



Language Arts Unit Study

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Introduction

Dear Reader,

When my children were middle-grade readers, I had a tough time finding adventure stories they could enjoy that also emphasized Biblical truths. So I began telling them a story about life on the frontier, weaving in points of the faith that I felt they should learn.

As the story developed, a unique world of pets with fantastic powers and holy weapons emerged to help the young characters hold back the forces of darkness. The *Logan vs. the Hateful Strawberries Language Arts Unit Study* is a supplement to those tales of adventure. It digs deeper into the spiritual aspects of the story from a Christian perspective. Over the next three weeks, your students will study passages from the story to highlight lessons from scripture and their real life application. There are also fun projects, vocabulary highlights and memory verses to help them internalize the key messages in the story.

I hope you enjoy the story as much as my own children did.

May God bless you richly,

Allen Brokken

Teacher Guide

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The *Logan vs. the Hateful Strawberries Language Arts Unit Study* was developed for the Towers of Light book series, a Christian fantasy adventure for early readers. It combines Biblical values and educational activities in three weeks of supplemental curriculum.

Story passages, chapter assignments, activities, and thoughtful questions foster Biblical discussion, while exercising reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Vocabulary exercises and puzzles expand students' vocabulary and provide an opportunity for students to use their reference skills while also exercising their critical thinking skills. Memory verse copy work helps students learn scripture as they practice handwriting, and coloring sheets offer a fun opportunity for creative expression.

SUGGESTED PACING

Each unit study in the series is designed to be completed within four weeks. Each week includes fifty to sixty pages of content, which can be read aloud or independently.

Students are encouraged to keep a reading journal for their memory verse copy work, vocabulary exercises, and to record their answers to the reading questions.

DAYS ONE THROUGH FOUR

In their reading journal, have students copy the **MEMORY VERSE** and complete the **VOCABULARY EXERCISE**.

Read the **STORY PASSAGE** aloud and discuss the passage question as a group.

Complete the **DAILY READING** assignment, aloud or independently.

After reading, students should record their answers to the **READING QUESTIONS** in their journal. Answers may also be discussed as a group.

DAY FIVE

Have students recite the **MEMORY VERSE** and **VOCABULARY**

Use the **ACTIVITY** as a fun way to wrap up the week.

Week 1: Hard Work

Memory Work for the Week

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24 NJKV

Vocabulary for the Week

- contemplated
- diligently
- elusive
- euphoria
- famished
- respite
- spyglass
- tedious

Day 1

Chapter 1

1. What were some things that were making berry picking frustrating for Logan?
2. What were some things that Logan felt were unfair?
3. What helped Logan pass the time and made his distractions and anger “fade away?”
4. Why did Logan yell “I hate strawberries” at the end of the chapter?

How do you ask God for help when you are frustrated?

Day 2

Chapter 2

1. When Logan brought home the strawberries he’d picked for Ma, how did she reward him for his hard work?
2. When Logan and Aiden arrived at the edge of the forest, how did they know something was wrong?
3. What was Logan and Aiden’s plan to destroy the Darkness strawberries?
4. Why couldn’t Aiden help Logan carry out the plan to destroy the Darkness strawberries?

**Have you ever been in a situation where you felt something wasn’t right?
What did you do?**

Day 3

Chapter 3

1. What problems did Logan have with cutting down the tree?
2. How did Logan fall?
3. What made Logan want to taste the strawberries?
4. How did the strawberries affect Logan?

Have you been tempted by something like Logan was?

How can God help?

Day 4

Chapter 4

1. How did Logan get the sack away from the raccoon?
2. What happened when Logan picked up his hatchet?
3. Why did Logan want to get Pa's spyglass?
4. Why did Logan get into so much trouble with Pa?

Why does lying make things worse?

Day 5: Ma's Strawberry Pies

This recipe makes about 6 mini pies.

Ingredients:

- 1 package of refrigerated pie crusts OR make your own homemade
- (get extra if you'd like to put tops on your pies)
- 2 cups of fresh strawberries, chopped
- ¼ cup sugar (more or less to your liking)
- 1 TBSP cornstarch
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- ½ tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- 1 egg (for egg wash)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Mix strawberries, sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice, and vanilla extract. Let mixture sit for about 10-15 minutes.
3. Roll out your pie crust dough. Cut 6 circles that are approximately 4 inches in diameter and gently press them into a muffin tin to form small pie shells.
4. After your mixture is done resting, spoon the strawberry mixture into the pie crust shells. Be careful not to over-fill them. If you would like, cut small strips out of the dough for the pie tops. You can also use small cookie cutters to make fun shapes for the tops of your pies.
5. Beat your egg with a small splash of water and brush each pie top lightly with the egg mixture. This will give your pies a golden finish.
6. Bake your pies for 20-25 minutes, until you have a golden crust and a bubbly filling.
7. Let the pies cool for about 10 minutes and then take them out of the muffin tin to finish cooling on a rack.
8. You can serve your pies warm or cold. These are great alone or with yummy toppings such as ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate drizzle, or sprinkles!

