Lesson 6.01
Introduction

Long ago in Bible times, most people did the professional business in their homes.
- Cooking
- Cloth weaving
- Sewing
- Wood work – carpentry
- Making pots – pottery
- Making baskets
- Making bricks for buildings
- Metal work
- Leather work
- Etc.

They did some of that work in the home living room.
Sometimes they added a room to the side of the house for their family business.
Some homes had an outside awning supported by poles.
The family did that work under the awning.

The whole family was involved with their professional business.
Parents taught their children, who helped with the work.
When the children grew up, they continued the family business,
passing skills on from generation to generation.

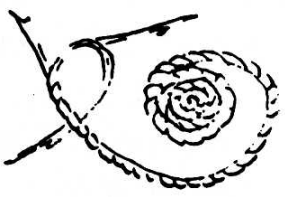
Often people who had the same business lived near each other in one area of the city.
They joined an association, called a **guild**, for that profession.
The association had officers, rules, mutually agreed policies.

People that had professional business did not limit their work to that one business.
They also had small farms, growing food for their family,
and they had a few animals for wool, milk, and work.

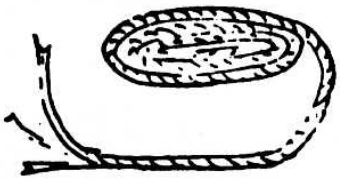
STUDY QUESTION
Read Acts 9:36-43
The Christian woman, Dorcas, had what profession?

Lesson 6.02
Weaving Rugs, Mats, & Baskets

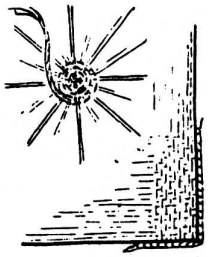
Long ago in Bible times people made rugs, mats, and baskets just like today. They used a grass rope or other plant fibers woven into a braid. They wound that rope in a circle, winding larger and larger, until it was a full size rug. Or they made it in the shape of an oval.



round braided rug



oval braided rug



spiral and square mats

Another kind of rug they made, also woven with grass, was a rectangular shape. When they were finished weaving the rug, they tied the grass loose ends all around the edge.

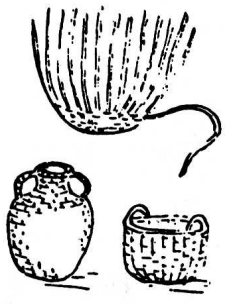
Another kind of rug they made started with grass laid out radially, like a star. Then they made a grass braid that they wove around the straight pieces, starting in the center, around in a spiral.

If they wanted to add color and designs, they put the ropes in dye. Using that colored rope, they wove that into various designs.

They made baskets the same way that they made rugs, starting with the radial array, weaving around in a circle. As it becomes larger, they bend the radials up, pulling the cord tighter, and forming it into a bowl shape. Then they sew the ends of a cord to the rim to make a handle.

They made baskets using grass, thin wood branches, or strips from the bark. They were strong baskets.

Long ago they used baskets for carrying things. and saving things, the same as we use bags and boxes today.



Also. they used baskets for protecting clay jars that could easily break. They wove the basket around the jar.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Acts 9:23-29
Saul (Paul) used a basket for what?

Lesson 6.03
Spinning

People in Bible times made cloth for clothes from wool, cotton, and flax.

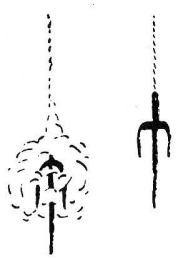
Wool
When the shepherds sheer their sheep, they have balls of wool.
They washed the wool to make it clean.

Then they comb the wool.
The comb is like our hair brush, but it has metal teeth.
Combing makes the wool fibers straight.

Then they take the clump of wool in one hand, and they pull down a few strands of the wool from that clump.

While they pull, they twist. They pull some more, and twist some more.

