

Life in Bible times: Outcomes and activities

God is Truth Foundation Year

Spiritual Awareness: Jesus, the willing and obedient servant

When children understand that the Bible events happened in a real place, at a real time, they will not mistake the events as fiction or fairy stories, but know that these events are true. They will learn about people, homes, food, water and customs of people in Israel Bible times.

Values: Our response to 'God is Truth'

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

Outcomes: Students will

- Understand that Bible stories happened in a real place, at a real time in history
- Find Israel and Egypt on a map of the world or globe
- Experience the geography and culture of the land of Israel and surrounding countries
- Discover how people of Bible lands lived in the past – their food, homes, means of getting water, clothes
- Describe the plants and animals of Bible lands

Key Questions

Where did people of the Bible live?

What were their homes like?

What did they wear?

What did they eat?

What was the weather like?

How did they travel around?

What animals lived in Bible lands?

Activities

- Find Israel on a map of the world.
- Find pictures of a desert. Explain that some of Israel is desert and another country, nearby, is Egypt, is also desert. A desert is a place where there is not much rain. Only certain plants can grow – ones that are really tough. The ground is sandy and rocky and the sun makes it very hot.

Desert Plants: Father God created some plants that can live very well in the desert. Some have very long roots to go a long way underground and find water. Others store water inside them, like cacti. Some cacti have spikes to protect them from being eaten by animals.

Desert animals: God also made animals that can live in the desert. **Reptiles:** snakes and lizards have a scaly skin that protects them from the heat. They can hide under the sand or between rocks to keep cool during the day, and come out to catch food at night when it's cooler

Camels: A camel's feet are wide (as large as a dinner plate!) and padded to protect it from the heat. A camel has 3 eyelids, long eyelashes and thick eyebrows to keep the sand out of their eyes. Their nose and ears can open and shut; they have strong teeth that can chew cacti. Camels

can walk a long way and carry heavy loads. They can travel for days without food and even water food. People of Bible times kept sheep, cows and donkeys.

Make a Bible times scene. Set up a sand tray and provide plastic animals and pegs for the people. Children can dress the peg-people in small pieces of cloth, secured with rubber bands. Find plastic sheep, cows, donkey, camel. Add rocks and plants.



Make a cactus mosaic-collage with little pieces of tissue paper



Make desert animal footprints in wet sand or playdough.

Getting water in Bible times

We cannot live without water for very long. God created the earth with a lot of water! Show a globe if possible.

Why is water important?

Drinks: Our bodies need water. God made us that way and provided water to drink. We can drink it just as it is, or we can make other drinks. But pure water is the healthiest drink.

Cooking: How do we use water in cooking?

Washing: How do we use water to keep ourselves clean? How about keeping our clothes clean?

Where do we find water? In seas, lakes and rivers. It also comes from rain and melted snow. The ocean is full of salty water. But we can't drink salty water. Water is also found underground. In some places, people have to get their water from a well. This is how people got water in Bible times. There were no taps in the homes.

They had to go to the well to get water. There were no electric lights. They had to use lamps that burned oil to make a light. They cooked on an open fireplace.



Clothes and houses

People of Bible times wore different clothes to us. They wore long robes and most had cloth over their head to keep the sun off. Their homes were different too. They had a flat roof where they could go up to, and sleep there at night because it was cooler than in the house. There were steps on the outside of the house so they could get up there. Some houses were stone; others are made of sun-dried bricks. The walls were thick, and only had small windows so as not to let too much sun in.



The student can make a house in Bible times: Use a cardboard box. Add stairs. Stick on doors and window shapes that are rounded at the top.