

Bible Lesson # 23

1.

Exodus 5-7

It was a busy morning for Moses and Zipporah, for they were getting ready to leave on a long trip to the land of Egypt. Little Gershom and Eliezer were very excited as they hurried to pack their clothes in a bag, for they were also going on the trip. God had spoken to Moses and told him that he was to go to Egypt to help the children of Israel. Do you remember the signs God had given to Moses to show he was being sent from God? His rod turned into a snake, didn't it? His hand became white and diseased with leprosy, but then it turned back to his regular tan skin and last of all, the water he poured on the ground turned into blood. God told Moses that he would send his brother Aaron to meet Moses to help speak to the mighty king, the Pharaoh of Egypt.

As Moses and his family traveled along, they saw a cloud of dust in the distance. It was a man coming toward them, and as he came closer, Moses recognized him...it was his brother Aaron! It had been many years since Moses had seen his brother and they ran and hugged each other. They were very happy to see each other and that night they sat around the campfire long into the night, catching up on all the news. Moses told Aaron how God had talked to him from the burning bush and Aaron told Moses how God had sent him to meet Moses. There was a different ruler on the throne now, and Aaron was to speak to this Pharaoh while Moses showed Pharaoh signs from God.

Finally Moses, Aaron and the family reached the land of Egypt and found a place to stay. The next morning Moses and Aaron walked up the stone steps to enter the palace of Pharaoh. It must have seemed strange for Moses to be here once again, for this was the very palace where Moses had been raised. Pharaoh's daughter had adopted Moses and brought him up in the palace. As a young man, Moses must have walked up these same stone steps many times. Now Moses was returning, not as a son of Pharaoh's daughter, but as a quiet shepherd, come to ask Pharaoh to let his people leave Egypt.

When They entered the palace, Moses and Aaron bowed low before the Pharaoh. Aaron spoke up, "The Lord, God of Israel has said, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness." Pharaoh looked surprised. Let his slaves leave their work? Never! Pharaoh sneered and said, "Who is this God that I should obey his voice? I don't know the Lord and I wont let the people go!"



Pharaoh decided to "fix" the Israelites, so he called a guard and told them to give the slaves more work to do. Many of the Israelite slaves worked making bricks for the Egyptians. To make these bricks, the slaves would wade into a pool of thick, muddy clay. Beside the clay were piles of straw. The slaves would take some straw and throw it into the mud and then stamp their feet up and down to mix the straw and clay together. When it was mixed just right, other slaves would dip jars into the mud and carry the heavy jars to a place where rectangle-shaped molds were sitting in the hot sun. The clay would be poured into the molds and sit in the sun to dry. Each day the bricks were counted and the Israelites were expected to make the same amount of bricks each day. If anyone fell, got sick, or didn't make the right amount of bricks, Egyptian task masters would beat the slaves with long sticks or whips.

Below is a picture of making bricks, taken from walls of an Egyptian tomb.



This was very hard work, but now Pharaoh ordered the slaves to not only make the bricks but first, to go into the fields and gather the straw, then come back and still make the same number of bricks. This was almost impossible to do and the poor slaves got many beatings. The Israelite leaders went to Pharaoh and told him that they couldn't possibly gather straw and still make as many bricks as always. Pharaoh angrily said, "You are idle people, that's why you say let us go sacrifice to the Lord. Now get back to work, no straw will be given to you and you must make the same amount of bricks as before!" The Israelite slaves got together that night and went to Moses and Aaron and yelled at them. "Why have you angered the Pharaoh? You've made our work twice as hard as before, why did you come here to give us so much trouble?"

Poor Moses didn't plan it this way, what should he do? Moses only had one thought, he needed help. When we don't know what to do, we also can turn to God for help. Moses knelt down and began to pray to God.

God heard Moses' prayer, just as he hears our prayers when we turn to him. God did answer Moses but not right away. God knew that Pharaoh would need to learn that God was the one and only power before he would let the people leave Egypt. God heard and helped Moses, but the prayer wasn't completely answered for quite a long time. That's how our prayers might be sometimes. God hears them and we know that he WILL answer them, but sometimes he doesn't answer a prayer right away. Do you know why?

Because God knows things that we don't know and God knows just the right time and the right way to answer our prayers. We can trust him to answer us in just the right way, even if it isn't always the way we might think.



Your memory verse for this lesson is from **Psalms 46:1**

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

When you have learned the Psalm, put a check mark in the gold box.



