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Social Studies 306
Israel, Old and New

306 – Section 1: Israel, an Old and New Country

Lesson 1 Learning From Maps of Israel

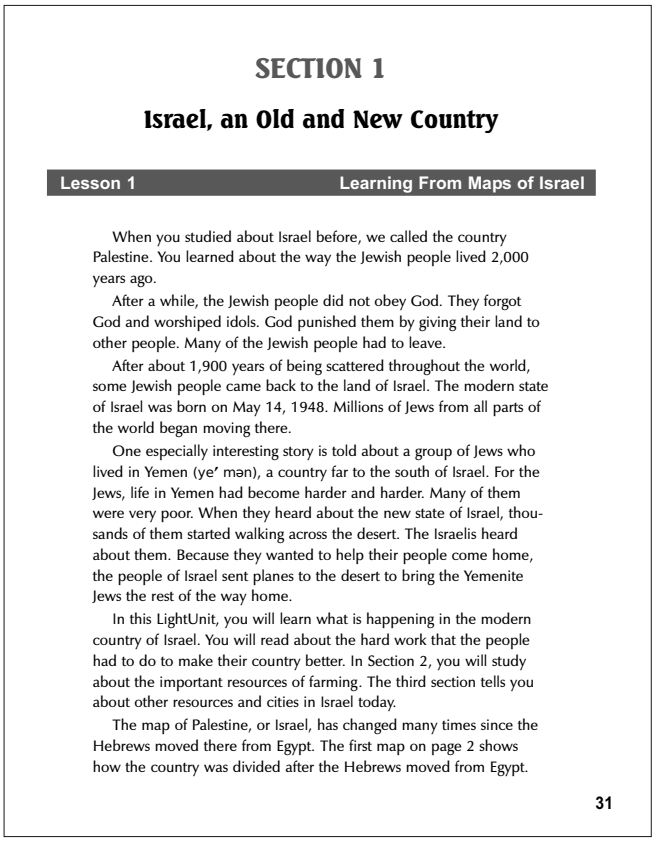
LightUnit pages 31-34

Objectives

To introduce the study of modern Israel.
To learn how the map of Israel has changed.

Lesson Leads

A review of Jewish history may be helpful. God calls Abraham, and begins the Hebrew nation. Jacob's family moves to Egypt. After 430 years in Egypt, Jacob's family (now a nation of Hebrews) leaves. The Hebrews wander in the wilderness. They conquer Palestine, and set up a nation. The nation divides into Israel, the northern kingdom and Judah, the southern kingdom. Because of idolatry, God punishes the northern kingdom. Assyria scatters the Hebrews. Because of idolatry, God punishes the southern kingdom with the seventy-year Babylonian exile. The Jews return from exile under Medo-Persian rule. The Greeks overthrow the Persians. Rome conquers the Greek world, including Palestine. Rome expels the Jews and destroys Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Jews scatter throughout Europe and Asia. Many of them suffer persecution. In the meantime, Palestine is settled by Arabs. The Roman Church leads the Crusades to free Jerusalem from the Turks. Jews start moving back to Palestine in the 1800s. Palestine is divided into an Arab and a Jewish state. Israel becomes a nation in 1948. Don't share all



SECTION 1

Israel, an Old and New Country

Lesson 1 Learning From Maps of Israel

When you studied about Israel before, we called the country Palestine. You learned about the way the Jewish people lived 2,000 years ago.

After a while, the Jewish people did not obey God. They forgot God and worshiped idols. God punished them by giving their land to other people. Many of the Jewish people had to leave.

After about 1,900 years of being scattered throughout the world, some Jewish people came back to the land of Israel. The modern state of Israel was born on May 14, 1948. Millions of Jews from all parts of the world began moving there.

One especially interesting story is told about a group of Jews who lived in Yemen (yeʼ mən), a country far to the south of Israel. For the Jews, life in Yemen had become harder and harder. Many of them were very poor. When they heard about the new state of Israel, thousands of them started walking across the desert. The Israelis heard about them. Because they wanted to help their people come home, the people of Israel sent planes to the desert to bring the Yemenite Jews the rest of the way home.

In this LightUnit, you will learn what is happening in the modern country of Israel. You will read about the hard work that the people had to do to make their country better. In Section 2, you will study about the important resources of farming. The third section tells you about other resources and cities in Israel today.

The map of Palestine, or Israel, has changed many times since the Hebrews moved there from Egypt. The first map on page 2 shows how the country was divided after the Hebrews moved from Egypt.

