



# THRU THE BIBLE with BOOT THE MULE

## Quarter 5 -- The Early Kingdom

### Lesson 7 -- Hospitality Personality

#### Overview

- \* **Theme** Hospitality.
- \* **Goal** For each child to develop a hospitality personality.
- \* **Verse** Hebrews 13:2.
- \* **Guests** Boot the Mule, Gloria VanderBoot, Buford, Oscar, and Cecilia.
- \* **Songs**
  - *A Servant with a Teachable Heart.*
  - *Boot the Mule's Official Book of Mule History and Behavior.*
  - *Climbing Mountains.*
  - *Hospitality Personality.*
- \* **Props**
  - Gloria needs to wear her queenly robe and crown.
  - Cecilia and the teacher need a food tray.

#### 1. Greeting and Preview

Welcome, everybody, to \_\_\_\_\_ Church. I'm so glad you're here. We have a great day in store for all of you.

- Today, Boot the Mule will be with us along with his favorite aunt, the world's foremost authority on mule manners -- Mrs. Gloria VanderBoot.
- Buford the Bethlehem Mule will be back today, plus two of your favorite pigs -- Oscar and Cecilia. They will teach us about a lady who had a hospitality personality and her husband, who did not.

### Part 1 -- Opening Exercises

#### 2. Welcome Song

#### 3. Opening Prayer

#### 4. Roll Call

#### 5. Pledges

#### 6. Offering

#### 7. Prayer Time



#### *A Servant with a Teachable Heart*

(Track #1 for vocal version; Track #12 for instrumental version)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
A workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
Rightly dividing the word of truth --  
A servant with a teachable heart. Let's learn!

## 8. Riddle Review

Riddle # 47 --

**True or False -- When David killed Goliath, Saul set David over the men of war.**  
True. (I Samuel 18:5)

Riddle # 48 --

**True or False -- Saul became jealous of David when the women of Israel sang, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."**  
True. (I Samuel 18:6-7)

Riddle # 49 --

**What did King Saul do to David, because he was jealous of David?**  
a. King Saul gave David a lot of hugs.  
b. King Saul let David use his hot tub.  
c. Three times, King Saul tried to kill David with a javelin.  
The correct answer is c. (I Samuel 18-19)

Riddle # 50 --

**What did David do after King Saul tried to kill him three times?**  
a. David fled and escaped to Ramah. c. David took a bath.  
b. David had a birthday party. d. David went to a circus.  
The correct answer is a. (I Samuel 19:18)

Riddle # 51 --

**What was the name of David's close friend, who did all that he could to protect David from King Saul?**  
Jonathan. (I Samuel 20:30-33)

Riddle # 52 --

**Who helped the fugitive David at Nob, where the temple was?**  
a. Ahasuerus. c. Ahimelech, the high priest.  
b. Ariel. d. Adin.  
The correct answer is c. (I Samuel 21:1, 6, 9)

Riddle # 53 --

**True or False -- Because Ahimelech helped David, King Saul rewarded Ahimelech by building him a new house.**  
False. King Saul had Ahimelech, the other priests, and the people of Nob slain.  
(I Samuel 22:11-19)

Riddle # 54 --

**True or False -- David had a lot of wealthy people with him at the cave of Adullam.**  
False. With David were his family, and everyone that was in distress, in debt, and discontented, for a total of about 400 men. (I Samuel 22:1-2)

Riddle # 55 --

**Did David kill King Saul when he had a chance to kill him in a cave in the wilderness of Engedi?**  
No. David did not kill King Saul because the king was the Lord's anointed.  
(I Samuel 24:1-7)

"Garbage in, Garbage out" is what they say. It's important to fill these children's minds with the Word of God while they are still tender.



9. Song Review 

**Climbing Mountains**

(Track #6 for vocal version; Track #17 for instrumental version)

Climbing mountains! Fighting battles!  
 Grab your breastplate, boots, helmet, shield, and sword!  
 Climbing mountains will prepare us for fighting battles.  
 And the battle is the Lord's!

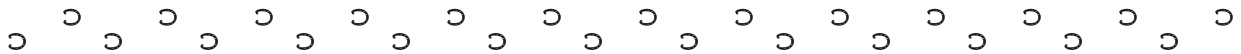
I'm a soldier in the army of the coming King of kings,  
 Like the lad who faced the giant with just a sling, sling, sling.  
 The soldier's preparation for the battle that he fought  
 Was walking through the valley and to the mountaintop.

Climbing mountains! Fighting battles!  
 Grab your breastplate, boots, helmet, shield, and sword!  
 Climbing mountains will prepare us for fighting battles.  
 And the battle is the Lord's!  
 And the battle is the Lord's!



