

YOUTH



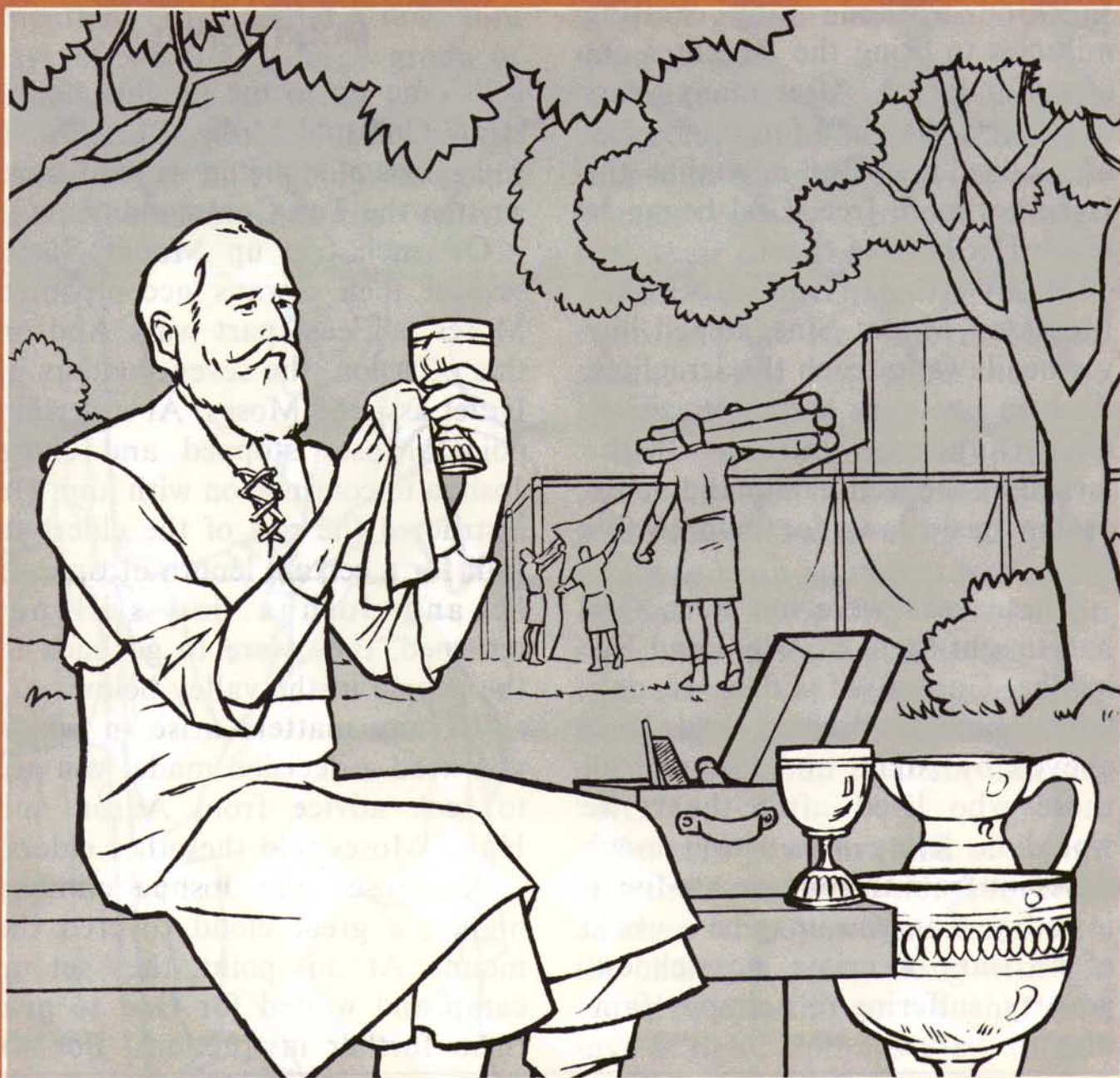
LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 6



Lessons in Obedience

LESSONS IN OBEDIENCE

Our last lesson showed us that God worked many exciting miracles to bring the Israelites out of sinful Egypt. After many years in slavery, they had forgotten most of God's laws. But now that the Israelites were free, God began to teach His laws to them.

