



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 28

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Woeful and Wonderful

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Woeful and Wonderful

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Woeful and Wonderful

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Woeful and Wonderful

Level E—Bible Bits: Stones/ Topic Treasures—

Blessings for the Obedient

Woeful and Wonderful

Pharaoh was in for some difficult times, because he didn't obey what God told him to do—to let the people go.

When Pharaoh said "no" to God, and told Moses and Aaron—God's messengers—that the Israelites could not leave, then the river water was no longer nice and fresh, for several days.

When Pharaoh continued to disobey, more and more troubles came to their land, to the Egyptian people, to the farms, and to their homes.

Finally after many difficult times, Pharaoh at last agreed and decided to obey God's command. The Israelites were free to leave and follow where God wanted them to go.

It was a very big move, and they got going right away, bringing all their animals and belongings.



Woeful and Wonderful

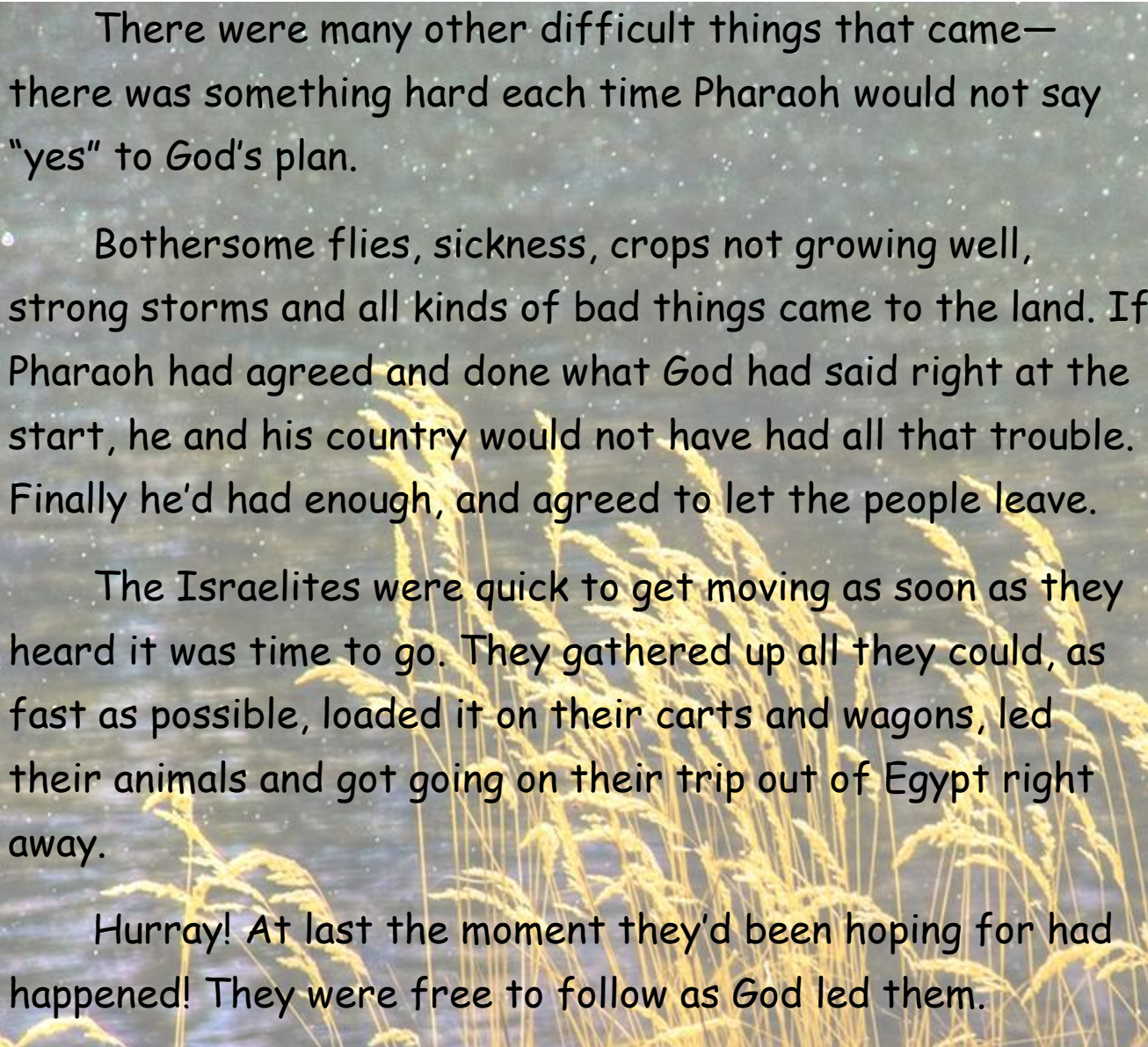
When Pharaoh refused to let the people leave, Moses prayed and asked God what to do next. God said that Pharaoh would have some tough times.