This is a long, slow job. So they had a tool called a **distaff** that helped them twist and pull. It was a small weight that was shaped like a 3-pronged fork, prongs down.



The clump of wool was on the fork. You pull up a strand of fibers and start the distaff **spinning**. While it spun, the fibers in your had become a yarn thread. Pull the thread up. More fibers from the clump of wool become part of the thread, and the thread becomes long.

Cotton
Cotton grew in Egypt, but did not in Israel.
People spun cotton the same way they made wool yarn.

They washed it, combed, it, put a clump on a distaff, pinched a bit of it, twist, and spin.
Cotton thread was thin. Wool yarn was thick.
So the distaff for cotton was small. The distaff for wool was larger.

Flax
Flax is a farm crop that is grown for its seeds and for its stem.

Seeds are harvested from flax similar to wheat.
Farmers put the seed pods on a hard surface and beat them with a stick.
That breaks open the pods, and seeds fall out.
Then they winnowed the fax seeds in the wind.

They used flax seeds for cooking.
Also, they ground the seed for its oil.

People used flax stems for making cloth.
They soaked the stems in water over night.

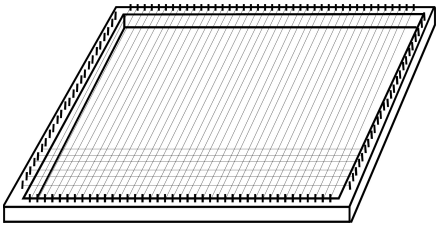
They used a special comb for stripping off the bark.
What is left was fiber strands which they spun just like cotton and wool

Flax threads are thin like cotton.

When you weave flax, that cloth is called **linen**.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Proverbs 31:10-31
Find the verses that talk about spinning, wool, flax, the distaff, making clothes, and business profit.

Lesson 6.04
Weaving Cloth



One simple and easy way to make cloth is to have a wood rectangular frame, called a **loom**.

The wood frame had pegs all the way around the perimeter.
Then string a thread around the pegs, front to back.
Those are called the **warp** strings.

Then have a small flat piece of wood that is called the **shuttle**.
Wrap thread around the shuttle, with a long trailing line.

Weave the shuttle up and down through the warp strings, back and forth.
Those are called the **woof** strings.

That makes the cloth.

You can have the loom horizontal on a table or on a 4-legged stand.
Or you can work the loom vertically, on the wall, or on a special frame.

If your threads have different colors, you can make color stripes and various designs.
Also, you can make special designs by making the shuttle skip warp strings.

Dye
When a weaver finished making the cloth, he or she could dye it in various colors.

Dye colors came from various plants and small animals.

For example:

Purple was from a shell in the Mediterranean Sea.
That shell belongs to an animal named murex.
Purple color dye was also from a plant in Turkey.

Red color dye is from an insect that lives in oak trees.
Also, red dye is from a plant nut.

Blue color is from a Pomegranate fruit skin.

The dye was in a metal pot, mixed with water, put over a fire.
Put in the cloth or thread or sometimes leather.
Let it soak for a long time.

When it was finished, rinse it in cool water.
Then lay it out in the sun to dry.

Bleach
If people wanted to make cloth or thread white bright, they put it in a pot of water mixed with white clay. They left it to soak.

Then they took the cloth out and laid it out under the sun to dry and become white.
Then they washed the cloth in water and laid it out again under the sun to dry.

A person whose profession was to bleach cloth and make it whiten is called a **fuller**.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Acts 16:11-15
What was Lydia's profession?

Lesson 6.05
The Carpenter

A famous carpenter in the Bible was Mary's husband, Joseph.
After Mary gave birth to Jesus, Joseph and Mary had four more sons.
They also had daughters; we don't know how many.
Joseph taught his sons his work – carpentry.

Several carpenters built an extra room attached to their house.
They did their carpentry business in that room.

Others built an awning on the side of their house.
They did their carpentry work outside under that awning.