Do you know what a "refuge" is? It is a place where one can be safe and protected. God can give us safety and protection and he can give us the strength to face hard times, as well. He is close to us and will always hear us and help us.

God heard Moses' prayer and answered him. "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. He will let the people go, for I will remember my covenant to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (do you remember this covenant? God promised that they and their descendants, the children of Israel, would live in the land of Israel forever). The Israelites would have to leave Egypt and go back to their promised land and God told Moses that they would. God said, "Tell the children of Israel that I, Yahweh, (God's special name) have heard the groaning of my people. I have remembered my promises. Tell them that I will bring you out from under your burdens and will rescue you with great acts. I will bring you into the land I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I am Yahweh!"

Then God warned Moses that Pharaoh wouldn't listen right away. God knew the kind of man that Pharaoh was: stubborn, cruel and proud. Egypt was a very powerful nation at this time and God wanted to take the power away from the Egyptians in order to rescue his people. The Israelites didn't believe very strongly in God at this time, but after God showed his miracles in Egypt, his people would believe in God and trust him to take care of them. This is what God wants.

When Moses and Aaron first came to Egypt they performed the miracles for the Israelites. Moses showed them how God could make a rod turn into a snake and how he could turn a hand into leprosy and then cure it and also how God could turn water into blood. The Egyptians must have heard about the miracles and told Pharaoh and Pharaoh's magicians.

Moses and Aaron once again went to the palace to speak to Pharaoh. "The Lord God said, "Let my people go to worship me" Pharaoh said, "Show me a sign or a miracle so I'll know this is a God who really spoke to you." Moses threw down his rod and it became a writhing snake. The people in the court gasped in amazement, but Pharaoh's sly magicians were all ready for this miracle. In Egypt there is a certain kind of snake that will stiffen out into a straight line when held in a certain way. When let go, the snake will loosen up and try to slither away. Pharaoh called his magicians and they came carrying what looked like rods in their hands. When they tossed them down, they were not rods but snakes. "Hah!" Pharaoh said, "My magicians can do the same tricks you do!" While they were talking, the rod Moses had, slithered over to the other snakes and ate them up! Pharaoh angrily ordered Moses and Aaron out of the palace. Moses picked up the snake and it turned back into his rod. A piece of wood, not a stiff snake!



That night God told Moses what to do next. In the morning Moses and Aaron dressed early and went to the river bank where Pharaoh usually went to take his morning bath in the cool water. As the Pharaoh came near, Aaron stepped forward and said, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has said to you, let my people go, so they may serve me in the wilderness. Since you didn't listen to the Lord, he will now show you his power so you may know that he is the God of the Hebrews. I will change these waters into blood and all the fish in the river will die. The river will smell so bad the Egyptians won't even be able to drink the water." Then Moses lifted his rod and struck the waters and they slowly started to turn blood red. Soon the whole river had turned into blood and even the water in bowls and buckets and jars had turned into blood. The fish began to die and were piled along the river banks. When the Egyptians went to the river for water, the smell of the fish and the sight of the dark, red, water was enough to make them sick. The Egyptians couldn't find water anywhere and had to dig into the ground to find water to drink. But Pharaoh's magicians quickly thought up a trick to make it look like they also could turn water red like blood.



Question page

1. What kind of material was used in making bricks besides clay?
2. What did Pharaoh do to make the Israelites slaves work harder when making bricks?
3. Who can we turn to as our refuge and strength when we are in trouble?
4. What happened to Moses' rod when he threw it on the ground?
5. What does it mean to "harden his heart"?
6. What did Moses' snake do to the Egyptian snakes?
7. What did Moses do to the water when Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go?
8. Were Pharaoh's magicians able to use tricks to do any of the miracles that Moses did? If so, which ones did the magicians do?
9. God told Moses he remembered his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What was the promise God gave them?
(a) a place in heaven (b) to live forever in the land (c) to take over the land of Egypt
10. What was God's special name? (a) Lord (b) Sam (c) Yahweh
11. What did God tell Moses to do if Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go?
(a) Turn the river to blood (b) kill all the frogs in the river (c) make more bricks
12. Tell some things that might be bad about a plague of frogs
13. Who went with Moses and spoke to the Pharaoh?
14. What did God tell Aaron and Moses to keep saying to Pharaoh?

