

Creation and Promises



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middler FALL 2020

Parents, thank you for letting us partner with you in the spiritual training of your child. **Strong Kids at Home** is a weekly take-home paper designed to help you reinforce the Bible truths your child has learned in Sunday School each week.

Strong Kids at Home includes several learning activities that will provide an opportunity for extended learning and application. The following list details the features of your child's take-home paper.

- ☐ **Application Stories**— This feature takes the theme of the Bible account and portrays it in various settings. The stories include modern stories as well as historical fiction.
- ☐ **Articles**—Some quarters will have articles that help your child go deeper in his or her understanding of a theme related to the story. The articles will often include graphics and pictures to illustrate the key points in the article. Some of them may also include activities.
- ☐ **Activities**—The back page of the take-home paper always has one or two activities that reinforce key lesson points or direct the students to consider applications.
- ☐ **Measuring Growth**—The bottom righthand section of the back page is dedicated to an opportunity for you to get a synopsis of the lesson's main theme. Included are three measurables that indicate whether your child is living out the lesson truth. The measurables are a good catalyst for a conversation with your child.

Together we can help your child become strong in his or her faith and knowledge of Bible truths.

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FALL QUARTER OVERVIEW

Creation and Promises (Genesis)

UNIT 1—God Creates the World

Session	Theme
1 God Gave Us His Word	<i>God's Word tells us about God, His world, and our lives</i>
2 God Created the World	<i>God created the universe from nothing in six days.</i>
3 God Made Adam and Eve	<i>God made people in His image.</i>

UNIT 2—God Shows Mercy and Grace

Session	Theme
4 God's Grace for Adam's Sin	<i>God offers saving grace to all sinners.</i>
5 God's Grace Rescued Noah	<i>God's grace in saving Noah helps us understand salvation from sin.</i>
6 God's Mercy for the Nations	<i>God can carry out His plans no matter what.</i>

UNIT 3—God Begins His Salvation Plan

Session	Theme
7 God Promised Salvation	<i>God's Son fulfilled God's promise to bless the nations.</i>
8 God Tested Abraham's Faith	<i>God teaches us to have faith in Him.</i>
9 God Chose Jacob over Esau	<i>God is worthy of our trust no matter our circumstances.</i>
10 God Taught Jacob to Trust	<i>God wants us to trust His plans.</i>
11 God Used Joseph's Brothers	<i>God's plans will always come to pass.</i>
12 God Helped Joseph in Egypt	<i>God's plan includes His enabling presence.</i>
13 God Preserved Life	<i>God's plan is always for the good of His people.</i>

Cave of Treasure (Part 1)



Ah, but a shepherd's life is hard, wasting all his time seeking one miserable, lost goat," grumbled Muhammad Adh-Dhib.

Muhammad hooked his bare toes around footholds safe only for a goat or a hill country boy as he clambered up a cliff wall. Then he peered into another of the hundreds of limestone caves scattered throughout the rocky region.

He belonged to the Ta'amireh tribe of Bedouins. His tribe roamed the wilderness between Bethlehem and the Dead Sea in the land that is Israel today. His family earned money mostly by selling goat's milk and cheese at the marketplace in Bethlehem or by selling things they stole from passing caravans.

Muhammad climbed higher along the cliff, then complained again. "Kaaah! Who knows where that goat is?" Except for his father's wrath, he would have given up long ago.

An overhanging rock formed inviting shade. Panting, the boy flopped onto the rock ledge under it and clasped his hands under his head. He looked around, thinking, dreaming, grumbling. "Work, work, work. A boy like me should be playing among these caves and looking for treasure."

Often, as the tribe's elders squatted around evening campfires, Muhammad and other boys gathered nearby and listened to tales of treasure. "Who knows? Some of Solomon's riches might be hidden in one of those caves!"

Now Muhammad lay dreaming on the ledge. What would he

do if he discovered treasure? Well, he would no longer herd goats. He would live in town like a fellaheen (gentleman), or maybe run a general store, like the merchant Kando.

He picked up a stone and tossed it at a hole below a jutting rock. "That must be a cave, but what a small opening," he thought. When the stone fell inside that cave, instead of the usual thud of a stone falling on a sandy floor, Muhammad heard a sharp clack! He sprang toward the opening.

"Too high," he muttered. He dug his bare feet into a narrow ridge, grasped the cave's edge, and slowly pulled himself up. When his eyes were used to the darkness, he could see two rows of tall jars.

But he dropped back to the ground quickly and ran for his life. "Ayeeee!" he screamed. "That cave is the home of a jinn (spirit), for who but a desert spirit could crawl into a hole too small for a man?"

