you did that Egyptian?” (Don DOn DOON)

Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known!” And he was right to be afraid because Pharaoh heard what Moses did and tried to kill him. But Moses ran away and went to Midian where he sat down by a well.

The priest of Midian had 7 daughters and they came to get water to fill the drinking troughs for their father’s flocks. Some shepherds came after them and tried to force them away from the well, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and then watered the flocks for them. When the girls went back home to their father, who’s name was Reu-el, he asked them, “Why are you back so early today?” They told their father, “An Egyptian rescued us from some sheperds and then drew water for us and watered the flock.” Reuel asked, “Where is this man? Why did you leave him? Invite him to come and have something to eat.”

So they asked Moses to come and Moses went with them. In fact, he even wound up staying with them and marrying one of Reuel’s daughters named Zipporah. Zipporah gave birth to a son and Moses named him Gershom (Gear-shom), which is Hebrew for foreigner, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land. “

Moses was in Median for a long time and while he was there, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned and cried out in their slavery and their cry for help went up to God. God heard their groaning and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Wow! Moses’s life would make a great movie! And they actually did make a movie about him... several in fact!

But what stands out to me is the last part of this chapter when it says that their groaning went up to God and He heard them and was concerned about them. God always hears us. It’s not like He was busy doing something and then God is like, “Hey angels, did you all just hear something? Yeah, it’s getting louder now! I think it’s the Israelites crying cause what?!?! They were turned into slaves?! When did that happen?!?” Not the case at all. In fact, God knew all of this was going to happen! He told Abraham way back in chapter 15 that his descendants would be strangers in a land that is not their own and be enslaved and mistreated for 400 years. This is what God was talking about! And He didn’t forget His promises and then just finally remembered. The words, heard and remembered here are meant to let us know that God’s perfect timing had finally come and He was going to make incredible things happen to change

the situation. Once again, God is going to make the impossible, possible because He loves His people.. And He's an amazing God!

Exodus 3

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 3.

Moses was still in Midian and he was tending his father-in-law's flock. He led the flock across the wilderness until he reached Horeb, which is the mountain of God. There the Angel of the LORD, God the Son, appeared to him in the form of a bush that was on fire. Only, the bush wasn't burning! Of course, this caught Moses's attention and he went over to see the strange site. Why was the bush not actually burning up? When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to investigate this odd bush, He called to Moses from the bush saying, "Moses! Moses!" Moses replied, "Here I am."

God said to Moses, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. God continued, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt and have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers and I am concerned about their suffering; so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians. I will take them out of the land of Egypt and bring them to a good and spacious land, flowing with milk and honey that is home to the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. So now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites out of Egypt."

I'm sure Moses took a minute to look around to see if there was somebody standing behind him that God was talking to. At least I know that would have been my first move. But seeing as he was the only one in sight, Moses responded back to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God replied, "I will be with you. And this will be your sign that it is I that have sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses came back with, "Ummm so, I have some questions. Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask, 'What is His name?' What do I say to that?" God replied, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you. The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever.' Go gather the elders of Israel together and tell them I appeared to you and everything I said about taking them out of Egypt and giving them the promised land. The elders will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him that the LORD, the God of the Israelites has met us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God. "

God continued and gave Moses a heads up that Pharaoh was going to refuse to let them go and that the only way Pharaoh would let them go is if he was forced to by a mighty hand. So God was going to stretch out his hand against the Egyptians and perform all kinds of wondrous things. And after God was done with them, not only would they be allowed to go, but God was going to make the Egyptians kind of even like the Israelites to the point that they will give the Israelites all kinds of possessions, silver, gold, clothing to clothe the kids and so much more!

Have you ever been told to do something and the more questions you ask about how to get it done, the more questions you have? This is the situation Moses seems to be in. In the next chapter, we are going to see that Moses is not done asking questions. And I can understand that. I want a game plan before I even start doing something. I want to know what to expect with every step all the way through step Z, before I even begin step A. Otherwise, I don't feel like I'm in control of the situation which leaves me feeling totally lost and not adequate to accomplish the task.

But God doesn't seem to work that way. Probably because of the very thing I just said. I want to know all the steps because I want to feel like **I'm** in control of the situation. But God loves to give only one step at a time. Which is a constant reminder that HE is in control. You have to trust him with every step because you have to blindly walk in faith. Because if we THOUGHT we knew what we were doing, we would try to do it all on our own and mess everything up. It's our nature. But it is 100% guaranteed that God is going to accomplish the task through us in a way that is more magnificent than we could ever imagine. And we are going to be blessed in the process by growing closer to Him. Our amazing God.

Exodus 4

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we are breaking down Exodus Chapter 4.

This chapter is a continuation of the last chapter, where God is telling Moses to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the people go and Moses is totally uncertain about the situation. Chapter 4 starts with Moses still asking questions. He said to God, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me, and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you!'" The LORD answered, "What is in your hand?" Moses said, "It's a staff." The LORD told Moses to throw it on the ground, so Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake and Moses ran from it. Then the LORD told him to reach his hand out and take the snake by the tail. And Moses did and the snake turned back into a staff. I probably would have asked God if He could possibly turn it into a giant fuzzy caterpillar instead of a snake, but Moses seemed ok with it after the initial scare. The LORD said, "This is so they will believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent you."

Then the LORD told Moses to put his hand in his cloak. And when he pulled it out, it was as white as snow and covered with leprosy, which was a deadly and scary disease. Then the LORD told him to put his hand back in his cloak and when he pulled it out, his skin was back to normal. Then the LORD said, "If they don't believe the 1st sign with the snake, they may believe the 2nd sign. But if they don't believe those two or listen to what you say, take some water from the Nile and pour it onto the ground and it will become blood."

Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant LORD, but I have never been great at speaking!" The LORD fired back, "Who gave humans their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD, who does all that?! Now go! I will help you speak and will teach you what to say! But Moses came back again and said, "Pardon your servant LORD but please send someone else." At this point, God was getting pretty irritated with Moses. But He still showed him grace and said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well and he is already on his way to meet you and will be glad to see you. I will help both of you speak and teach you what to do. And you will tell him what to say and he will talk for you, but you will perform the signs with the staff."

Moses then went back to his father-in-law and said to him, "Let me return back to my own people in Egypt and see if any are still alive." His father-in-law said, "Go and I wish you well". So God told Moses it was time to go back to Egypt because everyone who wanted him dead had died. So Moses loaded his wife and sons on a donkey and started back with the staff of God in his hand.

God instructed Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I had given you the power to do, but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says, 'Israel is my first born and I told you let my son go so he may worship me, but you refuse to let him go so I will kill your firstborn son'."

As Moses and his family were on the way back to Egypt, the LORD met with Moses, and was about to kill him. Remember back in Genesis when the LORD commanded that every male descendant of Abraham make a permanent mark on their skin as a sign that they are in a relationship with God? Well, Moses didn't do that with his son and that didn't make God too happy. But Zipporah, Moses' wife, went and marked their son like they were supposed to, so the LORD left Moses alone. Although he did get some attitude from his wife about the whole situation. Which of course is better than being struck dead, but I'm assuming it was still a really long and not so great night for Moses.

The LORD had told Aaron to go into the desert to meet Moses, and when Aaron met Moses at the mountain of God, he was happy. Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had said to him and about the miraculous signs He commanded Moses to perform. Then, just like the LORD told them to do, Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. Moses performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

It used to bug me a little that the Bible says God told Moses that He would harden Pharaoh's heart. Why would He do that?! If Pharaoh was starting to soften, why would God make him hardened and cruel?! I mean, I know God knows what He's doing but I didn't get it. But then I started to think about the situation. Ya know how sometimes, somebody wants you to do something and they just keep bugging you about it over and over. And after a while you're like, "Fine! I'll do it!" It's not because your heart changed, It's just because they were being so irritating, that you just figured doing what they wanted would be less painful then having to listen to them say one more word! I have a feeling that's what it was like with Pharaoh. It's not like he was thinking, "Their God must be The God! I should change my whole life and follow what their God tells me to do!" I have a feeling he was starting to soften just cause Moses and the Israelites were being annoying enough that he was considering just letting them go for three days to worship. But If Pharaoh did let them go, all the Israelites and Egyptians would not get to see God's power on display through all the miraculous things He was about to do, which was further proof that He really was the one true God. And because they got to see it,

many hearts turned to God. In fact, by the time Pharaoh let the Israelites go, some Egyptians actually went with them! All in God's perfect timing and His perfect plan. He's an amazing God!

Exodus 5

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 5.

After Moses and Aaron talked to the leaders of the Israelites, they went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says, 'Let My people go so that they may hold a festival (which is like a party) to Me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh replied, "Who is the LORD that I should obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go." Which is exactly the response God told them to expect from Pharaoh. Then Aaron and Moses said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or He might strike us with plagues or the sword."

I don't feel like they were really being clear here about what was going to happen if Pharaoh didn't let them go. They said God might strike "us" down with plagues or with the sword. To which Pharaoh was probably thinking, "Well good, I wanted to get rid of you all anyways." But God was not going to strike down the Israelites; God was going to stretch out His hand against the Egyptians. But Pharaoh said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work! The people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working!"

Then Pharaoh doubled down on the hardened heart, and gave orders to the slave drivers that they were no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks. The people were now expected to go and gather their own straw, but they were still required to make the same number of bricks as before. Pharaoh said, "The people are lazy and that's why they are crying out to let them go to sacrifice to their God." He told the slave drivers to make the work harder for the people so that they would be so busy and focused on working that they would give no attention to the lies that Moses and Aaron were spreading.

Then the slave drivers went out to the people and told them what Pharaoh said. "Get your own straw and you have to make the same number of bricks as before." So the people scattered all over Egypt and frantically tried to find straw to make bricks. And the slave drivers kept on them to complete their work to make just as many bricks as they did before. They would beat the Israelite supervisors asking, "Why didn't the people make the number of bricks that they are required to make?" The Israelite supervisors went and pleaded with Pharaoh, "Why have you treated your servants this way? Your servants were given no straw, but we are told to make the same number of bricks. Your servants are being beaten but the fault is with your own people because they gave us no straw!" Pharaoh replied, "LAZY! That's what you are, LAZY! That's why you keep

asking to go sacrifice to your God! Now get to work! You will not be given any straw, but you will be required to make the same number of bricks as before!”

The Israelite supervisors realized they were in trouble. When they left Pharaoh, they found Aaron and Moses waiting for them and the people were mad! They told Aaron and Moses, “May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made Pharaoh dislike us even more and now he and his officials want to kill us!” Moses was stressed! He went to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Why have you brought trouble on these people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak on your name, he has brought trouble on these people and you have not saved them at all!”

And that’s where this chapter ends. With Moses questioning God’s plan and the people worse off than they were before. God did tell Moses that Pharaoh would not let the people go and He would harden Pharaoh’s heart. But God didn’t exactly fill Moses in on the fact that it would get worse before it got better. But I feel like this is just good parenting! It reminds me of when I would have to take the kids to the doctors to go get vaccines. They would ask me, “Are we going to have to get a shot today?” I never want to lie to my kiddos because I always want them to be able to trust what I said. So I would tell them, “Yeah. We are gonna get shots today.” Then they would ask, “Is it going to hurt?” and again I would be honest and say, “Yeah buddy, it’s gonna hurt for a minute or two. But I promise it hurts a whole lot less than if you got the virus.”

What I didn’t do is tell them about the size of the needle or go into detail about how it pierces the skin and into the muscle, or how the medicine might hurt a little as it goes in. Because honestly, it would just make them freak out for no reason. Everyone knows, the time spent waiting for the needle is normally much worse than when they are actually getting the shot.

I’m sure if Moses knew how things were going to go, he would have spent much more time worrying about what was about to occur. But the bad time wasn’t going to last forever and God knew He had great things in store for His people. And in the meantime, the whole situation brought Moses running back to God for help and direction. And being close to God is always a good place to be, no matter what our situation is, because He’s an amazing God!

Exodus 6

On this episode of Kids Bible breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 6.

When we last left Moses, he was upset because things had gotten even worse for the Israelites after he went to Pharaoh. So he went to God to ask, "Why is this happening?" Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. Because of My mighty hand, Pharaoh will let the people go. He will even drive them out of the country." Meaning he will actually push them to leave!

God continued, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty. But they did not know Me by My name, "The LORD". I did not make myself known to them in this way. I also promised to give them the land of Canaan. I've heard the groaning of the Israelites, who the Egyptians have enslaved, and I am now acting on the promise I made with them.

God continued, "Say to the Israelites, I am the LORD and I will bring you out from under the control of the Egyptians. I will stretch out My arm to perform mighty acts of judgment and will free you from being slaves. I will take you as My people and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who freed you from the Egyptians, and I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I Am the LORD."

Moses told this to the Israelites, but they didn't listen to him because they were upset about all the harsh labor. So it looks like Pharaoh's little plan is working - for the moment at least. The LORD then told Moses, "Go to Pharaoh again and tell him to let the Israelites go." Moses replied, "If the Israelites don't listen to me, why would Pharaoh?!?" And again, the story takes a pause here with the people discouraged and Moses questioning God.