Going your own way instead of God's way doesn't bring good things into your life, as that ruler and all his country found out.

There was one trouble after the other for Pharaoh and all of Egypt too, as a result of his wrong choices. First there was no fresh water to drink or wash with, as God changed the river water and made it unpleasant and stinky. When Pharaoh asked Moses to ask God to make the river nice again, he promised to let the people go.

Pharaoh didn't keep his word, however, and as soon as things were the way he liked them, and the trouble was taken away, he once again said, "No!", and refused to let the people leave Egypt.





There were many other difficult things that came—there was something hard each time Pharaoh would not say “yes” to God’s plan.

Bothersome flies, sickness, crops not growing well, strong storms and all kinds of bad things came to the land. If Pharaoh had agreed and done what God had said right at the start, he and his country would not have had all that trouble. Finally he’d had enough, and agreed to let the people leave.

The Israelites were quick to get moving as soon as they heard it was time to go. They gathered up all they could, as fast as possible, loaded it on their carts and wagons, led their animals and got going on their trip out of Egypt right away.

Hurray! At last the moment they’d been hoping for had happened! They were free to follow as God led them.

Activity

*Play a version of “red light, green light” using “yes/no.” This time however, instead of the players coming closer to the “it” person, the players start by standing near him/her. Every time a “yes” is said the players get to walk farther away, and when “no” is said, all players stop and stand where they are. The first person to make it to the other side, or to a designated place, is the next “it” person.



Woeful and Wonderful

As Pharaoh walked to the river for his morning wash, he was about to find out that it would be another week before he got to do just that.

His heart had hardened and he had told Moses and Aaron, "No!" He had refused to let the Israelites go into the wilderness to make their feast and prayers to the Lord.

"Ah, now for a nice refreshing swim!" Pharaoh might have thought as he neared the river bank. He was surprised to see Moses and Aaron were there to say good morning to him. It wasn't a very nice way to start the day, however.

Have you ever really needed water, and found that nothing came out of the taps? Have you ever been real thirsty and there isn't any good, clean, safe drinking water around? Or have you been real sticky from summer sweat, and had dirty feet, felt kind of itchy and uncomfortable, but there was no way to wash up? It's very hard to make it without water. It's one of the most important human needs.

Pharaoh usually had all the water he needed and wanted—he had a whole river full of it. No one could take that away from him. Or could someone? Could God? The morning after he refused to say yes, he found things started to get real difficult for him.

God told Moses and Aaron to stand near the water, in the place Pharaoh was trying to go, and to tell him that because of his refusal to obey God, the water would no longer be as water! The whole river, the little ponds, the streams, and even the pots and jugs of water that had already been drawn from the river would be changed.

Pharaoh was shocked, and very appalled! As Aaron stretched forth his rod and touched the river, it was all transformed into a red, stinky, slimy, and terrible looking, flowing river. There was now nothing clean or nice about it. It looked like blood—yuck! And it stayed that way for the next week, until Pharaoh at last begged for it to be changed back again.

God was merciful, and gave Pharaoh a chance. The water was nice once again. Sweet relief was felt! Good refreshing drinks of water could be enjoyed. Cooking, baths, laundry, dish washing, cleaning houses and so forth finally could happen. Everything had been getting pretty stinky and dirty, and everyone had been feeling extremely thirsty.

