

28.10 Going to Egypt & Childhood (Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:39, 40; Mark 6:3)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
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Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (None this week)

Scripture:

Matthew 2:13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Luke 2:39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?”

Introduction/Review:

Way back in the book of Genesis we learned about Jacob’s favored wife, Rachel. She was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. On their way back to Israel from Haran [locate on a map], Rachel died near a town called Ramah [see map below] while delivering her second son, Benjamin.

Last week in our story about the life of Jesus, we talked about wise men who came from the east to worship the newborn king of the Jews, Jesus. Another king of the Jews, Herod the Great, already reigned in Jerusalem. He asked the wise men, “When did you first see the star that led you here?”

Because of what happened next, ✓we assume the wise men answered, “About one and a half years ago.”

“When you have found this new king, let me know so that I may go and worship him too,” Herod requested.

But after finding Jesus and worshipping Him, God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to see Herod in Jerusalem. So they went to their home in the east by another route.

Story:

Go to Egypt

After the wise men left Bethlehem, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and get out of Bethlehem. Flee to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him.”

Joseph wasted no time and did what the angel of the Lord said to do. He left at night so that no one would see them going away. Where did the angel of the Lord say to go? [Egypt.] Find Egypt on a map. [Allow a student to locate Bethlehem and Egypt.] There the family stayed for a while. We don’t know how long, but it could have been ✓as little as three or four months or as long as three years.*

Go to destroy

Meanwhile, back at Jerusalem, when Herod discovered he had been tricked by the wise men, he became furious (“exceeding wrath” in the KJV). Jealous for his throne, he sent and had killed all the male children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Oh, what a time of slaughter! What a time of weeping and wailing for these poor, innocent young boys! It was just as Jeremiah had prophesied: Then “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more” (Jeremiah 31:15). ✓It was as if Rachel, buried in Ramah [locate] and representing the heartbroken mothers of Bethlehem, was crying out in grief. Those mothers refused to be comforted, for their children had been brutally taken from them.

But Jesus was safe in Egypt until Herod died. Bible commentators say Herod’s death was accompanied by excruciating pain** a few months after his slaughter of the innocent boys around Bethlehem. ✓One might think God said Herod’s cruelty had gone too far, and he must now pay the consequences.

Go to Israel

When Herod died, the angel of the Lord again appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. This is what the angel said: “Rise. Take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

Again, Joseph did as he was told; he took Jesus and Mary and went back to the land of Israel. Again, we have a fulfillment of prophecy: “Out of Egypt I called my son” (Hosea 11:1).

Go to Galilee

Not all Israel was safe, though. Joseph learned that Herod’s son, just as wicked as his father, ruled over Judea, where Bethlehem was, Joseph said, ✓“No! I don’t think we will live in Bethlehem. I am afraid of this king as much as I was of Herod.” So he took his family eighty miles away to Nazareth in Galilee [locate], where he and Mary had lived before getting married.

Nazareth. The word sounds like *Nazarene*. Jesus’ living in Nazareth was the fulfillment of yet another prophecy—“He shall be called a Nazarene” (Isaiah 11:1).***

Grow up

Nazareth is the town in which Jesus grew up. We know very little of Jesus during this period of time—from baby age until He was about thirty years old. Some people make up stories about his healing animals as a child. No biblical record tells us that but only that He “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom,” that “the favor of God was upon him” (Luke 2:40), and that he was known as a carpenter (Mark 6:3). One story

about Jesus as a twelve-year-old is in the Bible. We will learn about it next week.

To learn how it might have been for Jesus to grow up in His time period, we can look to other sources. Here are a couple of poems that help us: [See also pictures found below.]

Jesus' Home

Jesus lived in a square white house;
The stairs went up outside.
The roof was flat—a place to sit,
Where views of hills were wide.
Animals lived in the lower room,
And when the family slept,
They spread their mats upon the floor,
Beside them, clothes were kept. . . .

Jesus' School

Folk went to the synagogue on Sabbath,
To pray and give God praise;
But the little boys of Nazareth
Went there on other days.
It was their school, and there they learned
The Law, as small boys must.
They sat in a circle on the ground;
Their teacher wrote in the dust (Copied from an unknown old Bible story book).

One thing about Jesus during his growing-up years that we can know for sure is that He never once lied or talked back to His parents or stole anything. He never sinned. “For our sake he made him to be sin [on the cross] who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Even in His childhood, it was necessary for Him to be perfect so that He could fulfill all the Law and then die for our sin. What a Saviour!