The chapter then goes on to list Moses and Aaron's family line. We aren't going to go through all these, but in verse 25 it states that Aaron had a grandson named Phinehas. We're going to hear more about him later so store away that name.

Sometimes it's really discouraging when someone promises something and they just keep making you wait. With people it's really understandable because maybe they forgot or changed their mind. But this is not the case with God. He doesn't forget and He keeps His promises. So anytime you are waiting on God, keep encouraging yourself with the reminder that He does what He says he'll do and it's probably going to be even more amazing than you could ever imagine, because He's an amazing God.

Exodus 7

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 7.

In the last chapter, things were looking pretty bleak for Moses and the Israelites. This chapter begins with the LORD telling Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh and your brother Aaron will be your prophet." I'm sure Moses was thinking, "Really? Because he doesn't really seem to think much of me. He's definitely not afraid of me." The LORD continued, "You are to say everything that I have told you to and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. But I will harden his heart and even though I will do many miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. Then I will stretch out my hand against Egypt with mighty acts of judgment and I will bring my people out of Egypt and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD. "

Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded. Which I'm sure had to be horribly frightening! I mean, up till this point, they have done what the LORD told them to do and things have just gotten worse. But they had faith. Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 when they went to talk to Pharaoh.

The Lord said to Moses, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle' then say to Aaron, 'Take the staff and throw it down before Pharaoh', and it will become a snake." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just like the LORD told them to do. And when Aaron threw down the staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned his wise men and sorcerers and they were able to do the same thing by using their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up all their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is not moving. He refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes to the water at the Nile, and wait for him there and take the staff that was changed into a snake. Then say to Pharaoh, "The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord." Then Moses said to Pharaoh, "With the staff that is in my hand, I will strike the water of the Nile and it will change to blood. The fish in the Nile will die and the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink its water." The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over the streams and the canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs, which is an area that holds more water, and they will

turn to blood.' Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars."

Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff, and with Pharaoh and his officials watching, he struck the Nile and all the water changed to blood. The fish died just like they said. The river smelled just like they said, and it was so bad the Egyptians could not drink from it. Blood was everywhere in Egypt. But once again, the Egyptians' magicians did the same thing with their secret arts and Pharaoh's heart became hard again and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. Instead, he turned and went into his palace. All the Egyptians had to dig along the Nile River to try to find water to drink because they could not drink out of the river.

Wow, it's happening. Things are starting to take a turn, and we are starting to see God's miraculous wonders at work. And He's not done yet. He has so much more in store for the Egyptians and the Israelites, just like He promised. The waiting was hard, but wait until you see what God is going to do next! He's an amazing God!

Exodus 8

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 8.

In the last chapter, God was starting to do some amazing things to show the Egyptians that He was the one true God. But there's more to come! Seven days had passed after the Lord struck the Nile and turned it to blood. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, this is what the LORD says: Let my people go so that they may worship Me. If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs. The Nile will overflow with frogs. They will come up into your palace, your bedrooms and onto your bed, in the houses of your officials, in your ovens and where you make bread. They will even be on your people." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds and make frogs come up onto the land of Egypt.'" So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt and the frogs came up and covered the whole land. But the magicians for Egypt, they were able to do the same thing using secret arts, and they made frogs come up as well. I'm not really sure how you would know when the magicians were doing it versus when God was doing it since there's already frogs covering everything, but we're just going to let that one slide. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the LORD and take these frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go offer sacrifices to the LORD. Moses said back to Pharaoh, "I leave it to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you may be rid of the frogs." Pharaoh replied, "Tomorrow."

Um, what? Did he just say tomorrow? I mean, he couldn't stand these frogs, but I guess he wanted one more night with them to, I don't know, maybe give them a going away party? I wonder if his officials were looking at each other at this point and like umm Pharaoh, I know you're in the middle of something, but can we have a word? Um, do you realize that you just said tomorrow? I don't know if this was Pharaoh's way of trying to be a little bit defiant or proud. Like oh yay, I can tolerate them a longer. But either way, it's just really not smart. Anyways, Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God."

After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD at the appointed time about the frogs He had brought on Pharaoh. And the LORD did what Moses asked, and the frogs died throughout the whole land and in the houses and in the fields. The dead frogs were piled into heaps and the land smelled awful. But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief from the frogs, he hardened his heart again and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just like the LORD had said.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground and throughout the land the dust will become gnats.’” They did this and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the ground, gnats came out of everywhere. They were on men and animals all throughout the land. When the Egyptian magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on everything. The Egyptian magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the water, say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let My people go so that they may worship Me. If you do not let My people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials and your people and everything in Egypt. The houses will be filled with flies and the ground will be covered with flies.’” The LORD continued, “But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where My people live. No swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I am the LORD in this land. I will make a distinction between My people and your people. This miraculous sign will occur tomorrow. And the LORD did this and thick swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into all the houses all throughout Egypt, and the land was ruined by flies.

Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go sacrifice to your God here in the land.” But Moses said, “That would not be right, the sacrifices we offer to the LORD our God, the Egyptians would not like at all. And if we offer sacrifices that they don't like in their eyes, will they not stone us?” Moses continued. “We must take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God as He commands.” Pharaoh responded, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the desert, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me to remove these flies.” Moses answered, “As soon as I leave, I will pray to the LORD and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and all his people. Only be sure that the Pharaoh does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD.”

Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD and the LORD did what Moses asked, and all the flies left all the land of Egypt. But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and he would not let the people go.

Isn't this awesome? To be able to see God's power on display. I mean, probably not so much if you were one of the Egyptians, but still God really looks after His children. But let's talk about the Egyptian magicians. We saw on multiple occasions where they were able to replicate what God did. But notice that they couldn't make things better. They could only make a bad situation worse by making more of the problem. Making more

snakes, and blood, and frogs. They did not have the power to fix the problem. Also, let's talk about where this power came from. The Bible does tell us that there are other powers that are not from God. I tend to see things more in gray than in a black and white, meaning a lot of times I don't think one thing is always right or one thing is always wrong, I feel like it depends on the person and the situation. But this is one area that there is no gray. If the power does not come from God, then it is not godly. And what is not godly, is not good and it is sinful. Because what is not from God is against God. They cannot compare to God's power. They are merely cheap parlor tricks to try to distract us from focusing on the One who's really in control of everything and has the power, and that's our LORD God. So anytime you hear or see something that you're not quite sure what it is about, you always need to make sure you take it back to God to see if it's truly from Him. And if it's not, run away. We want to be close to the One who is loving and powerful and forgiving and in control of the whole universe. The One who sacrificed His Son in order to give us life and hope. He's an amazing God.

Exodus 9

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 9.

In the last chapter, Egypt got plagued with frogs and flies and gnats. Let's see what God has on the plague agenda for today!

The LORD told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say to him, "This is what the LORD the God of the Hebrew says: Let My people go, so they may worship Me. If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on all of the livestock belonging to the Egyptians. But the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats that belong to the Israelites will not be touched. Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land." And the next day the LORD did it just as He said He would. All the livestock that belonged to the Egyptians died, but Pharaoh investigated and found that not one animal that belonged to the Israelites died. But his heart was still hardened, and he would not let the people go.

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take a handful of ash from the furnace and have Moses toss it into the air when he is with Pharaoh and it will become a fine dust over the whole land of Egypt and will cause festering boils to break out on the people and animals throughout the land." Which are really painful skin bumps. So they did as the LORD said, and boils broke out on all the people and animals. And the Egyptian magicians could not even stand before Moses because of the painful boils that were all on them. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not listen.

Then the LORD told Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD the God of the Hebrews says: Let My people go, so they may worship Me, or this time I will send the full force of My plagues against you, against your officials and against your people, so you may know that there is no one like Me.'" The LORD continued, "By now I could've stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would've wiped you off the face of the earth, but I have not done this, so that I might show you My power, and so that My name will be proclaimed in all the earth. But you still are against My people and will not let them go. So this time tomorrow, I will send the worst hail storm that has ever fallen on Egypt."

God warned Pharaoh to give an order to bring in all the livestock and people and everything that they have in the field and tell them to take shelter, because the hail will fall on everything that has not been brought in, and they will die. Some of Pharaoh's officials feared the LORD and sent word to bring everybody in, but others ignored it and did not bring in their people or animals from the field.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt." When Moses stretched out his staff towards the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail and lightning flashed down to the ground. It was the worst storm that Egypt had ever had, and hail struck everything in the field - the people, animals and everything growing in the field. The only plants that were saved were the ones that had not ripened yet. The only place that hail was not in the land was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "This time I have sinned; the LORD is right and I and my people are wrong. Pray to the LORD. We have had enough thunder and hail; I will let you go. You don't have to stay any longer." Moses replied to Pharaoh, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread my hands in prayer to the LORD, and everything will stop so you may know that the earth is the LORD's. But I know you and your officials still do not fear the LORD. Then Moses left Pharaoh and went out from the city and did what he said, and the thunder and hail stopped and the rain no longer poured down in the land. But when Pharaoh saw they had stopped, he sinned again. He and his officials hardened their hearts and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said.

It absolutely amazes me to see God's sovereignty here. He is in control of everything; sickness, weather, nature, and even hearts and attitudes. The fact that He can harden someone's heart, it's a little bit scary. Mainly because I want to ensure that I never get to a place where He feels that He needs to harden my heart. But the amazing thing is, if He can harden somebody's heart, He can also soften someone's heart. And that is a prayer that we need to continuously take to Him, asking Him to soften our hearts and change our attitudes to make us want what He wants for us. Also, there have been difficult times in my life because of other people's attitudes or actions or thoughts or beliefs, but this passage should give us hope! Our God, our Father, has the ability to change hearts and attitudes. So when you find yourself in a situation like that, go to Him in prayer with it. He can change it! Now, as this book shows us, His interventions don't always come as quickly as we would like them to. But stay strong in faith because He's a good God; He can be trusted; He has perfect timing and He's an amazing God!

Exodus 10

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 10.

Pharaoh continues to have a hardened heart, so plagues keep on coming to Egypt. The LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials, so that I can perform all of these miraculous signs, so you can tell your children and grandchildren what I did and how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and that you may know that I am LORD.

Moses and Aaron went to the Pharaoh and once again said, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says, "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go so that they may worship Me. If you do not let them go, I will bring the locusts to Egypt tomorrow; it will be something that has never been seen before in Egypt. There will be so many locusts that they will cover everything and fill all the houses. They will finish eating what little plants and trees you have left after the hail storm." Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh. Pharaoh's officials had had enough. They asked Pharaoh, "How long will you let this man do this? Let these people go so they can worship their God! Do you not see that Egypt is ruined?"

Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron back and said, "Go worship to the LORD your God, but tell me who will be going." Moses responded, "We will go with our young and our old, our sons and our daughters, and all of our flocks and herds because we are going to celebrate the festival to the LORD. Pharaoh said, "The LORD would have to be with you if you think that I would let you go with all your women and children. You are pushing it. No, not everybody can go. You can have your men go to worship the LORD since that's what you've been asking for. Then Moses and Aaron were forced out of Pharaoh's presence.

So the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so swarms of locusts will come over the whole land and devour everything." So Moses stretched out his staff and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and night and by morning, the wind had brought the locusts. There were so many that the ground was black because they were covered with them. They ate every green thing that was left. Nothing like Egypt had ever been seen before. Pharaoh quickly called back Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you! Forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD to take these locusts away from us!" Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, and the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up all the locusts and carried them into the sea. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

Then the Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand towards the sky so that darkness will come over all of Egypt. Darkness that is SO DARK it can be felt! So Moses stretched his hand towards the sky and total darkness came over Egypt for three days. They could not even see their hand in front of their face!! But all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and said, "Go worship the LORD. Even your women and children can go. Only leave your flocks and herds behind." But Moses said, "You must let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings to give to the LORD. Our animals have to go with us too. We are not to leave one hoof behind because we have to use some of them to worship our God and we don't know which ones we are to use until we get there.

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh snapped back, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you never come before me again because if I see your face, I will have you killed!" Moses replied, "Just as you say, I will never appear before you again. "

God's patience amazes me. Here's Pharaoh who thinks he's so powerful when he's not even a flea in comparison to God. But God is patient & doesn't just strike him dead. God also uses this opportunity to show others who He is so they can have a relationship with Him. And as we know, who He is, is one amazing God.

Exodus 11 & 12

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 11 and 12! This one's a little long, but it's one of my favorites!

The LORD's perfect timing for the Israelites to be freed was coming, so the LORD told Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. Tell the people to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of clothing, silver and gold." Because as the LORD had told them earlier, He was going to make the Egyptian people actually kind of like the Israelites. In fact, Moses was highly respected among Pharaoh's officials and by the Egyptian people.

So Moses went and told Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Around midnight He will go throughout Egypt, and every first born in Egypt will die. From the first-born son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the first born of the Egyptian slave and even the first born of the cattle in the field. There will be a loud cry all throughout Egypt, worse than there has ever been or would ever be again. But among the Israelites, things will be so peaceful there, that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel." Moses continued to tell Pharaoh, "Your officials will come bowing down before me, saying, 'Go!!! You and everybody who follows you!' and after that, we will leave Egypt." Then Moses, who was very angry, left Pharaoh's presence.

