

What makes this series so valuable is that each Bible event leads the reader or the group to discover the deepest truths of the Bible for themselves. This is done through insightful multiple choice questions which draw the readers to enter into the story and find for themselves its meanings and implications which they then can apply to their own lives.

The series is best “taught” by persons who encourage the group to do most of the talking and thinking. The teacher best acts as a leader in which the group discovers its way through the Scriptural events. The teacher may help the group when he or she believes that valuable truths have been overlooked, but the first discoverers should be members of the group itself. This stirs tremendous interest on the part of the group. This also relieves the teacher of the responsibility, under older systems of teaching, to carefully master all the truths of the text and present them in a way that would hopefully interest and “teach” the group.

Almost all teachers report that their classes or groups show much more interest than before and that teaching this series is much easier than it was under the older systems of teaching.

Individuals who use these lessons for their own personal study find this investigative method interesting and meaningful. The reader is invited to sense the drama of each story in his or her own Bible and be led to discern the spiritual truths that are packed into each story.



Immigrants Who Walk **WITH GOD**

From the “Bible Events” Series

**NATIONAL BIBLE READING
CAMPAIGN**



“Every Community on Earth Deserves a New Testament Church”



CONTENTS

Event 1	Called To Leave Everything Behind	1
Event 2	Suffering Injustice In A Strange Land	3
Event 3	Entering The Land Of Promise	5
Event 4	Tribulations That Bring Great Changes	7
Event 5	Resisting Temptation In A Strange Land	9
Event 6	Jesus' Immigrant Family	11

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Immigrants Who Walk **WITH GOD**

The life of an immigrant is hard, insecure and even dangerous. To be an immigrant is not something of which to be ashamed. On the contrary, since the beginning, God has looked for his most special servants from among immigrants.

The immigrant suffers many things, insecurity above all. Perhaps this is the reality that converts so many immigrants into men and women of faith. God has a special manner of caring for them, blessing them and making them a blessing for many people.

First Bible Event



Called to Leave Everything Behind

Genesis 11:27-12:9

Great Bible Truths:

1. God makes great promises to men and women of faith.
2. The way to blessing is the way of obedience to God.
3. The greatest blessing in life is to be a blessing for others.

There are two dimensions in the life of every immigrant: the dimension of what awaits him or her and the dimension of what is certainly left behind in order to fulfill a dream. In a real sense, this is a parable of faith. The most famous immigrant in the Bible was called Abram, a name that was later changed to Abraham. When he was a young man, his father took the family some 1000 kilometers on foot (600 miles) from the great city of Ur to an unsettled wilderness. There, the family established a town they named in memory of Haran, the brother of Abram. When this town was well established, and when Abram was 75 years old, the Lord greatly surprised him. He called him and his wife Sarah to leave their family and everything they had built in Haran to leave for an unknown land. When Abram left, it was only the beginning of his journeys. What was important was that he and his wife carried with them the solemn promise of God. God never forgets his promises, and centuries later the descendants of Abram returned to Canaan. Canaan was their promised land and they returned to claim the inheritance of Abram, the father of faith, the man of God.

The Call of Abram

Read Genesis 11:27-12:1

1. What do you think were the two hardest reasons for Abram to obey God's call to leave Haran?
- To have such a drastic change in his life, already being 75 years old.
 - To leave a town which his father and all the family had built up from nothing.
 - To ask Sarah, his wife, to leave her house to live the rest of her life in tents.
 - To go to a completely unknown land with different customs and language.
 - To leave his homeland, his people, and his relatives
 - To put his whole family at risk

Read Genesis 12:2-3

2. Here are God's promises to Abram:
- I will make of you a great nation.
 - You will be a blessing to many.
 - I will curse those who curse you.
 - You will be a blessing to all the families on earth.
 - I will make great your name.
 - I will bless those who bless you.

3. Which of these promises are for the good of others? Which of these are for your blessing? Which of these promises were exclusively for Abram?

4. Opinions: Which of the following do you believe is the greatest blessing of Abram for all the families on earth?

- As father of the faith, Abram introduced faith in God to the world.
- Abram was the father of the Jewish people through whom we know about God.
- Jesus Christ, the Savior, was a direct descendent of Abram.
- Abram demonstrated to everyone a life fully entrusted to God.
- Other: _____

Read Genesis 12:4-5

5. In these two verses, who do you most admire about Abram?

- He left just as God commanded without excuse or delay.
- His faith inspired Lot, his nephew, to accompany him.
- Abram was not of an age to start a new life.
- Abram left confidently, taking his wife and all their possessions.