In our next lesson, we will learn about carpenter's tools

STUDY QUESTION
Read Matthew 13:53-58
Who was the carpenter's son?
Who were his brothers?

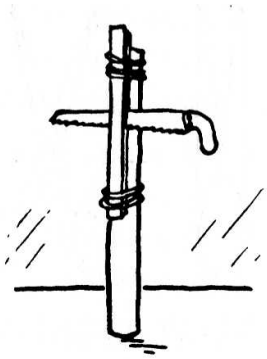
Lesson 6.06
Carpenter's Tools

One important carpenter tool is the **saw**.

Saws today are a little different than the way they were made in Bible times.

Their basic designs are the same – a long narrow metal blade with sharp teeth on the bottom edge. They held the blade with a wooden handle that had a slot where the metal blade was inserted and held with a pin.

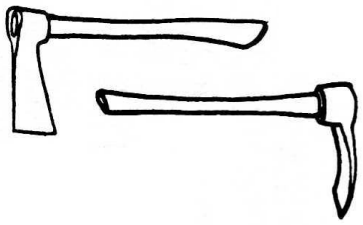
What is different? Saws long ago were thin at the top and thick at the bottom. They made saws like that so they would not become stuck in the wood.



Today, our saws have straight blades of uniform thickness. But the teeth at the bottom are bent to make a wide cut, for the same reason – so the saw doesn't become stuck in the wood.

If a carpenter had a long piece of wood that he wanted cut lengthwise, the tied the wood vertically to a post. Then he sawed down the timber.

Another carpenter's tool was an **ax** (or axe) for chopping wood.



Another tool was the **adze**,
for making wood smooth.

Another is the **chisel**, used with a hammer, to cut away small pieces of wood.

Their **hammer** was like ours today. It had a metal head and wood handle.
Also, they had hammers that had wood heads and wood handles.

They used their hammers with chisels and metal **nails**.

Today our carpenters make wood smooth. using sandpaper.
Long ago, carpenters used a small limestone block.

Romans had a **plane** with a metal blade like ours today.
Maybe Joseph and Jesus had a plane like that.

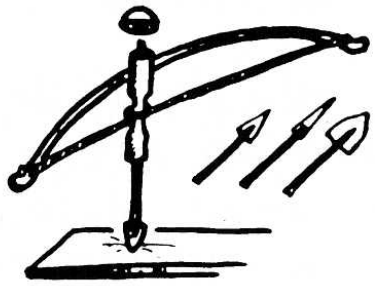
STUDY QUESTION
Read Genesis 6:13-16
Who was the most famous carpenter in the Old Testament?

Lesson 6.07
More Carpenter's Tools

<u>Awl</u>
If a carpenter wanted to poke a small hole in wood, he had an awl, a thin metal tool with a sharp point. He hit the awl with a hammer to poke a hole.

He also used that sharp point for scratching a line on wood or metal.

<u>Drill</u>
If a carpenter wanted to drill a hole, he had a special tool shaped like a bow-and-arrow.



He lay the bow horizontally.
The cord was wrapped around a vertical rod.
The lower end of the rod had a sharp metal tip.

They held the top of the rod under a wood block that had an indentation.

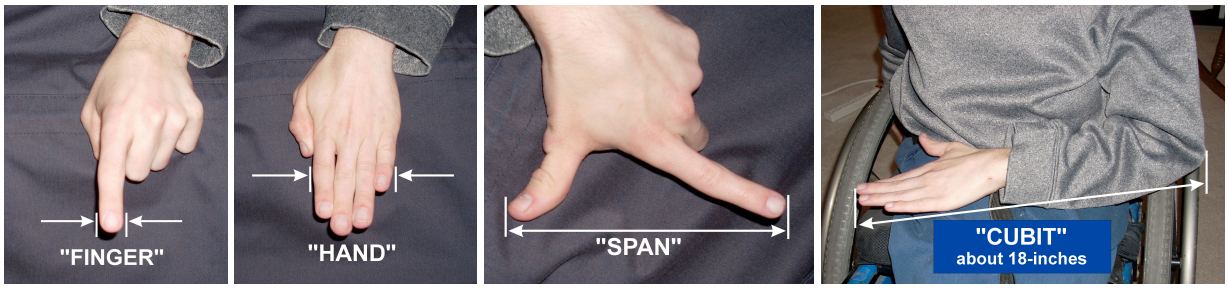
He pulled the bow back and forth. That made the rod shaft spun around.
The metal tip drilled a hole.