As the LORD had said before, He told Moses again, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you, but I am using this so that My wonders can be shown in Egypt." Moses and Aaron performed all of these miraculous wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD continued to harden his heart and Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

Then we move on to chapter 12. The LORD gives Moses and Aaron instructions on how the people should get ready. He told them, "This month is to be the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the 10th day, each man is to take a lamb (either a sheep or goat) for his household to eat. Choose the size of the lamb based on the number of people in the household and how much they eat. If one household is too small for a lamb, then they can join with their nearest neighbor. The animal must be a one-year-old male without any defects. The household is to take care of the animal to the 14th day of the month, and then everyone in Israel will slaughter all the animals when the sunsets. Then they are to take some of the lamb's blood and put it on the sides and top of the door frames to the houses where they eat the lamb. Then, that same night, they were to roast the entire lamb and eat it with unleavened bread

(which is flat bread made without yeast.) Whatever was left of the lamb that they didn't eat, they were to burn it before morning." God continued to give them instruction by telling them that they are to eat the lamb with their cloak tucked into their belts, sandals on their feet and their staff in their hand. And they were to eat quickly. This night was to be called the LORD's Passover, because on that same night, the LORD was going to go through Egypt and strike down the first born of both people and animals to bring judgment on Egypt. But the blood on the doors of the Israelites were to be a sign. And when the LORD saw the blood, He would pass over that home and no one in the household would be harmed.

Then the LORD plans a party! He tells them all about how they are to celebrate this day every year as a festival to the LORD. I love the fact that God's already discussing how to celebrate an event that hasn't even taken place yet! He tells them that every year they are to have a celebration called the Festival of Unleavened Bread from the evening of the 14th day to the evening of the 21st day. On the first day, they are to remove any yeast from their house, which is the ingredient that is used to make bread fluffy and used in lots of other things. Then for seven days, they are to eat bread made without yeast. Anyone who eats anything with yeast is to be cut off from the Israelites. They are also to gather together to worship God on the 1st day and the 7th day. And they are not to do any work during the festival, except to prepare food for all the people.

Then Moses gathered all the elders of Israel and told them everything they needed to do. He told them to go and select their Passover lamb, and once they slaughter the lamb, be sure to take the blood of the lamb and put it on the top and sides of the doorway. Moses said none of them should go out of their house until the morning after because when the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, any household doorway covered in the blood of the lamb will be spared and those inside will not be harmed. But the others will face His judgment.

Moses also told them when they finally get to the land that the LORD had promised them to make sure to have the festival every year as the LORD had commanded. And when their children ask what it means tell them, "This is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD who spared us when He struck down the Egyptians. Then the Israelites bowed down and worshiped, and they did just as the LORD had commanded.

And at midnight on the appointed day, the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, just as He said. And the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was a loud cry throughout all of Egypt because there was not one Egyptian household where someone had not died.

That night, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Leave my people!! You and the Israelites!! Everyone get out! Go worship your God! Take your flocks and your herds just as you have said, just go!” But he also asked that they bless him. The Egyptians tried to help the Israelites out of the country quickly because they were afraid they would all die if they stayed. And just like Moses had instructed them, the Israelites asked their Egyptian neighbors for all kinds of things and the LORD made it so that whatever the Israelites asked for, the Egyptians gave it to them.

The Israelites traveled out of Egypt. There were six hundred thousand men on foot! That's not even counting the women and children. Not to mention huge flocks and herds of animals! And the Bible says many others went with them! They left Egypt in such a hurry, they did not have time to add yeast to their bread and let it rise so they had to bake it flat! (You see a theme going on here with the whole no yeast/flatbread thing? God told them they were going to celebrate this event every year with a celebration called the Festival of Unleavened Bread. It's like God knew what was going to happen before it actually happened!!) So the Israelites left Egypt after being there for 430 years.

The chapter goes on to tell of some more instructions for the Passover meal. Anyone that was just traveling through the Israelite community during the Passover meal was not allowed to participate. But any family servants or people from other countries who wanted to participate in the Passover meal could, but they would have to be circumcised first. If you remember back in Genesis, this was the permanent skin mark that men did to show that they were in a commitment with the LORD. The LORD went on to say that the meal should be eaten inside the house and none of the meat should be taken outside. Also, they were not to break any of the lamb's bones. And the Israelites did just as the LORD commanded. Can you imagine how exciting this had to be for the Israelites!! They had been slaves their whole life and God came to their rescue to do amazing things only God could do.

But this story has SO MUCH MORE to offer! Let's recap part of it from a broader view. The LORD's judgment was coming. But God made a way for His people to be spared. They were to get a perfect, flawless lamb and put it to death, being sure not to break any of its bones. Then they were to ensure that their household was covered in the blood of the lamb. And when the LORD came through the land that night to pass judgment, when He saw some were covered in the blood of the LAMB, He spared them. Do you all see it?! This WHOLE THING is the LORD telling us what He's going to do for us through His son Jesus! He sent his perfect, sinless Son to be our sacrificial lamb. He paid the penalty for our sin through dying on the cross. He was put to death for us, but not one bone was broken. Anyone who believes in this and commits to being one of His children is now covered in the blood of the lamb Jesus. And when judgment day comes,

the only way we will be spared is when our LORD sees that we are covered in the blood of the lamb! There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. The only thing that matters is being covered in the blood of the lamb of Jesus. WOW! How amazing is that!!

But the LORD gave us even more! You know how the LORD told them to celebrate what the LORD did for them by removing all the yeast from their house and not eating any for a week? Guys this was not as easy of a task as it sounds. Yeast is in a lot of stuff! Now it was probably easier back then, then it is now where we buy all kinds of premade food without knowing every little ingredient that's in it. But imagine if you had to remove all the yeast from your house! It's not just bread! Did you know a lot of soups have yeast in them too because of the broth? Did you check inside your sofa cushions to get all the crumbs? Under your fridge? In your stove? And the crazy thing is that even a little yeast can have a huge effect! And once it's mixed into the food, there is NO WAY to get it out. It's not just like raisins in a dessert where you can just pluck out! You have to just throw the whole thing away. And guess what yeast symbolizes - sin. This was meant to be a reminder to the people of the effects that sin has on everything. How a little sin can ruin so much! And how we can never really be fully rid of it by anything we do. Our only hope is to accept the gift that Jesus gave us by taking the punishment for us.

The LORD saved His people that day, and He's still doing it today. And He loves us SO MUCH that he has been telling us for thousands of years, in all different ways, what He was going to do for us so we didn't miss it. What an AMAZING GOD!!

Exodus 13

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 13.

So the Israelites left Egypt and the LORD had more instructions for them. This chapter starts with the LORD telling Moses that every first-born, both of women and animals, were to be dedicated to the LORD. But we'll get back to that in a minute.

Moses said to the people, "Remember and celebrate this day and that the LORD, with His mighty hand, brought you out of Egypt and slavery. Eat nothing with yeast in it!" Moses told them again that when they get to the promised land that flows with milk and honey, which is currently where a lot of different "ite" nations live, be sure to remember this occasion as the LORD commanded, year after year, by having the seven days of no yeast and the festival of Unleavened Bread. Moses took it a step further by telling them nothing with yeast or yeast itself should even be seen by any of them.

He went on to instruct them to tell their children that they were doing all these things because the LORD had brought them out of Egypt and by doing all these things, it is a reminder of what the LORD had done. He also told them that after they entered the promised land, they were to give the first-born of all people and livestock to the LORD. For livestock, the people had the option to redeem, which means to buy back the animal or sacrifice it. For all first-born sons, they were instructed to redeem them. God does not approve of child sacrifices. Once again, Moses told the people, "When your sons asks, 'What does this mean?' Tell them, 'We were slaves in Egypt and Pharaoh would not let us go. But the LORD brought us out of Egypt with His mighty hand by killing all the first-born sons of both the Egyptians and their livestock. So we give Him back our first-born to remember and thank Him for what He did for us.'"

The chapter continues to say that when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, even though it was a shorter path. As a reminder, the Philistines were enemies of God who were descendants of Ham, the son that Noah cursed. Instead, God took them on a longer route around the country because He knew since they have never lived as a group of free people, they were not yet organized and the whole experience can be pretty overwhelming. So God did not want the people to face conflict in the Philistine country and get scared and run back to Egypt.

I don't know if you've ever seen the Disney movie Rio, but that's what this kind of reminds me of. In the movie there was a bird who had been a pet his whole life. One day, some free birds tried to break him out of the cage so he too could be free, but he

was terrified to leave his cage! He didn't know how to deal with life out there in the big world or what to expect, so he wanted to stay right where he was, even though being free was so much better! So the LORD took them on a path towards the Red Sea and He guided them as a pillar of clouds during the day and a pillar of fire at night. And the pillars kept their place in front of the people at all times.

You know what else is really cool? Do you remember when Joseph was about to die and he made his family promise that when the Israelites leave Egypt, to take him with them? They did!! Generation after generation came and went, but they continued to pass down the instructions to be sure Joseph's bones made the packing list when they left Egypt! But the thing that really has me in awe is how patient our God is! He just showed these people what He was capable of, which is anything and everything. And yet, He still knew how simple and fragile they were. He knew that despite showing them over and over again that He is the one in control, they still spook easily. So instead of getting mad at them for getting all worked up about maybe having to battle the Philistines, He was patient with them and took His time to guide them down the longer path. What an amazing God!

Exodus 14

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 14.

The LORD was leading the Israelites in their journey and He said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn around and camp by the sea. Pharaoh will just think the Israelites are wandering around in confusion and trapped by the desert. And I will harden Pharaoh's heart again and he will chase after them. But I will use this to bring glory to My name and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

When Pharaoh heard that all the Israelites had left, he and his officials changed their mind about the whole situation and thought, "What have we done? We just let all of our slaves leave! Who will do the work we were forcing them to do?!" So Pharaoh had them get his chariots and army ready. He took 600 of his best chariots and all the other chariots in Egypt with officers over all of them! He also had all kinds of horsemen and troops and they chased after the Israelites and trapped them as they camped by the sea. The Israelites looked up and saw the Egyptians coming and they were terrified and cried out to the LORD. Then things got a little ugly and they turned to Moses and started yelling, "Is it because there were not enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out here to die?! What have you done?! Didn't we tell you when we were in Egypt to just leave us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?!"

I wonder if Moses had a totally confused look on his face while he thought, "That's not the way I remember that going down at all. I'm pretty sure the only reason I'm here right now is because you all were crying out to God to get away from the Egyptians, so He sent me and I didn't even want to!" But thankfully, Moses showed more grace and said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see how the LORD will fight for you. All you need to do is be still. The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again."

Then the LORD basically told Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on." As if to say, "Less talking, more walking!" The LORD continued to instruct Moses, "Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD. Then the Angel of God, who had been traveling in front of the Israelites in the form of a pillar, moved to behind the Israelites so that He, in pillar form, was between the Israelites and the Egyptians! As if that wasn't amazing enough, throughout the night He brought darkness to one side of the pillar and light to the other side! So neither side went towards the other side all night long! And Moses stretched

out his hand over the sea and all night, the LORD separated the sea back with a strong wind and turned it into dry land. And the Israelites were able to walk on dry ground with walls of water on each side.

Then the LORD allowed the Egyptians to chase after the Israelites into the parted sea. However, once they were on the dry ground of the sea, with the walls of water on each side, the LORD threw confusion into the Egyptian army and made the wheels come off their chariots making it difficult for the army to move forward. The Egyptians recognized God at work and yelled, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them!" The LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea again so that the waters will flow back over the Egyptians." And Moses did as he was instructed and the waters flowed back covering the entire army of Pharaoh. Not one of them survived. That day the LORD saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. And when the Israelites saw the great power of the LORD on display against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD (the fear that means respected the LORD) and put their faith in Him and His servant Moses.

How cool is all that?! I have to admit, I felt a little sorry for Moses when the people were griping at him about bringing them there to die and then the LORD said, "Why are you crying out to me?" But then I saw it from a different point of view. There have been multiple times in my life when someone will come up to me all upset because they have a problem and they want to know how to fix it. But when I tell them how to fix it, they just stand there and keep complaining about the situation instead of fixing it. It makes me want to say to them, "Okay, now that you know how to fix it, are you planning to do something about it or am I going to be forced to sit here and listen to you whine all day?" If I'm honest, I do this too. Sometimes I'm told what to do to fix my problem, but I just keep standing there whining about it. I think sometimes it's because I'm hoping that not only will someone else tell me how to solve it, but they will actually do it for me. What God shows us here is sometimes He tells us to be still and sometimes He expects us to act. He tells us what to do, but then He wants us to step out in faith and do it. But no matter what He tells us to do, we can know that His plan is the BEST plan because He is a faithful and amazing God!

Exodus 15

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 15.

The LORD just saved the Israelites from the Egyptians and it's time to give Praise! So Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the LORD and this chapter shares that song with us. I thought about singing it for you all, but since I don't know the tune and my singing voice sounds like an animal in pain, I'll just summarize it.

The song says:

"I will sing to the LORD who is on high.
He threw the army into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and He saved me.
He is my God and I will praise Him.
He is a warrior. He threw Pharaoh's army into the sea.
The best officer's Pharaoh had are dead in the sea.