10. Bible Memory Verse. 

Today, we are going to learn more about what happened to young David the Fugitive King. He and his men did not often have a home-cooked meal. In our lesson today, they are served a feast fit for a king. Most children have never heard of the word "hospitality." Children just expect Mom to have food on the table at every meal. But some children go through this world with very little to eat. When we have an opportunity to feed those children, we should. Listen to Hebrews 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."



1. Introducing Boot the Mule

Ldr (Select a boy and a girl to come up front.) Children, let's give a big welcome to Boot the Mule. (All children clap and whistle.)



Boot (Boot stairsteps up while the children are clapping. The Leader quiets the children down. Boot then says) Howdy! Howdy! Howdy! Boot the Mule here! Let's all sing together!

**Boot the Mule's Official Book of Mule History and Behavior**

(Track #2 for vocal version)

Boot Warn't that some good sangin'? (Boot stairsteps down.)

Ldr Children, let's give Boot a big hand! (*Clap*) Now, let's welcome Boot the Mule's favorite aunt, the world's foremost authority on mule manners -- Mrs. Gloria VanderBoot!

## 2. Introducing Gloria and Buford

Glor (*She enters, wearing her queenly robe and crown.*) Good morning, dahlings. Oh, I am so glad to see each one of you this morning. As we continue our study of the early kingdom of Israel, I just love being a queen! Oh my! Last week was so much fun. If you remember, Oscar the Pig was here, and Oscar did a marvelous job of acting like two people who had a big, mean mouth. Who remembers who those two people were? Goliath and King Saul. When it comes to having a big, mean mouth, nobody can do it better than Oscar the Pig.

Also last week, I was able to spend some time with one of my more famous relatives, a mule from Bethlehem. Hmmm, what was his name? Beauregard? Bumpkin? Beulah? Oh yes, Buford the Bethlehem Mule! My, he was so unsophisticated, wearing those farm boots and a bandanna. But, after all, Bethlehem was just a tiny little town. (*Sings*) "O little town of Bethlehem . . ."

Buf (*Swings the door open, and sings*) "O little town of Bethlehem . . ."

Glor Oh, good morning, Buford!

Buf Good morning! I just love that song about my hometown.

Glor Buford, today's lesson is about one of your favorite topics.

Buf Food?

Glor How did you guess? Maybe you are related to Oscar.

## 3. Introducing Oscar and Cecilia

Oscar (*Offstage*) Varoom! Varoom!

Buf Oh my! What is that dreadful sound?

Glor That sounds like Oscar's Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Oscar (*Offstage*) Varoom! Varoom!

Cec (*Offstage*) YOU BETTER SLOW DOWN, OSCAR!

Buf That was Oscar the Pig?

Glor Oh my! That sounded like Cecilia Swine, Oscar's cousin.

Oscar (*Offstage*) OK, Cecilia. I'll slow down. SCREECH!

Buf I better open the stage door.



Oscar (*Offstage*) Whoa, Nellie, whoa! SCREECH! (*Both Oscar and Cecilia go flying through the air, landing with an oompphh.*)

Oscar Man, I gotta get those brakes fixed!

Cec Oscar, I'm never gonna ride with you again!

Glor Good morning, Cecilia.

Cec Oh, good morning, Mrs. VanderBoot. I am so delighted to see you this morning.

Oscar Hey, don't forget about me. What am I? Chopped liver?

Glor Oh, good morning, Oscar.

Cec Oscar, who is that good looking mule standing next to Mrs. VanderBoot?

Oscar Oh, hey, Buford. Allow me to introduce you to my cousin, Cecilia Swine.

Buf Pleased to meet you, Cecilia.

#### 4. Reviewing Last Week

Oscar Cecilia, Buford here was with David the shepherd boy when he slew the giant Goliath.

Cec (*Coyly*) Oh my! How strong and brave David must have been.

Buf The ladies were always getting David in trouble.

Oscar And last week, I got to play Goliath.

Glor Goliath had a big, mean mouth.

Cec Oh, Oscar, you were a natural to play Goliath.

Oscar Hey!

Buf (*Acts this out.*) But poor David became a fugitive, running and hiding from the jealous King Saul.

Cec What a mean king!

#### 5. Introducing Nabal

Buf It was no fun being a fugitive. Why, I remember one day, when David and his men were real hungry, and they asked for some food from a man named Nabal.

Cec Navel? You mean like a belly button? (*She looks down.*)



Buf No, no. Nabal was a man with great flocks of sheep. David and his men had guarded the shepherds when some Philistines were on the prowl. So, David asked Nabal if Nabal could spare some food for his men. Hmm. I need somebody to play the role of Nabal.