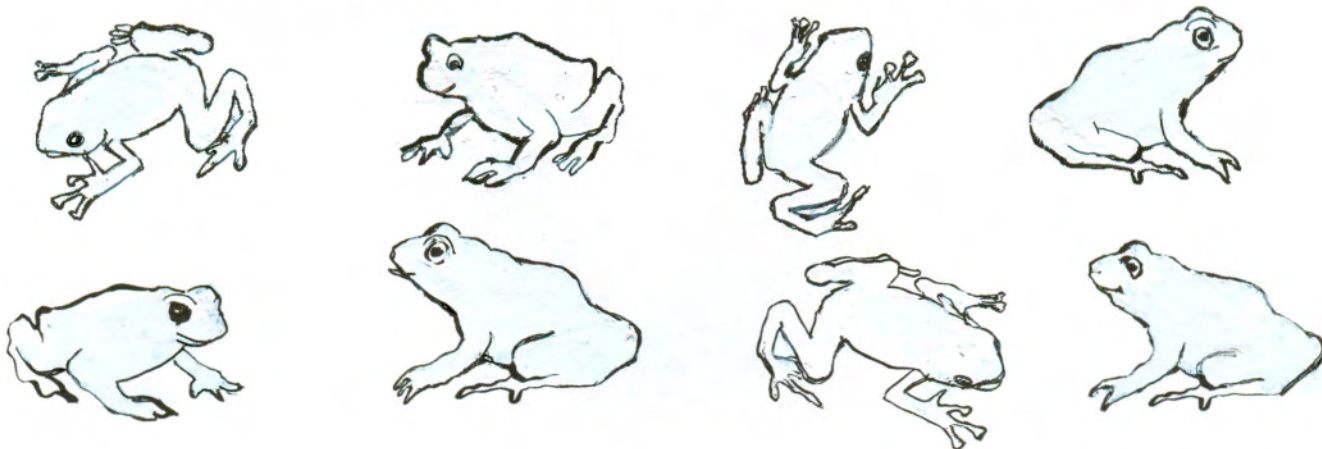
Help the Hebrew slaves find the way from the fields of straw to the brick pool of clay so they can make as many bricks as they used to.



Can you find two frogs that look exactly alike?



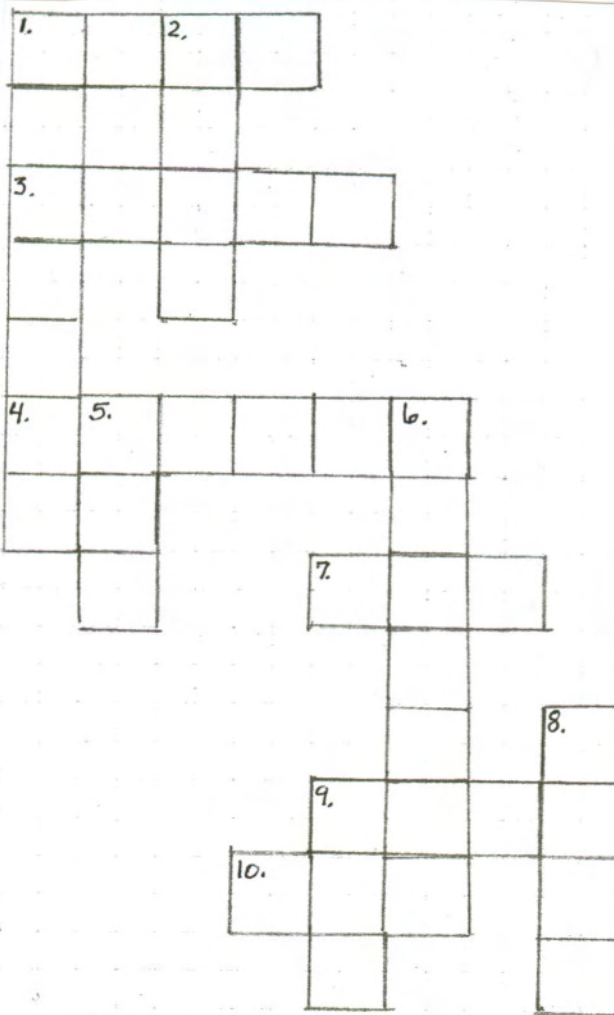
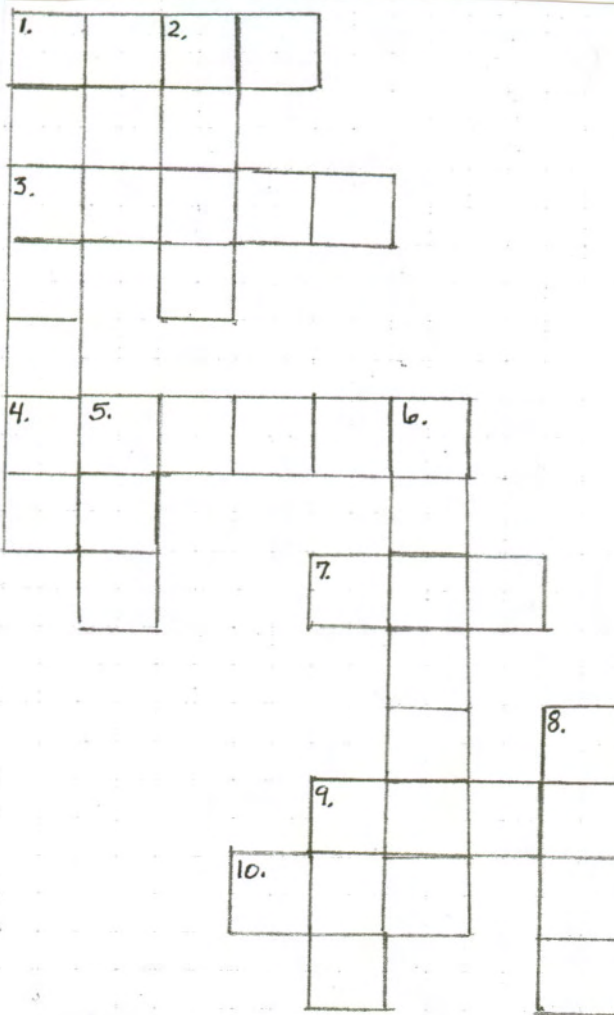
DESIGN-A-FROG! Do your own coloring and designs on the frog shapes below
In the blank space below draw your own frog shapes and color them