Your right hand, O Lord, showed amazing power.
It shattered the enemy.
In your greatness, you threw down those who tried to stand against you.
You showed them your burning anger and they were burnt to nothing.
By your breath, you pushed back the waters and turned them into walls.

The Egyptians bragged that they would chase us down and defeat us.
But you breathed and covered them with the sea.
And they sank like heavy objects in the water.

What other god is like you, O Lord?
Who else is majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory
and able to work wonders?

You stretched out your right hand and caused the earth to swallow them.
In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have saved.
In your strength you will guide them to your holy place.

Nations will hear of you and tremble;
fear that brings pain will take hold of the Philistia.
The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,

the leaders of Moab will shake with fear,
the people of Canaan will melt away;
terror and great fear will fall on them.

By the power of your arm, they will be still as a stone until your people pass by, O LORD. Until the people you created pass by.
You will bring your people to the promised land and they will live there and grow and you will be there with us, there at the place your hands made.

The LORD will reign for ever and ever.”

The chapter goes on to tell that after the LORD covered the Egyptians with water and drowned them in the sea, Miriam, who was the sister of Moses and Aaron, took a tambourine to make music. And all the women followed her with tambourines and dancing while Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD for He is highly praised.
The horse and its rider have been thrown into the sea.”

Then we hit trouble again.

Moses led the Israelites from the Red Sea into the desert and for three days they traveled without finding any water. That is a really long time to be in the desert without finding water. Especially when you have a massive number of people along with herds and flocks.

They finally came upon water in a place called Marah, but they could not drink it because it was bitter. (Side note: Marah means “bitter”) So the people started grumbling against Moses and asking, “What are we supposed to drink?” So Moses cried out to the LORD and the LORD showed him a piece of wood and Moses threw it into the water and the water became sweet and drinkable.

There, the LORD made laws for the people and tested them. The LORD told his people, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in My eyes and follow My commands, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD who heals you.” Then they came to Elim, which means God’s bountiful provision or God gives an overwhelming amount, and there were 12 springs and 70 palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

In this chapter, we get a little glimpse at how the Israelites' hearts change so quickly. One minute they are praising God and saying they will do whatever God and Moses tell them to, and a little while later, when things aren't perfect, they start grumbling AGAINST Moses. Not TO Moses, but AGAINST him. And they pull the same stunt with God over and over. It's a good thing we have a patient God. But no matter if things are great or everything seems to be falling apart, God deserves our praise.

Do you know a fruit fly only lives for 10 days? You're probably asking, "What does that random fact have to do with any of this?" But here's my point, compared to how long we live, we know that a fruit fly's lifespan is really short. But I bet if you were able to talk to a fruit fly at 9 ½ days, he would say he's had a long and full life. A 10-day lifespan is all he knows. He couldn't even imagine living 70 or 80 years. God created this world for us and He gave us His only Son to take the blame for our sin so we could spend an eternity with Him. An eternity. That's hard to understand sometimes because we haven't experienced it yet. It's kinda like trying to get a fruit fly to understand how short their life is in the grand scheme of things. But our life on this earth is short compared to what's coming. It's a fruit fly's life. So, even if God never chooses to bless us in any other way while we are here on earth, making a way for us to spend eternity with Him is a "bountiful provision". No matter what is going on in your life, the LORD deserves to be praised. And God loves when we praise Him! Even if our praise is in the form of a song that sounds like an animal in pain, the LORD hears a beautiful noise, even if others don't. He's an amazing God!

Exodus 16

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 16.

So the whole Israelite community set out until they came to the Desert of Sin on the 15th day of the 2nd month after they came out of Egypt. There the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt where we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted! But you have brought us out to the desert to starve us all to death!" These people seem to remember things way differently than how it actually occurred! Next thing you know, they are going to be saying, "Remember all those great BBQ parties we had with Pharaoh? Oh what fun times! He was such a great guy!"

But the LORD intervened and said, "I will rain down bread from the heavens for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough food for just that day. I will use this to test them to see if they will follow my instructions. On the 6th day, they are to gather twice as much as they gather on every other day and bring it in to prepare it." This is because the LORD did not want them working on the 7th day. That day was the Sabbath day and that was to be a day of rest and spending time with God.

So Moses and Aaron went to the people, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD because He has heard your grumbling against Him. After all, who are we, that you would grumble against us? Your grumbings are not against us, they are against God. The LORD will give you meat in the evening and all the bread you want to eat in the morning. Then Moses told Aaron to say to the Israelites, "Come before the LORD for He has heard your grumbling" and while he was still speaking, they looked toward the desert and the glory of the LORD was appearing in a cloud.

The LORD told Moses again that He had heard the grumbling of the Israelites and that they would eat meat at twilight and in the morning, they would be filled with bread and they would know that He is the LORD.

That evening quail birds came and covered the camp. In the morning, there was a layer of dew on the ground and when it disappeared, thin flakes that looked like frost covered the desert. The Israelites saw it and they said to each other, "What is this?" Moses told them, "It's the bread the LORD has given you. This is what the LORD commands: 'Everyone is to gather just as much as they need to feed the people in their tent for today only.'" So the Israelites did as they were told and they gathered just as much as they needed. However, Moses told them not to keep any bread till morning, but some

paid no attention and they stashed some away till morning time. But when they went to get it the next morning, it was full of maggots and smelt awful. So Moses was angry with them.

Each morning the Israelites gathered bread and when the sun grew hot, the bread melted away. However, on the 6th day, the people were told to gather twice as much and bake what they wanted to bake and save the rest for the following morning because the 7th day was the holy sabbath day. On the sabbath day, the LORD would not cover the ground with bread as He did other days because that day was to be a day of rest dedicated to the LORD. So the people were instructed to save what they had left from the 6th day for the sabbath day so they could have food to eat. And when they awoke on the 7th day, the bread did not stink nor did it have maggots in it. But some still went outside on the 7th day to gather bread and there was not a bread flake in sight.

Then the LORD said, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands? The Lord has given you the sabbath day as a day of rest and told you to gather twice as much bread on the 6th day. No one is to go out on the 7th day.” So the people rested.

The people called the bread “manna” (which sounds like the Hebrew word for “what is it?”) and it was like a wafer made with honey. Then the LORD instructed Moses to put aside a little manna and keep it for generations so that each generation could see how the LORD provided the people with bread when He brought them out of Egypt. So Moses told Aaron to take a jar and put some of the manna in it and place it before the LORD to be kept as a witness of what happened for the generations to come. And the people ate manna for 40 years until they reached the border of Canaan, which was the promised land.

Do you know that some form of the word “grumble” was used 6 times in the 1st nine verses. How many times do we grumble and complain about our situation instead of just going to the LORD and asking for His help and direction? Even after the people were grumbling against God, He was still willing to bless them. Instead of wasting time complaining or trying to fix the problem ourselves, we would be much better off making our 1st stop a God stop. Because He loves His children and He’s an amazing God!

Exodus 17

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 17.

So the whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin and traveled from place to place as the LORD directed them. They came to a place called Rephidim to camp but there was no water to drink. So once again the people pulled their same stunt and started to argue with Moses, yelling at him, "Give us water to drink!" Moses replied to them, "Why do you argue with me and put God to the test?" But the people were thirsty and continued to grumble against Moses, saying, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to let us, our children and our livestock die of thirst?"

And once again, Moses cried out to the LORD saying, "What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me to death!" The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people and take with you some of the elders and the staff in your hand. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this and he gave that place two names, calling it Massah, meaning "testing" and Meribah meaning "quarreling" because the people argued and tested God there.

The chapter then goes on to tell us that sometime after the whole water event, the Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites. Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow, I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." So, Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill where Moses held up the staff in his hands. Whenever Moses held the staff up, the Israelites were winning, but whenever the staff was lowered, the Israelites would begin to lose the battle.

As you can imagine, after a while, Moses and his arms started to get really tired. But since lowering them and the staff had huge negative consequences, Aaron and Hur got a stone for Moses to sit on and then they stood on Moses's side and held up his arms for him till sunset when Joshua finally beat the Amalekite army. Then Moses instructed them to write this down on a scroll so it will be remembered because the name of Amalek will be completely blotted out from under heaven. As we learned back in the genealogy of Genesis, Amalek was one of Esau's grandsons.

Moses then built an altar and called it "The LORD is my banner" because the Amalekites lifted up their hands against the throne of the LORD and the LORD will be at war with them from generation to generation. The Amalekites were the first nation to attack the Israelites after they left Egypt and God did not take kindly to that. As we will

see, the Israelites will have more run-ins with this wicked nation. And all of this comes from Esau's bad decision to marry women that he was not supposed to marry. Like we've seen before, there are negative and long-lasting effects to sin. Thankfully, we have a patient, forgiving and amazing God who is just waiting for us to turn back to Him.

Exodus 18

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 18.

At some point during the whole Israelites leaving Egypt and wandering through the desert ordeal, Moses had sent his wife Zipporah and their two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, back to live with his father-in-law Jethro, who was the priest of Midian. Jethro had heard everything that God had done for Moses and the Israelites and how He had brought them out of Egypt.

Jethro, along with Moses' wife and sons, decided to go visit Moses. So they sent word to Moses that they were on their way and went to meet him in the wilderness where he was camp near the mountain of God. So Moses went out to meet his family and he bowed down low to his father-in-law and kissed him. They greeted each other and went into the tent to catch up. Moses gave Jethro the whole run-down about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians and all the hard times they had run into along the way and how the LORD saved them. Can you imagine how that family catch up conversation went? I bet Jethro was on the edge of his seat the whole time!

Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel. He said, "Praise be to the LORD who rescued you from the hands of the Egyptians and Pharaoh. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods. Just look at what He did to those who thought they were better than Israel and treated Israel poorly!" Then Jethro brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God. And Aaron and the elders of Israel came to eat a meal with them in the presence of God.

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as a judge for the people. And people came to him and stood around him from morning to evening. When Jethro saw all that Moses was doing, he asked Moses, "Why are you doing all this for the people? Why do you alone sit as a judge while all these people stand around you all day long?" Moses responded, "Because whenever the people have a dispute, they come to me for guidance and I tell them of God's decrees and instructions and decide between them."

Jethro told Moses, "What you are doing is not good. You and the people are going to wear yourselves out. This is too much work for one person. You can't continue to handle this alone. Listen to me now and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the representative before God for the people." (Which means it's Moses' job to be the middle man between God and the people. He will speak to the people for God, and he will speak to God for the people.) Jethro continued, "You are the one who brings the people's disputes to God and teaches them God's laws and commands and

shows the people how they are to live and behave. But select men you feel do a good job and who fear God. Men who you trust, who hate dishonesty, and appoint them as officials over groups of people numbering thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times to decide simple cases for themselves, but then have them bring the difficult cases to you. That will make your load lighter because they will share it with you. If God approves of you doing this, you will be able to stand the strain of the work and the people will be happier because they will have their cases decided instead of standing in front of you all day waiting.” So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said and he appointed men over groups of people to be judges for them for simple cases. Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way and he returned to his own country.

I love that Moses has one-to-one conversations with God and God has used him to do all these amazing things, but he was still humble enough to listen to the advice of his father-in-law. Sometimes when we are assigned huge tasks, we make the mistake of thinking we have to do it all ourselves. Just because we are the ones responsible for making sure the task gets done, doesn’t mean we have to do it all alone. In fact, God has a tendency to place certain people in our lives at different times to help us with whatever we are facing at that time. So, if you are feeling like whatever you are dealing with weighs more than you can carry, reach out to God and ask Him to send back-up in some way! Because He is a loving Father and He’s an amazing God.

Exodus 19

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 19.

Moses and the Israelites traveled on until they came to the desert of Sinai and they camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God and the LORD called him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'You have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you obey Me fully and keep the promises we made to each other, then out of all of the nations and people on earth, you will be My treasured possession. Even though the whole earth is mine, the Israelites will be like priests and be a holy nation.'" In other words, they will be God's chosen people who have a special relationship with God. They are also to follow God and tell others about the one true God, and God will be with them, which as you can imagine has many perks.

So Moses went back and called for the elders of the people and told them all that God said. The people all agreed that they will do everything the LORD says. So Moses went back to God and told Him their answer, not like God didn't already know. Then the LORD told Moses, "I am going to come to you in a thick cloud so that the people will hear me speaking to you and they will always trust you." The LORD continued to tell Moses what the people should do for the rest of that day and all the next day to prepare themselves both physically and spiritually to meet Him. The LORD told them to be ready because on the third day, the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai for all the people to see. Then the LORD told Moses to make sure he tells the people not to get too close to the mountain or touch it because any person or animal that touches the mountain will not be allowed to live. No one is to touch or come close to the mountain till they hear the sound of a ram's horn blowing.

Then Moses went down to tell the people how to get themselves ready. And on the morning of the third day, there was thunder and lightning with a thick cloud over the mountain and a VERY loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled with fear. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to the foot of the mountain to meet with God. The whole mountain was covered with smoke and smoke was filling the sky because the LORD came down as fire onto the mountain. And the whole mountain shook violently. The trumpet sound grew louder and louder and Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. The LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain so Moses went up.