He had tips of various sizes for making holes small or large.

This drill worked slowly, but it was successful.

Measurements
Carpenters had rulers, but the measurements were not exact.

Here is are examples of a carpenter's measurements:



Carpenters use a string for measuring wood.
They also used the string for making a circle, like a compass,
They fastened one end of the string in the position of the center of the circle, and made a mark with an awl at the other end of the string.

Plumb Line
A plumb line is a long string that had a weight on one end.
They hung the string so it would guide them for building vertical walls, and window & door frames.

We will learn more about various measurements in chapter 7.

Sources of Wood
Carpenters in Israel had a big problem. Where could they get good wood that was straight?
Israel did not have big forests with tall trees. Their trees were short and crooked.
They had to buy wood from other countries.

Carpenters' Products
Israel's carpenters made:
- farm equipment
  - plows
  - yokes for oxen.
- doors, window & door frames, window lattices for homes
- home furnishings

furniture
ladders
wood things for everyday life in the home.

The temple had many wood carvings that were covered in gold.
The gold was hammered to conform to the shape of the wood.
If the craftsman did his work skillfully, he made the wood object look like pure gold.

STUDY QUESTION
Read 1 Kings 5:3-10
The wood in the temple came from where?

Lesson 6.08
Pottery – Introduction

Pottery was important for life in Bible countries…
clay pots
bowls
plates
cups
pitchers
etc.

Also they had statues for…
toys
art
religion

People used pottery in various tools, farm equipment, and hunting weapons.

Clay things are not strong. They break easily.
If they break, you can't fixing it, but you can replace it.

<u>Clay</u>
Clay comes from the ground, and Bible lands had a lot of clay..
Clay has different colors and different textures (feel).

If someone owns a field that has a lot of clay and he digs up the clay for making pottery, that field is called "the potter's field."

If a potter finds a field that has good clay, he buys that field.
He scrapes off the black topsoil, and sells it.
The clay that under the topsoil is what he wants.

He pours water on the clay, to make it soft and easy to dig.
He digs up what he needs for his next job.
He wraps the clay in a bag, he loads it on his donkey or on a wagon, and he brings it to his home.

As the potter digs away the clay from the field, year after year, after a long time the clay will be all gone. Then what happens to that field? That place can become the community dump, or it can become a cemetery where poor families can bury their dead bodies.

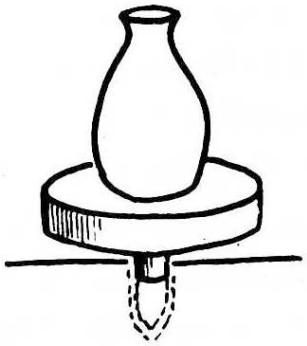
When the potter brings the clay home, he uses a little at a time.
He saves the rest of it in a hole (pit) in the ground near his home.
He puts the clay in that hol. and then he covers it to keep the clay wet.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Matthew 27:3-10
What happened in the potter's field?

Lesson 6.09
Making Pottery

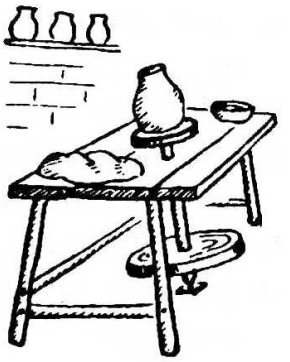
The most important tools for making pottery are the hands.
Scoop some clay and shape it into what you want.
This really requires skill. It is not easy.