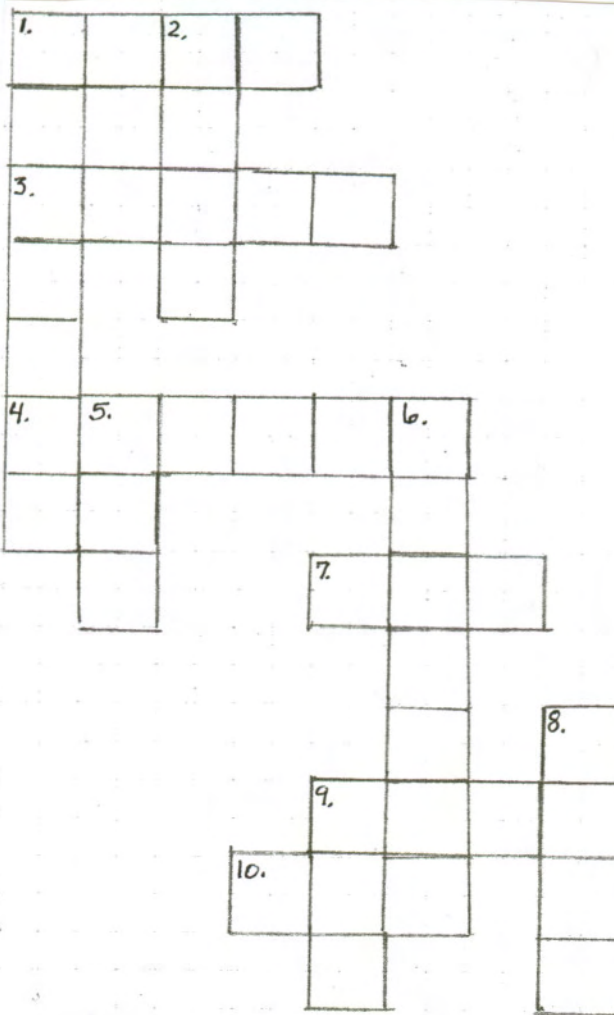
Look up the Bible references and put the names in the proper blanks



