

# THE TRIBES OF REUBEN AND GAD

## *Numbers 32:1-33*

### **Numbers 32**

<sup>1</sup>The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock. <sup>2</sup>So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community, and said, <sup>3</sup>“Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo and Beon—<sup>4</sup>the land the LORD subdued before the people of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock. <sup>5</sup>If we have found favor in your eyes,” they said, “let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan.”

<sup>6</sup>Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, “Shall your countrymen go to war while you sit here? <sup>7</sup>Why do you discourage the Israelites from going over into the land the LORD has given them? <sup>8</sup>This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land. <sup>9</sup>After they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them. <sup>10</sup>The LORD’S anger was aroused that day and he swore this oath: <sup>11</sup>“Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—<sup>12</sup>not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.” <sup>13</sup>The LORD’S anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the desert forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.

<sup>14</sup>“And here you are, a brood of sinners, standing in the place of your fathers and making the LORD even more angry with Israel. <sup>15</sup>If you turn away from following him, he will again leave all this people in the desert, and you will be the cause of their destruction.”

<sup>16</sup>Then they came up to him and said, “We would like to build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children. <sup>17</sup>But we are ready to arm ourselves and go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place. Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of

the land. <sup>18</sup>We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has received his inheritance. <sup>19</sup>We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan.”

<sup>20</sup>Then Moses said to them, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before the LORD for battle, <sup>21</sup>and if all of you will go armed over the Jordan before the LORD until he has driven his enemies out before him—<sup>22</sup>then when the land is subdued before the LORD, you may return and be free from your obligation to the LORD and to Israel. And this land will be your possession before the LORD.

<sup>23</sup>“But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. <sup>24</sup>Build cities for your women and children, and pens for your flocks, but do what you have promised.”

<sup>25</sup>The Gadites and Reubenites said to Moses, “We your servants will do as our lord commands. <sup>26</sup>Our children and wives, our flocks and herds will remain here in the cities of Gilead. <sup>27</sup>But your servants, every man armed for battle, will cross over to fight before the LORD, just as our lord says.”

<sup>28</sup>Then Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and to the family heads of the Israelite tribes. <sup>29</sup>He said to them, “If the Gadites and Reubenites, every man armed for battle, cross over the Jordan with you before the LORD, then when the land is subdued before you, give them the land of Gilead as their possession. <sup>30</sup>But if they do not cross over with you armed, they must accept their possession with you in Canaan.”

<sup>31</sup>The Gadites and Reubenites answered, “Your servants will do what the LORD has said. <sup>32</sup>We will cross over before the LORD into Canaan armed, but the property we inherit will be on this side of the Jordan.”

<sup>33</sup>Then Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—the whole land with its cities and the territory around them.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did the tribes of Reuben and Gad ask Moses for? (Verse 5)
5		2.) Why did the two tribes want to live outside of the promised land?
5		3.) What did the two tribes agree to do? (Verse 17)
5		4.) Why do you think Moses was upset with the two tribes when they asked to stay behind?