Oscar Oooh! Oooh! Can I play Nabal?

Buf Well, I'm not sure, Oscar. Nabal was another man with a big, mean mouth.

Glor Oscar, you would be a natural to play Nabal.

Buf And Nabal was a gluttonous reveler.

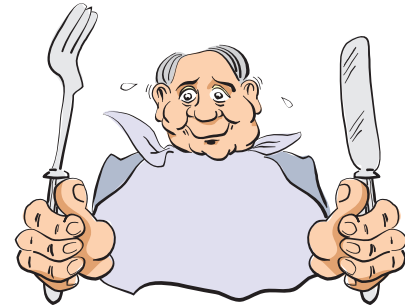
Oscar A what?

Glor Nabal ate too much and drank too much.

Cec Oh, Oscar, that sounds just like you.

Oscar Thanks. (*Singsong this chorus.*)

I'm Nabal. I'm Nabal.  
I'm a gluttonous reveler.  
I am not hospitable.  
I don't care about David and his men.



Cec Oh, Nabal, aren't you going to give David and his men some food?

Oscar No way, Jose! I'm keeping all the food to myself.

Cec What a pig!

Buf Yes, he was. David became so upset with Nabal that David was going to beat up Nabal and his family. (*Oscar slinks away.*)

Glor Oh my! Maybe Nabal should have followed **Rule #6 -- Develop a hospitality personality.**

Buf Nabal's goose would have been cooked, except for one thing -- Nabal had a wise and beautiful wife named Abigail.

## 6. Introducing Abigail's Catering Service

Cec Oooh! Oooh! Could I play Abigail? I have always wanted to be wise and beautiful.

Buf OK. You see, in I Samuel 25:3, the Bible tells us that Abigail "was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance".

Cec (*Primps*) Thank you.

Buf When Abigail learned that her husband was inhospitable, she leaped into action. I Samuel 25:18 tells us, "Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs". (*Cecilia holds up the food tray.*)

Glor Oh my, Abigail certainly had a hospitality personality. But, Buford, how was Abigail going to get all of that food to David and his men before David beat up Nabal?

Buf Well, Mrs. VanderBoot, Abigail loaded up all of that food on . . . mules!

Cec Here, Mrs. VanderBoot. Would you please help me to take all of this food to David and his men?

Glor I would be delighted. After all, hospitality is so important. (*She takes the tray.*)

Buf Abigail took all of that food to David and his men on mules. David was so pleased that he decided not to beat up Nabal and his family.

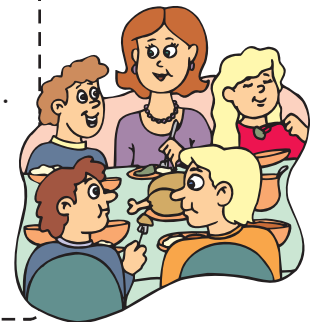
Glor Praise the Lord for those mules! Many people are hungry and lonely today. We need to help them with food and encouragement, just like Abigail and her mules did so many years ago. We need to develop a hospitality personality, like Abigail's. That reminds me of a song.

### ***Hospitality Personality***

*(Track #18 for instrumental version)*

Glor and Cec

Hospitality personality!  
 People are hungry and lonely,  
 So open up your heart and home to . . .  
 Hospitality possibilities.  
 Doing it for a brother  
 Means doing it for the Savior.  
 Let's all be apt to hospitality.  
 Hospitality!



Buf So Abigail and her mules saved the day because Abigail had a hospitality personality.

## **7. What Happened to Nabal?**

Glor I guess David did not beat up Nabal. Whatever happened to Nabal?

Buf Well, Nabal "held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king."

Oscar (*Pops back up, acting like he is feasting.*) Yummee! Man, I am really pigging out. Hey, woman, bring me some more food.

Cec Yes, Nabal. (*She leaves.*)

Glor Oh, Oscar, you are so-o-o-o disgusting!

Oscar Thanks. (*Eats more, drinks more.*) HICCUP!

Buf The Bible tells us that Nabal became "very drunken".

Glor I cannot believe the nerve of Nabal. I mean, David and his men had been starving, and Nabal would not give them any food. Whatever happened to Nabal?

Buf Nabal became dead drunk . . .

Oscar (*Acts drunk.*)

Glor How disgusting!

Buf And then, Nabal . . . died.

