Homeschool Unit Study 1

Chapter 1 | **Name:** | **Date:**

Bible stories in Unit Study 1

Daniel in the lions' den – Daniel 6:1-24a
Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish – Luke 5: 1-11

Hi friend, Macky here...Jump on board the **Long Journey** learning adventure, Chapter 1. Each activity in this curriculum is bursting with hands-on learning and encouragement to go deeper in your walk with God.

Together we are going to explore who the Romans were, the Roman Empire, the metal - silver, writing a journal, the story of Daniel in the lions' den and much more.

Are you ready?

The most important thing about this unit is learning more about how to be a Friend of Jesus for yourself. You can't do this on your own, however hard you try. So, it's time to pray to Jesus...right now!

Let's get started

- Watch the Friends and Heroes episode, *Long Journey* (Episode 1). Remember to watch the opening credits and find out where in the world this adventure is set.
- Narrate the story of this episode aloud to your teacher.

What matters to Macky

In the story, Macky is a boy living in Alexandria, Egypt two thousand years ago. For first century believers, not many years had passed since Jesus had died, risen and returned to heaven. The Friends of Jesus told the good news about him in countries near Israel; one of these countries was Egypt. The Friends of Jesus in Macky's city had one BIG problem – the Romans! Through the adventures of rescuing other Friends of Jesus, Macky learns about trusting God and not giving in to fear.

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1.1.a History/Geography

Who were the Romans?

Macky's adventure is set in Alexandria, a busy Egyptian city on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This is Macky's home city; Alexandria is many miles from the city of Rome. Yet, as Pontius the parrot reveals, the Romans soldiers are out in force in Alexandria and they certainly seem to be in charge. But why? Egypt is hundreds of miles away from the city of Rome in Italy. Why were the Romans in charge of another country? Who were the Romans anyway?

2000 years ago, the Romans created one of the biggest and best organized empires the world has ever seen. An empire is created when many countries are ruled over by a single government or king. The Romans took charge of many European countries such as Spain, and gave them all the same laws, the same money and even the same language (Latin). When the empire was at its biggest in 117 AD, you could travel from England to Egypt and still be within the empire! Throughout these lands the Romans built towns, roads and magnificent structures. They brought luxury and order which many of these countries had never seen before. They spread the Roman way of living wherever they went. We still use the Roman alphabet and calendar. The language of the Romans (Latin) formed the base of most European languages, including English. The Romans developed hospitals, a postal service, decent roads and so much more. They even invented central heating!

But where did it all start? There are two answers to this:
1) Most historians believe that Rome began in about 1600 BC as a neighborhood of little wooden huts built on a group of seven hills near the River Tiber, in Italy.

There is however, another story about the beginning of Rome that was popular with the Roman people. It is a 'myth' which means it is a story that was told but was not true. Until the gospel of Jesus began to spread through the empire, most Romans had not heard of the one true God, so they often believed myths such as this one:
2) Mars, the Roman god of war, had twin boys called Romulus and Remus. When they were babies, an evil uncle took the boys from their mother and threw them into the River Tiber. The babies floated to the shore, and a mother wolf fed and cared for them. Later a farmer looked after the twins until they grew up. When the twins were men, Mars told them to build a city where they had been found. The city was Rome. One day, Remus made fun of the wall Romulus had built around the city. The twins fought and Remus was killed.

The Romans were so proud of Rome that they were sure the birth of their city must have been great. Now, two thousand years later, we can look back at their achievements and see why they were proud... great inventions, art, international trade, highly organized government and an improved way of life for many people.

If you explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible, you will discover that the country of Israel was also in the Roman Empire and the Romans wanted rid of Jesus and the Friends of Jesus. They wanted nothing to get in the way of their precious empire and THEY wanted to be in charge. The book of Acts tells us how the

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Friends of Jesus had many adventures and struggles sharing the good news about Jesus while the Romans were trying to catch them.

Comprehension

- Answer these questions:

1) What is an empire?

2) Name a country in the Roman Empire beginning with 'S'

3) What did the countries in the empire all use that was the same?

4) What did the Romans build in their empire?

5) What Roman inventions do we still use?

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6) How did Rome begin? Give two possible answers.

7) What country was Jesus born in?