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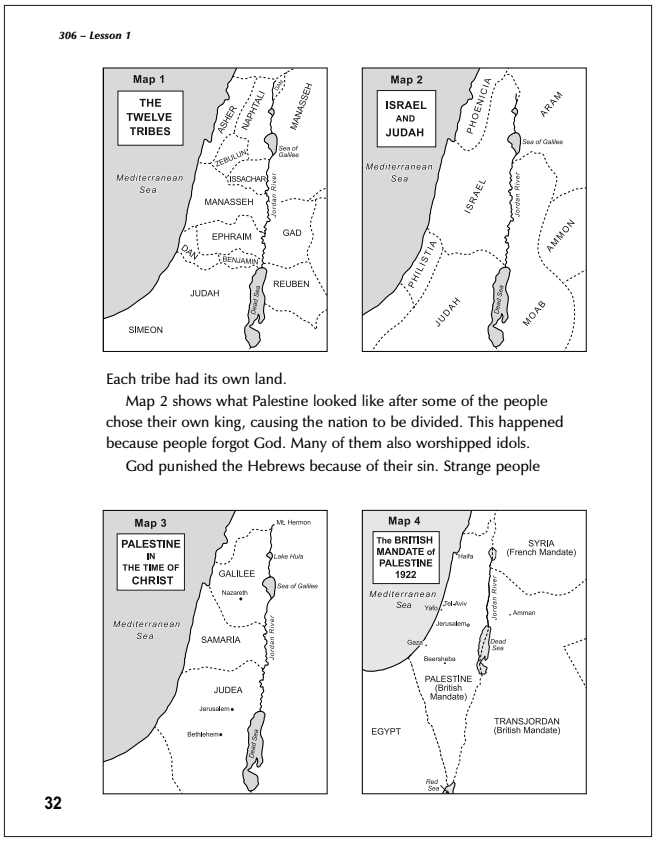

306 – Lesson 1

Map 1
THE TWELVE TRIBES
ASHER
NAPHTALI
MANASSEH
ZEBULUN
Sea of Galilee
ISSACHAR
Jordan River
Mediterranean Sea
MANASSEH
EPHRAIM
GAD
DAN
BENJAMIN
REUBEN
JUDAH
Dead Sea
SIMEON

Map 2
ISRAEL AND JUDAH
PHOENICIA
ARAM
Sea of Galilee
Mediterranean Sea
ISRAEL
Jordan River
AMMON
PHILISTIA
JUDAH
Dead Sea
MOAB

Each tribe had its own land.

Map 2 shows what Palestine looked like after some of the people chose their own king, causing the nation to be divided. This happened because people forgot God. Many of them also worshipped idols.

God punished the Hebrews because of their sin. Strange people

Map 3
PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF CHRIST
Mt. Hermon
Lake Hula
GALILEE
Sea of Galilee
Nazareth
Mediterranean Sea
SAMARIA
Jordan River
JUDEA
Jerusalem
Bethlehem
Dead Sea

Map 4
The BRITISH MANDATE of PALESTINE 1922
Haifa
SYRIA (French Mandate)
Mediterranean Sea
Tel-Aviv
Yafo
Jordan River
Amman
Jerusalem
Gaza
Dead Sea
Beersheba
PALESTINE (British Mandate)
EGYPT
TRANSJORDAN (British Mandate)
Red Sea

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these details with your students. Highlight those points that you feel are important.