Oscar (*Long death scene, with death rattle.*)

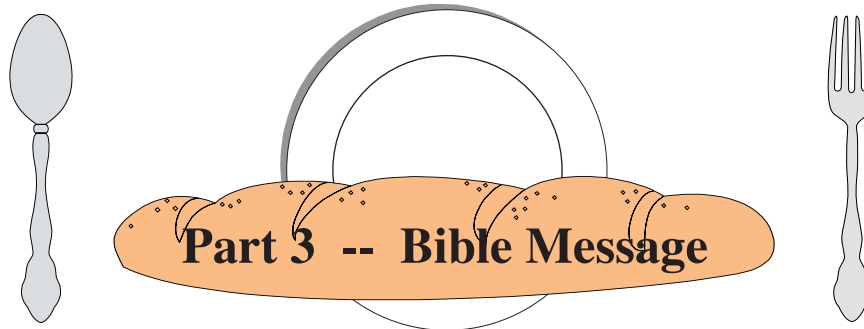
Buf (*Buford closes the door.*)

Cec (*Offstage, weeping*) Nabal is dead. Nabal is dead.

Glor Wow! Children, if you get dead drunk, you may wake up dead.

Buf Children, you better develop a hospitality personality like Abigail. I don't want any of you children ending up like Nabal.

Glor Well, Buford, it's high time that you and I head on out of here. Children, try to find someone who is hungry and lonely and treat them to a feast. Toodles!



## Hospitality Personality

- 1. Abigail Was a Great Example of Hospitality.** I need one of you girls to play the role of Abigail. Now, let me describe her. In I Samuel 25:3, the Bible tells us that Abigail "was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance". Are there any girls like that in class today? (*Select one girl to come forward.*)

David the fugitive and his men were very hungry. When a wealthy man named Nabal refused to give David some food, David became very angry. David was going to beat up Nabal and his family. Three things stood between Nabal and destruction.



- a. **Abigail**, Nabal's beautiful wife, was "a woman of good understanding".
- b. **Food.** "Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs". (*Hand the girl the food tray.*) It is very wise to be hospitable. Abigail had a hospitality personality.
- c. **Mules.** Abigail prepared the food, but she still had to carry the food to David and his men. Praise the Lord for mules! (*Select a boy to be a mule. Abigail hands the food tray to the mule. Select another boy to play David. Abigail and the mule take the food tray to David. David humbly accepts the food. Keep the children up front.*)



2. **The Way to a Man's Heart Is Through His Stomach.** Have you ever wondered what happened to Abigail after her husband Nabal died? Abigail, after your husband Nabal died, David asked you for your hand in marriage. (*Allow appropriate "yucks", then have the children sit down.*)

I love the next part of the story. How did Abigail ride to her wedding?

- Did she ride in a limousine? No.
- I Samuel 25:42 tells us that "Abigail hasted, and arose, and rode upon an ass . . . and became his wife." Praise the Lord for mules!

3. **Hospitality in the New Testament.** Jesus was another great example of hospitality. At one time, He fed 5,000 men! WOW! What a catering service! There are always people who are hungry.

Listen to what Jesus said in Mark 9:41: "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Jesus rewards us when we are hospitable. We should be on the lookout for people who need hospitality.

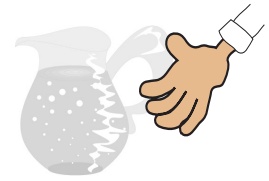
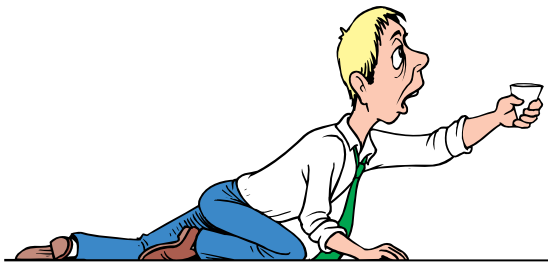
Romans 12:13 tells us that we should be "given to hospitality." Are you? I Peter 4:9 tells us to "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." Think of someone who does not have a lot of food right now.

- You should be "given to hospitality."
- "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

Finally, listen to today's Bible Memory Verse. Hebrews 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." The word "entertain" comes from the same word that we get "hospitality."

- Who knows? When you are hospitable, perhaps you are entertaining angels.
- That verse probably refers to the time when Abraham and Sarah entertained strangers, who later were revealed to be angels.

Look around class today. Do you see any angels? Even though you do not, please be hospitable toward people who are hungry and lonely.

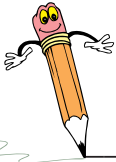


#### 4. Invitation

- a. **Salvation.** When you are hospitable, you are inviting people to take of food and water. Jesus was a great example of hospitality. At one time, He fed 5,000 men!

The last time that the word "water" is mentioned in the Bible is a wonderful example of the hospitality of Jesus. Revelation 22:17: "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Jesus offers you the water of life (everlasting life), and it's free. Have you accepted this invitation?

- b. **Service.** Develop your hospitality personality and use it to serve Jesus.



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