Another important tool for a potter is a wheel.



A simple wheel is a large wood disk.
The bottom side has a peg.
On the floor is a large flat stone.
The stone has a shallow hole.
The wheel sits on the floor; the peg in in the hole.

The potter sits on the floor, the wheel between his legs. He spins the wheel and keeps it spinning, using one hand or using his foot.
While the wheel spins, he shapes the clay with his other hand.



A better potter's wheel is on a table.
The wheel has a wood shaft that extends down to a another large disk that has a peg that rests on the floor.

The potter sits at the table. His feet, under the table, spin the bottom disk, while both hands shape the clay on the top wheel.

When the potter puts the clay on the wheel, he flattens it.

Then he spins the bottom wheel with his feet, while his hands put upward pressure on the clay forming it into the shape that he wants.

While the potter works, he has a bowl that has water. He often dips his fingers in the water, keeping his hands wet and keeping the clay wet.

If there is a mistake and the clay gets messed up.
Does he stop the wheel to fix it? No.
It is best to do it over again – lump the clay together, knead it, and start again.

The potter's work is not easy. He must have special skill.

When the clay pot is finished, the potter puts it out in the sun to dry.
He leaves it there for several days.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Isaiah 64:8
The potter and the clay are compared to what?

Lesson 6.10
Firing Pottery

The potter put his clay pot in the sun to dry.
When the vessel is dry, it still is not ready.
The vessel it is weak.
It can easily break.
Moisture can ruin it.

The potter makes the clay pot strong, hard, and protected with **fire** – really hot fire.
Potters have a special oven called a **kiln**.

The kiln is built with stones or bricks. Inside has a grate.
The potter puts several pots on the grate.
He lights a fire under the pots.

To make the fire very hot, the potter burns thin wood or chaff that burns fast.
Heat rises around the pots. Heat makes the clay hard.

When the fire dies down and the kiln cools, the potter takes the pots out.
The pots are hard and ready to use.
The surface is a little rough, not smooth.
But the pot is still good to use to put things in for storage.

If you make a clay pot and everything looks nice and pretty, but something is not right in the clay that you cannot see, and you put that pot in the fire, that problem will appear. When you take the pot out the kiln, and you will see the flaw. It may have a crack or it looks ugly.

What can you do with that damaged pot?
Throw it away. Or if just looks ugly, sell it cheap.

If pottery is broken, you cannot fix it, but can still use those broken pieces.
The sharp edge is good for scraping or cutting.
Or another thing you can do with that broken pottery is write on it.

A broken piece of pottery is called a **potsherd**.

Glazing Pottery

A clay pot that has been fired can be used for holding things that are dry.
But if you pour in water, wine, or oil, the pot will absorb the liquid, and you will see the liquid to bleed through.

If you want to seal the pot so it does not absorb anything wet, you cover the pot in **glaze**.
Glaze is very fine clay or glass.

You can dip the pot in the glaze, or you can paint glaze on the whole surface of the pot, inside and out.

You can mix colors in the glaze, or you can paint the pot itself.

After you cover the pot in glaze, put the pot back in the fire again.
The heat melts the glaze.
The rough clay absorbs the glaze, and glaze seals the surface of the pot.

When the kiln cools, take the pot out.
It is smooth. shiny and beautiful.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Psalm 31:12

Ps 31 talks about a broken heart like broken pottery.
When you feel this way, what should you do?

Lesson 6.11
Making Bricks

Clay is good for making pottery.
Clay is also good for making bricks for buildings. How?

First, you must make a wooden rectangular form, like an empty box.
Pack wet clay into the form and let it sit.
When the clay dries, it shrinks a little.
You can easily lift up the form, leaving the clay brick.
And the sun will continue to dry the clay.

Then you make the bricks hard in fire.

Brick makers in Bible times heated clay bricks by stacking them around in a circle, several layers up, with small gaps between the bricks. It looked like a chimney.