Week 2: The Fruits of the Spirit

Memory Work

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV

Vocabulary:

- agony
- conceal
- envious
- indignance
- integrity
- flummoxed
- savored
- twilight

Day 5

Chapter 5

1. How did Logan almost get caught by Pa when he snuck back to the porch to get the spyglass?
2. What did Logan find when he returned to the barn loft?
3. Describe how Logan felt when he looked at the stars after eating more strawberries.
4. What happened to Pa's spyglass at the end of the chapter?

How can God help you deal with the consequences of your actions?

Day 6

Chapter 6

1. What happened with Pa after Logan climbed down the ladder from the loft?
2. The next morning before church, how did Logan treat Rascal?
3. How did Logan normally feel about church? How was it different after eating a strawberry?
4. What did the pastor say in the sermon that caught Logan's attention?

What do you do when you find it hard to concentrate?

Day 3

Chapter 7

1. What was the consequence that Pa gave Logan after church?
2. Describe the feelings that Logan was having while sitting in the buggy.
3. What happened when Aiden came up to the buggy?
4. How did Aiden react to Logan's anger?

Have you ever done anything to hurt a friend?

Day 4

Chapter 8

1. What did Pa do when he came out to the buggy after the potluck?
2. What did Pa say to Logan that warmed his heart? What did he say that brought tears to Logan's eyes?
3. How did Logan feel after he told Pa the truth about everything?
4. What did Pa do at the end of the chapter that surprised Logan?

Discuss why telling the truth makes you feel better.

Day 5

Project: Pa's Spyglass

Materials:

- 2 empty toilet paper tubes
- Sheet of Mylar card stock (reflective mirror cardstock)
- Clear plastic sheet-thin (a lid to a takeout container would do)
- Clear scotch tape
- Scissors
- Small translucent beads
- Colored masking tape (optional)
- Items to decorate the outside of your spyglass (optional)

Directions:

- Cut a 4x6 piece from your sheet of Mylar card stock. With the mirrored side up, make two even folds toward the middle so that you have a standing paper triangle. Use scotch tape to secure it.
- Slide the triangular paper shape into the empty toilet paper tube.
- Optional: Use markers, scrapbook paper, stickers, or whatever you like to decorate the outside of your spyglass!

Note: Your spyglass can be used just like this to look at all sorts of objects. Try it out!

Make the outer ring:

- Use your spyglass to trace 2 circles onto your clear plastic. Cut one out on the inside of your traced line. It should fit inside one end of your spyglass.
- Cut a 1-1/2 inch wide strip off of your second toilet paper tube.
- Make a straight cut down the middle and then fold it over 1/2 inch and secure it with scotch tape. It should fit snugly inside the end of your spyglass but still be able to rotate.
- Cut the other plastic circle out and secure it to the end of your rotator ring with clear scotch tape.
- Put some translucent beads (do not overfill) inside of the rotator ring and place it into your spyglass!

You can have fun experimenting with different objects inside of the rotator ring to see what they look like!

Week 3: Reconciliation

Memory Verse

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV

Vocabulary:

- fracas
- indignant
- likewise
- mused
- scythed
- tentative
- unpredictable
- varmint

Day 1

Chapter 9

1. What was Logan suddenly worried about as Pa turned the buggy toward the woods?
2. What did Logan ask Pa to do?
3. How did Logan catch Rascal?
4. What did Pa go into the house to get?

**Discuss a time that you cared for an animal, or talk about an animal
you would like to have as a pet.**

Day 2

Chapter 10

1. How did Logan feel in the buggy as they approached the woods?
2. What did Pa talk to Logan about before they got out of the buggy?
3. Why did Logan want to take Rascal to the tree and cut it down before letting him out of the trunk?
4. What help did Logan have to cut the giant oak down?