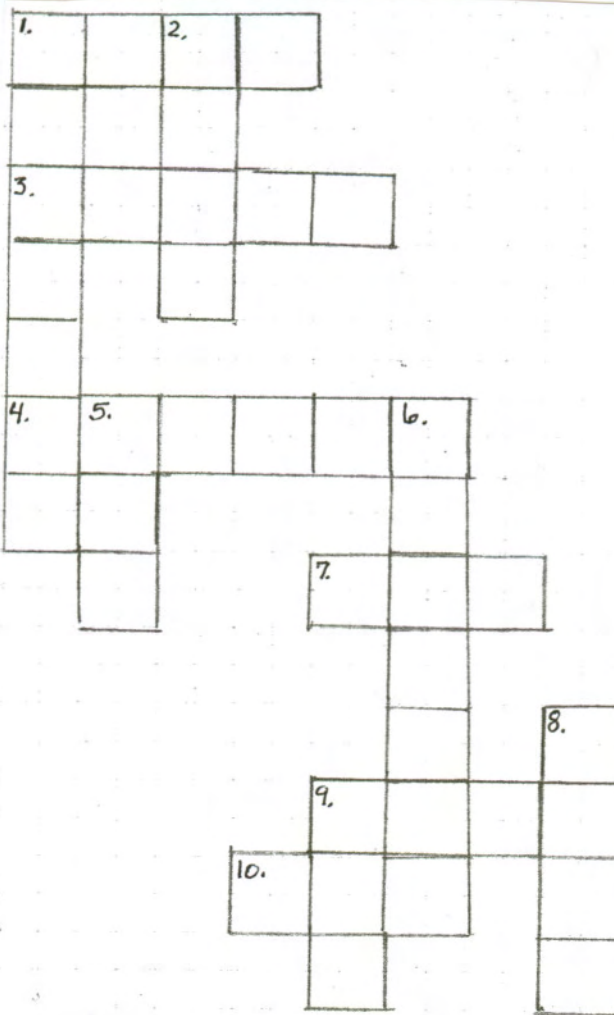
Isa.34:13



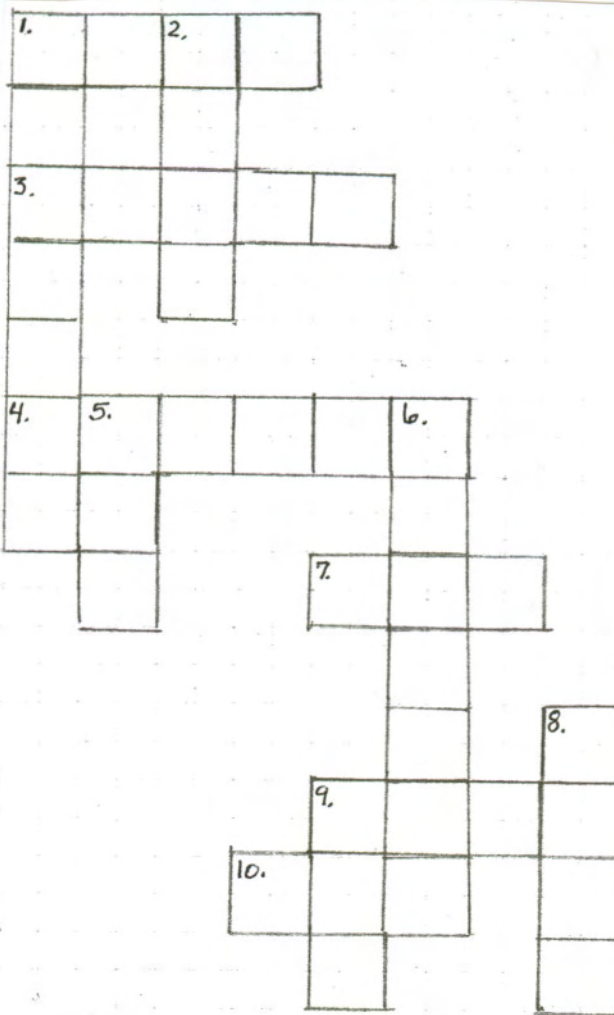
Judges 14:5



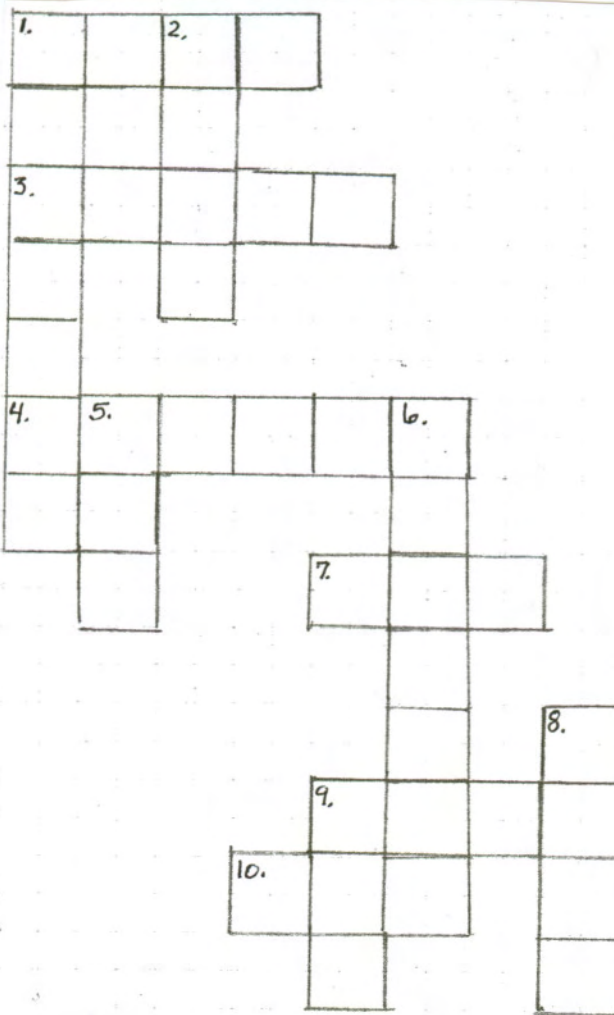