8) Was the country where Jesus was born in the Roman Empire?

9) What did the Romans think of the Friends of Jesus?

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Now, on the map, color in Italy – write the country name on your map too. The map is on the next two pages, 6 and 7, so you will need to cut out the two pieces and stick them together. Later on, in Chapter 2, you will need the map again.

Artistic expression

The first scenes of Friends and Heroes, Long Journey, are in the busy marketplace in Alexandria. Remember that Egypt is one of the countries in the Roman Empire, and that means the Romans are in charge.

- Watch the first three minutes of the episode again.
- Discuss with your teacher how the Romans show that they are in charge over the Egyptian people in the program.

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- On page page 8, draw a picture of the Roman soldiers in the marketplace where Macky and his father, Samuel, were selling silver and cloth. Try to show that the Roman soldiers think they are in charge.

Ideas bank:

* Choose your materials carefully. The effect of paint will be different than the effect using pastels or colored pencils.
* Draw the soldiers taller than other characters in your picture – this makes them seem more powerful.
* Draw the soldiers in bright colors compared to other characters. This would show that they are rich. Remember to take your time with the expressions on their faces.
* The market was a very interesting place with plenty of different sights, sounds and smells as people bought and sold. Try and capture this in your picture.

- Research the Roman centurion. You will discover many interesting things about his outfit.

There's information about Roman armor at: www.friendsandheroes.tv/roman_armour%20.html

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In the marketplace

Draw a picture of the Roman soldiers in the marketplace where Macky and his father, Samuel, were selling silver and cloth.

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1.1.b Creative writing

Have you ever kept a journal? It can be very relaxing to write down the adventures of your day, your thoughts and hopes and dreams. For centuries people have written journals, it can be very exciting for historians when they discover a journal written a long time ago.

Your teacher will choose which research you are to do from the choice below. Once you have completed your research, give your teacher a verbal report on what you have discovered.

- Using your encyclopedia (online or book) do a little research on the diary of Samuel Pepys. He was an Englishman who lived hundreds of years ago, and he kept a diary about what life was like for him. Check it out!

- Using your encyclopedia (online or book) do a little research on the diary of Anne Frank. She wrote her diary during the Second World War.

Imagine if Macky wrote a journal about his adventures as a Friend of Jesus in the first century! Imagine him curled up on his straw bed in his hay loft, with a scroll and a handmade pencil. Imagine him scribbling away on the paper by the light of an oil lamp. Imagine all his adventures tumbling out onto paper so he never forgets what happened. Imagine if he wrote a journal for many nights, eventually he would have enough entries to make them into a book to keep forever. WOW.

Today, you are going to be Macky's scribe. A scribe is someone who writes for someone else. Imagine you are in the hayloft with Macky, talking about his adventures and he asks you to write them down for him in his journal. This is your imaginative writing assignment for today. What fun!

This episode is the first of 39 episodes of Macky's adventures. In the curriculum with each episode, you will have a chance to write another entry in Macky's journal. If you keep them all and bind them together as a book when you are done you will have a book containing 39 chapters! Then you will have a forever reminder of Macky's adventures and what he learned about the Friends of Jesus in the times of the early church. What an achievement!

This episode was an action blockbuster as Macky hid Leah and Rebecca from the Romans. He learned about being brave and trusting God, just like Daniel. To write your book, use the page that follows and keep the entries in a special folder. You could decorate the folder and call it 'Macky's Journal'.

Write as if you are Macky. What is he hoping for? What did he learn today? What is he worried about? What adventures happened? Try to use many adjectives and describe how Macky is feeling and the things he did.

Wait till it gets dark this evening then ask an adult to light a candle for you. Wrap yourself in a blanket and pretend you are Macky after the adventure of escaping from the Roman ship. How would he feel? What events of the day would he write down?

Where does the story about Macky fit in? Well, the adventure stories in Friends and Heroes are set between AD69 and AD71, just after the time of Paul and all the disciples. They are fictional (made-up) stories but the characters are boys and girls, men and women just like you and me.

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Macky's Journal for Episode 1 Long Journey

Write your journal as though you were Macky.