Read Genesis 12:6-9

6. What did God tell Abram when he got to Canaan?

- Here is the land I spoke to you about, you have now seen it with your own eyes.
- I give you this land as of right now.
- All this land will not be given to you but, instead to your descendants.

7. Opinions: Why did Abram build an altar of sacrifice in the very place where God spoke to him?

- He was nervous and didn't know what he was doing.
- It was his way to worship and please God.
- The altar would serve as a reminder to him and his family of this experience.
- He was giving an example to his family on how to express gratitude to the Lord.

8. What are the main reasons modern immigrants move to new lands?

- To secure better opportunities in life.
- To become rich, if at all possible
- To follow God's call.
- To escape difficult situations in their home lands.

9. Personal reflections: How does the story and example of Abram help you most? In what ways were Abram's experiences similar to yours?



Second Bible Event

**Suffering Injustice
in a Strange Land**

Genesis 39:1-23

Great Bible Truths:

1. It has always been true that innocent people suffer at the hands of others.
2. God's people become victorious because of the way they respond to injustice.
3. God blesses and uses his people despite the great injustices.



As long as we live in the world, we will suffer injustices. And when one is a stranger in a new land, he or she is exposed to additional dangers and mistreatment. If one decides to live selfishly and separated from God, that person has no promise of the saving hand of the Lord. But when our life is surrendered to the Lord, we may be sure that he will use even our bad experiences for some good.

Joseph, the son of Jacob (also called Israel), was betrayed by his own brothers and was sold and carried off to Egypt where he became a slave. His story, related in 12 chapters of the Bible, is fascinating. Finally, Joseph not only got his liberty, but he became the second most powerful man in Egypt, only after the Pharaoh himself. He eventually saved the lives of his own brothers, those who had betrayed him. In the beginning of his experience in Egypt, we see how he continued to suffer injustices and how God upheld him through them all.

Joseph Suffers as a Slave in Egypt

Read Genesis 39:1-6a.

1. Which phrases describe details of Joseph's life when he came to Egypt?

- He was sold as a slave to a rich and important man.
- He did all he could to get even with the man who bought him.
- He worked honestly and with such diligence that his owner had him live in his own house and run all his businesses.
- The owner, although being a pagan, saw that God was with Joseph, prospering him in everything he did.

2. What do you think was Joseph's secret of success in the land of Egypt?

- He got even with those who held him as a slave.
- He demanded his rights.
- He served his master with all his heart.
- He trusted God, who always blessed him.
- Because of his faithful efforts, he was rewarded with special privileges.

Read Genesis 39:6b-20

3. What did Joseph look like? What problem did this cause him?

4. How did Joseph respond to the dirty proposals of Potiphar's wife?

- Being a real man, he accepted the opportunity
- His loyalty to Potiphar and to God kept him clean.
- He gave in to the woman's desires to assure himself of having a rich and powerful friend.
- He did all he could to escape from the woman.

5. What happened to Joseph in spite of his faithfulness and determination to always do what is correct?

- He was honored by his owner.
- His master believed the woman, taking Joseph for a liar.
- He was killed on the spot.
- He was put in prison for life.

Read Genesis 39:21-23

6. In spite of injustice, what good things happened to Joseph in prison?

- The Lord caused the jailer to like and trust Joseph.
- Joseph led a successful strike in the prison.
- The jail was greatly improved under Joseph's administration.
- Joseph met people who personally knew the king
- God continued to give Joseph success in everything he did.

7. What do you consider to be the greatest problem of immigrants today?

- Loneliness in a strange land
- Lack of rights as a citizen
- Lack of sufficient communication with his family back home.
- Suffering the prejudices of those who are of a different culture.
- Legal dangers and the possibility of being arrested and deported.
- Linguistic and educational barriers.

8. What two things do you find most inspiring in the example of Joseph?

- His faith that always kept him strong and with hope.
- His moral strength in the midst of temptation.
- God's faithfulness to care for him in his tribulations.
- The way God gave him the admiration of others.
- His testimony to God in the middle of a pagan people.

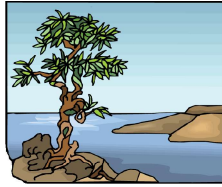
9. Personal reflections: What are the greatest injustices you and your family have suffered? How did you respond to them?



