

# **The Complete School of the Bible Manual**

Published by:  
Paul E. Paino Ministries  
P.O. Box 12205 • Fort Wayne, IN 46863

## **THIS CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL TOOL IS DEDICATED...**

**For as long as I can remember, my father, Dr. Paul E. Paino, was committed to the next generation. He is known across the country in evangelical circles as the “Sunday School Fanatic”!**

**This manual is the result of the passion Dad had for providing biblical instruction for children of all ages. The concept of developing a concise program whereby a child could be exposed to the Scripture in a way that would be relevant to this age is demonstrated in the material that is here presented.**

**Due to modern technology, twelve volumes and thousands of pages have been formatted into CDs that can be held in your hand and easily accessible around the world!**

**Although Dad accessed Heaven in 2005, his vision and passion for this project lives on. I am sure that this latest step in making this material available around the world joys his heart.**

**It is only appropriate to acknowledge those who have worked steadfastly to provide this new vehicle of sharing this material. Ann Liechty, Carol Kutzner, Alice Baxter, and Curt Monk have labored immensely to complete this challenge. It has not been without difficulties, but they have refused to give in until the work was done...and they have succeeded!**

**Our prayer is that, as you use this material, you will be anointed by the Holy Spirit to touch the lives of those who hear it, for eternity.**

**Dr. Paul C. Paino  
General Overseer-CMI**

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# Introduction

The following comments and suggestions are presented to help you better utilize The Complete School of the Bible Manual.

1. The curriculum for grades 1 through 8 contains 51 lessons per grade level. There is no lesson for the 52nd week of the year. This is "Switch Week," when students are promoted from one class to the next. Due to the time involved in moving students to their new classes, we recommend using this class session to welcome the new students, to introduce teachers and workers and to acquaint students with how the class will operate.

The curriculum for grades 9 through 12 contains 52 lessons per grade level and includes an outline for "Switch Week."

2. The curriculum has been designed to be very flexible. It works equally well in graded and non-graded settings. (In a "graded" program, there is a separate class for each grade level. In a "non-graded" program, two or more grade levels are combined to make one class.)

If you operate a graded program, rotate the lessons in each class on a one-year cycle. At the end of the year, students are promoted to the next grade level and will be exposed to a new set of lessons.

If you operate a non-graded program, you can receive the full benefit of the curriculum without any reorganization of your Sunday School. Simply rotate the lessons in each class on a one-, two-, three-, or four-year cycle. For example, if students in grades one through three meet in the same class, you would rotate the lessons on a three-year cycle. The first year you use the curriculum, teach the lessons in Volume 1; the second year, lessons from Volume 2; the third year, lessons from Volume 3. Then, in the fourth year, begin again with the lessons in Volume 1.

3. The curriculum is designed to run from July through June. The starting date for Lesson 1 is the first Sunday in July. If you are implementing the curriculum at another time during the year, simply count forward from the first Sunday in July to determine the beginning lesson. For example, if you implement the curriculum on the first Sunday in January, you would begin with Lesson 26.
4. Easter lessons should be moved in your manual to begin two weeks prior to Easter Sunday. There should be three Easter lessons for grades 1 through 8.
5. You may need to adjust the lessons for other special days (Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Christmas, etc.) depending upon how these holidays fall in the current calendar.
6. There is no established schedule for using the life-related stories. Simply insert them into lessons where you feel they are appropriate. It is helpful to repeat the life-related stories during the year to reinforce the lessons they teach.

7. It is recommended that each teacher receive a copy of this volume, including all the instructional materials in sections one through seven. This will help each teacher to be well-informed and prepared for their responsibilities in the classroom.
8. The lesson outlines in section eight are not designed to be read in class. Teachers should use the outlines to prepare their own presentation. The curriculum manual should not be brought into the classroom and should never be used in front of the class. Instead, use the Bible as you teach. It is important that the students be aware you are teaching from God s Word and not from a manual!

# **Section 1**

**Welcome  
To Our  
Ministry  
Team**

## To Our Co-Laborers in the Work of the Ministry

Welcome to the ministry team of the School of the Bible. To be effective leaders and ministers of the gospel, it is important to understand these basic principles:

**CALLING:** Who we are in relation to where God has placed us in teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**CHARGE:** Our response to the call of God on our lives.

**COMMITMENT:** Our resolve to give our whole heart to obeying that charge.

**CREDIBILITY:** Our personal and ethical qualifications to fulfill our assigned task "as unto the Lord."

We are grateful for your faithfulness in working with us, and we are committed to the task of equipping you as God enables us.

Please read and study this material carefully; fill in the blanks; and sign your name.

## Our Calling

All Christians are called to be separate from the world -- to be God's people in a God-rejecting culture. We are called to be worshippers whose goal is to please God, rather than heathens who live to please themselves. (Isaiah 43:21) We are called to be God's children, His servants, His disciples, His dwelling, His bride, His body. Jesus called us the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." God has called us to communicate the ethics and the essence of the kingdom of God in our lifestyle and love for people.

The Greek word for "church" is "ecclesia," which means "called-out ones." The root word is "klesis," a "calling or invitation." God has set us apart to live in this world unto Him and for Him, with a view to eternity with Him. God has assigned to us a specific purpose and responsibility in the work of the harvest of souls.

As God's church we are called and commissioned, both individually and corporately. Each of us must know God personally and individually and be accountable to Him as servants. We are also called together as members of a functioning corporate body. This is a practical reality. We are "partakers together" and "co-laborers with Christ." We submit to one another in the fear of the Lord, knowing that none of us has it all or sees the whole picture. God gives us special gifts to be used for building up the whole group. Each of us has weaknesses and strengths, and we need to be interdependent upon one another.

The calling of a teacher is clearly set forth in scripture as a specific commission to chosen, mature believers. This calling is not based on our ambition, but on God's

sovereign choice. It is not based on our ability, for God will enable us to do the task He has appointed us to do for Him. Not all of us are called to a full-time pastoral or apostolic ministry, but our calling is just as real to the Lord. We need to recognize that our calling is from God, confirmed through apostolic authority (pastoral leadership) and by the evidence of a supernatural ability to do it well as we "grow in grace."

To serve in any calling is a wonderful privilege, and we need to recognize from God's Word that it is:

### A HIGH CALLING.

*"...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)*

### A HOLY CALLING.

*God "...hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace...." (2 Timothy 1:9)*

### A HEAVENLY CALLING.

*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him that appointed him,...." (Hebrews 3:1-2)*



**A HOPEFUL CALLING.**

Paul's prayer:

*"That...God...may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,...." (Ephesians 1:17-19)*

**A HUMBLE CALLING.**

*"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:...that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus...." (1 Corinthians 1:26, 29-30)*

Humility is the deep awareness of our constant need for God's strength and help in life's situations. People who are "gifted" with special abilities or intellect in some areas are tempted to trust in their natural talent. When they do, they become ineffective in the work of the ministry, because they are operating in the realm and resources of the flesh.

### **Questions To Be Considered As We Pursue A Teaching Ministry In The Local Church**

**Did God call me to teach?**

If you believe God has called you to teach, then do it "as unto the Lord." Do not faint because of fear, weariness, or hurt feelings. Realize you are where God wants you to be; He has placed you there; and He has equipped you for the task. If you are

not where God wants you to be, He will start working in you to put you where He wants you to be.

**What group am I called to teach?**

God has been preparing you to minister to a certain age group. Seek His direction through prayer, fasting, scripture, and counseling of your pastor. Be ready to serve. Let God open the door for you. Do not try to force it open yourself. God is responsible for the breadth of your ministry. You are responsible for the depth of it. As nearly as possible, focus on the group God has given to you and give them your heart.

**Has the pastoral leadership confirmed this calling and agreed to oversee this work?**

Any ministry to the flock of God must be yielded to and under the authority of the pastor of the flock. God will bear witness to your calling through the pastoral leadership of the church.

**Am I called as a part of this local assembly of believers?**

If you believe you have been called, then be faithful to your church and your pastor; cultivate and nurture an unshakable love for them.

**Am I a team player?**

When it is beneficial to the group, am I willing to step back and let someone else take a more dominant role and lead?

**What part of the work am I specifically called of God to perform?**

When your work is identified, then strive for excellence in it. Do it *"heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men;..."* (Colossians 3:23)

## Our Charge

Teaching is a vital part of the Great Commission to believers. We are commanded to teach all "nations" ("ethnos" -- people groups) about the Christian walk and witness. The word "teach," used by Jesus in His charge to His disciples in Matthew 28:19, is actually the word "matheteuo," which means "disciple, to enroll as a scholar." Our commission is to communicate and distribute information, to mold lives, to inform, and to inspire. We are called to teach and train disciples.

As teachers, we have the privilege of working with and for the pastor to strengthen the work of the gospel in this city, and to bless families by imparting Christian values to their children. We also see ourselves as workers with the parents, encouraging them in their role as the primary spiritual influence in the lives of their children.

In order to educate children effectively, there are several biblical principles we need to remember:

**A child's life is molded and affected most by what he is exposed to every day.**

In Deuteronomy 6:6-9, God, through Moses, instructed the Israelites to teach their children diligently the things of God throughout the day, and to have many reminders of spiritual truths in their homes and throughout their culture.

When the Sunday School first started in America, many Christian leaders had strong reservations about the whole program, because they were concerned

that parents would tend to leave the spiritual training of their children to the Sunday School and neglect spiritual training at home. To be effective, you must inspire and influence beyond the one hour teaching session, lead children to a daily walk with God, and help impart vision to parents for daily family devotions, Christian music, and a spiritual atmosphere at home.

**A good teacher will inspire more than inform.**

The joy of the Lord is more caught than taught. If you have measles and teach all day on mumps, what will you be most likely to impart?

**Most of the effort of a good teacher is outside the classroom.**

Some of the activities teachers should pursue outside of the classroom include:

- Prayer;
- Preparation;
- Personal visitation;
- Practice (music, skits, etc.);
- Persistent Bible study;
- Purity in lifestyle as an example.

## Teams are more effective than individual efforts.

*"Two (are) better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him (that is) alone when he falleth; for (he hath) not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm (alone)? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

## We are soldiers under authority.

Our purpose is to complement and strengthen the vision of this local church. We must always encourage loyalty to the church and honor to the pastor. God will give direction for the church to the pastor. It is our responsibility to support the pastor in the vision God has given to him.

## Our purpose is to change lives by stimulating children with a sense of vision and destiny.

Our message is not only, "I can go to heaven when I die," but also that "God made me for a special purpose: to bless Him in my life and worship; to help other Christians; and to win lost people to Jesus."

## The charge to Joshua was to love the Word.

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to*

*all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*  
(Joshua 1:8)

## Paul's charge to Timothy:

- Stir up the gift of God within you. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

God gave us spiritual enablements, but it is up to us to focus on and stimulate those gifts, because "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

- Be a good soldier in God's army. (2 Timothy 2:4)

Do not get entangled with the affairs of this life. Be a good businessman or worker, but do not let vocational or recreational pursuits control your life to the point that you are too "tied up" to serve the Lord.

- Flee youthful lusts. (2 Timothy 2:22)

Do not just avoid sexual temptation, run from it. Try not to expose yourself to anything that will arouse your mind to lustful thoughts.

- Pray for those in authority over you. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- Make a supreme effort to show yourself approved unto God. (2 Timothy 2:15)

If you are a hard worker, you will not be ashamed. A teacher who is a faithful worker will rightly divide the Word of God.

- Avoid fables, and shun profane and vain babbling. (1 Timothy 1:4, 2 Timothy 2:16)

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,...."* (Psalms 111:10) and so secular material has no wisdom to impart. Avoid worldly, fabricated heroes and stories. Communicate wisdom and understanding through Bible stories and characters, life experiences, and true-to-life stories. The purpose of secularized education is to create a perspective in children's minds that man is an end unto himself, and that God is unimportant in the overall scheme of life. Our purpose is to communicate the truth that God is the center of our life, our hope, our purpose, and our daily walk.

- There are three basic character goals to keep in mind when you teach: (1 Timothy 1:5)

(1) Charity -- selfless love -- out of a pure heart, which is a heart that is not polluted with selfishness and willfulness.

(2) A good conscience, which is a spirit that is sensitive to motives or actions that are not pleasing to God.

(3) Unfeigned faith. This is honest faith that is not just "faith in the faith message," but wholehearted trust in God, even when we do not understand the process. Job said, *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:...."* (Job 13:15)

I have carefully and prayerfully read this charge, and I receive it as from the Lord. I will diligently seek to fulfill the calling and obey the charge as God gives the grace to me to do it.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## My Commitment

1. I will pray faithfully for the class, as I take the responsibility, as from the Lord, very seriously. Without His anointing and supernatural help, I realize I cannot be effective.
2. I will be faithful to attend at least 48 classes per year. I will arrive in the room 30 minutes before starting time to greet the students and prepare for the meeting.
3. I will be diligent to prepare myself and the lesson ahead of time.
4. I am committed to the pastor and to his vision for the church. I am a soldier under authority and a reliable member of the ministry team of this local church.
5. I will faithfully attend at least two regular services here every week, in addition to attending the Sunday School hour.
6. I am a tither. I will give the first tenth of all my income to this local church in obedience to the Lord and as a reminder that I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. I am committed to winning the lost to Jesus Christ and to teaching and training my students to remain true to God as long as they live.
8. I will regularly visit the families of the students to whom I am assigned, especially those families with special needs.
9. I regard myself as being a member of a ministry team. If I see a special problem, I will help, if I can; or, I will notify those in leadership who are qualified to minister to the need.
10. I will reach out promptly to those in my charge who are absent or hurting.
11. I will be regular in my personal and family devotions to keep my heart and house in order and my focus on the things of God.
12. As a teacher, I am eager to receive training and instruction. I trust God to build my character and skills through the insights of those He has placed over me in this ministry.
13. When misunderstandings or interpersonal conflicts arise, I will go to the person with whom I have a problem and privately and quickly make every effort to restore a good relationship. I purpose to avoid being any part of gossip or backbiting, either as a listener or a giver of negative talk about a fellow Christian.
14. I am committed to growing in the pursuit of excellence in my work for the Lord. I will seek training when I have the opportunity, and will be the best I can be at my assigned tasks.

*"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave wither thou goest."* (Ecclesiastes 9:10)



## My Credibility

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Check One:  Male  Female

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When were you born again? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Did you experience genuine repentance and faith toward God? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. When were you baptized in water? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. When did you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. As a Spirit-filled believer, do you pray in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Do you read the Bible and pray daily? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. What is your primary vocation? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. What specific skills have you developed that could benefit a Sunday School program?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  9. Have you ever been convicted of any crime (other than driving or parking violations)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have a criminal record? If so, please explain on the reverse side. \_\_\_\_\_
10. What education or degrees do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
  11. How long have you tithed consistently to this local church? \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Are you willing to receive instruction/correction from the pastors or supervisors? \_\_\_\_\_
  13. Do you know of any personal difficulty or problem that might hinder you from being effective in the work of this ministry to children? \_\_\_\_\_



## **Section 2**

# **Personnel Job Descriptions**



## Using the Personnel Job Descriptions

This manual is designed to provide instructions and helps in order to assist churches and schools in developing an effective Bible training program. The charts and lists included in this section are intended to be guidelines. Only in rare circumstances can they be duplicated exactly. The absolutes are all in the Bible. Biblical principles will work in any culture or time.

We strongly encourage developing ministry teams, rather than having a single teacher in the class. Every Bible class should have at least two members on the teaching team, even if the class is small. A team is able to generate more excitement, pray more effectively, and minister more comprehensively than one person. This is a biblical principle. Two are indeed better than one.

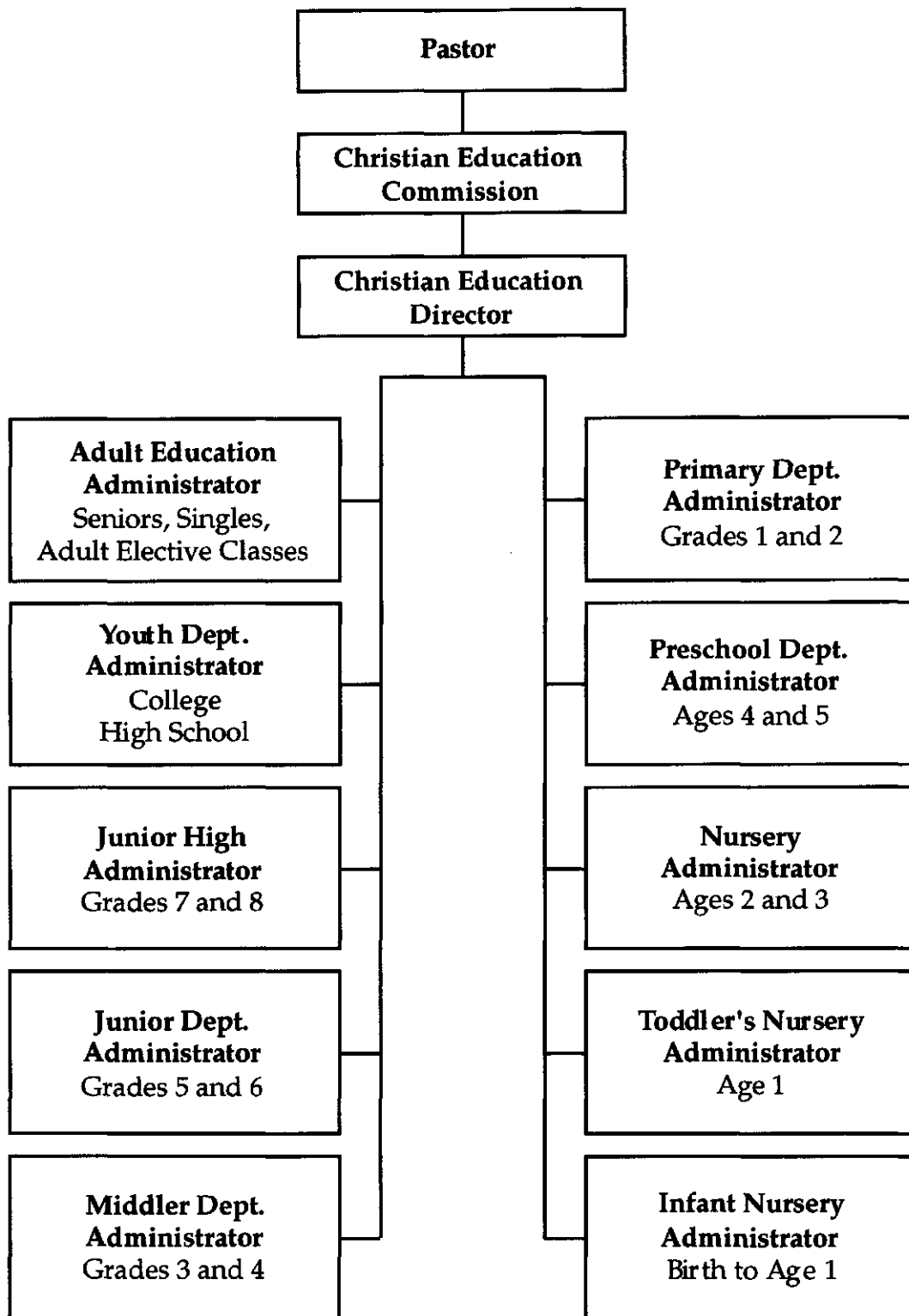
The job descriptions in this section define the responsibilities of the members of an effective ministry team. Sometimes, it may be necessary for a few people to fulfill several responsibilities in the class. However, as the class grows, these responsibilities can be delegated to new leaders as they join the ministry team.

It is also important to establish a clear line of authority in the School of the Bible.

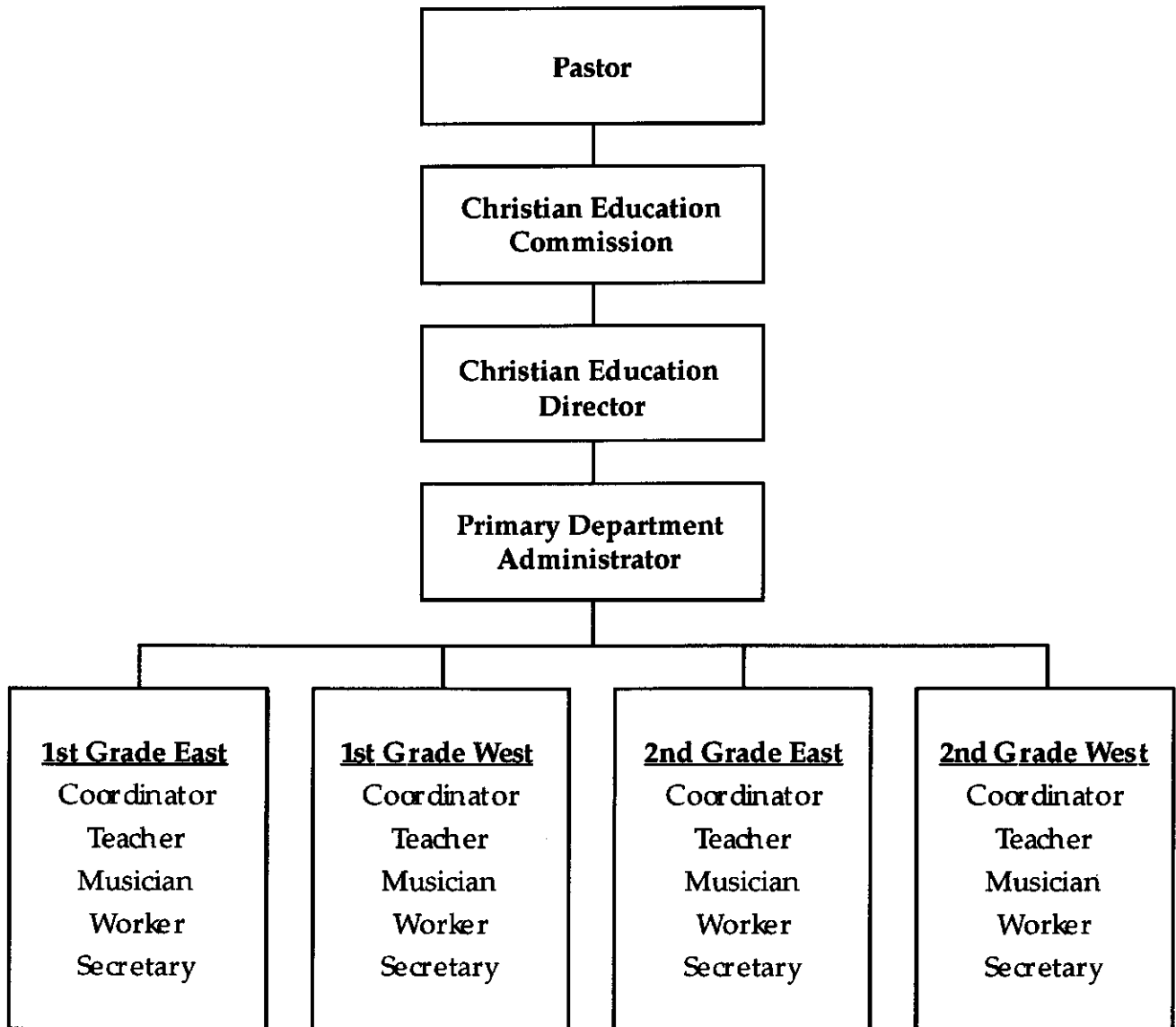
Confusion reigns when there is more than one person thinking they are in charge. The larger the body, the more responsibility needs to be delegated, and the more authority needs to be established on multiple levels. Everyone needs to know to whom they answer, and who has the responsibility to make the final decisions. The pastor is clearly the leader, and needs to have people under his direction who will take the responsibility for creating order and discipline in each class. Then, when there is a difference of opinion, these people graciously defer to him as the leader. One of the most important lessons we learn in Christian ministry is that we must have servants' hearts in order to make it work. Ambition and politics destroy the effectiveness of any ministry team.

Each of us in the family of God has a job to do. We need enough information to do it well. We also need to be a part of something that is bigger than we are; and we need help and encouragement along the way. This section is a tool for Christian leaders to help develop the specific program that will best meet the needs of the people.

### School of the Bible Flowchart



### Primary Department Flowchart



## **Administrator** (Department Head) Job Description

The Administrator is responsible for the overall function of a department consisting of several classes. In order to achieve an effective and fruitful team ministry, Class Coordinators and Teachers will be under the supervision and guidance of the Administrator, with a view of strengthening the families and the general ministry of the local church.

### **A. Supervision.**

1. Oversee the Class Coordinators.
2. Make certain that a leader for every class is present.
3. Encourage the workers to be punctual, neatly and appropriately dressed, and friendly.
4. Be in the hall 30 minutes before the classes begin to greet the teachers and students as they arrive.
5. Check around to see if there are any physical problems with the building which need to be corrected before the class begins. (Roof leaks, electrical problems, etc.)
6. Be sensitive to the needs of your teachers. Encourage and pray for any of them who are experiencing personal hardships.
7. Know each class team and be ready to step in and oversee a class if the Coordinator's post has not been filled.
8. Make sure the records are being handled correctly, and that the offerings are going to the department secretary with correct designations.
9. Take an active role in promotions and help stimulate interest and growth in the classes.

**B. Teacher Training.**

1. Conduct regular training sessions for your teaching teams, either as a department, or in conjunction with other departments.
2. Make every member of the group aware of the specific teaching goals of the class, both long and short term.
3. Share your ideas for improving the classes, and listen to the ideas of the Class Coordinators and Teachers with respect and appreciation.
4. Encourage friendship and fellowship among the people in your department.
5. Discuss available, new materials and teaching aids, and continually promote creativity, excitement, and the best audio-visual materials you can use.
6. Minister to the Class Coordinators under your supervision. Visit them as they visit those in their charge. Pray for and with them.

**C. Discipline.**

1. Be aware of any major discipline problems in the classes.
2. Be ready to handle any special discipline with which the Coordinator needs help.
3. If a child, who has become disruptive in class, is brought to you for correction, make every effort to locate at least one of the child's parents before attempting to discipline the child yourself.
4. NEVER spank or strike a child. Leave that up to the parents. Use physical restraint only if the child is a physical threat to someone. If a child is a consistent source of disruption to his class, you may find it necessary to suspend him. But, realize that disruptive anti-social behavior is a sure indication of severe personal and spiritual problems. Make sure that child is visited several times at home by teachers or others who are competent to minister to families, unless the family declines the offer of help.

## **Class Coordinator** (Class Leader) Job Description

The Class Coordinator is directly responsible to the department Administrator. While having the primary responsibility for the class, the Coordinator serves as the leader of the teaching team in each classroom of the School of the Bible.

### **A. Attend Special Meetings of Leaders.**

1. Keep informed on current developments and programs that relate to your class.
2. Share ideas and information with other Coordinators.
3. Receive information, encouragement, and ideas from the Christian Education Director, Pastor, or Administrator.
4. Pray with the other members of the teaching team.
5. Plan for the expansion and improvement of the School of the Bible ministry.

### **B. Supervise Training of the Teaching Team.**

1. Class council meetings.
  - a. Conduct a special meeting with all of your workers at least once each quarter.
  - b. Discuss ideas for improvements in the class.
  - c. Share information from the Coordinators' meetings that is relevant to your team.
  - d. Discuss long- and short-term goals for the class.
  - e. Discuss and try to resolve any problems encountered in the class. Resolve any interpersonal conflicts quickly.
  - f. These meetings could be conducted in one of the homes with fellowship or a shared meal.
2. Assign responsibilities for each class session at least 10 days in advance.
  - a. Require each worker to report on the assignment plans and make sure each segment coordinates with the class theme.
  - b. Have each worker obtain and prepare props and teaching aids ahead of time.
3. Lead the group in goal-setting.
  - a. Attendance goals.
  - b. Offering goals.

- c. Spiritual goals.
- d. Visitation goals.

4. Lesson objectives.

- a. "Quarterly objectives": Outline what you want to communicate for the quarter.
- b. "Unit" objectives (usually 4 weeks).
- c. Weekly aim (theme for this session).

5. Work with the team to plan special events, parties, field trips, service projects, etc.

- a. Make specific assignments and divide responsibilities.
- b. Fill out and submit the activity form to the Christian Education Director.

6. Lead the team in prayer before the class begins each Sunday.

**C. Help Nurture the Spiritual Well-Being of Each Member of the Class.**

- 1. Know the students personally, and be sensitive to their emotional and spiritual needs.
- 2. Be prepared to counsel on a one-to-one basis, if needed.
- 3. Set a godly example in your personal lifestyle and disposition.

**D. Supervise the Care of the Classroom.**

- 1. Never use tape, thumbtacks or nails on the walls or tape on windows. Use stick-tack.
- 2. In rooms with drop ceilings, light-weight objects may be hung from the ceiling grids.
- 3. Remove outdated decorations.
- 4. Turn off lights after class.
- 5. Make sure trash is picked up and put in the wastebasket.
- 6. Report maintenance problems to the Christian Education office.
- 7. Erase the chalkboards. Never use water on a chalkboard.
- 8. Arrange the chairs neatly.

**E. Storage Cabinet.**

- 1. Clean out the storage cabinet frequently.
- 2. Do not store food in the room or cabinet. It will draw all sorts of insects.

3. Be conscious of any fire hazard or clutter.

#### **F. Classroom Discipline Problems.**

1. The Class Coordinator is responsible for handling any normal discipline problems in the class with patience and consideration for the well-being of the group.
  - a. Never discipline a student with ridicule.
  - b. Never strike a student.
  - c. Convey love and acceptance while trying to determine the reason for the uncooperative or harmful behavior.
  - d. If possible, take a disruptive student aside and try to determine the nature of the problem. Be careful not to convey rejection by saying, "You are a bad child," or "I do not know what I am going to do with you."
  - e. Never leave a student standing or sitting alone in the hall.
2. Severe discipline problems should be referred to the child's father or mother if they are available.
  - a. If the respective parent is not in the building, the Administrator should handle the problem.
  - b. The Administrator should call the parents as quickly as possible.
  - c. The Administrator should give the child some personal attention and seek to discover the real problem behind the behavior, so he can minister to the need.

#### **G. Coordinate and Lead the Visitation Program.**

1. Assign a few of the students to each worker on the team.
2. Have each worker keep in touch with and continue to encourage each student assigned to them.
  - a. Birthday cards.
  - b. Phone calls.
  - c. Visits in the home.
  - d. Regular prayer for each one.



3. Organize regular visitations to the students.
  - a. Select a specific day, and get brief written reports.
  - b. Go with a new worker to show them how to make an effective home visit.
  - c. Make visitation an integral part of the Sunday School ministry program.
4. Be aware of absentees.
  - a. Contact missing students on a regular basis by writing, phone calls, and visitation.
  - b. If a student has been absent for more than 6 weeks, and every effort has been made to encourage them to return, contact your Administrator for approval to remove the name from the rolls.
  - c. No name should be removed without the Administrator's approval. It is the Coordinators' responsibility to keep track of extended absentees and not allow them to remain on the records, if they have not indicated that they will be returning soon.
  - d. Keep a record of the name, address, and phone number of each student whose name has been deleted and contact each one again within 3 months.

## Teacher Job Description

### A. Communicate the Word of God to the Hearts and Spirits of Your Students. This Involves:

#### 1. Planning:

- a. Think ahead.
- b. What response do I want to stimulate in their hearts this week?
  - (1) What do I want them to know?
  - (2) What do I want them to feel?
  - (3) What do I want them to do?
- c. Suggested goals:
  - (1) Cultivate gratefulness to God as Creator, Provider, and Protector.
  - (2) Lead to repentance by awareness of sin, grace, faith.
  - (3) Combat the "me-centered" mentality of humanism and teach the joy of giving, serving, and preferring one another.
  - (4) Combat the temporal values system with an awareness of the second coming of Jesus, heaven, hell, eternity, and the judgment seat of Christ.
- d. Biblical goals (from 2 Peter 1:5-7 in order):
  - (1) Faith.
  - (2) Virtue (character).
  - (3) Knowledge.
  - (4) Self-control.
  - (5) Godliness.
  - (6) Brotherly kindness.
  - (7) Charity (selfless love).
- e. What are the curriculum goals this year?

#### 2. Preparation: This involves work through the week, preparing your heart as well as your mind.

- a. Read the lesson materials you have and all the related scriptures early in the week.
- b. Incorporate scriptures and materials from the lesson into your daily devotions through the week.
- c. Create an introduction that will stimulate curiosity and interest.
- d. Know the material thoroughly. Practice by discussing or even presenting the material to your family.

- e. Look for, or make, props, pictures, or other visual aids which will captivate their interest and reinforce the message.
- f. Prepare an introduction, main body, and a definite conclusion that will stimulate your students toward the lesson goal.

### 3. Prayer:

- a. Prepare your spirit as a servant of God. Become sensitive to the will of God and be led by the Spirit.
- b. Pray every day for each of your students by name, and for the needs in their lives of which you are aware.
- c. Learn from your students what their specific needs are, and let them know you are praying about those needs.
- d. Keep notes about prayer needs.
- e. In praying, privately and before the class:
  - (1) Always begin with thanksgiving. *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ...."* (Psalms 100:4)
  - (2) Pray to the Father in Jesus' name.
  - (3) Bless the Lord, and honor His name.
  - (4) Create a focus on His will, His kingdom, His purposes, and His pleasure.
  - (5) Make specific petitions for healing, provision, and spiritual growth based on His Word and purposes.
  - (6) Ask for His forgiveness for wrong attitudes and deeds and pray for overcoming grace as you come with a grateful and humble spirit. Do not recite prayers. Talk to God. Pray in the Spirit. Pray audibly whenever possible and have set times to pray.

Jesus gave a MODEL prayer to His disciples, not to recite, but to emulate. Here is a similar model:

*"Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. We love You, and appreciate all the wonderful things You have done in our lives. Thank You for bringing us together as a group to study Your Word and learn Your ways. Thank You for Jason, Sarah, Joey, ... and for providing godly parents and a good church where we can worship You. Dear Lord, help us to understand more clearly what You are doing in our lives and what You want us to do with every precious day You give us to live. Teach us to grow in Your love by loving and serving one another; and, today, let every one of us know, without a doubt, that we are born again, changed, and walking with the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Help us to realize every day that Jesus is coming soon; and anoint us to worship You in everything we do. In Jesus' name. Amen."*

- (7) Start your day by reading the Bible and praying.
- (8) Include prayer at mealtimes and family devotions.
- (9) Pray together and minister to one another as a teaching team before the class.

(10) Teach the children to pray for each other, or for a leader who has a serious need.

4. Personality:

- a. Communicate the Word with joy, conviction, and confidence. NEVER read a book other than a Bible to the students.
- b. Look at the students and be sensitive to their responses.
- c. Call the students by name often and encourage them to ask questions. They are more important than your presentation.

5. Persuasiveness:

- a. Know what this church believes.
- b. Be able to overcome the mental roadblocks that have been established in the students' minds by the world.

6. Punctuality: Arrive 30 minutes early, so you can quiet your spirit and help greet the students.

**B. Share the Responsibility for Instruction in at Least One of These Teaching Segments:**

1. Bible story.
2. Object lesson.
3. Life-related story.
4. Scripture memorization.

**C. Learn to Use a Variety of Teaching Techniques and Aids Effectively:**

1. Animate your lecture with body language, illustrations, props, and questions.
2. Flannelgraph.
3. Overhead transparency projector.
4. Video cassette.
5. Puppets.
6. Skits with costumes and props.
7. Chalk drawings.
8. Songs that tell or emphasize the story.

**D. Learn the Material in Advance:**

1. NEVER read a story or carry a quarterly.
2. Do not try to show pictures from a book to a class. Books were made to be used by individuals, not groups.

**E. Carry and Read Only a Bible:**

1. Make the Bible visible.
2. Encourage the students to bring their Bibles with them and read them.
3. Always teach a lesson or tell a story in your own words.

**F. Pray Daily for the Students and for the Sunday Class Session.****G. Greet the Students. Make Them Feel Welcome and Loved.****H. Be Sensitive to Special Needs and Problems.****I. Honor the Class Coordinator as the Team Leader. Give that Leader Your Full Support and Cooperation.****J. Be Ready to Substitute for the Class Coordinator When Called Upon to Do So.****K. Attend at Least 48 Sunday School Sessions Each Year.****L. Be a Faithful Tither to this Local Church.****M. Attend at Least Two Other Regular Services at this Church Each Week to Strengthen Your Own Spirit.****N. Participate in the Visitation Ministry Program for Your Class. Realize That the Students' Parents Are Very Important to the Success of Your Ministry.****O. Attend Meetings and Training Sessions for the Sunday School Workers as Provided, to Develop and Enhance Your Skills and Team Spirit.****P. Be Supportive of the Overall Vision and Ministry of the Church.**

1. Always be aware that we need each other.
2. The goal of a true servant is to make others successful.

**Q. Be an Example of Christian Purity and Love.**

1. Live the lifestyle you teach to your students.
2. Be quick to forgive and resolve offenses and misunderstandings, especially with brothers and sisters in the church.

**R. Always Contribute to the Offering, In Order to Set an Example.****S. Teach the Use of Offering Envelopes.****T. DO NOT USE SECULAR MATERIAL, Such As:**

1. Secular music lyrics.
2. Secular films (even though they may seem so "nice").
3. Secular books. Expose the students to Christian heroes and stories which put God in the proper perspective.

**U. Be Careful to Put Nothing on the Walls Except in Designated Areas.****V. Help Keep the Room and Closets Clean.****W. Turn Out the Lights When You Leave.**

## **Musician**

### **Job Description**

- A. Strengthen the Message and Impact of the Class Session with Good, Appropriate Music.**
1. **Planning:**
    - a. Work with the Song Leader and Teacher prayerfully in choosing songs which will flow with and reinforce the objectives of the lessons.
    - b. Know the lesson plan and have the song list several days in advance of Sunday.
    - c. Keep looking for new songs which are biblical and fun to sing, particularly action songs.
    - d. Refer to the song list in the manual.
  2. **Preparation:**
    - a. Make sure you know the correct keys and chord progressions for the songs. You may need to consult one of the senior musicians during the week.
    - b. Practice the songs. Get some coaching if necessary.
    - c. Practice the songs with the Song Leader.
  3. **Prayer:**
    - a. Prepare your spirit as a servant of God.
    - b. Become sensitive to the will of God and be led by the Spirit.
  4. **Playing:**
    - a. Adjust your instrumental volume to the size of the room and the size and age of the group.
    - b. For 10 or 12 first graders, you need to play softly.
    - c. Do not play with your back to the Song Leader or group, especially if you play the guitar.
    - d. Play with skill and anointing.

**B. Support the Teaching Team with Your Presence and Help During the Entire Class Time.**

1. Be ready to play at other times during the class as needed for an altar call, special song, etc.
2. Smile.

**C. If You Must Be Absent, Contact a Substitute During the Week and Notify the Class Coordinator.**

1. Be sure the substitute is approved by the Administrator and Class Coordinator.
2. Make sure the Coordinator has the phone number of at least one substitute available in the event an unforeseen circumstance keeps you out of the class.

**D. Honor the Class Coordinator as the Team Leader by Giving Him or Her Your Full Support and Cooperation.**

**E. Attend at Least 48 Sunday School Sessions Each Year.**

**F. Be a Faithful Tither to this Local Church.**

**G. Attend at Least Two Other Regular Services at this Church Each Week to Build Up Your Own Spirit.**

**H. Be Supportive of the Overall Vision and Ministry of this Church.**

1. Always be aware that we need each other, and that the goal of a true servant is to make others successful.
2. We are a team!

**I. Be an Example of Christian Purity and Love.**

1. Live the lifestyle you teach others to live.
2. Be quick to forgive and resolve offenses and misunderstandings, especially with brothers and sisters in the church.



**Worker**  
(Assistant)  
Job Description

The general worker, one of the most flexible member of the teaching staff, is an assistant to the Class Coordinator, the Secretary, and the Teacher. This worker may be in training for a teaching ministry, or may be one who has a vision for the program, but does not feel called to carry the full responsibility as the leader. As an assistant, the general worker functions in the "ministry of helps," mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12.

**A. Assist the Secretary.**

1. Know the records procedures, and be able to handle the work when needed.
2. Help with attendance, offering, etc.
3. Assist the Coordinator and Teachers. Be available and willing to teach and to assist with special promotions and events.

**B. Help Maintain Discipline in the Class with Firm but Loving Sensitivity, in the Event of Any Disruptions.**

**C. Participate in the Visitation Program.**

**D. Attend the Training Sessions and Planning Meetings Scheduled.**

**E. Be Active in Praying for the Class, the Individual Students, and for the Ministry Team.**

**F. Relate Personally to the Students Whenever Possible.**

**G. Come 30 Minutes Before the Class Begins; Stay Through the Dismissal Time; Participate in the Singing, Praying, and Activities; and Support Each of the Team Members.**

**H. If You Must Be Absent, Notify the Class Coordinator as Soon as Possible.**

**I. Honor the Class Coordinator as the Team Leader.**

**J. Attend at Least 48 Sunday School Sessions Each Year.**

**K. Be a Faithful Tither to this Local Church.**

**L. Attend at Least Two Other Regular Services at this Church Each Week to Build Up Your Own Spirit.**

**M. Be Supportive of the Overall Vision and Ministry of the Church.**

1. Always be aware that we need each other, and the goal of a true servant is to make others successful.
2. We are a team!

**N. Be an Example of Christian Purity and Love.**

1. Live the lifestyle you teach others to live.
2. Be quick to forgive and resolve offenses and misunderstandings, especially with brothers and sisters in the church.

## Secretary Job Description

### A. Greet Each Student and Help Create an Atmosphere of Love and Joy in the House of the Lord.

1. Learn each student's name as quickly as possible, and use that name often.
2. Always recognize visitors and show a special interest in them.
3. Make name tags for the students.
4. Collect the tags at the end of the class and use them again every Sunday.
5. Introduce each new student to a worker.
6. Help make the students feel special about themselves.
7. Keep track of birthdays and, before the session, inform the Class Coordinator of current ones. Send cards to students with birthdays the following week.
8. Keep a list of absentees for visitation, cards, and calls.