Then the LORD told Moses to go back down the mountain and warn the people not to get too close or try to push their way through to see God or they will die.

Back then, people could not just approach God without preparing themselves. In fact, even when the LORD wasn't coming down in fire on a mountain, the priest still had to do special things in order for them to be able to come before the LORD without dying. But we'll talk more about that later. For now, back to Chapter 19. The LORD told Moses to go back down and to bring Aaron back up. But the LORD warned again that the priest or any other person should not try to follow or they would die. So Moses went down to tell them.

Remember when Moses was afraid to look at the non-burning bush that was on fire because he was afraid to look at God? That actually took place at this mountain. But also, there's actually something to that. God is not to be taken lightly. People have a tendency to think of God as some passive, non-threatening person that's just kinda like, "Come on you guys; you know you shouldn't do that. Can't we all just get along and hug?" Thinking of God like that is a mistake. Remember when we talked about "Fearing the LORD"? Let me try to explain that a little better:

I live in part of the United States that's called, "Tornado Alley". So I'm going to use what I know to help explain. A 5F tornado is the strongest tornado. It has the highest wind speeds and will flatten anything in its path. Its effects are devastating. People in my corner of the world "Fear" tornados. Meaning we have seen what they can do and we stand in awe of their power. We do not take tornadoes lightly. If we know there's a high likelihood of tornadoes, we keep the news on and track the weather. When we hear tornado sirens, we react and make sure we are not in its path. We continue living our lives, but we proceed with caution making sure that we are as prepared as we can be to face this powerful act of nature. That being said, when we know we are not in the danger zone, we frequently go outside to look at the sky because watching a tornado is mind-blowing. We respect and fear the tornado's power, but we are not afraid of it because we are prepared and safe.

Our God is holy and we should be in awe of His power. Not being prepared to meet Him could be a deadly mistake. Thankfully, He sent Jesus to prepare the way for us. But back in Moses' time, things were a little different. Jesus hadn't died on the cross yet, to pay the price for our sin. So the people had to do all sorts of things to prepare to meet the LORD because the penalty for sin is death. If they didn't take it seriously, and they came to God with a sinful and unremorseful heart, meaning they weren't sorry about the sin they had committed, well, they would have been better off standing in a field in the direct path of a F5 tornado. So as Christians, we should Fear the Lord, and respect His Holiness and power, but we don't have to be afraid of Him. Because not only is He THE powerful force, He's also a loving Father and an amazing God!

Exodus 20

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 20.

Moses and the Israelites were still at Mount Sinai when the LORD spoke to give the people the 10 Commandments. The LORD said, "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt and out of slavery.

- You will have no other gods before Me. God is to be our one and only God.
- You should not make yourself an idol from anything in the heavens or on earth and you should not bow down to them or worship them. I am the LORD your God and I am a jealous God. I will punish those who hate Me for multiple generations, but to those who love Me and keep My commandments, I will show love to 1000 generations. We can make idols out of anything. Anything we treat as more important than God and His commandments is an idol. This can be money, video games, even another person. God wants us to enjoy what He has given us, but we need to remember that God comes before it all.
- You should not misuse the name of the LORD your God. We live in an OMG world. But as the LORD showed us in the last chapter, He is not to be taken lightly and we shouldn't throw His name around lightly either.
- Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. You will work for six days, but on the seventh day you, your household and all your animals will rest. This is the only commandment that is not repeated in the New Testament. We'll talk more about this in a minute.
- Honor your father and mother. As a parent, I LIKE this one! However, as we stated above, nothing comes before God and His will for us. So if our parents are telling us to do something that doesn't align with God's will, we need to make sure we continue to show them honor, while respectfully declining to follow their instruction.
- Do not murder. There is a difference between murdering someone and killing someone. Murder is killing someone without justification and typically done with the desire to do evil.
- Do not do physical acts done in marriage with someone you are not married to.
- Do not steal.
- Do not tell lies about others.
- Do not covet, which means to crave or deeply want things that belong to others instead of you. God gave us everything and as we discussed before, even if He gives us no earthly belongings, which all rot away eventually anyway, He gave us a way to have eternal life and be forgiven from our sin, so we should always be

grateful for what He has chosen to give us and content, which means not upset, when He chooses not to give us something we want.

When the people saw the smoke coming from the mountain and the lightning and heard the thunder and trumpet, they trembled with fear. They kept their distance and told Moses to just speak to them for God from now on instead of having God speak to them because they were afraid they would die.

Then God told Moses, “Tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourself that I have spoken to you all from heaven. Do not make the mistake of thinking there are other gods like Me and do not make yourself gods out of silver and gold. Make an altar out of earth and do not use fancy stone or tools to make it. Sacrifice to Me on the altar and where My name is honored; I will come to you and bless you.” I feel like there is a specific reason God ended this by reminding them not to make anything else a god. We're going to find out why in upcoming chapters. But for now, let's take a closer look at the commandments.

The Israelites had just come from a land where they were not free to make their own choices and were slaves for Egyptians that serves all different types of gods. They did not know how to treat each other or God. So God kicked off the lesson of “how to act now that you all are free” by giving them ten rules to teach them how to have a good relationship with each other and God. We broke down some of the commandments already but what did God mean when He said “a jealous God”? The type of jealousy God is talking about is much different than what we typically think of when we think of “jealousy”. We normally think of it like coveting or wanting something that belongs to someone else. Which God specifically stated in another commandment is wrong. But this is not the jealousy God is referring to. Has your mom or dad ever brought you a gift? And when you open it, you thank both parents. However, the chances are, one parent played a more active role in figuring out what to buy you, shopping for it, wrapping it, all of that stuff. But both parents share the credit. God does not share credit. He is the one and only God. All things come from Him. SO, why should He share credit for anything with some hand-held chunk of metal, like an idol or anything else? He doesn't need to. And He won't. This is what He means by being a “jealous God”.

And how about the whole “remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy? Why don't we do that anymore? Like I said earlier, this is the only commandment that is not repeated in the New Testament of the Bible and there is a FABULOUS reason for it! This commandment was so that the Israelites would set aside time to grow closer to God, seek forgiveness from their sin, and find spiritual rest in Him. Because Jesus had not yet died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin, the Israelites constantly had to do things

in order to make themselves acceptable to God. But then came Jesus and changed EVERYTHING. In Matthew chapter 11, Jesus says, "Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest". Matthew chapter 12 calls Jesus the "Lord of the Sabbath". Because Jesus made a way for us, because He paid the price for our sin, we can rest in Him. Which makes setting aside one particular day of the week, not so necessary anymore. That being said, we still always need to set aside time to grow closer to God because He is our Living Water that renews our spirit and gives us hope. And... because He's an amazing God!

Exodus 21

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 21.

In the last chapter, the LORD gave His people the 10 commandments. In this chapter, the LORD continues to give the Israelites laws to help them be a successful society and help them have a good relationship with each other. As we've discussed before, sometimes the Bible is descriptive, telling us how things were back in those days, and sometimes it's prescriptive, telling us how we should live and act. Well, this is one of those books where descriptive and prescriptive meet up. God gives them rules based on what is accepted in their society at that time.

Just like how we talked about the different types of slavery and how indentured servants were a very important part of their culture and without the option of being able to sell yourself as a slave for a set amount of time to pay for something, many people back then would be in bad shape; not even being able to afford life's basics like food or clothes. So keep that in mind when we are reading areas like this. Also, just because God gives the Israelites instructions on how to respond if someone beats up someone else up, doesn't mean God's fine with people getting beat up as long as the offender pays the penalty. God is never okay with people treating each other cruelly. But God knows we live in a fallen world, so He is helping the Israelites understand how they should respond so it's not total chaos! So here we go. The chapter starts with:

If you buy a Hebrew servant, he can serve you for six years but must be set free in the 7th year without him having to pay for his freedom. If he is married when he becomes a servant, then he and his wife are both set free. But If he was a single man when he started serving, and then his master gives him a wife and they have kids, well then the wife and kids are still the property of the master and the man is the only one set free without payment. But if the man wants to stay with his master and wife and kids, the master can take him before a judge and the servant will then remain a servant for life. Many people back in those days actually saw servants as part of the family.

If a man sells his daughter as a servant wife, she is not set free. But if the master who selected her isn't happy and finds out that this woman isn't all that she's cracked up to be, he is to let a price be paid for her to be released from the arrangement. The master is not allowed to sell her to someone else. Also, if he selects a servant wife for his son, she is to be treated as a daughter. And if the son marries another woman, the son must still perform all his duties as a husband with his servant wife and provide her with food and clothing as well. If he fails to do any of these things, the woman is allowed to go free.

The Bible then gives instructions on what to do if someone gets hurt.

If a man kills another man on purpose because he was planning evil, then that man should be put to death. However, if he accidentally killed the man, the LORD was going to make towns where they were “safe zones” that the man could run away too and stay in and no one was allowed to kill him as long as he remained there. Kinda like the “bases” in baseball. As long as you’re standing on them... you’re safe!

Any person who attacks their father or mother or curses them should be put to death.

Any person that kidnaps another person, is to be put to death.

If two men are fighting and one hits the other and hurts him so that he cannot work, the other must pay the man for the injury and for the time that he was unable to work. And he must continue to pay until the man is completely healed.

If a man beats a slave to death, he is to be punished.

If two men are fighting and they accidentally hit a pregnant woman and cause her to give birth but the baby and the woman are both ok, the men must pay a fine that the husband of the woman and courts agree on. However, if serious harm is caused, the men are to receive whatever injury they caused. For example, if the woman or baby dies, the men are to be put to death... a life for a life, or if the baby or woman loses a foot, the men are to have a foot removed, a foot for a foot, and so on... an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, you get the jist.

If a man hits his servant and causes him to lose an eye or tooth, he is to let the servant go free.

If a bull kills someone with its horns, the bull must be out to death and none of its meat should be eaten. The bull’s owner will not be held responsible for the actions of the bull, unless the bull had a habit of being aggressive towards people and the owner knew about it but didn’t do anything. Then the bull and the owner should both be put to death. However, if the family of the person killed decides they want payment instead, the owner of the bull may save his life by paying whatever is demanded. If the bull kills a servant, the bull must be put to death and the owner of the bull must pay 30 shekels of silver.

If a man digs a pit and fails to cover it, and an animal falls in and dies, the person who dug the pit must pay the owner of the animal for the loss. However, the dead animal then becomes the property of the man who dug the pit. Don't wanna waste that meat or fur!

If a bull kills another bull, the bull that is still alive is to be sold and the money from that bull and the meat and whatnot from the other one is to be divided between the two men. However, if the owner of the aggressive bull knew that the bull acted that way and didn't keep him penned up, then he has to give a bull to the person whose bull was killed.

We're going to hear a lot more rules teaching the Israelites how they are to live and behave. In order to learn who God is, it's important to look at why God is creating these rules instead of the details of each rule. The point of all these rules were to help protect the weak and vulnerable in society. Every rule was made to help deter or discourage people from making bad choices, or to help protect victims when bad things did happen, to make sure they were not taken advantage of. God loves His people, both the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor and everything in between. He cares more about a person's heart than their social status. Although, as we'll see, He seems to have a soft spot for the underdog and those that are not considered important in society. And being a good father, He wants His children to play nice in the sand box together. So in an abundance of love, He gave them rules. Not to limit His children, but to protect them. What an amazing God.

Exodus 22

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 22.

In this chapter, the LORD continues giving instructions to the Israelites about how they should act as a society. It starts with...

If a man steals an animal from another man's flock and sells or slaughters it, he has to pay it back 4 or 5 times depending on the type of animal. However, if the stolen animal is still alive in his possession, he only has to pay back double.

If a thief is breaking in at nighttime and is struck and killed, the defender of the property is not guilty of bloodshed. But if it happens while it's bright outside, he is. Maybe because if you can see what you are doing during the day, so you are expected to stop them by maybe just causing an injury instead of death. I don't know, I am just brainstorming here.

If a man steals something and cannot afford to pay it back, the man must be sold to make up for the cost of what he stole.

If a man lets his animals feed off another man's property, that man has to repay the man with the best of his own crop.

If a man starts a fire and it spreads to the crops belonging to other people and destroys them, the one who started the fire has to make up for the losses.

If a man gives belongings to his neighbor for safekeeping and they are stolen while being looked after, if the thief is found, he is to pay back double to the man who owns the belongings. But if the thief is not found, the neighbor, who was supposed to be watching the property for safekeeping, is to go before a judge to ensure that he had nothing to do with the theft of the belongings.

Likewise, if the neighbor is looking after another man's animal for safekeeping and it dies while in the neighbor's care, the neighbor is to take an oath before the LORD that he did not do anything to cause the animal's death. In this one, the LORD will be the judge and punish the man if he is lying. Otherwise, the owner of the animal is to accept that it died and the neighbor is not held responsible. This is also true if the animal is attacked and killed by other animals. However, if the animal is stolen while the neighbor is supposed to be looking out for it, then the neighbor must make up for the loss of the animal.

