

2020 Southern California Spanish-speaking Conference
January 17-19, 2020
General Subject: God's Chosen People for His Personal Treasure

For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God; it is you whom Jehovah your God has chosen from among all the peoples which are upon the face of the earth to be a people for His personal treasure. (Deuteronomy 7:6)

Beginner Level (Kindergarten—First Grade)
Story 1 (Friday)
Moses—The First Period of His Life

Point to Emphasize: We are best cared for in our families where we learn how to love God and follow Him.

Reference Reading: Exodus 2:9-10a; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23-25

Memory Verse: As for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah. (Joshua 24:15)

Story Sample

In the second book of the Bible, the book of Exodus there is a story about a man named Moses who would one day grow up to lead God's people back to the land God had given them.

So let's start at the very beginning, when Moses was just a baby. He was just like all of us, right? We all started out as babies, and every one of us had a dad and a mom. And some of us had brothers or sisters too. So Moses started out just like us.

But things changed very quickly for Moses. When Moses was born in Egypt, the ruler of the Egyptian people was called Pharaoh, and he had an evil plot to destroy all the Hebrew boy babies! Oh no! But God had a better plan for Moses!

Moses' mom was a good mother, so she cared very much for this baby boy. She knew that her baby belonged to God. What would a good mother need to do to care for a baby? What did your mother do to take care of you when you were a baby? *[Feeding, changing diapers, bathing, keeping warm and clothed, keeping him happy so he wouldn't cry.]* So when Moses' mother found out about Pharaoh's plan, she hid Moses. But, after three months, as he grew, it got harder and harder to hide him. Moses' mom must have realized that she needed to do something soon, or the Egyptians might come and take her son away. I'm sure his mother must have prayed to God about what she should do. The plan that Moses' mom decided on was to place her baby inside a basket and put him in the reeds at the river's edge.

Now Moses had a sister, Miriam, and she was a very good sister. Can you tell me what makes a good sister? *[Obedient to parents, loving her brother, watching out for him, following her parent's instructions.]* After their mom placed baby Moses in the river so that he would be safe, Miriam stayed nearby, watching to see what would happen to him.

One day Pharaoh's daughter came to this very place along the river to bathe. And while she was bathing she saw the basket, hidden in the reeds. She realized that this must be one of the Hebrew boys that her father had ordered to be destroyed. She wanted to save him and keep him. She knew the baby was young and probably hungry and would need someone to nurse him, but what would she do?

Miriam was still watching her younger brother Moses, and she saw Pharaoh's daughter holding the baby. So she approached Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she would like Miriam to find a Hebrew woman to care for the baby. Pharaoh's daughter agreed. Who do you think Miriam picked to take care of Moses? That's right, Moses' Mother? Pharaoh's daughter did not know that it was his real family caring for him. So, during his early years

Moses remained with his family and his mother was able to keep him safe. Then, when he was a little older, he moved into the palace with Pharaoh's daughter.

Now, what did Moses' family do with him during those early years? Sure, they fed him, cared for him, loved him....and what else? Since this family knew the true God, they surely taught their children about God—the One who created them, loved them, and chose them to be His people. They were preparing him for the day when he would go to live in the palace, so that he would never forget he belonged to God.

Moses family loved and followed God, and they had a family life that would cause their children to fear, love, and follow God, too. Maybe his family life was a little like ours. Maybe they sang hymns or children's songs together, prayed together, and told stories about God. *[Storyteller, please share your example on how in your household you sing together, read some verses, practice memorizing verses and review the story learned in children's meeting. Lead the children to see that this is the best way to grow in our early years and that it will help them to be very useful later.]*

So, this kind of family life was causing Moses to become something great, someone who loved God and would be useful to God! Wouldn't you like to be useful to God one day?

Beginner Level (Kindergarten—First Grade)
Story 2 (Saturday)
Aaron and His Sons—Set Apart to Serve God

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who are not ordinary, but special to God.

Reference Reading: Leviticus 8:1-21

Memory Verse: ...It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.” (Luke 4:8b)

Story Sample

Last night, we heard about Moses. Today we are going to talk about a group of people who were special to God. Moses and the children of Israel were instructed by God to build a tabernacle. Well, after the tabernacle was finished, God did something He had never done before. Out of the millions of people who had traveled through the wilderness, God separated some to serve Him in a special way. The ones God set apart for this job were Aaron and his sons. They were called priests. They were not ordinary, like everyone else, because they had been chosen to do special tasks in the tabernacle.

After they were made priests, they stayed at the entrance of the tabernacle, God’s house. They were washed and dressed in a special way. They were also given things to do, like taking care of everything in the tabernacle and even preparing and bringing offerings to God. This was something that had never been done before! For the first time, God’s people brought offerings to God according to God’s rules. These people, the priests, were very special, unlike everyone else.

Just like these priests who were special, we are not ordinary people—we are special to God. A lot of people around us behave in a certain way, celebrate certain things, do certain things and talk in a certain way. However, we are not like them. We are not ordinary people. We have been chosen by God to be special.

One time a friend from school invited me to go to a party. I knew that the other children who were going were some of the kids at school who always got in trouble. I had also heard that the party might be on Lord’s Day, when I would usually go to the meeting. Part of me really wanted to go. But another part of me knew that I was different and wouldn’t want to do the things they would. So I didn’t go. I was so glad when I thought of being in the children’s meeting with my friends! *[Storyteller, insert your own story.]*

You are growing up in this world surrounded by a lot of people in God’s household, but they are different, not ordinary people. We go to neighborhood children’s meetings, group meetings and family summer camps. We open our house to receive others, we consider what we wear, and we can love God. I’m so glad to be special to God, and not ordinary like so many other people!