### B. Keep Accurate Records of Each Class Session.

1. Attendance.
  - a. Use the computer attendance sheet; mark a black letter "P" for present and a red "A" for absent.
  - b. For a new student who has just become a regular attender, fill out the blue change sheet with the class and department, the student's name, address, telephone number, birthday, parents' names and previous dates attended. A student is a "regular" when he or she has attended at least three times in a consistent manner, e.g., once a month for several months, every other Sunday, etc. Place a blue sheet inside the attendance sheet when finished.
  - c. Fill out or update a yellow form with the visitor's name, address, telephone number, birthday, parents' names, and date attending. Continue to record the dates attended on this sheet until the visitor becomes a regular. Keep the yellow form in the file box with the white permanent cards.
  - d. Total the number of class members and visitors and record it at the bottom of the computer attendance sheet.
  - e. Take the completed attendance folder and offering envelope to the Divisional Secretary's office and check it over with the Secretary.

- f. Be sure you have a permanent information card for each student on your attendance sheet.
2. Offering.
    - a. The secretary is responsible for counting the School of the Bible offering and putting it in the envelope provided.
    - b. Record the total amount for the day on the envelope.
    - c. Record the total attendance on the envelope.
    - d. Keep any specially designated offerings separate, and turn them in to the Divisional Secretary with a note of explanation.
    - e. Take the completed attendance folder and offering envelope to the Divisional Secretary's office, and check it over with the Secretary.
  3. Maintenance record keeping.
    - a. Always check the computer visitation sheet for correct information. There may be a change of address or telephone number.
    - b. If a student tells you of a change of address or telephone number, fill out the blue change sheet, put it inside your attendance sheet, and turn it in to the Divisional Secretary.
    - c. Keep the visitation sheet each week for reference.
    - d. Keep the birthday sheet, which you will receive monthly. Fill in any birthdays not listed, and report them on a blue change sheet.
    - e. Be sure to have a white permanent information card for each student on your computer attendance sheet, and keep it in your file box. Do not forget to fill out a card for a visitor who becomes a regular attender. (Discard the yellow form used for visitors.)
  4. Other records.
    - a. During some promotions, records may be kept on separate forms relating to memory work, recruiting, or points for special efforts.
    - b. Occasionally, you may need some assistance from another worker to keep these extra records straight.
    - c. If an instruction sheet is delivered with additional paperwork, keep it in your attendance folder during the promotion and follow the instructions on the page.

**C. Follow-Up.**

1. Prepare welcome cards for new students.
  - a. Cards may be obtained from the Audio-Visual Room.
  - b. Include a little personal note. Be sure to sign your name and grade level. Do not just write, "Secretary."
  - c. Address the cards.
  - d. Take the cards to the Audio-Visual Room to be mailed.
2. Absentee follow-up.
  - a. One Sunday missed: send a "miss you" postcard.
  - b. Two Sundays missed: give the student's name and phone number to a Teacher or to the Class Coordinator, so a phone call may be made that week.
  - c. Three Sundays missed: make sure the student is visited by a Teacher or by the Coordinator.
3. Decision Cards.
  - a. These cards are available in the Audio-Visual Room.
  - b. Fill out one card for each student who responds to the salvation appeal in a class session, and turn it in to the Administrator.
  - c. Put the date and the student's name on the "Spiritual Life" form.
4. The books should be turned in to the Divisional Secretary no later than 30 minutes after the beginning of class.

## Four Things Every Teacher Must Know

### I. A Teacher Must Know the Student.

#### A. Background.

1. In what church was the student trained?
2. What is the student's cultural heritage?
3. What is the student's birth order?

#### B. Environment.

1. In what kind of neighborhood does the student live?
2. What school does the student attend?
3. What kind of television programs is the student permitted to watch?

#### C. Spiritual condition.

1. Is the student born again?
2. Has the student received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

#### D. Comprehension ability.

#### E. Interest level.

#### F. Personality Problems.

1. Is the student shy, introverted, or antisocial?
2. Is the student belligerent or irritable?

3. Is the student hyperactive?

#### G. Family situation.

1. In what kind of home does the student live?
2. Are the student's parents divorced, separated, constantly fighting, or devoted to each other?
3. Does the family have devotions together?
4. Is the family addicted to television?
5. Are the student's parents Christians?

#### H. How can a teacher learn about the students?

1. There are books available which explain characteristics of children at every age level. Go to the bookstore or library for general information.
2. Study carefully the material in your manual concerning your students' development.
3. Acquaint yourself with the student. Call him by name.
4. Pray specifically for each student under your charge.

## II. A Teacher Must Know Himself. Before Teaching, Ask Yourself:

- A. Am I tired or irritable?
- B. Am I discouraged? "*David encouraged himself in the LORD....*" (1 Samuel 30:6)
- C. Am I prepared -- really prepared?
- D. Am I enthusiastic?
- E. Am I friendly?
- F. Have I prayed about this class session?
- G. Are there conditions and stresses in my own life that can adversely affect my function in the class?
- H. Am I able to overlook problems and concentrate on the task at hand?
- I. Do I really believe in what I am doing today?
- J. Do I have a positive attitude?

## III. A Teacher Must Know the Lesson.

- A. Start preparing well in advance of the day of the class.
- B. NEVER read your lesson or story to the class.
- C. Follow a simple outline. Present specific thoughts.

D. Use visual aids. Students will remember far more when the idea is reinforced by what they see.

E. Use illustrations.

1. From the Bible.
2. From your own life.
3. From the lives of others.
4. From Christian literature.
5. From nature.
6. Allegories.

F. Ask questions.

G. Leave the students with a desire for more. Do not overdo singing or any one segment.

H. Be sure the lesson relates to the pupils on their level. Do the insights you are sharing affect the situations they are facing in their lives?

## IV. A Teacher Must Know the Overall Church Program.

- A. See yourself as part of the whole ministry team.
- B. Be faithful to the other programs and functions of the church. Attend the other services.
- C. Stay in your class when the other members of the team are ministering. Your presence is helpful and encouraging.

- D. Share in the promotion of special days and general activities.
- E. Make church announcements in your class.

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*Adapted from Your Sunday School Can Grow  
by Dr. Paul E. Paino.*



## Three Requirements for Every Teacher

The Bible has a great deal to say about teachers. Teaching is one of the special types of ministries that Christ Himself has placed in the church as a "gift." Read carefully the following scripture portion (Ephesians 4:11-16):

11 *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;"*

12 *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"*

13 *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"*

14 *That we (henceforth) be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, (and) cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"*

15 *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, (even) Christ:"*

16 *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

We discover from these beautiful verses that the Lord places teachers in the church for the following purposes:

- To Perfect the Saints.
- To Accomplish the Work of the Ministry.
- To Build Up the Body of Christ.
- To Help the Church Come Into a Unity of Faith.
- To Give Knowledge About the Son of God.
- To Exemplify a Godly Lifestyle.
- To Establish Us in Doctrine.
- To Prove the Love of God.
- To Help Believers Fit Into the Body of Christ.

**The Work of the Teacher Is Important. God Demands That Every Teacher Have:**

### A Call. (1 Corinthians 12:26-28)

God calls people to be teachers and workers. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance. Once we are called, we do not have an option. God requires a called teacher to teach.

**Compassion. (Matthew 9:36-38)**

*"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.'"*

The Master Teacher was moved with compassion. Jesus cared. Jesus wept. Jesus was concerned, because He loved people. He had something to give that would meet their needs. Every teacher needs to have the motivation and conviction that what he has is greatly needed by the people.

When we genuinely give our heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, it naturally translates into a love for people. In loving Jesus, we please him; we become like Him; and our motivations become more and more like His. Jesus was motivated by a supreme devotion to the Father, and by a selfless love for people. He was the consummate servant: He did nothing out of a motivation for self-gratification or self-glory.

**Courage. (Joshua 1:1-16)**

God spoke words of encouragement to Joshua, and told him "to be of good

courage." The path to courage is to focus on God's Word and on what God has done, rather than focus on our abilities or accomplishments.

Compassion and courage go naturally together. The Apostle John said, "*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear,...*" (1 John 4:18) Fear relates to the apprehension over potential loss. When we are a true servant and focus on the needs of others instead of ourselves, we are set free from fear and can boldly proclaim the Word of God. Daniel said, "*...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*" (Daniel 11:32) It takes courage to lead a class and bear the burden of ministering faithfully week after week.

Every teacher must know that he has a call from God, and not just a desire to be in front of people. He must have a genuine compassion for people and a passion for souls, and not just a desire to succeed in a ministry. Every teacher must also have the courage to do what needs to be done in the work, or he will give up when there are difficulties or conflicts.

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*Adapted from Your Sunday School Can Grow by Dr. Paul E. Paino.*

## Responsibilities of a School of the Bible Worker

As a teacher in the School of the Bible, you are taking an active part in the ministry of your church. In a sense, you are a minister yourself, serving in the ministry of "perfecting (maturing) the saints." (Ephesians 4:12) As a School of the Bible teacher or worker, you are assisting the professional, ministerial staff in preparing believers to cope with this "present world." (2 Timothy 4:10) The success of a local church is not only dependent upon its pastors, but also upon every saint who is actively doing his part in the ministry of reaching others with the gospel.

What activity is more important than teaching the Word of God? The ministry of teaching is one of the most important jobs in the church. For this reason, every effort has been made to choose individuals who will conscientiously teach God's truths to every person who enters the classroom. Our greatest joy must be in sharing God's Word. Your ministry in the classroom must never be a "burden." Evaluate carefully the potential of each student. Remember that someone needs to share the love of Jesus with them. Also, remember that true ministry is impossible with human strength and wisdom alone: you need God's anointing and grace. Pray for God's anointing, and make it a habit to pray for those to whom you minister.

### Responsibilities of a Teacher or Class Worker in the School of the Bible:

#### Be an Example.

Develop deep-rooted convictions directly from God's Word and live by them. Remember that you are an example to the young believers.

#### Be Faithful to the Public Services of the Church.

A teacher should be willing to attend all the services of his home church: Sunday morning, Sunday evening worship and the midweek service. As a leader in the church program, you need to be strengthened in your spirit by worship and the preaching of the Word. You also set an example by showing that you are excited about the vision you share with others.

#### Be a Tither.

The tithe (the first tenth of all our financial increase) is an important mark of God's ownership and one of the first principles of Christian ethics. When we hold back from God, we cannot expect anointing or blessing on our lives, and it shows up in our ministry. Tithing strengthens our commitment to the Lord and to the local church. It also helps to develop the mind-set of a servant rather than a "consumer."

### **Be Loyal to the Pastor and to the Church Program.**

This does not mean that the teacher has to believe everything the pastor believes, or even agree fully with everything the church does. It does mean, that as long as there is no conflict with the scriptures, the teacher should be willing to cooperate with the desires of leadership and be loyal to the pastor, as he presents the program under God's direction.

The most important qualification for fellowship is loyalty. Loyalty means, "I am for you and committed to your success; and, if I have a problem with you, I will go to you first and not discuss it with others behind your back." A "murmurer" is one who voices his complaints to people who are not responsible for the decision. Instead of helping, this only creates confusion and unrest.

### **Be Faithful to the Class.**

The teacher needs to be in his class regularly. Of course, there naturally will be times when absence will occur. Irregular attendance indicates a lack of concern for the spiritual condition of the class. Even the youngest of students can sense your concern for their spiritual needs. Show faithfulness by being prompt, prepared, patient, and pliable. Your attitude of faithfulness will make the difference.

### **Be Willing to Seek Lost Souls.**

Use your class to lead people to Christ. Do not just tell sweet stories. Seek to transform lives. Know how to lead a student to Christ, and plan to give your students a chance to commit their lives to the Lord.

### **Be Willing to Become a Member of the Church.**

Membership in the local church reflects your commitment to that work. Every teacher should have his ties deeply rooted in the local body in which he teaches.

Be regular in attending the Teacher/Coordinator meetings when they are scheduled. These meetings are designed to help the School of the Bible grow. It is a time of prayer and organization for the class you teach.

### **Be Willing to Visit Absentees.**

Every student in the class must be visited at least once each quarter (13 weeks), and those who miss more than one Sunday should be visited as soon as possible. We are concerned about attendance, because we care about the individual and his spiritual growth.

An apparent lack of concern among church leaders can be a major factor in a student's denial or rejection of the Lord in his personal life. Who knows how history may have been altered if a Sunday School teacher had been more effective in reaching out to Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson, or Madalyn Murray O'Hair?

### **Be Properly Dressed.**

Each worker should be dressed in a manner that is appropriate to the occasion. When we are ministering the Word of God to God's children, we are in a place of honor, and should also demonstrate a spirit that honors those who have come to grow in God.

**Ten Qualifications for a School of the Bible Worker:**

1. Love God supremely.
2. Love people and be concerned with the spiritual needs of the community.
3. Develop a pleasant personality.
4. Have a real desire to work for the Lord.
5. Do not be easily discouraged.
6. Be a good follower as well as a capable leader.
7. Believe in the absolute necessity of personal salvation through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. Have a sincere desire to serve Christ in the church.
9. Have clear spiritual perception.
10. Be willing to sacrifice time, money, comfort, and energy for the work of the Lord.

# **Section 3**

# **Student Profiles**

## Understanding Your Students

In order to minister effectively to any group, it is imperative that you have a working knowledge of the people you teach. Their individual circumstance and personality will affect their response to you and your ministry. Please read this material carefully as you prepare your heart to minister in any capacity to some of the most important people in the world: our children.

We are concerned that you have a working knowledge of your students in a number of ways. Young people are complex. There are some principles that apply to children at specific age levels, and some that we can all relate to no matter what our age. There are also many variables that distinguish each one as unique, with special potentials, needs, and

distinct problems. We are created body, soul, and spirit. Each part of our being is affected by our heritage, environment, and a vast array of cultural and social factors, which affect our responses and reactions.

The profiles which follow describe a child's development at different ages. The more you understand about each child, the more effectively you will be able to handle his fears, misconceptions, and behavioral problems. These profiles will give you some general insights. You will also need to become familiar with such factors as family background, birth order, school influences, television habits, and family and personal devotional life. In doing so, you will have important resources available to minister to your students.

## A Profile of First Grade Students

### Physical Development

1. First grade students are growing unevenly and may be awkward. Be patient and quick to encourage them.
2. Their fine muscles are still being developed. It is best to avoid detailed craft work and activities that require fine motor skills.
3. They tend to be restless, with short attention spans. In addition, first graders usually have a large sugar intake, may have a lack of firm discipline, and probably have a high-impact, fast-paced television diet. To keep their attention, you must keep things moving. Limit class segments to eight minutes or less.
4. They are easily fatigued. Their bodies are still growing, their diet usually contains large amounts of sugar and fat, and they may not be getting enough exercise. As much as possible, alternate active and relaxed times in the class schedule.
5. First graders are losing their baby teeth. Show an interest in this important change.
6. They are susceptible to communicable diseases. Be alert to the general health of your students and instruct parents to keep sick children at home, until they are well.

### Intellectual Development

1. First grade students are just learning to read. Do not require them to read in class. Talk, sing, or learn scripture verses by rote.
2. They are in the process of developing their vocabularies. Be sure to explain words carefully and use words and phrases that are easily understood.
3. They are not able to think in analogies or abstract concepts. Focus on the basics, and keep your explanations simple and straightforward.
4. First graders have keen senses, and love to handle things. Use sight, touch, and even taste, when possible.
5. They are very curious. Encourage questions, and deal with them patiently.
6. They have good memories. Challenge the students to memorize larger portions of scripture.
7. They have keen imaginations. Stimulate their imaginations. Let them act things out and talk. Teach students the difference between fantasy and vision.

**Vision** relates to hope and faith. Without a (spiritual) vision, people perish -- become wild and undisciplined. Children need to be stimulated toward a healthy imagination. To "pretend" and play is a major part of their development. They are able to begin to understand that there is a supernatural realm in



God's creation, and that angels and demons are real.

**Fantasy** is a satanic counterfeit of vision. Fantasy focuses on inaccessible and impossible dreams, which exalt the dreamer and feed the selfish ego tendencies of the sin nature. There is much emphasis on "power" and self-glory. Today, there is an avalanche of fantasy material ready to pour into the minds of children through television, humanistic books, and movies. The characters seem to be "good" and "so cute;" but, the message is demonic. Fantasy opens the mind to the occult and often leads to confusion, rebellion, depression, and suicide.

### Social Development

1. First grade students have a great need for security. Teach them to trust in God, their parents, and the church.
2. They love appreciation and affection. Praise them, and give hugs to them often.
3. They are living in a peer-oriented culture. Teach them to relate to adults and to children of different age levels with respect and kindness.
4. They should enjoy talking. Encourage talking in turn. Draw out the reclusive students and listen attentively to what the students have to say.
5. First graders tend to be selfish. Teach them to share with others, to develop a servant's heart, and to be excited about blessing others.
6. They like to play with other children. Teach them the joy of sharing and caring.
7. They still respect authority, although, at this point, the respect may be eroding. Encourage and teach about respectful attitudes. Live worthy of respect yourself by showing respect for others.

### Spiritual Development

1. First graders know the difference between right and wrong. Stimulate and encourage a healthy conscience.
2. They can know God and relate to spiritual things. Teach them to pray and to worship God.
3. They are curious about death. Help them understand about heaven, hell, and eternity.
4. They can understand sin, faith, and repentance. Lead your students to genuine salvation.

Note: It is important to understand the difference between genuine salvation and religious conversion.

**Religious conversion is an act of the mind and/or the emotions.** A child raised in a Christian culture, which also teaches Santa Claus and other "cute" myths, tends to mix the images and messages in his mind, and to think of God as a Santa. When he hears about God's love and desire to give to him, and about heaven, he will tend to think, "Sure. Why not?" He may learn the language and the motions, and "accept" Jesus as part of his cultural background and weekly obligations, without genuine

repentance from sin and without making a covenant with God. He may notice in his teen years that there is not much difference between him and the spirit he observes in the world, and decide that Christianity is "kid's stuff," like the Easter Bunny and Santa's elves.

**Genuine salvation is a work of the Spirit.** It involves both faith and repentance. The Holy Spirit moves on the person's spirit and also the

conscience, and "convinces of sin," while stirring in the heart the revelation of God's love and His holiness. We respond to the completed work of Christ on the cross with gratefulness and humility, recognizing our desperate need for forgiveness and healing. We respond to the covenant initiated by the shedding of His blood for us by giving our lives to Him and receiving Him both as Savior and Lord.

## Children of the '90's

What is Happening to Children in America Today ?  
What is an Effective Teaching Strategy for Sunday School Ministry?

### A. Education and Entertainment in America Today.

1. This is the most entertained generation in history: the "couch-potato-kid" culture.
2. "Sesame Street" has revolutionized education.
  - a. Quick, creative, colorful. The programs feature a rapid succession of clever, elaborate, and brilliantly entertaining segments of material with a strong humanistic bias.
  - b. To be "secular," the presentation does not have to be blatantly "anti-God." It must only exclude God. Any philosophy that excludes God is, in effect, working against a Christian world view. All education shapes values and morals. There is no such thing as a religiously neutral education.
  - c. The result is:
    - (1) American children are not easily impressed with a flannelgraph lesson or paper maché puppets.
    - (2) They have an even shorter attention span than previous generations.
    - (3) They tend to be more focused on their "rights" and less responsive to authority figures.
    - (4) They tend to be "hyperactive." In 1900 the average American consumed an average of 2 pounds of processed sugar per year. Today, our average consumption is 200 pounds per year.
    - (5) They tend to see God as less exciting than the world.

### B. What Secular Education Cannot Do.

1. Television and movies cannot respond personally to the children. "Sesame Street" is strictly a one-way street.
2. They cannot hug, reciprocate, or show personal interest in their special events.
3. Secular educators and entertainers cannot give life a worthwhile purpose or clear direction. (This goes without saying. If you are not going anywhere, it does not matter how you get there.)
4. The "secular" world cannot operate in spiritual giftings and discernment by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Note: It is possible for some to operate in the satanic counterfeit, such as demon-induced psychic powers, "e.s.p.," or other aspects of witchcraft. Some "churched"

children, who have had a lack of exposure to the power of the Holy Spirit, have been attracted to the occult world because of the spiritual void in their lives.

5. Secular education has no answer for basic life questions: "Where did I come from?" "Why am I here?" "Where am I going when I die?" "Does life really matter?" "Who am I?"
6. A secular education does not strengthen the family relationship. In fact, the more secular our perspective on life, the weaker our family ties become. Therefore, a secular education cannot make children emotionally or spiritually secure.
7. By excluding God from their thinking, the secular culture diminishes the basis for vision in life, and inadvertently contributes to the epidemic of teen suicide. "*Where (there is) no vision, the people perish.*" (Proverbs 29:18)

### C. Keys to an Effective Sunday School in the '90's.

1. Do not monologue; dialogue.
  - a. Your effectiveness is limited when you use only the straight lecture method: "You listen; I talk." The idea that "children should be seen and not heard" is not going to be relevant today.
  - b. Get them involved in the dynamics of the lesson. As a one-way communicator, you cannot compete with the world system. If you effectively interact with them and relate personally, you have a strong advantage.
2. Be sensitive to special needs.
  - a. A child who will not sit quietly and obey has a problem -- usually at home.
  - b. He does not need to be humiliated in front of his peers.
  - c. He needs private attention, and his parents probably need ministry of some kind, too.
3. Be creative and open to new ideas and exciting ways of presenting the concepts which children need to grasp.
  - a. Dialogue is better than a monologue.
  - b. A 2- or 3-person presentation is better than a solo act.
  - c. Generally, a video is better than a filmstrip.
  - d. Children need a lot of visual stimulation, as well as audible, tangible, and spiritual stimulation.

4. Do not underestimate children.
  - a. They can memorize, even if they cannot yet read.
  - b. They can perceive things in their spirits before all their mental perception comes into play.
  - c. Expose them to the Word of God.
5. Work with parents.
  - a. Get to know the parents.
  - b. Work to make them feel that they are a part of the team, along with you.
  - c. Help them in their goal of training their children properly.
  - d. Encourage parents to memorize the verses, along with their children. This is essential for parents of pre-readers. Otherwise, the children are limited to learning only a few partial verses a month.
  - e. Give parents suggestions for family devotions which are related to the lessons. Make sure you have devotions with your own family; and, share ideas, preferably with an occasional take-home letter.
  - f. If the parents are unsaved, see their child as a key to winning the parents to the Lord.
  - g. Appeal to the parents' natural sense of responsibility. Help them see that, in order to effectively rear children and ensure their survival in these times, they need God's anointing and help.
  - h. To be secure, children desperately need two parents who love each other and who are responsive to God's authority.
6. Provide incentives and rewards for achievement. Be creative. Recognize your students' successes, and acknowledge their accomplishments and special skills.
7. Let kids have fun.
  - a. Have fun with them.
  - b. Smile.
  - c. Let them see that you enjoy the Lord and life in Christ.
  - d. Teach them to "delight themselves in the Lord," and not just in things.

8. Avoid being too simplistic.
  - a. Many people who were raised in Sunday School programs have the impression that the gospel is juvenile, or "kid's stuff," because they heard the stories of Noah and the ark and Daniel in the lion's den over and over again, without much depth or application.
  - b. Children can comprehend more in their spirits than you may realize. Include less familiar illustrations in your lessons; present your material in creative ways; and emphasize the spiritual truths in each lesson. Your excitement about the Word and the lesson will be contagious.
9. Remember that children have been exposed to a lot of humanistic philosophy, which makes them the center of their world.
  - a. With that kind of mind-set, it is possible for them to "accept Jesus into their lives," along with a pack of Muppets, Ninja Turtles, and power fantasy characters. We need to emphasize the concept of **Jesus as the center** of our lives, and repentance and faith as essentials to Christianity.
  - b. The children of today have been overexposed to the occult and to fantasy heroes, and it is not their fault. Let us expose them to the Holy Spirit and to Christian heroes.

## Why Do We Lose So Many of Our Children to the World?

Some knowledgeable Christian leaders have estimated that in our evangelical and full-gospel churches, 85% of the children raised in Sunday School turn away from the church of their parents and find the world more enticing. It is time for us to take an honest, hard look at our methods and priorities and seek God for biblical answers.

Why could Joshua say, in Joshua 24:15, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," and we cannot? In Joshua's day and culture, the family was strongly the center of society and the life of individuals. By divine mandate, there was less exposure to heathen culture. Moses had conveyed the message from the Lord that the Israelites were not to allow their children to mix with the ungodly people of the land, in order to keep them from the influence of idolatry.

**Today, our children have been exposed to far more evil than preceding generations.**

The average child today watches 5 or 6 hours of television a day, and it is usually all secular. We need to understand that, although there are Christian programmers and networks, the purpose of secular media leaders is not only to entertain, but also to promote a mind-set and lifestyle that is Godless in perspective and ungodly in practice. Even the highly acclaimed educational television industry is blatantly promoting values and attitudes, which openly oppose Christianity. Not only does the secular media waste so much time, but the commercial format is also designed to create covetousness as a way of life, and to

mold us into "consumers", instead of servants.

The family is portrayed as "any group of people living together," and fathers are mocked as idiots. They are literally "turning the hearts of children from the fathers," as well as promoting witchcraft, immorality, drunkenness, and rebellion. How can a Christian father expose his son to 25,000 beer commercials in the context of sports worship, and then be surprised if the boy is attracted to alcohol as a teenager?

Parents would be far more disciplined about what they allow into their homes and minds, if they were fully aware of the deliberate motives of some powerful media leaders to effect major social change and literally destroy the family and the church. One hour a week of Sunday School, and a little family devotional in the morning, cannot compete with the attraction of endless hours of thrills, cartoons, and entertainment, which promise power illusions and pleasure at the flip of a dial.

*"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...." (Psalms 101:3)*

Today, one philosophy strongly promoted in education is that children need to be exposed to evil so they will reject it and know how to deal with it. This is a false concept. The more you expose anyone to evil, the more they are attracted to it.

The only biblical way to conquer evil is to focus on good and be drawn to it.

*"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)*

You do not win the battle over temptation by focusing on it and struggling with it. You gain victory over temptation when you live for God, obey His commandments, and pursue good on a daily basis. The key is found in Galatians 5:16:

*"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."*

**Our culture promotes ungodly heroes.**

Heroes are very important to children. Who were the heroes in America 30 years ago? The Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers, Davy Crockett. Today, children idolize a neurotic Batman, mutant turtles, sodomite rock stars, and a host of occult-based cartoon characters. Christian parents and church leaders need to be familiar not only with Bible heroes and villains, but also with the biographies of great Christians.

<p><b>How Can We Develop a Taste for Spiritual Things?</b></p>	<p><b>How Are Carnal Appetites Developed?</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lead the students to genuine conversion through repentance and faith.</li> <li>2. Be excited about the Word, godly character, and serving others.</li> <li>3. Promote good, melodious music.</li> <li>4. Read about and discuss the godly heroes of the Bible.</li> <li>5. Teach the children, by example, to "delight themselves in the Lord" and to really enjoy praise and worship.</li> <li>6. Help the family make God an integral part of daily life.</li> <li>7. Make a covenant to put God first in your life, and be committed to three church services a week.</li> <li>8. Make prayer exciting by documenting answers to prayer.</li> <li>9. Become skilled in areas of service. Study about God and godly people.</li> <li>10. Honor parents, pastors, and other leaders as God's servants for our benefit, and pray for them.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teach the doctrine of evolution and the basic goodness of man.</li> <li>2. Focus on physical characteristics, appearance, and entertainment.</li> <li>3. Allow sensual and carnal music.</li> <li>4. Keep up with new movies, TV stars, and music idols.</li> <li>5. Separate "fun" times from "spiritual" times, and treat church attendance as drudgery.</li> <li>6. Try to take care of all the "spiritual stuff" at church.</li> <li>7. Practice going to church only when you have time and when it is convenient in your schedule.</li> <li>8. Try to work things out by talking or meditating.</li> <li>9. Study drugs, rock music, and sex to create a mental focus on them.</li> <li>10. Be critical of authority figures, and let your children hear you complain about them.</li> </ol>



**Most of our children develop a stronger taste for the world, than for the things of the Spirit.**

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)*

This does not say, "Include some Christian training in your family life, and, after the children sow their wild oats in some years of rebellion, they will come back to the Lord when they become adults."

The word "train" comes from a Hebrew word, which means to "touch the palate." When a baby is learning to eat solid food, the mother starts putting some food on her finger, touching the roof of the baby's mouth and causing it to swallow. The analogy relates to taste. The verse really means, "Cultivate a taste for spiritual things in the heart of your child, and as he grows he will not be attracted to the inferior things of the secular world." *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good." (Psalms 34:8)*

It is not enough to expose children to part of the Bible message, and then encourage them to "make a decision." Our goal is to impart a thirst for spiritual things, which will continue to motivate them to seek God. A good teacher will inspire his students to be a lifelong learner. You can be excited about teaching; but, you have not really taught until the children catch your vision. Anyone can get children to recite a prayer. Our goal is to teach them to become praying people. Anyone can recite verses; but, a great teacher inspires others to love the Word and to make it part of their lives.

**In our zeal to promote love and gratefulness to God, and to**

**encourage children to accept Christ, we have neglected repentance from sin -- a necessary biblical foundation for genuine conversion.**

*"Repent, and be baptized ..." (Acts 2:38)*

*"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:2)*

*"And others ... save with fear." (Jude 23)*

One hundred years ago, William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, said, "I fear that the day will come when men will preach heaven without hell, a crown without a cross, blessing without suffering, and salvation without repentance."

*"Others save with fear."* When we emphasize the love of God and unconditional security, the response of some is, "God really loves me. How can I do anything less than give Him my all?" Unfortunately, others will respond with, "God loves me; so, I am going to heaven. I can sin and get away with it." In our fear of overemphasizing the fear of the Lord, lest we be labeled "legalistic," we have overbalanced the scale and lost the sense of awe for a holy God.

Many people who were "raised in Sunday School" seem to have a mocking disregard for the great eternal Judge of the universe. Let us be conscious of that delicate balance of truth: the God of everlasting compassion is a "consuming fire." It was God's love that sent Christ to the cross; and it was His holiness that demanded the death penalty for sin.

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)*

While it is the goodness of God that brings men to repentance, (Romans 2:4) it is also because of "*the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*" (Proverbs 16:6) The fear of the Lord is not a negative thing. In fact, there are at least 31 benefits listed in scripture which result from the fear of the Lord. It is not a harsh, dark, negative aspect of faith, but rather a "*fountain of life.*" (Proverbs 14:27) The fear of the Lord is the awareness that nothing is hidden from Him, and that all of our actions will be judged by a perfect and holy God. It is the understanding that we are "sure our sins will find us out," and that "God is no respecter of persons." We also need to understand that God never changes. We serve the same God that Noah and Abraham served. If we are not careful, we can overemphasize the passive aspects of grace and allow the impression that God is more like Santa Claus, than the holy God of the Bible.

### **Our message has often been, "Just accept Jesus into your heart."**

We base that on an idea taken from Revelation 3:20, "*Behold I stand at the door and knock,...*" which, in context, has nothing to do with salvation. It is Christ's message to the church about spiritual communion. The message of accepting Jesus was important to the Jews, who understood sin, redemption, and covenant; but, their problem was that they did not accept Jesus as the Messiah they were looking for who would fulfill the covenant.

In our Christian culture, we have no problem accepting Jesus as our Savior; but, we tend to have a humanistic mindset, which rejects His right to lordship. To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is not to decide to accept His genuineness, but to acknowledge His ownership. "*The devils believe and tremble,*" (James 2:19) but they do not give themselves to Him.

The Bible does not tell us to "accept Jesus into our hearts." In fact, it says "We are accepted in the Beloved." (Ephesians 1:6) He is the one who accepts us into His heart, as we repent and believe. Many young people can get the false impression that Jesus is meekly "waiting patiently in line" in order to persuade us to allow Him an audience at our discretion. We accept Him into our life, to reside alongside our other beliefs, friends, affections, and habits.

In genuine conversion WE become part of HIS life. We are accepted and adopted, and we become part of His world, His domain, His body, and His army. He is the center of it all, and we become excited about pleasing and glorifying Him. In trying to make the gospel so appealing that all we have to do is accept Jesus, we have produced many who see Jesus as another source of their pleasure, happiness, and success. Humanism makes self the center of our world and allows for religion, as long as it is not a "radical" transfer of affection and allegiance from self to Jesus.

To "accept Jesus into our heart" is not bad or untrue, but be aware of what an unregenerate mind can do with that concept, especially when there is no emphasis on sin or repentance. Remember that our children have been strongly influenced by humanism, which centers life in self and rejects accountability and authority.

The Bible calls us to "make disciples" -- to challenge the self-willed child of the '90's to "deny self," and to take up his cross daily and follow Christ. There are thousands of people in the world today, who are doing their own self-willed thing, and who at one time accepted Jesus in their heart; but, they never really grieved and repented over their sin, and never surrendered their life to Him as Lord.

**We have brought sensual music into the church in an effort to attract the youth and to be "relevant."**

We have swallowed the line that "all young people like sensual music," and that "it does not matter what style of music you use, as long as it says something." But music is, in and of itself, a language and a powerful communication medium. Music can touch the spirit, move the soul, and stimulate the flesh.

It is important to evaluate music on the basis of principle, and not label any "singing star" or group as ungodly, or evil. Indeed, part of the problem is that sincere artists are resorting to sensual styles and secular methods in order to imitate the world and thereby reach people. We do not want to judge anyone's motives, especially if they are in Christian work. But we must evaluate the music and look at the fruit of the ministry. What is the long-term effect of a given type of music on the listeners? Do they tend to be mighty in spirit? Are they soul winners? Do they derive their pleasure from the music alone, or is there a genuine joy of the Lord and spiritual power expressed through their music?

**Here are a few things to consider in the evaluation of music in the church.**

- Taste in music is developed by exposure. Not all teenagers enjoy screaming "head-bangers" costumed in spandex, chains, and Revlon.
- Some styles are carnal, and they draw undue sensual attention to the singer. Breathy vocalizations, "bedroom eyes," and lewd dress are being tolerated in the name of "relevance;" but, what does it produce in the hearts?

- The argument that "it sells" is the doctrine of Balaam. Market share is not a biblical criteria for validity in the ministry.
- Is there an inordinate effort to imitate the sounds and appearance of the secular and satanic world of music, or is the singer responding to the Spirit in making a joyful noise unto the Lord?
- Test the spirit of the music and of the musician. Is there a smile on his face? Is there a message being communicated? Is the music a vehicle for the Word that will move the heart, or is the music a vehicle for the musician to draw attention and admiration to himself?
- Our goal is to do all we can in order to expose youth to godly music and to cultivate a taste for spiritual things.

**The Sunday School movement in America has largely ignored its greatest potential resource: parents.**

The family is God's primary means for training youth. Unless parents have a vision for daily devotions, Christian music and programs, and a Christ-centered lifestyle, the little scriptural knowledge we can convey on Sunday morning will continue to be overwhelmed by a flood of secular, sensual, and satanic influences -- through movies, television, secular education, and carnal friends. Our task is to inspire young people to live a Christian lifestyle and walk daily with God, and to influence the parents to reinforce the message of God's Word during the week.

Children can memorize many times more scripture than we have expected; but, they need help from the family to do it, especially young children who do not read. Parents need to memorize along with them. When educators adopt such a

philosophy, even kindergarten students memorize and quote chapters of the Bible, not just segments of verses.

To reach and influence the children of the '90's effectively, we must develop a working relationship with those parents who at least care enough to send their children to Sunday School, even if they do not bring them. We need to visit, motivate, encourage, and use written communications to get them to work with us as co-laborers with Christ, and let them know that we are supporting them in the minds and hearts of their children.

**Many Christian families do not have a strong conviction about speaking negatively about other believers.**

There are many warnings and reminders in the Bible about our tendency to speak critically about each other. James 4:11 says, *"Speak not evil one of another, brethren."* The word for "speak evil" is "katalaleo," which means "negative speaking." When we are offended or disagree, it is our nature to complain, or murmur, to people we trust. It is the most natural thing in the world to discuss the sermon or leaders in the church with our spouse. Unfortunately, many children hear these discussions, and then develop the impression that the church is "full of hypocrites," and, "you cannot trust the pastor." Many parents have tossed around their complaints in the car or at home for years; and then, they have wondered why their children were so attracted to the bar crowd, or to their secular friends.

We need to encourage each other to believe and speak the best of one another. If there are misunderstandings or conflicts, go to the person with whom we have the problem and resolve it quickly and

quietly. We need to be aware of the subtle effect our grumbling has on little ears.

**We cling to outdated methods and materials.**

We must realize that we are in a battle for the minds and affections of children. We are up against a world system which has at its disposal incredible, innovative, sophisticated technology, with massive budgets and manpower, producing an alluring enticement to sensuality, humanistic values, and the occult. We need to know that we have the Holy Spirit, God's love, and His creative power.

Let us be intense in our planning, preparation, and presentation of the message of a better hope, a better lifestyle, and a purpose for living through the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot compete with the occult powers of He-man or Jem with a one-dimensional flannelgraph lesson; but, when you have an innovative, colorful, team-oriented program combined with agape love and genuine enthusiasm, along with the operation of spiritual gifts and sensitivity to their real need, you can compete with the "darkness" crowd. They have the illusion of power; we have God's power. We are in a war, and we can no longer get by without the anointing and creative skill.

**The Sunday School can lapse into a routine of singing and lesson presentations, and neglect visitation and personal relationships, which are essential for effective training.**

The purpose for dividing the youth department into small classes is not limited to communicating the message on different levels. Nor is it limited to giving

an opportunity for several people to teach in front of groups. Our purpose is to divide into small groups, so that there can be a more intimate and personal level of ministry to the young people. If a School of the Bible teacher sees his "ministry" as merely talking in front of a class, he does not understand ministry. Ministry means meeting needs, whatever they are.

A teacher who never visits the students, or rarely telephones them, is like a pastor who only preaches sermons and has no

personal contact with the people. Children need to relate to godly adult leaders, who show that they care for them personally. They need to hear their name, and they need a listening ear, a hug, and a little present that says, "You are very special to me. Here is how you can see God's love, because I am showing you that I love you." Children, who get only a classroom diet of lessons, seldom stay long in the church. Each of us needs to feel loved, appreciated, and needed.

## Do Not Send Them Away

*"Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat."* (Mark 6:36)

We find one of the greatest Sunday School lessons in this chapter. There are several things that every worker needs to learn from these verses:

### **"The day was now far spent ...."**

(Mark 6:35)

When we look at the signs about us, we must be aware that the "day of grace" is indeed far spent. The night of God's judgment and tribulation is upon the world. We do not have a guarantee of a tomorrow for laboring in the harvest, so we must have an urgency of spirit as we relate to the work of soul winning. Jesus was stirred by the lack of time to work, and we should be as well.

### **"This is a desert place...."**

(Mark 6:35)

Men and women are looking for something to satisfy their spiritual thirst and hunger for reality. People are flocking to the illusion of drugs and to the deceptions of cults, because they do not have the reality or hope that only Jesus Christ can bring. Young people see the phoniness, emptiness, and hopelessness of their predecessors; but, they do not know where to turn. Water is a "type" of life, and relates to the refreshing of God's Word and His presence in our life. When we live apart from God, we dry up in every area of life. Life becomes merely existence. *"The rebellious dwell in a dry land."* (Psalms 68:6)

### **"Send them away."**

(Mark 6:36)

The only answer the disciples had for the multitude was to send them someplace else. They could not meet the need of the people who came to them. Unfortunately, many churches are in the same condition. People come for help with spiritual problems and resulting emotional and physical troubles, and the church sends them off to secular agencies and unsaved "professionals."

When the disciples came to Jesus, they discovered that He had the answer. When we are in touch with the Master, we can meet the needs of people, because we are His servants and ambassadors. Through Christ we have the supply. The legitimate church is a "storehouse" which can meet the needs. That is what ministry is all about: find a need and fill it.

### **"Jesus saw much people."**

(Mark 6:34)

It is possible for us to be with thousands of people and never really SEE them. We can overlook their real problems and individual needs. God's people need spiritual perception. Jesus told His disciples to *"look on the fields, for they are white already unto harvest."* (John 4:35) They were waiting for some astounding event to initiate their ministry, or for some great public appeal for their services, but Jesus told them to LOOK. He was telling them that people are ready to hear and respond; and, if you are perceptive, you will know it.

### **Jesus "...was moved with compassion...."**

(Mark 6:34)

The great heart of God was moved with compassion, because the people were scattered. God is by nature a Father and a Gatherer. Jesus was concerned for the people in their need. Today, there is a dearth in the land. Sin is scattering families by divorce and churches by division, and too many church leaders still work mechanically through their programs and politics. Notice that Jesus was moved by the scattered, hurting people. He had compassion, and it motivated Him to give to them whatever they needed.

### **"He began to teach them many things..."**

(Mark 6:34)

Jesus was a teacher. Probably the greatest need in the lives of the people was a teacher, and they were hungry for the truth. Every Sunday School teacher has a tremendous responsibility to teach the truth. Truth is not just a set of ideas; but, it is also the expression of the person of Jesus Christ. *"I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life...."* (John 14:6) We are not just the ministers of the sayings of Jesus, but we are also *"the ministers of Christ...."* (1 Corinthians 4:1) We give Jesus to people. A key element in the ministry team of an effective church is God-conscious teachers, who give themselves to the spiritual ministry of teaching.

### **"Give ye them to eat."**

(Mark 6:37)

Jesus placed the responsibility on His followers. *"YOU give them something to eat."* In John 21:15, Jesus asked Peter, *"...lovest thou me? ... Feed my lambs."* Jesus

saw a direct correlation between Peter's love for Him and his ministry to hungry people. *"If you love me, you will bless my children."*

If you and I love the Lord, we will give the world the "Bread of Life."

### **"...and they sat down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties."**

(Mark 6:40)

It is interesting to note that Jesus separated the people into "departments," and then gave each disciple responsibility over a group. They all had a part in the ministry, and none of them was omitted.

A good Sunday School program makes it possible for every worker to have a valid and fruitful ministry. If all of us do our part and minister to our own group, the hungry multitude will be fed. *"We are workers together with God."*

### **"...He blessed and brake the loaves...."**

(Mark 6:41)

Jesus gave the bread to the disciples. By the Spirit, He took what was available and made it enough to meet the need. We need to be sure that what we are feeding people is from the Lord, and not from our own imagination, or something we gleaned from the world's "wisdom." Jesus blessed the bread and He gave it to the disciples. We need to remember that if we have any good thing to give, it was given to us by the Lord. *"Freely ye have received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:8)

**“...and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments ....”**

(Mark 6:43)

When God is our source, He is able to supply more than enough to meet our need. He is also a God of order, and He wants nothing wasted. By multiplying the supply beyond the need, He made an opportunity for the disciples to serve as custodians. A teacher's work is not

finished when the class has gone. He needs to be responsible for some maintenance and physical preparation as well.