Many times God met with Moses on Mount Sinai to tell him various laws to teach the Israelites. And on one very special occasion, God thundered out to all the Israelites the Ten Commandments, or ten basic laws for man to live by.

These laws were not new; God had taught them to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If only God's commandments had been obeyed by Adam and Eve and all those who lived after them, we would be living in a world much different from the one we are living in today. Can you imagine a world of no wars or crime, no sickness, poverty, suffering or unhappy families?

MOSES RETURNS TO MOUNT SINAI

"Come up to me on the mountain," God told Moses. "I will give you tables of stone on which I have written the Ten Commandments."

On each trip up Mount Sinai, several men always accompanied Moses, at least part way. And on this occasion, the seventy elders of Israel assisted Moses. At a certain point, Moses stopped and chose Joshua to continue on with him. He instructed the rest of the elders to wait for a certain length of time. If he and Joshua had still not returned, they were to go back to the people in the valley below.

"If any matters arise in which you need a decision made, you are to seek advice from Aaron and Hur," Moses told the other elders.

As Moses and Joshua climbed higher, a great cloud covered the mount. At this point, they set up camp and waited for God to give them further instructions. For six

days they waited, and finally, on the seventh day, God called out to Moses to come farther up the mount through the cloud.

Meanwhile, the elders had grown impatient after only a few hours wait. They decided to return to the valley below. There they were met by an equally restless and impatient crowd. After a few more days of waiting, a large group of Israelites came to Aaron.

“Where is Moses?” they asked. “Maybe he isn’t going to come back. We need a god that we can

see, to guide us. Let us make one.”

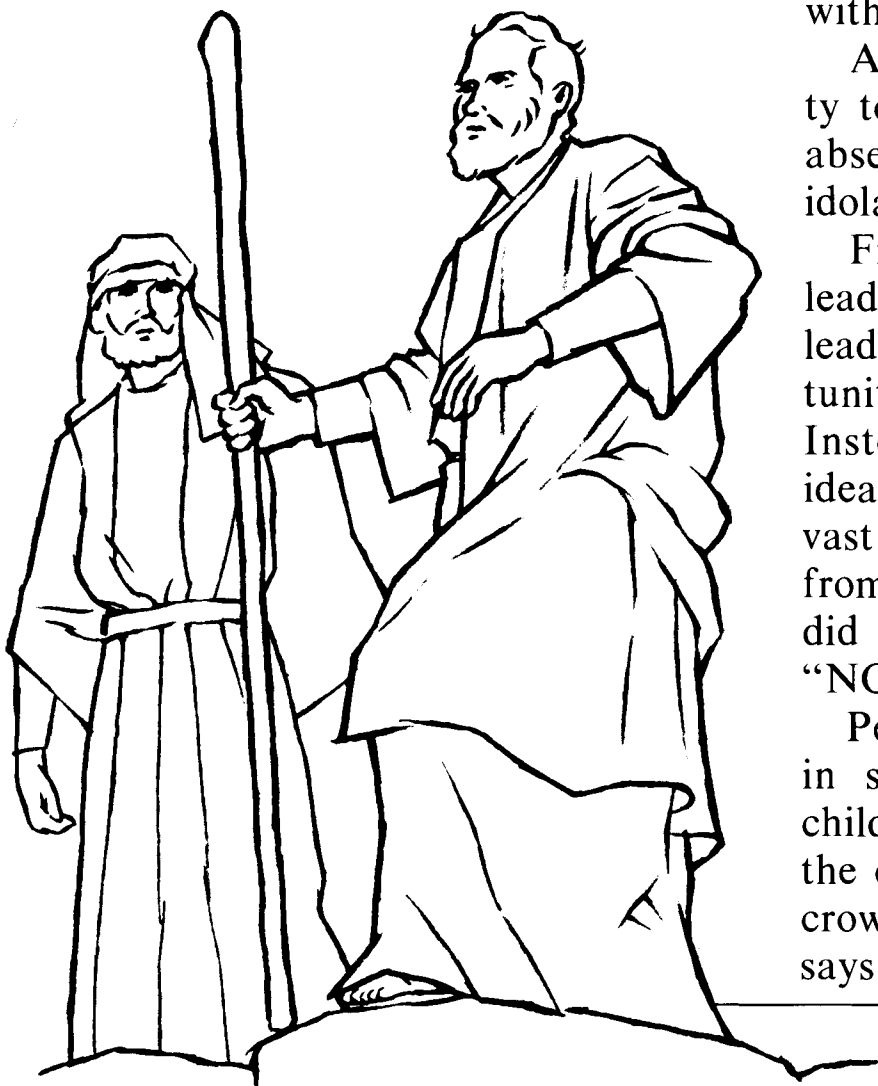
Even though they had left Egypt, many of the Israelites still had not turned from their idolatrous ways. Pressured by the people, Aaron gave in to their demands and allowed them to proceed and make an idol. He told the people, “Take off your golden earrings and bring them to me.”