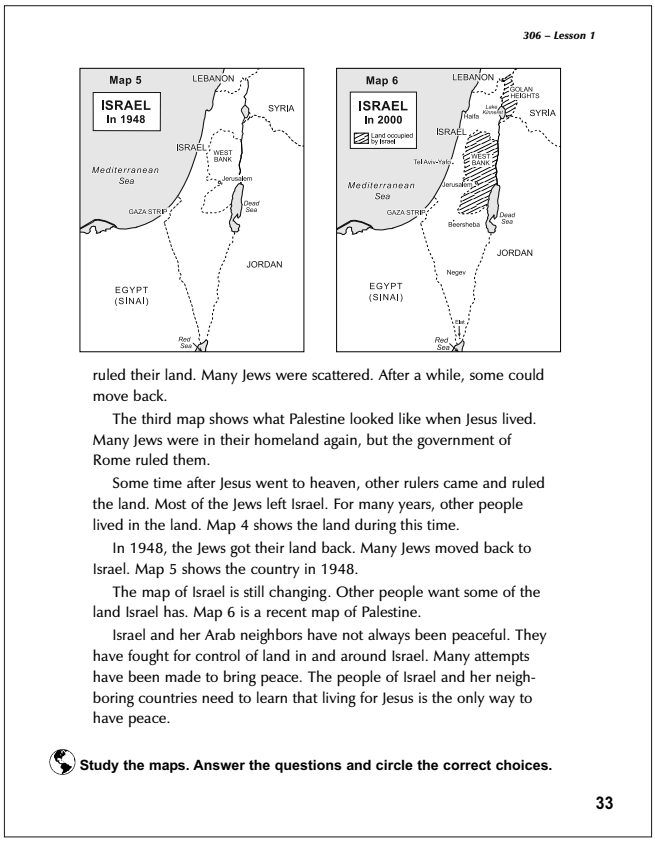
Go over the maps carefully. Make sure that students understand that the size of the country changed as a result of the land take-overs. The 21st century continues to see changes in Israel's borders and size.

Enrichment Activities

Perhaps there are some newspaper clippings about Israel that would be appropriate to share.

Begin an Israeli interest center. Use reference books, artifacts, and information from Israel or Jewish sources for ideas.

Mark the following on Map 13: Mediterranean Sea, Jordan River, Dead Sea, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt (Sinai), West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights.



306 – Lesson 1

Map 5
ISRAEL In 1948
LEBANON
SYRIA
ISRAEL
WEST BANK
Jerusalem
Mediterranean Sea
GAZA STRIP
Dead Sea
JORDAN
EGYPT (SINAI)
Red Sea

Map 6
ISRAEL In 2000
Land occupied by Israel
LEBANON
GOLAN HEIGHTS
Lake Kinneret
Haifa
SYRIA
ISRAEL
WEST BANK
Tel Aviv-Yafo
Jerusalem
Mediterranean Sea
GAZA STRIP
Beersheba
Dead Sea
JORDAN
Negev
EGYPT (SINAI)
Red Sea

ruled their land. Many Jews were scattered. After a while, some could move back.

The third map shows what Palestine looked like when Jesus lived. Many Jews were in their homeland again, but the government of Rome ruled them.

Some time after Jesus went to heaven, other rulers came and ruled the land. Most of the Jews left Israel. For many years, other people lived in the land. Map 4 shows the land during this time.

In 1948, the Jews got their land back. Many Jews moved back to Israel. Map 5 shows the country in 1948.

The map of Israel is still changing. Other people want some of the land Israel has. Map 6 is a recent map of Palestine.

Israel and her Arab neighbors have not always been peaceful. They have fought for control of land in and around Israel. Many attempts have been made to bring peace. The people of Israel and her neighboring countries need to learn that living for Jesus is the only way to have peace.

Study the maps. Answer the questions and circle the correct choices.

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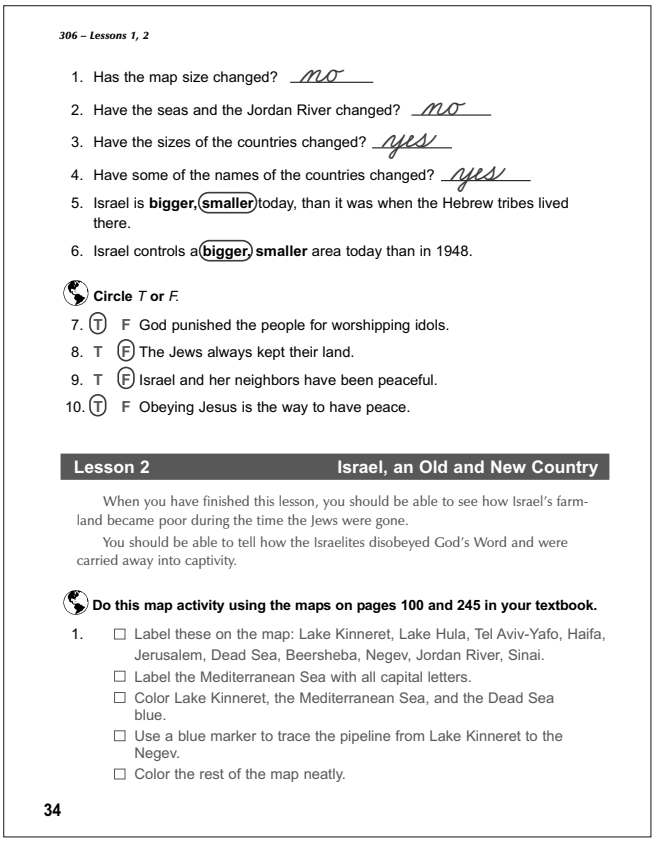

306 – Lessons 1, 2

1. Has the map size changed? no
2. Have the seas and the Jordan River changed? no
3. Have the sizes of the countries changed? yes
4. Have some of the names of the countries changed? yes
5. Israel is **bigger, (smaller)** today, than it was when the Hebrew tribes lived there.
6. Israel controls a **(bigger,) smaller** area today than in 1948.