**Why is it important to ask for help when we need it?
Who should we ask?**

Day 3

Chapter 11

1. How did Rascal react when he was released from the trunk? How did Pa and Logan react?
2. What did Rascal do after he ran into the fallen oak tree?
3. What happened that surprised Pa?
4. What did Pa end up deciding about Rascal?

Logan's Pa changed his mind about Rascal. Have you ever changed your opinion about anything you felt deeply about?

Day 4

Chapter 12

1. Where did Pa and Logan go after they left the woods?
2. How did Aiden react to seeing Logan? How did Aiden's reaction change?
3. Why did Aiden's father suggest he go to Logan's house for a while?
4. How did Knight Artificer help Logan with the broken spyglass?

Talk about the importance of grace and forgiveness.

Day 5

Project: Rascal Racoon Mask

Supplies:

- Grey, white, black, & pink craft foam
- Craft glue or double-sided tape
- Scissors
- Elastic string
- Hole punch

Directions

This mask is meant to fit over the nose and eyes, but not the mouth.

1. Use the grey craft foam for the base of the mask. Draw an oval or football shape so that it will cover both sides of the wearer's face and is tall enough to reach their forehead.
2. Then, make the same exact shape in the white craft foam only smaller to go in the center of the grey shape. You want to be able to see at least an inch of the grey when you center the white piece on top of the grey one. Glue or tape it down.
3. Next, you will cut out the raccoon's black mask. This looks like a superhero mask. Try drawing a figure eight shape with a thick middle. Glue or tape it right in the center of the white shape.
4. Now, have the mask wearer hold the mask up to their face and mark the location of their eyes. Have an adult help cut the holes for the eyes.
5. Make some ears for your mask by drawing a long oval on the grey craft foam and cutting it in half. Then do the same thing again with the pink foam, only make a smaller oval. Glue one pink half oval to each grey half oval. These are the insides of the ears. Glue or tape your ears onto the front of your mask.
6. Make a nose out of black or pink foam. Make it any shape you'd like!
7. Finally, use the hole punch to punch a hole at least one inch in on each side of your mask and tie elastic string to the holes so that it will fit properly.

What kind of rascal will you be?

Answers:

Chapter 1

1. heat
gnats
straw poking his knees
Ma being right about using Gramp's liniment (which he chose not to do)
not being able to snack on strawberries
unfair feelings

2. Ma felt he was too young to enter the tournament of arms for the axe-throwing contest at the fair.

He had to do all the work for Ma to get a blue ribbon at the fair.

Aiden got to work in the forge with his father doing important work, and he was stuck picking strawberries.

3. The rhythm and the repetition of the Berry picking. ("Swipe...grab... pluck... drop...")

4. He was proud of picking an entire basket of strawberries, but then he realized there was still an entire row left to pick.

Chapter 2

1. She told him he could go exploring in the woods with a friend.

2. They had a weird feeling. A "hair-raising prickle went down Logan's spine." Their hammer and hatchet were emitting a soft blue light.

3. They planned to cut down the dead oak tree and let it fall on the berry patch. It would be smashed, and the light from the tower would not be blocked. Then, they would bring Daddy Duck back to shine light into the dark places.

4. Lauren showed up and told Aiden that he had to return home to help Ethan clean up the mess they left in the Great Room.

Chapter 3

1. He needed to cut the tree on the side next to the strawberries, but that was where the depression was, so there was nowhere to stand. Also, he found a raccoon living in the tree.
2. The raccoon jumped onto Logan's head.
3. He had observed that the strawberries hadn't harmed the raccoon. When he smelled the strawberries on his fingers, they smelled so good he took a lick.
4. They made him want more strawberries

Then, they made him feel overfull like, “eating a whole jar full of sugar.”
They made his “senses expand.”
They made him feel like they couldn’t possibly be bad.

Chapter 4

1. He tricked the raccoon into thinking that he was helping it to collect its things.
2. His hatchet felt different in his hand. It wasn’t lighting up the way it did before, but Logan decided that it was because there wasn’t any real danger.
3. He wanted to see how far the strawberries would let him see from the top of the barn.
4. Logan didn’t take care of his animals when he was supposed to and then he lied to his Ma about it.

Chapter 5

1. The spyglass fell out of its case and clattered onto the wood porch.
2. Rascal had climbed up the beam that Logan had tied the sack to and was trying to chew his way in.
3. The starlight was the most beautiful thing he’d ever seen. They were bursting with color and “almost seemed to be dancing.” However, after a bit, looking through the spyglass upset his stomach.
4. Rascal wanted the spyglass and began making loud barking noises when Logan wouldn’t give it to him. Pa heard the noise and came out to the barn. Rascal then attacked Logan, trying to get the spyglass, and knocked it out of Logan’s grasp. It then fell over the edge of the loft and broke on the barn floor.