Once Pharaoh had his bath, however, and got a good drink of water, he changed his mind as fast as the water had changed back again. Wrong decision! It was hard not to have water—but there were worse, longer-lasting type of troubles that would come to Pharaoh and his palace, and to all the Egyptians, if he wouldn't let the people go.

He could choose the easy way—though it seemed hard for his pride—and say "yes". Or he could continue to say no, to have a tough and stubborn heart that resisted, and then find out what hard times really were!

Many things then followed things that caused him and his country hardship, sorrow, pain, lack of food, destruction of farms and goods, and so forth.

All kinds of things happened, like zillions of frogs hopping everywhere in their houses and yards, a hail storm with huge hail stones pelting down, millions of locusts feasting on their crops, painful sores and boils on the Egyptians' skin, tons



of swarms of flies—more than you've ever had bothering you while camping—and on went the troubles.

Each time Pharaoh did as he did before. He begged for mercy and for a positive change, promising to let the people go right afterwards, but then he always changed his mind again, and said, "No," refusing them permission to leave.

One of the last difficult consequences was a darkness that God put over the country—but it was only on the side where Pharaoh and the Egyptians lived. The side where the Israelites were living was as light as day. For three days and nights it was totally and completely dark for Pharaoh and his people!

There was no light at all. No sunlight could be seen, or starlight, or moonlight! Not even torches or candles or fires helped to bring light to Pharaoh's palace. Imagine trying to cook in pitch darkness, or find your way down a street, or do anything at all! It was like they were all blind all of a sudden, that's how dark it was!

The Israelites now had faith that leaving Egypt was really going to happen—God was going to make sure it did! So while the Egyptians groped their way through pitch blackness, the Israelites could use those days to pack, to prepare, and to gear up for their big, long journey.

They were looking forward to soon being finally free of the burdens and great hardships they'd had to endure at the hand of Pharaoh over the past while.

After 10 great difficulties and lesson-teaching consequences, Pharaoh looked around at the poor condition of his country, and looked into his sad heart. He heard what his troubled people were saying, and he at last relented. He would let the people go—everyone, and all their animals too. They were to leave right away.

No time was lost—the Israelites, or “children of Israel” as they were also called—knew how quickly Pharaoh could change his mind. They were up and off as quickly as they could go, without even time to finish baking their bread. The dough was just packed up and cooked later on, when they were safely out of Egypt, and stopped for their first picnic.

There were countless people by this time, oh so many! Plus there were all the animals, bags, food, and some other goodies that they asked some of the Egyptians to give them. Many Egyptians were happy to help them get on their way, and to treat them well after all that had happened.



They gave the Israelites some golden jewellery and decorations, and treasures to make their feast time special. It was quite a big and excited team that headed off that wonderful day!



Let's Talk About It

*Have you ever been looking forward to something special happening, and then it seems to never work out, and it's taking so long for it to finally happen? Did it ever finally happen, or are you still waiting and praying for the Lord to work it out?

*What are some good ways that we can show humility before the Lord, and others? What are some ugly effects of not being humble, and instead pushing our own way, and trying to prove that we are better than others? What things might happen when we aren't willing to follow what God wants us to do, or we don't listen to those who love and care about us?

Activity

*Think about the needs of travel in these modern days, choose a destination and means of travel, and verbally pack with this game. Play the 'add-on' game, where someone starts off saying, "If I was going on a long trip, I would take a ____". The next person repeats what that person said, and also adds something else, and so it goes around. Everyone must listen carefully and remember just the right order that each new thing on the list is said, in order to repeat it all correctly and then to verbally pack the next thing needed for the trip.

Woeful and Wonderful



Connect and Communicate

*Someone draws a squiggle, and passes the paper to someone else who adds more on to it to make it resemble a simple picture of something. He then passes it on to another person who says a prayer for something that it reminds him of.

After he prays he gets to draw a new line or squiggle, and passes it on. And so the game continues. (Instead of being done on paper it could be on a whiteboard, or magnetic drawing pad, or a tray of sand or salt to draw with fingers.)

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: The phrase, "And the Lord said unto Moses", when you encounter it in the text below.