Great mounds of gold were collected, melted down and re-shaped into a giant calf. The people became very excited and pleased with their new god.

Aaron was given the responsibility to lead the Israelites in Moses’ absence—but not back into the idolatry they had come out of!

From this example of Aaron’s leadership—or in this case, lack of leadership—God gives us an opportunity to learn an important lesson. Instead of stopping this foolish idea, Aaron let the pressure of a vast number of people keep him from making the right decision. He did not stand up to them and say “NO”!

Perhaps you can think of a time in school or with neighborhood children when you were faced with the choice of going along with the crowd or standing up for what God says is right. Perhaps they wanted



you to go along with a lie about something so none of you would be punished. Or, maybe you were dared to take something that did not belong to you. Write about your experience and any lessons you learned on these lines below.

MOSES RETURNS

Not only did Aaron go along with building the idol, he even set the next day aside as a special feast day. The next morning, everyone arose very early, anxiously bringing offerings to put on the altar that had been built at the foot of the golden calf.

As the Israelites worshipped their golden idol, God abruptly ended His meeting with Moses. He commanded Moses to immediately return to the valley below.

“Go now, Moses,” God commanded sharply. “Those people you have brought out of Egypt have already gone back to their sinful ways. They have built and worshipped a golden calf and made sacrifices to it. Oh, they are so

stubborn and rebellious! I should just destroy them all and make a great nation from you!”

Fearing that God would destroy the Israelites, Moses begged, “Oh, Eternal, you have brought them this far already! Don’t let their coming out of Egypt be for no reason. Please give them another chance!”

As Moses started down the mountain, he carried with him the tables of stone on which God had written the Ten Commandments. He soon arrived at the place where he had left Joshua forty days and forty nights earlier, and found him still waiting. From that place, they could hear the shouts and singing from the people below.

The closer they came to the camp, the angrier Moses became. Soon he saw the calf and the large group of people gathered around it, dancing wildly and bowing down before it. At that moment his anger became so intense that he raised the tables of stone above his head and brought them crashing down into many pieces at his feet!

Having ordered the immediate destruction of the idol, Moses confronted Aaron. “Why did you let such a terrible thing happen?” questioned Moses.

Aaron realized his mistake and

was very sorry for having given in to the sinful desires of the people. And as God commanded Moses, those who had taken part in this idol worship were slain.

God renewed his covenant or agreement with His people. And Moses made two tables of stone for God to again write the Ten Commandments by His own hand.

THE TABERNACLE

Soon after this serious problem had been dealt with, Moses carried out the instructions that were given to him on the mount. God had given him lengthy and very detailed plans for building a temporary Tabernacle. It was to be a huge tent where God could be present during the Israelites' journey to Canaan.

God required various materials to be used which were to be collected from all the Israelites. All measurements, fabric and color selections were to be made exactly as God specified. In fact, there were so many details that seven chapters of Exodus list the instructions for the building of the Tabernacle.

Israelites by the thousands brought the necessary materials to Moses while tents were immediately built to store all the materials until they were needed.