The scripture makes it clear that the whole multitude was filled. Jesus more than met the need. He is the answer! He is the Bread of Life and the Water of Life. He is preparing us, as His disciples, to distribute the abundant life in Christ to the hungry multitude waiting to hear. Do not send them away. Feed them.



## Why Unsaved People Do Not Come to Church

Jesus Christ said, "Go ye into all the world...." (Mark 16:15) He instructed us to "fish" for men. It is our responsibility to compel others to come in and hear the Word. We are commissioned by God to be His witnesses to a lost world; to go where men are; to reach; and to teach.

The motivating drive of Christians should be to win unsaved people to Jesus. We can only win men if we contact them where they are. If we are indifferent to soul winning, we will deteriorate into a religious club, instead of into God's mighty army. We must develop a passion to obey the Lord in His Great Commission.

We are not called to sit back and "hold the fort" until Jesus comes. We are called to be laborers in the harvest, to "occupy" until He comes. Here are some of the reasons unsaved people do not come to church. As we evaluate these reasons, it is clear that much of the blame is ours; and that, if we will respond to the Great Commission, many more people will come to Jesus and discover that He gives "life...more abundantly." (John 10:10)

### **They are not invited.**

Very few of us invite people to church. We invite friends to our home. We invite neighbors to social functions. We invite people to PTA meetings, sports events, or shopping trips; but, how often do we invite unchurched neighbors or co-workers to church? Each year, one out of every five Americans changes residence. Many of them stay home on Sunday, because no Christians have shown an interest by inviting them to their church services.

### **They are not welcomed.**

It is very difficult for the average outsider to "break in" to the average church group. Most churches are very "close knit." It is good to be close friends with fellow church members; but, if we become exclusive, we miss the blessing of reaching out and growing personally.

We have a natural tendency to like "sameness" -- the same pew, the same songs, the same faces. Often, people who are different (foreigners, people from a different social standing, people with more needs than qualities to offer) are not enthusiastically welcomed in a church.

It is interesting that Jesus spoke of judging "church" people as dividing sheep from goats (Matthew 25:32-33), and the criteria for His evaluation is based on our response to various kinds of hurting, needy people. One major focus of Jesus is our response to the "new guy." "I was a stranger, and you took me in." (Matthew 25:35) A great mark of spiritual maturity is our ability to genuinely welcome new people into our lives; to make new friends; and to love the stranger.

### **They are embarrassed.**

We often embarrass people, who come to church or to a class for the first time, by the way we introduce them or insist that they stand or talk. We need to be sensitive to their personal response to that. Most people like to be welcomed and blessed by individuals in one-on-one conversation, as in a greeting time, or after the service. However, they are very uncomfortable

about being put "on display" in front of a group of people whom they do not know.

### **They are not made aware of the presence of Christ.**

If we are not careful, we can spend a lot of time in non-essentials and over-emphasize our programs, instead of the Lord. People today are hungry for reality. They need to see Jesus and hear the Word of God. They do not need more activity. They need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **They are not attracted.**

What is our reputation in the community? Are we known as "The First Church of the Hatfields and McCoys?" Are we seen as a bickering, feuding fellowship, or are we "known by our love?" It is important that Christians do not talk about internal problems with outsiders. The unreached have no desire to become a part of a group which forces them to take sides on issues.

It is also important to keep the building as attractive as possible. If visitors see dirty floors, an unkempt lawn, or a unclean restroom, they will tend to react negatively. The way we care for physical things does reflect the way we feel about ourselves and about our God.

We would also do well to examine our mannerisms carefully and our "worship calisthenics." We are often guilty of doing things because of habit rather than participating in praise and worship as a true reflection of the heart.

### **They see too much hypocrisy.**

How many times do we ignore people all year, and then invite them to attend church when there is a contest or special program? People often react negatively to Christians when they think they are wanted as a number; or, because we need their money. They also look at our own lives, and sometimes they see our preoccupation with seeking after the same temporal values for which they are seeking.

### **They do not see us excited about the Lord.**

One Christian family was relocated to a new city, and visited a full-gospel church similar in doctrine to the one they had left. Their comment was, "It was a nice church. The preaching was good, and the people were friendly; but, most of them sat in the back pews during the service. We were near the front in a sea of empty seats. We felt self-conscious, and decided that, if they were not excited about being there, we would not be either. We settled on another church down the road."

### **They do not see that the church can meet their needs.**

Sometimes the church becomes too focused on programs and gives the impression that it needs people to meet the needs of the church. Instead, we need to show the world that the church has answers for real problems. In some areas, there is an exodus from Christian churches to the Mormon religion, because the Mormons are perceived to have a stronger emphasis on family values and relationships. People are hungry for that. "Teach me how to get my marriage healed,

and how to handle my rebellious teenager. That is what I really need.”

**They do not feel that they are loved.**

Do we really love outsiders? Too often, we are critical of the unsaved, instead of

loving them enough to lead them to the Word of God and to the church. When we are willing to invite and welcome the lost, regardless of their weaknesses, our churches will be filled. Men are hungry for Christ. There is no other real answer to the basic needs and problems in their lives.

## The Importance of Repentance

One of the basic motivations among genuinely born-again Christians is the desire to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Heaven is so wonderful; God is so good; and hell is so horrible that we want everyone we know to be saved. We grieve over every soul who dies without knowing God. We agree that it is possible for people to become religious and not really have a spiritual new birth. How do we lead people to a genuine, supernatural, "new creature" experience that will result in a life lived in service and worship to God? How do we influence them to become disciples of the Lord?

Jesus spoke of people in the judgment who will say, "*Lord, ... have we not ... in thy name done many wonderful works?*" (Matthew 7:22-23) and He will say, "*I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" (Matthew 7:23) There are many people who think they are going to heaven; but, they are not. They call Jesus "Lord," but they "work iniquity." In our sincere desire to see people saved, perhaps we have become too eager to persuade them to "make a confession of faith." We have brought a large number of people into the church who think they have a guaranteed ticket to heaven, because they "believed;" when all they really have done is to assent intellectually to the validity of Christ's messianic claims. Biblically, that is not enough. The Apostle James said,

*"Thou believest that here is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."* (James 2:19)

God's purpose in the earth is not to create people to populate heaven. His purpose is to have a covenant people, who will live and reign with Him forever. The

Bible never says that our part is only to accept Jesus. In fact, it says that He accepts us into His life. (Ephesians 1:6) There are many people who are converts to Christianity; and yet they are not living for Christ. These people have not understood their need for genuine repentance, and live their lives as if to say, "I do not love God; but, I have accepted Jesus into my heart, and I am going to heaven. I am saved by grace, and my works have nothing to do with it. So, I am going to live the way I please and enjoy the world while I am here."

The Apostle Jude warned that ungodly men turn "*the grace of God into lasciviousness....*" (Jude 4) In other words, they would say, "since grace is only unmerited favor, then I can sin and get away with it. God loves me. Therefore, I do not need to fear God."

When Charles Finney preached during the Great Awakening revival in America in the 19th century, he often preached on the fiery judgment of God. He preached that hell is hot and sin is dirty. People went forward to the "mourner's bench," often weeping and wailing as the message was finished. They were under strong conviction, and anxious to be relieved of their burden of guilt. Often, Brother Finney refused to give the altar call, saying, "if you are really sincere, think about it another day, and I will pray with you tomorrow." Historians note that over 85% of his thousands of converts became faithful church members, and served the Lord the rest of their lives. Compare that with the statistic that only 5% of Billy Graham's converts become members of local churches. When asked, "What would you do if you had it to do all over again?" Dr. Graham replied, "I would focus my

energies on training leaders, as Jesus did, and not just on mass meetings."

Is it wrong to say, "accept Jesus into your life?" No, not really. That is part of it. But, if that is our only emphasis, it can be dangerous. In recent decades, mercy and love have been emphasized to the point where some have preached and taught an "easy-believism" message. They have made it as easy as possible for people to "make a decision for Christ," and have diluted or eliminated repentance and covenant.

Notice in scripture that Jesus addressed the particular needs of the people to whom He was speaking. When a rich young ruler asked Jesus for the key to eternal life, Jesus said, "give your money away," because that was his problem. He knew who God was, and the principles of covenant with Him, but he loved his money, and that was his only hindrance to following Christ.

What was the basic need of the people in Jesus' time? The Jews had the scripture, and they believed it. They understood the principles of God's lordship and His covenant. They were looking for their Messiah. The one great national problem they had was accepting Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah. The rest was already understood. To say to a modern member of a Christian, but humanistic, culture, that "all you need to do is to accept Jesus" would be the equivalent of telling anyone that the way to be saved forever is to give away all your money. Today, we should probably say to orthodox Jews that they need to accept Jesus into their lives. In our "Christian" culture, where Jesus is accepted by most people as God's Son -- the baby in the manger -- we have many people willing to accept Him as Savior; but, they have not repented of their sins or surrendered their lives to Him as Lord.

Today, many people in our humanistically-dominated society are "consumers." They live for themselves and for what they can get. They are "their own person." If that person is taught "just to accept Jesus and go to heaven," he probably will accept Jesus as part of his life; and then he will go on living for himself, with the sense that he does not need to repent, because everything will turn out all right for him.

Yes, there will be those who will be genuinely born again when they hear the message of God's love, and many others will take advantage of the "offer." Jude taught that for different people, you need a different approach.

*"And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling (them) out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 22-23)*

Many people will never experience true conversion until they understand the fear of the Lord.

The first word of the gospel is "repent," or "turn from sin." God's purpose is covenant, not converts. He is seeking worshippers, (John 4:23) not acceptance. Jesus died to redeem us from our sinful lifestyle, not just from hell. (1 Peter 1:18) In genuine Christianity, we do not accept Jesus into our lifestyle. Religion is often the practice of living for self during the week, and then making some time for God on Sunday. The other days are for making money, watching TV, and worshipping sports or soaps. Jesus is seen as a gentle Santa, wanting desperately to give us happiness, standing on the perimeter of our lives, "waiting patiently in line."

God is not a gentle Santa. He is still seeking a covenant people. Most people in America will "accept Jesus," mentally or historically. Most anyone would be willing to accept Jesus as their Savior, in

order to accept the free gift of eternal life. But Jesus said,

*"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)*

In other words, "deny self and become part of the body of Christ, finding your identity in Him and His purposes." We all want a Savior, but do we want a Lord?

Teach a gospel message to any church group and then ask, "who among you would like to be assured of a place in heaven, and would like to avoid hell?" No one wants to go to hell; and yet, Jesus said that most people are going there. When you tell people, "God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die in your place so you can go to heaven," you are speaking truth. But consider that there are many in our "me-centered" culture who will interpret that to say, "Yes, I believe that I am very important, and that God is waiting eagerly to give me a ticket to heaven." They may accept the deal, especially if there is little emphasis on repentance or turning from their sin to serve God. Is there a legitimate spiritual birth if there is no conviction by the Holy Spirit, genuine grief over sin, or surrender to Christ's Lordship?

John said,

*"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)*

First of all, he is speaking specifically of the Jews, who, as a nation of God's people, rejected Christ as the Messiah sent by God. Only those who received Him had the potential to become the sons of God. Note that it does not say, "As many as received Him were the sons of God." Jesus taught us that, in order to receive the benefit from the ministry of any prophet,

you first had to receive the prophet. (Matthew 10:41) Unless you acknowledge in your heart that Jesus is both Lord and Christ, your repentance will mean nothing. Secondly, to receive Christ as Lord must be more than just an act of the mind or will, because we can be born again only as God works in our spirit, and the mind and will are part of the soul. To receive Jesus Christ as Lord, you must genuinely repent from sin and turn to God. You cannot continue to "be your own person" and also become the "new creation" God wants you to be.

When you are leading an individual or group to Jesus Christ, look for and encourage genuine repentance. Is God dealing with them about their sin, and do they want to be free? The problem with most people is that we often want to be set free from the consequences of sin, but not free from sin. Our nation is working desperately for a medical cure for the disease of AIDS, and we are not crying out against the promiscuous immorality that is spreading it. We are reacting nationally to the symptom, and refusing to address the cause. It was much the same with the Jews in Jesus' day. The Jews wanted a messiah who would set them free from Rome; but, Jesus came to set them free from sin. They wanted Him to conquer Caesar, but He came to conquer Satan.

Religion is a function of the soul -- mind, will, and emotion -- but genuine Christianity is a relationship with God through the spirit -- *"...and they that worship him must worship (him) in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:24)

Many people are led to accept Jesus emotionally or intellectually; but, that is not saving faith. It can produce good feelings about God, or stimulate hope; but, that is not saving faith. One approach to evangelism is to teach young people "just to accept Jesus," and afterward, when the converts have fears, doubts, and confusion

in their lives, reassure them repeatedly that they are saved. But the Apostle Paul said,

*"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)*

As a result of true repentance and faith, we will have peace if we have really been born again and have been genuinely justified by a supernatural work of God's grace. We will have a "witness of the Spirit" that we are the sons of God. When a "convert" does not have that peace or witness, we should check his foundation, rather than merely try to "treat the symptoms" and convince him he is saved. Was there repentance? Was there a genuine response of faith to God in the spirit? Was there a supernatural new birth? **There are numerous accounts in scripture of people who thought they were in right relationship with God; but, they were not. People who were right with God always knew it; and their works were a testimony to their profession of faith. (James 2:18)**

If there is doubt, fear, and rebellion in our converts, perhaps we should not be too quick to minister assurance of their salvation before we check the foundation. The epistle to the Hebrews lists six "foundation stones" in chapter six. They are:

- Repentance from dead works;
- Faith toward God;
- Baptisms;
- Laying on of hands;
- Resurrection from the dead;
- Eternal judgment.

The Hebrew Christians were repeating these basics; and they were encouraged to "go on unto maturity" instead of getting saved repeatedly. Today, many people, who do not have a biblical foundation in their lives, are trying to go on to maturity.

**Genuine faith** will produce obedience and works. When we lead people to genuine faith in Christ, they will not just use God for "fire insurance;" they will be changed. They not only accept Christ as their Savior, but also as their Lord -- the owner, the one who has the right to make the final decisions. As we "*confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved*" (Romans 9:9) (brought to wholeness, healed, made right). The more we affirm and acknowledge His authority in our lives, the more we will walk in victory. Sin is the result of our self-centered motivations, as we focus too much on the temporal aspects of life and neglect the spiritual. Sin is always an "I" problem. **Faith is a focus on God and His purposes.**

**Genuine salvation** involves a spiritual birth by the Spirit of God. There is always conviction for sin and a drawing by the Holy Ghost. Faith stirs in our hearts, and draws us to trust God with our lives, our goals, our dreams, and even our money. We make a covenant with God and seal it with obedience in water baptism. If we are genuinely born again, we would naturally have a desire to hear His Word and love His people. "*Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.*" (1 John 4:7) Religion causes people to conform to expectations. True Christianity is a supernatural **transformation**, not a reformation or a conformation. If our lives and lifestyles are unchanged, then we should examine ourselves, whether we are in the faith. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

**What is our Great Commission?**

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you....”* (Matthew 28:19-20)

What are the actions commanded? **“Go.... teach.... baptize.... teach.”** Certainly there is a place for evangelism. Win souls, and lead them to seal that covenant in submission to God in water baptism. Then *“teach them to do what I have commanded*

*you.”* Instruct them. Build their character. Teach them to live godly lives in an ungodly world. As we nurture and train young people, they will naturally become positive witnesses to the goodness of God. People who are genuinely saved and living for God in harmony with one another will be the world’s most powerful witness that the Bible message is true.

*“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* (John 13:35)



## **Section 4**

# **Sensational Sunday School Sessions**

## The Importance of Scheduling Your Class

Please read this section very carefully! If you are going to be a successful teacher and enjoy an efficient class, it will be necessary for you to schedule the activity of the class.

If you are given an hour to teach the class, take advantage of every single moment. A suggested time schedule follows on the next page. In developing this schedule, both the age and attention span of your students were taken into account. If you will discipline yourself to follow the schedule, you will be able to accomplish all the goals for the class session; keep your students' attention; and minister effectively to all in the class.

There are many advantages to scheduling your class:

1. It makes it easier for you to prepare for the class.
2. It helps you cover much more information in the allotted time.
3. It keeps the class moving and maintains the interest of the students.
4. It allows the leader of the class to involve others in helping with the class. This is one of the greatest advantages of having a schedule. When used effectively, it will help build a strong ministry team. It is also

an excellent way to train and involve new workers. To many people, the responsibility for teaching for an entire hour in Sunday School is overwhelming and intimidating. However, helping with a 5-minute segment of the class is much more appealing. Gradually involve new workers in the class. Invite them to lead the song service, or help with the memory verse, or receive the offering. Encourage them to get acquainted with the students and learn how the class operates by observing the class for a week or two before they actually minister. Then, as their familiarity and confidence builds, assign new or expanded responsibilities to them. Before you know it, you will have trained another worker for the School of the Bible!

5. A well-scheduled class will minimize discipline problems.
6. Keeping a schedule will protect the teacher from spending too much time in one area of class activity.

It is very important to acquaint yourself with all of the suggestions given in this section. Become familiar with each segment of the class and how it is to operate. In so doing, you will become the very best teacher you can be!

## First Grade Sunday School Class Schedule

- 8:35 a.m. Team Prayer, Greet Students, Student Crafts.
- 9:05 a.m. Song Service.
- 9:13 a.m. Offering.  
Announcements, Birthdays, Promotions.
- 9:21 a.m. Bible Lesson.
- 9:29 a.m. Life-related Story, Object Lesson or Project.
- 9:37 a.m. Scripture Memorization.
- 9:44 a.m. Catechism in Doctrine.
- 9:52 a.m. Prayer and Closing.
- 10:00 a.m. Dismiss to Parents.

## Preparation for Class

1. Pray for the class each day during the week as you **plan early** for your part of the class presentation.
2. On Saturday night, go to bed early to get **rested** and refreshed. Be prepared to give your very best to the Lord and to your class.
3. Arrive in the classroom **30 minutes** before the class is scheduled to begin.
4. **Pray** with your co-workers. Be especially aware of any specific needs or problems which may need ministry before the students begin to arrive. Be honest with one another. If you are "not with it;" or, if you are going through a personal struggle which will affect your ministry, ask others to pray for you.
5. **Share** together concerning the plans of each member of the team for the day. Make sure your themes and songs flow together.
6. Review the **memory verse** together. Every adult on the team should memorize the scripture verse before the class begins.
7. **Greet** the students as they arrive, and have some kind of activity or craft prepared to occupy their time while they are waiting. You may want to let them work on the activity sheet for the lessons. Gently motivate them to come early by making it a rewarding time.
8. Be **sensitive** to any child who arrives with a heavy heart. Pay attention to special problems and to things you might overhear.
9. If you see a child who is having difficulty settling down, do not feel aggravated that he might disrupt your presentation. Remember that a disruptive child usually indicates a need for special attention and ministry. He is not a fleshly interruption to your nice program. **He is the primary reason you are there.** The greatest ministry is that which can meet the greatest needs and heal the greatest hurts.
10. Prepare the room; prepare your hearts; prepare the team; and then **start on time.**

## Singing with Joy

**Goal:** To create an atmosphere of joy and to prepare young hearts to receive the Word of God.

**Focus:** Lively, active songs.

**Time Limit:** 8 Minutes.

1. We sing to develop a focus on the Lord. Make sure your songs have a valid biblical message, as well as a happy tune and rhythm.
2. Remember to use songs the students enjoy, rather than songs that best relate to you. Slow, quiet songs should be rare for young classes.
3. Always go through the actions with them. Lead with joy and enthusiasm. Get the students involved. Have them move around with marching, jumping, and other actions.
4. Coordinate the songs with the lesson each week. You are working as a team in order to communicate a central truth with songs, Bible study, stories, and prayer. Use different songs each week.
5. See that the musician gets a list of all the songs for the day and knows the keys and chord progressions ahead of time. Make sure the musician knows the songs you want to sing.
6. If you have times when you have no musician available, soundtracks for a variety of song selections can be made and held in reserve.
7. To teach new songs, sing the song over several times for the class, and reinforce the message with a few words of introduction or a related scripture reference. It also helps to have related actions, or even a few pictures for a visual aid.
8. Generally, it is best to begin with lively, happy songs, and reserve any devotional, slow song for the end. It may also be appropriate to use a song to reinforce or conclude another segment of the class. Be sure the song is directly related to the lesson, and not just something to "fill in" or kill time.

## Offering and Prayer

**Time Limit: 7 Minutes.**

### **The Offering Time.**

1. It is important that young people learn the joy and importance of giving. Make the offering a joyful time in the class. Teach them to rejoice in giving to the Lord's work.
2. Set the **example**. Always contribute something to the offering yourself.
3. Let different students have the privilege of collecting the offering.
4. If you are receiving an offering for a missionary, talk about the work the missionary is doing for the Lord; and let the children share in the excitement of the ministry.
5. Occasionally, it is acceptable to let the boys compete against the girls, in raising money for missions.
6. Try to think of a way to receive the offering which will add variety and relate to the mission or to the lesson.
  - a. Example: If the offering is for Mexico, try to get a piñata or a sombrero to hold the offering.
  - b. If the lesson is on Joash, try to get some kind of chest to use to hold the offering.

### **Prayer Time.**

1. Make prayer time meaningful by first giving an opportunity for reports and praise concerning answered prayer.
2. When prayer requests relate to students, workers, or their immediate families, make sure someone writes down the requests and asks each student during the week concerning the need they mentioned.
3. If there are several prayer requests, lead the prayer yourself. Do not embarrass a student who might forget one of the needs.
4. If you have a small class, have each student, at different times, pray a short prayer. Each student can include a prayer of thanksgiving, as well as a petition that is on his or her

heart. Note any major need that is indicated, such as "God, help my parents to stay together;" and bring it to the attention of someone qualified to minister to that need.

5. Try to include each student's name in your prayer in some way. Ideally, you should know something about each of them, so that you can pray for them and not embarrass them.
  - a. Pray, "Lord, we pray that you will heal Jason's grandmother..."
  - b. Do not pray, "Lord, help Angela to conquer her mean temper;" or, "God, help Lisa with her bed-wetting." Pray that God will help Angela and Lisa with their problems.
6. Teach the children to talk to God in prayer. Let them know that God answers prayer. Whenever possible, show them the results of prayer.
7. Do not recite prayers. Teach the Lord's prayer to the children as a model of a good prayer.

## Teaching with Purpose

- Goal:** To communicate the Word of God with skill and excitement.
- Focus:** One major biblical principle concerning doctrine or Christian character.
- Time Limit:** 8 Minutes.

### Key Principles of Good Teaching.

1. Always know the story well, and tell it in your own words. Never read a Bible lesson to your students.
2. Memorize key names, numbers, and facts.
3. Use some kind of visual aid, such as flannelgraph, overhead, large drawings, charts, puppets, filmstrip, costume, drama, or video.
4. Relate to the students personally by asking them about facts they should know. Never say, "Who knows the answer to..." Instead, say, "Billy, who was the..." Make it a goal to use as many of their names as possible during the lesson. Remember that names are very important. Calling on specific students will:
  - a. Draw them into the lesson by anticipating that a question may be directed at them.
  - b. Avoid the answers being monopolized by a few outgoing students.
  - c. Draw out the shy member of the class, and make him feel that he is a part of it.
  - d. Make each student feel special.
  - e. Help you learn their names.
5. As you tell the Bible story, watch the students. Look them in the eye and be sensitive to their response. The temptation will be to preach to them, or to be more concerned about your lesson and delivery than about the people you are teaching. There is a difference between preaching and teaching. A good teacher will make each member of the class feel a part of the lesson presentation.
6. Always keep in mind that, behind every name and set of facts in the Bible, there is a lesson in life and character. Focus on the character strengths and weaknesses that



resulted in the conflict or rewards, and show that God is always just and consistent as our judge and heavenly Father.

7. Never embarrass a student. If you are aware that there is only one student who is not born again, why have an "altar call?" Instead, why not purpose to visit the child and perhaps his family, and lead him to the Lord at home; or, talk to him at another time? Never teach a group something that applies only to one if you can minister to that person alone.
8. To receive the respect of those you teach, show respect for them as individuals. Show appreciation for their attendance and cooperation, and let them know that you see them as very special people. Also, encourage them to honor their parents and their pastor at all times.

## Story-telling to Touch Hearts

**Goal:** To reinforce the central theme of the lesson with a related story.

**Focus:** A true or true-to-life story that will help create a focus on God and on godly heroes.

**Time Limit:** 8 Minutes.

### Key Principles of Good Story-Telling.

1. Always know the story well, and tell it in your own words.
2. Memorize key names, numbers, and facts.
3. Whenever possible, use some kind of visual aid, such as flannelgraph, overhead, large drawings, charts, puppets, filmstrip, costume, drama, or video.
4. Instead of relying on fiction, use stories that are true. Use biographies of great Christians to illustrate the lesson and stimulate interest in godly heroes.
5. Research the geographic and cultural setting of the story. Paint a picture with words which will keep the students interested and stimulate their imaginations.
6. Be animated and expressive in telling the story. You may even want to enlist a teaching team member to help you act out a part of it; or, ask one or two of the students to help.
7. Make sure that your students can draw a definite biblical conclusion from the story you are telling.

## Scripture Memorization

**Goal:** "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalms 119:11)

**Focus:** Memorize key verses of scripture in order to implant the message in the hearts of students.

**Time Limit:** 8 Minutes.

### Key Principles of Scripture Memorization.

1. Many students have a far greater capacity for memorization than we have recognized in the past. Do not make it too easy, or it will not be a challenge to them.
2. It is highly recommended that you try to motivate the parents to memorize the passages at home along with the children. This will greatly increase the children's capacity to retain scripture, and it could be a great encouragement to families in their home devotions.
3. One tool in memorization is to focus on and understand the concept communicated by the verse. It is easier to memorize by visualizing the verse, rather than by trying to recite a group of words by rote.
4. Talk through the verse; explain the meaning of each major word; and review the overall meaning of the verse.
5. Whenever possible, use visual aids to reinforce the idea in their minds.
6. Repeat the verse often. Then, say it at least in one other way, in your own words. Look up the reference in several other translations, and read them to amplify the meaning.
7. Have the students repeat the verse several times as a group. You may also want to call on a few individuals to recite it.
8. Quiz them on the concepts and key words.
9. Have them meditate a few moments on the verse; that is, to visualize the verse being applied to their own lives and situations.
10. Ask for testimonies that might relate to the principle idea in the verse.

## Catechism in Doctrine

- Goal:** To build a foundation of wisdom and understanding of the Word of God, *"line upon line, precept upon precept."*
- Focus:** A clear and concise answer to a basic question on Scriptural truth.
- Time Limit:** 8 Minutes.
- Catechism:** One of the Greek words in the Bible for "teach " is *"katechéo,"* which means "to sound down into the ear; to indoctrinate." Our word "catechism" means "to teach systematically with questions and answers."

### Key Principles of Youth Catechism.

1. Familiarize yourself with the list of catechism questions included in this manual for this specific grade level. The objective is to systematically communicate a balanced perspective on the essential truths of God's Word, according to the vision of the pastor and the leadership of your local church.
2. It is important that we all "speak the same thing." Probably, all of us believe in the basics, as expressed in the "Apostle's Creed;" but, we will have some different ideas on less critical issues, especially if we have come from different Christian backgrounds. **Do not deliberately teach something which you know will be contradicted in the pulpit.** Even if you feel you are more accurate in your eschatology or hermeneutics, do not create confusion. Be a servant, and let the children hear a harmonious sound from their different authorities.

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and {that} there be no divisions among you; but {that} ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* (1 Corinthians 1:10)

3. Read the question aloud carefully and deliberately. You may want to read it again , or repeat the thought several times during the discussion. You may also wish to ask for a volunteer to explain his answer; but, be careful not to embarrass him or ignore his erroneous concepts, and thus give tacit approval. Usually, he will be "partly right," or "close."

4. Do your homework. Look up scripture references ahead of time in several translations, and know how to answer misinformed students. This will be more critical as you deal with older classes, especially if they have come from different backgrounds. Try to anticipate the areas where questions will be the most likely to arise in their minds, and explain them with scripture in your presentation.
5. If you have questions on a doctrinal topic that you are to present, contact one of the pastors well in advance of the class. A phone consultation will usually be adequate to clarify the position of your local church and give added insights on the topic.
6. Review related questions and answers from previous weeks in order to refresh the students' memories and help build a solid base in their spiritual foundation of truth.
7. Try to think of some kind of visual aid to strengthen their memories. For reading students, at least write the question on a chalkboard or poster, and then add a brief summary of the answer.
8. Each Administrator will be encouraged to review the concepts periodically with the class, or with individual students in order to reinforce the importance of learning basic truths. At the end of the class year, a quiz will be given to the students on the questions assigned to the teaching team for the year.

# **Section 5**

# **Life-related Stories**

## Using Life-related Stories

These stories are to be used to supplement the lessons in the Complete School of the Bible Manual. Since neither series has to be used every week, they can be alternated with the catechism lessons. They will add color and interest to the lessons and should have a greater impact on the students than fabricated stories.

This series is not a compilation of the "best," or "greatest" in Christian history. Many of the accounts are from the lives of "everyday" people, who may not have achieved anything spectacular in life, but who did have a particular experience which illustrated an important lesson. Many people are included, because they happen to be known by the writer. Other stories come from the well-documented biographies of famous people.

We want to promote Christian heroes. All of us tend to emulate the people we focus on, and the secular world is busy promoting the popularity and success of many vain, shallow people, whose lives bear little resemblance to Jesus-Christ. When we do speak of ungodly people, we want to put them into the proper context. We not only want to know their public image and success, but also to be aware of their personal disasters and the moral failures which led to their wrong philosophies and choices.

Some of the stories come from the lives of people who were not Christians at all. As we read the Bible, we see a very comprehensive mix of people, ranging

from a sanctified saint to a surly scoundrel. We learn wisdom from both the heroes and the villains of history. We can profit by understanding both winners and losers. The key is the word *understanding*.

We have avoided trying to create another "Who's Who" in Christianity, because the topic is so subjective.

This is a collection of teaching illustrations from the lives of people. Some of them are notable, great leaders, and some are quite ordinary. The most lauded and visible people are not necessarily the most fruitful. When we get to heaven, all of us will probably be surprised to see that the greatest rewards and highest honors go to faithful "nobodies," while the rich and famous of today may have lesser positions. We seek to glean illustrations from the lives of a variety of people. We want to understand the factors that have resulted in a joyful, fruitful life for others, so that we might apply those same principles in our lives.

This collection should also serve as a model for the teacher. Each teacher can glean some stories from his own experiences, or from the experiences of people he knows. Those Christians who are in the habit of witnessing to the lost and reaching out to people will tend to have many more good stories than anyone else. Use stories you know and try to focus on real people and true stories. This takes more research and effort than fictional stories, but it is far more effective.

## God's Providence in Protecting the American Settlers

Many Americans today are unaware that the United States of America was founded by Christians seeking to establish a nation based on the Bible. In the early days of the developing nation "under God," most of the settlers from England were very aware of the importance of God and the Bible. The church was the center of the social, cultural, and political life of the towns, and the pastors were the most respected and influential members of the community. The people gathered often to worship and hear God's Word, and, normally, the sermons were about two hours long.

There were many dangers in establishing communities in the new land, and prayer was regarded as their greatest source of protection. People were aware of the providence of God. Providence is the quiet working of God in overseeing and protecting people with seemingly natural means. For example, in the winter of 1632, the Puritan governor of Massachusetts was John Winthrop. He noted in his diary that one day his two young daughters were playing under the irregular overhang of a huge pile of logs. When their mother called them to come into the house, they got up immediately to obey. The moment they moved away from the pile of logs, it collapsed. If they had not been quick to respond to their mother's command, they would have been crushed to death under tons of wood.

In another town, a carpenter was working on the roof of a house where a group of eight children was playing on the floor below. Suddenly, a large piece of timber fell toward the children. The man

could only cry out in anguish, "Oh, Lord, direct it." He watched with amazement and gratitude as the beam fell on its end in the middle of the group and then bounced on the floor between two of the children. Not one of them was even touched by the beam.

There were many Indian tribes who were given to pagan and occult religions. The medicine men were given to witchcraft, and their "Great Spirit" was not the true God. But as long as the pilgrims prayed, God protected them, primarily by keeping the hostile tribes in conflict with one another.

In 1639, a group of Indians from one tribe decided to steal the food and supplies that were kept in a trading house in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They planned to kill any English people who were there. The man who was keeping the store that day was named Mr. Willet. Now Mr. Willet was a happy Christian man who spent much of his time reading the Bible. When the small group of Indians entered his storehouse, he was reading his Bible.

Whatever he was reading from God's Word that day must have been serious, because he was so deep in serious thought that he was frowning. The Indians had seen him many times, and he was usually smiling and friendly. The Indians left the store immediately, reporting to the rest of their group of conspirators that their plan to murder the English people must have been discovered. They reasoned that Mr. Willet must have known their evil plot, because he was not smiling as usual. So, they agreed to abandon their plan.



## The Story of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in Illinois in a log cabin. His mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was a very godly Christian, who, with loving diligence, instilled in him biblical values. She had Abe memorize the Ten Commandments at a very young age. She took him to church every Sunday, and read the Word of God to him daily. Sadly, she became ill, and died when Abe was only nine years old. As she lay dying, she called Abe to her bedside, and she said,

"Abe, I am going to leave you now, and I shall not return. But I want you to be kind to your father and to live as I have taught you. Love your Heavenly Father and keep His commandments."

With those words on her lips, the young mother died. Later, President Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother."

Due to this influence, Abe Lincoln became known as the most honest lawyer east of China. He was called "honest Abe." Once he walked many miles to return money to a client who had paid him too much. Young Abe Lincoln lived by the morality and work ethics instilled by his good mother. He worked hard, and became a highly skilled rail splitter, cutting logs into large boards with an ax at amazing speed. He was a strong runner, and, in spite of the fact that he was 6'4" tall, he was a remarkable wrestler.

Abe Lincoln was a very humble man. He considered himself very ugly, and always esteemed others better than himself. It was probably this humility which caused him to say in an interview, "I am not a Christian," when he thought of the seemingly godly men who opposed him politically. But, his life gave much evidence to the contrary. As president of

the United States during the tragic Civil War, he was known to spend much time in prayer. He would not hesitate to call the leadership of the nation to come to the White House to pray with him. His compassion and abiding sense of humor gave evidence that he knew God intimately and personally. Lincoln memorized numerous chapters of the Bible, and rarely made a speech without referring to it.

When rebuked, Abe had learned to seek wisdom rather than revenge or pity. During his youth, a young woman said to him, "You are illiterate, self-opinionated, overbearing, and ill-mannered." In response, he went to the scriptures, and studied the Sermon on the Mount, seeking God's view of what a man should be like.

Abraham Lincoln molded his life by the Word of God. Since he did not have much opportunity for formal education, he studied books at every possible opportunity. Rather than feel sorry for himself over this young woman's rejection, he changed. He became one of the most literate scholars in the world. His Gettysburg Address is considered to be the most perfect speech ever composed outside of divine inspiration. He became very meek, and listened carefully to the opinions of others. He was the most humble president this nation has ever had.

Lincoln's life was filled with tragedy. Both his mother and his sister died at a young age. Unable to marry the woman he loved, Abe Lincoln married a miserable hag, whose name was Mary Todd. She could see nothing good in him and cut him down constantly. His only peace came in lengthy travels. His beloved son, Willie, died when he was only seven years of age, causing Mr. Lincoln further grief. After that, he guided his country through the

bloody Civil War which almost destroyed the Union.

Through it all, Abe Lincoln maintained a quick wit. He was best known as an encourager, a healer, and the president who wrote and signed the Emancipation Proclamation. His tragic life drove him to his knees and into the Word. He is remembered by millions as one of the greatest leaders in history. Late in life, Abraham Lincoln did make a strong

public confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the evening of April 14, 1865, while attending a play at Ford Theater in Washington, D.C., Abraham Lincoln was shot in the head. He died the next morning, April 15, 1865, from the gunshot wound.

After living a fruitful, but tragic life, Abraham Lincoln, who loved Jesus Christ, now enjoys great peace and joy in heaven with Jesus.

## The Story of Cloyd McCleery

Cloyd McCleery, of Alton, Illinois, was a man utterly devoted to God. According to a former pastor, Owen Carr, he was much-beloved by the children of the junior high school, where he served as a custodian. Because of his warmheartedness, the children found it easy to come to him and ask for prayer when they were sick or had problems. Even the principal of the school had benefited from his prayers on occasions. Unlettered, but with a simple trust in God, he was used by God in a remarkable way in February, 1960.

The Illinois District Council of the Assemblies of God was conducting a minister's institute in nearby Granite City, Illinois. During the evening service, after the congregation had been worshipping God, Cloyd McCleery began to speak in another tongue, unknown to him. When he had finished, Thomas F. Zimmerman, recently elected to the post of General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, rose to his feet. Inspired by the Spirit of God, he stated in English the meaning of what Mr. McCleery had said.

In the audience was a little lady who, her son wrote, "was thrilled to hear and understand the man as he spoke." Anna Richards Scoble had spent many years in South Africa as a missionary after she received a remarkable healing of damaged vertebrae that increased her height by two and three-quarter inches by exact measurement.

Requesting permission to speak, Mrs. Scoble told the amazed congregation of the miracle they had just witnessed. Cloyd McCleery had spoken in the language of a

South African tribe - Shangaan. Especially remarkable was the fact, Mrs. Scoble said, that this language is very hard to speak. It contains sounds which are almost impossible to duplicate, unless one had been born and raised in the tribe. Mr. McCleery had spoken the language perfectly.

The message of the Holy Spirit mainly stressed the famous revival text, II Chronicles 7:14,

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

The Spirit then called on the people to look to God for revival. Mrs. Scoble also noted that T. F. Zimmerman had conveyed this same thought in the interpretation he gave.

It is reported that as a result of this incident, the host church began a 24-hour-a-day prayer chain that lasted for over three months, and brought great blessing to the congregation.

Cloyd McCleery passed away and is now with God. But, the incident remains to testify how God can use a humble, sincere, godly man for His glory.

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from "Spoken by the Spirit" by Ralph W. Harris.  
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## The Story of Lottie Moon

Lottie Moon was born in 1840. Her southern American family was strongly committed to God and the Bible, and she was blessed with a good upbringing and a college education. She was one of many daughters in the family, and her sisters were successful in various fields of work, including business executives -- one was a doctor, and another sister, Edmonia, was one of the first single woman missionaries to be sent out by the Southern Baptist Convention.

While in college, Lottie attended a campus revival meeting which changed her life. She had gone to scoff; but, the Spirit of God moved in her heart, and she returned to her room and prayed all night long. From that night on, she was utterly committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and determined to serve Him without reservation.

Although she strongly desired to be a missionary like her sister, Lottie went back to the plantation where she grew up and helped with the operation there. She then became a school teacher in Georgia. Her former boyfriend proposed marriage. He was now a successful college professor, and she had strong feelings for him. But, she refused to marry him, because he believed the doctrine of evolution, and Jesus came first in her life. She never looked back nor regretted her decision.

In 1873, at the age of 33, Lottie sailed for China. She was stationed in the northern part of that vast nation, and eventually established a church. Unlike most missionaries of that day, Lottie Moon

sought to make her church as self-supporting as possible. She taught the people to tithe and to do their own building. Over the next twenty years, she led more than one thousand souls to Christ, despite strong opposition from the Buddhist religion, which dominated the culture. As a pastor, Lottie wrote much to inspire people back in America to become involved in missions. She wrote, "Surely there can be no deeper joy than that of saving souls."

Lottie Moon developed one technique for evangelism which was used effectively by many churches and groups. She encouraged people to set aside a week of prayer and fasting for missionaries, and to set aside a Christmas offering for all the churches in her denomination. Since her death, the Lottie Moon Christmas offering has generated millions of dollars each year for missions around the world.

In 1900, China was torn apart by the Boxer Rebellion, which cost many thousands of lives and horrible destruction. Many crops were destroyed, and many people could not work because of the conflict. The famine also brought epidemics of smallpox and other diseases to China. Lottie worked tirelessly to help the suffering people and used all of her savings for the needy.

With her health greatly diminished, the 72-year-old missionary was finally convinced that she should sail back to America for rest and treatment. On the voyage home, she died on Christmas Eve, 1912.

## The Story of Robert Morrison

Robert Morrison was born in England in 1792. His father made wooden forms used by shoemakers, and he learned the trade from his father. Robert was saved at the age of 15 and became a fervent Christian. As a new believer, he felt a strong desire to enter the mission field, particularly in China. For many centuries, China had been a closed nation to the Gospel and had rejected all Western influence.

Robert's mother died when he was about 20 years old. After her death, he went to London to get missionary training. After two years, he was certified as a missionary by the London Missionary Society. But, his father and the rest of the family opposed his chosen profession and gave him no support. In fact, during his first year in China, he received only one letter from home.

In those days, the British influence in the East came through the British East India Company, which controlled great commercial endeavors and sought to avoid influencing the nation's culture and religion. While there was opposition to Christianity from the Chinese Buddhists, there was even stronger opposition from the East India Company to any evangelization.

Robert had to study the Chinese language in secret. He was tutored by two Chinese Catholics, who helped him develop a dictionary, as well as translate

the Bible. When the leaders of the East India Company saw the dictionary, they gave Robert a job as a translator, and he became a valuable employee. When he published the Bible in Chinese, some of the company officials sought to have him fired, but they needed his abilities too much.

While this was progressing, Robert married Mary Morton. But the Chinese did not permit Western women in Canton, so Robert's family lived in the colony of Macao, and he commuted back and forth. The Morrises had two children; and, after years of struggle, Mary's health failed. She died in 1821.

Robert published the Bible in Chinese in 1824. That same year, he took his two children home to England for his first furlough. He was kept very busy as a speaker, and taught other potential missionaries the Chinese language. He married again, and returned to China with his children and new wife. He was increasingly in demand by international companies and was able to support his family with his language skills. Sometimes he wondered if he had not been a failure in the ministry. After 25 years of labor, he could account for only 12 converts to the Christian faith. But, he had been a pioneer missionary and had given to China the Bible, which touched the lives of millions long after his death. Robert Morrison died in China in 1834.