Third Bible Event

Entering the Land of Promise

Joshua 3:14-4:24

**Great Bible Truths:**

1. God prepares the way for those who chose to follow him.
2. When we completely obey the Lord, he will do the impossible.
3. It is wise to look back and always remember how God has helped you.

In most cases, immigrants are part of a great movement of people into new lands. Many times, those movements have little to do with God but are based on self-interest. Even so, in the midst of such movements there are persons who are subject to the will of God and want to use their opportunities for God's purposes and the well-being of others. Such people will be especially blessed by the Lord.

The people of Israel, now counting more than one million people, had suffered as slaves in Egypt for many years. Afterwards, they passed 40 long and difficult years wandering in a great desert. Now, at last, they were ready to enter into Canaan, a land promised to them through their father Abraham several centuries before. Now there awaited them not only the armed forces of the Canaanites, but the river Jordan which was flooded because of heavy rains. Their experience in the face of this challenge has to interest us all.

The People of Israel Enter the Land of Canaan**Read Joshua 3:14-17**

1. What do you think the people were thinking when they marched toward the turbulent waters?

- Too bad I don't know how to swim!
- Where are the boats?
- Is Joshua, our leader, crazy?
- How exciting it is to follow God!
- God never fails!

2. Several decades later, what do you think was the strongest memory of those who were children when they crossed the river on dry land?

- To see the river waters building up like a giant wall
- To see the priests standing so confidently in the middle of the river.
- To feel the dry dirt under their feet when they crossed the river.
- To see the surprise of the adults at all that happened.
- To remember the strength and faith of Joseph, their leader.

Read Joshua 4:1-9

3. Why do you think it was so important to carry the 12 rocks from the middle of the river?

- It was a physical reminder of God's great work.
- It was a place many would bring their grandchildren in coming years.
- It was just a political gesture.
- It was to show that the promises of God are as firm as the rocks.
- To remember that the 12 tribes entered the promised land as one united people.

Read Joshua 4:10-18

4. Opinions: Why do you think the priests carrying the ark of the covenant were the first to enter the river and the last to leave?

- The ark was a symbol of the presence of God.
- They and the ark gave the people a sense of security.
- The people should only go where they had evidence of the presence of God.
- The priests always wanted to be the center of attention.
- The people needed to know that God would act on their behalf.

5. Why do you most think the people had such respect for Joshua?

- He was obviously the leader chosen by God.
- He obeyed God in everything God commanded him to do.
- He always helped the people to understand that God himself led them
- He was careful to erect visible monuments to the works of God.
- He did not take personal advantage of his position.

6. How would you have felt when the river started flowing behind you?

- The war of conquest is about to begin. May the Lord help us!
- If we lose the battles, there is no escape.
- How will the men of the two and one-half tribes get back to their women and children?
- God can repeat the miracle if we need to escape.
- Surely God will give us the victory in this land.

7. Personal reflections: What has most helped you to keep focused on the powerful work of God? What can you do to help you and your family remember in coming years how God brought you into a land of promise? What can you do to help others to recognize the great works of God for their well-being?



Fourth Bible Event

**Tribulations That
Bring Great Changes**

Ruth 1:9-22

**Great Bible Truths:**

1. When God's people are separated from family, God gives them special friends.
2. A faithful friend is a special gift of God.
3. Shared tribulations can bring people closer together.

Throughout history, most immigrants have said that they left their homeland because of some great need. Millions of people have been uprooted from their lands because of war. Other millions left for different lands because of hunger. Many more would say that they did not leave because of danger, but their well-being required that they take the great risks that face immigrants.

The Bible speaks of many such people. A most touching story is that of two women of two different lands and cultures who shared a tragedy. Both women learned what it is to leave their homeland for strange lands. And both could give testimony that God led them through their great tribulations and brought them "home" to where he had great plans and purposes for them. (Ruth became the great grandmother of King David, and the Messiah would be her descendant. Matthew 1:5)

Naomi and Ruth**Read Ruth 1:1-9**

1. Why did Naomi's family have to leave Bethlehem and cross a great desert to move to Moab? How do you think the family felt when they left their native land? What kind of problems do you think they encountered in Moab, a land of idolators?

2. When do you think Naomi felt the greatest sense of loss?

- When, because of hunger, she had to leave her homeland, her family and all her friends to go live in a strange and pagan land.
- When her husband died, leaving her with two pagan daughters-in-law.
- When she had to say goodbye to her daughters-in-law and make the trip alone.