That night Muhammad went to the tent of his friend.

"I had a scare today," Muhammad said.

"What about?"

Muhammad described the cave.

Scoffing at ghosts, the friend asked, "You saw jars?"

"Yes, seven or eight."

"I'll bet they contain treasure!" his friend exclaimed.

Early the next morning the boys hurried to the cave. "See the hole up there?" said Muhammad. "I'm not sure I want to go inside."

"Ha! You're a child. Let a man go!" The older boy raced to the cave.

"Grab my feet and give me a shove." He clamped his elbows over the edge of the cave. "I'm skinny enough to squeeze through." From inside the cave, he leaned out and pulled up the reluctant Muhammad.

When curiosity grew bigger than fear, they looked first into one jar then another. "Empty," both said with disappointment.

But in the third jar they found some folds of ancient, crumbling linen; then a black, tarry substance; and beneath that, something solid. Treasure!

Continued next week.

A Special Book

What makes the Bible the most important Book of all time? Discover the answer by following the directions for changing each letter to a new one.

1. Change **B** to a letter that sounds like a drink from China.
2. Change **L** to a letter that sounds like a small green vegetable.
3. Change **H** to a letter that sounds like the opposite of out.
4. Change **M** to **S**; **J** to **R**; **Q** to **E**.
5. Change **C** to a letter that sounds like a part of the face.
6. Change **N** to the eighth letter of the alphabet.
7. Change **K** to a well-rounded letter.
8. Change **X** to **W**; **E** to **F**; **Z** to **G**.
9. If you have followed the directions carefully, there should be three remaining **Ps**. Make them all **Ds**.

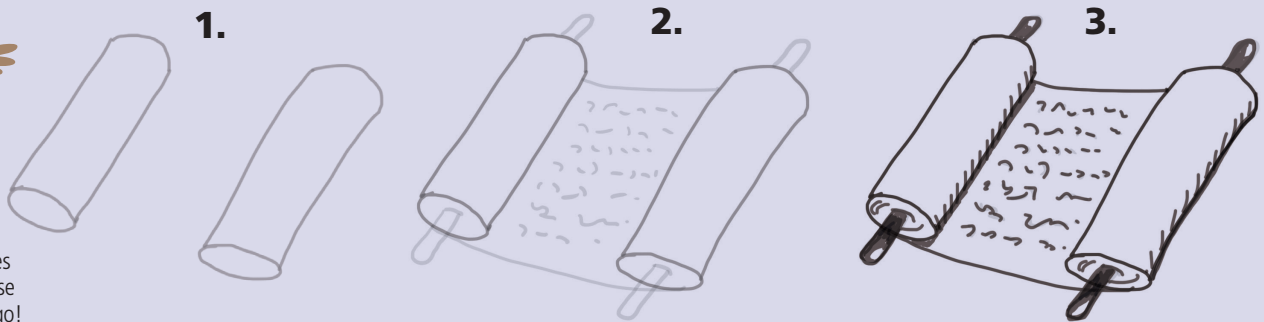


ANSWER: It is the inspired Word of God.

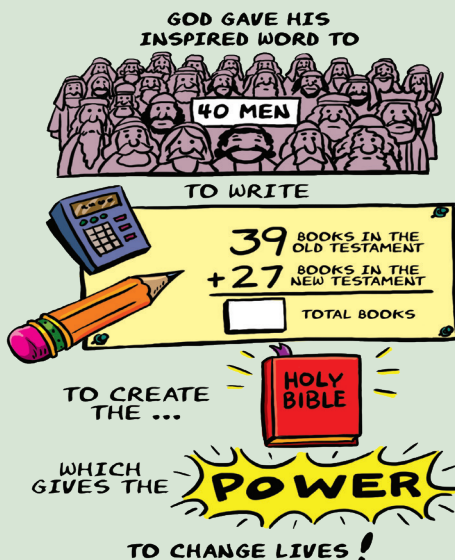
How to Draw a Scroll



Draw basic shapes lightly at first. Erase guidelines as you go!



Bible by the Numbers



Measuring Growth

The Middler lesson for this week presented the Bible as God's inspired Word. The Bible is more than a book your child grabs on Sunday morning or an app he or she opens in class. The Bible communicates God's direction for everyday life. Encourage your child to open the Bible throughout the week. Spend time with your child talking about the spiritual growth measurables for this week.

Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child responds to the Bible as God's inspired Word.

1. My child respects his or her Bible.
2. My child takes advantage of opportunities to interact with God's Word.
3. My child shows desire to know the Bible's story and teachings.

