



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

MIDDLE EAST FLOOR MAP

Teaching Goal: Locate key Middle East landmarks.

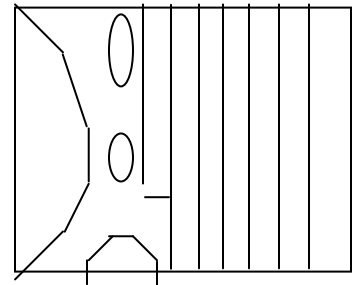
Scripture: See Activity

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Materials: Blue tarp or blue paper
Black marker
Paper for signs
Middle East map cut out template
Middle East map with answers

In Advance: Draw, label and cut out pieces to match the labeled items on the map template. Make signs or labels with the following names: Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Tower of Babel, Ur, Haran, Canaan, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Egypt.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion



Words that are written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **Reading the Bible is something we do all our lives. It is different from any other book because it is alive and it is filled with God's truth.** Invite a volunteer to read Hebrews 4:12. **You can read a Bible story 10 times and the 11th time you can still learn something new. Today we are going to do a lesson that will help us understand the geography of the Bible. Through the years, as we read the Bible, this activity will help us learn where the stories took place and how they relate to other stories.**

B. **ACTIVITY #1:** The larger the space the more memorable the activity. If possible, find a large open space and use large pieces cut from a blue tarp to represent Middle East water landmarks.

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Home improvement stores sell blue tarps as large as 20' by 30'. It costs more but remember you can use this activity multiple times. The map will not be to scale but will show the relative locations between key landmarks.

Tape a sign with a large "N" to represent "north" on one wall. Randomly lay out the labeled pieces of blue tarp. See if family members can put the landmarks in the correct locations. After giving them a turn, use the map included with this activity to place the landmarks into the correct locations.

The map we created is not exactly drawn to scale but it shows the relationship of key Biblical landmarks.

How far is it from the bottom of the Sea of Galilee to the top of the Dead Sea? Listen to answers. *Approximately 70 miles.* Compare this distance to a familiar local distance.

How far is it from the top of the Dead Sea to Egypt? Listen. *Approximately 200 miles.* Compare this distance to a familiar local distance.

C. ACTIVITY #2: We are going to identify some key Biblical locations.

1. **Where is the Garden of Eden located?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 2:10-14. Place the sign at the #1 location as indicated on the Middle East map answer sheet.

2. **Where did Noah's Ark end up after the flood?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 8:4. Place the sign above the Tigris River. **Noah's ark came to rest on Mt Ararat which is in modern day Turkey just off the north end of our map.**

3. **Where was the Tower of Babel?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 11:2. **Plain in Shinar.** Place the sign at the #3 location.

4. **Where is the city of Ur?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 11:31. Hometown of Abraham and Sarah. Place the sign at the #4 location. **Next to the Euphrates river.**

5. **Where is Haran?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 11:31. **Abraham moved from Ur to Haran.** Place the sign at the #5 location.

6. **Where is Canaan, the Promised Land?** Listen to answers. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 12:4-5. **God called Abraham to move from Haran to Canaan.** Place the sign at the #6 location.

7. **Where is Jerusalem?** Listen to answers. **Just west and off the top of the Dead Sea.** Place the sign at the #7 location.

8. **Where is Nazareth?** Listen to answers. **Just west and off the bottom of the Sea of Galilee.** Place the sign at the #8 location.

9. **Where is Bethlehem?** Listen to answers. **Just 10 miles southeast of Jerusalem.** Place the sign at the #9 location.

10. **Where is Egypt?** Listen to answers. **South of the Mediterranean Sea in the same place as the Nile River.** Place the sign at the #10 location.

V. Memorize

**Ordering biblical events,
Helps it all make sense.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass it on

Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.

MIDDLE EAST MAP
ANSWER SHEET