*“Eusebius says, that immediately, in a very little time after the slaughter of the children at Bethlehem, the divine vengeance inflicted diseases on him, which quickly brought him to his end; so that, according to the learned Dr. Lightfoot, Jesus was not above three or four months in Egypt” (Gill, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/matthew-2-15.html>).

“The best chronologers have supposed that he [Herod] died somewhere between two and four years after the birth of Christ, but at what particular time cannot now be determined” (Barnes, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/matthew/2.htm>).

**Here is the description of Herod's death that you will probably not wish to relate to younger children: “The account which Josephus, and from him Eusebius, gives of his miserable death, is as follows; a burning fever seized him, with an intolerable itching all over his body, and continual pains of the colic; his feet swelled with a dropsy; he had an inflammation in the lower part of his belly: a putrefaction in his privy parts, which bred worms; a frequency and difficulty of breathing, and convulsions in all his members; he had a voracious appetite, a stinking breath, and his intestines abounded with ulcers; when he found that all means made use of were ineffectual, and that he must die, he attempted to lay violent hands upon himself, but was prevented, and soon after expired in a very miserable manner” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/matthew-2-19.html>).

***“[A]nd there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and . . . ‘a branch shall grow out of his roots’; a prophecy owned by the Jews themselves to belong to the Messiah, and which was now fulfilled in Jesus; who as he was descended from Jesse's family, so by dwelling at Nazareth, he would appear to be, and would be ‘called

a Nazarene, or Netzer, the branch” (Gill, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/matthew-2-23.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God: He fulfilled the prophecies written of Him by God through Hosea, Jeremiah, and Isaiah.
- We can never be perfect as Jesus was, but we can grow, become strong, and be filled with wisdom as we study God’s Word.
- God supplies our needs. Someone might wonder how Joseph could afford to travel to Egypt and back to Israel. Perhaps the gifts from the wise men supplied for this need.

Activities:

- Play dough: pyramid, donkey, Bible time house
- Play-act the story from Joseph’s standpoint. Include the following scenes: Joseph’s dreaming; his gathering the family and leaving at night; arriving in Egypt and finding a new house; hearing Herod is dead; heading back to Bethlehem but changing destination to Nazareth.
- Recount the times an angel appeared or a dream instructed Joseph: (1) “Fear not to take Mary”; (2) “Go to Egypt”; (3) “Leave Egypt”; (4) “Go to Nazareth.”
- Sing previous songs for the life of Christ found on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org.
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.
- Dedicate a wall or a portion of a wall to a growth chart for each student. Copy one measuring tape found below for each student. Cut the strips apart and glue together in order. Glue the long strip to a wider paper (perhaps shelf liner) upon which each student’s name is written at the top, or have the students write their own names. Attach the chart to the wall with the bottom at the floor. Measure students twice a year. Mark the height and label with the date. Add photos you take of the student during the year.
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with flannel or flock scraps, and cut out the names found below, *Bethlehem*, *Egypt*, and *Nazareth*. Place these words on a flannel board. Cut out ten small felt squares. Each correct answer allows the student to place a square between the towns (four between Bethlehem and Egypt and six between Egypt and Nazareth).
 1. After the wise men left, what did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph in a dream? [“Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.”]
 2. Why did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus need to flee? [Because Herod wanted to destroy Jesus.]
 3. Why was Herod furious? [The disciples had tricked him—had not come back to see him.]
 4. What horrible thing did Herod do? [Had all boys in and around Bethlehem ages two and under slaughtered.]
 5. Did Herod die of old age? Explain. [No. He died a painful, gruesome death shortly after slaughtering the babies.]
 6. What did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph to do after Herod died? [Go back to Israel.]
 7. Why didn’t Joseph want to go back to Bethlehem? [Because Herod’s son ruled that territory.]
 8. In what town did Jesus grow up? [Nazareth.]
 9. What trade/occupation did Jesus learn? [Carpenter.]
 10. Describe Jesus’ character as a boy growing up? [Filled with wisdom; the favor of God was upon Him; He was sinless.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Luke 2:40—And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
- John 1:1-14:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Handwork:

- Construct square pyramids found below by cutting out, folding mountain folds on all lines, gluing all glue tabs, and forming the pyramid.