Then in the middle of the circle, they made a fire.
They fed that fire, so it became very hot.

That head made the bricks hard, like pottery in a kiln..

The bricks looked rough. but they were good enough for building.

They also they made some bricks fancy and pretty by covering them with colored glaze.
and firing them again in a kiln.

If people wanted to make bricks strong, they mixed straw in the clay.
They packed that mixture in the wood forms.
After those bricks were fired, they were very strong and good for building.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Genesis 5:6-14
The brick makers had a bad problem. What?

Lesson 6.12
Metal Working
Introduction: Mining & Smelting

Long ago in Bible times, people had several different kinds of metals:

- iron
- copper
- lead
- zinc
- tin
- silver
- gold

We get metal from the earth.
Rocks that have metal in them are called **ore**.

Israel did not have much metal ore . Other countries around it did.
So Israel grew food for other nations, trading for metals.

Iron came from the north, from Syria.
Lead was from near Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula.
Israel had **copper**. Copper was easy to mine.

Copper is metal that is easy to make things.
And copper can mix with other metals.
Copper mixed with tin makes **bronze**.
Copper mixed zinc makes **brass**.

Both bronze and brass are harder than copper.

Miners get ore – rocks that have metal in them – out of the ground pickaxes (hammers with sharp points) and shovels. They load the ore rocks on donkeys or wagons and they carry the rocks to the **smelter**. – a hot oven built of stones or bricks.

They mix ore rocks with charcoal.
When the fire is burning, they blow in air and make the rocks white hot.
The pure metal melts, and flows down into cups or molds below.

The dross – dirt that remains – they throw away.

STUDY QUESTION
Read 1 Peter 1:7
Gold in the fire is compared to what?

Lesson 6.13
Casting and Shaping Metal

In the previous lesson we learned how to get metal from rocks.
The metal melts in a hot fire and flows into a mold.
When the pure metal cools, it becomes hard.

The metal worker makes things with that metal.
They use a small oven that is called a **forge**.

They use **bellows** to blow air into the oven to increase the heat of the fire. Sometimes they operated the bellows with their feet. They stood with one foot on the floor and worked the bellows with the other foot. Or they could have a double bellows that they operated with both feet.

Again the metal becomes so hot that it melts in the cup. That cup is called a **ladle**.
The metal worker pulls the ladle out, and pour into a pottery mold that makes the shape.

When it the metal cools, it becomes hard,
The worker takes the metal out of the mold.
The metal is still rough.
The worker must polish it to make it smooth and shine.

One kind of metal worker is called a **blacksmith**.
He puts the metal part in the fire.
He blows the bellows to make the fire really hot. and make the metal piece soft, not melt it.

The blacksmith takes the metal piece out of the fire.
Then he hammers on the metal to make it the right shape.
He puts it in the fire again, blow the bellows, take metal part out, and hammers it more.
He does it again. and again until the piece is exactly the right shape or it has a sharp edge.

When the blacksmith is satisfied, while the metal is still hot, he dips it in cold water.
That makes the metal hard.
That is called **tempering** the metal.

If they want to make a sharp edge for
farm tools,
plows,
axes,
swords,
knives,
arrow heads,
spear heads,
he uses a flat stone to file the edge sharp

If the tool needs a wood handle, he holds the metal on the handle with a rivet.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Numbers 21:9
Moses made a metal what?

Lesson 6.14
Sheet Metal

Copper is the most used to make thin metal sheets during Bible times.

How they made sheet metal:
They melted the metal in a pottery cup in hot fire.

They pulled the cup out and poured the metal on a flat surface.
When the metal was cool, they hammered it all over, making it thinner and wider, until it became a thin sheet.

Then they used a hammer and chisel to cut the sheet into the shape they wanted.