MATERIALS FOR THE TABERNACLE

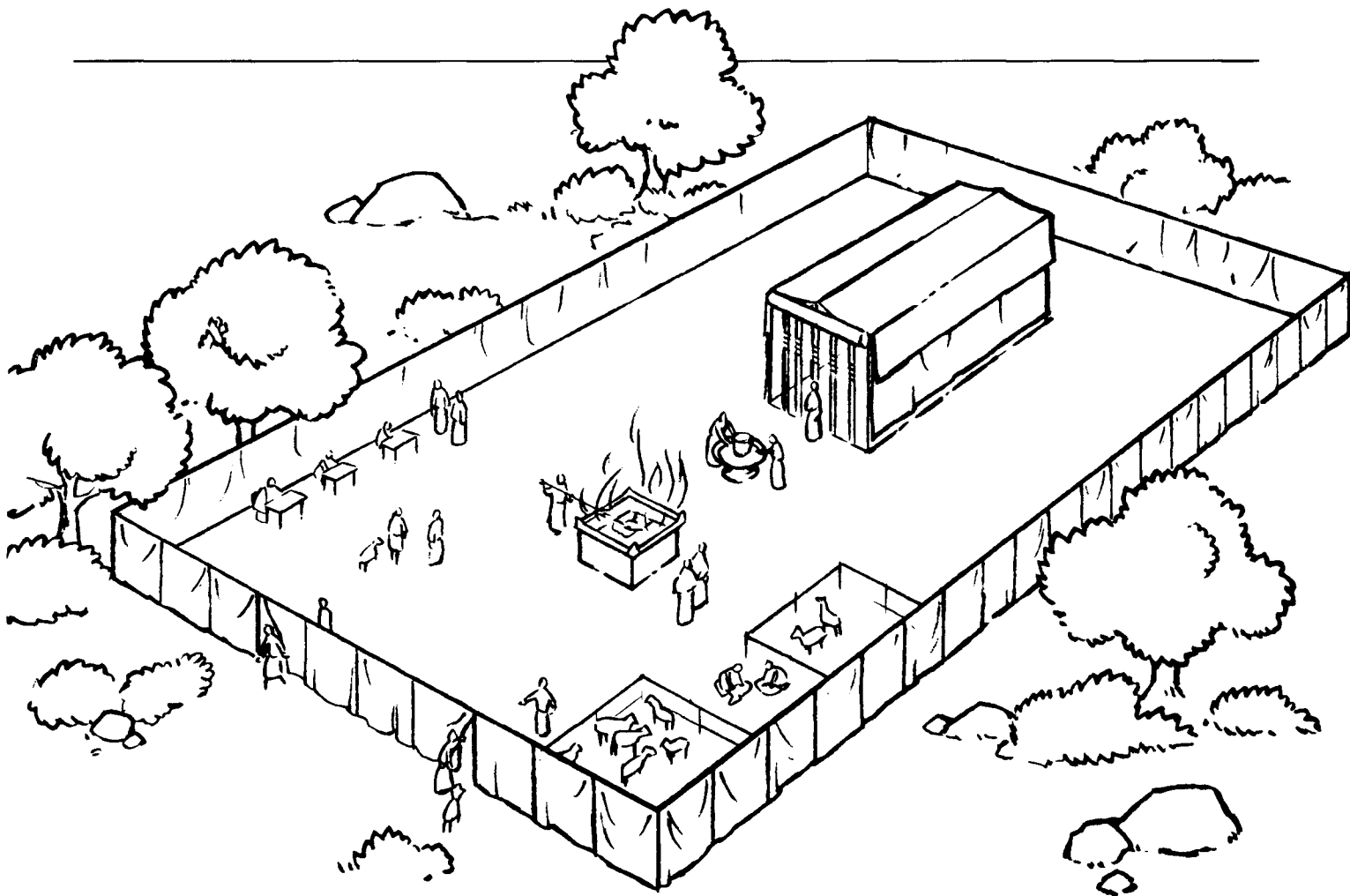
Look through Exodus chapters 25-31 and see how many different metals, colors, fabrics and other various materials (such as goat hair) you can find that were used in constructing the Tabernacle and items in it. Write them in the appropriate column. If you need more room, use a separate sheet of paper.

