

God's Covenants with People

Dear Student,

We can grow in our relationship with God as we study the scriptures together! In this quarter, our theme is “God’s Covenants With People.” We will learn about how covenants were the foundations for God’s relationship with His people throughout the scriptures. Staying committed to God can be challenging because we have so many distractions. We are constantly bombarded with things in the world that can easily become our gods. As you read the stories and scriptures this quarter think about the question: who are you following? God has already chosen us; will we choose God?

We will begin with our relationship with God as creator and promise keeper. Then see His relationship with Abraham and Sarah as their leader and Lord in Genesis. We will learn about God as the one who freed Israel from slavery and provided for them in the wilderness in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. We will see that God protects us and helps us despite our flaws in Joshua and Judges. Finally, we will learn that God faithfully gives hope for a better future and uses people to build it in Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. We will see that God keeps His promises even when we don’t keep ours throughout this quarter. God is faithful and calls us to faithfully follow Him.

This quarter highlights the message: we must choose to follow God! The way we live must be centered and rooted in God’s Word. Our love for God and others can change our communities. Finally, we end the quarter with Job remembering that following God doesn’t mean life will be perfect. It means that even when we feel overwhelmed by life, we turn to God. When we make bad decisions, we turn back to God. And when we see success, we thank God. As you go through this quarter, I pray you will be more open to God meeting you where you are. May you come to know God as your creator, liberator, leader, protector, provider, and friend as the people in this quarter did!

Grace & Peace,

UMI Editorial Team

The logo for Inteen, featuring the word "inteen" in a stylized, blocky font. The "in" is red and the "teen" is white.

the award-winning student magazine for urban teens



theme: God's Covenants with People

Bible Study Pages

September

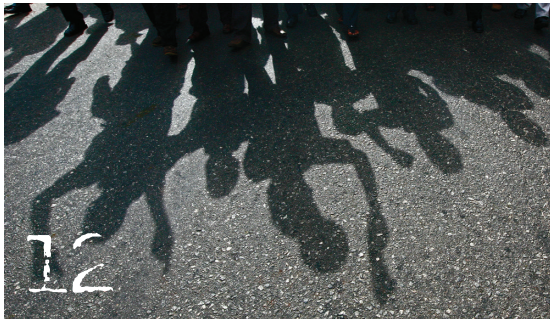
- 4 Starting Over
- 6 Cell Phone Idol
- 8 Won't You Be My Neighbor?
- 10 Be Grateful

October

- 18 Unlovable
- 20 The Secret of Getting Out of Bed
- 22 Tough Decision
- 24 Is It Worth It?
- 26 Josiah Brings Renewal

November

- 36 Looking For A Sign
- 38 A Plan for Restoration
- 40 Courage Under Fire
- 42 Small Packages



Features

- 3 I Choose
- 12 Road From Selma Was Paved with the Blood of Martyrs
- 28 Our Contract With God
- 32 Lit Pick
- 34 Scenic
- 44 Inteen® Survey
- 45 Rap Up

UMI MISSION STATEMENT: We are called of God to create, produce, and distribute quality Christian education products; to deliver exemplary customer service; and to provide quality Christian educational services, which will empower God's people, especially within the Black community, to evangelize, disciple, and equip people for serving Christ, His kingdom, and church.

Inteen® Student, Vol. 53, No. 4. September, October, November 2023. ISSN: 1550-9346. Published quarterly by UMI (Urban Ministries, Inc.), PO Box 436987, Chicago, IL 60643-6987. Founder: Melvin E. Banks Sr., LittD; CEO: C. Jeffrey Wright, JD; Publisher: Regine Jean-Baptiste, MDiv; Managing Editor: Daschell M. Phillips, MS; Developmental Editor: Allen Reynolds; Writers: For a full list of contributing writers visit preceptsdigital.com. Lesson Development. Copyright © 2023 by UMI. All rights reserved. All Scripture not marked KJV is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ All proper names mentioned in this publication are fictional unless otherwise indicated. Printed in South Korea. \$4.95 per copy. Single subscriptions: one year \$34.99 (postage included). To order: Contact your local Christian bookstore; call UMI at 1-800-860-8642; or visit our website at www.urbanministries.com. **NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER.**

I CHOOSE

By Roderick Davis

It's so hard to be sane when everyone is the same
so I decided to be different

How can I be made uniquely gifted and constantly
choose to blend in

If I am allowed to be myself why then should
I choose to be someone else

Is it because I look outside instead of choosing to look within?

I have decided to love myself enough to stand outside of the now

To love the possibilities of who I could become

Instead of the possibilities of what I could miss
by choosing to follow the crowd

I deserve it, and in fact I am worth being set apart

To search my heart and find the divine bestowed inside of me

I owe it to me to be fond of me to find the beauty of my uniqueness

Besides I find that being a follower is indeed a weakness

And weakness I cannot give energy to

I'd rather stand alone than to blend in with a few

To find what God destined for me and what I'm destined to be

So...

I choose to stand

I choose to stand out

I choose to stand up

I choose ...

I choose to stand in the gap

And I choose to stand for something

I choose to stand for me

Because I'd rather be insane and be different than
be sane and be the same.