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1.1.c Bible study

The story of Daniel in the lions' den
(Daniel 6:1-24a)

In this episode, Macky's family has a very hard decision to make. Do they look after Leah and Rebecca, and risk the Romans punishing them? Or do they just look after their own family? Remember Leah and Rebecca's father, Daniel? He was a follower of Jesus fighting the Romans in Galilee and he sent his daughters to stay hidden with Macky's family in Alexandria so that they would be safe. Diana, Macky's mom, is fearful of the Romans and this fear was stopping her being kind to the girls. To help Diana overcome her fear, her husband, Samuel, reminded Diana of the story of Daniel in the lions' den.

- Watch the story of Daniel in the lions' den in *Long Journey* (Main Menu, click Scenes)
- Read the story below aloud to your teacher:

Daniel was a hard worker and very wise. King Darius made him a governor in the Empire of the Medes and Persians. He put two other governors in charge with him. These sly governors became jealous of Daniel because he held such a high position even though he was only a captive from Judah. Now King Darius wanted to put Daniel in charge of the whole empire. The governors began trying to make Daniel look bad to Darius. As Daniel was a man of such good character, it was hard to make him look bad. The jealous governors admitted this to one another; they knew that their only chance was to trap him.

Like most people in those days, King Darius worshiped idols. Because he had beaten the Babylon army, he thought his gods were the most powerful. As he was the king, he was thought of as a son of the gods. So, when his governors came to worship him above everything else, he was not suspicious. Slyly, they asked the king to sign a law saying no one could pray to any other man or god except the king for thirty days. The trap was set.

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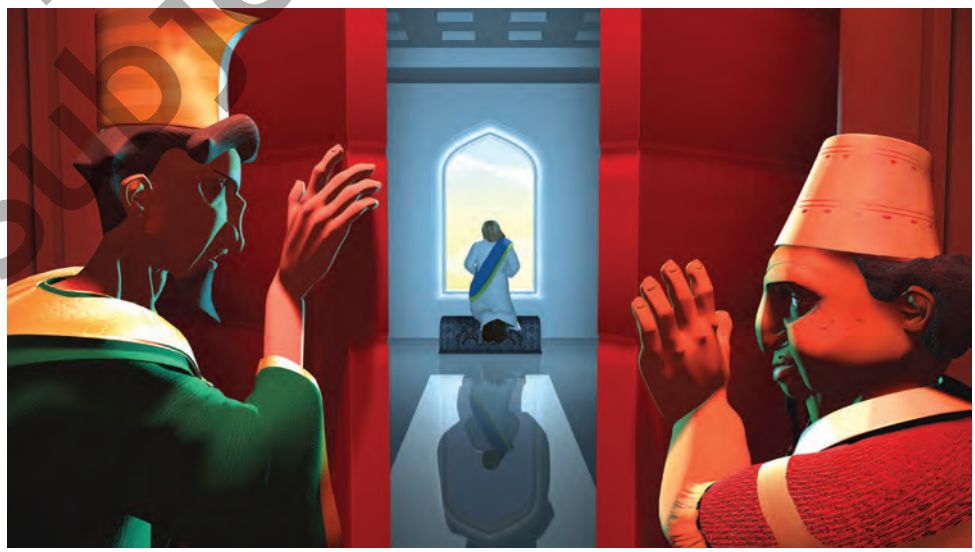

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When he heard about the new law, Daniel immediately got on his knees and disobeyed it! He loved God before anyone else, and there was nothing he would let get in the way of spending time with his wonderful Lord. He didn't complain, he just gave thanks, and asked God for help. The sly governors told the king of Daniel's prayers and the king had no choice but to throw Daniel into the pit of snarling lions. Darius stayed awake all night worrying about Daniel in the pit of savage beasts. No doubt Daniel's enemies sniggered to themselves, pleased to have finally done away with Daniel.

What a surprise was waiting for them next morning! King Darius leaned over the pit, fearful of what he might see. A cheerful Daniel called out to the king, telling him that his God had sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was lifted out of the pit and the sly governors were thrown in. Convinced that Daniel's God was the only true God, King Darius issued an order to all the people in every part of his kingdom to worship the one true God:

"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.