METALS	COLORS	FABRICS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Moses directed Bezaleel, a grandson of Hur from the tribe of Judah, to be in charge. Bezaleel's assistant would be Aholiab of the tribe of Dan.

These two men were highly skilled in all areas of building and decorating. And, equally important, God knew their good character would result in the Tabernacle being built exactly as planned—a building of *quality*!

After months of careful labor, the Tabernacle was finally finished. Moses looked upon it with great



satisfaction, knowing that it had been made as God had instructed. So Moses called all the workers together and praised them for a fine job, and asked God's blessing on them.

The Tabernacle must have been quite a thrilling sight to behold. It was erected in a large fenced area with space between the Tabernacle and the fence, known as the Court of the Tabernacle.

There was only one entrance into the court, and the altar was placed just inside that entrance. The laver, a huge bowl made of brass, was

located between the altar and the Tabernacle. It contained water in which the priests washed their hands and feet before performing their duties.

The Tabernacle itself, had two rooms. The first room, called The Holy Place, contained several symbolic items. The second room, somewhat smaller, was called The Holy of Holies. It was a sacred area, entered only by the high priest, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Located in The Holy of Holies was a gold covered wooden chest

called the Ark of the Covenant. Mounted on its solid gold lid, called the Mercy Seat, were two golden figures. The two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments were inside the chest.

With the Tabernacle completed, Moses brought Aaron and Aaron's sons into the court. As God directed, Moses anointed them with oil and they were ordained to be priests in the service of the Tabernacle. When everything was in order, the lamps were lit, and sweet incense was burning, a very interesting event occurred.

The cloud of God that rested on Mount Sinai suddenly began moving toward the Tabernacle. And from that time on, the cloud of God hovered over it during the day, and became fire over it at night.

Just as God was very exact in His plans for the building of the Tabernacle, so He was also very exact in His instructions for the offerings. There were many types, such as burnt offerings, peace offerings, food offerings, sin offerings and others. These offerings were designed by God to teach Israel the habit of obeying Him. The offerings also taught the need for a Savior to come who would pay for the sins of the world.

Offerings were to take place

twice daily, and only unblemished animals were to be used for burnt offerings. Their perfect or unblemished quality was important because they were a symbol of the Savior who would later come to die for the sins of all mankind. And since that event has occurred, the offerings are not necessary for us to perform today (Galatians 3:19).

TWO PRIESTS REBEL

Moses made it very clear to Aaron and his sons that God wanted all Tabernacle duties carried out exactly and solemnly. Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu, are an example of how serious the sin of disobedience is to God.

One morning Nadab and Abihu arrived at the Tabernacle as usual for their duties as priests.

"The fire on the altar has burned down very low," said Abihu.

"It's almost time for Father to come to take some live coals into the holy place," said Nadab worriedly. "We must hurry and get some quickly!"

"I have an idea," suggested Abihu. "There is a campfire burning not far from the gate. Let's fill our censers with the live coals from that fire."

Both of them knew that the only

fire that was to be used in The Holy Place was the sacred fire from the altar. Nevertheless, they filled their censers with the “strange” fire and returned to the court.

