

→ **out** *of the* **ordinary** ←

Eight sessions that point us to an extraordinary God



**Secondary
School**



Lunchtime Group Resource

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Eight sessions that point us to an extraordinary God



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 7 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV), questions and prayer ideas. Note there are no student pages for Week 7, which is an outreach week.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and questions before the group meets. Answers have not been provided for all questions.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- It is easy when looking at these characters in the Bible to apply the Scriptures by following their examples - what to do or what not to do in different circumstances. However, the aim of this series is to show the character of God revealed in God's dealings with His people, and fully displayed in Jesus Christ. Many of these Bible characters may be very familiar to the students, but we pray they will realise that **out of the ordinary, we see an extraordinary God!**
- Note that the outreach meeting (Week 7) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs doing.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."

Colossians 1:28–29

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Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Moses	Numbers 20:2-12	God is holy - we need to treat Him that way, living holy lives.
2	Rahab	Joshua 2:1, 8-14, 6:24-25	We can be thankful for God's grace in including us as His people.
3	Hannah	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Trust God as the One in charge of all things.
4	David	Psalms 51:1-9	Ask God for forgiveness for only He can wash away our sins .
5	Hosea	Hosea 2:23-3:1	God has great love for us, even though we are unfaithful.
6	Daniel	Daniel 2:17-23	We can praise God for His wisdom and revelation to us.
7	Jesus	Colossians 1:15-20	We need to recognise Jesus for who He truly is - not just a man, but God Himself .
8	Paul	Acts 9:10-20, 17:22-31	Jesus will one day judge all the world. This is a message we are to proclaim.

Moses Numbers 20:2-12

AIM

To help students understand the holiness of God and the importance of living holy lives.

PREPARE

- ❑ Read through Numbers 20, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the focus passage. Pray that students will come to grasp the holiness of God.
- ❑ Photocopy the 'Week 1 Students page' for everyone.
- ❑ Bring objects for the minefield game (see Fun Activity).
- ❑ Optional: Photocopy page 22. Numbers 20:2-12 can be acted out by students (roles: Moses, Aaron, Israelites, rock).
- ❑ Optional: Bring food with holes in them: cheezels, life-savers, donuts.

FUN ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to help students think about the idea of trust.

Minefield – The goal is to cross a designated area full of obstacles, with eyes closed and without touching any obstacle or any person. Go outside, if possible, but this game can be done inside, even in rooms with fixed furniture. Distribute "mines" e.g., balls or other objects such as cones, foam noodles, school bags, etc. Students operate in pairs. One person keeps their eyes closed. The other person can see and talk, but cannot enter the field or touch the person. The seeing person helps the other (who has their eyes closed) to cross the field by

"talking" them through the field. The challenge is for each person with their eyes shut to walk from one side of the field to the other, avoiding the mines, by listening to the verbal instructions of their partners. Partners can switch roles after the minefield is crossed. Anyone who hits a mine must start again from the beginning. The activity can be conducted one pair at a time or with all pairs at once.

At the end, ask students who had their eyes closed if anyone opened their eyes during the game and why.

INTRODUCE

Let students know that we are starting a series on people in the Bible. Let them know that we can find out about **an extraordinary God from the lives of these ordinary people**, as described in God's word. You may wish to ask them to name people from the Bible, one for each letter of the alphabet.

Read out "Who Am I?" clues (Page 20) and ask students to guess who the person is. Provide a brief introduction of Moses or ask for contributions from the group. Moses was a friend of God who met with God face to face and led God's people from Egypt to the Promised Land, but there were times when God was displeased with him.

DISCUSS

- 1 Read out the passage or have volunteers act out the scene from Numbers 20:2-12.

What was the problem that the Israelites



faced and what was God's solution?

Help the students to see that God's solution to the lack of water was for Moses to speak to the rock so that water would pour out. No other action was required, and God would be shown through this to be holy and powerful. As a result, the people would put their trust in God.

2 Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land given by God?

Moses and Aaron did not follow God's instructions and were punished. If God was obeyed, the miracle of water would be attributed to God. Moses striking the rock reflects his lack of trust in God's ability and holiness. Explain to students that Moses was wrong in not trusting God – he was angry with the people and did not believe that simply speaking words could draw water from the rock. He did not honour God as holy before the Israelites because of his lack of belief. You may wish to refer to the fun activity: students who didn't trust their partner's instructions opened their eyes to play the game on their own terms. Allow students to feel the enormity of Moses' punishment: being excluded from the Promised Land. Discuss with students whether the punishment fits the crime... God is holy and does not treat Moses' disobedience lightly. God's holiness is important.