## The Story of Paul E. Paino

Dr. Paul E. Paino is the founder of Calvary Temple Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was born on April 15, 1923, the son of two outstanding preachers: Thomas and Lyda Paino.

Young Paul Paino grew up surrounded by the ministry. His parents were instrumental in establishing dozens of churches throughout Indiana and Illinois. As a youngster, he spent many nights sleeping on the sawdust floors of the tents erected for the revivals they conducted.

Paul Paino was raised knowing the faithfulness of God and the power of prayer. He had seen miracles of healing and deliverance in his parents' meetings. He saw parishioners, and even strangers, bless his family with food and financial gifts to help the Paino family through the Great Depression. He heard life-changing testimonies from visiting ministers at the large family dinner table. He also witnessed many powerful Holy Ghost revivals.

Yet, Paul Paino also knew the hardships relating to fervent Christianity. When he was a boy, the Pentecostal movement was young and was not welcomed by many people. He was tormented and taunted by ruffians who mocked the "holy rollers." He saw people throw vegetables at his father while he preached the Gospel, and he witnessed vandals cutting down the tent. He even saw their church burn down after an arsonist set it on fire.

As a young man, Paul Paino wanted to distance himself from the ministry. He decided to study engineering at Purdue University, although he knew the call of God was on his life for the ministry. However, out of respect for his father, and

upon his request, Paul agreed to go for one year to Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri. He went on to graduate from the college in 1944 and went immediately into full-time ministry as a pastor, teacher, evangelist, and educator. In 1956, he founded Calvary Temple Church, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It has become one of America's great Pentecostal churches.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit and the power of prayer have always played a vital role in Dr. Paino's life. His father deeply respected the ministry of the Holy Spirit and instilled this same reverence in his children. Throughout his ministry, Paul Paino has witnessed the moving of the Holy Spirit in many miraculous ways. One very powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power came after Dr. Paino's son, Phillip, was critically injured in an automobile accident in 1985.

In the fall of that year, the car in which Phil was riding had stopped in traffic on the highway due to road construction and an accident. An inattentive truck driver crashed into the rear of the car, trapping Phil in the wreckage. Only the grace of God spared his life in this tragic accident. God intervened in many miraculous ways for Phil in the days which followed.

One day, several weeks after the accident, while still in the hospital, Phil came down with a severe fever. The medication the doctor prescribed did not relieve it, and his temperature rose to 105 degrees. In a desperate attempt to lower his temperature, the nurses packed his body in ice. Still, the fever did not leave. Although he was slipping in and out of consciousness, Phil was able to ask that his father be called.

When Dr. Paino arrived at the hospital, Phil's condition had not improved. Dr. Paino instructed everyone to leave the hospital room, except for one nurse. He asked her to recite Phil's temperature every 15 minutes. Other than that, there were to be no interruptions. Then, Dr.

Paino began to pray fervently in the Spirit. Every 15 minutes, the nurse recited Phil's temperature: "105, 104, 103." God was answering prayer! After about an hour of prayer, the fever was gone. The Holy Spirit ministered to Phil and removed the fever when doctors and medicine could not.

## The Story of Charles and Florence Personeus

In 1917, Charles and Florence Personeus went to Alaska, where they had a long and fruitful ministry. There are many Indian tribes in Alaska, each with their own dialects: Tsimpseans, Thlingkets, Hydas, Aleuts, Athabaskans, and Eskimos. Mr. and Mrs. Personeus opened the first Assembly of God church in Alaska in the city of Juneau. The Thlingkets were centered there.

A Thlingket man from Klukwan attended their service in Juneau. After listening to the testimonies from the small band of workers, he rose and said in broken English: "You people can read. My people cannot read. We need preacher."

Touched by what seemed to them "a Macedonian call" such as Paul received, a couple of the workers offered to assume leadership of the church in Juneau so that Rev. and Mrs. Personeus could go to Klukwan.

Since Rev. and Mrs. Personeus did not know the Thlingket language, it was difficult for them to minister to the people at Klukwan; and the uneducated man, who visited their church in Juneau, served as their interpreter. The day before a service was conducted, the man would come to the Personeus home, where Rev. Personeus would read and explain the meaning of the words he planned to use, so he could interpret correctly.

Interpreting can be risky. While trying to interpret the twenty-third Psalm, one man said,

*"The Lord is my goat-hunter; He knocks me down on the mountain and drags me down to the beach."*

During an altar service one evening, a woman began to cry. She seemed to be in great pain. There was no doctor in the village, so Brother Personeus began to pray for her. Soon, in the Spirit, he was praying in other tongues.

An Indian woman, kneeling at the other end of the bench from Mrs. Personeus, became so excited that she crawled across the floor on her knees to her and said, "He is talking in our language!"

A strange hush came over the people as they listened in amazement, for the Thlingket language is a strange and difficult one. How could this missionary, who before this time had to talk through an interpreter, now speak in their language?

When Mrs. Personeus asked what her husband was saying in his prayer, the answer came in solemn tones: "He is saying, 'God loves you, but not your bad life. God wants to heal you and take away your pain, but you must repent and ask God to take your sin away.'"

"He will convict of sin," Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, and that is what He was doing. The woman confessed her sin of adultery, which was known by many in the village, but which the missionaries had not suspected. The incident put the fear of God into many hearts.

\*\*\*\*\*

from "Spoken by the Spirit" by Ralph W. Harris.  
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## The Story of Silent Night

The small European country called Austria is known as "the land of mountains," because it is located in the Alps mountain range. It was the winter of 1918. In one of the many villages that dot the snowy countryside lived two faithful Christians: one, a young priest named Joseph Mohr, and the other a schoolmaster and organist named Franz Gruber.

The two men dreamed of writing the perfect Christmas song, for they had decided that none yet had fully described their concept of this most blessed event in human history. This Christmas eve found Joseph meditating in his study. In the quiet stillness of the snowy evening, Joseph's heart was filled as he thought of that first Christmas eve and the message that "Jesus, the Savior is born."

Quickly but steadily, the words formed in his mind. "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright. Round yon' virgin, mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace."

The next morning was Christmas day. Joseph hurried to Franz Gruber's home to share his special song. Franz was delighted, and he quickly composed a melody for the words. "God be praised, friend Mohr, you have found it! It sings itself, your song!"

The tune expressed the sublime lyrics perfectly. The two practiced the song in order to share it with the small church congregation that evening. The villagers who attended that night were delighted to hear a beautiful new song about Jesus. Many thanked the two men as they filed out into the cold night after the service.

But the song was put away in a desk drawer and was forgotten for almost a year. The following November, as the church organ was being repaired, the technician asked Franz Gruber to play it. After Franz played his Christmas song, the repairman begged him for a copy of it. The only copy of the song was at home in Franz Gruber's desk drawer. So, he wrote it on a sheet of paper, and the repairman took it to his home in a distant village.

There, a quartet of sisters learned the song, and it became one of their favorites. They sang "The Tyrolese Song", as it was originally called, in the great Leipzig Cathedral in Germany. The song was passed around in this fashion until it was finally printed in 1842. In 1854, the choir of the Imperial church in Berlin, Germany, sang it for Emperor Frederick Wilhelm IV. He thought it was so beautiful that he ordered the song placed in all Christmas programs in the nation. From there the song was translated into many languages, and used around the world.

## The Story of Gypsy Smith

Rodney Smith was born in 1860 in England, near London, in a gypsy tent. He lived the life of a traveling gypsy, and, never had the opportunity to go to school. The gypsies roamed from town to town, living out of their wagons. They made their living by selling baskets, tinware, and clothespins. Their old wagon was the only home they had.

When Rodney was 6 years old, his mother died of smallpox. She was buried by the side of the road by lantern light. Her last words were, "I know God can take care of my children." We are not sure if she was a believer, but nine years later, Rodney's father became a Christian, and he quickly led his son to the Lord. The father became a dedicated believer, who was careful never to travel on Sunday.

At the age of 17, Rodney was already beginning to preach the gospel. He was not educated; but, he was bold, and he never missed an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus Christ. He was asked by General William Booth to be an evangelist for the Salvation Army, which was already doing a great work for God in England. He readily accepted; and, as a teenager, preached every night to crowds ranging from 100 to 1500 people. For seventy years, Rodney Smith preached the gospel. He preached many thousands of sermons, to millions of people. It is said that he never, in all those 70 years of preaching, preached a sermon in which no one was born again.

In 1879, the teenage preacher married Annie Pennock. He left the Salvation Army, and went out preaching everywhere he could. He traveled so much

that he became known as Gypsy Smith. He also frequently preached to the gypsies through his Gypsy Gospel Wagon Mission, which was started in 1892.

For 61 years, from 1886 to 1947, he made thirty trips to North America. All over England, Scotland, Europe, and America, he carried the gospel with great fervor, winning hundreds of thousands of souls to the Lord through his passionate and exciting preaching. In the Paris Opera House, he saw 150 of the elite from Paris society come weeping to the altar for salvation. Everywhere he went, tents and buildings would overflow as thousands thronged to hear this fiery preacher burn for God. He often preached to 10,000 or more at a time. Although he was identified as a Methodist preacher, he was loved by everyone. Gypsy Smith was full of the joy of the Lord. He had an excellent voice, and would often burst into song at any point during a sermon.

In 1937, his dear wife, Annie, died. The following year, at the age of 78, Gypsy Smith married Mary Alice Shaw on her 27th birthday. This "robbing the cradle" created quite a stir among the church gossips, but Smith still had boundless energy, and Mary was a great help to him in his ministry. They had a good marriage, and later, when his health began to fail, she was able to take care of him.

In 1947, during a voyage to America to preach again, the 87-year-old Gypsy Smith suffered a fatal heart attack. He had traveled constantly during his lifetime and died while doing what he enjoyed most: traveling to preach the gospel.

## The Story of Two Ships at Sea

One of the Puritan leaders in America during the 17th century was Cotton Mather. He was a dedicated pastor and the son and grandson of prominent preachers in New England. The early Christian settlers in America saw many supernatural answers to prayer, and Pastor Mather kept a record of many of the miracles in a book, called "Magnalia."

One of these true accounts involved two ships in distress and a lesson in giving that God taught them through adversity. One New England ship was on its way to the island of Barbados in the West Indies. The captain was William Laiton. When the ship was about a thousand miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, it was damaged and began to sink. The crew quickly loaded the longboat and scrambled into it. Soon they discovered that, while they had an abundance of bread, they had very little water. The water in the ocean is so salty that a man would become violently ill and die from drinking it. After eighteen days in the small boat, they were rationing the precious water at a teaspoon a day per man.

Meanwhile, Captain Samuel Scarlet was in a very different situation. His ship was in good condition; but, after a long period at sea they were almost completely

out of food. They had plenty of fresh water, but they were becoming faint from hunger. The lookout spotted the lifeboat full of men, waving frantically to the ship's crew. Immediately, the ship's crew began to argue. If they took any more men on the ship, they would surely die of hunger. How could they possibly afford to share what little they had?

But the kind captain simply could not turn away from his fellowmen. He told the crew, "It may be that these distressed creatures are our countrymen, and they are distressed creatures. I am resolved that I will take them aboard, and I will trust in God, who is able to deliver all of us."

Of course, his act of compassion had an immediate reward and provided the means of their salvation. Captain Scarlet had the water which Captain Laiton needed, and Captain Laiton had the bread and fish needed by the men on the ship.

It was also significant that one of the chief mariners on Captain Scarlet's ship had very strongly opposed the idea of taking aboard the stranded men from the longboat. Some time later, he was in a similar plight at sea, and there was no one to take him aboard. He died of thirst and hunger, adrift on the great ocean.

## The Story of George Washington

George Washington, the first president of the United States, was born on February 11, 1731. The calendar was changed after his birth, and his birthday was changed to the 22nd. He was born into a family with a long tradition of Christian heritage. His great-great-grandfather was a preacher in the Church of England. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to America in 1657, and founded a church in Virginia. His grandfather and father were also devout Christians, as were the ancestors of his godly mother, Mary Ball Washington.

George's father died when he was 11 years old, leaving his mother to be the primary influence in his life. She instilled in him a love for the Lord and for the Word, which he read faithfully.

There are many unfounded myths about the "Father of our country", such as the story about chopping down the cherry tree, having wooden teeth, or of his habit of profane swearing. Actually, the cherry tree story was fabricated; he had false teeth fashioned from calf's teeth; and he was very committed to clean language and had issued a number of orders to ban profane language from the military. Under General Washington, soldiers would receive 50 lashes with a whip for profanity and 100 for a second offense. He required all of his soldiers to attend church every Sunday. For the first two years of the French and Indian war, there was no chaplain. So, General Washington served as the chaplain, preaching every Sunday morning to the troops.

Those who knew George Washington knew that he was devoted to his God. For

most of his life, he faithfully spent an hour each morning and another full hour in the evening in prayer. He would go to a room alone to meet with God. He prayed alone, but he always prayed aloud. Every Sunday, President Washington faithfully attended church, both morning and evening. He never accepted visitors on the Lord's day, except for one occasion. After the Sunday evening service, many times he would meet with the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Trumble, to talk about the things of God and pray until late into the night. President Washington recommended to all the States to set aside a day each year for corporate prayer. He said, "He is no patriot, in this nation, who seeks to undermine religion."

God sovereignly protected George Washington through many fierce battles. He often had horses shot out from under him and had bullet holes in his coat, but he was never wounded. God performed miracles for this man of prayer and preserved him to lead the new nation spiritually. George Washington knew that his strength came from the Lord, and he always gave God the glory.

One nephew, who had lived with him, remarked that, after leading a nation through the Revolutionary War, serving two terms as president, and having been elected unanimously, he never heard George Washington say anything about his own accomplishments. He was a humble, godly man, and God and the world still give him honor to this day. George Washington, the father of his country, always knew that God was the Father of all.

## George Washington: Protected by God

Early American literature, including school textbooks and newspapers, were filled with quotations and references from the Bible, and God was mentioned often. Indeed, America was founded primarily by Christians, for the purpose of gaining freedom to pursue their Christian faith. Fifty-two of the 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence were devout believers, and most of them wrote for the American Bible and Tract Society.

One story which appeared in the Maryland history textbook in 1856, as well as in most other history books, has been omitted from our modern school texts, for obvious reasons. It is the well-documented story of young George Washington, who served his country as an officer in the French and Indian War. This was about twenty years before the Revolutionary War. Washington was only 23 years old. The British and the Americans fought against the French, who were allied with the American Indians. The French claimed ownership of the American colonies and were attacking settlements. The British sent over 2,300 troops to America under General Braddock.

They arrived in Virginia, where Washington was the Colonel of the Virginia militia. General Braddock and Colonel Washington took 1300 troops to attack a French fort. On the way, they were ambushed by the French and Indians in a wooded ravine, where they were being fired on from both sides. The British soldiers were accustomed to European warfare in open fields. Each army would stand shoulder to shoulder, and fire on the enemy. So they bravely stood in groups, firing blindly into the trees, while the French and Indians continued to cut them down at will.

After a few hours, 714 of the British soldiers lay dead, while the French force suffered only a few casualties. Of the 86 officers in the British force, George Washington was the only one who was still alive and on a horse. Finally, after two hours of carnage, George Washington and the British troops retreated and traveled back to Fort Cumberland in Maryland (July, 1755).

George wrote to his family about the battle. He remarked, "When I took off my coat, I found that I had four bullet holes in it, but I was not touched. I had bullet fragments in my hair, but I did not receive a scratch. Several horses were shot out from under me, but I was not harmed. God protected me."

Fifteen years later, in a time of peace, George Washington and a friend returned to the same Pennsylvania woods where the battle had occurred. One old Indian chief heard that they were going to the scene. He traveled many miles to see Washington. When they met, the chief said, "You do not know me, but we were in these woods together. I was a chief of the group that attacked you. I ordered my braves to single you out, because we knew that, if we killed you, the troops would scatter. I fired at you 17 times, at close range. When I saw that the bullets had no effect on you, I had the men stop shooting at you. I have traveled all this way to see the man that God would not let us kill."

Throughout the Revolutionary War, General Washington led the army from the front lines, encouraging his troops. Most officers stayed well behind the lines in a safe place, because they were the first targets of the enemy. But Washington knew that God was his protection, and he was never harmed.

# **Section 6**

# **Promotions**

## The Importance of Promotions

Promotions are used in the School of the Bible as a tool, which allows us to excite and motivate our young people to grow in the things of the Lord.

All of us are motivated by rewards. Many companies offer bonus and incentive plans, and even prizes, because they have learned the effectiveness of good promotions. Contests are held regularly in order to entice us to buy a product or to try some new service. The cost of the prize never exceeds the benefit received by the sponsor.

Our children are sold things through promotions at school, on television, and by a variety of sources. If we are going to compete for their attention among these promotions, we must be willing to utilize our resources in order to offer our children a healthy alternative.

Promotions have been used in Sunday School programs throughout the country for years. Although many promotions have, admittedly, gotten out of hand, the vast majority of them benefited the kingdom of God. What is the price of a soul? Is a hamburger too much? Is a trip to summer camp too little? There is no price too high. We must be good stewards of God's money and spend it in such a way that we have the greatest impact on the lives of those He wants us to touch. God does want to reach our young people. He cares for them, and so should we.

Because of our love for our children and our desire to offer them the kinds of incentives necessary to motivate them to do greater things, we are involved in several promotions throughout the year. Certainly, we would hope that our

children would be spiritual enough not to need such motivations to spur them into action. However, we cannot expect them to be any more motivated than we are.

As adults, we demand stimuli all the time. To come to church, many need some special, high-priced speaker or singer. To participate or serve, we need to be recognized and seen for our service. Many, but not all, need constant motivation to do greater things for God.

Along the way, motivation becomes less for the sake of the prize on earth and more for the prize that God has promised us in heaven. Please help us motivate our young people so that, when they are adults, they will need less stimulation and will be filled with more anticipation for the great things God has in store for their lives.

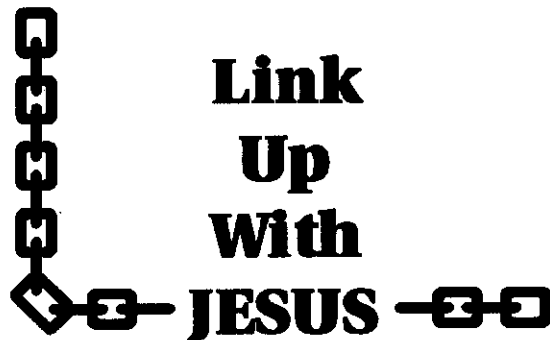
Our promotions are designed to motivate our young people to attend both church and the School of the Bible on a regular basis; to bring their Bibles with them; to bring their tithes and offerings faithfully; to bring their friends to Sunday School on a regular basis; to learn the importance of giving to the needy through participating in the church's emergency food pantry program; and to study and to memorize God's Word.

With these goals in mind, we have designed a set of programs which we plan to promote each year. These programs are explained on the following pages. They are subject to change and revision; but, the concept of the programs and the basic time of the year during which they will be promoted will remain somewhat constant.

Each class is encouraged to use internal promotions in order to motivate the students to become greater participants in God's work. Bible memory verse contests, attendance awards, and special projects all add to the overall effectiveness of our program. Special events, such as Christmas and Easter parties, are also encouraged. The church will also hold a

"Hallelujah Party" near Halloween in order to provide an alternative to "Trick or Treating" for the children of the church. Change Sunday, when students are promoted to the next grade, is another time to plan special activities in order to say good-bye to one group of students and to welcome the new.





**Link  
Up  
With  
JESUS**

The "Link Up with Jesus" promotion is designed to encourage students to memorize Bible verses and to increase the attendance in the Sunday School. The spiritual emphasis of this contest is upon hiding God's Word in our hearts. As we memorize His Word, we "link up" with Him and create a bond that cannot be broken.

This promotion is conducted in the first quarter, and is designed to run for six weeks. Students earn points for attendance, bringing their Bibles, memorizing scripture from prepared lists, and bringing friends to Sunday School.

One of the six Sundays of this promotion is designated as "Bonus Sunday." On this day, students who bring five or more items for the church's emergency food pantry will receive five bonus points. Note: If your church does not have an emergency food pantry, substitute another activity for Bonus Sunday.

Each point the students earn is represented by a link in a paper chain. The more points a student earns, the longer his or her chain becomes.

The links in the chains are made from colored strips of paper. A supply of links will be provided for each classroom. There is a different link for every category in which a student earns points (see samples which follow). Chains should be hung around the room to emphasize the students' accomplishments.

At the end of the promotion, students will receive a prize, based upon the number of links they have in their chain. Every student will receive a prize of some kind. Seven levels of prizes are available. In addition, the five students with the longest chains will receive a special grand prize. A prize will also be awarded to the class which accumulates the highest number of links.

Select prizes of increasing value, and list them on the "Prize List" (see sample which follows). A Grand Prize will also need to be selected for the top five finishers, and a special treat arranged for the winning class (perhaps a pizza party or a trip to an amusement park).

Three weeks prior to the beginning of the promotion, prepared lists of Bible verses will be sent home with the students. These lists will also be mailed to the parents, along with a letter explaining the

promotion and asking them to help their child(ren) memorize the verses.

Midway through the promotion, have the students with the largest number of links in their chains parade through the sanctuary in order to show the congregation what they are accomplishing.

#### Specific Instructions:

At the beginning of the promotion, write each student's name on a 3" x 5" card. Attach the links of each student's chain to their name card. Affix the name cards to the wall (use Sticky Tack!) or bulletin board in order to display the chains.

A Point Chart must be maintained for every student. Keep these charts in the Secretary's folder.

On the Point Chart, mark the "address" (e.g., Psalms 23:1) of every verse the student is able to recite. Then, write that same address on two links and add them to the student's chain. Use your best judgment in listening to the verses. If students know the verses, but stumble over a few words, give them credit. Be

prepared for some students to learn several verses per week!

To record attendance, write the date the student is present in the appropriate box on the Point Chart, and write their name and the date on one link. Add the link to their chain.

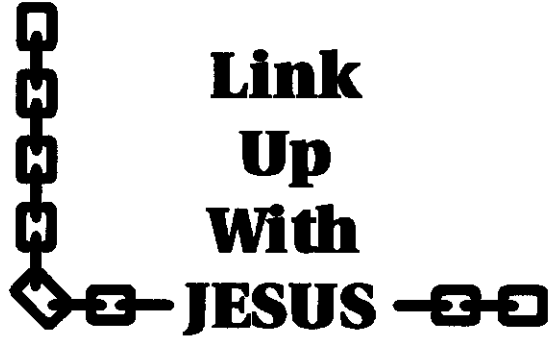
When a student brings his or her Bible, record the date in the appropriate section of the Point Chart, complete the information on the "Brought a Bible" link, and add it to the chain.

When a student brings a friend, record the friend's name on the Point Chart, complete six "Brought a Visitor" links, and add them to the chain.

If a student brings five or more food items for the church's emergency food pantry on the appointed day, place an "X" in the "Qualified for Bonus Points?" box on the Point Chart, and add five links to his or her chain.

If you need additional space to record verses or visitors on a student's Point Chart, attach a second sheet to the original sheet for that student.

**YOU  
CAN**



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

CONTEST BEGINS:	CONTEST ENDS:

**“Link Up With Jesus”  
By Earning Links On Your Chain.**

**Bring a Friend to Sunday School**

Must be someone who has not attended in the last 3 months.

**Earn 6 Links**

**Memorize a Scripture**

**Earn 2 Links**

**Attend Sunday School**

**Earn 1 Link**

**Bring Your Bible to Sunday School**

**Earn 1 Link**

**BONUS SUNDAY: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Earn 5 Links When You Bring 5 Food Items To Help Us  
Minister To Those Who Are In Need.**

**7 Levels Of Prizes Are Available**

**At The End Of The Contest,**

**You May Select One Prize From The Prize List.**

**The Top Five Students Will Receive Grand Prizes.**



**Link  
Up  
With**

# **PRIZE LIST**

**JESUS**

**LEVEL #1  
24 Links**

**LEVEL #2  
36 Links**

**LEVEL #3  
52 Links**

**LEVEL #4  
70 Links**

**LEVEL #5  
100 Links**

**LEVEL #6  
150 Links**

**LEVEL #7  
200 Links**

**Grand Prize  
Top 5 Students**

# Christ Commands Us

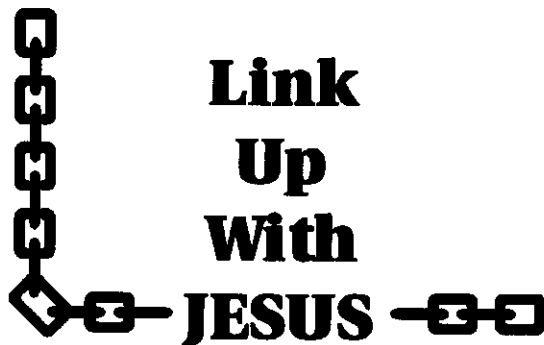
"... Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matt. 25:40

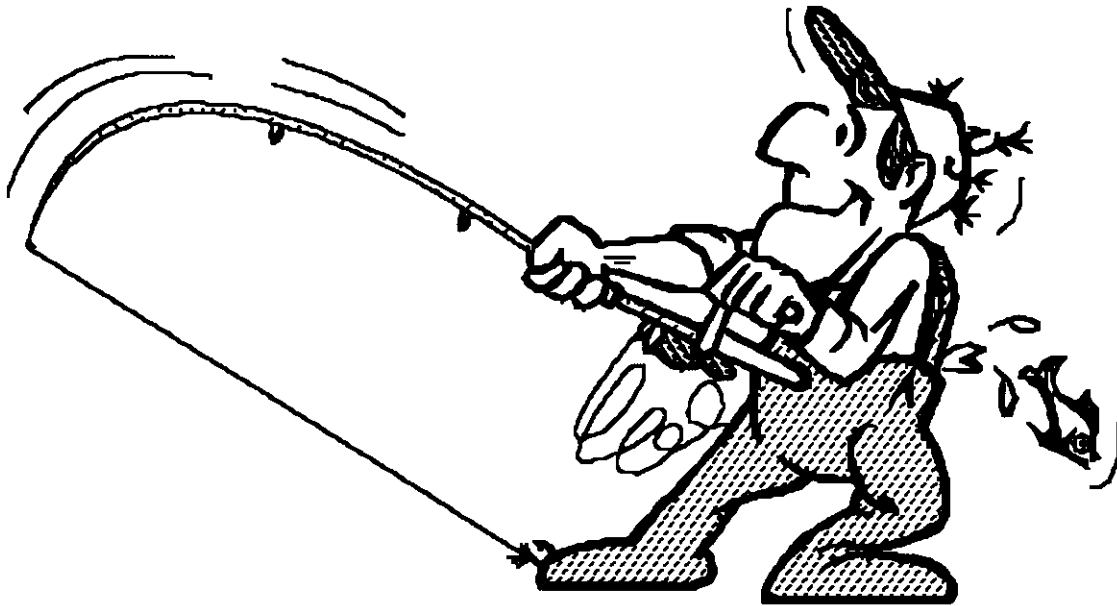
We can fulfill the command of our Lord by ministering to those who are in need.



Bring a minimum of 5 grocery items on \_\_\_\_\_ to your Sunday School classroom, and you will receive 5 links for your chain. You can "Link up with Jesus" and help us reach out to others.



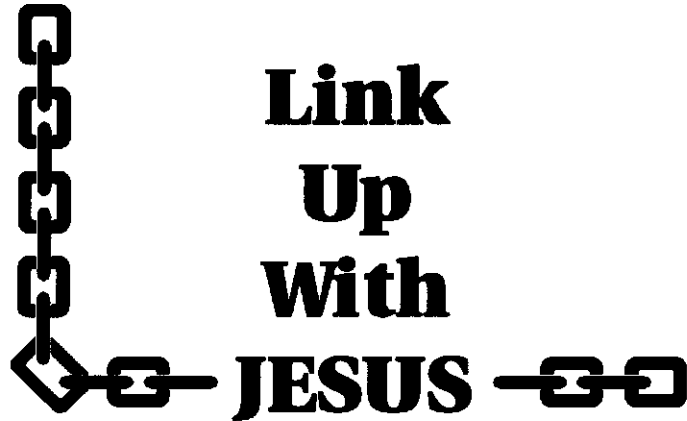
# You can't catch fish unless you have the right bait



Spend time this week learning God's Word so you can have the "Right Bait" to catch the biggest fish of all: a person who needs to know Jesus.

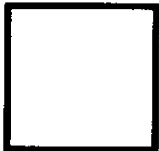
**Link  
Up  
With  
JESUS**

You can earn valuable prizes by learning God's Word and by bringing your friends to Sunday School. Start today, and together we can become "fishers of men".



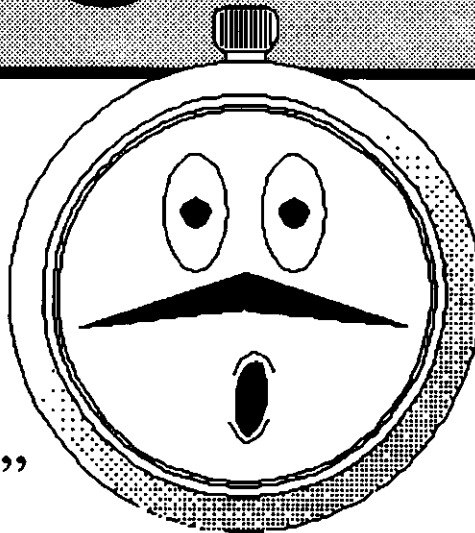
**Time is  
getting short**

There Are Only



Weeks Left  
In The

“Link Up With Jesus”  
Promotion!



**Remember To Bring A Friend And  
Learn Your Memory Verses.  
Together We Can “Link Up With Jesus”**



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

**Point Chart**

**Memory Verses Learned**

Record the verse "address," below.  
Award 2 links per verse.


**Attendance**

Record the dates in attendance, below. Award 1 link.

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Brought the Bible**

Record the dates a Bible was brought, below. Award 1 link.

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Brought a Friend**

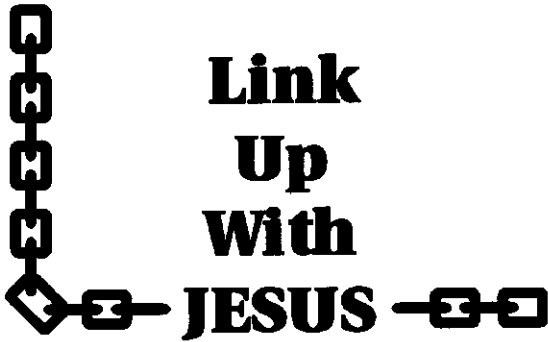
Record the name(s) of the friends, below. Award 6 links.

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**Qualified for Bonus Points?**

Award 5 links.

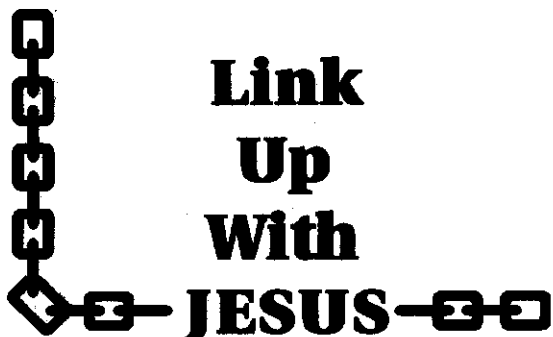




## Memory Verses List #1

- Gen. 1:1            In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- Gen. 1:3            And God said, Let there be light.
- Gen. 1:27           God created man in his own image.
- Gen. 6:8            But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
- Ex. 3:14            And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM.
- Ex. 6:11            Let the children of Israel go out of this land.
- Ex. 14:13           Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.
- Ex. 15:2            The Lord is my strength and song.
- Ex. 20:13           Thou shalt not kill.
- Ex. 35:5            Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord.
- Lev. 9:23           And the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people.
- Lev. 19:17          Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart.
- Lev. 20:26          Ye shall be holy unto Me: for I the Lord, am holy.
- Num. 10:35          Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered.
- Deut. 6:5            Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart.

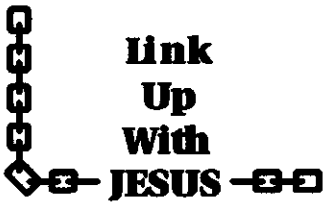
- Matt. 1:21      And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS.
- Matt. 1:21      ...for he shall save his people from their sins.
- Matt. 3:2        Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- Matt 5:44        Love your enemies, bless them that curse you.
- Matt. 5:44      ...do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
- Matt 6:33        Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.
- Matt. 7:7        Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.
- Matt. 9:38      Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
- Matt. 11:28     Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden.
- Matt. 18:20     For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
- Matt. 19:14     But Jesus said, Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
- Matt. 22:37     Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.
- Mark 12:29     Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.
- Mark 16:15     He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- Mark 16:16     He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.



## Memory Verses List #2

- Deut. 7:6            For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God.
- Joshua 24:14        Fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth.
- Joshua 24:15        But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
- 2 Sam. 7:13          I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
- 1 Chron. 16:29       Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name.
- 2 Chron. 7:14        If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray,
- 2 Chron. 7:14        And seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;
- 2 Chron. 7:14        Then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- Psalms 2:12          Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.
- Psalms 4:3            The LORD will hear when I call unto him.
- Psalms 5:8            Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies.
- Psalms 7:1            O LORD, my God, in thee do I put my trust.
- Psalms 9:2            I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name.
- Psalms 16:1          Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.
- Psalms 18:3          I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

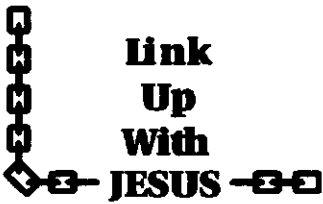
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
- John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.
- John 3:16 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- John 6:35 He that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
- John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- John 11:25 He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.
- Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.
- Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- Romans 1:17 The just shall live by faith.
- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
- Romans 8:1 There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
- 1 Cor. 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.
- Eph. 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.
- Eph. 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words.



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

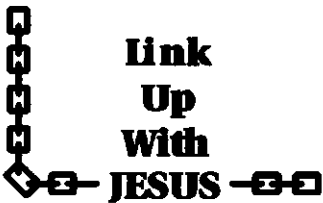
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

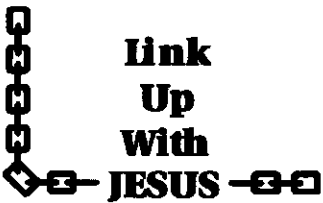
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

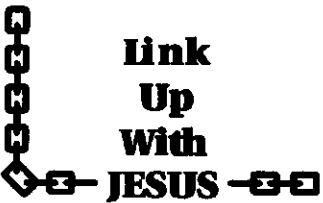
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

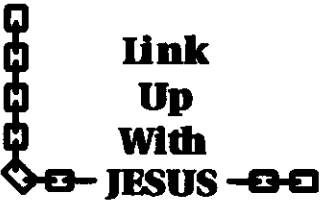
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Brought a Visitor**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

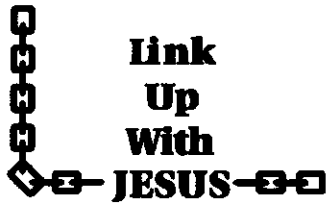
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

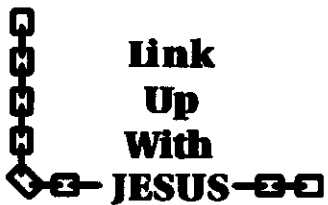
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

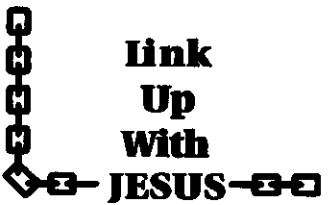
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

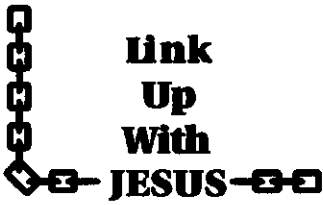
Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



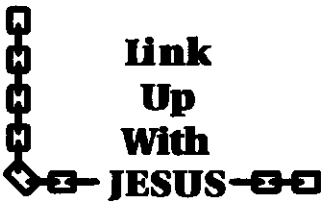
Link  
Up  
With

JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Link  
Up  
With

JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Link  
Up  
With

JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Link  
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JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



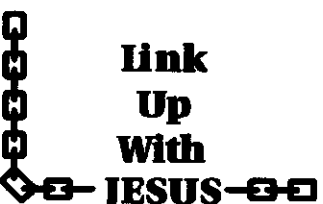
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JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



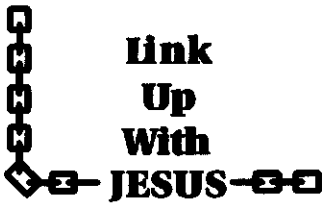
Link  
Up  
With

JESUS

**Attendance**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



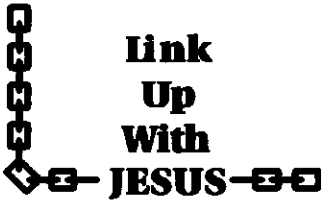
**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



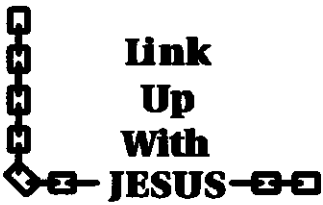
**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Link  
Up  
With**

**JESUS**

**Brought a Bible**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Fuel Flame

The "Fuel the Flame" promotion is centered around the Day of Pentecost. The students "fuel" the flame by bringing their friends to Sunday School. Reaching out to others is the heart of the work of the Holy Spirit. When we emphasize the importance of sharing Christ with others and invite them to church where God can touch their lives, young people will respond to the spiritual aspects of this program.

This promotion is designed to be conducted for six weeks, during the second quarter. When possible, it will include the special days of Easter, Pentecost Sunday, and Mothers' Day. Because Easter falls on a different Sunday each year, it may not always be possible to include all three special days in this promotion. Including Mothers' Day in this promotion gives a parent, or a close relative, an opportunity to become acquainted with the Sunday School.

As an incentive, points are awarded to the students for attendance, for memorizing Bible verses, and for bringing their Bibles, their offerings, and their mothers to Sunday School.

To reach the first goal, each student is required to bring at least two people to Sunday School. Additional points will be awarded to the students as they bring other friends, and they will be advanced to higher goal levels.

The prize for each goal level is a discount on the fees for one week at summer camp. Students who earn a total of 55 points will qualify for a discount of \$25.00 on their camp fees for one week.

Those who earn 80 points will receive a \$50.00 discount, and those who accumulate a total of 120 points will qualify to have their camp fees for one week paid in full.

In addition to these awards, the five students who earn the highest number of points overall will receive an all-expense-paid trip to an amusement park.

During the six weeks of this "Fuel the Flame" promotion, flyers will be distributed to all of the students. Each flyer will contain a different message. Four of the flyers will be mailed to the students' parents, asking for their cooperation. Announcements will also be made from the pulpit and in the church newsletter.

Each week, the children will be encouraged to fill in their "Flame Thermometer." As the promotion progresses, letters will be sent to the top 10 students and, in the last weeks, to the top 20 students in order to encourage them to continue to bring their friends to church.

"Fuel the Flame" has proved to be a successful promotion. It has effectively increased Sunday School attendance, and it has had a positive, spiritual impact on the lives of the students. For children who otherwise may not be able to attend camp, it provides a way for them to earn their camp fees.

Each week, a Point Tally sheet is completed to record the points earned by each student during that week. Points for attendance will be awarded to each student in the class. Each week, these Point

Tally Sheets and your attendance record must be taken to the Department Secretary.

You may also use a Re-Cap Sheet to keep a running total of the points earned by the students in your class. Keep this Re-Cap Sheet in your Secretary's folder.

After you complete the Weekly Report form, it should be taken to the Department Secretary.

The Flame Thermometers must be filled in each week by the students with red crayons or markers. Please post these forms on a bulletin board or in another conspicuous place.

# Fuel the Flame

<b>CONTEST BEGINS:</b>	<b>CONTEST ENDS:</b>

## Catch the Spirit of Pentecost

Help Us "Fuel the Flame" by Reaching Out and Sharing the Word of God with the World.

### YOU RECEIVE POINTS FOR THE FOLLOWING

Bringing Your Bible:	1	Bringing a Friend, 2nd Time:	15
Attendance:	2	Bringing a Friend, 3rd Time +:	5
Bringing an Offering:	2	Bringing Your Mother,	
Memorizing a Bible Verse:	2	Grandmother, Guardian	
Bringing a Friend, 1st Time:	10	on Mother's Day:	10

(Visitors who have attended during the last 6 months do not qualify.)

