

MIDDLER
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Paper

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FALL QUARTER 2005

Lesson 1

Around the World



“You kids sit really still and be quiet!” Mom whispered. She sounded frightened. Dad turned off the car lights, hoping to calm the startled herd of elephants.

“I’m sorry,” Dad apologized. “I didn’t see them until we were in the middle of the herd. Maybe they’ll go their way if we wait here with the lights off.”

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GOD MOVED THE ELEPHANT!

Photos courtesy of the author

a true story
by Dorothea Lander
with Elizabeth Lander

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Five hearts pounded inside the Land Cruiser as we listened to the nervous elephants around us. We couldn't see a thing.

"I hope they don't step on us!" came a voice from the backseat.

"I hope they don't turn the car over!" whispered another.

"Dear Lord, we are afraid," Dad prayed. "But we know that You have angels all around us. Please make the elephants move on. In Jesus' name. Amen."

I thought of my memory verse about trusting God when I'm afraid (Ps. 56:3). Over and over the words ran through my mind.

What a frightening end to a perfect day! Mom and Dad had taken us for a picnic at the game park on Marsabit Mountain. We didn't get to go there very often, so it was a special day off.

As missionaries in Africa, our family lived in the desert in a little camping trailer. It was crowded for five of us, but we didn't mind. We would camp with the people for three or four weeks. When the grass and water for the animals ran out, we would all move to a new spot.

Mom home schooled us in the mornings, and we played with our village friends the rest of the day. The Gabbra people didn't have a Bible in their language, so Mom and Dad worked on that.

We loved living with the Gabbra herders. The temperature often reached 120 degrees, but here on the mountain it was cool. Refreshing breezes blew at 5,000 feet above the desert floor. Trees and grass grew all around Lake Paradise, an old volcanic crater.

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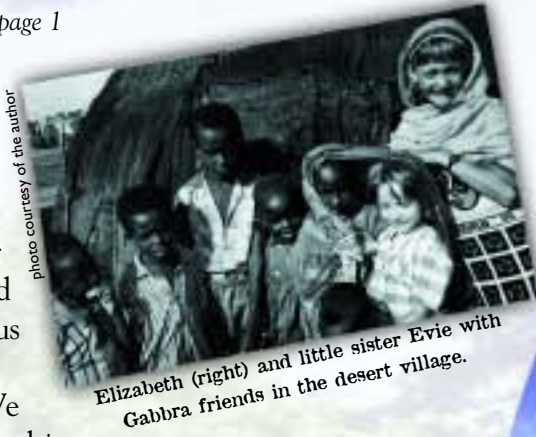


photo courtesy of the author

Elizabeth (right) and little sister Evie with Gabbra friends in the desert village.

SAILING ALONG

by Laurie Eve Loftin

Read the rhymes below and see if you can answer the questions. Write the answers in the puzzle on the line of the same number. Luke 5:6; Exodus 2:10; Jonah 1:3; and Acts 27:41 will help you.

When you are finished, a word will appear vertically in the puzzle. Use it to complete number 5.



Peter, Peter, big fish eater,
Had a net and couldn't fill her.
Let her down just one time more,
And caught too many fish to store!

1. Q: What happened to the net?

A tisket, a tasket,
A baby in a basket.
Made with grass and sealed with pitch,
And down a river floating.

2. Q: Who was the baby?

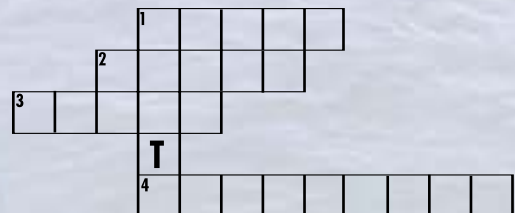
Hickory dickory dock,
A man heard the captain's loud knock.
"Up this storm came,
And you are to blame,"
Soon a big fish received quite a shock!

3. Q: Who was the man?

Oh where have you been, brother Paul, brother Paul?
Oh where have you been, our dear brother?
"I was on my way to Rome,
I was very far from home,
Now our craft must be traded for another."

4. Q: What happened to Paul's vessel?

5. All of these rhymes refer to _____ in the Bible.



Answers: (1) broke; (2) Moses; (3) Jonah; (4) shipwreck; (5) boats

Answers:

September
October
November

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Breaktime



verse or chapter tells all about God. You might want to record your discoveries in a **Breaktime** notebook.