For he is the living God
and he will endure forever.
His kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his rule will never end.
He rescues and saves his people;
He performs miraculous signs and wonders
in the heavens and on earth,
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."(Daniel 6:26-27 NLT)

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Discussion Questions

- Talk with your teacher about these questions:

1) How would this story encourage Diana, who was feeling fearful of the Romans?
2) How did the sly governors know that Daniel would not stop praying to God?
3) How did Daniel show he trusted God after he heard the king's order?
4) Did King Darius actually want to throw Daniel in the den of lions?
5) Why did he?
6) Daniel said he was saved because he was found innocent in God's sight. What was Daniel innocent of?
7) How was Daniel's life like the life of Joseph?
8) Daniel had an 'extraordinary spirit.' He was different and God's presence in his life was clear for all to see. Do you know anyone whose love for God is so strong, it is clear for all to see?
9) Daniel was humble, even though he was the only one doing the right thing. How did he show that he was humble?

Memory verse:
"The angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear Him." (Psalm 34:7 NLT)

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1.1.d Science

Silver

Samuel, Macky's dad, was a silversmith. A silversmith is a craftsman who makes things from silver. In the opening scenes of this episode we see Samuel at his stall on the market selling the silver items he has made. In Macky's country, silver was called 'white gold' and was more valuable even than gold.

- Today, we are going to look at the metal, silver. Before we begin, ask your teacher if you have a silver item to look at. Maybe you have some silver jewelry in your house, or maybe a silver plate or silver cutlery.

Properties of silver

- Take a soft cloth and polish your silver item. See how it shines! This is called luster.

What color is your silver? It should be silver-white. If you look carefully you may see black areas on the silver. This is tarnish. It can be cleaned off with special cleaners.

Silver is a great **conductor** of electricity, this means that electricity flows through it easily.

Silver is very malleable, this means it can be shaped easily. In *Long Journey*, Samuel makes a clay figure of Tobias (Toadie) sitting on a horse because it would have taken too long to create the medallion in silver while Toadie waited. Samuel will have the clay model in front of him as he creates the design of Toadie sitting on his horse on the silver medallion. Samuel would have used small hammers to knock the silver into the shape and design he wanted. This is the traditional way to shape silver.

Silver Quiz

1) What is the word that means the silver is shiny?

2) What is tarnish?

3) What does it mean when something is a good conductor?

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4) What does malleable mean?

Try it out! Silver experiment

Line the bottom of a pan with aluminum foil or use a disposable aluminum pan. Then put a silver object on top of the aluminum, making sure the silver is touching the aluminum.

Pour boiling water into the pan until the silver item is completely covered and add some baking soda – about 1/4 cup per liter of water. Baking soda is also called sodium bicarbonate.

You will need an adult to help pour the boiling water. You may want to put the pan in the sink before pouring the boiling water.

As you add the baking soda, the mixture will froth. As this happens, the tarnish will begin to disappear quickly as the chemical reaction happens. For badly tarnished silver, you may need to repeat the experiment again.

- For older students: Investigate what is meant by the term 'chemical reaction'

1.1.e Craft

Samuel was a silversmith; he created jewelry and figures from silver. Samuel modeled the figure of Tobias (Toadie) in clay while he was right there, in front of him. This is called having a 'live model'.

Sculpting a model

You may not have somebody willing to be a live model for you today, but you can always use what you see as inspiration for your art. Even something as simple as an apple can look fantastic when you take your time sculpting the detail.

- Find a household item to model in clay. Use your hands to warm up the clay and make it more malleable. To add detail, you could use the end of a paintbrush, a fork or any other craft tools your teacher may provide.

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1.1.f One on one time

Trusting others

Daniel, Rebecca and Leah's dad, was in Galilee, fighting the Romans. He knew Galilee wasn't safe for his daughters but what was he to do? He remembered his old friend Samuel, Macky's dad, who lived in Alexandria. Daniel knew that the Friends of Jesus in Alexandria were not being attacked as much as they were in Galilee. So, he sent his daughters to Alexandria and trusted Samuel with them.

Jesus has given the Friends of Jesus across the world a very special gift – the gift of other Friends of Jesus to help, when we have come to the end of ourselves. The Friends of Jesus are more than a good team; they are family and will help us through any times of trouble that come our way.

Dear Jesus,
Thank you that your gift to me today is other Friends of Jesus. Help me to be an encourager to them, all my life.
Amen

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