<b>P R I Z E S</b>	<b>GOAL #1 PRIZE</b> When You Earn 55 Points	
	<b>GOAL #2 PRIZE</b> When You Earn 80 Points	
	<b>GOAL #3 PRIZE</b> When You Earn 120 Points	
	<b>GRAND PRIZE</b> The 5 Students Who Earn the Most Points	

*Fuel*  *the Flame*

**Who Can  
I Invite?**

**Friends from School**

**Relatives**

**Neighborhood Friends**

**The Children of Your Parents' Friends**

**Friends from Outside Activities:**

**Scouting**

**Athletics**

**Camp Programs**

**Clubs**



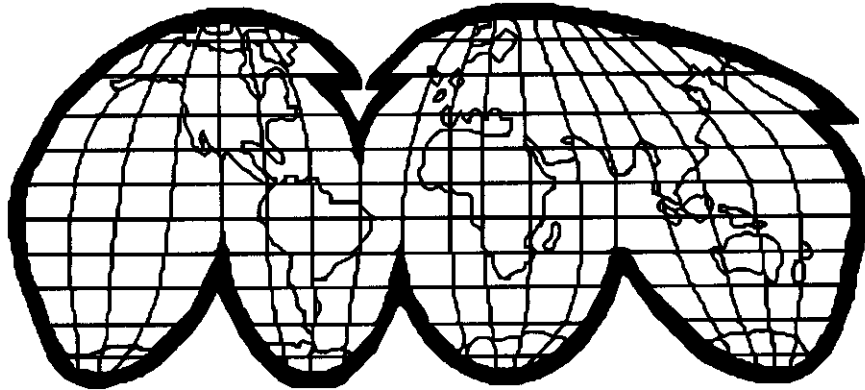
**Anyone in the world who needs to know Jesus as their Savior.**

List below the names of people you plan to invite. Pray daily over the list. Bring the list to church with you next week, so the entire class may pray for your list.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# *Fuel* *Flame*

## **Why Save the World?**



**Without Christ Our Friends Will Not Be With  
Us in Heaven.**

**Without Christ There Is NO Forgiveness Of Sins.**

**Without Christ There Is No True Joy.**

**Without Christ All Of Us Will Perish.**

*You can make a difference by reaching out to your friends and inviting them to church. Talk to one person today. Tell them you want them to go with you to a great place on Sunday morning. Christ has called each of us to share Him with our friends. Talk to someone today!*

# *Fuel* *the Flame*

## **Invite A Friend To Sunday School, And You Could Earn:**

**GRAND  
PRIZE**

**For the 5 Students  
With The Highest  
Point Totals**

**Students Earning  
120 Total  
Points Receive:**

**Students Earning  
80-119 Total  
Points Receive:**

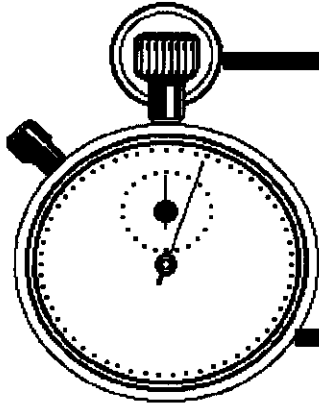
**Students Earning  
55-79 Total  
Points Receive:**

**Invite a Friend Today and Help Us  
Fuel the Flame!**

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# *Fuel* *the Flame*

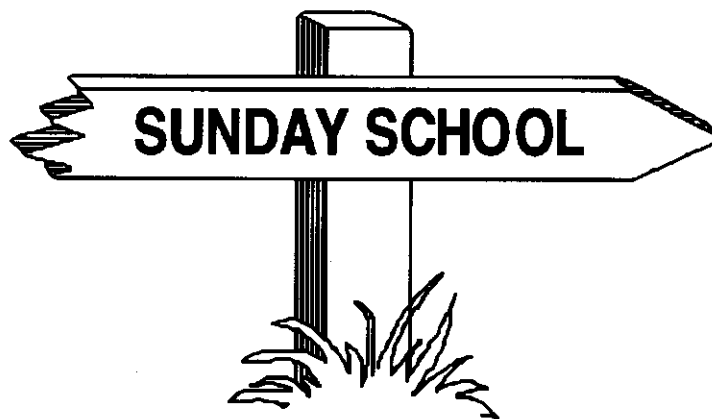
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**TIME IS  
RUNNING OUT!**

**Bring a Friend, or Two,  
to Sunday School  
Next Week  
And Help Us "Fuel the Flame"**

Show Your Friends the Way to Jesus.  
Bring Them to Sunday School!



# Fuel the Flame



## Mother's Day

Bring your Mother, Grandmother, or Guardian to Sunday School on Mother's Day and receive 10 bonus points in our "Fuel the Flame" promotion.

Honor Your Mother On This Very Special Mother's Day.

Mothers are invited to attend the entire hour of Sunday School, or they may choose to attend the Morning Bible Study in the Sanctuary. Only one mother, grandmother, or guardian may be registered per student. A mother with more than one child in the promotion may register in all necessary classes and then attend the class of her choice.





# *Fuel* *Flame*

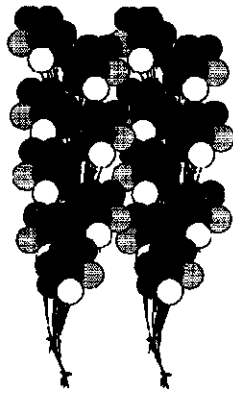
## Point Tally

Name \_\_\_\_\_

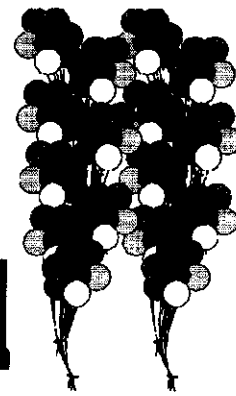
Class \_\_\_\_\_

Week #	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Attendance 2 Points						
Bringing An Offering 2 Points						
Bible Memorization 2 Points						
Bringing A Bible 1 Point						
Bringing A Friend (1st Time) 10 Points						
Bringing A Friend (2nd Time) 15 Points						
Bringing A Friend (Addnl Times) 5 Points						
Bringing Mother on Mother's Day 10 Points						
<b>Total Points For The Week</b>						
<b>Grand Total</b>						





# Fall Fun Festival



The Fall Fun Festival is a very popular promotion, which is scheduled during the third quarter, usually in September. A variety of games, rides, contests, and concessions make this event a good one for the entire church family.

Prior to the Festival, a six-week promotion will be conducted in which children will be given an opportunity to earn tickets which can be used for the rides, games and various activities. Tickets are awarded for bringing friends: 10; for attendance: 2; bringing a Bible: 1; and memorizing the Bible verse: 1. Tickets will also be given for bringing food items for the church's emergency food pantry.

The Secretary of each class is responsible for keeping a record of the points each student earns each week. To help eliminate lost tickets, they will be distributed to the students at the ticket booth on the day of the Festival.

Each class will be responsible for operating a booth at the Festival. Booths may include games and contests such as:

- Bean bag toss;
- Basketball shoot;
- Cookie walk;
- Ring toss;

- Face painting;

- Fishing: player drops a line over a "wall," and a prize is attached to the line;

- Duck pond: player selects a plastic duck from a tub of water. Each duck is worth a prize.

Use your creativity in selecting the game for your booth. Make it fun and challenging, but not so difficult that students cannot "win." Everyone will receive a prize. Consolation prizes will be given to those who do not complete the game successfully. Prizes of higher value will be awarded to game "winners."

In addition to the booths operated by each class, arrangements can be made for rides, dunk tank, moon walk, etc. Concessions operated by one of the classes (perhaps the high school department) should also be available. A first-aid station, portable restrooms, and a booth for purchasing additional tickets (at a nominal charge) should be included.

The purpose of this promotion is to provide a fun day of fellowship for families. In doing this, we hope to acquaint others with our program, and encourage other children and parents to join us in the School of the Bible.

**Specific Instructions:**

Each "point" a student earns is worth one ticket for the Fall Fun Festival. Tickets will be distributed to students at the ticket booth when they arrive for the Festival.

Secretaries will record the points each student earns on the Weekly Point Chart.

Totals from this form will then be transferred to the "Re-Cap Sheet."

The Re-Cap Sheets will be used to determine the number of tickets to be awarded to each student. Keep these forms in the Secretary's folder, and double-check them for accuracy.

# Fall Fun Festival

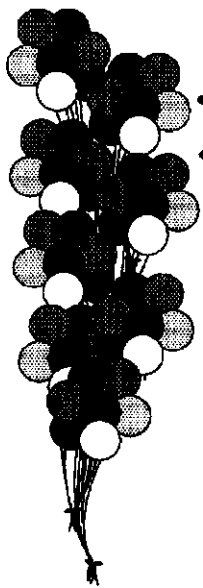
**Contest begins:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Fall Fun Festival will be held: \_\_\_\_\_

Earn Tickets For The Festival By:

Attending Sunday School: 3 tickets; Bringing Your Bible: 2 tickets;  
 Bringing an Offering: 2 tickets; Memorizing a Bible Verse: 2 tickets;  
 Bringing a food item for those in need: 2 tickets;  
 Bringing a friend: 10 tickets.

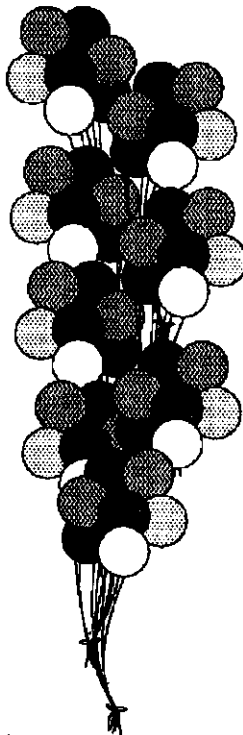
(Friends who have attended Sunday School during the last 4 months do not qualify.)



**Games**

**Prizes**

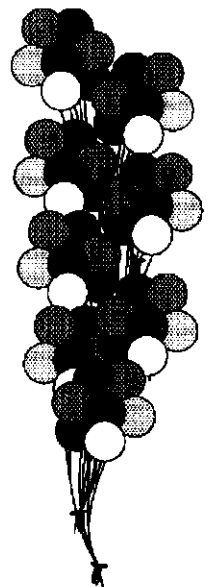
**Rides**



**Food**

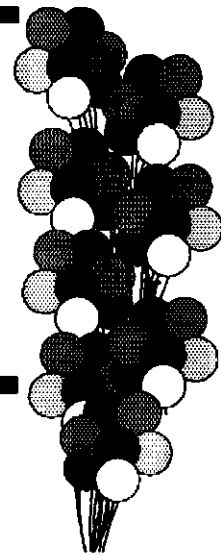
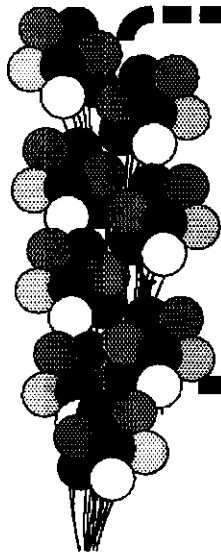
**Dunk  
Tank**

**Music**



*Tickets will be distributed to the students at the Festival.*

*Students will receive certificates each week showing the number of tickets earned.*



**GET  
EXCITED**

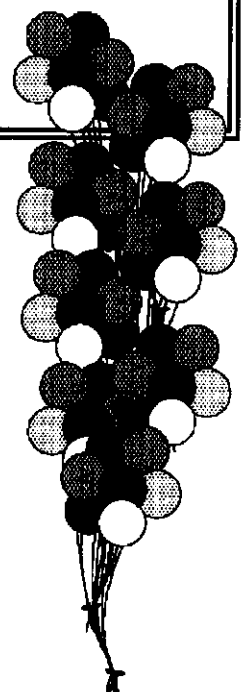
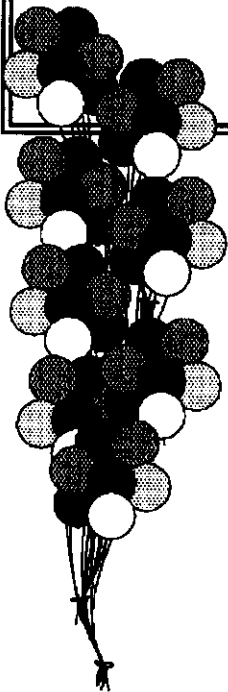
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**The  
"FALL FUN FESTIVAL"**

**Date:**

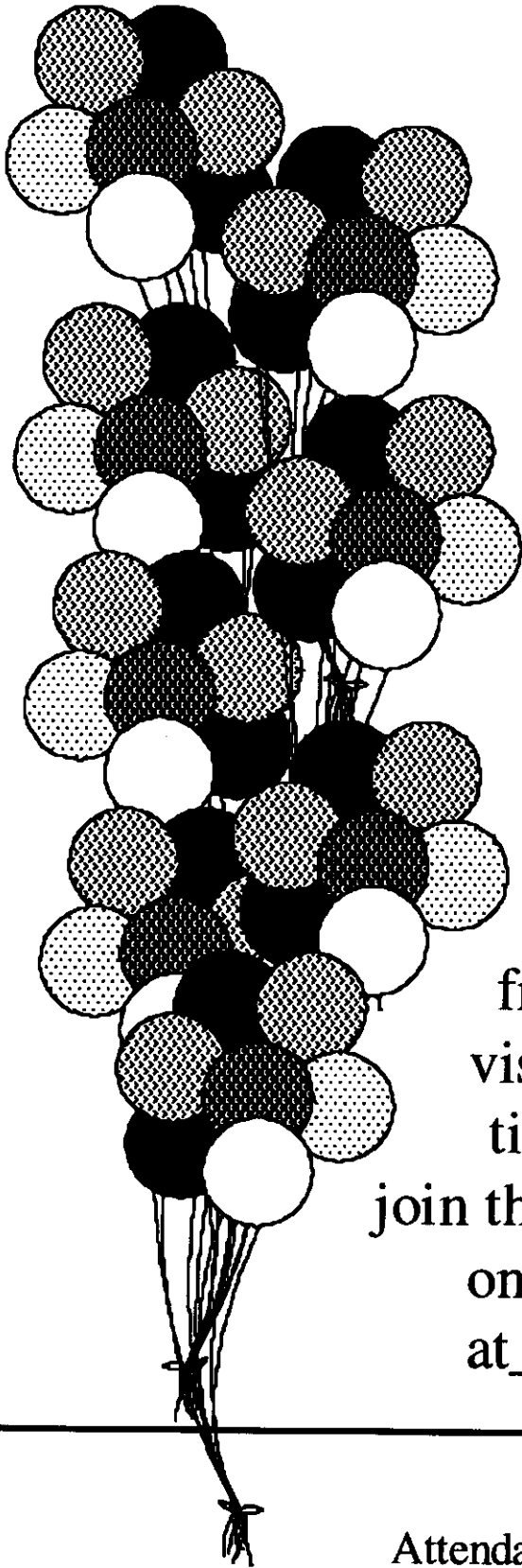
**Time:**

**Place:**



*Earn All the Tickets You Can  
by Attending Sunday School!  
Bring a Friend and Earn Extra Points!*

**GAMES PRIZES  
MOONWALK  
DUNK TANK  
FOOD FUN**

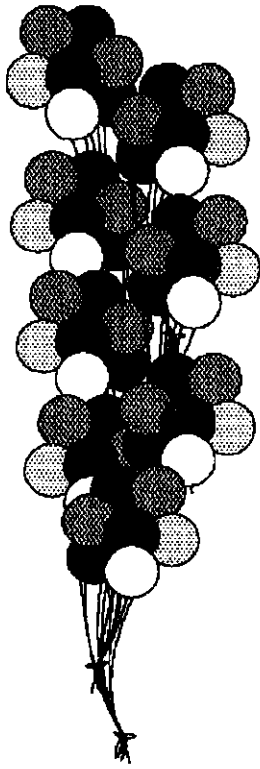


# Only Weeks to go in the Fall Fun Festival Contest

Remember to bring your friends -- especially first-time visitors -- and join us for a great time in Sunday School. Then, join the fun at The Fall Fun Festival on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

### Points are awarded for:

Attendance • Memorizing Bible Verses  
 Bringing Your Bible • Bringing an Offering • Bringing a Visitor  
 Bringing a Food Item for Those in Need.



# Fall Fun Festival Ticket Certificate

---

(Name)

*Has Earned a Total of \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets  
for the Fall Fun Festival*

---

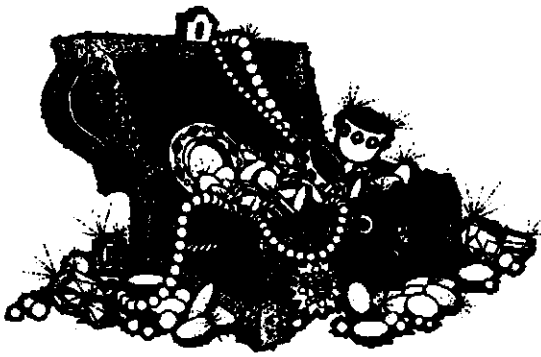
Class Secretary

Have your printer print this form "2-up" (2 forms per page).









# Unlock The Treasure

Christ is truly the "key" to "Unlocking the Treasure." In this promotion, we want to increase attendance in the School of the Bible and emphasize to the students that Jesus is the key to unlocking vast treasures in our lives -- and not just material ones. We want to encourage students to reach out and witness to their friends, so that they, too, may experience the "treasures" Jesus has to offer.

This promotion is held during the fourth quarter, and runs for six weeks. As in other promotions, points are awarded to the students for their attendance; for bringing their Bible and offerings; for learning their memory verse; for bringing friends; and for contributing food items to the church's emergency food pantry.

Every time a student accumulates 40 points, he or she is awarded a special coin, which is worth 1 gift. A variety of gifts will be available, from which students may choose. Gifts should be displayed in a convenient, central location for the students to see. Some gifts will be worth 1 coin; others worth 2 coins; and some worth 3 coins. Students may elect to use the coin(s) they earn, or save them for a prize of higher value.

At the end of the promotion, the student in each class with the highest number of points over 200, will receive a special, bonus gift and will be given an

opportunity to unlock a treasure chest, filled with gifts valued at over \$200.

Only students who have earned a minimum of 200 points will qualify for this honor. If more than one student in the class earns 200 points or more, the student with the highest point total will be the one who qualifies.

During this promotion, the total number of points earned by each student will not be displayed or announced. It is acceptable to let the students know how many points they have earned from week to week. However, their total points should not be revealed, especially during the last week of the promotion.

At the end of the promotion, the top winner from each class will be given a key. Only one of the keys will open the treasure chest of prizes. **IMPORTANT:** because we do not want to award the grand prize based on "luck" or chance, the student who earned the most points will be given the key which opens the chest. Only the person who distributes the keys will know in advance the name of the grand prize winner. Everyone else will discover who the grand prize winner is when the students try their keys in the lock on the treasure chest. It will add a bit of excitement and suspense if you have the grand prize winner try his or her key last.

During the course of this promotion, it is good to take the treasure chest of prizes into every classroom and display it briefly, as an incentive for the students. Flyers will also be distributed in the classes, and letters and flyers will be mailed to the parents of students, asking for their help and encouragement.

#### Specific Instructions:

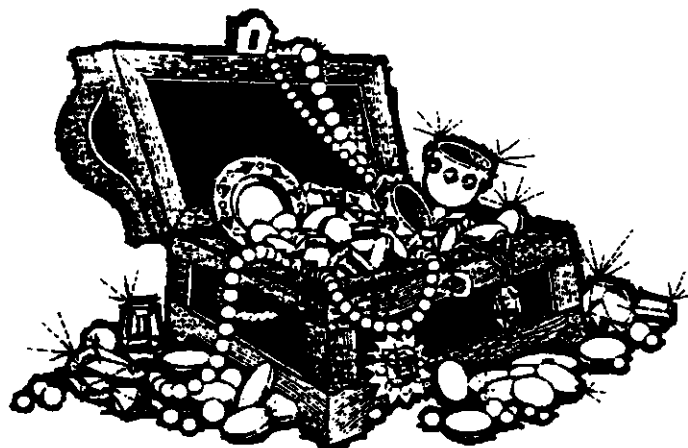
Each Secretary will have a Weekly Point Chart on which to record the points each student earns. A supply of coins will also be distributed to every class. Additional coins will be available in the Audio-Visual Room. Every time students accumulate 40 points, they will be given one of the coins. Be sure to sign the coins

before you distribute them. Coins without signatures cannot be redeemed.

For example: when a student earns a total of 40 points, he or she will be given one coin. When the point total reaches 80 points, he or she will be given a second coin, etc. It is up to the student to decide whether to redeem the coin for a prize, or save it and try to earn a prize of greater value.

Re-Cap sheets will also be included in the Secretary's folder. Record on this sheet the total number of points each student earns each week. This will help you to determine when students qualify to receive a coin.

# Unlock The



# Treasure

**Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **and Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

### How Can You Earn Points?

Attend Sunday School: 5 points • Bring Your Bible: 2 points

Bring an Offering: 2 points • Learn the Bible Verse: 5 points

Bring a Food Item for Those in Need: 5 points

Bring a Friend: 20 points



For every 40 points you earn, you will receive a "Gold Coin."

Coins can be redeemed for prizes.

The student in each class who earns the most points, over 200, will win a special prize and will be given a key which may open the Treasure Chest.

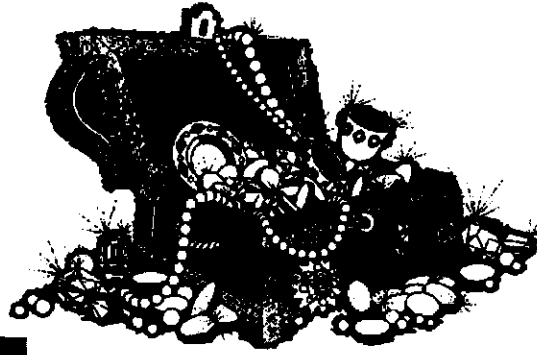
The Treasure Chest contains prizes valued at over \$\_\_\_\_\_.

The student whose key opens the Treasure Chest will win its contents!

## Invite Your Friends

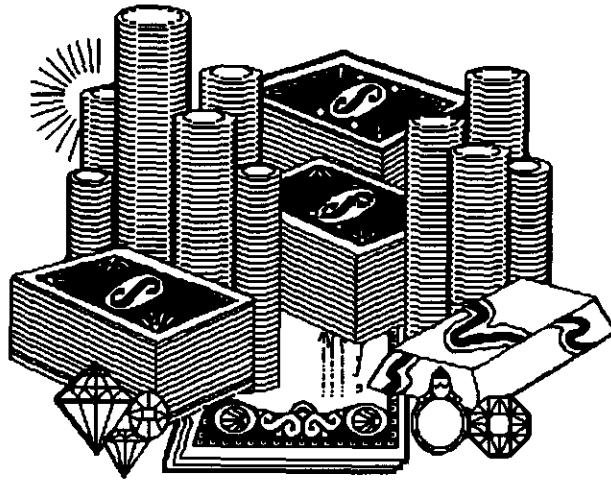
## to Sunday School!

# Unlock The



# Treasure

**What Treasure is  
Inside the Chest?**



*God says that He is worth more than Silver or Gold, and we are to treasure Him above all earthly riches!*

**You have the opportunity to win an earthly treasure, while helping others to find the treasure of knowing Jesus. Bring a friend to Sunday School between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and earn the opportunity to open the chest and claim the prize.**









# **Section 7**

# **Catechism In Doctrine**

## Introduction to Catechism in Doctrine

*"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." (I Timothy 4:16)*

Jesus said, "Take heed what ye hear..." (Mark 4:24) Be careful about what you allow to enter your mind, because it will affect your heart. We are living in a day that is characterized by the deception Jesus warned about in Matthew 24. Our young people are being taught the doctrine of secular humanism, which leads to rebellion, pride, hedonism, and self-destruction.

The purpose of this material is to help stimulate a focus on truth that will change lives. Truth is not just a set of ideas. No one person has all the right answers to every detail of theological thought. Each of us sees "through a glass darkly," (1 Corinthians 13:12) particularly when it comes to our eschatology. It is important that we respect one another in our pursuit of truth. As orthodox Christian teachers, we agree on the essential basics that are expressed in the "Apostle's Creed." Beyond that, we have different perspectives and insights concerning the particular matters of interest relative to Bible history and application. Our purpose is to present basic concepts that will stimulate an interest in young people to seek after wisdom, not to present our views as the final word on doctrine.

Truth is not a set of concepts: truth is the Person of Jesus Christ. When we know the Truth (Jesus), the truth will set us free. Freedom is not the right to do whatever we want, but is the power to do what we should.

God's Word includes a curriculum guide for all education. It outlines the priorities that should be the basis for every training program. (I Peter 1) The first objective of a wise teacher is **faith**. We are to define and stimulate a focus on God and His purposes in the earth. Before we can train anyone, we must know that he has been supernaturally born again by God's grace through faith. Unless he is born again, he cannot possibly see the Kingdom of God (spiritual reality). (John 3:3)

The second priority is character training. Peter said, "Add to your faith *virtue*." Virtue is the positive influence that flows out of a life that is whole, and transformed by the power and love of God. After he has been led to a personal relationship with God, he needs "instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16) He needs lessons that will teach him to live well, not just to make a living.

Notice that **knowledge** is third on God's list of priorities, not first, as is the agenda of the secular world of educators. In a secularized education, faith and virtue are eliminated by the state, with the erroneous belief that knowledge apart from faith can bring man to wholeness and fulfillment in life. But knowledge without the balancing perspective of faith results in pride and rebellion. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." (I Corinthians 8:1)

These lessons emphasize doctrine that stimulates wisdom, which begins with the fear of the Lord. (Proverbs 9:10) There is a focus on creation, grace, spiritual gifts, accountability, and eschatology. When young people are taught that they are not a cosmic accident, but an eternal soul

to have an attitude of gratitude, and a heart for the things of God.

Our goal is not simply to increase our knowledge, but also to hear those things which will have the greatest possible benefit for our lives: things that will still have value ten thousand years from now. We do not want simply to learn facts about Jesus, but we want God's abiding presence in our lives. We want to know Jesus. As the Apostle Peter said, "*Grow in grace, and in*

*the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (II Peter 3:18) In other words, humble yourself and receive more of God's enabling power and strength, and get to know Jesus more personally and intimately.

We pray that these lessons will stir your faith, encourage your heart, and stimulate your desire to search the Word of God with joy as we anticipate the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth.

## How Big Is God?

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God is so big, that He has no limits and He cannot be measured.

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(God) *"hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure,...."* (Isaiah 40:12)

The planet earth is a great ball, which is 25,000 miles in circumference and nearly 8,000 miles in diameter. It spins around on its axis once every day and revolves around the sun. One revolution around the sun is one year. The earth does not revolve around the sun in a perfect circle. It is always at least 91,400,000 miles away. The sun is more than 320,000 times as large as the earth. At its center, its temperature is 18 million degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists tell us that the sun is burning up, losing over 200,000 tons per second; but, it is expected to last another ten billion years.

There are billions of other suns, which are much larger. They are called "stars". Some stars are more than a billion miles in diameter. They are so hot, that a piece of their sun the size of a match head would burn up everything within 100 miles. They seem small, because they are so far away. The light from them takes many years to reach us. In our galaxy, the "Milky Way," there are more than 100 billion stars. There are thousands of such galaxies -- clusters of stars -- in the universe. Our galaxy alone is so large, that it takes light 100,000 years to travel from one end to the other. It takes light 4 years to travel from the nearest star, called "Proxima Centauri," because it is 24 trillion miles away.

The entire earth is just a tiny speck in the universe; yet, Isaiah said that God *"meted out heaven with the span...."* A "span" is the distance between your thumb and little finger, when you stretch out your hand. When God measures galaxies, He stretches His hand out from one to another. God is not limited to a physical body as we are, because He is Spirit. (John 4:24) He is big enough to fill the universe. More than 75 percent of the earth is covered with water; and, in places, the oceans are as deep as six miles. Yet the Bible says that God

*"...measured the waters in the hollow of His hand...."* (Isaiah 40:12)

That means that God can hold the Pacific Ocean in His cupped hand.

God, who has always existed, created all of the stars and the planets that revolve around them. He created everything on the planets and knows everything about every creature in the universe. God is so big that it is not possible for us to comprehend it with our minds. God is in full control of the world. He allows men to make their choices to test and learn whether they will choose to obey Him, or choose to do evil. God knows everything that happens; and He keeps very good records.

It is impossible for any human mind to comprehend the vastness of God, because He is infinite. That means He has no limits and no end, neither in time nor in space. God is everywhere at once; and yet, He

specifically lives with and in His children, the born-again believers. There is nothing too difficult for God to do, because there are no limitations to His power.

*"Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great*

*power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"*  
(Jeremiah 32:17)

## How Did God Create the World?

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God spoke everything into existence by the power of His Word.

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*"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3)*

God created all matter and formed the physical things by using atoms -- tiny bits of matter that are the building blocks of everything. Atoms are so small that we cannot see them with our eyes.

*"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3)*

Atoms are tiny particles of matter that have a center, or "nucleus," with tiny "electrons" spinning around them. There is a great amount of empty space between the nucleus and the electrons, and also between atoms themselves, much like the planets spinning around the suns in the galaxies. Scientists tell us that, if all the space between the atoms was taken out and the earth was reduced to solid matter, it would be about the size of a basketball. What holds it all together? Jesus does.

*"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,.... all things were created by him, and for him; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist," (hold together). (Colossians 1:16-17)*

God created the stars, the planets, the plants, and the animals. To "create" means to "bring into existence," to "make

something out of nothing." God spoke the Word, and the physical matter in the universe came into existence. When God spoke, spiritual beings became alive and functioned instantly.

However, God took clay, or the "dust of the ground," and formed man. Then, He formed the woman from one of Adam's ribs. Human beings are not just animals. They are special creations that God formed with His hands to live forever with Him as His children. God made mankind out of existing material. Then, God breathed His life into him, so that man became a physical creature with a body and brain, as well as a spiritual being with an eternal spirit. Man was made a "living soul". (Genesis 2:7)

Some people spend their lifetimes seeking the secret of origins; but, we have the account from God -- the only One who was there at the time. Anything beyond what He has told us is vain conjecture.

Charles Darwin wrote his thesis, titled "The Origin of the Species." His theories have had far-reaching effects on the lives of the people in our society. Christians readily agree that what Darwin proposed is simply a theory.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was a theorist, who reinforced the doctrine of positivism. He proposed that all forms of life developed gradually from a common ancestry over millions and millions of years. He also suggested the idea which is

called the "survival of the fittest." This idea was developed as a basis for the reasoning behind the theory of evolution. These teachings cannot be taken lightly, because they strike at the very heart of biblical Christianity. Our children can be taught the Bible truth of creationism; but, their minds are being filled with the theory of evolution.

There are at least five major statements proposed by this humanistic philosophy:

1. Evolutionists teach that heredity and environment are the determining factors of existence.
2. Evolutionists teach that character traits and actions are explained by heredity and environment. It is said that since behavior is determined by factors beyond the individual's control, he cannot be blamed for his behavior. A born-again Christian understands that man is not controlled by his environment. Man is responsible for his behavior and for his sins.

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)*

3. The teaching of the "survival of the fittest" casts doubt upon the existence

of God. Darwin stated that, if there was a God, He was merely a totally indifferent and impersonal force.

4. Darwin's theory proclaims that things are continuing to get better and better. The humanists teach that one day all men will be as God. This idea is not new. Satan tempted Eve in the garden of Eden with the same plan.

Perhaps the best description of man's condition is found in Isaiah 64:6:

*"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*

5. Finally, Darwin's theory teaches that man is subject to the same laws and conditions as all other matter in nature. Christians understand that man has been given dominion over all creation. Man was created in the likeness and image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)

Evolutionism is nothing more than a theory. It can never change the unalterable fact that God created man in His likeness; and, therefore, man is accountable to God for his life and his actions.



## Why Did God Make Man?

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God made man to love, worship, and bless Him and to live with Him forever.

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*"This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."*  
(Isaiah 43:21)

God made the angels in the spirit world to worship Him and to serve Him. He created the universe, the earth, and all the plants and animals. But, God wanted to make creatures who would belong to Him in a very special way. They would be His children, and they would reflect His nature, character, and affections. *"...Let us make man in our image...."* (Genesis 1:26)

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit decided in the council of heaven to make man unique. Man would not only have an eternal spirit, but he would also have a physical body. Animals do not have a spirit, but people do. Every baby born is a special creation of God, designed to live for God and to enjoy Him. The word "human" means "in God's image."

*"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: ...."* (Psalms 139:14)

God made man to love Him and worship Him; but, He does not force man to do these things. By giving each of us a choice, God receives honor and blessing, knowing that our love for Him is voluntary. God chose to reveal Himself to

men through His Word, as expressed through Jesus Christ and through His people. God is looking for those people on earth who will choose to turn from their selfish lives of sin to worship and serve Him out of love.

*"...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."*  
(John 4:23)

God formed man in His character image and not in His physical image, because God is not limited to a physical body as we are. God is an infinite, eternal Spirit.

*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:24)

We know that each of us is a special creation of God and not the product of chance. We also know that God had a specific and personal purpose in mind when He formed each of us. We should view our lives as precious gifts, not to be wasted on selfish pleasures. Each of us has a work in life to do for God. We should be diligent to discover and develop our gifts and talents for God.

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## What Was the Garden of Eden?

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God created the Garden of Eden to be the first home of man on the earth.

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*"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."*  
(Genesis 2:8-9)

When God made man, He gave man "dominion" over all of the animals and over everything in the garden. This means that everything was subject to man, because man was God's representative; and everything belonged to God. Apparently, all of the animals were vegetarians. Also, there were apparently no dangers, weather problems, or problems of any kind on the planet. Everything was in perfect harmony, and it is even possible that many of the animals could talk, because Eve was not surprised when the serpent spoke to her.

There were two special trees in the garden. The first special tree was the tree of life, which produced fruit which gave eternal, or at least prolonged, physical life.

The second special tree was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was God's reminder that everything belonged to Him. God commanded Adam and Eve not

to eat of the fruit of this tree. If they disobeyed, the pride and selfishness in their hearts would be manifested.

God had provided everything Adam and Eve needed; but, in order to serve God out of love, man had to have a choice. So, God gave them the opportunity to disobey. We do not know how long Adam and Eve lived in the garden before they sinned; but, eventually, they yielded to the temptation to become "independent" and to be "their own persons." They rebelled against the rule which God had given to them. The Bible does not tell us what kind of fruit they ate, because that is not significant. Instead, the Bible tells us the more important matter -- the motive of their hearts.

God gave Adam and Eve perfect bodies and minds. Adam was so intelligent that he named each creature God had created. Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony and joy as long as they obeyed their Heavenly Father. They also had pure minds and saw each other with the glory of God upon them. When they sinned, their perception was changed. They saw that they were naked, and they became ashamed.

## Who Is the Lord Jesus Christ?

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Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Savior and Lord.

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*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made by him...." (John 1:1-3)*

The Bible teaches us that God in His fullness is three Persons: the Father; the Son (Jesus); and the Holy Spirit. Jesus has always existed. He has no beginning nor end. He is eternal. Jesus is called "the only begotten" Son of God, because He was miraculously conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit. While we may become sons of God when we are born again, we can never become gods.

Jesus is God. He is infinite and eternal. He created the world. He also paid for the sins of the world with His own blood. Jesus was called Rabbi, Teacher, Messiah, Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God, the Lion of Judah, the Mighty God, Son of man, the Angel of the Lord, the Bread of Life, and many other names which describe Him and what He does.

"Lord" means "owner and master." Jesus created us. He purchased us with His blood. He is the one who has the right to make the final decisions in our lives. We belong to Him.

*"...know ye not ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

"Jesus" means "savior", or, "one who saves." In the Hebrew language, the same name was "Joshua". The angel told Joseph that his name was to be called "Jesus",

*"...for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)*

"Christ" means "the anointed one". Jesus came to earth; but, He did not depend upon His own power and wisdom. He allowed the Holy Spirit to fill Him and to direct Him in His work. When Jesus was in the temple in Nazareth, He quoted from Isaiah and told the people that the prophet was speaking about Him when Isaiah said:

*"The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek...." (Isaiah 61:1)*

Jesus is called the "Word", because He is the most complete expression to the world of God and His nature. Jesus said, *"...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...." (John 14:9)*

That is to say, He revealed the Father. Jesus is equal with the Father and with the Holy Spirit; but, He took the place of a servant, humbling Himself to be sent by the Father as the *"...Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* (John 1:29)

He is coming again to the earth, as the judge of all mankind and the sovereign King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## Why Did God Love Jacob and Hate Esau?

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Jacob desired and sought the blessing of God. Esau despised his birthright.

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*"As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."* (Romans 9:13)

God is love. God *"... so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,..."* (John 3:16) While recognizing and emphasizing the love of God, we need to understand the completeness of His character and to recognize that He is perfectly just and fair. While God is perfect in His absolute love for mankind, He is also just and deals with each person according to His righteous judgment. To those who love Him, God gives blessings. To the humble, He pours out His grace. To the wicked, He will pour out His wrath. Proverbs 6:19 lists seven things that God hates, including *"...he that soweth discord."* God does not just hate the sin of spreading division among brethren; He also hates the person who does it.

In spite of Jacob's carnal methods, his goal in life was ultimately to obtain God's blessing. He had a heart for God, and God allowed him to obtain the family blessing and the birthright. The birthright was the double portion, which went to the firstborn son. Esau sold his birthright to his younger brother for one meal. Esau despised his birthright.

The word "despise" does not mean "hate". It means "to scorn," "to hold in profound contempt;" "to consider something to be worthless or meaningless."

The letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus,

*"...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..."* (Hebrews 12:2)

This refers to the shame of hanging naked on a cross and being publicly executed. Being rejected was nothing, compared to the joy of bringing many sons to glory and presenting a holy and beautiful body of believers to the Father.

We are also commanded to *"Despise not prophesyings."* (1 Thessalonians 5:20) This command means that we should recognize that when God gives a prophetic word, it is very important. It should not be taken lightly.

Esau was born into the covenant family of God. He had the heritage of his father, Isaac, and of his grandfather, Abraham, who was God's friend. God wanted to bless Esau for the sake of his fathers; but, Esau was more concerned with his stomach than with the blessing and heritage of God. By loving himself more than God, he was, in effect, despising God. God, in perfect righteousness and justice, always responds fairly to the heart response of men. He rewards us according to our responses in life. (Psalms 18:20)

*"The LORD is in his holy temple, ...his eyes behold....the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."* (Psalms 11:4-5)

It is important for us, as Christians, to cultivate a grateful heart for the blessings

and opportunities God has given to us. He has given to us the Bible, godly leaders, freedom to worship, and a wonderful plan for salvation and spiritual growth. The book of Hebrews is the book of "better things." We read in the book of Hebrews,

that, if the Word of God in the Old Covenant was sure and glorious, then

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation...." (Hebrews 2:3)*

# **Section 8**

# **Lessons**

# Teacher, Teacher

Volume 1

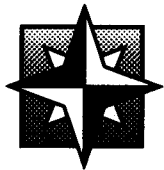
Lesson 1



## Bible Reference

John 1:35-51

39 "He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day: for it was about the tenth hour."



## Theme

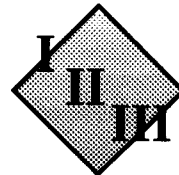
Jesus was sent to be our heavenly Teacher. He has called us to be His students.



## Memory Verse

Matthew 10:24

"The disciple is not above (his) master...."



## Outline



## Scripture Reading

John 1:37-39

37 "And the two disciples heard Him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 "Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?"

### I. Background.

- A. Jesus had just been baptized by John the Baptist.
- B. John the Baptist told his disciples Jesus was the "Lamb of God."

- 1. Lamb referred to sacrifice for sin.
- 2. The disciples of John the Baptist understood the meaning of "Lamb of God."

## C. Messiah.

1. Means "the anointed leader."
2. From the Hebrew word "mashiah."
3. Similar to the Greek "Christos," or Christ (anointed one).
4. Jesus was the anointed Son of God, sent to earth to bring mankind to God.

## II. They Called Him "Teacher."

## A. Term of respect.

1. An official title of honor.
2. Rabbi means "teacher."
3. Disciples submitted themselves to His teaching.

## B. "Teacher" is used to refer to Jesus more than any other title in the scripture.

1. Sixty-four times in the gospels.
2. Used twice in this text.

## III. Christ Calls Us to Learn from Him.

## A. Told the two disciples to come and follow Him.

1. Jesus never says "later."
2. Jesus not only told the disciples where He lived but also invited them to join Him.
  - a. Jesus welcomes us.
  - b. Jesus wants us to join Him.

## B. Jesus saw Philip and said, "Follow me."

## IV. Jesus Used Others to Bring People to Him.

## A. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus.

1. Andrew wanted his family to know about Jesus.
2. Jesus told Peter who he was.
  - a. Referred to Peter by his real name, "Simon."
  - b. Gave Peter a new name.
    - (1) Peter or Cephas.
    - (2) Peter means "stone."
  - c. The new name was prophetic.
  - d. Peter would become stable, like a rock.
3. Jesus used Andrew to bring Peter to Him.
  - a. Jesus knew beforehand who His disciples would be.
  - b. Jesus called Peter "the stone."

## B. Philip brought Nathanael.

1. Nathanael was skeptical.
2. Jesus allayed Nathanael's fears and revealed things to him no one could have known.

## V. How Jesus Reveals Himself to Us.

## A. Through His Word.

## B. To our hearts.

1. Nathanael knew Jesus was Lord by the evidence of a word of knowledge.
2. Nathanael said:
  - a. "Thou art the Son of God."
  - b. "Thou art the King of Israel."



## VI. God Wants Us to Tell Others.

- A. A good teacher instructs students how to use their knowledge.
- B. Jesus wants us to bring others to Him.
1. Tell your friends.
  2. Tell your relatives Jesus loves them and wants them to be His disciples.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus is the Great Teacher.
- Jesus wants us to follow Him.
- Jesus cares about our families.
- Jesus calls some people to Him directly; others are brought to Him by other people; but, all who repent and believe are accepted by Him.
- Jesus uses us to bring others to Him.
- We must choose either to seek Him or to seek the things of the world.
- Jesus knew us before we knew Him.
- Jesus taught with His life more than He taught with His words.
- A good teacher does not only inform, but also inspires students to learn, and imparts wisdom and character.
- When we are genuinely born again, our lifestyle changes, and we become more and more like our teacher, Jesus.



## Lesson Material

This first lesson of the series establishes a key principle: that Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd of the Church, and the Master Teacher of the class. The responsibility of the Bible teacher is, first of all, to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Lord for the group. Ask, "What would Jesus say to this class?" A faithful teacher will be prepared, not only with diligent study in the Word, but also with earnest prayer. Jesus came to reveal the Father and to lead people to Him. Likewise, we must lead people to Jesus and help them develop a close relationship with Him. We are not called to make disciples unto ourselves, but always to recognize that they belong to God.

Jesus came, first of all, to do the will of the Father. Ultimately, it was His devotion to God the Father that motivated Him to become the sin offering for the world and redeem souls for God's Kingdom. Since God is by nature a perfect Father, His desire is to have many children who love and serve Him.

The teaching style of Jesus is a wonderful example for us. Jesus was very relational. He called twelve men to be with Him. They learned by observing His attitudes and habits, as well as from His class sessions. With Jesus, all of life was a classroom, and everything was an opportunity for His disciples to learn. We learn from the spirit of our teachers, as well as from their words. We are students throughout life. We not only learn information; but, we also learn values and character qualities. Our value system (the way we look at life) determines the choices

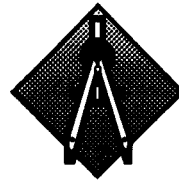
we make. The way we make choices will affect us for eternity.

As a teacher, you are to reflect Jesus, not only with words, but also with love. Your goal should be to bring people to a knowledge of Jesus, and to lead people into a relationship with Jesus. We are called to win souls to Christ and to teach people to become disciples.