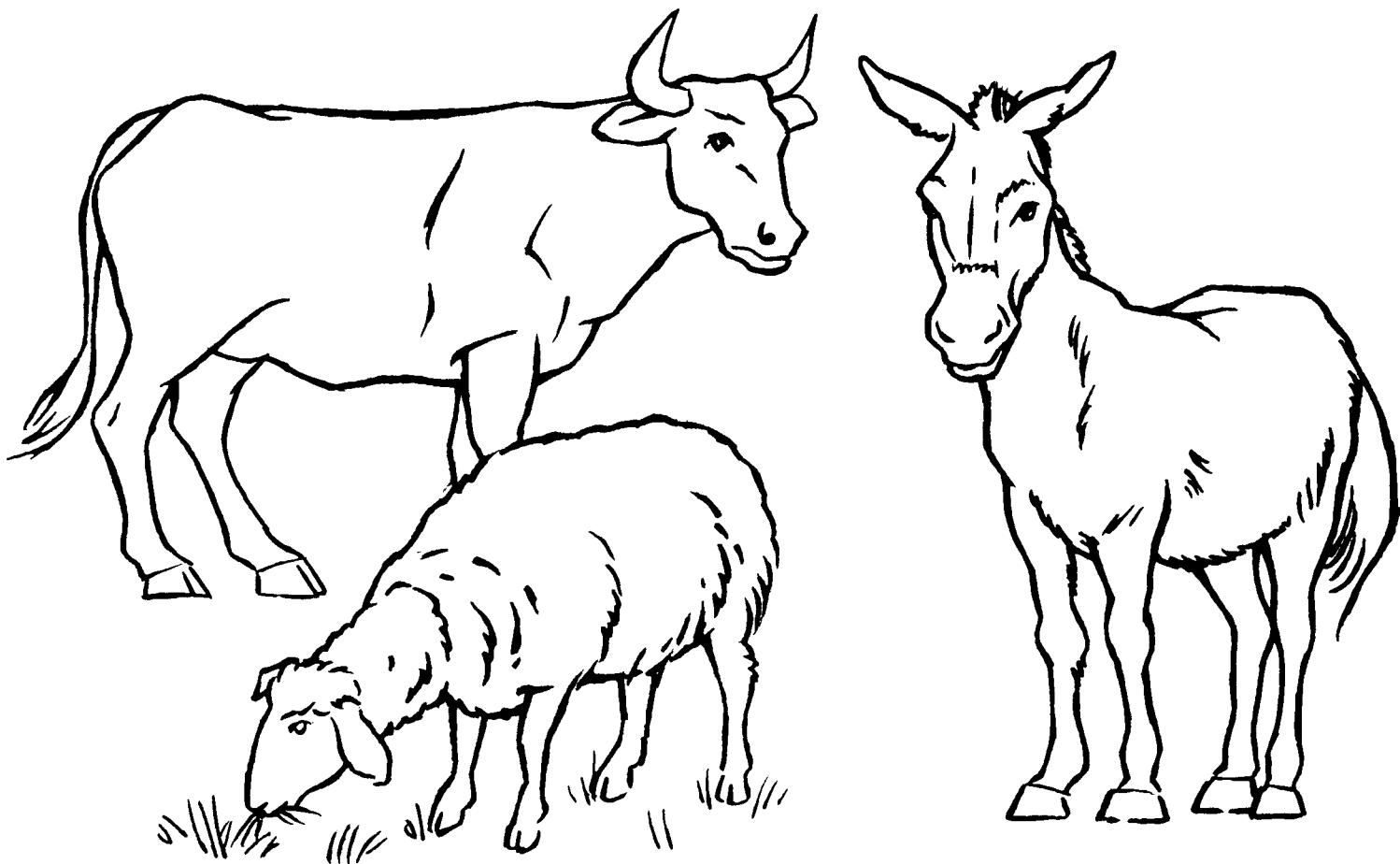
“We can’t wait for our father any longer,” Abihu said impatiently. “These coals will soon burn out.”

The two brothers walked slowly toward the Tabernacle and into the room called The Holy Place. As they sprinkled the incense on the

coals that were in their censers, they realized the terrible thing they had done.

Fearfully, they ran back toward the curtained entrance. But they had already disobeyed, and hissing shafts of fire shot out from the inner room and struck the men so that they died.

What a terrible penalty to pay—but God punished them just as He warned that He would punish them if they appeared before Him without proper regard



for His Tabernacle rules. It was an example showing that we must all learn that God means what He says.

Thereafter, Aaron's other two sons, Eleazar and Ithamar performed duties of the Tabernacle in place of their dead brothers.

GOD GIVES HEALTH LAWS

Since God had chosen the Israelites to be His people, He also wanted them to be a healthy and productive nation. So He revealed laws to them that would insure better health. These laws reveal which types of animal flesh are good for people to eat, and which are not.

We usually think of the word "clean" as a word describing something that has been washed and is free from dirt. But God used the words "clean" and "unclean" in a different way.

When God created the animals, birds, and fish, He created two kinds—those that are good for people to eat and those that are unfit for people to eat. God calls these animals "clean" and "unclean."

