

## God Is With Us When We're Sad

January 20/22, 2012

*(Read the following story from Exodus 5:1-6:1 to your child. Stop as indicated to let your child(ren) participate and respond. Show your child where this story is found in your Bible.)*

### The Israelites Receive Cruel Treatment

"Let my people go!!!!!"

Just like God told him to do, Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "Let my people go!!!" God's people, the Israelites, were Pharaoh's slaves. The Israelites had to do everything that Pharaoh said. Pharaoh was mean to God's people, the Israelites, and made them work very, very hard in the hot, hot sun. *(Discuss with your child how hard it would be to work all day outside when it is very hot. Ask them if they think Pharaoh was being fair to the Israelites.)*

Pharaoh wanted the Israelites to stay in Egypt and make lots and lots of bricks. Pharaoh gave the Israelites mud and straw to mix together to make a brick. Then, the Israelites would put the bricks out in the hot sun until they got dry and hard. Pharaoh then used the bricks to build large buildings and cities.

Pharaoh did not want God's people, the Israelites to leave. Pharaoh wanted them to stay in Egypt and make more and more bricks. So, when Moses said, "Let my people go!!!" Pharaoh said "No." Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

Then, Pharaoh decided to be even more unkind. Instead of giving the Israelites straw to make the bricks, Pharaoh told the Israelites that they had to find their own straw. But still, they had to make lots and lots of bricks everyday. The Israelites felt very, very sad.

Even though the Israelites were sad, God was with them. **GOD IS WITH US WHEN WE'RE SAD**, too. God had a plan and soon the Israelites would be leaving Pharaoh and Egypt. Soon, everyone would see God's great power. You will hear all about that next week. *(Ask your child what they do when they are sad. Who do they talk to?)*

These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

— Deuteronomy 6:6-8

### Let's Talk About It!

1. Who made the Israelites work hard in the hot sun?
2. What did the Israelites make for Pharaoh?
3. How did the Israelites feel when they had to find their own straw to make the bricks?
4. Who is with us when we're sad?

ANSWERS:  
(1) Pharaoh (2) Bricks (3) Sad  
(4) God

## At Home And On The Road

*At a meal or in the car,  
discuss the following  
with your child.*

What a sad story. Pharaoh was very unkind to the Israelites. He didn't care that his actions were unfair or that he made the Israelites very sad. Imagine if you had to work in the hot sun every day like the Israelites. You would probably be sad, and maybe you would wonder if God had forgotten about you. But the Bible tells us that God is always with us, even when we're sad. And He has a plan for us, just like He had a plan for the Israelites.

**Discussion:** Discuss with your child the plans God could have for their lives: What could they be when they grow up? Where might they live? What kind of person could they be? Kind, generous, joyful? How exciting it is to be a part of God's eternal plan!

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."  
Proverbs 3:5**

Read Proverbs 3:5 to your child and show them where it is located in the Bible. Sit in a circle with a small ball. As you roll the ball to each other, have the person receiving the ball say the next word in the verse. Continue to roll the ball and repeat the verse until you can recite the verse verbatim!

## Hands and Forehead

*Enjoy the following  
scripture verse with  
your child.*

## Doorframes And Gates

*Enjoy this project that  
reinforces the lesson to  
your child.*

(Have fun with this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.)

**God is With Us.** Cut and fold a piece of paper so that it forms a rectangular shaped cube (like a paper brick). Use Scotch tape to hold the pieces in place. Have your child write or draw something that makes them sad on each side of the paper brick. As you turn the brick over, look at each side and talk to your child about what they wrote or drew. After you finish discussing each side, remind them that God is with us when we are sad.