If an animal is borrowed from a neighbor and it is injured or dies in the other man's possession, and the owner of the animal was not there to witness it, the one that borrowed the animal needs to give payment to the owner for the animal's death or injury. But if the man rented the animal and it dies or gets injured, the man owes nothing since he was paying to use the animal.

If two men each claim they are the owner of certain belongings or property, they are to go before a judge and whoever is found to be lying has to pay the other one two-fold.

If a man performs acts with an unmarried woman, he must pay her father the bride price and marry her. If the father refuses to give her as a wife, he must still pay the bride price to the father.

Additional rules are given regarding how humans are to interact or not interact with animals.

The chapter also states that a sorceress should not be allowed to live and that anyone who sacrifices to any other god than the LORD is to be destroyed. We are going to talk more about this in a bit.

Continuing on...

God instructed the Israelites not to mistreat foreigners or people that come from other countries and reminded them that they were foreigners in Egypt.

He then warned them not to take advantage of widows or orphans and that if these vulnerable people cry out to Him because they are being mistreated, He will strike down and kill whoever does this, making their wife a widow and their children orphans. Remember Judah's son who mistreated his brother's widow so God struck him dead? God is letting these people know He's done it before and He'll do it again.

If you lend money to an Israelite in need, do not be greedy and charge interest, which means to make them pay back more than what you lent him. Likewise, if you are borrowing something from someone, give it back.

Do not speak out against God.

Do not withhold offerings.

The first-born son is to be dedicated to the LORD and the first born of each flock are to be given back to God as an offering on the 8th day after they are born.

God reminded them that they are to be His holy people and that they are to be set apart. So one of the ways they are to be different is to not eat any meat from animals that were killed by wild beasts.

If you are looking at all these laws, God has people pay back others if an accident occurs, but if a person plans to do evil, like stealing, the penalty for that is even more than what they took! The state of a person's heart matters. Which is also why God has no leniency for those sacrificing to other gods or a sorcerer or sorceress. These are people who look to sources other than God to gain knowledge about what is going to happen in the future or to try to make things happen. God never says there aren't other gods or forces that have some powers. In fact, the fact that God says people who try to tap into those powers should be put to death, implies that there are other forces out there. But much like the Egyptian magicians, those powers do not come from God. And anything that is not for God, is an enemy of God. So God makes it abundantly clear, trying to tap into those powers is not okay and should be punished with death. And unlike those other gods, our God is King of kings and LORD of lords. He is the all-powerful one and He loves us. What great news!! And what an amazing God!

Exodus 23

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 23.

This chapter continues with God giving the people more laws. It jumps in with instructing the people not to spread untruths or help a guilty person by lying for them. If you are acting as a witness before a judge in a court case, tell the truth. Don't just go with whatever the crowd is saying. And don't play favorites by siding with a poor person instead of a rich person. Do the right thing and tell the truth.

If you happen to come across an animal that belongs to your enemy that has wandered off, return it. Also, if you see the donkey of someone who doesn't like you has fallen down because of a heavy load, go help them with it.

Just like you shouldn't side with someone just because they are poor in a lawsuit (which is when one person takes another to court to get money), you also shouldn't deny them justice just because they are poor and don't have much power or a high status.

Have nothing to do with blaming an innocent person for something you know they didn't do and do not put an innocent or honest man to death.

Do not take a bribe, which is when someone gives you something to do what they want you to do, like lie about what really happened.

Do not treat foreigners poorly; you yourselves know what it was like because you were foreigners in Egypt.

You can grow crops and vineyards for six years but in the 7th year, let it rest. Do not work or harvest the land and allow the poor and the wild animals to eat from it. Also, for six days you may work, but on the 7th day, the animals and people are to rest.

God warns them to make sure they do everything as He has instructed and reminds them, they are not to call on any god but the LORD their God.

The chapter goes on to tell them about three festivals they should have every year to celebrate the LORD. One festival is the Festival of Unleavened Bread that we learned about earlier. This is where they were to eat nothing made with yeast to celebrate God freeing them from Egypt. During that time, everyone is to sacrifice to the LORD.

The next is the Festival of the Harvest where they are to celebrate with the first-fruits and crops of the season. The last is the Festival of Ingathering when they gather their crops at the end of the harvest season. These three times a year, all the men are to appear before the LORD. God also gives them some instructions on the sacrifices they are to bring to Him.

God reminds them that He is sending an angel to go before His people to bring them to the land that was promised. He warns them to listen to what the angel says and do not rebel against Him because God's name is in Him so he will not forgive their rebellion. This kinda implies that the angel God is talking about is God the Son.

God continues telling them that if they do all that He and the angel says to do, He will be an enemy to all their enemies and wipe them out. He reminds them again that they are not to bow down to any of the gods of their enemies or follow their practices but instead they are to destroy all the things that represent any of their enemies' gods. They are only to worship the LORD and as long as they do, God will bless them and keep them healthy.

Then God reassures the people that He will send His terror on all the nations so their enemies will run from them and be driven out of the land that He promised to give the Israelites. Again, God tells them He will give their enemies into their hands so they can drive them out of the land and reminds them not to make deals with them or let the people and their false gods continue to live in the land with them or they will cause the Israelites to sin against God.

I have a saying I use frequently, "It's ok to have feelings, but that doesn't mean we act on them." I probably say it more to myself as a reminder more than I do to anybody else. But that's what God is saying in the first part of this chapter. You may not like someone or you may feel sorry for someone because of their situation, but regardless, right is right. Don't do the wrong thing because your feelings got in the way.

The whole last part amazes me. God commands us to rest and celebrate. And all this is about having faith in Him. Humans typically want to take situations into their own hands. But God wanted to remind His people that their future is in His hands. They don't need to work the field on the 7th year, or on the 7th day or hoard all the first crops or last crops afraid they wouldn't have enough to eat. What they needed to do was take time to celebrate Him and remember who He is. He would be the one who takes care of them and provides for them. We serve a God that tells us to come and rest at His feet and He will take care of everything. What an amazing God!

Exodus 24

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 24.

God called to Moses and told him to come up the mountain to Him along with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders. They were then to stop and worship from a distance while Moses alone went further up to God.

Then Moses went and told the people all that the LORD had said and the laws that He had given them and they all responded in agreement that they would do everything the LORD said. Then Moses wrote down everything the LORD had said.

The next morning Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain where God had spoken to them and then set up 12 stones to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Then he had some young Israelite men sacrifice bulls as an offering. Moses took the blood from the bulls and sprinkled some on the altar. Then Moses took the book of the Covenant that he had written with all of the LORD's instructions and read it to the people and again they all responded that they would follow the LORD and His laws. Then Moses sprinkled the people with blood as a symbol that they were in a covenant, or promised relationship, with God.

Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the 70 elders of Israel went up and saw God. Under His feet looked like a floor made of sapphire, but clear as the sky. And the leaders ate and drank. The LORD told Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and I will give you tablets made of stone with the commandments and laws I have written." Then Moses set out with his aid Joshua, who we are going to hear a lot more about in future. He instructed the elders to wait there until he and Joshua came back to them. He also told them that if anyone had a dispute while he was gone, they could go to Aaron and Hur for directions.

When Moses went up the mountain, a cloud covered it and the glory of God settled on the mountain. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, but on the 7th day, God called to Moses from the cloud and Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain. To the Israelites, the glory of God looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Moses stayed up on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights.

So killing animals and sprinkling their blood on the altar and on people, that sounds a little odd. What is all that about?

As we talked about before, the price to pay for sin is death. Jesus, who had never sinned, took on our sin and paid this price for us by dying on the cross. But back in the Old Testament time, God the Son had not yet come to earth as Jesus. So, they would symbolically place their sin on an animal and the animal would pay the price for them so they did not have to die and they could once again approach God. By sprinkling blood on the people, Moses was showing them that the price for their sin had been paid. Later, Jesus is referred to as the sacrificial lamb and Christians are covered in the blood of the Lamb. Once again, God is giving us little glimpses of how He was going to make a way, once and for all, for us to be able to approach Him whenever we want. What an amazing God!

Exodus 25

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 25.

In the next several chapters, God gives the Israelites detailed instructions on how they are to build a tabernacle, which is a tent or building dedicated to God.

The chapter starts with God saying to Moses, "Tell the people to bring an offering to Me." Moses was to collect all the offerings from any man whose heart prompted him to give. The people were to bring:

- Gold, silver and bronze
- Blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen
- Goat hair, ram skins - dyed red, and the hides or skins of sea cows
- Acacia wood
- Olive oil - for the lights
- Spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrance incense (which we'll talk more about later)
- And oxy stone and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastplate (which we'll also talk more about later.)

God tells them to build this place for Him and He will be there with them. Now of course, God is everywhere. He is not limited to just being at one place. But think of it like humidity or moisture in the air. There is always some water in the air. But when there is so much water vapor in the air, all in one place, it becomes fog, or clouds. It can be so thick at times, you can't even see through it. That's what God's presence was going to be like at the tabernacle.

One of the things they were to make for the tabernacle was the Ark, which we also called the Ark of the Covenant or the Ark of the Testimony. The ark looked like a chest and was between 3 ½ - 4 feet long, or about one meter, and was made out of acacia wood and then covered in gold. On each side of the ark there were rings that had poles going through them so that the ark could be carried. These poles were also made of acacia wood and also covered in gold and they were not to be removed from the ark. On the lid of the ark there were two cherubim made of gold that faced each other with their wings stretched out and upward to overshadow the lid.

Cherubim, by the way, are not at all described as the cute little fat babies with wings like most people think of when they hear that word. They are believed to be guardian creatures that protect holy areas. These were also the creatures that were stationed

outside of the Garden of Eden to protect the entrance after Adam and Eve were kicked out. They are described later in the Bible as having four wings and four heads. One head was that of a man, one a lion, one an ox and one an eagle. If your whole job is to protect something, having four heads has got to be beneficial! That's even better than having eyes on the back of your head! Moving on...

The Testimony, which were the laws and commandments God gave the Israelites, were to be placed in the ark. The place between the two cherubim was known as the "mercy seat". This was like God's throne on earth where He would meet with them.

They were to also make a table approximately three feet long, or a little less than a meter, which was also to be made of acacia wood and covered in gold. It too was to have poles for carrying just like the ark. They were to make its plates, dishes, pitchers and bowls, that were to be used for the offerings, out of pure gold. The table was to always have "the bread of the Presence" on it, which was bread for the LORD. It's called the bread of the "presence" because God was present there in that place.

The last thing this chapter gives instructions about building is the Lampstand. It was to be made of pure gold. There was to be a shaft in the middle with three branches coming out of each side. Each branch was to have three cups on it that looked like almond flowers and the shaft was to have four. Between the shaft and the branches, it would hold seven candles. As a reminder, seven is the number that represents completion. The tools used to trim the wick and tray were also to be made of gold. All of this was to be made using about 75 pounds of gold. Overall, this looked like a huge Menorah.

All of the parts of the tabernacle served a purpose and we will be talking more about it as we go through the chapters. You may wonder where these, not so long ago, slaves got all the gold and precious materials from. Remember how God told the Israelites to ask the Egyptians to give them stuff before they left? Turns out, God made the Egyptians very generous because He had a plan for some of those things. I left out some details when it came to how they were to build each thing. Honestly, although I love building things, I've never found reading an assembly manual really thrilling. Not typically my idea of a good time. But I LOVE how detailed God is when giving the Israelites instructions! I hope God is always this detailed when He gives me instructions! And the fact that He is telling them to do all this because He wants to be there with them, close to His people despite all their flaws... WOW! What an amazing God!

Exodus 26 and 27

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapters 26 and 27.

God continues giving instructions on how to construct the tabernacle in great detail. We are going to just hit the highlights. God tells them to make ten curtains all the same size, out of linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. Then to sew them together in two sets of five and hang them up using 50 gold rings. They are to make another set of enormous curtains out of goat hair to cover the tabernacle. Remember... This is a tent! Although, a very impressive tent! This time they are to use 50 bronze clasp to attach each set of curtains. On top of the goat hair is to be another covering of ram skins that are all dyed red and then on top of that, a covering that is made out of the hides of sea cows. Doesn't sound like any water is getting through there! Doesn't sound like any light could either! Good thing they made a huge lamp stand in the last chapter!

They were to make the frame of the tabernacle out of acacia wood with bases made of silver to go under them. Then they were to make cross bars that attach to the frames, which makes the structure more stable. Both the frame and the crossbars were to be covered in gold. They were to make gold rings that held the frames and crossbars together.

They were then to make another curtain that was much like the first ones, only this one was to have an image of cherubim, the guardians, weaved into the curtain. This curtain was to also be hung from gold clasps on an acacia frame covered in gold and sitting on silver bases. This curtain was to separate the rest of the tabernacle from the area considered to be "The Most Holy Place" where the Ark of the Testimony with the Mercy seat would be placed. Outside the curtain, the table, discussed in the last chapter, was to be placed on the north side and the lampstand was to be placed opposite of the table on the southside.

The entrance to the tent was also to have a linen curtain with blue, purple and scarlet yarn. The curtain would again hang from gold clasps hanging from a frame made of acacia wood and covered in gold that was sitting on bronze bases.