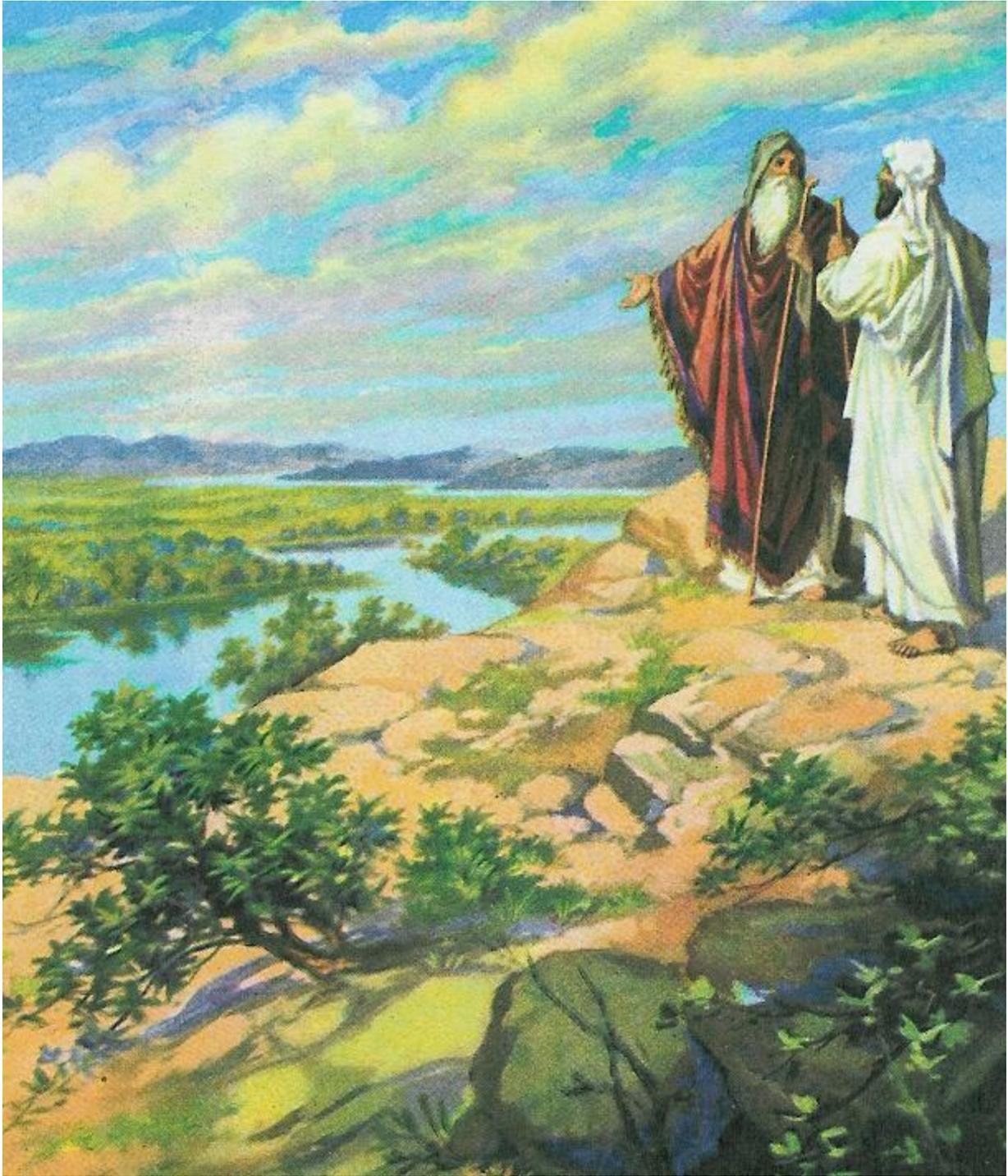
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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*Numbers 32:1-33*



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

# THE TRIBES OF REUBEN AND GAD

*Numbers 32:1-33*



*The tribes of Reuben and Gad look across toward Canaan*

# THE TRIBES OF REUBEN AND GAD

*Numbers 32:1-33*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: NECKLACES

Students will make necklaces to remind them that the tribes of Reuben and Gad obeyed the Lord by helping the other tribes take Canaan, the promised land.

### MATERIALS

1. 67 lb. White Cardstock
2. Necklace Pattern
3. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
4. Scissors
5. Yarn
6. Hole Punch
7. Fruit Ring Cereal
8. Tape



### DIRECTIONS

1. Make a copy of the necklace pattern for each student onto 67 lb. white cardstock.
2. Have students color the pieces of the necklace pattern.
3. Instruct students to cut out the necklace pieces.
4. Help them punch holes in each piece.
5. Cut pieces of yarn into 24 inch pieces.
6. Wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it stiff. This will help students when they string the pieces of the necklace onto the yarn.
7. Let students string the pieces of the necklaces (the words to the memory verse) onto the yarn with two pieces of the fruit ring cereal in between each piece.
8. Help students tie the ends together.

### FOR DISCUSSION

While the students are making their necklaces, remind them that the tribes of Reuben and Gad were happy to live just outside of Canaan. They agreed, however, to help the other tribes take over Canaan. God did not want them to let the other tribes take Canaan on their own. The tribes of Reuben and Gad obeyed God's command. Help students realize that we, too, can obey God's commands. Discuss the memory verse below with your students.

**TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:** Approximately 20 minutes

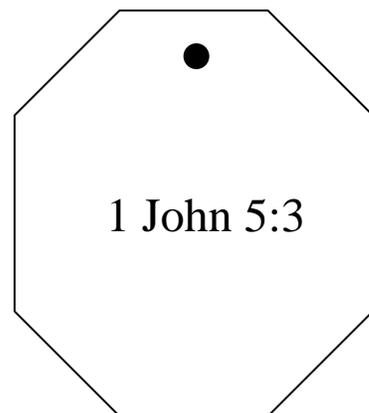
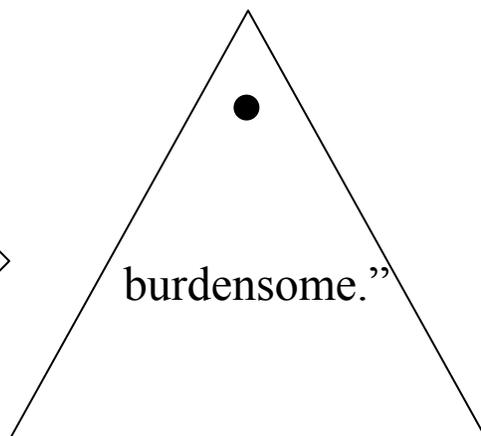
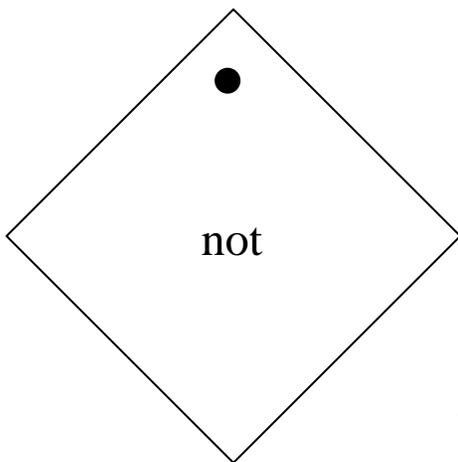
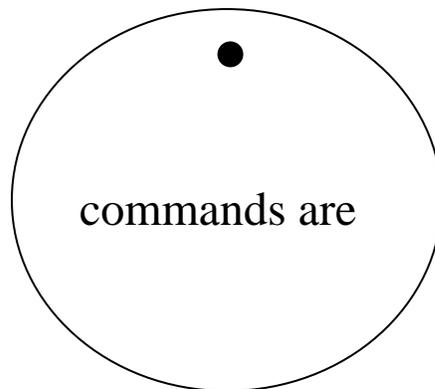
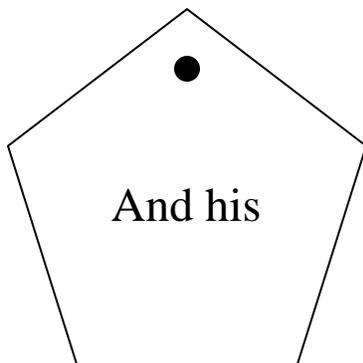
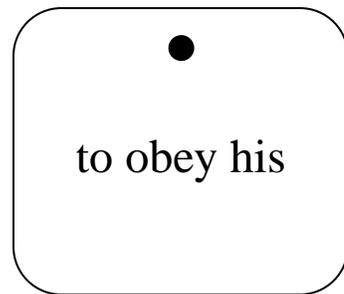
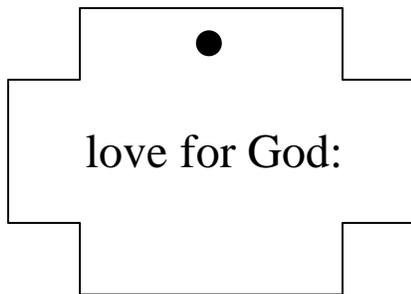
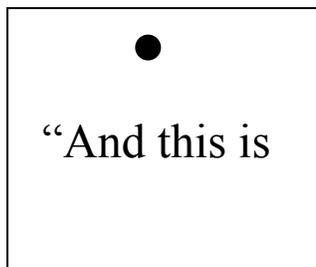
### MEMORY VERSE

*"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3*

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## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: NECKLACE PATTERN



# THE TRIBES OF REUBEN AND GAD

## *Numbers 32:1-33*

**Directions:** In box #1, draw a picture of something that happened at the *beginning* of the story. In box #2 and #3, draw a picture of something that happened in the *middle* of the story. In box #4, draw a picture of something that happened at the *end* of the story. Then write a sentence for each picture to describe what you have drawn.

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON NUMBERS 32:1-33

## THE TRIBES OF REUBEN AND GAD



Long ago, the Lord made a promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that the land on the west side of the Jordan River would someday be theirs.

This special land was called Canaan. Canaan was known as the Promised Land. Unfortunately, any of the men 20 years or older who came up out of Egypt would not be able to live in Canaan because they disobeyed God. God made the Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years because of their disobedience. Caleb and Joshua, however, obeyed God and would be able to enter Canaan.

Two of the twelve tribes wanted to stay on the east side of the Jordan instead of living in Canaan. They thought the land was suitable for their animals. They asked Moses if they could live there instead of living in Canaan.

Moses was hesitant but agreed as long as the tribes of Reuben and Gad helped the rest of the Israelites enter Canaan.

For more details, please read Numbers 32:1-33 in your Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did the tribes of Reuben and Gad ask Moses?
2. Why did the two tribes want to live outside of the Promised Land?
3. What did the tribes of Reuben and Gad agree to?
4. Why do you think Moses was hesitant about letting the two tribes stay on the other side of the Jordan?

## MEMORY VERSE

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." 1 John 5:3

## TRUE OR FALSE?

- |                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | F | The Lord promised the Israelites the land of Canaan.                               |
| <input type="radio"/>            | F | Men who were 5 years or older could not enter Canaan.                              |
| <input type="radio"/>            | F | Two tribes did not want to live in Canaan.   |
| <input type="radio"/>            | F | Moses said that all of the tribes had to live in Canaan.                           |
| <input type="radio"/>            | F | The tribes of Reuben and Gad had to help the rest of the Israelites enter Canaan.  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | F | God made the Israelites wander in the desert because it was good for their health. |