

## Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God dwells with his people
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Numbers 1-10
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Numbers 9:15-10:36</b> The first 10 chapters of Numbers sets out the preparations needed prior to the Israelites leaving Mt Sinai, for their journey to the promised land. The focus is on God’s presence with his people (signified by the tabernacle placed in the middle of the camp, and the cloud settling over the tabernacle). We are also told about what is required in order that God may dwell among his people (i.e. – the setting apart of priests, and reiteration of moral and ceremonial purity of the people). God’s presence is made very clear to the Israelites through multiple visual and even audible signs (the tabernacle, the cloud, the silver trumpets and the ark). He makes a clear, visible commitment to dwell amongst his people – to protect, lead and guide them. This sets the scene for the rest of Numbers, which tells of one failure after another of God’s people to appreciate the significance of God dwelling among his people. As we travel on our own journey towards our final home, we know God dwells with us even more intimately, and can look forward to seeing him face to face.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is still with his people to provide for and lead them.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> For the story, get 12 pieces of card folded in half (to represent tents). Get another piece of card to make a bigger tent (tabernacle) and a piece of cotton wool to represent the cloud. Tents were arranged with 3 tribes each to the north, south, east and west of the tabernacle in the middle.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>Watch “The Bible Project” overview of Numbers  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlrMZFgo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlrMZFgo</a></p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b>            1. Rescued, but with a journey ahead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Briefly recap the rescue from Egypt (plagues and Red Sea crossing)</li> <li>➤ The Israelites were still camped at Mt Sinai, where God had given Moses the 10 Commandments, and told the Israelites about how to build the tabernacle.</li> <li>➤ Now they are getting ready to set out on their journey to their new home.</li> <li>➤ Show on a map where they needed to go.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What sorts of problems might the Israelites encounter on their journey?</i></li> <li>➤ They had to travel a long way (on foot) with small children and sick people. They had to cross a desert with very little food and water. They didn’t have any maps and had never been there before, so how could they know where to go?</li> <li>• <i>Q: How might they be feeling as they anticipated setting out?</i></li> <li>➤ God had rescued his people from slavery and set them free. But they still had a difficult journey ahead of them, before they could enjoy their new home.</li> <li>➤ The bible often uses the journey of the Israelites as a picture of our journey as a Christian. When we are saved, we are set free from slavery to sin, but we are not yet at our new home in heaven. We still have a journey ahead that might be difficult and challenging in places. How can we face that journey?</li> </ul>

<p>2. God dwells with his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Have you ever felt all alone and scared? Maybe at night. Or maybe you went somewhere new, and you didn't know anyone. Imagine you were feeling alone and scared, and then your mum or dad showed up – how would you feel then?</i></li> <li>➤ The Israelites must have felt a bit like you feel when you are alone and scared. They had a difficult journey ahead and didn't know how they could face it.</li> <li>➤ God knew that they needed him with them, so he told the Israelites to arrange their tents into 4 groups of 3 (<i>arrange the card "tents" to show what this would look like</i>). Then he told them to put his own tent, called the tabernacle, in the very middle (<i>put the bigger tent in the middle</i>).</li> <li>➤ God isn't visible, but he wanted the Israelites to have something they could see, so they could be sure he was with them</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 9:15-16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How did God show the Israelites that he was with them?</i></li> <li>➤ Demonstrate with cotton wool over the "tabernacle"</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think God's people felt knowing God was with them?</i></li> <li>➤ The Israelites still had a long and dangerous journey to make, but now they knew for sure that God was with them.</li> </ul>
<p>3. God leads his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ But there was still a problem, they still didn't know how to get to their new home</li> <li>➤ But God had a plan for that as well!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 9:17-23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How did God show the Israelites the way to their new home?</i></li> <li>➤ When it was time to set out on their journey, the cloud lifted up from above the tabernacle in the middle of their camp (<i>demonstrate with cotton wool</i>). Then, the cloud would lead the way! All they had to do was follow the cloud.</li> <li>➤ The cloud was there all the time. It never left them.</li> <li>➤ God used the cloud to show his people he was always with them, and to show them which way to go.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: If we are Christians, how are we like the Israelites preparing to set out from Mt Sinai? What difficulties might we face on our journey as Christians?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read John 1:14 and Matthew 28:20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How do we know that God is with us, just as he was with the Israelites?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: How does that help us on our journey?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Revelation 21:3-4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What can we look forward to at the end of our journey?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God dwells with his people