Chapter 27 goes on to give instructions about constructing the Altar of Burnt offering. It was to be a square that was about 5 feet wide and 4 feet high with a horn at each of the four corners. It was to be made of acacia wood and then covered in bronze. All the tools used in the offering process, the pots to remove ashes, the shovel and the sprinkling bowls, the forks and firepans and the grate were all to be made of bronze also. Four

rings made of bronze were to be at each corner so it too could be carried on acacia wood poles that were covered in bronze.

They were to also make a courtyard for the tabernacle. This is like an open area in front of the entrance to the tabernacle tent. It was to be sectioned off with curtains that were hung on post with silver hooks and sitting on bronze bases. The entrance was to face the east. All the tent pegs and other accessories for the courtyard were also to be made of bronze.

For the Tent of Meeting, which was the area outside the Most Holy Place that held the ark, the Israelites were to bring clear olive oil so that Aaron and his sons, who were the priests, could keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. They were to do this for all the following generations.

Did you all notice that the further away you get out from the Most Holy place, the less precious the metals get? The best metals were closest to where God dwelt. When I realized this, it didn't sit right with me. Mainly because if I was classified as a metal, I'd probably be tin. Not allowed anywhere close to God. It doesn't really help to know that although the priest would have to frequently enter the Tent of Meeting to keep the lamps burning and change out the bread of the presence, most of them were never even allowed in the Most Holy Place which held the ark and where God dwelt. And their whole life was dedicated to serving the LORD!! Only the high priest would go into the Most Holy place once a year on the Day of Atonement. And on that day, the priest had to prepare himself and the penalty for sin had to be paid before he could approach the throne of God without dying. So, if these men couldn't approach God, what chance do I have?!? But good news for me... the best actually! When Jesus died and paid the price for our sin once and for all, the curtain that separated the most holy place from everyone tore from top to bottom! Do you know how huge that is?!?!? What that means?!?! Anyone who accepts the LORD as their LORD and Savior and accepts the gift of forgiveness that Jesus gave us when He died on the cross... we get to approach God whenever we want 24/7!! We have access to approach the throne of God and talk to our Father!! How amazing is that?!?!? And what an amazing God!!!

Exodus 28

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 28.

When we last left Exodus, we were learning in great detail how the Israelites were to make the tabernacle. Now we are going to learn, in great detail, how they were to make the clothes for the priest.

God told Moses to have his brother Aaron, along with Aaron's sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar brought to him so that they may serve as priests. They were to make the priest certain clothes to help set them apart when they were serving the LORD. As a reminder, priests had to make themselves ready before serving and approaching God and these clothes were going to be a part of that process. They were to make a breastplate, an ephod (which is a garment kind of like a smaller poncho), a robe, a woven tunic, a turban for their heads and a sash. That is a lot of clothes to be wearing in a desert. All of this was to be made out of gold and linen with blue, purple and scarlet yarn.

The ephod was to have two gold pieces at the shoulders so it could be fastened together. On each gold shoulder piece there was to be an onyx stone with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel engraved in them, six on one shoulder stone and six on the other. Both pieces had gold rings and chains attached to them. Aaron was to wear these as a memorial to God. The ephod also had a waistband that was to be attached to it.

The breastplate was to be made with all the same materials and was used for making decisions. It was to be a square with four rows of different precious gems set in gold for a total of 12 gems. Each stone was to be engraved with the names of one of the tribes. The breastplate had gold chains and rings that were to be attached to the chains and rings on the Ephod, using blue cord to hold it in place. Whenever Aaron entered the Holy Place, he was to wear the breastplate with the sons of Israel over his heart as a memorial to God. The breastplate was also to have the Urim and Thummim on it so he could also wear that over his heart. These stones were words that stood for "curses" and "perfection" and they were kept in a pouch and used by the priest to get a yes or no decision from God.

The chapter goes on to speak of other garments to be made for the priest. They were to make a blue robe with a collar around the opening for the head. Around the bottom hem of the robe, they were to alternate tassels that looked like pomegranates, which is a kind of fruit, and gold bells. Aaron was to wear it in the Holy Place before the LORD so others could hear the sounds of the bells and know if he died. Aaron was also to have a gold plate fastened to the front of the turban so that it would be on his forehead. The plate was to say "HOLY TO THE LORD". The Bible says this was so that Aaron "would bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts" that the Israelites dedicate to the LORD so they would be acceptable. Can you all think of someone who bore our guilt to make us acceptable to God?

They were to make tunics and sashes of linen for Aaron's sons. Both Aaron and his sons were also to wear linen undergarments (much like underwear) every time they were to enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar in the Holy Place. Once the men were dressed in these garments, they were to go through a ceremony where they were anointed with oil and dedicated to the LORD.

Aaron was the first high priest. All priests were to be Levites and from the line of Aaron. The fact that God has them make Aaron garments with the names of the 12 tribes on his shoulders and heart, tells us what a huge responsibility he had. He had the burden, the weight on his shoulders, to ensure that the Israelites stayed right with God and to make sure the lines of communication between God and the Israelites were kept open. He was also to be the doorway between the people and God. No easy task. He wore the names of the tribes on his heart. This shows his responsibility was to continuously go to God on their behalf and lovingly guide them and lead them according to God's direction. Again, not an easy task. Later, Jesus became our forever high priest when He took on our sin to make us acceptable to God. Instead of being a temporary doorway to God like the human high priest, Jesus blew the doors off their hinges, ensuring that we had access to God 24/7. God used flawed and sinful humans to make a temporary way for His people to be with Him until He had a permanent way through His own perfect Son. What a loving and amazing God!

Exodus 29

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 29.

Chapter 29 gives details about how the priests were to be consecrated, or set apart, to prepare them to serve the LORD. They were to take a bull and two rams without any defect and make bread with no yeast. Then they were to bring Aaron and his sons to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. Then dress Aaron in the clothes prepared for him and pour oil over his head to anoint him. Next, they were to dress Aaron's sons in the clothes prepared for them.

Then they were to bring the bull in front of the Tent of Meeting. Aaron and his sons were all to lay their hands on the bull's head and then sacrifice it and place some of the blood on the horns of the altar. The laying of the hands on the bull's head was to symbolize them transferring their sin to the bull. This was a sin offering. Then they were to do the same thing with the ram only they were to put the blood on all sides of the altar. This offering was to be a burnt offering to the LORD. They were to then take the other ram and do the same thing, only this time, Aaron and his sons were to put some of the blood on their right ear lobe, their right thumb and their right big toe. Then some of the blood, along with anointing oil, was to be sprinkled on Aaron and his sons.

They were to also take some of the fat from the last ram, along with some of the bread made without yeast, and Aaron and his sons were to hold them in their hand and wave them before the LORD as a wave offering and then they would burn it. They were to also wave the breast of the ram but Aaron and his sons got to keep this along with the thigh for food. Priests have gotta eat too!

The garments Aaron wore as high priest were to be passed down to his descendants when they became high priest.

The ram that was set aside for the priest to eat was to be cooked in a sacred place, the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Only the priest could eat the meat and the bread because it was sacred, or made holy. Anything that was left in the morning was to be burned. No one else was allowed to eat it because it was holy.

They were to take seven days to ordain, or make ready, the priest. Every day they were to sacrifice one bull and two rams along with the grain offering and wine as a drink offering. After all this, the priest and the altar were consecrated for God.

They were to make these burnt offerings at the Tent of Meeting regularly and for generations to come. God told Moses that He would meet with him and speak to him. God said that place would be consecrated for His glory and He would live among the Israelites and be their God. And they will know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of Egypt.

We have one more chapter detailing aspects of the tabernacle. But did you all catch the last part of the chapter? The reason God is having them do all this is so that He could be near His people! That was true then and it is true today. The LORD of LORDs, King of Kings, the Creator of all, He wants to be near us! Satan sometimes uses guilt to try to make us doubt this fact. We start to think, "Surely, He doesn't want to be near me. I've messed up too many times." But look at these people that He is choosing to love and be close to! They messed up time and time again! In fact, in one more chapter, we're going to see what these people have been up to the whole time that the LORD is giving Moses all these details on how to build a place so He can be near them! And guess what... what the people were up to was not good! And God knew it! But He still wants to be close to them and He still wants to be close to us because He is a loving and an Amazing God!

Exodus 30

On this episode of Kid's Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 30.

This is our last tabernacle detail chapter before we get a little break! YAY! So here we go!

The chapter starts with building the altar of incense which was a lot like the other altar. It too was to be made of acacia wood covered in gold with horns, and rings and poles for carrying. It was to be put in front of the curtain that was before the ark of the testimony. Aaron was to burn incense on the altar every morning and every evening. Nothing but the incense was to be burned on this altar and once a year, Aaron, or whoever the high priest was then, was to place blood from the sin offering on the horns of the altar.

The LORD went on to tell Moses to take a census, or to count all the Israelites. Everyone over the age of 20, both rich and poor, was to pay exactly a half shekel for a ransom to the LORD and then no plagues will come on them. They were to use this money for the service of the tent of meeting. They were to also make a bronze basin with a bronze stand for it. The basin would hold water in it for Aaron and his sons to wash their hands and feet so they would not die whenever they would enter the tent of meeting, or when they approached the altar to present an offering to the LORD.

The LORD then gave Moses a recipe of how they were to make the sacred anointing oil. They were to use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the Ark of the Testimony, the Table, the Lampstand, the Altar of Incense, the Altar of Burnt offering, the basin and stand, and all the accessories that went with any of them. Then all the items would be most holy and whatever touches them will be holy.

Then they were to anoint Aaron and his sons to consecrate them for the LORD. God warned Moses that this oil was only to be used as a holy oil. No one was to make an oil like it or use it for anything else and if it was put on anyone except the priest to consecrate them, that person would die. The LORD also gives Moses the recipe to make the incense that was to be used. The priests were to burn it in the Tent of Meeting in front of the ark of Testimony where God would meet them. Just like the holy oil, this incense was to be used only for God. Anyone that copied it for other uses were to be cut off from the people. .

Guys! That was it! We did it! WOOHOO!

But let's take a minute to talk about the LORD commanding that everyone pay money to Him. Money is always a touchy subject when it comes to any religion or just in life in general. Why would God demand everyone of a certain age give money as a ransom so that they can avoid plagues? And why was it to be exactly a half shekel and the rich couldn't pay more and the poor couldn't pay less? Guess what? It's not actually about the money. God has a tendency to use money to teach us things and to help reveal our own hearts to us. He already knows where our hearts are at and He doesn't need any money. When you can speak things into existence like God, you don't really need to worry about obtaining money to buy things. But by making the people pay a half shekel ransom, God is showing us:

- 1) That we all have a debt that is to be paid. Our debt is because of sin, the rich and poor alike. There is a set price for sin and its death. The rich just cannot just give more to buy favor and their way out of the situation and the poor can't just not pay it. There's no way around it, no avoiding it. But, here's the great part... Jesus paid the price for our sin when he died on the cross. Debt 100% paid. In full. Forever. No need to sacrifice animals or go through anointing rituals before we can approach God. We have been anointed by being covered in the blood of the Lamb Jesus. We just have to accept that gift and have the LORD be lord of our lives. Which brings us to reason number 2.
- 2) Humans are greedy. All you have to do is observe the world around us and watch a commercial or two. We all want more. We all want nicer. We all have a tendency to act like our feelings, our beliefs and what we want is somehow more important than that of those around us. And I'm not judging, cause I'm right there with everyone else. It's a struggle. But nothing reveals our greedy hearts faster than money can. The LORD can't be lord of our life if we are already too busy serving money. Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 6 verse 24 that no one can serve two masters. And instead of trying to get stuff that is only valuable while we are alive on earth, we should be more focused on storing up our treasures in heaven where we will spend eternity. So, God uses money sometimes to help reveal to us just how far off our hearts have gotten from Him. Onto reason 3..
- 3) Let's say that firm grasp on money is because of a need instead of greed. Matthew chapter 6 goes on to tell us that we should not be anxious about our lives. What we eat or drink or for our bodies or what we put on our bodies. Jesus says, look at the birds. They don't have nice houses or barns to store up all their food and belongings, nor do they have clothes. But God still takes care of them. And if God is willing to care for them like that, how much more is He willing to care for us. So the question is... are we going to trust Him to do that?

It's a lot easier to say these things than it is to live it. But regardless of how many times we fail to live it out, I know one thing, our God is forgiving to hearts that turn back to Him and try again, because He is patient and loving and He is an amazing God.

Exodus 31

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 31.

We finally got done with all the details God gave Moses about the Tabernacle. In this chapter, God tells Moses how they are going to be able to do all these things. And guess what? It's because God is going to make it happen!

God told Moses that he had chosen a man named Bezalel from the tribe of Judah, and that He filled him with the Spirit of God with the skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts. He would be able to work skillfully with gold, silver and bronze, be able to cut stone and build things out of wood. He also chose Oholiab, from the tribe of Dan, to assist Bezalel. He said he was giving skills to all the craftsmen to be able to make everything exactly as He had instructed.

Then the LORD instructed Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between you and Me for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD who makes you holy.'" The LORD goes on to say how they will observe the Sabbath because it is holy and anyone who violates it by not following the orders to rest should be put to death. The LORD says again that anyone who works on that day should be cut off from his people. Which many believe, "they will be cut off from their people" is another way of saying, they are to be put to death. That definitely does cut you off from the rest of society.