<http://bibleatlas.org/ramah.htm>



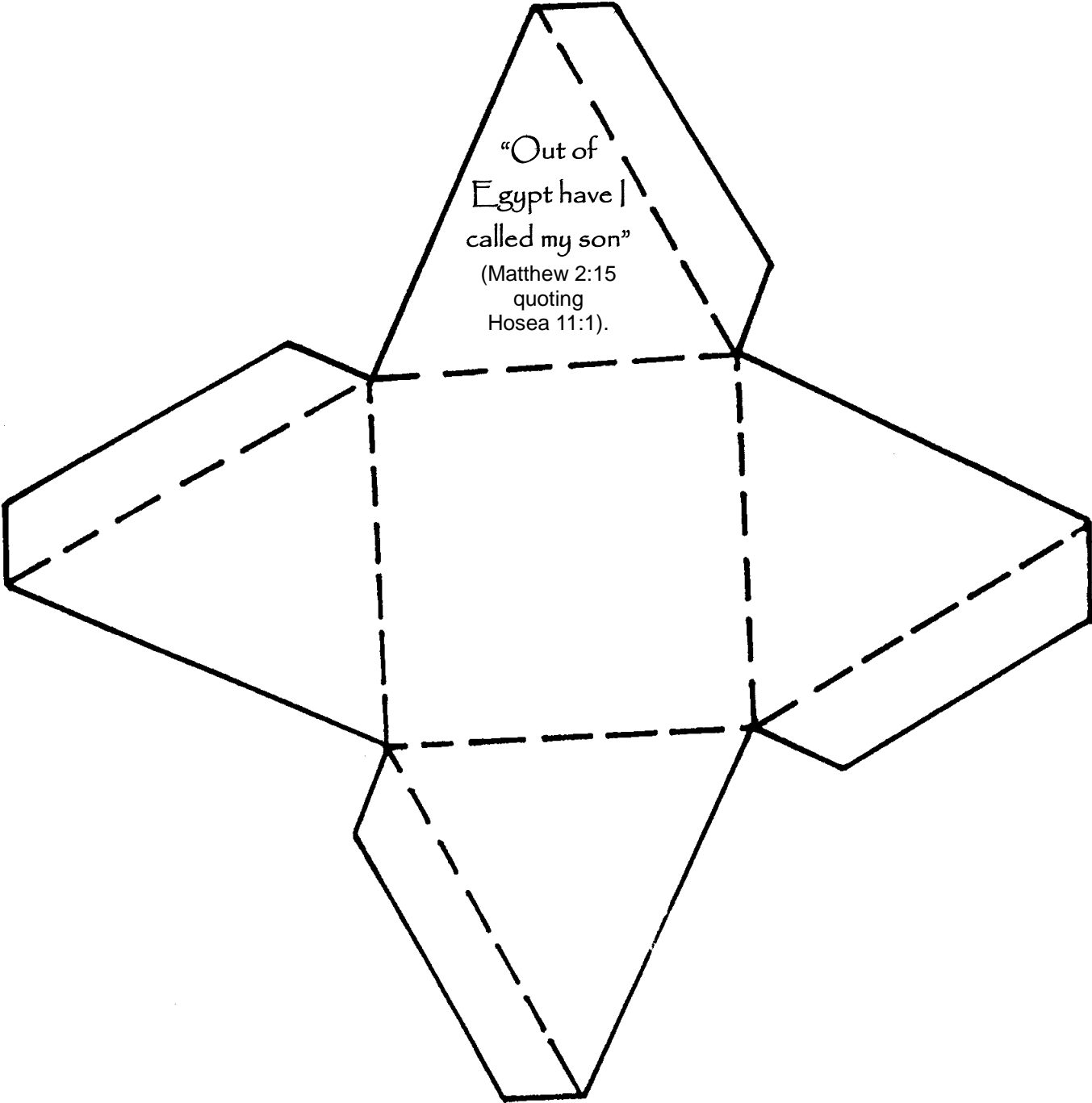
Rachel's tomb today, https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/602502/jewish/Rachels-Tomb-Kever-Rachel.htm

1'6"	2'1"	2'8"	3'3"	3'10"	4'5"
1'5"	2'	2'7"	3'2"	3'9	4'4"
1'4"	1'11"	2'6"	3'1"	3'8"	4'3"
1'3"	1'10"	2'5"	3'	3'7"	4'2"
1'2"	1'9"	2'4"	2'11"	3'6"	4'1"
1'1"	1'8"	2'3"	2'10"	3'5"	4'
1'	1'7"	2'2"	2'9"	3'4"	3'11"

Bethlehem

Egypt

Nazareth



"Out of
Egypt have I
called my son"
(Matthew 2:15
quoting
Hosea 11:1).