3 What is holiness?

(a) purity & perfection, (b) absence of evil & wrong, (c) the uniqueness of God, or (d) all of the above

Give students some time to discuss answers. Explain that holiness is all of the above and more - it is an attribute describing everything about God who is set apart and above all things. Distinguish it from the call for Christians to be holy as God's people. While Christians can

seek to be holy, it is God who is truly holy, there is none like Him in character, power, goodness, love, etc.

APPLY

In what ways does God's holiness impact us? (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Discuss whether or not we are like Moses – whether we truly trust God as holy, why we should treat Him that way and how we can do so. Moses is not allowed to enter the Promised Land, but he is still saved because of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only reason we can be holy.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16 and think through the implications of being God's people - called to be holy because God is holy. God's people are to be holy by living lives that reflect the character of God. In discussions, encourage students to remember that we can be God's people because Jesus died for us and we have Jesus' example of holy living to follow.

PRAY

In groups of 3-4, thank God that He is holy, say sorry for times when we don't treat Him that way. Pray for opportunities as God's people to reflect God's holiness.

FINISH

Encourage students to consider God's holiness in their day-to-day lives this week. Maybe leave with a reminder of God's holiness (donut, cheezel) as they leave the group for the day.

WEEK 1 – MOSES

- I had a foster mother and a rich & powerful adopted family.
- I have killed a man
- I am not a good public speaker

WEEK 2 – RAHAB

- I eventually moved to be part of another nation and have aligned myself with them.
- I have been a traitor to my country – for example, I have revealed some national secrets to our country's enemies.
- My job involves prostitution.

WEEK 3 – HANNAH

- I am a religious person – I believe in praying to God.
- I am the 2nd wife of my husband.
- I have had difficulties conceiving a child

WEEK 4 – DAVID

- I used to be involved in working with animals in our family business.
- I am the youngest person in a rather large family.
- I once had an opportunity to assassinate someone to get me ahead in life, but I didn't do it.

WEEK 5 – HOSEA

- I have been asked to speak the words of God.
- I didn't choose the names of my children.
- My wife has had an affair.

WEEK 6 – DANIEL

- I'm a vegetarian.
- I'm good-looking!
- I am a prisoner of war

WEEK 8 - PAUL

- Some would describe me as a religious fundamentalist.
- I have been almost bashed to death several times.
- I've changed my name.

Moses

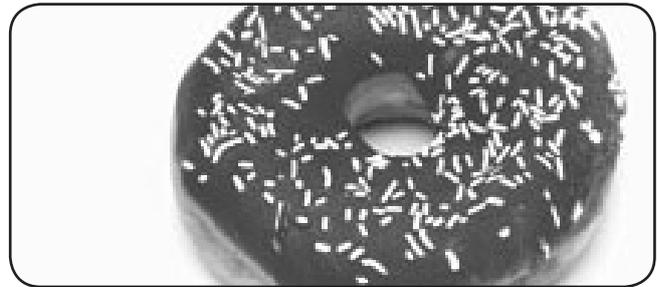
Numbers 20:2-12

² Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. ³ They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! ⁴ Why did you bring the LORD's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? ⁵ Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

⁶ Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ⁸ "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

⁹ So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. ¹⁰ He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" ¹¹ Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."



**Only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee...
*Holy Holy Holy, Reginald Heber***

- 1** What was the problem that the Israelites faced and what was God's solution?
- 2** Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land given by God?
- 3** What *is* holiness? **(a)** purity & perfection, **(b)** absence of evil & wrong, **(c)** the uniqueness of God, or **(d)** all of the above

Apply: In what ways does God's holiness impact us? (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Spend some time in groups thanking God that He is holy and saying sorry for times when we don't treat Him that way. Think of opportunities as God's people to reflect God's holiness and pray that we will take up the challenge.

NUMBERS 20:2-12 - A DRAMATIC READING

4 characters: ***Narrator***
 The People
 The LORD
 Moses

Narrator: Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with Moses and said,

The People: “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! Why did you bring the LORD’s community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”

Narrator: Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD said to Moses,

The LORD: “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

Narrator: So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them,

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Narrator: Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

The LORD: “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

Narrator: These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he showed himself holy among them.