The LORD then reminds Moses that for six days, work can be done, but that the seventh day, the Sabbath, is for rest and it is holy. The Israelites were to celebrate this as a lasting covenant for generations to come. It was to be a sign of the relationship between God and the Israelites because the LORD made the heavens and earth for six days and then He rested on the seventh day. When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mt. Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the Testimony (the ones holding the 10 commandments). They were stone and written on or inscribed by the finger of God.

In verses 14-17, God states three times that people are to observe the Sabbath by resting on the seventh day or they should be put to death. So clearly, God isn't playing with this commandment. So let's dive in a little deeper into that commandment from God.

Consider people who are in control of others. You might think of a boss over an employee or a task master who oversees the work of a slave of forced labor. When you think of those situations, can you imagine any of the people in control yelling at the

person, “If you don’t stop and relax and rest and let me take care of your needs, you are going to be in SO MUCH TROUBLE! I might even kill you!!” Sounds ridiculous doesn’t it? But this is what our God is doing. In a life that demands more and more from us, our God, who has absolute power and control over everything, demands that we rest and trust in Him to meet our needs. So why would He do this? Well... because He loves us. He knows us and the fallen world we live in. He knows that no matter how hard we work, how much we give, it never seems like enough. A lot of the time it feels like we can’t even catch up, much less get ahead. It can all start to feel like we are on one big hamster wheel; running and running as fast as we can, using up all of our energy and not getting anywhere. It can be depressing and spirit crushing. It can make us forget the real reason we are even alive. Our caring and loving God knows us so well, and He wants more for His children. So He insists that we take time to rest in HIM and reflect on who He is and why we are really here and trust Him to meet our needs while we are resting. He wants our spirits and souls renewed, not crushed. So He put a commandment into place demanding people take the time to rest and He made the penalty for not doing it a big price to pay because He knows our human nature is one that demands more instead of rest. This commandment shows God’s loving and caring character.

So then why do Christians today not have to follow this command? Well, we do and we don’t. Back in the Old Testament days, the Sabbath was known as the seventh day of the week. BUT... then Jesus came. In Mark chapter 2 verse 27, Jesus says, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” This is Jesus telling us that the Sabbath day of rest was meant to be a blessing to man, not a burden. In Matthew chapter 12, Jesus reinforces this when He said to priests that were upset that people’s needs were being met on the Sabbath through work, that He desires mercy, not sacrifice. Jesus went on in chapter 12 to tell us that the “The Son of Man (meaning Jesus) is Lord of the Sabbath.” So what does all this mean for us today? Although we do not have to recognize the seventh day of the week as the sabbath and withhold from working on that day, we still need to rest in Jesus. In Matthew chapter 11, Jesus says, “Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest.” He said **“I will give you rest”** The “I” here being Jesus!! Jesus is our Sabbath! So today, we observe the Sabbath by setting aside time to spend with God. We are to rest in Him. We are to trust Him!! Because as He has shown over and over, He is a loving, caring and an amazing God!

Exodus 32

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 32.

Moses had been on the mountain for quite some time getting all the instructions from God on how to build the Tabernacle. In the last chapter, the LORD had given him the two stone tablets that contained the ten commandments on them.

Meanwhile at camp, the people thought that Moses had been gone for too long, and they gathered around Aaron (you know... the guy God had just said was to be His high priest) and the people said to Aaron, "Moses brought us out of Egypt and now we don't even know what happened to him! So make us gods who will go before us."

Now Aaron, being Moses's brother and having been used by God to talk to Pharaoh, you would have thought he would have said, "Have you all lost your minds? You have seen everything our God, who is the LORD of all, can do right?! How could you even say that?" But that's not what Aaron did. Aaron replied, "Take off all your gold jewelry and bring it to me." So the people did. And Aaron melted it down and shaped it into a calf idol. Then they said, "These are your gods Israel, that brought you out of Egypt!

Ummmm what?! But wait, there's more. Then Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and announced "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." As in the all-capital L O R D - Lord. Adds a bit more confusion, doesn't it? And then the next day, the people woke up and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. They ate and drank and partied.

Then the LORD said to Moses, who was still up on the mountain, "Go down to YOUR people whom YOU brought out of Egypt because they are doing wrong." I think it's funny that God is telling Moses they are his people instead of the LORD claiming them. I totally get it! I sometimes do this with my husband when my kids are acting up. I tell him "Go take care of YOUR children!" As in, I am so done right now, so I'm going to need you to deal with them. But God doesn't pass the responsibility of dealing with them over to Moses like I try to do with my husband. He has plans to take care of this situation Himself.

God continued saying, "They have been quick to turn away from what I have commanded them and have made themselves an idol that looks like a calf and they have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it, calling it their god. These people are unwilling to do what they should and are stubborn." God then told Moses to leave Him

alone so that His anger could burn against the people and so He could destroy them and then He would make Moses into a great nation.

These people are just all over the place! Not too long ago they wanted God to only talk to them through Moses and not talk to them directly anymore because it was too scary and now, they are doing things to make God's anger burn against them! If I was Moses, I would have probably replied, "That sounds like a great idea God! Get rid of these people that are always griping at me and just bless me! "

Thankfully, Moses had a lot more patience and understanding and replied to God, "O LORD! Why should your anger burn against YOUR people who YOU brought out of Egypt? Wouldn't that just make the Egyptians think You just brought them out with evil plans to just kill them in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the planet? But instead, turn from Your anger and do not bring disaster on Your people. Remember Your promise to Abraham, Isaac and Israel/Jacob about their descendants and making them as numerous as the stars and giving them the land that was promised?"

Then the LORD showed mercy and did not bring disaster on the people. So Moses turned and went down the mountain with the stone tablets in his hands. Remember, these were the tablets of the testimony that had the ten commandments on them. They were written on both front and back and God Himself was the one who wrote on them! When Joshua, who had gone further up the mountain with Moses, heard the noise of the people shouting in the camp, he thought a war was taking place. Moses replied, "It's not the sound of winning or defeat but of singing."

When Moses got close to the camp and saw the calf and all the dancing, it was Moses' turn to get mad. He was so angry that he threw down the stone tablets and they broke into pieces. Then Moses took the calf and burned it and ground it into powder and then he sprinkled it on the water which he made the Israelites drink. Then Moses questioned Aaron saying, "What did these people do to you that you led them into such great sin?" Aaron told Moses not to be angry and then went on to tell him the story of what took place.

Moses looked around and saw that the people were running wild and that they had become a laughing stock to their enemies because Aaron let them get out of control. So he stood at the entrance of the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites, which was the clan designated to be the LORD's priest, came to him. Then Moses gave the Levites instructions from the LORD. They were to go through the camp from one end to the other, killing who they were instructed to kill. Even if that person was a family member or friend or neighbor. That day about 3000 people were

killed. I imagine that the ones killed were the individuals whose hearts were hardened and turned away from God unapologetically.

The next day Moses had told the people that they had committed a great sin against the LORD but that he was going to go to the LORD and try to make an atonement for their sin. Which means Moses was going to ask the LORD to forgive the people and see what needed to be done to make things right again. Moses said to God, "Please forgive their sin, but if not, blot me out of the book you have written." The Lord responded that He will blot out the names of those who sinned against Him. The LORD told Moses to go back and lead the people to the promised land, and that His angel would go with him. But the LORD also warned Moses that a time would come that He would punish the people for their sin. And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf that Aaron had made.

There is a difference between anger, which usually stems from people not getting what they believe they deserve, and righteous anger, which is in response to sin. The LORD has righteous anger. Because He is a just God, He will not tolerate sin. It makes Him angry, as it should. But the LORD is also merciful. So although He would have been 100% justified to kill everyone who sinned, because the penalty for sin is death, He chose to tap into His abundant mercy and not kill everyone. Although as we see, there are still consequences for sin.

And no matter how you try to dress sin up, it's still sin! We kind of got a glimpse of Aaron doing this. The people came from Egypt where everyone worshiped idols they could see. They weren't really comfortable with having an invisible god. So instead of Aaron standing up to the people and reminding them that the real God just told them not to make any idols, he made them an idol like they wanted. But then He tries to sugar coat his sin by telling the people, "Tomorrow there will be a feast to the LORD." I mean, sure it will be in the same place that we are placing this gold idol we just made, but it's fine because we just said we were doing it for the LORD, not this hunk of gold. God wasn't having it. He knows the heart of a man. You can't trick Him. And like I said earlier, sin is sin, and there's a price to pay. Lucky for us, our God often chooses to be merciful to His children. What an amazing God!

Exodus 33

On this episode of Kids Bible Breakdown, we're breaking down Exodus Chapter 33.

But first let's recap the big picture story. God created everything including man. He gave us a perfect environment to live in, but He also gave us a choice. And it didn't take long for humans to mess things up and start sinning. This sin is spiritual death and it separates us from God, but God had a plan. (Spoiler alert, it was to send His son Jesus to pay the price for our sin!) But that comes later. For now, He chose one man, Abraham, that He was going to grow into a nation of people that would be His chosen people. They were to tell and show the world who God was and what it was like to have a relationship with Him.

Abraham had Isaac, who had Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel and all the descendants of his family line were known as the Israelites. They grew in number, but then were enslaved by the Egyptians. So God chose Moses to go to Pharaoh in order for the Israelites to be freed. And after God showed His strength through all sorts of amazing miracles, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free. Moses is to lead the people to the land God promised them, but the Israelites' emotions and commitments change more frequently than most people change clothes and while God is talking to Moses on the mountain and giving him instructions on what they need to do so He can live among His people and bless them, the people are down at camp building other gods and worshiping them. But God showed mercy and there were consequences to their sin, but the people recommitted themselves to God and God kept on claiming them as His children and His chosen people.

This chapter starts with God telling Moses to leave that place and go to the land that He promised them that is flowing with milk and honey. He said that he would send His angel to go before the people to drive out the enemy, but He would not go because these people are so stubborn and foolish in their ways that He might destroy them on the journey there. As a parent, I get this. Sometimes the ones you love can push you to the point that you're like, "Mom needs timeout before I do or say something I'll regret!" But Moses knows going forward on a trip without God is even worse than going on one where his mom wasn't there to pack all of his favorite snacks and fun things to do along the way... and the people were upset!

So when they heard that God wasn't going with them, they began to mourn. God instructed them to take off their jewelry and that He would decide what He was going to do with these people. If I were a betting girl, I would say that the little stunt they pulled using their jewelry to make false gods, made them lose jewelry privileges for a while.

Moving on in the chapter. Remember when God told Moses how to build the tabernacle, and in it would be the Tent of Meeting where God would come talk to the priest? Well this isn't built yet, so Moses set up a make-shift tent of meeting outside of the camp. Whenever Moses would go to the tent to talk with God, all the people would stand at the entrance of their tents and watch him go in. A pillar of cloud would come down on the tent to show that God was there speaking to Moses. And the people would worship the whole time the cloud was there. Then Moses would return to camp, but young Joshua, Moses's assistant, would stay at the tent. Clearly Joshua has a heart for the LORD and we will get to see how God uses Him to do some amazing things.

Moses went to talk to the LORD and he must have been feeling a little run down because he said to the LORD, "You have been telling me to lead the people, but You have not told me who You will send with me. And you have told me that You know me by name and I have found favor with You, so if You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I can continue to know You more and find favor with You. Then he reminded God that this nation of people are His people. The LORD told Moses that His Presence will go with them and that He will give Moses rest.

Moses, I'm sure feeling very human at the moment and realizing that he just can't do it on his own, replied to God, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and your people if you don't go with us? What else is there to set us apart from every other person on the face of the planet besides You?" The LORD replied that He will do what Moses asked because He is pleased with Moses and knows him by name. (Sidebar- when God states He knows Moses by name, He's not just saying that he knows his name. Of course, God knows his name is Moses; God knows everything. What God is actually saying is He has a relationship with Moses.) Carrying on...

Then Moses said, "Show me Your Glory." The Lord replied, "I will cause My goodness to pass in front of you and I will proclaim my name, but you cannot see My face because no one can see My face and live". The LORD told Moses to go stand in a crevice of a particular rock and that He will cover Moses with His hand until He passed by. Then He would remove His hand from covering Moses so that Moses could see His back, but will be protected from seeing God's face which would cause Moses to die.

I love that Moses knows who he is. Moses is well aware of his limits. He knows that he can't do anything without God. Even more, Moses knows that his whole identity is belonging to God. He actually pointed out that the only thing he and the people have that make them anything special is God! That's it! He is not set apart for being a murderer, or the guy who led the people out of Egypt, or for being a father, or a

husband. The thing that Moses identifies as, is being a child of God. That's the only thing that really matters! And not only is it the only thing that really mattered to Moses, it's the only thing that matters for us. When we become a child of God, the Bible says that our old self is gone and our identity is now being a child of God. And God sends His Holy Spirit to help make us new creatures. Our identity becomes being a child of God. That doesn't mean we no longer struggle with the same human struggles that we had before. We're still flawed humans, but now we are flawed humans that belong to God and that means everything. Because He is our hope and He is our help and He's an amazing God.