9.3 Starting Over

the big idea: A Blessing for All Nations



As far back as she could remember, Ambre and her dad had been on the road. She was only two when the tornado hit their home and changed their lives forever. Her mother had died. Her father was so moved by the people who worked for Disaster Relief that he joined the organization. He and Ambre went from state to state, wherever people were in need of help. Now it was time to go back home.

Ambre stood in her room staring at the blank walls. Tears stung her eyes, but she refused to let them fall. “You’d think I’d be used to packing by now. This time it’s just not the same.”

Her dad stuck his head in her room. “You say something?”

“Just thinking out loud.”

He stepped in and helped her tape a box. “What’s on your mind?”

“You don’t want to know.”

He raised an eyebrow.

Ambre plopped down on her bed. “I don’t want to settle down. I like having these adventures and being able to help people.”

He sat down and wrapped his arms around her. “I know, but this season has come to an end for us.”

She rolled her eyes. “It’s not like there aren’t going to be any more disasters.”

He smiled. “I’m sure there’ll be plenty, and when you’re old enough, you can pick up where I left off. In the meantime, I’m sure there are tons of people in our hometown who could use some help.”

from your Bible

Genesis 12:1–9, NIV—The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”² **“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”**³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his neph-

ew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Scripture discussion

Abram, who we know as Father Abraham, was a man of great faith. Though he was advanced in years, God instructed him to pack up his bags along with everything else he owned. God told Abram to leave his comfortable, quiet

life and go to an undisclosed location.

There aren’t very many people who would trust God the way Abram did. He had no clue where he was going or what was in store for him. However, because Abram chose to believe God and follow God’s instructions, we are able to benefit from God’s blessings and promises that have been fulfilled.

make it real



check it

1. Why was Ambre upset?
2. Do you agree with the decision made by Ambre’s father? Explain your answer.
3. How has Ambre’s life been changed because of her experience and upbringing?



think it

1. What was Abram’s destination? (v. 1)
2. List at least four promises God made to Abram. (vv. 2–3)
3. Where did Abram build an altar? (vv. 7–8)



do it

Think about what you are willing to sacrifice in order to claim the promises of God. Make a list of the things you are willing to give up and take that list before God in prayer.



keep it

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2, NIV).

9.10 Cell Phone Idol

the big idea: Obeying God's Law



It was Sunday morning, and Cassie reclined on the couch, gazing at her cell phone, and skimming her social media accounts.

"Honey, please put your phone away," Cassie's mom said. "It's time to go to church."

Cassie sighed and reluctantly put her phone in her purse. But once she was in the car, she whipped it out again and began texting her friends.

As Cassie and her mom walked into church, Mom greeted the other church members and began chatting with them, but Cassie kept her head down with her eyes glued to her phone. It was like she was entranced by it and couldn't look away.

"Cassie!" Mom said, scowling. "Put the phone away—now!"

Rolling her eyes, Cassie once again put her phone in her purse and sat down with her mom in the sanctuary. She wanted to obey her mom, but she was expecting an important text message from her friend.

During the service, Cassie's mom noticed a blue glow out of the corner of her eye. She turned her head and caught Cassie looking at her phone again.

Frustrated and disappointed, Mom snatched the phone from her daughter's hands and tucked it inside her purse.

"You've just lost your phone privileges, young lady," Mom whispered.

from your Bible

Exodus 20:18–26, NIV—When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself

and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."²¹ The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.²² Then the LORD said to Moses

"Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven:²³ Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.²⁴' **"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cat-**

tle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you."²⁵ If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.²⁶ And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.'

Scripture discussion

In today's Scripture passage, the Israelites trembled with fear when God descended on Mount Sinai. They were so scared that they wanted Moses to speak to them on God's behalf rather than experience Him for themselves. But Moses encouraged the Israelites and told them not to be afraid.

When God spoke to Moses, He warned the people about having any other god except the true and living God. The display of thunder and lightning was a mere glimpse into His greatness and proof of His power. God want-

ed them to know that He alone was supreme and deserved to be worshiped. He forbade the use of idols or gods made of silver and gold. Instead, God wanted the Israelites to build an altar made of soil and sacrifice burnt offerings on it to Him. Just like He was set apart from other gods, so were the Israelites set apart as a distinct people.

Cassie allowed her phone to be a distraction and a governing factor in her life. Her phone dictated how she interacted with others and controlled her thoughts and actions. It was her god. Created things are not meant to rule us; we are meant to rule them.

make it real



check it

1. How was Cassie's phone interfering with her life?
2. Why did Cassie lose her cell phone privileges?
3. How was Cassie's phone like an idol?



think it

1. Why were the Israelites scared (Exodus 20:18–19)?
2. According to Moses, why did God come to the mountain (v. 20)?
3. What did God say about idols and altars (vv. 22–25)?



do it

There are a lot of "idols" that can distract us in today's world. Do you have any idols in your life? What about your phone? Try to go an entire day or two without texting a friend or checking your social media accounts. Every time you want to give in, reread our Scripture passage from today.



keep it

"Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you" (Exodus 20:24, NIV).