Select: A topic mentioned in the verses below, to learn about. (For example: Kneading and leaven for bread; lice; boils; bodies of water—rivers, lakes, streams, etc.)

Summarise: The events mentioned in these verses, while doing the activity mentioned below.

Exodus

(Here are verses of some of the troubles that came to Pharaoh and Egypt. Each time Pharaoh begged for Moses to pray for God to take the trouble away, promising to then let the people go. However, as soon as the problem was gone, Pharaoh would change his mind and harden his heart, refusing again to let them go.)

7:14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

7:15 Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand.

7:16 And thou shalt say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.

7:19 And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

7:25 And seven days were fulfilled, after that the Lord had smitten the river.

* * *

8:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

8:2 And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

8:3 And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs:



8:8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the Lord, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord.

8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said.

* * *

8:16 And the Lord said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

* * *

8:20 And the Lord said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

8:21 Else, if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thy houses: and the houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground whereon they are.

8:22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.

8:30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and intreated the Lord.

8:31 And the Lord did according to the word of Moses; and he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.

* * *

9:8 And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.

9:9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

* * *



9:22 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

9:24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

* * *

10:12 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.

10:14 And the locust went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.

* * *

10:21 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

10:23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

* * *

12:31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said.

12:32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

12:34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.

12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

12:38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.



12:39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

Activity

*Act out the story, in fun dramatic ways, while someone summarises and narrates the events mentioned in these verses.

Fountain of Faith

1 Kings 8:57-58, 60

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.



Stones

Prayer

Psalms 5:2-3 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

*Each one can write a topic or a prayer request on a little slip of paper, and pass it to the person on their left. Take turns praying for the request written on the paper handed to you.

1 Kings 5:17,18 And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

1 Kings 7:10 And the foundation was of costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits.

Exodus 28:9-11 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the

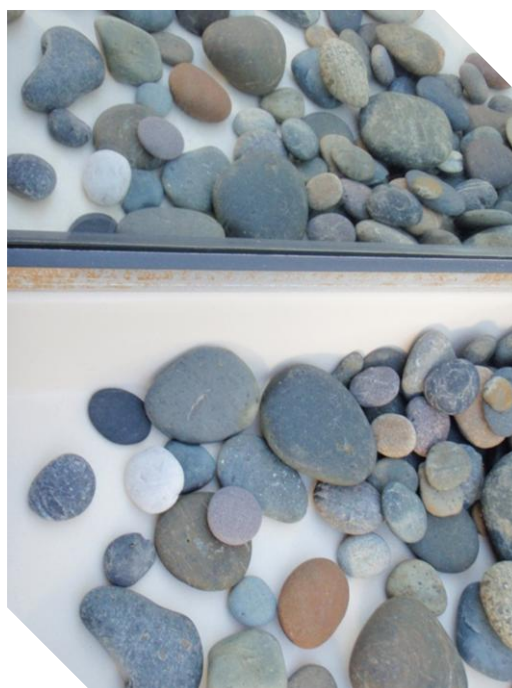
children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches* of gold. (*An old English term denoting cavities or sockets in which gems were set.)

Revelation 21:10, 11 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Revelation 21:18-20 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysopterus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Psalms 144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:

Daniel 2:44, 45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.



Luke 19:37-40 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

Activity

*Choose a topic to learn more about:

*Learn about different types of rock.

*Look up pictures of jewels and precious stones, and learn where they are found, or how they are formed.

*Watch a documentary on sculpturing, and read about famous sculptures and sculptors.

*Look at pictures of ancient ruins, buildings and structures made of stone.



Topic Treasures

—Blessings for the Obedient

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: Several times one of the verses below that you would like to commit to memory.

Select: A story from the Bible that tells of obedience to God, and talk about the benefits of that person's decision to do God's will.

Summarise: In a few sentences the Lord's thoughts and wishes, or the main point brought out in these passages below, after reading them all.

Leviticus 25:18 Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety.

Deuteronomy 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Matthew 7:24-25 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:3-4 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.



Daily Diary

*Write in your diary book, "If I obey the Lord, I will be/get: _____", and then list some of the promises mentioned in these verses. (For example: happy, safety, strong, etc.)