Circle *T* or *F*.

7. (T) F God punished the people for worshipping idols.
8. T (F) The Jews always kept their land.
9. T (F) Israel and her neighbors have been peaceful.
10. (T) F Obeying Jesus is the way to have peace.

Lesson 2 Israel, an Old and New Country

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to see how Israel's farmland became poor during the time the Jews were gone.

You should be able to tell how the Israelites disobeyed God's Word and were carried away into captivity.

Do this map activity using the maps on pages 100 and 245 in your textbook.

1. ☐ Label these on the map: Lake Kinneret, Lake Hula, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Beersheba, Negev, Jordan River, Sinai.
   ☐ Label the Mediterranean Sea with all capital letters.
   ☐ Color Lake Kinneret, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Dead Sea blue.
   ☐ Use a blue marker to trace the pipeline from Lake Kinneret to the Negev.
   ☐ Color the rest of the map neatly.

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Lesson 2 Israel, an Old and New Country

LightUnit pages 34-36 ***Text pages 237-240***

Objectives

To see how Israel's farmland became poor during the time the Jews were gone.
To tell how the Israelites disobeyed God's Word and were carried away into captivity.

Lesson Leads

With your students, look at the effects of neglect in their rooms—messy bed, toys and clothes on floor, dust everywhere, cobwebs, and dirty windows. Neglect in your classroom might lead to an overflowing trash can;

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paper, books, dirt on floor; desks and furniture in disarray.

Discuss the effects of neglect in Palestine. Trees were cut, topsoil eroded, rivers clogged creating swamps out of farmland, and unwatered land became desert.

Make sure students understand *B.C.* and *A.D.* Illustrate them, using a time line and the following dates: Calling of Abraham (1996-1822 B.C.), Hebrews leave Egypt (1491 B.C.), Hebrews enter Canaan (1451 B.C.), King David (1055-1015 B.C.), Babylonian Exile (635-605 B.C.), Birth of Christ (0 or 4-6 B.C.), Apostle Paul (A.D. 35-70), Fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), Reformation and Anabaptism (A.D. 1525), Quakers and Mennonites come to Pennsylvania (A.D. 1681-1683), and today.

Discussion Ideas

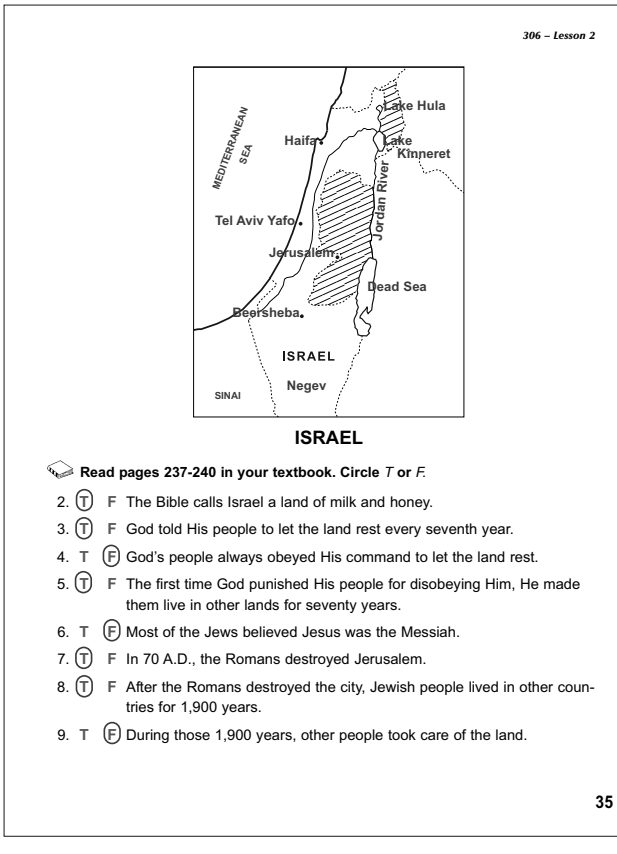
Discuss wise stewardship principles regarding land use, and personal possessions as gifts from God.