Isa.11:7



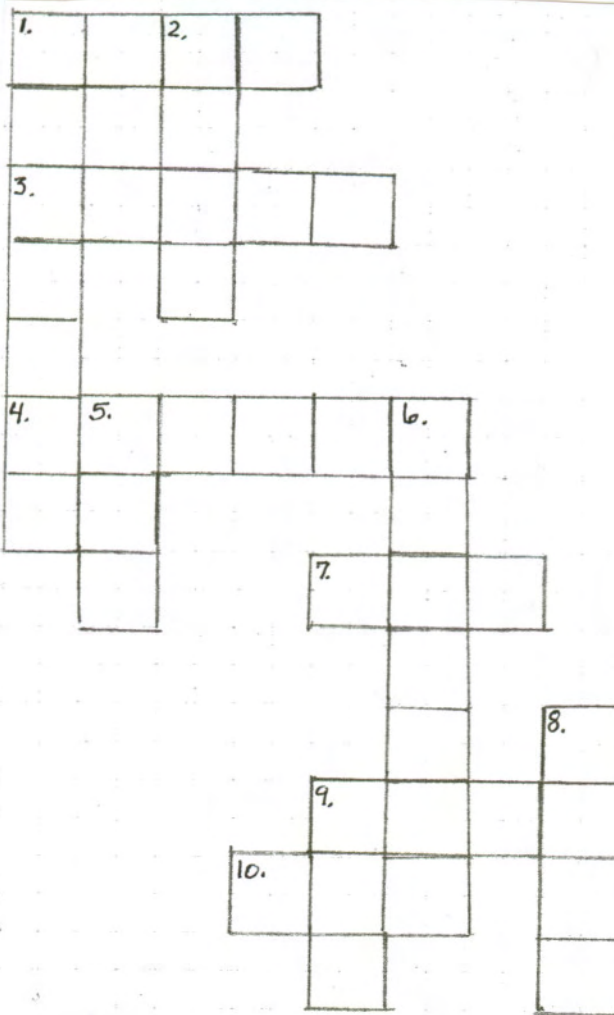
Isa.11:7



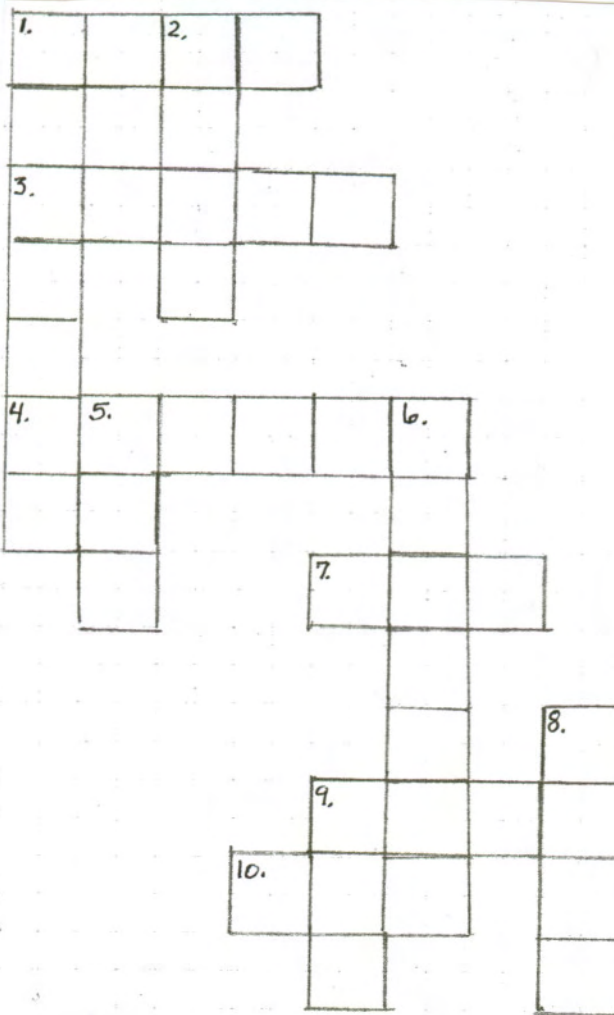
Judges 7:5