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Numbers 1-10
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Numbers 9:15-10:36</b> The first 10 chapters of Numbers sets out the preparations needed prior to the Israelites leaving Mt Sinai, for their journey to the promised land. The focus is on God’s presence with his people (signified by the tabernacle placed in the middle of the camp, and the cloud settling over the tabernacle). We are also told about what is required in order that God may dwell among his people (i.e. – the setting apart of priests, and reiteration of moral and ceremonial purity of the people). God’s presence is made very clear to the Israelites through multiple visual and even audible signs (the tabernacle, the cloud, the silver trumpets and the ark). He makes a clear, visible commitment to dwell amongst his people – to protect, lead and guide them. This sets the scene for the rest of Numbers, which tells of one failure after another of God’s people to appreciate the significance of God dwelling among his people. As we travel on our own journey towards our final home, we know God dwells with us even more intimately, and can look forward to seeing him face to face.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is still with his people to provide for and lead them.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> For the story, get 12 pieces of card folded in half (to represent tents). Get another piece of card to make a bigger tent (tabernacle) and a piece of cotton wool to represent the cloud. Tents were arranged with 3 tribes each to the north, south, east and west of the tabernacle in the middle.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>Watch “The Bible Project” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlrMZFqo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp5MlrMZFqo</a>  OR Make the tents (fold card in half and colour) to use during the story</p>
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Rescued, but with a journey ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God’s people (the Israelites) had been prisoners in the land of Egypt. Life was very hard for them there. They had to work very hard all day in the hot sun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: How do you think the Israelites were feeling?</li> <li>• Q: Do you remember what God did about this?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ God’s people cried out to God. God heard them and rescued his people. (Briefly recap the plagues and crossing of the Red Sea) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: How do you think the Israelites felt after God rescued them?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ God brought them to Mt Sinai, where he gave them the 10 Commandments.</li> <li>➤ God promised to take his people to a new home. The problem was, their new home was very, very far away.</li> <li>➤ The road to get there was also dangerous – armies might attack them along the way. They also had to go through a desert where there wasn’t any food. And they weren’t sure of the way.</li> <li>➤ God had rescued his people. They were free! But now they had a long and dangerous journey to make before they got to their new home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: How would you feel if you were one of God’s people then?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ You would probably be happy to be free, but also a bit scared about having to make such a long and dangerous journey</li> </ul>

<p>2. God dwells with his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Have you ever been scared? Maybe at night time when its dark and you are all alone? Or maybe you have been lost. Have you ever cried out for mummy or daddy? How do you feel when they come to you?</i></li> <li>➤ The Israelites felt a bit like you feel when you are alone in the dark. A bit scared and afraid of what they had to face.</li> <li>➤ Just like you feel better when mummy or daddy comes to you, God knew that his people would feel better if they knew he was with them.</li> <li>➤ God told the Israelites to arrange their tents into 4 groups of 3 (<i>arrange the card "tents" to show what this would look like</i>). Then he told them to put his own tent, called the tabernacle, in the very middle (<i>put the bigger tent in the middle</i>).</li> <li>• <i>Q: Can we see God? So how could the Israelites know God was there?</i></li> <li>➤ We can't actually see God, so to show his people that he was really with them, God made a cloud come down over his tent (<i>demonstrate with cotton wool</i>)</li> <li>➤ Now God's people could see that God was with them, right in the middle of all their tents!</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think God's people felt knowing God was with them?</i></li> <li>➤ God's people still had a long and dangerous journey to make, but now they knew for sure that God was with them.</li> </ul>
<p>3. God leads his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ But there was still a problem, they still didn't know how to get to their new home</li> <li>➤ But God had a plan for that as well!</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 9:15-23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How did God show the Israelites the way to their new home?</i></li> <li>➤ When it was time to set out on their journey, the cloud lifted up from above the tabernacle in the middle of their camp (<i>demonstrate with cotton wool</i>)</li> <li>➤ Then, the cloud would lead the way to show them which way to go! All they had to do was follow the cloud, which is exactly what they did.</li> <li>➤ The cloud was there all the time. It never left them. When it was on top of the tabernacle, the Israelites knew they needed to camp where they were. If it lifted up and moved away, they knew it was time to continue on their journey.</li> <li>➤ God used the cloud to show his people he was always with them, and to show them which way to go.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We can't see God, but he has promised to always be with his people. If you are trusting in Jesus, then God has said he will always be with you and never leave</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Matthew 28:20b</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How do we know that God with his people?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: If you are trusting Jesus, how does knowing God is always with you help you in different situations?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God dwells with his people