Just as the commandments were known before God gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai, so was the knowledge of clean and unclean

CLEAN AND UNCLEAR ANIMALS

Below are the names of animals listed in categories of clean and unclean, but they are written in code form. Break the code by replacing each letter with the letter that comes before it in the alphabet. Write each correct word in blank above each coded word.

CLEAN	UNCLEAN
1. _____ MBNC	5. _____ SBCCJU
2. _____ EFFS	6. _____ TRVJSSFMT
3. _____ DBUUMF	7. _____ EPHT
4. _____ NPPTF	8. _____ IPSTFT

meats. Noah knew about them.

In an earlier lesson, we learned that God told Noah to take on the ark seven pairs of clean animals and one pair of unclean animals. Do you know why Noah took so many more clean animals? So he and his family would have plenty to eat as well as have enough of each kind of animal to reproduce themselves and keep their kind alive after the Flood. Since the unclean animals would not be eaten, one

pair—a male and a female—was enough to bear young and keep their kind alive.

In Leviticus 11, God explains the rules for deciding whether an animal is clean or unclean.

God said, “You may eat any animal that has a parted hoof and chews a cud.”

In the picture on page 8, you can see the difference in the appearance between a parted and unparted hoof.

Some animals, such as cattle, have the ability to hastily eat food, then later bring bits of food back up from their stomachs to be chewed more thoroughly. Those bits of food are called cuds. A camel chews the cud, but is still unclean because its hoofs are not divided. So, to be considered clean, an animal must satisfy both requirements.

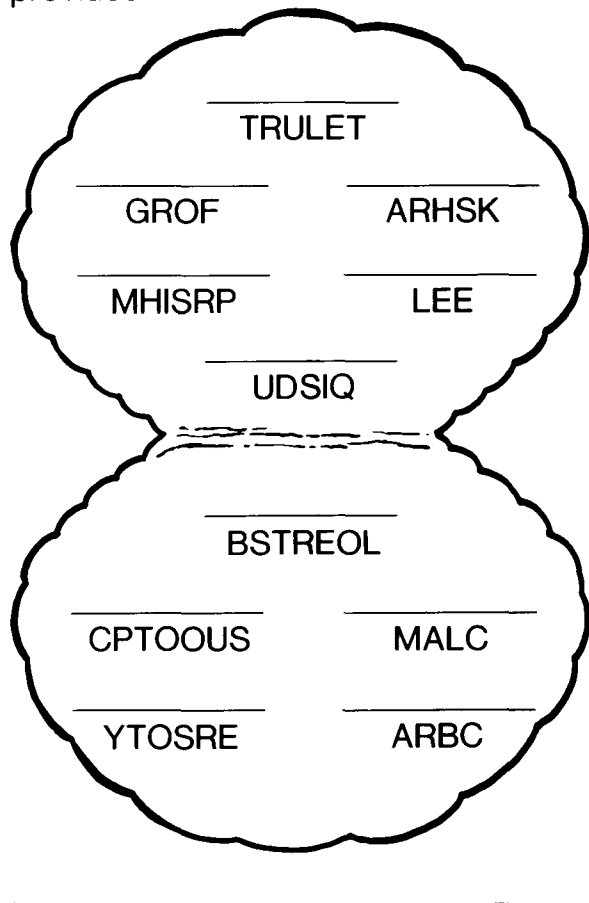
WATER CREATURES

God also made it very easy for us to know which water creatures may be eaten. In order to be clean, they must pass two tests: they must have fins and overlapping scales.

Many unclean varieties of water creatures are considered special foods and are often very expensive. Yet, many of them are nothing more than scavengers feeding

UNCLEAN WATER CREATURES

See how many names of unclean water creatures you can find by unscrambling the letters in the shell, and writing them in the blanks provided.



mainly on decaying carcasses at the bottom of the ocean.

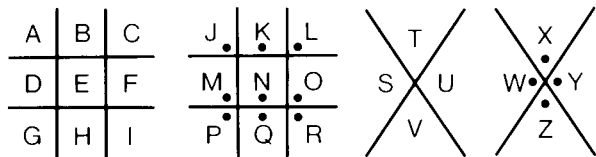
BIRDS

The Bible doesn't give specific rules for determining clean birds. It merely lists the different kinds of birds that are unclean.