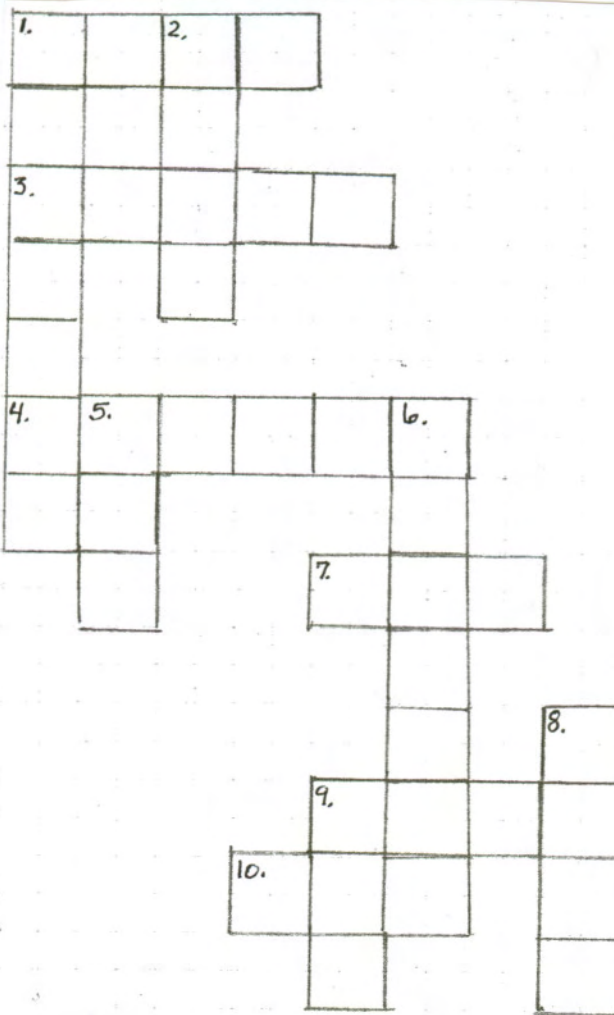
Luke 13:32



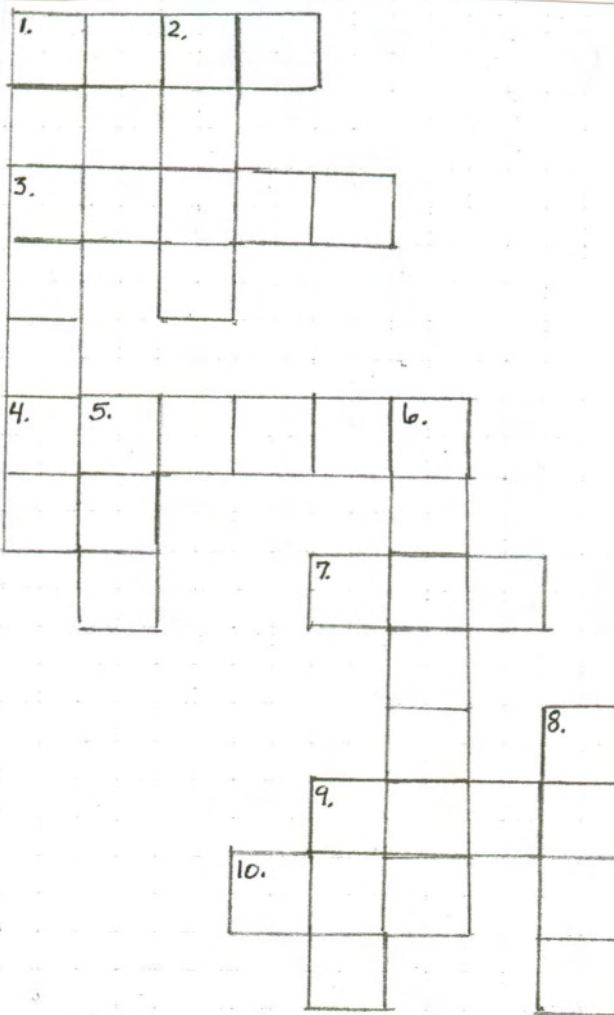
Genesis 22:13