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Numbers 1-10
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Numbers 9:15-10:36</b> The first 10 chapters of Numbers sets out the preparations needed prior to the Israelites leaving Mt Sinai, for their journey to the promised land. The focus is on God’s presence with his people (signified by the tabernacle placed in the middle of the camp, and the cloud settling over the tabernacle). We are also told about what is required in order that God may dwell among his people (i.e. – the setting apart of priests, and reiteration of moral and ceremonial purity of the people). God’s presence is made very clear to the Israelites through multiple visual and even audible signs (the tabernacle, the cloud, the silver trumpets and the ark). He makes a clear, visible commitment to dwell amongst his people – to protect, lead and guide them. This sets the scene for the rest of Numbers, which tells of one failure after another of God’s people to appreciate the significance of God dwelling among his people. As we travel on our own journey towards our final home, we know God dwells with us even more intimately, and can look forward to seeing him face to face.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is still with his people to provide for and lead them.</p> <p><b>Prepare for “Getting Started”:</b> For the story, get 12 pieces of card (to represent tents). Get another piece of card to make a bigger tent (tabernacle) and a piece of cotton wool to represent the cloud. Tents were arranged with 3 tribes each to the north, south, east and west of the tabernacle in the middle.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Make the tents (fold card in half) to use during the story. You could colour them different colours also.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Rescued, but with a journey ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God’s people had been prisoners in the land of Egypt. Life was very hard for them there. They had to work very hard all day in the hot sun</li> <li>● <i>Q: How do you think God’s people were feeling?</i></li> <li>➤ God’s people cried out to God and asked him to help them. God heard them and rescued his people. He freed them and brought them out of Egypt.</li> <li>● <i>Q: How do you think God’s people felt after God rescued them?</i></li> <li>➤ God promised to take his people to a new home where they wouldn’t be prisoners anymore. They would be free!</li> <li>➤ The problem was, their new home was very, very far away. In those days they didn’t have cars or trains or aeroplanes, so they had to walk to their new home</li> <li>➤ The road to get there was also dangerous – armies might attack them along the way. They also had to go through a desert where there wasn’t any food. And they weren’t sure of the way.</li> <li>➤ God had rescued his people. They were free! But now they had a long and dangerous journey to make before they got to their new home</li> <li>● <i>Q: How would you feel if you were one of God’s people then?</i></li> <li>➤ You would probably be happy to be free, but also a bit scared about having to make such a long and dangerous journey</li> </ul>

<p>2. God dwells with his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Q: Have you ever been scared? Maybe at night time when its dark and you are all alone? Have you ever cried out for mummy or daddy? How do you feel when they come into the room with you?</i></li> <li>➤ God’s people felt a bit like you feel when you are alone in the dark. A bit scared and afraid of what they had to face.</li> <li>➤ Just like you feel better when mummy or daddy comes in to your room, God knew that his people would feel better if they knew he was with them.</li> <li>➤ God told his people to arrange their tents into 4 groups (<i>arrange the card “tents” to show what this would look like</i>). Then he told them to put his own tent, called the tabernacle, in the very middle (<i>put the bigger tent in the middle</i>).</li> <li>➤ We can’t actually see God, so to show his people that he was really with them, God made a cloud come down over his tent (<i>demonstrate with cotton wool</i>)</li> <li>➤ Now God’s people could see that God was with them, right in the middle of all their tents!</li> <li>● <i>Q: How do you think God’s people felt knowing God was with them?</i></li> <li>➤ God’s people still had a long and dangerous journey to make, but now they knew that God was with them.</li> </ul>
<p>3. God leads his people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ But there was still a problem, they still didn’t know how to get to their new home</li> <li>➤ But God had a plan for that as well!</li> <li>➤ When it was time to set out on their journey, the cloud lifted up from above the tent in the middle of their camp (<i>demonstrate with cotton wool</i>)</li> <li>➤ Then, the cloud would lead the way to show them which way to go! All they had to do was follow the cloud, which is exactly what they did.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 9:17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The cloud was there all the time. It never left them. When it was on top of God’s tent, God’s people knew they needed to camp where they were. If it lifted up and moved away, they knew it was time to continue on their journey.</li> <li>➤ God used the cloud to show his people he was always with them, and to show them which way to go.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Q: Can you see God?</i></li> <li>➤ We can’t see God, but he has promised to always be with his people. If you are trusting in Jesus, then God has said he will always be with you and never leave you. That means you don’t ever have to be afraid or worry about what to do.</li> <li>➤ But God only promises that for people who are trusting him.</li> <li>➤ Pray that the children would learn to trust God, and to know that he will always be with them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>