Read Ruth 1:10-15

3. Why do you think Ruth told her widowed daughters-in-law to remain in Moab?

- She wanted to save them the pain of leaving family and all that was familiar.
- She knew that she could neither support nor give them new husbands.
- She didn't get along well with them.
- She loved the two young women and wanted the best for them.

4. Why do you think Orpha turned around and went back to Moab?

- She took Naomi's words to heart.
- She didn't like Naomi.
- Perhaps she was thinking of the sadness of her family.
- She didn't care for the idea of going to a land with different customs and language.
- She was more interested in her well-being than that of Naomi.

5. Which of Ruth's promises to Naomi do you consider to be the most profound?

- She would go with her and stay with her wherever she decided.
- She would accept Naomi's people as if they were her own.
- She would leave her pagan gods for the God of Naomi.
- Even after Naomi's death, she would stay there to be buried.

6. How appropriate do you feel this promise is to be used in a wedding?

7. What do you think was the major reason Ruth decided to go with Naomi?

- She didn't get along with her own family in Moab.
- She had the mind of a tourist and wanted to see the world.
- She saw in Naomi and her family a faith and a quality of life that she failed to see among the Moabites.
- She was moved by Naomi's sacrificial concern for her and Orpha.
- She wanted to get to know the God of Naomi and her family.

8. How do you think Naomi felt when she got back to her native land?

- She complained that the Lord had afflicted her.
- She gave thanks to God for Ruth's loyalty.
- Her friends' words of sympathy made her feel sorry for herself.
- She worried about how she and Ruth would make a living.
- She was very sincere when she said, "Just call me Mrs. Bitter!"

9. What impresses you the most in this true-life story?

- To realize that, across the centuries, other families have suffered because of the need to leave their families and homeland.
- To see the profound loyalty of two people who were united in trials.
- To observe how God blesses his people in the midst of their tribulations.
- To see how easy it is to blame God for trials but not thank him for blessings.
- To realize how wonderful the relationship can be between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law.

10. Personal reflections: In the absence of many of your family members, who have you found to be like family to you? What would you like to do to help other immigrants who feel alone and without any family? What does God want you to do?



Fifth Bible Event

**Resisting Temptations
in a Strange Land**

Daniel 1:1-21

**Great Bible Truths**

1. God honors those who honor him.
2. God always provides a way of escape from the temptations that face us.
3. The good example of one person leads others to act in the same way.

It is possible that immigrants experience more temptations than any other group of people. When they leave their family and community and find themselves alone in a new place, it may be less difficult to do what they would never have done back home. They encounter opportunities to do well, and also to do what is wrong. Wrong-doing can easily destroy their dreams. The real potential of any immigrant is made possible when he or she determines to live as God wants. Then, God will do his great work in their lives.

The small kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Babylonians who took the best educated of the young men to Babylonia. They planned to train them in the law and customs of the Babylonians and use their help in governing the growing empire. These young men were offered many opportunities and benefits. Even so, there were customs that were prohibited by Jewish law. Most of the young men were willing to change their values and become like the Babylonians in everything. Four young men, however, maintained their principles, no matter what the cost. It was not an accident that they became the greatest of the future leaders of the empire.

Daniel Determines Not to Contaminate Himself**Read Daniel 1:1-5**

1. What was the king's attitude about these special Jewish young men?
 - He believed that their special abilities could help enrich the empire.
 - He despised them for being foreigners.
 - He realized that education was the key to making them valuable.
 - He believed that the people he conquered were as valuable as their gold.

Read Daniel 1:6-7

2. Why do you suppose the official gave new names to the young men?
 - To help them forget that they were Jews.
 - To give them better acceptance by the Babylonians they would lead.
 - To show the young men that they belonged to the king.
 - To help them understand they were to start life over again.

Read Daniel 1:8-16

3. Describe Daniel's attitude in the midst of this new situation.
 - He decided from the beginning that he would not contaminate himself.
 - He was rebellious, wanting to disobey the king
 - He recognized that God had given him the favorable attitude of the official.
 - His attitude was positive; therefore, three others followed his example.
4. What do you suspect most impressed the official about the four young men?
 - They had such strong convictions about what they would eat or drink.
 - The other young men had no such convictions.
 - Daniel was considerate of the official, desiring him no harm.
 - The four young men believed strongly in their God, whom they obeyed.
 - The four young men ended up more healthy and handsome than the others.

Read Daniel 1:17-20

5. What special ability did God give Daniel? What special abilities did he give to all four? Opinions: Do you think that students who dedicate themselves to God will be more successful than those who simply please themselves? Why or why not?

