

Lesson 30

T-103 Chapter 2 English and Metric Measures

Introduction

Ruth 2:17 says that after Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz the first day, she had one ephah of barley. Have the students guess how much grain that was in modern units. You might give the following possibilities.

- 4 quarts
- 1 peck
- 3 pecks
- 1 bushel

Answer *c* (3 pecks) is closest to the correct amount. One ephah is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ pecks, which would have been about 40 pounds of barley. Studying Bible measures is beneficial because it helps us to understand the quantities mentioned in the Bible.

Teaching Guide

- Many units of measure in the Bible were not standard as our units are today.** Especially in Old Testament times, each city often had its own system of measures. Certain units may have had the same names as those of a neighboring city, but they probably were not exactly the same. For this reason, we can give only approximate English and metric equivalents for most Bible measures.
- To make conversions between Bible units and modern units, use the tables in the lesson in the same way as the tables for making English/metric conversions.** Students are not expected to memorize the equivalents listed in this lesson.

Use *Class Practice* and the problems below as exercises in class.

- When the children of Israel crossed the Jordan, they followed the ark of the covenant at a distance of 2,000 cubits. How many feet was that? How many meters?
($2,000 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. = 3,000 ft.)
($2,000 \times 46$ cm = 92,000 cm = 920 meters)
- In 1 Chronicles 29:7, the leaders of Israel gave 10,000 talents of silver for the building of the temple. If silver is valued at \$560 per pound, what was the value of that silver in today's money?
($10,000 \times 75$ lb. = 750,000 lb.)
($750,000 \times \$560 = \$420,000,000$)

Solutions for CLASS PRACTICE

- $3,000 \times 75 = 225,000$ pounds; $3,000 \times 34 = 102,000$ kilograms
- $5 \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 7\frac{1}{2}$ feet; $5 \times 0.46 = 2.3$ meters