The only clean birds God specifi-

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN BIRDS

Use the following code to spell out the names of the birds in each section. You may need to ask your mother or father to help you to understand how the symbols relate to the letters.



Example: L J V = CAT

CLEAN

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UNCLEAN

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cally names are the quail, dove and the pigeon. But when we examine them, we can see that they have certain characteristics in common. And for a bird to be clean, it *must* have all the characteristics, since unclean birds lack one or more of the characteristics.

In this lesson we will not dwell on those specific characteristics, but will merely familiarize ourselves with examples of birds in both the clean and unclean categories.

God also named other creatures considered to be clean. Look up Leviticus 11:20-23 and list some of those creatures on the lines below.

Today, most people eat many of the creatures that God says should not be eaten. This is just another area in which man is disobedient to his Creator.

Whether the circumstances involved idols or offerings in the Tabernacle, or clean and unclean meats, the Israelites had many opportunities to learn lessons in obedience. If only they had learned those lessons, they could have reaped the wonderful blessings that God gives to those who love Him and keep His Commandments!

BIBLE MEMORY | Samuel 15:22-23

MYSTERY PUZZLE

Complete each statement or phrase by writing the correct answer in the blanks of the puzzle to the right. You may have to look up some of the scriptures in your Bible to find the answers. When you are finished, the letters in the box, when read from top to bottom, will identify a subject about which God instructed Moses.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|---------------|
| 1. "... two ____ of gold ..." (Ex. 25:18) | 1. _ _ _ _ _ | | 1. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. ____ waited patiently for Moses for forty days and forty nights. | 2. _ _ _ _ _ | | 2. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 3. "... pure oil ____ beaten for the light ..." (Ex. 27:20) | 3. _ _ _ _ _ | | 3. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4. "... forty sockets of ____ ..." (Ex. 26:21) | 4. _ _ _ _ _ | | 4. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 5. "And Moses went into the midst of the ____ ..." (Ex. 24:18) | 5. _ _ _ _ _ | | 5. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. Some Israelites still desired to worship ____. | 6. _ _ _ _ _ | | 6. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 7. "____ stones ..." (Ex. 25:7) | 7. _ _ _ _ _ | | 7. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8. The calf was made of ____. | 8. _ _ _ _ _ | | 8. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. ____ allowed the golden calf to be built. | 9. _ _ _ _ _ | | 9. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 10. The people offered their earrings to make a golden ____. | 10. _ _ _ _ _ | | 10. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 11. God wrote the commandments on two tables of ____. | 11. _ _ _ _ _ | | 11. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 12. ____ was one of the seventy elders of Israel. | 12. _ _ _ _ _ | | 12. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 13. "... fine twined ____ ..." (Ex. 26:1) | 13. _ _ _ _ _ | | 13. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 14. "... in the two ends of the mercy ____" (Ex. 25:18). | 14. _ _ _ _ _ | | 14. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 15. Moses went up to Mount ____ to meet with God. | 15. _ _ _ _ _ | | 15. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 16. "... a grate of network of ____ ..." (Ex. 27:4) | 16. _ _ _ _ _ | | 16. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 17. "the swine ... he is ____ to you" (Lev. 11:7). | 17. _ _ _ _ _ | | 17. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 18. Seventy ____ of Israel accompanied Moses part of the way up the mount. | 18. _ _ _ _ _ | | 18. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 19. One thing clean fish must have is ____. | 19. _ _ _ _ _ | | 19. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 20. "... ten ____ of fine twined linen ..." (Ex. 26:1) | 20. _ _ _ _ _ | | 20. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 21. Clean animals must have a parted hoof and chew a ____. | 21. _ _ _ _ _ | | 21. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 22. Also, clean fish must have overlapping ____. | 22. _ _ _ _ _ | | 22. _ _ _ _ _ |
| 23. "... a ____ of pure gold ..." (Ex. 25:31) | 23. _ _ _ _ _ | | 23. _ _ _ _ _ |