Chapter 6

1. Pa looked angry, so Logan expected an outburst. Instead, Pa picked up the broken pieces of the spyglass and told Logan in a quiet voice to go to bed and that they would discuss it after church tomorrow.
2. Logan was angry at Rascal for getting him into trouble. However, he didn’t want him to go hungry, so he fed him some corn, and hid the sack with the strawberries under a milk can.
3. Usually, Logan found that church was a hard place to sit still. He had trouble paying attention and needed something “to fiddle with or chew on.” He also got disapproving looks from the elders for this kind of behavior. However, on this occasion, Logan found that the strawberry he ate gave the stained-glass window a different glow which helped occupy his thoughts and pass the time. It also made the parson’s voice easier to tolerate for him.

4. He heard the parson discussing the fruits of the Spirit. Since this was the first time Logan had been able to sit still during church, Logan wondered if the strawberries might be a fruit of the Spirit or a blessing from God.

Chapter 7

1. Pa told Logan he had to stay in the buggy while he and Ma visited at the potluck. Then, they would talk about more consequences when they got home.
2. At first, he felt sad and began to cry. Then, he felt the effects of the strawberry wear off. The world “felt dull again.” Then, Logan began to feel angry about his consequences.
3. Aiden asked Logan why he was in the buggy and Logan yelled at him and told him to mind his own business. When Aiden asked him if he cut down the tree in the forest, Logan confessed to Aiden what happened with the raccoon and the strawberries. When Aiden told Logan that he shouldn’t have done that, Logan became angry and hit Aiden on the head. Logan was surprised by his actions and tried to help Aiden up, but Aiden backed away and told Logan that the strawberries were making him act badly.
4. Aiden was surprised by how Logan acted and said he would tell his Pa. Then he said that if he was really his friend he would go and cut down the tree.

Chapter 8

1. He told Logan that they were going for a ride to have a man-to-man talk.
2. Pa told Logan that he loved him. Then, he told him that sin breaks God’s heart and his heart.
3. Logan “felt better for getting everything off his chest.”
4. Pa turned the buggy away from their home and announced that it was time for Logan to “be responsible and make it right.”

Chapter 9

1. He was worried that Pa might make Rascal into a hat.
2. Logan asked Pa to go back home so that he could get Rascal and return him to his home in the woods.
3. Logan lured Rascal with the sack of strawberries to the buggy and threw the sack into his mother’s trunk which sat on the back shelf of the buggy. When Rascal jumped in after it, Logan quickly shut and latched the lid.
4. Pa went into the house for Logan’s hatchet.

Chapter 10

1. He longed to eat more strawberries. He felt like they were “calling to him,” and the thought of them made his mouth water.
2. Pa talked to Logan about one of the fruits of the Spirit, love. Pa observed that he had been showing Rascal love. He said, “Love is one of the fruits, and self-sacrificing love is something that shows God is working through you to be a Light Bearer.”
3. Logan wanted to make sure that Rascal found his way to his tree home. He also didn’t want to let him out before it was cut down because he thought he would run up into it and get hurt when it fell.
4. Pa helped Logan by holding onto his belt so that he could lean out and cut the tree at the right angle. The Holy Spirit helped Logan through his hatchet.

Chapter 11

1. Rascal darted and raced around and made “looping circles.” He barked and complained at Pa and Logan about being locked in the trunk. Pa and Logan burst into laughter at Rascal.
2. Rascal ran into the tree for a few moments and then began to bring out his shiny treasures and place them into the trunk.
3. Pa agreed to wait ten minutes to see what Rascal would do. Rascal brought out a few more shiny treasures and placed them into the trunk, hopped inside, and closed the lid.
4. Pa agreed to let Logan keep Rascal as a pet as long as Rascal didn’t bother the chickens and found his own food.

Chapter 12

1. They went to Aiden’s house so that Logan could apologize to him.
2. Aiden was angry at Logan when he first apologized. Then, after hearing Logan talk about how he cut down the tree and that he wished that Aiden was there when the tree was cut down because they were “better together,” Aiden forgave him.
3. He suggested the boys go to Logan’s so that Aiden could meet Rascal.
4. He agreed to let Logan work to pay for parts to fix the spyglass by coming to the foundry and doing chores.