6. Why do you think the king considered these four young men were ten times wiser than all the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom?
 - Because God himself had given them their wisdom.
 - Because the magicians and enchanters were so superstitious.
 - Because the four were dedicated to doing what was right and not just what was convenient.
 - Because they were Jews and not Babylonians.
7. What impresses you most about this story?
 - To see the lives and convictions of these men under fire.
 - To see how Daniel had such an effect on the other three.
 - To feel disgust for the majority of young men who lived without convictions.
 - To see how the Lord touched the sentiments of the official and of the king.
 - To imagine how splendid the four must have looked.

8. What do you think is the greatest challenge of immigrants where you live?
 - To find favor with people of importance and authority in the land.
 - To find work and means of self-support.
 - To resist the temptations that are so strong when away from family.
 - To not serve money, but to serve God above everything else.

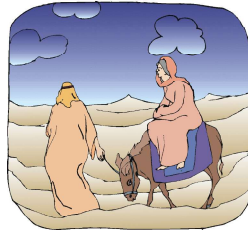
9. Personal reflections: What has been most difficult in your life as an immigrant? Has being an immigrant distanced yourself from God or brought you closer to him? What can you do to help the faith of other immigrants? What will you do?



Sixth Bible Event

Jesus Immigrant Family

Luke 2:1-7, Matthew 2:1-23

**Great Bible Truths**

1. God chose for his only Son to be born of immigrants.
2. God guides and protects every immigrant who lives for him.
3. God has great purposes for his immigrant families.

To be an immigrant can make one to feel strange and very different from others. Even so, in every century and in most places in the world, there are and have been many immigrants. It is true that immigrants may not be well understood by others. It is very significant that the Son of God was born into an immigrant family. That family, like many other immigrants today, were not primarily looking for a better life. Instead, they were simply trying to survive. No matter why one is an immigrant, it is important to know that the Lord understands us, having endured every kind of trial. This he did for us.

The Immigrant Journeys of Joseph, Mary and Jesus**Read Luke 2:1-7**

1. If this event happened today, what would you make for the headlines?

- GOVERNMENT DECREE BRINGS HARDSHIP
- TOWN CLOSES DOORS TO EXPECTANT MOTHER
- BABY BORN IN A STABLE
- ROUGH START FOR A FAMILY

2. Which of these experiences do you think Mary would most remember?

- Being afraid her baby would be born while on the road.
- The untiring efforts of her husband to help her.
- To start off married life with such trials.
- To remember her family's tears when she and Joseph left Nazareth.
- The 120 kilometer (70 miles) trip on a burro when she was about to give birth.
- The disappointment of not finding a single house that would receive them.

Read Matthew 2:1-8

3. What would have most captured your attention when the wise men spoke to the king and the scholars?

- The strange appearance of the visitors.
- That some foreigners thought the Jewish king had been born.
- The mystery of a star that brought them to the palace.
- The deceitful friendliness of the murderous king.
- The certainty of the Bible scholars that the Messiah had to be born in Bethlehem.

Read Matthew 2:9-15

4. What do you suspect impressed Joseph the most at this time?

- The sudden arrival of such special men who came to worship the little boy.
- The Lord's appearance, warning him to escape with the mother and child.
- The night-time escape, fearing pursuit by the king's rampaging soldiers.
- The sudden 600 kilometer (360 miles) trip, with no time for preparations.
- The unexpected and timely gift of gold that covered the costs of the move.

Read Matthew 2:16-18

5. How could the king have dared order the murder of all the little boys in a town?

- He was an absolute monarch, with power of life and death over every citizen.
- He was a typical Roman ruler.
- It was a time of such violence that such a massacre would not surprise anyone.
- He was insane, and everyone knew it.
- Satan moved him to do something the people could never forget.

Read Matthew 2:19-23

6. What do you think is most significant in these verses?

- The immigrant family had to move a third time.
- God guided the family in every stage.
- The family always had to be careful to avoid falling into murderous hands.
- This trip fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would come from Egypt to Israel.

7. Of what you have read, what impresses you the most about this story?

- To realize how much the Lord's immigrant family suffered.
- To witness how the Lord protected and cared for a family that served him.
- To understand that the mortal dangers they faced was a part of God's plan to provide salvation for me.
- To see that in spite of tribulations, God has great plans for families that serve him.

Personal reflections: In what way has your study of this series helped you most? Would you be willing to teach this series to other immigrants? With whom could you begin? Would you like to investigate other Bible events that may have to do with the realities of your own life?