MY GOD IS...

As you read each of the Bible verses this week, look for just one truth about God. Then, in each section of the chart, print a word from the verse that tells what God is like. In your **Breaktime** notebook, write what this means to you.

PASSWORD

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Timothy 1:17

OUR GREAT GOD

GOD! He always lived. He always will live. How can we know what He is like?

GETTING TO KNOW GOD

The best way to find an answer to that question is to read the Bible. No one

After our picnic, we sat at the top of a steep cliff. What fun to watch a herd of elephants below! Elephants can't climb up a sharp slope, so we were not in any danger.

For hours we played on the cool lawn, watching elephants eat, romp, and even swim. They looked so funny, bobbing along like big balloons in the water! They rolled in mud, then picked up dirt with their trunks and threw it up on their backs. “Why do they do that, Dad?” my brother asked.

“Ticks and fleas can't breathe under mud, so they drop off. Pretty smart, don't you think?” Dad said.

“Yes, but I'd rather wear bug spray!” Mom laughed.

At sunset, all the elephants lumbered off toward the forest. Finally, Dad announced, “Time to load up.” We climbed back into the Land Cruiser and started down the mountain road.

“Oh, no!” Mom gasped. “We must not have given the herd enough time to cross the road!” Our headlights shone on several elephants running right in front of the car.

“We're in the middle of the herd. They're all around us!” Dad exclaimed. That's when he stopped and turned off the lights.

The last thing we saw was one huge elephant looking us straight in the eye. His big ears flopped, and he blew air out of his trunk. We all knew what that meant. He was planning to attack!

I don't know how long we sat there, listening and praying. It seemed like forever. The night was pitch black.

“I can't see anything, but it sounds like they've moved on,” Dad said at last. “Let's turn on the headlights and take a look.”

To our relief, the angry elephant was gone. They were all gone! “Oh, thank You, Lord!” Mom said.

continued on page 4

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 33:27

TUESDAY: Psalm 95:6

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 99:9

THURSDAY: 1 John 4:8

FRIDAY: Psalm 103:8, 11

SATURDAY: Psalm 89:1

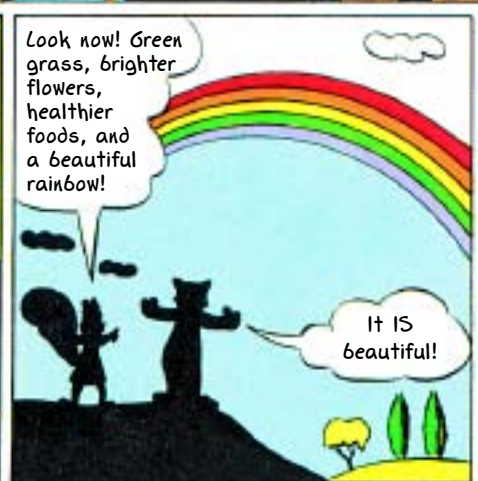
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



Our trusty Land Cruiser next to our trailer in the village.

HICKORY HOLLOW

Illustration by Norm Lynch



GOD MOVED THE ELEPHANT!

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Slowly we started home, watching carefully in case the herd had gone straight up the road. Dad didn't want to run into them again!

It took us a long time to go to sleep that night. "Jesus really did hear our prayers and move that elephant, didn't He, Daddy?" my little sister asked from her bed.

"He sure did, Honey," Dad answered.

The next morning we remembered how scared we had been. Mom wondered how God had changed the big elephant's mind about attacking us.

"Can't you just imagine an angel, or maybe a whole bunch of angels, pushing that big bull elephant across the road?" she said. "When we get to heaven, maybe

God will tell us all about it."

I learned a lot about elephants that day. And a lot about God.

Since then, God brings the experience back to my mind. His voice says, "Trust Me. I've taken care of you before. I'll do it again."

What a powerful and loving God we serve! The next time you are afraid, pray and trust God to do great things for you. After all, He can even move elephants! 🙏



"Jesus really did hear our prayers and move that elephant, didn't He, Daddy?" my little sister asked from her bed.

Jim and Dorothea Lander served as missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. During the time of this story they lived and worked in the country of Kenya in Africa.

M Middler Counselor Take-Home No. 4044

ISBN 2125404419

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