Jesus is called "teacher," which is a title of respect. We, as teachers, should have the respect of our students. Students follow after their teachers. They should recognize Jesus as the Great Teacher, the Messiah.

Jesus drew people to Himself. He also wants us to bring others to Him. Andrew loved his family so much that the first person he told about Jesus was his brother. If Andrew had not obeyed God's will, then we may not have had the Apostle Peter. God wants us to be witnesses for Him.

Note the prophetic significance of Peter's name. Simon was a rough, impetuous fisherman. He was very quick to make decisions. But Jesus knew that God was going to build Peter's character, and build stability in his life. He gave him a new name, "Petros," or "Peter," which means "a stone." From that point on, Peter was to be reminded of his calling and his new nature as a disciple of Jesus. It took some time, but Peter did become the "Rock" that Jesus prophetically named. In Christ, we are "new creations."



## Methods

### *Flannelgraph*

This lesson is an easy one to illustrate using flannelgraph, because of the limited number of characters involved. Make sure the children know who each of the figures is before you put it on the board. Use interactive methods, such as asking a student to place the flannel on the board; or, have the students identify each person as you proceed.

### *Demonstration*

Show the importance of communicating with our actions and lifestyle, over just words. Recruit a teaching team member, or a very cooperative student, and lecture on love and gentleness, while at the same time using harsh tones, gestures, and rough treatment. Look mean, and shove the person around while you are saying, "the Bible commands us to love and respect one another. Everything should be done with kindness. Be gentle and patient with one another...." If you do it with some dramatic flair, it will get their attention and prompt some laughter.

### *Puppets*

Use puppets to portray the characters and tell the story. Ask the students to share what they learned from the skit. Another method is to have a single puppet act as the narrator and tell the story. Have a teacher help ask questions of that puppet about what happened. Make sure you also ask for input from the students.

# Praise Him, Praise Him

Volume 1

Lesson 2



## Bible References

Matthew 21:15-16

Mark 11:1-11

Hebrews 13:15

Acts 3:8-9

Luke 24:53

1 Peter 2:9

Psalms 8:2

Psalms 27:6

Psalms 96:4

Psalms 117:1

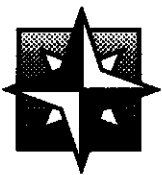


## Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:15-16

15 *"And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,*

16 *"And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"*



## Theme

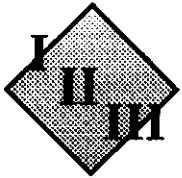
God's children need to learn to praise Him.



## Memory Verse

Psalms 96:4

*"For the LORD (is) great, and greatly to be praised:...."*



## Outline

### I. Background.

- A. Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem.
  - 1. On the day of the Passover.
  - 2. Riding on the back of a colt.
- B. The children waved palm branches and shouted to Him.
  - 1. Shouted praises.
  - 2. Said, "Hosanna to the Son of David."
    - a. Jewish tradition was to praise God, not man.
    - b. The term "Son of David" was recognized as the name of the coming Messiah.
- C. The Pharisees were upset with what was happening.

### II. Praise: God's Word Fulfilled.

- A. In Psalms 8:2 David speaks of:
  - 1. Praises offered by children.
  - 2. Praise gave him strength.
  - 3. Praise stilled the enemy.
- B. Jesus knows the Word.
  - 1. He uttered the same line.
    - a. "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings...."
    - b. He realized the Pharisees also knew the Word.

- 2. He showed fulfillment in the ending of the sentence.
  - a. David said they "ordained strength."
  - b. Jesus said they "perfected praise."
    - (1) Praise brings strength.
    - (2) Jesus is the perfection of praise.
    - (3) The children not only brought strength but they also understood the necessity of perfect praise of the Son of David, the Messiah.

### III. Praise: Received From Children.

- A. Jesus was pleased with the praises of the children.
  - 1. Took special note of their praises.
  - 2. Wants children to praise Him.
- B. Jesus desires parents to teach their children how to praise.

### IV. Praise: A Command.

- A. We are to offer a sacrifice of praise.
  - 1. "The fruit of our lips."
  - 2. "Giving thanks to His name." (Hebrews 13:15)
- B. Thank Him for what He has done for us.
  - 1. The lame man praised God when he was healed.
    - a. He went walking and leaping and praising God.
    - b. "And all the people saw him walking and praising God:" Acts 3:8-9.

2. For dying on the cross so that we can be saved.
3. Thank Him for everything.

C. God deserves our praise.

1. "...I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD." (Psalms 27:6)
2. "For the LORD {is} great, and greatly to be praised: he {is} to be feared above all gods." (Psalms 96:4)
3. "O Praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people." (Psalms 117:1)

**V. Praise: A Definition.**

A. Praise to God means to declare the works and qualities of the Lord.

1. Give Him glory.
2. Give Him honor.
3. Adore Him.
4. Give thanks to Him.

B. Praise is "bragging" about God.

**VI. Praise: An Instruction.**

A. Ways to praise the Lord. (Psalms 150)

B. Several ways to praise.

1. Uplifted hands.
2. Song.
3. Clapping of hands.
4. Thanksgiving.
5. Shouting.
6. Joy.
7. Declaring His works.

**VII. Praise: A Privilege.**

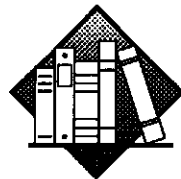
A. God wants us to praise Him.

B. God loves for His children to praise Him.



## Spiritual Truths

- Praise means to speak of God's greatness and what He has done.
- God has called us to praise Him.
- God inhabits the praises of His people.
- There is a joy which comes from praising God.
- Praise is to glorify and honor God.
- God wants His children to praise Him.



## Lesson Material

Jesus wants children to praise Him, not because He is emotionally insecure, or dependent on our acceptance, but because it is so good for us. When we praise the Lord, we are reminded of His greatness and are drawn to Him. Our faith is increased whenever we focus on the positive aspects of God's love and power. People who fail to praise God become negative and are easily attracted to the world. The more we focus on God, the

more emboldened we become and are able to inspire and encourage others.

Part of praise is a simple expression of our thanks for what Jesus has done for us. This lesson needs to teach the joy of praise in a straightforward manner.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was met by many people, including children, who were praising and worshipping Him. Remember that praise is boasting about God, and worship is ministering to God in the spirit.

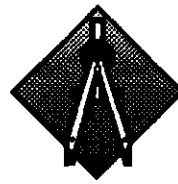
The Pharisees were upset by this display of emotion and wanted to stop it. They pointed out that "the children are crying in the temple." They wanted Jesus to quiet them. Jesus loved to hear the praises of the children and referred the Pharisees to the Word by quoting Psalms 8:2. This verse relates to the praises of the children, which gave strength to David as he entered Jerusalem. The Pharisees did not like the reply of Jesus, but they understood it.

When teaching the children about praise, the students need to know it is important. Praise is mentioned in the Bible more than 300 times. God says that praise brings strength. We praise God whenever we speak of the works and wonders He has done, either in history, or in our own lives. We praise God when we speak of His character and abilities, because everything about God is good. We show praise to God when we walk in faith instead of fear. Of course, we can certainly praise God in song, or in our testimony.

The largest book in the Bible is the song book, called Psalms. Here, we are told to praise God with musical instruments, with a new song, with clapping (applause),

shouting, rejoicing, singing, and even with dancing before the Lord with joy.

Be certain to involve the students by asking them what they think praise is and how to praise God. Use their answers to help teach the true meaning. As a type of homework assignment, you may ask several of the students (or all of them) to come prepared next week to tell the ways they praised God during the past week.



## Methods

### *Group Participation*

Go around the room and ask each student to name a different "way" to praise God. Then, have each student tell of something great God did for a biblical character.

Again, go through the group and have each student name something God has done for them. Encourage them to boast about God. Then, sing an upbeat, scriptural song which exalts God. Lead the group in clapping and singing spontaneous praise to the Lord. Rejoice before the Lord as a group and urge students to make praising God a daily habit.

Finally, lead by example in speaking positive praise to other people. Praise students who demonstrate good character, or who participate well in the class. Focus attention on positive character, and not on physical appearance. Have each student tell about some of the characteristics of one of their parents, or grandparents which they admire and respect.

# Lunch Is Served

Volume 1

Lesson 3



## Bible References

John 6:1-18

Luke 9:11-17

Matthew 14:15-21

Mark 6:34-44

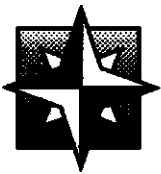
Galatians 5:13

10 "And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 "And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 "Therefore they gathered (them) together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten."



## Theme

Jesus is able to provide all that we need when we give to Him what we have.



## Memory Verse

Galatians 5:13

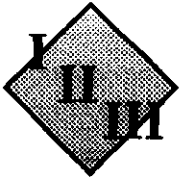
"...but by love serve one another."



## Scripture Reading

John 6:9-13

9 "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"



## Outline

### I. Location.

- A. Jesus was in an area by the sea of Galilee.
- B. On a mountainside near the city of Tiberias.

### II. Situation.

- A. Over 5,000 people.
  - 1. 5,000 men.
  - 2. Plus women and children.
- B. They followed Jesus.
  - 1. To hear His words.
  - 2. To witness His miracles.
  - 3. To receive a miracle themselves.
- C. It was past the time to eat.

### III. Information.

- A. Too many to feed.
- B. Not enough money to buy food.
- C. No "earthly" answer.

### IV. Solution.

- A. Learn to trust Jesus.
  - 1. He had performed many miracles.
  - 2. He tested their faith.

### B. God uses people.

- 1. Young lad had some food.
  - a. Five barley loaves.
    - (1) An inexpensive, ordinary bread.
    - (2) The people were ordinary people.
  - b. Two fish.
    - (1) Bits of fish.
    - (2) Pre-cooked.

### V. Organization.

- A. The boy was willing to give to Jesus what he had.
- B. Jesus told everyone to sit down.
  - 1. They would not be seated for a snack.
  - 2. Seated for a meal.
  - 3. Told to sit on the grass on the mountainside.
- C. Jesus fed the people.
  - 1. Blessed the food -- just as we should bless our food.
  - 2. Broke the loaves and fish and gave them to the disciples to distribute.
    - a. Food from the hand of God.
    - b. Used others to do His work.
    - c. Told disciples to give the food to those who were seated.
    - d. Everyone who was seated ate until they were filled.
  - 3. When we are humbled before God, then we can be used by the Master to meet the needs of others.



## D. Left-over fragments collected.

1. Twelve baskets were filled with the left-over fragments.
2. More food than when they started.
3. This proved that the full stomachs were not illusions.

**VI. Conclusion.**

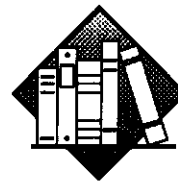
- A. Jesus wants you to be willing to give.
- B. Jesus is our source of supply.
- C. Jesus wants us to have faith in Him.
- D. Jesus loves us.

- God's supply is abundant.
- Jesus served the same food to everyone there, regardless of their station in life.
- The miracle was an outward expression of who Jesus is.
- God is concerned about both our physical needs and spiritual needs.
- If we seek spiritual fulfillment in life before the natural, God can take care of it all. However, those who seek after only physical things will eventually lose out in the natural as well as in the spiritual.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus never sends people away hungry when they look to Him as their source.
- So that we may grow stronger in Him, Jesus will put us in a position which will cause us to question our faith.
- Jesus teaches us to look beyond our circumstances for a supernatural answer.
- Jesus gave thanks for the food given to Him, just as we need to give thanks to Him for the food we receive.
- God can take the ordinary and make it adequate to meet the need.
- Jesus began the distribution of the food. It is from His hand that all provision comes.



## Lesson Material

If we follow the outline and spiritual truths sections, we can see the time and events prior to this miracle are significant. Jesus had been followed by many people: the poor and the rich; the curious and the skeptics; the healthy and the sick; and by his disciples to the Sea of Galilee near the city of Tiberias. As the time passed, the people and the disciples became hungry, yet no provision had been made for feeding the thousands who had gathered.

The disciples came to Jesus and expressed concern. They had determined that, even if they spent all of their money, they would not have enough food to feed everyone who had come. They were also concerned that, if their money was spent, they would have nothing left to live on. Jesus knew their faith was weak and said, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Jesus was testing them. He did

not want to spend the money to buy bread, but wanted to test the faith of the disciples. He wanted to see how they would try to find an answer. Would they answer by an act of the flesh, or would they stretch their faith to believe that Jesus was able to solve all of their problems?

A small lad came forward with five barley loaves and two fish. The bread made of barley was a common man's bread. Most of the people in the area were accustomed to whole wheat bread. The fish were not whole fish but morsels of a type of pre-cooked or prepared fish. There was no place among the multitude to build fires to cook the fish. The meal was probably a sack lunch that had been prepared for the boy by his mother. (Note: an application can be made here to show the expression of faith of the mother in sending her young son off with a lunch so that he could hear the words of Jesus.) The boy was willing to give to Jesus all he had to help feed the others, even though there was barely enough food in his sack for himself.

The first lesson here is that Jesus takes what we have and makes it enough. God does not need powerful or brilliant people to do His work. All He needs is a willing vessel who will obey. Jesus used one small boy's offering to meet the needs of a great crowd of people. He never did need a rich man's money. God has the grace and the power to do the task that is beyond our natural ability anyway. As many people in the Bible learned, God has all the answers, and an infinite supply.

A second significant lesson came from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said,

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)*

He was speaking to a great crowd of people who had left their daily pursuits and occupations to seek out His wisdom and power. They had even neglected such an important matter as lunch. They seemed to be putting spiritual pursuits first. When people put spiritual things first, Jesus assures them that the natural things will be taken care of. But those whose lives focus only on the temporal and physical things, those who neglect spiritual pursuits, such as worship, church, and prayer, will lose out ultimately in every way. Not only will they be spiritually bankrupt for eternity, but sooner or later they will also lose all of the pleasures and possessions they had set their hearts on in this life. When we die, only what we had given to God in life will determine what we will have eternally.

Jesus gave thanks for the food, as we should always do, and distributed it to His disciples. The disciples distributed the food to the people. All provision comes first from the hands of the Lord. God can then use others to help bring the food to the people (just as God uses pastors to take spiritual food given to them by the Lord and distribute it to the people of their congregation). As the food was distributed, it did not run out, but as it was passed from person to person, it multiplied. The people ate until they were full, showing God's abundant supply. This also reflects the dynamics of love. The more people give it away and spread it around, the more they have.

When the people were finished, they gathered up the remainder, twelve baskets full of food. The surplus was collected so the faith of the disciples would be strengthened, and to show that Jesus does not want us to waste His provision. It was also proof that the people had received real food, and did not just receive the

illusion that they were full. The prodigal son "feigned" to fill his belly with the corn husks. He pretended to be full. But Jesus provided real food from a small source.

Make sure the students see that God is their source. If they are obedient, like the young lad in the story, God will bring blessing from obedience. We all need to be willing to be used by God, even when we are young and do not think we have anything we can give to God that He can use.



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## Methods

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There are several ways to teach the lesson. You may choose to select one of the

suggested methods below or combine two or more of them. Remember, spend only the allotted time on the lesson.

### *Puppets*

Use puppets to re-enact the story. Use children in the class to help the puppets reenact the events that took place. Have the puppet characters ask questions about the miracle and what it meant.

### *Drama skit*

Invite a group from outside your class to present the story in costume. Use some of the same ideas as in the illustration above and involve the students as people in the story. Have the Bible characters leave and then ask questions of the students about what they saw and what Jesus was teaching.

# Take This Cup

Volume 1

Lesson 4



## Bible References

Matthew 26:26-29

2 Peter 1:4

1 Corinthians 11:1

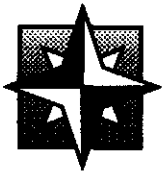
1 Corinthians 11:23-34

26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed (it), and brake (it), and gave (it) to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave (it) to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

29 "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."



## Theme

The meaning of communion.



## Memory Verse

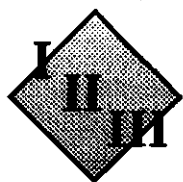
1 Corinthians 11:1

"Be ye followers of me..."



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:26-29



## Outline

### I. The Meeting.

#### A. Location.

1. In Jerusalem.
2. In an upstairs room that Jesus used to have a meeting with His disciples.
3. This room is referred to as "the upper room."

#### B. Time.

1. During the Passover.
  - a. The Jewish feast that was centered around the sin offering.
  - b. The priest was to offer the blood of a spotless lamb for the sins of the people of God.
  - c. Jesus was about to fulfill this principle, and become the perfect sin offering for the sins of the whole world, once and for all.
2. The end of Jesus' ministry on this earth.
  - a. Jesus had been in public ministry for three and one-half years.
  - b. He had been training His disciples to carry on His work on earth.

#### C. The individuals present.

1. Jesus.
2. The apostles (the twelve principle disciples, or followers of the Lord).
3. Possibly a few servants of the homeowner who had loaned the room to Jesus.

### II. The Message.

#### A. Jesus knew what was going to happen.

1. The Holy Spirit had told Jesus that He would be crucified the next day.
2. Acceptance.
  - a. Jesus accepted His task.
  - b. He was preparing the others for what would happen.

#### B. Preparing for His death.

1. "I am going to give my life as a ransom for the sins of the world."
2. "One of you will betray me to my enemies, the Jewish leaders."
3. "I want you to have a covenant relationship with me forever."

### III. The Meal.

#### A. The bread was passed by Jesus.

1. He blessed the bread and broke it.
2. He said, "This is My body."
  - a. Jesus knew His body would soon be broken.
  - b. The broken bread was a reminder of His body that would be broken for them.
3. The bread was the traditional symbol of covenant relationship.
4. A covenant means, "I give myself to you without reservation."
5. Jesus was making a covenant with the church by laying down His life for her.
6. We enter into that covenant with Him when we are born again through repentance and faith.

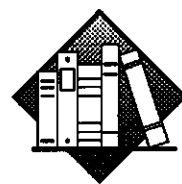
B. The cup was passed by Jesus.

1. He blessed it and passed it.
2. He said, "This is My blood which is shed for the remission of your sins."
  - a. Jesus was about to give His life for them.
  - b. He knew that His blood would be the final sacrifice that would cover their sins.
3. The cup of wine they shared was a reminder of His perfect, sinless blood.
4. That blood is the key to eternal life.

#### IV. The Marriage.

- A. Jesus told them this would be their last meal together.
- B. Their next meal would be in heaven.
  1. Jesus offers the hope of eternity to us.
  2. We will all sit down at the wedding feast as the bride of Christ.

- The bread of communion represents the broken body of Christ.
- The communion supper is a time of remembrance, and a time of self-examination.
- There is healing and strength in the communion of the Lord's table.
- When we are born again, we enter into a covenant with God through the blood of Christ.



## Lesson Material

Communion is hard to understand fully. Many parents will not allow their children to partake of communion until they have demonstrated faith in God for salvation. They fear destruction to their bodies, as the scripture tells us. The command to break bread together as a church body is given only to born-again believers, to commemorate their spirit union with God in a covenant bond.

Consider children's thinking when the pastor says, "This is My blood, drink of it." Do they think we are actually drinking blood, or that we are eating the body of Christ? We must teach that Christ used those words as a symbol of what was to come. He also asked that we partake of the communion as a remembrance. Sadly, some religious groups are taught that they are really drinking blood and eating flesh when they take the cup and the bread of the Lord's table.

There are many ways we remember things. We might tie a string around our



## Spiritual Truths

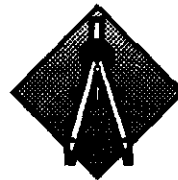
- Jesus gave His life as the sin offering for the human race.
- The wine of communion represents His perfect blood.
- Jesus was tortured and beaten by the Romans as part of His shameful death.
- The awful suffering of Christ for our sins shows us how serious sin really is.

finger to remind us to do something. The string around the finger is not the important thing. It represents what we are supposed to do later.

God gave us communion much like a string around our finger. Christ wants us to remember Him and all of His ordinances. He has given us communion to come together and have a special time to remember the body and blood that He shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We are also told in scripture to examine our spiritual lives and our relationships in the church. Communion is a time to restore relationships, to forgive, and to make things right with one another. We are told that we are "one bread," and that the Lord's table is a time to renew covenant relationships with one another. As a church, we are part of the same family of God and should be committed to one another. We should always seek the benefit and blessing of our brothers and sisters in the Lord and try to build up one another. People who are full of sin tend to tear down their peers and leaders, because of the selfish attitude of the heart. But Christians are known by their love for one another. When we genuinely love God, we will love His kids, and will tend to be edifiers.

Often Christ will use the powerful impact of communion to heal. It is not the bread or the wine which does the healing. It is Christ. When we have communion, we are sitting down at the table with Him much like the apostles did that night in Jerusalem. Power is always present when we sit at the table with Jesus. If we partake of His body and His blood with a right heart, He has promised to honor our commitment to Him. Before we take communion, we are to be certain our

hearts are right with God. The Word says if we have a problem with someone, we should first go to that person and resolve the problem. Then we may take communion. It would be like sitting down at the table with Jesus and thinking about how mad we were at someone in the room. Jesus can read our hearts and our thoughts. He would know we are not thinking about Him and His gift to us. Make certain the students know this is important, and they need to take it very seriously. If they are allowed to take communion, they should always pray first for Jesus to give a right heart to them. The students should be certain they are not angry with someone, and be prepared for God to do a work in their lives.



## Methods

### *Illustrated Lecture*

Use props (bread and cup) to explain what communion is and what took place the night of the Last Supper. Go over the reasons why communion is important, and why each person should be careful in taking it. It is not recommended that actual communion be served to this age group.

### *Skit*

Have the students participate in a re-enactment of the Last Supper. Have someone portraying Jesus serve communion, passing the bread and the cup around. Explain to the children that we serve communion today as an ordinance of the Church and as a remembrance of Jesus.

# True Friends

Volume 1

Lesson 5



## Bible References

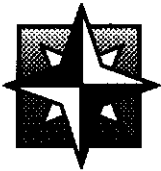
Mark 2:1-12  
Matthew 9:1-8  
Luke 5:17-26

19 "And when they could not find by what (way) they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with (his) couch into the midst before Jesus.

20 "And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee....

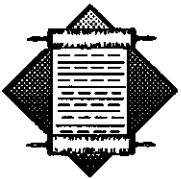
23 "Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24 "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house."



## Theme

The best thing we can do for hurting people is to bring them to Jesus.



## Scripture Reading

Luke 5:18-20, 23, 24

18 "And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought (means) to bring him in, and to lay (him) before him.



## Memory Verse

Proverbs 17:17

"A friend loveth at all times...."



## V. Favor: Jesus Heals.

### A. Jesus heals physical diseases.

1. Jesus said, "which is easier?"
  - a. "To forgive sins?"
  - b. Or, to say, "rise up and walk?"
2. Jesus proved His power to forgive sins by saying:
  - a. "Arise, take up thy bed."
  - b. "Go into your house."

### B. Jesus is the only way to receive spiritual healing (salvation from sin).

### C. The man left glorifying God.

1. Praise is a normal response to healing.
2. Praise is also the best response to salvation.

### D. The people were filled with wonder and glorified God.

- Some evidences of sin in the heart are selfishness and disobedience.
- Some evidences of the Holy Spirit in the heart are love and obedience.
- Jesus loves us so much that He hates sin.
- Jesus can forgive us of our sins, and He can free us from the dominion of sin.
- Jesus is our healer.
- It is more important to become spiritually whole through faith in Jesus, than it is to become physically whole.
- Many "signs and wonders" are for the benefit of people who see and hear about them, not just for the one who is healed.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus cares about us.
- Friends can help bring us to Christ.
- If we want to be a true friend, then we need to take our friends to Jesus.
- We usually face obstacles in bringing people to Jesus, such as their own fears or doubts.
- Sin is a fatal disease in our spirit, because "...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

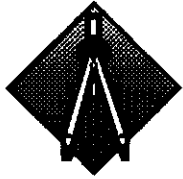


## Lesson Material

This lesson is to point out that we need to be friends to those who need Jesus, and that forgiveness is more important than healing. Use this principle to teach your students to reach out to their friends and bring them to Jesus.

There were multitudes of people who were following Jesus. They wanted to hear Him, speak to Him, touch Him, and many wanted to be healed by Him. Today, many churches fret and complain that so few people want to come to their meetings. But, when we really gather in faith to worship and seek God, Jesus is there with us. The more we pray and seek God in honest fervor, the more of His presence we will

by the power of God. A true friend will bring others to Jesus, because they know that He is the only way to eternal life, and there is nothing in all of life as important as eternity.



## Methods

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### *Participation/Illustration Method.*

Bring a small doll house which can have the roof removed. Let the students look at the house when they arrive in class. Use dolls or animal figures to illustrate the people in the story. Lower the

man to Jesus and have him dancing when he leaves. Allow a student to help with your presentation.

### *Spiritual Application*

Emphasize the analogy that compares physical disease with the effects of sin. When the body is damaged, it cannot function as intended. Remind the class that we were also created with a spirit, which will exist forever. Sin is like a disease, like palsy or leprosy, which makes us unable to love people or serve God as we were created to do. We need to be born again, and made spiritually whole. We cannot be made righteous (right with God) by doing good works, or by keeping the law. We can only become righteous by repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus. He can save us from the disease of sin.

feel, and the more His power and grace will be manifest in the meeting. Churches which have a strong presence of Jesus will tend to draw more people than half-hearted ones.

One day while teaching, a group of men brought a friend who was lame with a palsy. His nervous system did not function properly. He could not control his muscles normally, and could not function in society. Palsy was the result of inflammation or injury to the brain or spinal cord. It involved some level of paralysis. The body could not respond to the brain well. Sin is like a disease. When sin rules our heart, we cannot hear or respond properly to God, and cannot function the way we were created. We were designed to worship God and to love one another. Sin causes us to respond only to the temporal stimuli in life and to become rebellious (spiritually crippled). When the Holy Spirit convicts our hearts of sin, we should humbly confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness. When we repent and believe His promise of salvation, He forgives us. He is able to make us spiritually whole, so we do not have to be ruled by selfish desires any longer. We become free to walk right and to love and worship God.

When people are overcome by spiritual disease (sin), they need to go to Jesus. He is the only One who can make them spiritually whole. The fact that He could, and did, heal physical diseases helped people to see that He could also forgive sins and make them spiritually well. The friends of the sick man knew that, if they could get him to Jesus, he would be healed. They were good friends. When they arrived, they found the building full of people. There was no way to get in through the crowd. But, these men did not give up. They carried him to the roof,

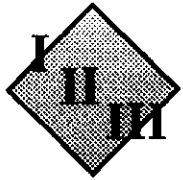
removed some tiles, and lowered him to Jesus.

Jesus' first statement was that He saw the faith of the friends. Faith is more than believing with your mind. It is a focus on God's eternal purposes, and action on that emphasis. Faith is convinced that God is worthy of trust and looks to Him in time of need. Because of the faith and faithfulness of these men, Jesus turned to their crippled friend and offered him forgiveness of his sins.

The Pharisees were upset because "only God" could forgive sins, and they realized that Jesus was claiming to be God the Son. Instead of looking to see if He really was all He claimed to be, they sought only to oppose and discredit Him. These Jewish religious leaders were caught up with the law that God had given to Moses, but they had missed the point. They thought that the law was made to show them that they could be good enough for heaven. Actually, the law shows us that we are not good enough, because we have all sinned. We all need a Savior. When the Pharisees started arguing, Jesus replied, "Which is easier? to forgive sin, or to heal?" Then He proved that He had the power to do both by healing the man.

The man who was healed, and the entire crowd, were amazed and glorified God. But the Pharisees still doubted. This shows that they were not really honest with themselves. They were not seeking God. They were trying to justify their religious views and to make themselves look good.

Some people think that a true friend will "accept" what you do without any question. But we are all born with the disease called sin. If we do not come to Jesus for salvation, we will be eternally lost. We need to be forgiven and changed



## Outline

### I. Followers.

- A. Jesus was teaching in a house.
1. Many people gathered there.
  2. It is easy to draw people to a church when Jesus is there.
  3. People need Jesus.
  4. Jesus not only has the right teaching, but He also has the power to give eternal life.
- B. The Pharisees had come to hear what Jesus was saying.
1. Pharisees: a zealous group of Jews who focused on the law.
  2. They tended to be self-righteous and harsh.
  3. They thought they could gain eternal life by keeping the Old Covenant Law.
  4. Most of them rejected Jesus.

### II. Friends: Faithfulness of Friends.

- A. Four men came with a friend.
1. He was sick.
    - a. Lame.
    - b. Had a palsy.
      - (1) Palsy is a disease of the nervous system.
      - (2) It causes a person to tremble.
  2. He was bedfast, unable to walk.
  3. He wanted Jesus to heal him.

B. He knew Jesus could heal him if they could take him to Jesus.

C. There was no room to get inside.

1. The building was full.
2. They improvised.
  - a. They took off part of the roof.
  - b. They lowered him into the room.

### III. Faith: Jesus Recognized the Friends.

- A. He saw their faith.
- B. He honored their request.

### IV. Forgiveness: Jesus Forgave the Man's Sin.

- A. Healing is not as important as forgiveness.
1. Physical healing prolongs life.
  2. Forgiveness of sins is the key to eternal life.
- B. The Pharisees were angered.
- C. Jesus knew the hearts of the Pharisees and what it would take to convince them.
1. Many of the Pharisees were religious leaders.
  2. They questioned the authority of Jesus.
  3. They accused Him of blasphemy, of falsely claiming to be God.
  4. They did not recognize that He was God the Son.

# The Only Way

Volume 1

Lesson 6



## Bible References

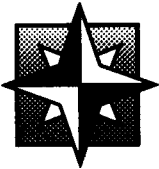
John 14:6  
Romans 10:9-13  
Acts 4:10-12



## Memory Verse

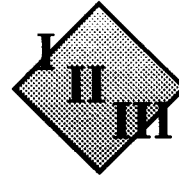
John 14:6

*"....no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*



## Theme

Jesus is our only way to get to heaven.

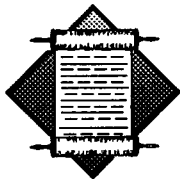


## Outline

### I. A Place: What Is Heaven?

A. Heaven is a place where God lives.

1. Not a physical place on earth.
2. A giant city with 12 foundations (levels) somewhere in the universe.
3. God is everywhere; but, His presence is especially strong in Heaven, the home He has prepared for those who love Him.



## Scripture Reading

John 14:6

*6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

B. Heaven is a place where Christians go when they die.

1. Death means separation of the spirit from the body.
2. The body returns to the earth, but the soul and spirit of the righteous go to heaven.
3. The souls of the ungodly go to a place of torment in the earth called hell.

C. Heaven is a place of beauty.

1. Streets of gold.
2. No pain or sorrow.
3. Jesus is worshipped and exalted constantly.

## II. A Plan: How Can I Go To Heaven?

A. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

B. Jesus said that, if we believe in Him, we will join Him in heaven.

1. We must believe with our heart, not just with our mind.
2. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin (rebellion and disobedience), we should repent (turn from sin) and receive His forgiveness in faith.
3. We can only go to heaven if we are born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:3)

## III. A Preparation: Jesus Prepares Our Place.

A. Jesus said He would go to prepare a place. (John 14:2-3)

B. Many mansions. (John 14:2)

1. "Mansion" actually means "dwelling place."
2. We do not know what heaven will look like; but, if we are born-again children of God, there is a place there for us.

## IV. A Plea: Will You Plan Now to Go To Heaven?

A. You cannot buy your way into heaven.

1. Not by good works.
2. Not by sacrifice or penitence.
3. Not by being religious and going to church.

B. By grace we are saved. Salvation is a gift.

1. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross.
2. We must trust in what Jesus did to get us into heaven, not in our own goodness.
3. To repent, you must stop doing wrong things.
  - a. Instead of living for ourselves, we live for Jesus.
  - b. God becomes the center of our lives.
4. To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you must put your faith and trust in Him and the work He completed on the cross to make you a candidate for heaven.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus wants us to be with Him in heaven.
- Heaven is a wonderful place.
- Jesus made it simple for us to go to heaven with Him.
- Jesus died for us so we could be saved.
- All we have to do to be saved is to believe in Jesus with all of our heart.



## Lesson Material

The lesson on heaven is really an abstract one, and it may be difficult for students to understand. But, the Bible gives us glimpses into the eternal home of Christians, especially in the book of the Revelation. Jesus told the story of a rich man who went to hell (Luke 16), but He never actually told a similar story about someone going to heaven. In fact, under the Old Covenant, those who trusted and served God went to a place called "paradise," which was a place for departed spirits in the earth. After Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from sin, He took the people who were in paradise to heaven. Now, when a believer dies, his spirit goes to heaven. His body is still in the ground, but it will be resurrected later.

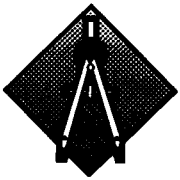
It is important to make young people aware of heaven, hell, and eternity. The world today tends to cause us to focus on temporal values. We can get caught up with possessions and pleasures and miss the most important aspect of life, which is "where will I spend eternity?" As we live with the awareness of eternity, we will be more inclined to seek those things that will not pass away. If we think of life only in terms of the temporal and secular, we will be much more attracted to sin.

Heaven is an actual place. We do not know much about it; but, we do know that it is perfect and wonderful. There is no sin in heaven. Jesus is worshipped and adored continually. There is no sickness, pain, or death in heaven. The Apostle John saw heaven as a massive city, which had no need of sunlight, because Jesus is the light of that city. Heaven is so wonderful, and hell is so horrible, that the thought of either eternal alternative will motivate us to turn away from sin and toward God.

The next issue to be dealt with is how to get to heaven. The students must learn that salvation is a gift that must be received by faith. They cannot buy it for any amount of money. They cannot earn it by being good or doing good things. The price for salvation was paid by Jesus on the cross. Only by faith in Christ and repentance from sin are we able to gain entrance to heaven. Faith in Christ is more than just acceptance. It involves a response of the spirit, which puts complete confidence in Christ and responds to Him as Lord and master of our hearts. Faith says, "God, I trust you with my life, and I give myself to you, because Jesus gave His life for me."

The best way to lead anyone to Christ is to talk personally and individually. Many students will be inclined to raise their hands to accept Christ just because others

are. Talk to small groups at a time about the need to give their hearts and lives to the Lord. Some will be ready to make a lifetime commitment. Others have not yet reached the level of maturity where they can make such a decision. Do not push, and do not worry if you are not sure about their level of commitment. You present the simple Gospel and let God do the rest. You may be planting seeds that others will harvest.



## Methods

This lesson is best taught with a combination of methods and techniques to insure that the students are presented the Gospel in a way they can understand.

### *Illustration*

Distribute play money to the students as they come in, giving a different amount to each one. (You may want to have them play a game when they arrive in class to earn the play money.) After you teach the students about how great heaven is, ask them if they want to buy a ticket to heaven. Ask how much they are willing to pay. Have the students offering the highest amount come forward to buy their tickets. Tell the students that one piece of the paper money has the word, "JESUS," on it.

The student who has that piece of the money has a ticket to heaven, because that student has Jesus. Be sure the students understand that only by having Jesus in their hearts will they go to heaven.

### *Object Lesson*

On small cards, or pieces of paper, write some things that are part of life, and present them to the group to decide if this item will be in heaven or hell. Have two containers, one marked "heaven," and one marked "hell." Mix up the cards, and as each one is identified by its destination, place it in the appropriate container.

Some possible items are

**Heaven:** Joy, beauty, light, life, gold, pleasure, wisdom, fun activities, worship, Jesus, born-again believers, obedience, praise, fulfillment, angels.

**Hell:** Pain, sorrow, immoral people, Satan, demons, murderers, darkness, smoke, wailing and gnashing of teeth, torment, loneliness, fear, rebellion.

### *Skit*

Have several students put on a skit depicting the salvation experience. Tell a story of conversion with several characters. Have one character receive Jesus and others who think they can earn their way to heaven by doing good deeds. Have the skit end with a genuine conversion to Christ.



# The Baby in the Basket

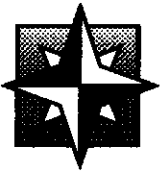
Volume 1

Lesson 7



## Bible Reference

Exodus 2:1-10



## Theme

The story of the birth of Moses.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:1-10

1 "And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took {to wife} a daughter of Levi.

2 "And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he {was a} goodly {child}, she hid him three months.

3 "And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch,

and put the child therein; and she laid {it} in the flags by the river's brink.

4 "And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

5 "And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash {herself} at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

6 "And when she had opened {it}, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This {is one} of the Hebrews' children.

7 "Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

8 "And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

9 "And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give {thee} thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

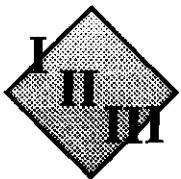
10 "And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."



## Memory Verse

Psalms 121:7

*"The LORD shall preserve thee...."*



## Outline

### I. Moses and His Background.

#### A. God's promise to Abraham.

1. God promised that Abraham would be the father of many nations.
2. Abraham was the father of Ishmael, who is the ancestor of many Arab nations today.
3. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, became the father of the nation of Israel.
  - a. Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" by the angel of the Lord when they wrestled together.
  - b. Jacob, or Israel, had 12 sons.
    - (1) Descendants of each of these 12 sons were known as "tribes."
    - (2) His son, Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
    - (3) The descendants of Joseph's sons were known as the "half-tribes" of Manasseh and Ephraim.
    - (4) There was no "tribe" of Joseph.

c. Israel's (or Jacob's) children were also known as "Hebrews." After the nation was divided, they were called "Jews."

d. After the nation divided, the primary tribe was the tribe of Judah.

B. Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt, but he eventually saved his father, his brothers, and their families from starvation.

1. The children of Israel settled in Egypt as honored guests.
2. There, after about 400 years, they multiplied into a large nation.
3. Their numbers were becoming a threat to the Egyptians.

C. The new Pharaoh was concerned that the Hebrews would become too powerful, and overthrow him.

1. The Pharaoh was the ruler of the Egyptian empire.
2. The Pharaoh ordered the Hebrews to work as slaves.
3. The Pharaoh made their lives very difficult.

D. The Hebrew population continued to grow.

1. Pharaoh wanted to stop the growth.
2. He ordered all baby boys to be killed.

### II. Moses in the Basket.

#### A. Moses' mother was a Hebrew.

1. Her name was Jochebed.
2. She was married to Amram, who was a descendant of Levi.

B. When Moses was born, his mother:

1. Saw that he was beautiful.
2. Hid him for three months.

C. Jochebed knew she could not keep her baby.

1. She would be caught eventually.
2. Both she and the baby would be killed.

D. Jochebed's plan to save her baby.

1. Made a boat (ark) out of bulrushes (a bulrush is a kind of plant).
2. She sealed the boat so it would not sink.
  - a. With pitch (tar).
  - b. With slime: an adhesive, like glue.
3. Jochebed put the boat in the river.
  - a. Placed the boat where it would be found.
  - b. Had her daughter, Miriam, watch from nearby what was happening.

### III. Moses and His Baby-sitter.

A. Pharaoh's daughter found the boat.

1. She knew the baby was a Hebrew child.
2. She had compassion on baby Moses.

B. Miriam, Jochebed's daughter, was watching.

1. She asked Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted a Hebrew nurse to help take care of the boy.
2. Jochebed was called. Not aware of the mother/son relationship, Pharaoh's daughter hired Jochebed to nurse the baby.

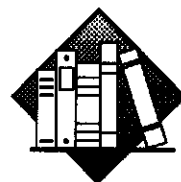
C. When Moses was older, Jochebed took him to the Pharaoh's house.

1. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses, which means "one who is drawn out of the water."
2. Became a grandson to the Pharaoh.



## Spiritual Truths

- God has a plan for our lives.
- Parents naturally desire to protect their children.
- When sin rules hearts, people will even seek to kill babies for their own convenience.
- God honors the love of a mother.
- God wants brothers and sisters to watch over one another.
- God can deliver us even though we may suffer because of the wickedness of others.
- God wants mothers to instill godly values in the hearts of their very young children.



## Lesson Material

This story illustrates God's divine plan for our lives. God protected Moses during his childhood and as a young man because

He planned to use Moses to free his people, the Hebrews, and bring the message of the Lord to them. It is important to see that God had a plan for a nation, and that He raised up one man to be His special instrument to set His people free from the bondage of Egypt. In this way, Moses symbolizes Christ, because Jesus sets us free from our sins.

Emphasis needs to be placed on the battle of good versus evil that was taking place. The Egyptians had long since forgotten the blessings of Joseph and were now seeking to cause harm and even death to Joseph's descendants. People often forget the good things that we do, but God never forgets.

Pharaoh, the sovereign ruler of the mighty Egyptian empire, had gone so far as to order the death of all the newborn baby boys of the Hebrew families. This is the evidence of his selfish, wicked heart. When people forget God, their values reflect a temporal focus. They are selfish. Some become so self-centered that they will seek the death of innocent people if they think it will benefit them. Pharaoh saw the Israelites as a threat to his position of power, so he ordered the deaths of all the baby boys. Israel became strong by having many children, and Satan hates children.

God was mightier than Pharaoh. He looked on the heart of Jochebed and saw her love for her son. God had a plan to rescue the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, and He was raising up a man to be His leader. After the people had forgotten about the God that their father, Abraham, had loved and served so faithfully, they became slaves to the political system that ruled the world. When we turn from God, we become slaves to sin and are not free to worship God or to live

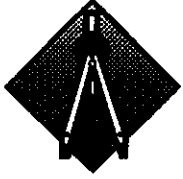
good, productive lives. Sin always brings bondage, and this story illustrates that. But repentance and faith lead to freedom. When the people repented as a nation, and turned to God in humble prayer, God raised up a leader to bring them to freedom. It would take eighty years to prepare the leader, but God's timing was just right.

Jochebed made a boat for her son and placed it in the waters near the place where Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe. The basket was easily seen, and Pharaoh's daughter had it brought to her. She knew that the child was a Hebrew baby, but she had compassion on him. Miriam, Jochebed's daughter, had been watching from nearby. She went to Pharaoh's daughter and offered to find a Hebrew woman to care for the baby. Pharaoh's daughter accepted the offer. Miriam brought Jochebed to her. Not aware of the mother/son relationship, Pharaoh's daughter hired Jochebed to nurse the baby. Jochebed's faithfulness and love for her son were rewarded when she was hired to nurse her infant son.