Discuss the prosperity Palestine once enjoyed. It was a good, well-watered land of plenty, a land of wheat and barley for bread, and a land of various fruits, olives for oil, and honey.

Note the abundance the land produced when the seventh year of rest was observed. Enough food would grow to last three years. Note, too, the result of disobedience. They were punished by going into exile for 70 years. The land rested, as God wanted it to, but the people suffered. Then in A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. The Jews were scattered for 1900 years, their homeland wasted and neglected.

Enrichment Activity

Perhaps you can illustrate the effects of erosion on terraced land and non-terraced, hilly land.



306 – Lesson 2

ISRAEL

Read pages 237-240 in your textbook. Circle *T* or *F*.

2. (T) F The Bible calls Israel a land of milk and honey.
3. (T) F God told His people to let the land rest every seventh year.
4. T (F) God's people always obeyed His command to let the land rest.
5. (T) F The first time God punished His people for disobeying Him, He made them live in other lands for seventy years.
6. T (F) Most of the Jews believed Jesus was the Messiah.
7. (T) F In 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.
8. (T) F After the Romans destroyed the city, Jewish people lived in other countries for 1,900 years.
9. T (F) During those 1,900 years, other people took care of the land.

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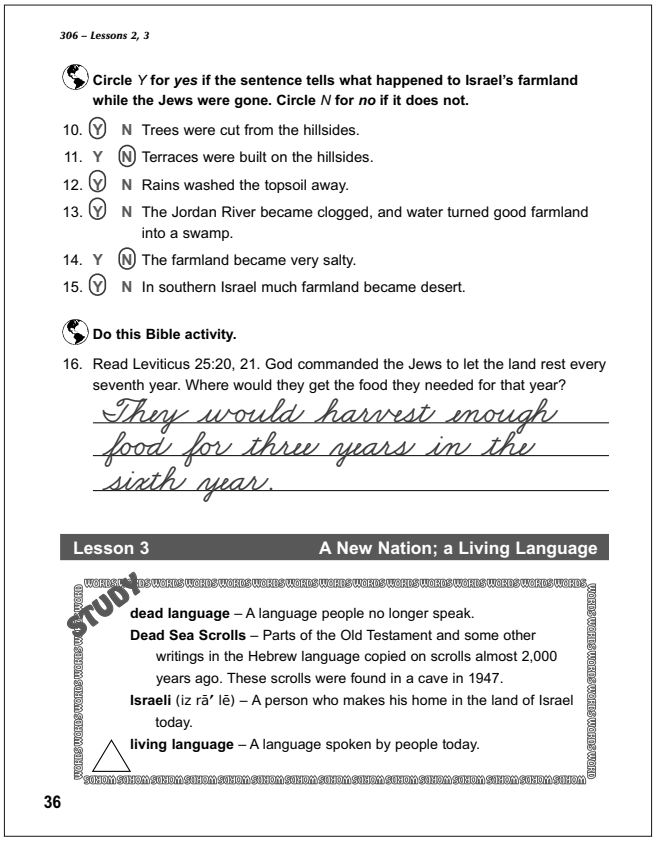

306 – Lessons 2, 3

Circle *Y* for *yes* if the sentence tells what happened to Israel's farmland while the Jews were gone. Circle *N* for *no* if it does not.

10. (Y) N Trees were cut from the hillsides.
11. Y (N) Terraces were built on the hillsides.
12. (Y) N Rains washed the topsoil away.
13. (Y) N The Jordan River became clogged, and water turned good farmland into a swamp.
14. Y (N) The farmland became very salty.
15. (Y) N In southern Israel much farmland became desert.

Do this Bible activity.

16. Read Leviticus 25:20, 21. God commanded the Jews to let the land rest every seventh year. Where would they get the food they needed for that year?

They would harvest enough food for three years in the sixth year.

Lesson 3 — A New Nation; a Living Language

STUDY

dead language – A language people no longer speak.
Dead Sea Scrolls – Parts of the Old Testament and some other writings in the Hebrew language copied on scrolls almost 2,000 years ago. These scrolls were found in a cave in 1947.
Israeli (iz rā′ lē) – A person who makes his home in the land of Israel today.
living language – A language spoken by people today.

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