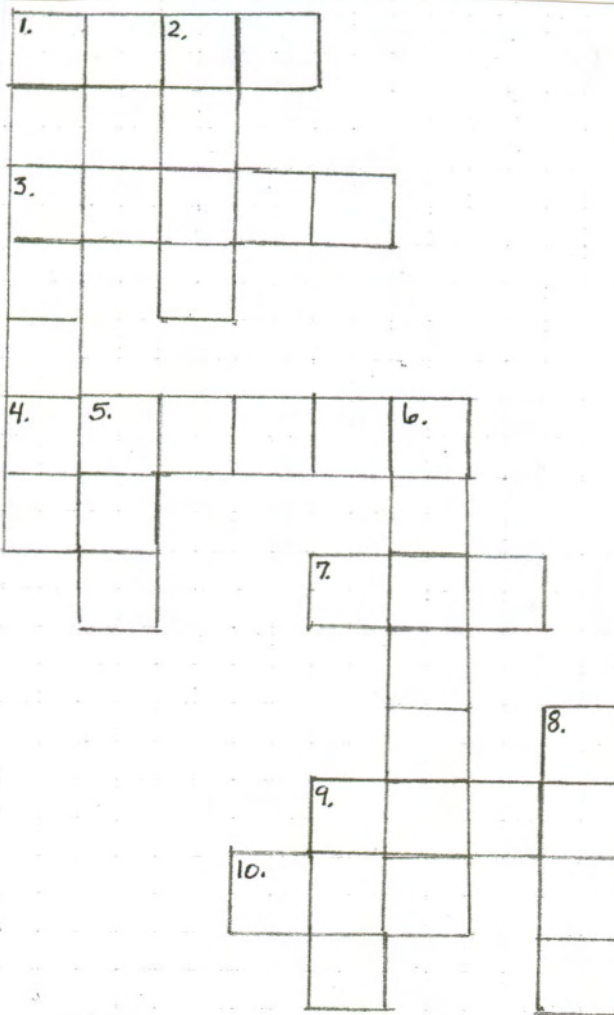
Psalms 84:3



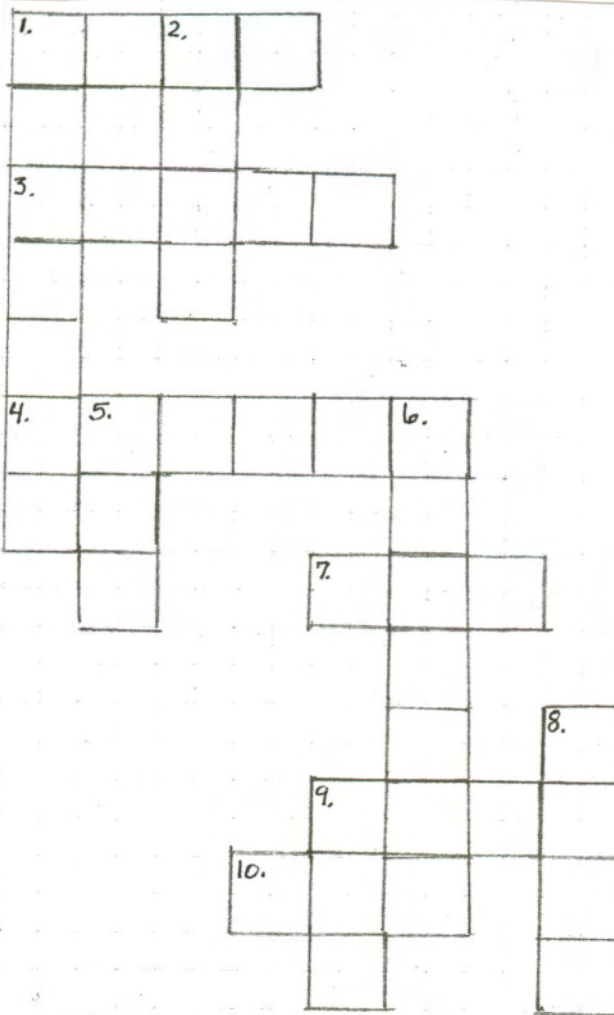
Exodus 32:4



Matthew 3:16



Job 39:13



Luke 13:32