How they made a metal bowl:
Use a hammer and chisel to cut the sheet metal in the shape of a circle.
Then use a hammer that has a blunt, round tip;
start hammering around near the edge of the circle.
While they hammer, the edge of the metal circle starts to bend upward.
They continue hammering, around and around, slowing working toward the center of the circle.
Slowing the metal forms into the shape of a bowl.

They made a handle for the bowl with a metal strip.
They bend the strip in the shape of a half-circle and fasten each end to the lip of the bowl.

The metal will have a rough appearance.
They polished the metal with fine sand or rock dust to make it shiny.

Other tools made with sheet metal:

cups
pitchers
plates
ladles
spoons
knives
saws

<u>Gold and Silver Products</u>
A person that makes things with gold is called a **goldsmith**.
A person that works with silver is called a **silversmith**.

Working with gold and silver is like working with other metal
using the same equipment and the same tools,
but the tools are small.

Gold and silver are soft metals.
They don't need heating again and again like harder metals.

People who make things with gold and silver have special skills and polishing the metal so it is smooth and shiny.

Gold leaf is very thin metal that covers other cheap metals. or wood. that make them look like pure gold.

Goldsmiths can even cut gold thread that they can use in sewing.

Silver has a problem:
Silver can easily become rough and dark.
Silver constantly needs polishing again and again.
Gold stays shiny a long time.

The Jewish Temple had a lot of gold for its decoration and various things.

STUDY QUESTION
Read about gold things in the Temple in 1st Kings 7.
Then read1 Peter 1:18-19.
What is more valuable than silver and gold?

Lesson 6.15
Tanning & Leather Work

"Tanning" does not mean laying out in the sun and getting our bodies tanned.

In our previous lessons we studied about food and meat from cows, sheep, and goats.
When the farmers killed an animal for food,
he let the animal's blood flow into the ground, as God's law required.
Then he removed and burned the animal's inner organs.
And he carefully cut off the animal's skin, and he saved the sking.

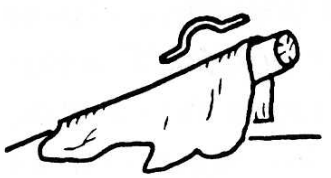
The farmer could cut up the meat, cook it, and eat it.

The animal skin became leather. How?
That work is called **tanning**.

That work was not easy.
Tanning was smelly work that used various chemicals and a lot of water.
People living in cities did not like having a tanner working nearby.
So tanners set up their work far from the city, out in the country near a river or the ocean.

The tanner had large vats for dipping the skins.
And the tanner had a large building for hanging them up.

How to tan an animal skin
The raw animal skin still has hair on the top.
The underside of the skin has fat and some meat still sticking.
The tanner must scrape that all off.



The tanner laid the skin on a log. He used a special knife that is curved for scraping hair and fat off.

When scraping both sides of the skin was finished, the tanner put the animal skin in vats (tubs) filled with a chemical – lime or lye – and left the skin in the vat to soak.

Then the tanner took the skin out of the vat and scraped again.
He rinsed the skin with water.
Then he put the skin in another vat that had special tanning chemicals.

What were those tanning chemicals?
We don't know what they used long ago. The Bible does not say.
Maybe they used the same tanning chemicals that we use today –
oak tree bark that they cut off the tree and boiled in water.

That makes a chemical called **tannic acid**.
They soaked the animal skin in that tannic acid.
The raw animal skin became leather.

Then the tanner washed the skin and they rubbed oil on it to keep it soft.
Then he scraped the leather skin one more time and rub it dry.

They could dye the leather in color, like cloth.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Acts 9:43
Who in the Bible did tanning?

Lesson 6.16
Leather Bottles

Long ago people used animal skins for water bottles and wine bottles. How?

First the tanner scrapes off all the animal hair and fat, making the skin clean.
Then the tanner formed the skin into a bag,
poured in water and add oak tree bark and oak wood pieces.
The tanner closed up the skin bag and let it set.
Four months later they poured out the water.
The leather bag was ready to use a bottle.

