

PARENT CUE | SUNDAY SCHOOL OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

The curriculum for this year is Old Testament, and the theme for the year is “Rescue.” We’re telling the story of salvation history through the narrative arc of “creation, fall, redemption, restoration.” Let’s take a moment to gather a few important threads that weave throughout God’s beautiful tapestry in the world: people, place, and presence. Throughout the lesson, we charted the highlights that move the story along from creation in the garden to the remnant of Israel returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

The Bible tells of a loving and powerful God who created a People to be His people. He promises to love these People and to be faithful to them. In the Old Testament, this takes shape primarily through the people of Israel, while also sprinkling in a few unexpected outsiders who tell us a surprising, yet theologically significant, theme of inclusion into God’s people.

As God also created a Place for His People to live. This Place was a lush garden called Eden, God’s home with His people. But soon heartbreaking tragedy unfolded in Eden. The People turned away from God, and our first parents were banished from the garden, never to return to the original home God created for them. But God did not abandon the People He loves! Instead, He embarked on the grandest, most harrowing rescue mission the world has ever known: to re-establish a People to be at home with God in His Place: first in the garden, then in the Promised Land.

The purpose of establishing his people in a particular place is so that God’s presence can live in community with those He loves. Our focus this year is on God’s presence in the Old Testament – first in the garden, next among his people in the tabernacle as they make their way to the Promised Land, then in Solomon’s temple in Jerusalem, then in the second temple in Jerusalem after returning from exile.

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

This week, look for opportunities to continue the conversation with your students about the Old Testament. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

1. Ask your student “wonder” questions: What does the Old Testament make you wonder about? Why do you think God put all these stories in the Bible? What Old Testament stories spark your curiosity or imagination? Have you ever thought about what it would be like to interact with God before Jesus was born?
2. Affirm that the Old Testament can be confusing or disturbing at times (I’m looking at you, Tamar). Find organic ways to let your student know that it’s ok to ask hard questions of the Bible.
3. Look for a time this week to read one of your favorite passages from the Old Testament and tell your student what hits home for you about that passage.