Away in a Manger, but Not in a Barn

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Typical 1st Century AD Jewish Home

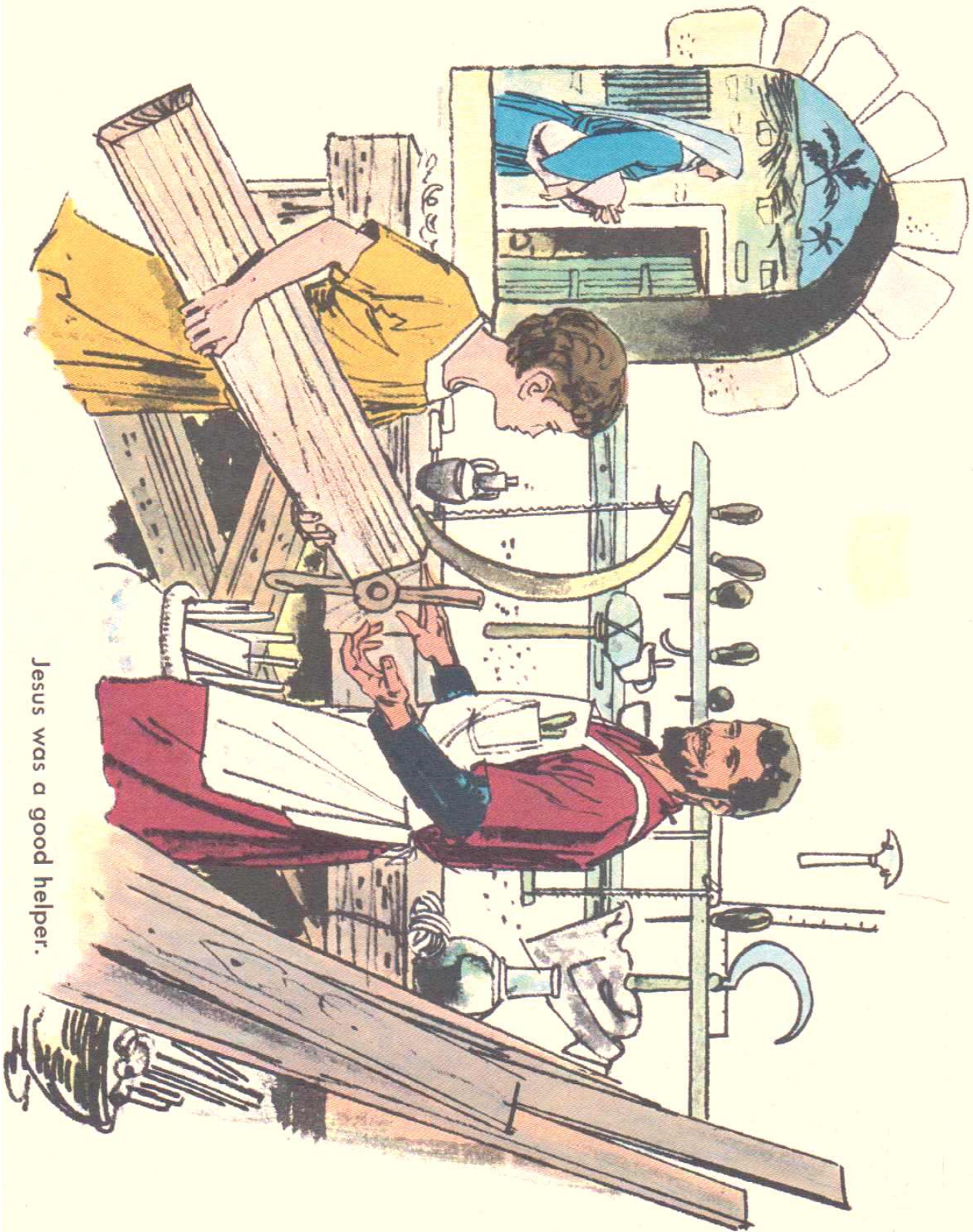
Living and Sleeping Quarters

Daytime Living Quarters
where vulnerable or especially valuable animals were stored at night



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Jesus was a good helper.



The teacher read stories from God's Word.

Jesus learned many Bible verses.