Today people in Middle East still make leather water bottles that way.

Leather Working Tools

After the tanner's work of changing animal skins to become leather was finished, he sold the leather to a leather worker, who made various things with that leather.

The leather worker had a low bench seat that he straddled (the bench between his legs, like sitting on a horse).

The leather worker used a sharp knife to cut the leather in to the right shape.
He had other sharp tools, such as an awl poked holes.
He had tools for carving fancy pictures and designs into the leather.

When the leather worker was finished cutting, poking, and carving, he sewed the various pieces together.

Over several thousand years, leather work has not change.

Leather Products

The leather worker made many different kinds of things:

- sandals and shoes – both the soles (bottom) and top parts
- belts
- aprons
- money bags
- reigns and bits for horses and other work animals
- various leather equipment for farm work.

STUDY QUESTION
Read 2 Kings 1:8 and Matthew 3:4
Who wore leather belts?

Lesson 6.17
Stone Cutting

In previous lessons we learned about building homes.
The walls of all large buildings and many homes were built of stones.

Most building stones were rectangular, having straight sides.
Those stones were from a **quarry**.

The tools that a stone cutter used were similar to wood working tools:

- hammer
- chisel
- drill
- saw

Also, they have a tool like a hammer that has a long sharp point, that is called a **pickaxe**.
A pickaxe works well on limestone..

Stoneworkers first drilled holes in a line.
Then they hammered in hardwood wedges.
Then they hammered the wedges deeper.
The increasing pressure of those wedges break off the stone block.

The surface is rough, so they used a hammer and chisel to chip off rough areas and make the stone smooth and square.

Buildings also have several stones that are long, flat, and rectangular.
They used those flat stones for

- window frames
- door lintels (top of the door frame)
- arch supports over doors and windows
- pavement stones
- raised platforms for statues and pillars
- the stone on the top of the pillar
- stone tools

Remember when we studied about growing food and harvesting grain.
People poured grain into a rotating millstone on a flat stone for making flour.
Both the round millstone and the bottom stone were from the stone cutter.

Large building walls have large, heavy stones.
How do they bring those large stones from the quarry to the building place?

They put several wood logs under the stone block.
Then they push the stone, while the logs under it roll.

Both men and animals work hard together -- oxen pull and men push.

STUDY QUESTION
Read 1 Kings 5:17-7:12
This describes building the Temple.

Lesson 6.18
Other Trades

Gem Cutting

We recently studied about stone cutting – big stones for buildings.
But another kind of stone cutter works with tiny stones -- fancy stones, pretty, expensive little things for

- rings
- bracelets
- necklaces
- pendants
- various decorations.

We call those kinds of stones **gems** or **jewels**.

The tools for working with those small stones. are the same tools for big stones.

- hammer
- chisel
- drill
- saw

But the gem cutter's tools are small and delicate.

In the Old Testament, the Bible describes the special clothes of Jewish priests.
They had a breastplate that had many expensive stones, like buttons all over.
It was very fancy.
You can read about it in Exodus 28.

(Our ASL Sign for "priest" shows the shape of that breastplate.)

Tent Maker

You know who is the world's most famous tent maker?
The Apostle Paul.

Paul learned that skill for his work when he was young.

Later, when God called him to preach and travel, Paul continued that work, for supporting himself.

Tents are with goat hair cloth.

Tent makers' tools are the same that we recently saw for leather work -- for cutting, punching holes, and sewing.

Day Laborer

If a person did not have any special skill, no specific profession for earning money, he did general sweat work.

We call that person a "day laborer" (worker).

Those people gathered in one place, waiting for someone to come and hire them for one day,
like a farmer, to work in his farm fields,
or a builder, to help dig and haul,
or other professions that needed workers, who did not need special skills.

STUDY QUESTION
Read Matthew 20:1-16
Jesus told a story about day laborers.
What does that story mean?

Read chapter 7 in *Everyday Life in Bible Times.*