2020 Southern California Spanish-speaking Conference
January 17-19, 2020
General Subject: God’s Chosen People for His Personal Treasure

For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God; it is you whom Jehovah your God has chosen from among all the peoples which are upon the face of the earth to be a people for His personal treasure. (Deuteronomy 7:6)

Intermediate and Advanced Levels (Second—Fifth Grades)

Story 1—Friday

Being Formed into an Army

Point to Emphasize: We want to be those who accept where God has placed us.

Reference Reading: Numbers 1—7

Memory Verse: For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named. (Ephesians 3:14-15)

Story Sample

You might have heard about the children of Israel. They traveled through the wilderness to the land that God had promised them. They traveled for nearly forty years and now they are getting ready to enter in. Eventually, they will have to fight for this land, because there are many enemies living there. To do this, God needed to first form them into an army. Fighting against a great number of enemies is not a one person job. Sure, if I wanted to fight with my sister, it would only take one person—me! But if there were a war in another country, I could never fight it alone. It takes a lot of coordination to fight against many people.

In Numbers 2:2 God told Moses and Aaron that the children of Israel needed to encamp by their fathers’ households, facing the tabernacle. It was not a matter of them choosing where they would be; it was God’s choice. Whichever tribe they were born of, that was the tribe they had to encamp with. Later on, Jehovah spoke to Moses and asked him to number the children of Israel. Moses needed to number all by their families, by companies of their fathers’ households. The children of Israel could not just pack their things and go their own way. God needed them to stay with the people of God to be part of His army and go to battle. Once the children of Israel had all been numbered in this way, they were set in a particular order. Every family was grouped together with its leader and all the mature soldiers. And they camped facing the Tent of Meeting, the place where God was dwelling. They all faced God! What a wonderful arrangement!

When I was your age, whenever I got mad at my sisters or I thought mom and dad were too strict, I would wish I was in a different family. I would think to myself, “Why can’t I be in Nancy’s family? She is rich and can have any toy she wants; she’s an only child and doesn’t have to compete with three sisters; she gets to go to places I’m not allowed to go; and she doesn’t have to go to meetings on the Lord’s Day. I wish I was in her family!” But as I grew older, I realized I was placed by God in my family and it was the best one for me. God planned the very best family for me to grow up loving Him and this is where I could be a part of God’s army. *[Storyteller, insert your own personal story.]*

Each of you, along with your family, is a part of this army. You can be glad that you are a part of a family that loves God. You can choose to obey your parents when they give you instructions. And one day you will mature and be able to be one who serves God. But it all needs to be done here in God’s household, where we are part of a huge army—God’s army!

Intermediate and Advanced Levels (Second—Fifth Grades)

Story 2—Saturday

Journeying by Following the Cloud

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who follow our parents, serving ones, and older ones regarding where to go and what to do.

Reference Reading: Numbers 9:15-23

Memory Verse: But it is Jehovah who is going before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear, neither be dismayed. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Story Sample

The children of Israel journeyed in the wilderness for many, many years. Do you know where they were going? God had promised them the good land, a land called Canaan. We saw last night that the children of Israel had now been numbered and formed into an army. Why? Because they were getting close to the land that God had promised to them, and there, they would have to fight the enemies to take over the land.

As they travelled, God was with them and guided their way. Back then, there was no map or GPS. Even if they had it, they didn't need it. Do you remember when they crossed the Red Sea, God guided them through a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire? Well, now they had the tabernacle where God was dwelling among them, and a cloud was covering the tabernacle.

So, God was there as a cloud to guide them. When the cloud moved, the children of Israel knew it was time to move, and when the cloud stopped, they stopped. When the cloud was lifted off from the tent, they would set out. Wherever the cloud settled, that's where they would encamp. The cloud was their guide. Because the children of Israel followed it, they didn't need to be worried about when and where to move. They did not set out whenever they felt like it or when the weather was good. It was God's word to them that they should follow the cloud. Because they did this, even though there were so many of them, they were in good order. They stayed together in their families, households, and tribes, and moved together according to the word given by God to Moses.

God is still guiding us today. He may no longer do it through a cloud like He did with the children of Israel, but He has given us certain older ones like our parents and serving ones, who have the wisdom to help us and guide us. We don't need to figure out ourselves where to go and what to do. God will always show us where to go, when to move, and when not to move.

When I was twelve years old, my dad got a job in another state. The whole family began to pack up and prepare to move. But about two weeks before we were to leave, my mom came to me and told me to pack a bag and go with my dad. He needed to start his job right away. I couldn't understand why I should go when no one else was going except my dad—not my mom or any of my sisters. I was so confused, but I trusted my mom. I have to admit, staying alone in a hotel all day while my dad was at work wasn't what I wanted to do. But I followed my mom's leading, knowing that she knew best. It wasn't until years later that I found out that the reason she had me go was so that dad wouldn't be alone and that I was the one she could trust to go. *[Storyteller, insert your own story about a time when someone led or guided you where to go or what to do.]*

Now, the children of Israel were ready to journey forward and to begin the battle in order to possess the land that God had promised to them. The cloud was bringing them forward. This week, let us also practice to follow our "cloud," that is, our parents, our serving ones, and the older ones who follow God and whom God has given to guide us.