After some time had passed and the baby had grown, Jochebed took Moses to Pharaoh's house. She knew God had a plan for Moses and that she had to obey God. Her son's life had been spared for a purpose, and she was not going to stand in God's way. It must have been difficult for Jochebed to give her son to another woman. However, she knew God was going to use his life to help her people.

Moses was called to take the Hebrew people (God's people) out of bondage and affliction. God saved Moses as a child so the task could be accomplished. Jesus was called by His Father to bring salvation to the people. God saved Jesus, as a baby, from the hand of Herod who, just like the Pharaoh in Moses' day, ordered all the

baby boys killed. Jesus was saved to lead God's people out of the captivity of sin and to the promised land of heaven.



## Methods

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### *Illustration*

Have a wicker basket which looks similar to the one Jochebed might have used, and demonstrate what happened. Have the students get involved in moving the basket to the bulrushes and saving the baby. Pass the baby and the basket around to the students. You may want to use cat-

tails or iris as the "flags" mentioned in the scripture.

### *Comparison*

Point out the similarities between the story of baby Moses, and the story of baby Jesus. In both cases, a jealous monarch ordered the death of all baby boys, but they were protected by God's wisdom. Both became shepherds, and both were to save people out of bondage and death. The story of Moses is part of God's great illustration of the plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, and Moses was a prophetic picture of Christ.

### *Puppets*

Puppets can be used to tell the story and to involve the students in telling about another baby who was saved (Jesus).

# In the Midst of Trouble

Volume 1

Lesson 8



## Bible References

Exodus 2:11-15

Psalms 44:21

Proverbs 3:35

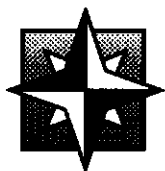
Hebrews 11:24-26

12 *"And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that (there was) no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.*

13 *"And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?"*

14 *"And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.*

15 *"Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well."*



## Theme

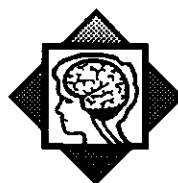
Moses makes a difficult choice.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:11-15

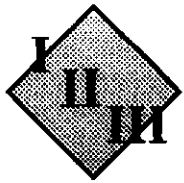
11 *"And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.*



## Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:35

*"The wise shall inherit glory...."*



## Outline

### I. Background.

- A. Moses was forty years old.
1. Forty is the biblical number of testing.
  2. He had been raised in Pharaoh's household, as the probable heir to the throne of the Egyptian Empire.
  3. At the time, Egypt was the mightiest nation on earth.
  4. Moses was highly educated by the best the world could offer.
  5. He still had the values that had been instilled in him by his mother, Jochebed, when he was a little boy.
- B. Moses began to identify with his suffering Hebrew relatives rather than with the people of the world.
1. He would have to choose between immense wealth and power and doing God's will.
  2. Few people in history had so much offered to them by the world, and seemingly so little offered by the people of God.
  3. Moses chose to suffer with God's people rather than inherit the vast wealth of his adoptive father.

### II. The Incident.

- A. Moses witnessed an Egyptian being cruel to an Israelite.
1. The Hebrew was probably the Egyptian's slave.
  2. The Hebrew was one of Moses' countrymen.
- B. Moses took action.
1. He looked to see if anyone was watching.
  2. He killed the Egyptian.
  3. He buried the Egyptian in the sand.

### III. The Secret Is Discovered.

- A. Moses saw two Hebrews fighting.
1. Two days after he killed the Egyptian.
  2. Moses was angry about the Hebrews fighting.
    - a. Was not the cruelty of the Egyptians enough?
    - b. Were not these "God's people?"
  3. Moses rebuked the Hebrew men.
- B. The Hebrew men responded.
1. "Who made you our judge?"
  2. "Are you going to kill us too?"
- C. Moses was afraid.
1. He realized someone had seen him kill the Egyptian.
  2. If these men knew what happened, then others must know, too.

#### IV. Moses Left Egypt.

A. Pharaoh found out what Moses had done.

1. He sought to find him.
2. He ordered Moses executed.

B. Moses went to Midian.

1. Other people who were descended from Abraham lived there.
2. Some of them loved God and worshipped the true God.
3. Moses felt safe there.
  - a. He was among God's people.
  - b. He was far from the eyes of Pharaoh.
4. Moses sat down by the well.

- There is always a Midian, a place of refuge, in God's loving arms.
- Often in the midst of trouble, we find our greatest blessings.
- Standing for what is right does not insure us of total acceptance by fellow believers.



## Lesson Material

After living forty years in Pharaoh's household, Moses had a position of wealth, the best education, and the privilege of power. He had all that the world says is wonderful, but God was making him aware of the injustices around him.

Moses knew of his true birth, but was forty years of age before he did something about the cruelty to his people. It was easier to live in wealth and comfort than to risk humiliation and cruelty. Moses was faced with a decision. Should he hide his faith; or, should he stand up for what is right in the face of adversity?

One day, Moses was placed in a troubling situation. He saw an Egyptian cruelly hitting a Hebrew. Some scholars believe it was a relative because of the use of the word "brethren." However, whether it was a close relative or just a fellow Hebrew is not important. Moses reacted to what he saw; and, after looking to see if anyone was watching, he killed the Egyptian.

Questions may be asked about why Moses felt the need to insure that no one saw him, and why he buried the Egyptian



## Spiritual Truths

- To Moses, the call of God was greater than the treasure the world gave him as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
- A godly mother should have a stronger influence on our values than a secular educational system.
- The devil and the world will always seek to make temporal treasures seem more attractive than the will of God.
- It is better to be a servant of God than to be the king of the whole world.
- Kings on earth rule only a short time, but God's servants will rule forever.
- We must help protect our fellow believers.



in the sand. Some suggest that Moses still desired the things of the world; and, even though he could no longer tolerate the injustice, he was not ready to give up his lifestyle. Many new believers today face that same crossroads. God sees all that we do and the intent of our hearts. He wants us to make the right choices, but still allows us to choose. When they are in conflict, we cannot serve God and man. Moses was hoping he could choose righteousness and still preserve his unrighteous lifestyle.

The second day after killing the Egyptian, Moses came upon two Hebrew men who were fighting. Moses became angry. He felt they had suffered enough from the Egyptians. Why would they harm each other? Many Christians are like this today. We harm, either physically or emotionally, the very people we need to help and love. God calls us to see all fellow Christians as family and to have the same kind of loyalty we would for natural brothers and sisters. We should seek to defend each other's reputation and be sensitive to hurts and dangers.

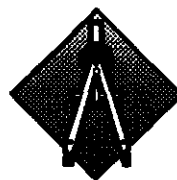
One evidence of sin is the ability to enjoy the embarrassment or hurt of a weaker person. Self-centered people like to intimidate or even harm weaker or smaller people. But real Christians never enjoy seeing others hurt or embarrassed. They seek to defend those who are smaller, and want to bless those who are less fortunate. Only a heart hardened by sin enjoys the discomfort of the little guy.

Moses tried to stop the fight by raising the question of suffering, only to receive a surprising answer. The Hebrew asked if Moses was now going to kill him, as he had the Egyptian. Moses knew that he no longer had a secret. Psalms 44:21 says that God knows the secrets of our heart. We cannot escape or hide our past.

Moses knew what would happen next. Pharaoh commanded that Moses be arrested and killed. Moses escaped to the land of Midian, which was out in the desert, far from the fertile and rich nation of Egypt. Here he knew he would find the descendants of Abraham, who worshipped and believed in the God of Abraham. Here Moses sought refuge.

God's people need to know that in the midst of trouble, God has a place of sanctuary. God's people need to be open, to reach out, and to help those in need. We need to be ready to comfort and protect others. Through our worship of God Almighty, our hearts must be prepared and open to receiving the blessings of God, just as the hearts of the people of Midian were.

Moses rested at the well. He received water to cool his body and quench his thirst. We must also seek after the well. Jesus said that He is the Living Water. When we need help -- when we need to quench our spiritual thirst -- Jesus promises to be there. God sent the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter. *"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."* (Isaiah 12:3)



## Methods

### *Flannelgraph*

Tell this simple story by using the flannel pieces. Get responses from the students about what they think happened next and what they would do if they were Moses. Use two flannel boards, if possible, so the

land of Midian is separate from Egypt. God is always separate from the world.

*Object Lesson*

The Choice.

If someone were to offer you \$100,000.00 a day for a month, or a penny which would double in value each day for a month, which would you choose? The \$100,000.00 dollars a day may seem like the better value, until you perform the actual calculations. If you received \$100,000.00 each day for 30 days, you would have \$3 million at the end of the month. However, if you received a penny on the

first day of the month, 2 pennies on the second day, 4 pennies on the third day, etc., you would have over \$10 million at the end of the month!.

Focus on the choice Moses had to make. He gave up the opportunity to be the richest, most powerful man on earth, and chose to suffer for years with his fellow Hebrews. Only when you consider eternity will the choice become obviously the best one. It is far better to give your life to God and become a servant than to take anything the world or the devil offers in this life, and lose your soul.

# It's a Dirty Job, but Someone Has to Do It

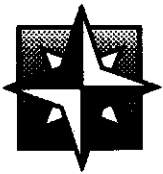
Volume 1

Lesson 9



## Bible Reference

Exodus 2:15-21



## Theme

Moses becomes a shepherd and learns that even the most unimportant job can be used of God.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:15-21

15 *"Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.*

16 *"Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew (water), and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.*

17 *"And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.*

18 *"And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How (is it that) ye are come so soon to day?*

19 *"And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew (water) enough for us, and watered the flock.*

20 *"And he said unto his daughters, And where (is) he? why (is) it (that) ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.*

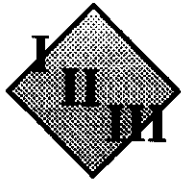
21 *"And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter."*



## Memory Verse

Exodus 2:17

*"....Moses stood up and helped them...."*



## Outline

### I. Running from Danger.

#### A. Moses fled from Egypt.

1. He had killed an Egyptian.
2. His deed had been discovered.
3. A death sentence awaited him.

#### B. Moses traveled to Midian.

1. A place of sanctuary.
2. A place with God's people.
3. A place of rest.

### II. Resting at the Well.

#### A. Seven daughters of Reuel, the priest of Midian, came to the well.

1. The girls were doing the work of servants.
  - a. Well-mannered.
  - b. Not afraid of work.
  - c. Showed honor to their father.
2. They came to draw water for their sheep.

#### B. Other shepherds came.

1. They were rough and mean.
2. They drove the girls away from the well.
3. They wanted all the water for their flocks.

### III. Reaction To Danger.

#### A. Moses was tired.

1. He had traveled a long way.
2. He had been resting by the well when all of the problems began.

#### B. Moses still hated injustice.

1. He was angry that the shepherds would chase away the priest's daughters.
2. He became involved.
  - a. He stood up.
  - b. He drove the shepherds away.
  - c. He helped the seven daughters water their flock.

### IV. Report To Father.

#### A. Their father questions:

1. How were they finished so soon?
2. What happened?

#### B. The daughters told of the Egyptian who helped.

1. Moses was still dressed in his Egyptian clothing.
2. The daughters did not know he was a Hebrew.

#### C. The priest requested Moses' presence.

1. The daughters had not brought him home.
2. The priest wanted to honor him.
  - a. Even though he was an Egyptian.
  - b. God's people need to honor and thank those who help them.

## D. The priest offers much.

1. He gave Moses the hand of his daughter, Zipporah, in marriage.
2. He gave Moses the job of watching his flock.

## V. Relationship.

## A. Moses' position in Egypt.

1. He had:
  - a. Money.
  - b. Power.
  - c. Education.
  - d. Social position.
2. He did not have to work.
3. He was knowledgeable in many areas:
  - a. Governing.
  - b. Military tactics.
  - c. Science.

## B. Moses had to learn humility.

1. Being a desert shepherd was just the opposite of his former life.
2. The role of a shepherd was not a prestigious job.

## C. God knew:

1. The experience Moses needed to be a better servant.
  - a. Moses was educated in Egypt.
  - b. Learned a tougher life as a shepherd.
2. Moses needed to be a shepherd to learn:
  - a. How to spend time with God.
  - b. How to deal with conflicts and difficulties.

c. How to guide and feed a group of people. (Isaiah 53:6)

d. How to live a common life.

(1) Developed a lifestyle previously not known to him.

(2) Gained more understanding.

(3) Became more compassionate to the plight of others.

3. Moses' preparation for a new life.

a. Moses learned there is such a thing as God's divine providence.

b. Moses was in the right place, at the right time, to meet the right people, marry the right woman, and hold the right job.



## Spiritual Truths

- To be a spiritual leader, the most important lesson is to learn to serve.
- Moses was trained to be a leader by the world, but God trained him for forty years in the desert by making him a shepherd.
- We often do not understand why things happen in our life, but God has a reason for everything.
- God must humble us before we can handle the honor that comes with leadership.
- A great test of character is the way you relate to people who are weak or helpless. True Christians will defend the weak, and build up those around them.

- Meekness is the ability to focus on the needs of others, rather than to seek personal rights.
- If God's people have a right heart, no job is too lowly for them.



## Lesson Material

Moses lived about 1500 years before Christ came to the earth. In those days, Egypt was the great world power. The most powerful man on earth was the Pharaoh of Egypt, and Moses had been groomed for the first forty years of his life to be the successor to the throne. When he defended the Hebrew slave by killing the harsh Egyptian, he made a choice that changed his life. Moses went from a position of authority and power to the role of fugitive in forty-eight hours. However, he did not complain or grumble. God used these circumstances to make Moses the man of God that He wanted him to be.

After Moses arrived in Midian, he rested by a well. The seven daughters of Jethro (also known as Reuel), the priest of Midian, came to water their sheep. Moses kept resting. When other shepherds came, they ordered the seven daughters to leave, which put them in a very difficult position. Moses was tired of injustice. He rose up against the shepherds and helped the priest's daughters. Moses wrote the book of Exodus, and he does not present himself in a flattering light. He only recorded that he helped the girls. It is probable that he used the fighting skills he developed through years of training to drive the other shepherds away. This was a more

common method of negotiations than diplomacy. Whatever the technique, Moses helped the ladies, and gained their respect as a good man. He also helped them water their flock.

The daughters went back to Jethro, their father. He wanted to know who the man was and where he was now. The daughters told Jethro that they left the man at the well, and that he was an Egyptian. At least, that is what they assumed, since he still had on his Egyptian clothing.

Moses was brought to Jethro and was offered the opportunity to marry one of his daughters. Moses took Zipporah to be his wife. Jethro invited Moses to live there and help with the sheep. Moses knew God had not brought him to Midian by accident. He humbled himself by taking the role of a shepherd.

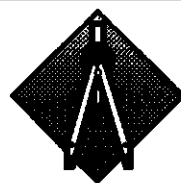
As a shepherd, Moses was able to spend time on the hillside communing with God. He also learned many lessons about sheep and human nature. God allowed Moses to spend forty years as a shepherd before He proceeded with His plan. Each of those forty years was important. Moses learned what he needed to know to lead God's people out of captivity.

This second forty years of the life of Moses was an amazing contrast to the first forty. It is one of the greatest riches to rags stories in all of history. He was born a poor Hebrew slave, and then adopted by the family of the billionaire Pharaoh as a potential heir. He was raised in wealth and trained to rule. Now he was a humble desert shepherd. After forty years of this quiet, simple life, Moses lost the pride and arrogance he had developed. At forty, he was ready to take on the Egyptian army, one at a time. At eighty, he was timid and shy. He insisted that he could no longer be

a public speaker. He was one of the meekest men on earth.

Meekness is the ability to give up rights. Meekness does not demand for self. It is not assertive. The opposite of meekness is anger, which is a selfish burst of passion, a reaction to a perceived violation of personal rights. Jesus later said that the meek, those who do not demand for themselves, will ultimately inherit the earth. When we stop demanding for ourselves, and seek to bless and serve others, we will eventually gain more out of life than those who demand for themselves.

Moses did not focus on his ambitions. He only wanted to serve God and others. After this kind of training, the old man was finally ready to be the leader of the most important nation on earth, and he led a congregation of several million on one of history's greatest adventures.



## Methods

### *Lecture*

If you use this method, keep it short and lively. Get lots of interaction, and cover the important parts of the story. God chose to give six verses to this story. We need not make it into an hour sermon, especially for beginners.

Emphasize the character quality of meekness, because this desert experience developed that strength in Moses. Meekness rhymes with weakness, but it is not. It takes strength of character to set aside personal "rights" in deference to the needs and desires of others.

Contrast meekness with anger.

Explain the wisdom of the statement of Jesus, who said, "The meek shall inherit the earth." Show why this is the opposite to the wisdom of the world.

### *Puppets*

Use the puppets to tell the story, and do some life-related segments. Use or write stories dealing with being unhappy in your circumstances. Then explain how God directs those same circumstances for blessing.

# The Talking Bush

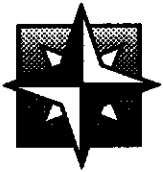
Volume 1

Lesson 10



## Bible Reference

Exodus 2:23 - 3:22



## Theme

Moses is called to save his people from slavery.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-4

1 *"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, (even) to Horeb.*

2 *"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush (was) not consumed.*

3 *"And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.*

4 *"And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here (am) I."*

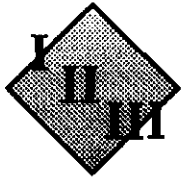


## Memory Verse

Exodus 3:14

*"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM..."*





## Outline

### I. Background.

- A. Moses had been living in Midian for forty years.
  - 1. He was forty years old when he left Egypt.
  - 2. He was now eighty years old.
  - 3. He had finally developed the character quality needed to be the leader God wanted for Israel.
- B. The oppression of the Hebrew people had increased greatly.
  - 1. A new Pharaoh had become ruler of Egypt.
  - 2. New ruler's cruelty exceeded that of his predecessor.
  - 3. He feared the power of Israel. The nation was strong because the people had large families.
- C. The oppression of the children of Israel became unbearable.
  - 1. They turned away from their idols.
  - 2. The people cried out to God.
- D. God heard their cries.
  - 1. God always listens.
    - a. He hears our heart.
    - b. He understands our circumstances.

- 2. God remembered His covenant with their father, Abraham.
  - a. A covenant is a solemn commitment, involving giving yourself and your resources to each other, without reservation.
  - b. These were God's chosen people, because they were the promised descendants of Abraham.
  - c. God made covenants with:
    - (1) Abraham.
    - (2) Isaac.
    - (3) Jacob.
- 3. God looked upon the children of Israel and had pity on them.
- 4. God responded when they humbled themselves and prayed for deliverance from their bondage.

### II. God Speaks from a Bush.

- A. Moses was tending sheep on the mountain.
  - 1. He saw the bush burning.
  - 2. He noticed that, even though it was burning, it had not been consumed.
  - 3. Moses turned to the bush.
    - a. He knew that such a sight was unusual.
    - b. He decided that he must find the source of the fire.
  - 4. All of us must be like Moses.
    - a. Need to turn to the light (Jesus) and not walk away.
    - b. Must find the source of the fire that stirs our hearts to the things of God.
    - c. That source is the Holy Spirit.
  - 5. God calls us only when we turn to seek after Him.

**B. The bush "talked."**

1. A voice called Moses by name.
  - a. God knows our name.
  - b. God is calling each of us by name.
2. Moses said, "Here am I."
  - a. Moses sensed the presence of God.
  - b. Moses recognized the voice of God.
3. God instructed Moses.
  - a. Moses was not to come close to the bush.
  - b. Moses was to take off his shoes, because he was standing on holy ground.
  - c. Each of us needs to approach God:
    - (1) With reverent spirit.
    - (2) Clean before Him.
4. God told Moses He was:
  - a. The God of his Father.
  - b. The God of Abraham.
  - c. The God of Jacob.
  - d. Moses knew this was the one true God.

**C. God's Deliverance.**

1. God heard the cry of His people.
2. God saw their affliction.
3. God promised to deliver them out of bondage.

**III. God Calls Moses.****A. Moses asked, "Who am I that I should go?"**

1. Moses felt unworthy and unable to be a spokesman for God.
2. Many times we do not do what God wants because we feel that we are:
  - a. Not good enough.
  - b. Not smart enough.

- c. Not respected by other people.
- d. Not important.

**B. God promised to be with Moses.**

1. God said, "Certainly I will be with thee."
2. If we are born again, God is with us.
  - a. Even when we do not see Him.
  - b. Even when we do not feel Him.
  - c. God is a covenant-keeping God.
  - d. God will not forsake us.

**C. God showed His sovereignty.**

1. He told Moses to bring the people back to the mountain after they were set free.
2. There was never a question of "if" he brought them out. The question concerned where to go.

**D. Moses wanted help.**

1. So the children of Israel would know who had sent him, Moses asked God what name he should use.
2. God replied:
  - a. I am the God of their fathers.
  - b. "I AM."
    - (1) Ever Was.
    - (2) Without beginning.
    - (3) Creator.
    - (4) Faithful.
    - (5) Unchangeable.
    - (6) Not a man.
    - (7) God.

#### IV. God Instructs Moses.

##### A. Gather the elders of Israel together.

1. Tell them the God of their fathers sent you.
2. Tell them God has seen their affliction.
3. Tell them God will take them to a promised land.

##### B. Moses was assured that the people would listen to him.

##### C. Moses was told to go to Pharaoh.

1. Tell Pharaoh the God of the Hebrews has spoken.
2. Tell him the people are to be set free and allowed to leave Egypt.
  - a. For a three day journey into the wilderness.
  - b. To give a sacrifice to God.

#### V. God Promises Moses.

##### A. Pharaoh will not let the Israelites go.

##### B. God will need to pour out His wrath on Egypt.

##### C. In the end, the people will be free to go.

1. With the "spoils" of Egypt.
  - a. That means wealth.
  - b. "Spoils" referred to the possessions of defeated armies which became the property of the victors.
2. With God leading them.



## Spiritual Truths

- God knows who we are.
- God is holy and deserves absolute respect and reverence.
- Holy means that God is pure and perfect. God has never broken His word, or wronged anyone.
- Awesome means that He is to be held in awe, and He is to be feared.
- The fear of the Lord keeps us from doing evil, and is a very healthy response to God's holiness.
- God hears us when we cry out to Him.
- God does not forget His promises.
- Sin is not a fountain of life, but a destructive cesspool, which brings us into deeper and deeper bondage.
- We are all born as slaves to sin, and only the grace of God can set us free.
- God can turn our captivity, and set us free from the bondage of sin.
- God is always available; but, we must turn to Him, just as Moses had to turn to the burning bush.
- God is now, always has been, and always will be God.
- God said it, and that settles it, whether I believe it or not.



## Lesson Material

The children of Israel were being oppressed and beaten. They had settled in Egypt 400 years earlier when there was a world-wide drought, and there was no food in Canaan. Egypt is a type (prophetic picture) of the secular world (sin). When we go through dry times in life, or in the church, it is not wise to turn to the world for help. Sometimes Christians turn to ungodly counselors or agencies, who lead them into some kind of bondage. We do not need to turn to sin to meet our needs. Satan will always try to convince us that we need to sin, but we do not. Instead, we should maintain our integrity and trust in God.

The children of Israel went to Egypt to get food, and were treated as honored guests. This was because Joseph was the prime minister of the nation, and had saved the people from starvation during the seven-year drought. They became comfortable in Egypt, and did not go back home to Canaan. This is the picture of sin. It is attractive and comfortable at first, and it is so easy to sit back and enjoy its pleasures for a season, while we neglect our responsibilities. While Israel's descendants were relaxing in Egypt, their home was taken over by seven very wicked families, which became strong nations.

After a few hundred years, the Egyptian leaders began to fear the Israelites, because they had large families. This made them a strong nation, so the Pharaohs gradually took away their freedoms to make them weaker. The Pharaohs began to tax them, and made more laws restricting their freedom. Eventually, the Israelites were vir-

tual slaves, with no freedoms at all. Sin is just like that. Sin is portrayed by the world as "freedom," but it spins an ever-tightening web of control, until we are helpless to stop the habits we develop. Sin always results in some type of slavery.

The people of Israel were not hearing from God, but God was listening to them. God had compassion on them, and was grooming His man for the task of leading them to freedom, and restoring the homeland He had given to their father Abraham.

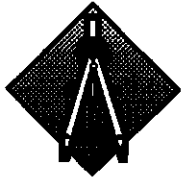
Moses was in the wilderness tending sheep, a task considered by some people to be the lowliest occupation of all. He had given up on seeing his family and relatives. He thought he would end his life as an obscure shepherd. But this was all part of God's preparation to make him one of the greatest leaders in the history of the world.

God chose to use a burning bush that was not consumed, so that Moses would understand a little of His power. He told Moses that He had heard of the affliction of the people, and that He had chosen him to go to Egypt and deliver the people. Moses was to inform Pharaoh that God was ordering the people to go into the desert to worship and offer a sacrifice. Pharaoh soon learned that he was not the ultimate sovereign in the world. He eventually learned that all authority comes from God and belongs to God.

Moses was reluctant at first. He felt that he was not good enough. This is an important quality of a good leader. Any leader who thinks he can do the job is in serious trouble, because he will become lifted up with pride, and will tend to rely on his own common sense. A true spiritual leader has only one objective: to hear from God and obey His voice. A good leader is

ultimately the greatest follower. God does not need a man with great ideas or great strength. God only needs someone with a servant's heart, and Moses now had that.

Moses felt inadequate and abandoned, but God used him to deliver the entire nation of Israel out of bondage. We need to realize that, as Christians, our task is to lead people out of the bondage of sin and into the freedom that only Jesus can give. Sin is a destructive enemy, which will enslave us and will ultimately destroy us, unless we are saved by the grace of God.



## Methods

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### *Lecture*

The lecture method works well with the use of some props. Use a picture of the people of Israel under bondage. You may even bring in a whip for special effect. Use a picture of Moses and a picture of sheep or a stuffed animal. Teach how they were seeking God. Bring in a bush or make an artificial burning bush by using red tissue paper tied to the branches and a fan blowing on the paper to make it stand up

straight. Or, use red bulbs to give the bush the appearance of being on fire. Use dramatic gestures and props, and this story will capture the students' attention.

Develop the analogy of Egyptian slavery as a picture of sin. Make sure they understand that, while the world and the devil seek to convince us that sin is normal and healthy, it is a deadly enemy.

Seek to generate a spirit of awe and wonder at the thought of hearing the voice of God, and actually being in His presence. There are several fine songs which relate to the concept of "standing on holy ground" which would be effective as a closing chorus.

Remind them that God does not usually speak to us with an audible voice. He speaks through His Word and into our spirit and soul, and through the people He has placed over us, such as our parents, pastors, godly teachers, etc.

### *Puppets*

Use puppets that look similar to the characters in the story. If necessary, change the appearance of your puppets to look like the characters. You can also use a "storyteller" type of puppet. This puppet will tell the story while other workers use props to help enhance the visual effect of the presentation.

# God's Holy Word

Volume 1

Lesson 11



## Bible References

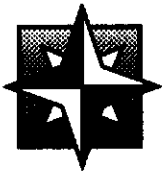
2 Timothy 3:16  
James 1:22  
Acts 20:35



## Memory Verse

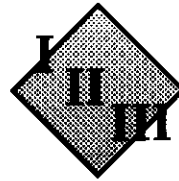
James 1:22

*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...."*



## Theme

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man.



## Outline

### I. Definition.

#### A. "Bible" means "book."

1. The Bible is the "book of books."
2. It is uniquely the infallible, inspired revelation of God's plan for the human race.

#### B. It is the Word of God.

1. God spoke to and through the writers.
2. The writers expressed that which the Spirit breathed into their hearts.



## Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 3:16

*16 "All scripture (is) given by inspiration of God, and (is) profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

## C. God's Word was written:

1. By at least 44 different authors.
2. In three different languages.
  - a. Hebrew.
  - b. Aramaic.
  - c. Greek.
3. Over a period of about 1,600 years.

## II. Divisions.

## A. Old Testament. (39 "books")

1. Biographies.
  - a. True accounts of the most important people in history.
  - b. Some were good, and some were evil.
  - c. We can see the results of both obedience and disobedience to God.
2. History.
  - a. The beginning of the world.
  - b. The first sin.
  - c. The flood.
  - d. The great battles.
  - e. The great love stories.
  - f. The temple.
  - g. The prophecies of our future.
3. Directions for life.
  - a. The law.
  - b. The ten commandments.
  - c. God's covenants.
4. Poetry.
  - a. Psalms, Proverbs and other books of poetry.
  - b. Praise, worship, teaching, wisdom.
5. Prophecy.
  - a. Major Prophets - wrote the 4 larger books of prophecy.
  - b. Minor Prophets - 12 prophets who wrote smaller manuscripts.
  - c. Prophecy means "speaking as the voice of God."

## B. New Testament. (27 "books")

1. Reveals to us our Savior - Jesus.
  - a. His birth.
  - b. Some of His childhood.
  - c. His miracles.
  - d. His love.
  - e. His suffering for us.
  - f. His death on a cross.
  - g. His resurrection and eternal kingdom.
2. Reveals to us the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Who He is.
  - b. What He can do for us.
  - c. Why we need Him in our lives.
3. Reveals to us the stories of the apostles and disciples.
4. Reveals to us the plan of salvation.
  - a. Repent and believe in Jesus.
  - b. Trust in Jesus.
  - c. Jesus is the only way.
  - d. With Jesus, there is eternal life.
  - e. Without Jesus, there is death everlasting.
5. Divisions of the New Testament.
  - a. Four Gospels.
    - (1) Historical accounts of the life of Jesus.
    - (2) "Gospel" means "good news."
  - b. Acts of the Apostles.
  - c. Epistles: letters from apostles to the churches or leaders.
  - d. Prophecy - the Revelation.



## Spiritual Truths

- The Bible is God's Word.
- The Bible is the most important and influential book in the history of the world.

- The Bible gives the most scientific account of the origins of the solar system, because it reveals the testimony of the One who was there at the time.
- The theme of the Bible is the plan of salvation from sin, which centers on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, 2,000 years ago.
- The Bible, in the original text, is perfect, although no translation is.
- The Bible contains the answers to all of life's basic questions and conflicts.
- It is impossible to understand or enjoy the Bible without being born again.
- Every person on earth is spiritually lost and will be forever, unless he receives God's gift of eternal life through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



## Lesson Material

The Bible, very simply, is the Word of God. It was written by men after God told them what to write. We call this "the inspiration" of God's Word. The Bible was written so we would know more about God, and discover the way to become reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The term "inspiration," used in the Bible, means "God-breathed." The Holy Spirit did not dictate the scriptures to prophets as one might give a letter to a secretary today. He anointed the hearts and minds of the honest, holy men of God, and revealed basic truths to them. Then,

they sat down and expressed God's wisdom in the language of the day, through their own personality. When you get saved, you do not become a mindless robot with no personality. You start to become the best "you" that you can be. The presence of Jesus in your life enhances and empowers your personality. In the different writings, we see the fascinating and unique qualities of the men who communicated the teaching. We also see an underlying consistency in the Bible, even though it was written by more than 40 men over a period of sixteen centuries.

The Bible is divided in two main parts: the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament is the inspired word of God before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament is the inspired word of God after Jesus' birth. "Testament" relates to the term "covenant." The people who lived before Jesus died on the cross came to God in faith through the obedience of blood sacrifices, according to the old law. When Jesus came to earth, He established a new, eternal covenant. He fulfilled all the requirements for a sin offering, once and for all, by dying on the cross in our place. On the basis of His blood, God could pardon the sins of all those who entered into the covenant by repentance and faith. When we confess Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, God the Father adopts us into His spiritual family. His Spirit lives in us, and we will then live in heaven after we die.

Some of the greatest action stories, battles, love stories, science stories, mysteries, and adventures are found in the Bible. There is no other book you can read, or have other people read to you, that is as life-changing as the Bible. The Bible should be the central book in all education, because it contains all the keys of wisdom and love that we need to have in

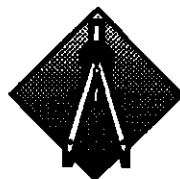


order to live a fulfilling, productive life on earth.

It is important to understand that the Bible was not written by the mind of man, and it cannot be understood or enjoyed simply with the human mind. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63) This is hard to explain to young students, but there is a difference between your mind and your spirit. The mind is a part of the soul, or personality. The spirit of man is his God-conscious being. People who are not born again are spiritually blind. Their lives revolve around the physical and intellectual, but they have no spiritual life. Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) The Bible is not really written to the unsaved to get them to become believers. It is written to believers, to build them in faith and wisdom, so that they can be faithful disciples of Jesus and effective soul-winners. The same Holy Spirit, who breathed inspiration into the hearts of the writers, also imparts illumination into the minds of the readers. If the Holy Spirit is not in us, then we will not be able to grasp or enjoy the Bible.

One of the evidences that we genuinely love God is that we will be attracted to His Word. We will want to hear and read and discuss the Bible, which is also the greatest love letter in the universe. The more we are exposed to the Bible, the more we see things from God's point of view, and the more we will understand life from the standpoint of eternity. We need pastors

and teachers to help explain and teach the Bible, and we need family devotions to help us build our lives around the Word of God.



## Methods

### *Puppets*

Have two puppets discussing what book to read. One puppet will pick up a science fiction book or a love story, and the other puppet will tell a short story from the Bible on the same subject. Have the character reading the Bible story conceal that it is the Bible. Simply say that they have a better story to tell than the first puppet's story. Have the first character ask what book the second character is reading. Then, the second character can say that it is the Bible. The teacher can give some quick facts about the Bible. Make sure all of the students have Bibles with them on Bible Day.

### *Lecture*

Use the Bible as a "prop," and talk about the Word, the divisions, the stories, and the impact on each of our lives.

Have the students list some of their favorite Bible stories, and find them in the Bible for the children. Stress the importance God puts on His written Word as instruction for living on this earth.

# Let My People Go

Volume 1

Lesson 12

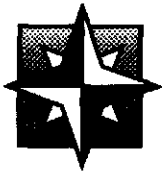


## Bible Reference

Exodus 5 -13

Exodus 6:6

6 "Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I (am) the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:"



## Theme

Moses is used by God to help free the children of Israel from bondage.

Exodus 7:5

5 "And the Egyptians shall know that I (am) the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

Exodus 12:41

41 "And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt."



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 5:1

1 "And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness."

Exodus 13:21

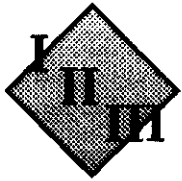
21 "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:"



## Memory Verse

Exodus 5:1

".... Let my people go...."



## Outline

### I. Background.

- A. The children of Israel had lived in Egypt for over 400 years.
- B. Their oppression by the Egyptians had increased.
- C. God heard their cries and sent Moses to deliver them.

### II. Moses Went To Pharaoh.

- A. Delivers God's message.
  1. "Let my people go."
  2. To hold a feast in the wilderness.
- B. Pharaoh rejects the command.
  1. Will not let Israel go.
  2. Questions who the God of Israel is, that he should obey His voice. (Exodus 5:2)
  3. Ordered their work increased.
    - a. More bricks had to be made.
    - b. Had no straw to make them.

### III. God Brought Judgment.

#### A. The plagues.

1. Moses struck the river with his rod, and the water turned to blood.
2. Frogs came out of the river and filled the land.
3. The dust became lice, and they were upon both man and beast.
4. Swarms of flies were sent to invade the land.
5. The cattle of all of the Egyptians died of disease.
6. Boils broke out on the skin of all of the Egyptians.
7. Hail stones mixed with fire destroyed the crops.
8. Locusts ate even the residue of the crops that escaped the hail.
9. God sent darkness over the land for three days.
10. God sent the plague of death.
  - a. First born of every Egyptian was slain.
  - b. The children of Israel were spared, if they placed the blood of their sacrifice on their door posts.

#### B. The Passover.

1. God used the last plague as a symbol of His power and might.
2. God established the Passover meal as a remembrance of the time when death passed over them.

### IV. The People Were Freed.

#### A. They took the "spoil" of the land.

1. By God's commandment.
2. The riches of Egypt.
  - a. Gold.
  - b. Jewelry.

B. God led the people away.

1. By day as a pillar of smoke.
2. By night as a pillar of fire.

C. The bones of Joseph were taken with them.



## Spiritual Truths

- God's power is unlimited.
- God's promises always come true.
- There are many non-believers who think they have power and authority, but they will find out, as Pharaoh did, that God's authority is supreme.
- God uses ungodly leaders and nations to chasten and teach His people.
- Our trust should be, first of all, in God. Anything we look to in faith or affection above God is an idol.
- Some of the most common idols today are money, pleasure, and self.
- The things man worship are nothing in comparison to God.
- When we turn to something material to replace God in our hearts, that idol often becomes a source of misery, in the end.



## Lesson Material

In a previous lesson, God spoke to Moses in the burning bush. Moses was directed to go to Egypt and gain the release of the children of Israel from Pharaoh. Moses knew that this was humanly impossible, but God had just exhibited His might and power, and Moses went in obedience.

Moses, along with his brother Aaron, went to Pharaoh with the Word of God. Pharaoh scoffed at them and said he did not know or believe in this Hebrew God. Pharaoh ordered his men to make things even more difficult for the children of Israel. He ordered them to make as many bricks as before, but he did not give them enough straw to enable them to make the bricks. His hope was that the will and spirit of the people would be broken, so they would turn against Moses and Aaron.

Most people in the world reject the true God. Either they will worship a false god, or they will convince themselves that there is no God at all. This is a normal human reaction to the sin problem. When we feel guilty, either we must repent and go to God for forgiveness, or convince ourselves that we are not really accountable for it. If there were no God, then we would not have to give an account for the way we have lived life. We could then do what we want. So, people convince themselves that there is no God, because their deeds are evil. (Psalms 14)

Pharaoh did not believe in God, so he made his choices based on what he wanted to do. He wanted to retain his power over the people of Israel, so he used his military

power to force them to stay. He reacted to their desire for freedom by making their task harder. Ungodly people who are under conviction by the Holy Spirit may react harshly to Christians, because they really are having a problem with God. Sometimes people are mean, because they are under conviction, and they cannot fight God. So, they take out their frustration on believers. Keep praying for them.

God again spoke to Moses and instructed him in the ways that would show God's power to the Egyptian people. Moses went to Pharaoh ten times and asked him, "Let my people go." But, each time Pharaoh refused him, and "his heart was hardened." Each time Moses came to Pharaoh he brought with him another plague.

The ten plagues were as follows:

First: God instructed Moses to stretch out his rod and place it in the Nile River. When he did, the river and all the water in the land turned to blood, making it impossible to use or drink. The Nile was worshipped as a god in Egypt. They saw the great river as the source of life. God mocked their idolatry by turning all of it into red, sticky blood.

Second: Moses called for frogs to come up out of the Nile. There were so many frogs, that you could not walk without stepping on one. Frogs were also worshipped in Egypt, and it was considered a sin to kill a frog. Thus, God used their own false gods to bring calamity to their lives.

Third: God caused the dust to turn to lice. The people were covered with lice. Lice are very irritating to us. They crawl all over, and can bite. Idolatry is irritating to God, and morally destructive.

Fourth: God caused swarms of flies to invade the land, spoil the food, and make life miserable. Flies are filthy creatures, and are full of harmful bacteria. Each fly has several million bacteria in and on his body. Flies do not have mouths, so they spit up filthy liquid to dissolve dry food, and suck it back up. A plague of filthy flies is dangerous to the health of people.

Fifth: God sent a disease that attacked all the cattle of the Egyptians; but, it did not harm those owned by the children of Israel.

Sixth: God caused boils to appear on all the Egyptians. Young and old, men and women – all suffered from these painful boils.

Seventh: God sent hail stones and fire. The hail stones destroyed almost all the crops of the Egyptians, and the fire burned most of their food which was in storage.

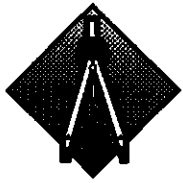
Eighth: God sent locusts in swarms so thick, that you could not see. The locusts ate any crops which the hail had left and the fire had not destroyed.

Ninth: God sent a darkness on the land for three days. Light could not penetrate it, except in the homes of the children of Israel. This was to help all of the people to see that God is the true source of life and light for man, and not the sun they worshipped. God showed the people of Egypt that they were really in spiritual darkness.

Tenth: God sent the plague of death. All first-born Egyptian children and animals were killed. The Israelites who spread the blood of a lamb on their door post were not harmed. This was to show mankind that death is the natural order because of sin; but, if the blood of Jesus Christ is applied spiritually to our hearts,

we can be spared from eternal separation from God, which is spiritual death.

When the final plague came, Pharaoh said the children of Israel could go. They gathered their belongings, the "spoils" of Egypt, silver and gold, and began their journey to the promised land. God had used the suffering to move the hearts of the Egyptian people to give the children of Israel wealth for their journey.



## Methods

### Illustration

This lesson can be taught with a visual illustration. Bring in items to demonstrate each part of the story:

**Bricks:** To show the task of the Hebrew children. If you can get some water-based clay, you can form some into a brick, and let it dry. It will become hard when dried in the sun. It becomes extremely hard when baked in a kiln. The roots and stalks of the dried plants from the crops were added for bulk, and made the bricks a little lighter.

A large, straight branch from a tree: To represent Moses' rod.

**Water:** Put red dye on the rod so when it is put into the water it turns the water red. Some costume shops will have a product to make the water red.

**Dust:** To represent the dust and the lice.

**Frogs:** We do not recommend that you bring a group of frogs into the class.

**Flies:** Let us just talk about flies, shall we? All of us know what they are, already. Remind the students that flies are full of bacteria and can spread disease.

**Grasshoppers:** To represent the locusts.

**Make-up:** To make boils on faces and hands.

**Toy cattle:** To be knocked over to represent the cattle that died and to represent the cattle of the Israelites that remained healthy.

**For darkness:** Turn off the lights, and use blindfolds. Have the students cover their eyes, so they will experience a temporary blindness.

**Death:** remind them that

*"the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

### Music

Sing at least one scripture chorus or song about freedom, and show again the way that slavery in Egypt was a picture of the bondage of sin.

How does Jesus make us free?

# Walking through Water

Volume 1

Lesson 13



## Bible Reference

Exodus 14

14 "The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

15 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 "But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry {ground} through the midst of the sea.

17 "And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18 "And the Egyptians shall know that I {am} the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen....

21 "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go {back} by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry {land}, and the waters were divided.

22 "And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry {ground}: and the waters {were} a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 "And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, {even} all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen....



## Theme

The parting of the Red Sea is a type of salvation, which shows us that we are saved from the slavery of sin by a supernatural miracle.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:13-18, 21-23, 27, 28

13 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

27 "And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

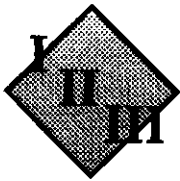
28 "And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, {and} all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them."



## Memory Verse

Exodus 14:14

*"The LORD shall fight for you...."*



## Outline

### I. Out of Bondage.

A. The children of Israel were set free from slavery in Egypt.

1. Moses went to Pharaoh as God's messenger.
2. Egypt is a natural picture of the spiritual principle of the bondage of sin.
3. The "world" today wants to keep us enslaved to sin.

B. The Israelites left Egypt.

1. They took with them some of the wealth of Egypt.
2. No one remained to take their place in their work.
3. Pharaoh's heart became hardened.

### II. Pharaoh's Greed.

A. Pharaoh was still angry.

1. Pharaoh still had a selfish heart.
2. Sin causes us to seek to use other people for our own desires.
3. Pharaoh felt that he had a right to millions of slaves, because he did not fear God.
4. Pharaoh forgot about God's great power, even after living through the ten plagues.

B. Pharaoh's pursuit of "his" slaves.

1. Pharaoh got in his chariot.
2. Pharaoh led six hundred chariots and captains against the Israelites.
3. A chariot was an effective war machine.
  - a. Pulled by at least two horses, and sometimes four.
  - b. Several warriors could ride in one chariot.
  - c. Each chariot had a platform and a place to carry many weapons.
  - d. They were often used to fight against foot soldiers, who already were weary from running.

C. Pharaoh sought to kill the children of Israel in the wilderness.



### III. Pharaoh's Threat.

A. The children of Israel saw the Egyptians following them.

1. They were afraid.
2. They quickly forgot all the miracles God had just performed for them.
3. They said:
  - a. "What have you done to us, Moses?"
  - b. "Why did you bring us into the wilderness to die?"
4. We should not assume that God has failed us, just because we see problems coming into our lives.

B. Moses responded.

1. "Fear not, for the Lord is here and is on our side."
2. The Lord will fight for you.
3. God will provide a means of escape.

### IV. Pharaoh's Loss.

A. God held back the Egyptians by putting a pillar of fire between them and the children of Israel.

B. God instructed Moses to:

1. Stretch his rod out toward the sea.
2. The waters parted.
3. The children of Israel escaped on dry land.

C. God took away the pillar of fire.

1. Pharaoh ordered the Egyptian army to pursue.
2. Halfway across, God took His hand away.
  - a. The water crashed in on the Egyptians.
  - b. All of the Egyptians drowned.

D. God's Purpose.

1. God allowed Pharaoh to pursue Israel.
  - a. To position Israel for victory.
  - b. To lead the Egyptian military to destruction.
2. God dealt with Pharaoh and the Egyptians and used their wickedness to chasten the Israelites.



## Spiritual Truths

- The Red Sea is a prophetic symbol of the blood of Christ.
- We can be saved from the bondage of sin only by way of the blood of Jesus.
- Israel's salvation from Egypt was gained by a supernatural miracle of God, just as our salvation from the bondage of sin can come only through a supernatural miracle of God.
- Problems do not prove that God is against us.
- God can use even the wicked to teach us faith.
- God knew what He was doing all along.
- You can trust God, even though the situation looks impossible.
- God's grace and power benefit the righteous, but His power and presence is not good news to the wicked.



## Lesson Material

The first lesson for young Bible students is the obvious one. God has great power and is not limited to natural laws. That is what the term "supernatural" means. He is above and beyond the natural. He can change the very laws of creation to accomplish a specific purpose. God had brought ten severe plagues, supernaturally, on the nation of Egypt to break the iron grip of Pharaoh, and to teach the Hebrew people to trust in His limitless power.

When the people of Israel stepped out in faith, they were met with an impossible situation. They were led directly to the Red Sea, which was impassable. Soon, they realized that Pharaoh had changed his mind once again and was coming with a military force that could crush them easily. Forgetting the lessons they had just learned in Egypt, they reacted to the situation, when they should have started to pray.

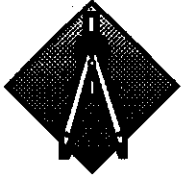
Instead of responding to the God who had just performed a miracle in their lives, they reacted to Moses. People who are upset with God often react to the local church, or to a preacher, but their real problem is with God. They just do not like to admit it. But God is not nervous, and God is not limited to the natural world. After all, He created it, and He is above all of it.

Moses wisely turned to God, and was given an answer. The people saw the mighty waters of the sea pile up on two sides, leaving a great dry path through the middle. It was not muddy or soft. It was

firm enough for their carts and animals to travel over it. This was not natural.

Another lesson we learn from the story of the Red Sea is one that is a more abstract concept, but a very important one. Red is the color of blood. When Jesus died on the cross, He sacrificed His blood and, therefore, His life. The Bible says that the life of the body is in the blood. Jesus fulfilled the principle of the sin offering. He was the Lamb of God.

When we come to God in humility and repent of our sins, by faith we are going through the "Red Sea." Each of us must come out of the "Egypt" of the sin life and follow God in faith. We cannot get around the need for the Blood. The price for sin is death, and it must be paid. We must step out and walk through the place of sacrifice, which will set us free from the dominion of sin. When we follow Jesus in the waters of baptism, this principle is further fulfilled, because the "old man" of sin is buried, and we "also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) Our old slave master, sin, is buried, and we are free to follow God. We still are not perfected; but, we do have a new master, because Jesus is our Lord and Savior. We may make mistakes or stumble; but we are pressing on to the good land God has prepared for us, and we do not have to go back into slavery. His grace saves us; and His grace can keep us, if we continue to abide, and obey, and trust.



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## Methods

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### *Skits*

Try to pile up some water, or form some water balls. Water does not pile up like that. Try to make a hole in a pan of water. Give a prize for the best water sculpture. This is silly, but it shows how silly people are who try to explain the

miracle of the Red Sea in natural terms. It was, by definition, a miracle.

We are not told how deep the Red Sea was, but it had to be deep enough to drown the world's most powerful army.

### *Video*

There are several cartoon versions of the crossing of the Red Sea and possibly of the Ten Commandments that you may choose to use.

# Fire By Night, Smoke By Day

Volume 1

Lesson 14



## Bible References

Exodus 13:17-22

Exodus 14:19

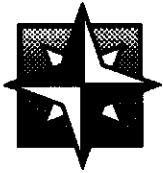
13:18 *"But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.*

13:21 *"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:*

13:22 *"He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, (from) before the people."*

Exodus 14:19

14:19 *"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:"*



## Theme

God is the protector and guide for His covenant children. He will lead them through the wilderness experiences of life.



## Scripture Reading

Exodus 13:17-22

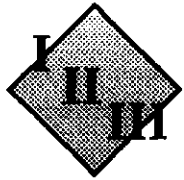
13:17 *"And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:*



## Memory Verse

Exodus 14:13

*"... Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord..."*



## Outline

### I. Background.

- A. Moses and the children of Israel left Egypt.
- B. Pharaoh decided to give chase.
  - 1. He gathered together his top troops.
  - 2. He planned either to bring back the children of Israel, or kill them.
  - 3. He believed that he had trapped them against the sea.

### II. The People.

- A. God parted the waters of the Red Sea.
  - 1. The Hebrew people walked through on dry land.
  - 2. God provided a way of salvation from death, through the Red Sea.
  - 3. God saved His people through a miracle.
  - 4. Our eternal salvation is even a greater miracle.
- B. God removed the pillar of fire.
  - 1. The Egyptians tried to follow after the children of Israel.
  - 2. The waters returned and drowned the Egyptians.

### III. The Pillars.

- A. The children of Israel had seen many manifestations of God's power; yet, they continued to have a problem with unbelief.
  - 1. They had seen the mighty hand of God.
    - a. In the plagues.
    - b. In the parting of the Red Sea.
    - c. In the destruction of the Egyptian army.
  - 2. In spite of all they had experienced, some still mumbled, grumbled, and groaned.
  - 3. They needed to see the hand of God all of the time, because they did not have faith.
- B. God's special presence was in the midst of the Israeli camp.
  - 1. Moses directed the building of a tabernacle in the wilderness.
    - a. "Tabernacle" means "tent."
    - b. It was made of several layers of material, and was about 45 feet long.
    - c. The priests offered sacrifices to the Lord, who lived in a special room in the tabernacle, called "The Holy of Holies."
  - 2. God dwells today in the "tabernacle" of the hearts of Christians.

## C. God went before the people.

1. A pillar of cloud to hover over them during the day.
2. It became a pillar of fire at night.
  - a. A pillar is a large cylinder.
  - b. Apparently, it was large enough to provide heat for three million people during the cold night and shade for them during the day.
  - c. These were not small pillars.

## D. God was the true leader of the Hebrew nation.

1. He moved the pillar of cloud and fire to direct the nation.
  - a. The people were to pack all of their possessions.
  - b. They moved all of their belongings.
  - c. They moved the tabernacle.
  - d. Those who refused to move with the cloud perished in the harsh wilderness.
2. The Bible does not tell whether the pillar crossed the Jordan into the promised land.
  - a. God led the Israelites to the land He had promised to them.
  - b. God had destroyed the generation of people who had been disobedient to Him at the mountain.
  - c. Now it was time for the surviving Israelites to follow God, through the direction that He would give to godly leaders.



## Spiritual Truths

- God does not always lead us through comfortable places in life, but He will go with us.
- God uses difficulties in our lives to build our character.
- The human race rebelled against God; and, as a result, this is a harsh and wicked world in which we live.
- God never sleeps.
- We need to follow the Lord at all times, even if we do not understand where He is taking us.
- Because of their lack of faith, the children of Israel demanded many manifestations of God.
- Faith means to trust and obey God, even when you are going through the wilderness.
- God lived in His tabernacle, which had been built by the Israelites. God dwells today in the "tabernacle" of our hearts.



## Lesson Material

The people of Israel had a difficult time with the concept of spiritual things. Before they would accept it and believe it, they needed to see something manifested in a miraculous way. That is why the Lord

chose to guide them with a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke. The Lord knew the condition of the hearts of the people. He knew that it would take a manifestation such as this for the people to believe that He was with them at all times. Had they not seen the cloud or the fire, they probably would not have followed Moses through the wilderness for forty years. But, in seeing the cloud and the fire, they knew that God was with them and directing them.

The giant pillar was not just for a sign. By day it was a great shade to protect them from the hot desert sun. Without it, many would have suffered sunstroke or heat exhaustion. At night, apparently the same pillar was ignited supernaturally and became a roaring fire. It gave some light to the camp and took the chill off the cold desert night. Centuries later, the Psalmist David sang about God as his protecting "shade." (Psalms 121:5)

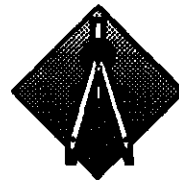
God also instructed Moses to build a special tent, or "tabernacle." That was the place where the sacrifices were made. God used this means to remind all of mankind of the seriousness of sin. The only just penalty for sin is death. God allowed those who trusted in His mercy to offer the lives of clean animals in their place. This was a picture of Jesus, who later became "the Lamb of God, which takes away the sins of the world." The Ark of the Covenant was kept in the tabernacle. God no longer needs a tabernacle like the one He had in the wilderness. God has a dwelling place -- a tabernacle -- in our hearts.

When Christ died for our sin, He promised us that His Holy Spirit would come after Him and that the Spirit would dwell in our hearts. Thus, it is God who dwells within us. We do not need another sacrifice, because Jesus became the eternal

sacrifice for our sin. All we need to do to find God is repent of our sins (turn around -- change our ways) accept Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and He promises He will live in us, guide us and protect us.

We are then to be the "light" that shines in the world, much like the pillar of fire, not only to the children of Israel, but also to the Egyptians. God wants our "light" to shine brightly to lead people through their wilderness, to the "Light of the world" (Jesus). God wants us to show that "light" to as many as we can, so they, too, can be a part of the Holy Tabernacle that God has established in our hearts.

To be a light means to live in such a way that people see Jesus in us. People are drawn to Him when they see His love, kindness, and humility reflected in our conduct and attitudes. We are not like the sun, which generates the power of its own light. We are more like the moon, which reflects the light of the sun to the dark side of the world. As the moon cannot "shine" when the earth is between it and the sun, so we cannot shine for God when we allow the world to get between us and the Lord. Only when we are walking in the light (1 John 1:7) can we be a light to a sin-darkened world.



## Methods

### *Class participation skit*

Make a large pillar of cloud out of cardboard or papier mâché. Have one student parade around the room with it and the others follow. Every time the

cloud stops, the students stop and sit down. When the cloud moves, they get up and move with it. Each time the cloud stops, teach them some nugget of truth from this Bible story and how it affects their lives. When you are finished, ask them to pray with you that the light, which is Christ Jesus, will direct them at all times and that they will not have to wander in the wilderness.

### *Analogy*

Discuss the purpose of the cloud and the fire for Israel. The great pillar was the method God used to protect and lead His people through the wilderness for forty years.

The wilderness is a symbol (prophetic picture) of the difficulties in life that develop our maturity.

The pillars of cloud and of fire are symbols of anything God uses to guide and protect us.

What are some "pillars" in your life?

Parents.

Pastor.

Church body.

A godly teacher.

The Bible.

The indwelling Holy Spirit.



# Miriam and Aaron



## Bible References

Numbers 12

Romans 13:1

Matthew 5:5

2 "And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard (it).

3 "(Now the man Moses (was) very meek, above all the men which (were) upon the face of the earth.)

4 "And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

5 "And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood (in) the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

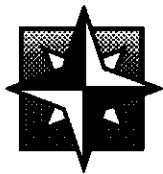
6 "And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, (I) the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, (and) will speak unto him in a dream.

7 "My servant Moses (is) not so, who (is) faithful in all mine house.

8 "With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

9 "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

10 "And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam (became)



## Theme

To "reverence" means to honor and hold in high esteem, to recognize those in authority, and to respect the property of others.



## Scripture Reading

Numbers 12:1-10

1 "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

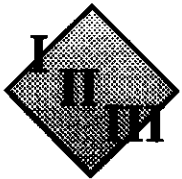
*leprous, (white) as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, (she was) leprous."*



## Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:17

*"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."*



## Outline

### I. Rebellion Against Leadership.

#### A. Murmuring against Moses.

1. Moses was God's appointed leader over the nation of Israel.
2. He was the "pastor" of the congregation of Israel.
3. His older brother, Aaron, and sister, Miriam, were in the leadership team under him.
4. They talked about Moses, and stirred up doubts in their minds.

#### B. Rebellion.

1. Miriam and Aaron began to resent the relationship Moses had with God.
2. "We can hear from God, too."
3. Rebellion is seeking to be equal with one whom God has placed over us.

### II. Qualities of Leadership.

#### A. Moses was the meekest man on earth.

1. Meek is not weak.
2. Meekness means to give up "rights" humbly.
3. Meekness comes from the ability to see that life does not center in self.
4. Moses was called "meek," because he did nothing out of selfish ambition or greed. He sought to obey only God.
5. God was very pleased with Moses.

#### B. Moses was the leader chosen by God.

1. He did not seek the office.
2. He did not demand honor or wealth for himself.
3. Moses did marry an Ethiopian woman, and this greatly offended the people.
4. We do not know whether God rebuked Moses for marrying this woman, but He did rebuke Aaron and Miriam for their disloyalty and gossip.

### III. Divine Appointment with Leadership.

#### A. God called a meeting with Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

1. He reminded them that Moses was his closest human friend.
2. God told them that He had placed Moses as a leader over them, and that they were wrong to speak against him, as they had done.
3. When God's presence departed, Miriam was stricken with the disease of leprosy.

- a. Lepers were to be cast out of the camp, lest they contaminate others with the disease.
- b. Leprosy is a symbol (picture) of sin.

**B. Miriam was cast out for seven days.**

1. Moses interceded for her in prayer.
2. She was restored to fellowship after seven days.
3. Miriam learned to respect God's leader.

#### **IV. Giving Honor to Leadership.**

**A. We should reverence those whom God has placed over us.**

1. Secular humanism says that "life just happens;" therefore:
  - a. We should "do our own thing" in life.
  - b. We are not really accountable to God for how we live.
  - c. We have the right to make our own decisions.
2. The Bible says that we were created and designed by God.
  - a. God put us in the family of His choosing.
  - b. God designed us for a purpose.
  - c. God gives us parents, siblings, teachers, and authorities to build our character.
  - d. Parents, teachers, and other leaders are commanded to lead us in the right way.
3. It is wise to see that God is the center of our world.
  - a. He directs our paths.
  - b. Leaders are chosen by God for our benefit.

- c. We will answer to God for the way we obey those in authority.
- d. We should obey those in authority over us, unless they are violating a higher authority, such as the Bible.
- e. Romans 13:1 "...be subject unto the higher power (the one in the highest authority).

**B. Respect for property.**

1. Reverence acknowledges the property rights of others.
2. We should not steal, because we should respect the rights of others.

#### **V. Showing Respect for Leadership.**

**A. We show respect by obedience and cooperation.**

**B. We show respect by using proper names and titles.**

1. Never address an adult by his or her first name.
  - a. Mr. Jones, Mrs. Smith, Pastor Brown, etc.
  - b. Using first names for adults shows a lack of respect for their experience and wisdom.
2. Use titles when appropriate.
  - a. Mom and Dad.
  - b. Pastor.
  - c. Officer.

**C. Respect for God's house.**

1. The church building is the place we gather to worship and honor God.
2. Talking, running, and dropping trash in the church house shows a lack of reverence for God.



## Spiritual Truths

- Sin naturally causes us to center our minds and hearts on ourselves.
- When we are saved from sin, we begin to walk with Jesus Christ at the center of our thoughts and affections.
- The first evidence that the Holy Spirit is in us is the ability to seek the benefit of others instead of self. This is called "love."
- Meekness comes from the ability to see that life does not revolve around us.
- Moses was meek, because he had no selfish ambition in life.
- It is wrong to gossip about others, especially about Christian leaders.
- When we realize that everything really belongs to God, we will respect the property rights of others and not steal.
- We show respect for people by the names and titles we use to address them.
- Children should always call adults by their proper family names and titles, and never show disrespect by using familiar given names.



## Lesson Material

Moses was the writer of the first five books of the Bible. There are numerous stories derived from his own life experiences. He is also one of the most important figures in human history. Through Moses, God led the descendants of Israel out of Egyptian slavery and gave the law to them. God gave many commands and ordinances to the Israelites through Moses. We can learn many valuable spiritual lessons as we study these commands. Many of the laws established spiritual truths that were fulfilled in the New Covenant by the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Moses wrote of me."

We are now familiar with the way God protected and prepared Moses for the task of leading His chosen people. We know that Miriam was older than Moses, because she followed the basket down the Nile River until it came to Pharaoh's daughter. There were a few times in the life of Moses when people spoke out against him. Moses did not have to defend his own reputation, for God defended the honor of His chosen leader.

When Moses married a woman outside of his race, the people gossiped about it. Miriam and Aaron talked about it, too. This kind of mixed marriage had been strongly discouraged by the Lord on a number of occasions; yet, nothing is mentioned about how God dealt with Moses about it. We are told, however, that God dealt firmly with Aaron and Miriam, the two leaders who got caught up in the popular gossip. Other people were gossiping too, but the sin was more serious

when it was committed by these two respected leaders.

God spoke directly to Aaron and Miriam, and reminded them that Moses was more than a prophet. A prophet would usually see mysterious signs and pictures to get a glimpse into what God was saying. But, Moses knew God intimately. God spoke to Moses as to a personal friend: face to face. Woe to anyone who raised a voice against such a friend of the Most High God!

When God left the meeting, Miriam discovered she had been stricken with the dreaded skin disease of leprosy. Leprosy destroyed the sensitivity of the nerves, and led to ulcerations and deformities of the skin. Leprosy would often leave ugly wounds and cause the loss of limbs. Leprosy destroys and kills. That is why it is such a perfect, prophetic picture of sin. Sin is not another word for "fun." Sin is any act of disobedience to God's moral principles of right and wrong. Sin is rebellion against the way God created us. Sin is basically selfish behavior which flows from a self-centered heart. When we become insensitive in our spirits to God's presence, we tend to live for the moment, and indulge our flesh in whatever seems to appeal to our appetites at the moment, unaware that it always leads to destruction.

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, we should always confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness. He is always faithful not only to forgive, but also to cleanse our hearts. God is able to make us morally clean as we keep our focus on Him by faith. As we live for Him, and His Spirit lives in our hearts, we are enabled to do what pleases Him, because we see that life does not center in self or last only for the moment. We begin to live for eternity,

with the understanding that the purpose of life is to please God.

The quality of reverence really comes from this way of viewing life. We realize that, as God's created children, we are a part of God's plan. The purpose of life is not pleasure, but to glorify God and do His will. The worst thing in life is not suffering, but living a useless life. When we see God as the center of our world, we can then really live life to the fullest. Otherwise, life really lacks meaning. That is why history books, which eliminate God from the story, are confusing and worthless, because history is "His story."

When we reverence God, we will recognize and honor those placed over us by God. We realize that authorities in life are not there to prevent us from having fun, but to guide and protect us under God. God uses parents, teachers, pastors, police officers, and other leaders to give wisdom, direction, instruction, and protection against the many physical and spiritual dangers in life.

We show that we reverence God and people in authority by the way we respond with attentiveness and obedience. When adults speak to us, we always look them in the eye and we always address them by their proper title, such as Mrs. Bailey or Mr. Harper. To use their familiar, given name is to communicate a lack of respect for their office and experience. Wise parents and teachers will train students to use terms of respect for all elders and figures in authority.



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## Methods

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### *Lecture*

To illustrate the quality of reverence, use this incident in the life of Moses. Help the students visualize the awesome scene of God's literal presence before these three trembling people, and God's speaking in an audible voice. This is the same God who created the whole, infinite universe. We need to recognize that one day we will all stand before God and give an account for the way we treated those whom He placed over us in this life.

Show the connection between our reverence for God, and our respect for the property rights of others. How does the doctrine of secular humanism, based on the doctrine of evolution, lead young people to resent and reject adult authority? How does a Christian view of the world lead to honor and obedience to authorities?

### *Participation*

Practice using proper titles for different people in different situations. Start with your own pastor. Mention both his given and his family names. Which names are appropriate for a young person to use when addressing him? John? Smith? Hey, You? Sir? Pastor Smith? Pastor? Reverend Smith?

How should we address our parents? Never by their names. Our own parents should be addressed by the relationship we have to them: Mother, or Mom; Father, or Dad; or a derivative, such as Mommy, or Mama, Daddy, or Papa.

How do we address our peers in a way which shows our respect God? Use given first names, or nicknames which are acceptable to the boy or girl. Negative nicknames show a selfish, hurtful attitude, and have the same effect as physical abuse. Genuine Christians seek to build up other people, while a sin nature seeks to tear down others in order to exalt self.

# Forgiveness



## Bible References

Matthew 18

Luke 17:3

Matthew 9:1-8

Ephesians 4:32

24 "And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 "But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 "The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 "Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

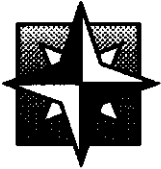
28 "But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took (him) by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 "And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 "And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 "So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 "Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:



## Theme

Just as God forgives us when we repent, so we should also forgive one another.



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:23-35

23 "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

33 *"Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?"*

34 *"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."*

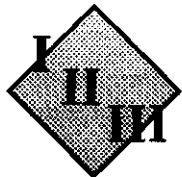
35 *"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."*



## Memory Verse

Matthew 6:14

*"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:"*



## Outline

### I. The Unforgiving Servant.

#### A. A parable of Jesus.

1. A story of natural or human events used to illustrate a spiritual principle.
2. An illustration of a divine truth, not necessarily based on actual characters.

### B. The kingdom of heaven is like:

1. A certain king.
2. Evaluating his servants.
3. Servants.
  - a. Those who were the property of their lord (owner).
  - b. Many people who could not pay a debt were forced to pay it off by working full time for the creditor.
  - c. Sometimes whole families became servants because of an unpaid debt.

### C. One servant was found to owe 10,000 talents.

1. When he was brought to account, he and his family were to be sold as slaves.
2. He worshipped the master, and begged for time to pay his debt in full.
3. The master forgave the entire debt.

### D. The unforgiving servant.

1. The same servant refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed a small debt to him.
2. He took his fellow servant by the throat, and demanded full payment.
3. Other servants, who witnessed the incident, reported to the master, who gave him over to tormentors.

### II. The Debt.

#### A. 10,000 talents.

1. A denarius, or "penny" represented a day's wages for a common worker (minimum wage).
2. A "pound" was equal to 100 denarii.
3. A talent was equal to 60 pounds.



4. So, a talent was equal to 6,000 denarii, or about 16-1/2 years wages for a laborer.
5. It would take about 165,000 years to earn 10,000 talents at minimum wage.
6. This was an impossible debt to pay.

#### B. A hundred pence.

1. The second servant owed the first this small amount.
2. One hundred denarii was 100 days' wages at minimum wage.
3. The first servant had owed his master 600,000 times that amount.
4. But he refused to forgive the smaller debt owed him.

### III. The Analogy.

#### A. Jesus Christ is Lord.

1. God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, created the world, and everything belongs to Him. (Psalms 24:1)
2. "Lord" means "master," or "owner."
3. God is the "certain lord" that Jesus mentioned.

#### B. The debt.

1. All of us have sinned against Him, and can never do enough good deeds to pay the debt of sin we owe.
2. The wages of sin is death.
  - a. Only the death penalty can satisfy God's perfect justice.
  - b. We all deserve to be cast off from God forever in the darkness of hell.

#### C. The servant.

1. We are all God's rightful property.
2. Only by humbling ourselves before God, in confession and repentance, can we receive God's forgiveness.
3. If we confess our sin to Him, God is faithful to forgive our sins, as well as to make us morally clean by His grace. (1 John 1:9)

#### D. The fellow servant.

1. If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us.
2. No one on earth has wronged you nearly as much as you have wronged God, when you acted in rebellion against His authority.
3. Jesus was teaching His disciples to forgive one another.

### IV. The Power of Forgiveness.

#### A. "How often shall I forgive my brother?"

1. This whole story was a response to this question from Peter.
2. Peter thought that seven times in a day would be reasonable.
3. Jesus said, "No, seventy times seven (490) a day."
4. If your brother sins against you, tell him that he did a wrong thing, and if he repents, forgive him. (Luke 17:3)

#### B. What is forgiveness?

1. Forgiveness means releasing someone from his offense.
2. To give up a claim against someone; to decide he owes you nothing.
3. Forgiveness shows Christ's love toward the one who wronged you.

C. The danger of unforgiveness.

1. The servant had his hands on the throat of his fellow servant.
2. If you do not forgive, you will have an emotional focus on the person you resent.
3. You will tend to become like that person.
4. If you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you.

- God forgives only those people who confess their sins and ask forgiveness.
- When a fellow-Christian has wronged us, we should go to him and tell him how we feel, so the relationship can be restored.
- The inclination of the flesh is to tell someone else, so we can get sympathy.
- We should never judge whether the offender is sincere or not. If he says he is sorry, forgive him.
- People who do not forgive become bitter, and eventually become like the person they refuse to forgive.

D. Forgiveness sets you free.

1. Forgiving people enables you to see that God is building character in your life.
2. Jesus forgave the Roman soldiers who crucified Him, because He realized that God had a purpose through it all.
3. When we focus on God, we will not live in fear of people. (Isaiah 26:3)



## Lesson Material

Peter came to Jesus with an important question. Peter was often the spokesman for the other disciples, so he was sharing a question that was troubling all of them. "How often should I forgive someone who wrongs me?"

This was a reasonable question. Sometimes a person does wrong, and then asks for forgiveness. After he is forgiven, he does the same thing again. It does not take long to decide that he really is not sincere. The disciples were being taught to love and forgive people. But, how much can we take? Peter had probably been dealing with someone like this and was feeling that enough was enough. He wanted to do the right thing. So, he asked the Master for guidelines. In his own mind, he felt that seven times was a pretty generous allowance for a repeat offender.



## Spiritual Truths

- All of us have sinned, and cannot possibly pay to God the debt of sin we owe.
- We will all give an account to God for the way we have lived life.
- Money is a tool God uses to teach us wisdom and character.
- We do not own anything in this life. It all belongs to God.
- Knowing that God has forgiven our sins enables us to forgive people who sin against us.

Jesus amazed all of the disciples by saying, "forgive seventy times seven." Now, after a hundred offenses, we tend to lose count. The point was, that we should always forgive people who ask forgiveness.

When someone wrongs us, he owes us something. Sometimes he actually owes us money; but, usually, it is a broken promise, or a hurtful action. We are all hurt by the careless mistakes of other people, or by neglect, or by some kind of abuse. Our selfishness and sin affects other people all the time. When we are saved by God's grace, we can see the primary evidence in our responses to other people. Our focus is no longer on self. Therefore, we have greater freedom to care about others, and are less likely to harm them. The proof that we are Christ's followers is love. (John 13:35)

People who are bound by sin are focused on themselves and have greater difficulty forgiving offenses. They also do more things to hurt others, because they are always looking for what they can get. Christians, on the other hand, look for ways to give. They are not the center of their own world. Jesus is. And Jesus enables them to look at the needs of others. Even so, we make mistakes, and misunderstand, and offend. We still need to exercise the character quality of forgiveness with one another regularly, because we do not see the heart of the other person.

When someone does wrong, we tend to associate that person with that action. If we think someone deliberately made a false statement, and we do not go to him to find out his intentions, we will probably conclude, "he is a liar." To conclude that someone is dishonest, or insincere, or wicked, is to "judge." The word "judge"

means to decide. Since the Bible tells us not to judge (Romans 2:1), we need to go to the offender, if possible, and ask, "what did you mean by that (action or statement)?" If we fail to take steps to forgive, we will almost certainly find ourselves judging.

There are cases in which we are unable to approach or to restore an offender. Some situations need to be taken to God. Forgive the people anyway, and look to God to teach you wisdom and heal your hurts. God wants us to learn to go to Him with all of our cares, because He cares for us. God wants us to look to Him as our greatest protector and our provider, because He is our perfect Heavenly Father.

Jesus gave the parable of the two servants to show the importance of forgiving people. He gave the astronomical sum of 10,000 talents as the debt owed to the Master to show that it is impossible for any of us to satisfy God's holiness through works. Only the perfect blood of Christ can atone for your sins. You can never earn your way into heaven. But, when you humble yourself before God in repentance, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness, He is faithful to pardon you, and to cleanse your heart and life from the control of sin.

How does God feel about us when we refuse to forgive one another? Jesus gave us a glimpse of that by the comparatively tiny debt owed to the forgiven servant, and his response. He is seen as very wicked, with his hands around the throat of the hapless victim. Obviously, he should have been rejoicing at being released from his impossible debt. His whole family was saved from slavery by the gracious master. But, he had begun to focus on himself and on money again. Like Judas, he began to get greedy and lost

sight of his position in the kingdom of God. When he turned his heart away from the master, he went back into bondage. The full debt was placed back on his record, and he was given over to tormentors.

People who do not forgive live in torment. They focus on the wrongs done to them and live in bitterness of soul. Instead of looking for ways to bless and encourage others, they eventually look for ways to "get even." They will tend to do the same kind of things they feel were done to them. Their outlook on life is darkened, because their focus is on the negatives in life. They have their hands around the neck of their offenders, and have an emotional fixation on their faults. For this reason, they become like whatever they resent.

That is why Jesus strongly emphasized forgiveness. If we do not forgive, we cannot get our focus on God's eternal purposes. We are unable to enjoy our freedom in Christ, and we will be "delivered over to the tormentors." Forgiveness is a strength, and an evidence of the grace of God working in our lives for our eternal well-being.

Show that this was the seriousness with which Jesus viewed the debt of sin we owe.

Most cultures today take a very light view of sin, and tend to think very casually about salvation. We need to be impressed with the magnitude and the horror of sin, as an act of willful rebellion against Almighty God, rather than as a silly bit of fun.

We also need to learn the joy and power of forgiving other people.

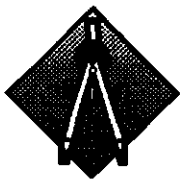
#### *Discussion*

Have you ever grieved over the weight of your own sins, and really asked God to forgive you? Do you really feel that you deserve to be cut off from God forever?

Have you ever felt overwhelmed with gratitude to God for being forgiven?

Have you ever gone to someone to confront him about an offense against you?

Do you need to go to someone this week to tell him how you feel, to give him an opportunity to say "I was wrong. Will you forgive me?"



## **Methods**

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#### *Illustration*

Calculate the equivalent of 10,000 talents by multiplying one year's wages in your country by 165,000.

# Do Not Be Fooled

Volume 1

Lesson 17



## Bible References

Deuteronomy 18:10 -12

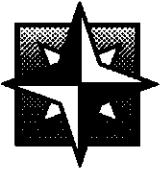
1 Samuel 15:23

1 Thessalonians 5:22

10 "There shall not be found among you {any one} that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, {or} that useth divination, {or} an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

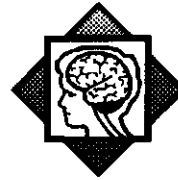
11 "Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 "For all that do these things {are} an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."



## Theme

God's people need to avoid everything associated with witchcraft, including Halloween.



## Memory Verse

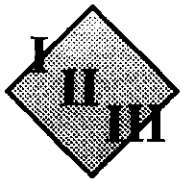
1 Samuel 15:23

"For rebellion {is as} the sin of witchcraft,...."



## Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 18:10-12



## Outline

### I. Introduction.

#### A. Halloween from the view of the world.

1. A time to:
  - a. Dress up in costumes.
  - b. Play games.
  - c. Indulge in fantasy.
2. An innocent holiday.
  - a. Not harmful in any way.
  - b. Not a celebration of anything evil.

#### B. Halloween from Christ's perspective.

1. A pagan holiday.
2. Celebrates all things that are:
  - a. Evil.
  - b. Against God's Word.

#### C. Halloween from Satan's perspective.

1. A time to indoctrinate our children into:
  - a. The realm of unclean and evil spirits.
  - b. The world of evil power.
  - c. The practice of witchcraft.
2. A time to flaunt evils in the guise of "fun."
3. A time to promote wickedness and deception.
4. A time to celebrate darkness and reminders of death.

### II. God's Warnings.

#### A. Witchcraft is a work of the flesh.

1. Casting spells.
2. Black magic.
  - a. Seeking power from demonic sources.
  - b. Creating illusion and giving the credit to some "mysterious force." (Note: Sleight of hand and illusion may not be in and of itself evil. However, we must be careful not to give the appearance of evil to others.)
3. Cruelty and harm to animals or people.
4. Using divination.
  - a. Divination is to seek information or guidance through witchcraft.
  - b. Ouija Boards, crystal balls, divining rods for water, and Tarot cards are forms of divination.
5. Being an enchanter (sorcery).
6. An observer of times.
  - a. Telling the future with demonic help.
  - b. Astrology: consulting the horoscope.
7. Charmer.
  - a. Manipulation, deception.
  - b. Hypnotism.
8. Consulting with familiar spirits.
  - a. Talking to demons.
  - b. Talking to the dead (a lie of Satan, necromancy, black magic, alleged communication with the dead).
  - c. People who do this are really consulting with demon spirits who often imitate a dead person.
  - d. The souls of the dead cannot come back to earth until the resurrection.

B. God commanded His people to execute witches, and to refuse to tolerate this evil in the nation.

1. God does not want us to participate in these abominations (evil doings).
2. God does not want us to associate with people who do participate in evil.

### III. Halloween.

A. Halloween is not a holiday to be celebrated by Christians.

1. It is a pagan holiday.
2. It celebrates the evil that is witchcraft.
3. It associates us with the world of spiritual darkness.
4. It is an abomination (regarded with loathing, strongly disliked) to God.
5. Halloween is a celebration of death and darkness.

B. Halloween is harmful.

1. We can give the appearance to others that we are followers of Satan instead of Jesus.
2. "Trick or treat" is extortion (demanding an unearned reward through the threat of vandalism).

- When we are dominated by our carnal thinking, we will tend to be drawn to witchcraft.
- God tells us to avoid associating with those who involve themselves in these evil practices.
- There is great potential for the weak Christian to get "caught up" in the false power Satan offers to those who "innocently" become involved in such practices.
- People who are spiritually alive and alert will be attracted to light and life, and not the darkness and death associated with Halloween.
- Many witches are deceived into thinking that they are good, or even Christian.
- Rebellion is like witchcraft, because it removes us from the protection of God's authority, and makes us vulnerable to Satan's authority.
- Halloween was birthed in the ancient Druid priest's celebration of death.
- Halloween is not God's holiday. It is Satan's.



## Spiritual Truths

- God hates witchcraft and the appearance of all its forms.
- Witchcraft is one of the works of the flesh.



## Lesson Material

When teaching young people about the occult, we must be careful not to complicate the message. We must show the children that even the appearance of evil is not pleasing to God, and hides the light.

Light refers to "that which makes manifest." Jesus is the "Light of the world." The world has a way of making sin look clean and acceptable, until the Holy Spirit turns on the light of the Word, and sin is exposed as ugly. It is amazing to see that in the world of entertainment (particularly movies and television) witchcraft is constantly portrayed as good. Much of the movie industry is based on the themes of magic, and it takes many forms. Notice how much of the cartoon industry today is based on the occult, and how the principles of Christianity are subtly ridiculed. Good and love are always portrayed as an impersonal "force," and never as a personal God. Cartoons are not just kid's stuff anymore. Most secular cartoons are designed to attract children to the demonic and the occult.

We do not want to frighten the children into submission. However, it is very important to make certain that they realize the significance of this message. In many cultures, Halloween night is celebrated with all the zeal and enthusiasm of Christmas. Our children will not understand why they are excluded from this "night of fun" unless they truly understand its significance, and what it means in relationship to good and evil.

Share the scripture out of Deuteronomy and talk to the children about their feelings on Halloween and its meaning to them. Talk about the evil that is inherent in witchcraft and "black magic." There are several resources available (tracts and small books) which can be shared with your students and sent home with them. Let their parents know what you are teaching and why. It is important that they are not deluded into thinking it is harmless to allow their children to participate in this holiday. Many Christian parents are blinded by the

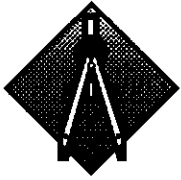
"innocence" of the evening. They allow their children to participate because "it is all just in fun," and they do not want their children "denied" the opportunity to collect treats.

The term "trick or treat" is an abridged form of the expression "give me a free treat, or I will do something harmful to you." This comes directly from the ancient occult idea that on the last night of October, the god Samhain would release the spirits of the wicked dead to roam the earth and terrorize the people. Fearful for their lives, the people would give their food or possessions to anyone who seemed to be an evil spirit. They even masqueraded as ghouls themselves, so that the real monsters would not attack them.

The ethics of "trick or treat" are also questionable. Children are taught that they can receive unearned rewards from strangers. People are pressured to give unearned treats, lest they be thought of as mean-spirited. It has become big business for the sugar industry, and a night to practice the unbiblical concept of masquerading.

Classes or churches may want to provide alternatives to this pagan holiday, so the children will not be influenced by others who are involved in the event. Light is light, and dark is dark; we cannot live in-between. Keep the message simple and upbeat, but let the children know that God wants them to be a part of the "light."





## Methods

Multiple methods will work well with this lesson, so that no one area becomes "heavy" to the student.

### *Lecture*

Use a style similar to conversation with verbal interaction with the students. What do they think? Interject the scripture, and show why it is important for them to realize that even the appearance of evil is bad.

Explain that the word "hypocrite" means "one who wears a mask." We are to be children of the light, and that means being honest and true, like Jesus.

### *Puppets*

Have the puppets portray young people who have gone out "trick or treating."

Have two puppets represent children who see them and talk about whether it is a good or a bad thing. One of the "trick or treaters" could be a Christian who thinks it is all right to go out on Halloween, because he does not mean anything evil. Illustrate the real significance of the term "trick or treat." ("Hi. You do not know us, but we are here to demand food or something of value from your house. If you do not give us all a treat, then we will do something to hurt your property. It is your choice, Buster. Come up with a treat, or risk getting tricked.") Explain the term "extortion," and discuss the biblical position on it.

Have two other puppets (or actors) come to the same door with no masks, who say, "Hi. We know you are a widow, and we realize that God will bless us if we bless you. If it is all right, we would like to rake your leaves for you, and help you clean windows. There is no charge. We just want you to know that God loves you."

# What Is the Church?

Volume 1

Lesson 18



## Bible References

Ephesians 1-6

Acts 16:5

Matthew 16:18

Acts 16:5

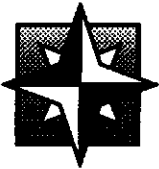
*"And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."*



## Memory Verse

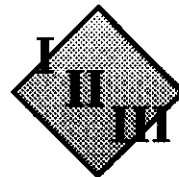
Matthew 16:18

*"...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*



## Theme

God has established a structure in the Church.



## Outline

### I. The Biblical Church Was Designed by God.

#### A. Church Universal.

1. There is only one True Church.
2. It is composed of every genuinely born-again Christian.
3. Jesus is both the foundation and the head of the Church.



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:18

*"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

**B. The Local Church.**

1. A body of people which meets regularly to worship God.
2. A covenant expression in one place of the Body of Christ.

**C. Church Definition.**

1. The Greek word "*ecclesia*" means "called out one."
2. Believers in Jesus are called out of every walk of life to become part of the body of Christ in a local fellowship of like-minded disciples of the Lord.
3. We are called out of the lifestyle of the world to serve God in holiness.

**D. God's Church is not democratic, but theocratic in nature.**

1. We do not run the local church based on the moods of the people.
2. The local church should be run with God as the chief decision-maker.
3. God places leaders (people) in the Body to help get the "mind of God."

**II. Basic Positions in the Church.****A. The pastor.**

1. Responsible to God for the spiritual well-being of the people.
2. Responsible for the teaching of the Word.
3. Responsible to give good counsel to those in need.
4. An overseer of the ministry that God has given to him.

**B. Elders.**

1. Called to assist the pastor in spiritual areas.
  - a. Prayer.
  - b. Counseling.
  - c. Ministering at the altar.
  - d. Hearing the "mind of God."
2. Called to assist the pastor in daily ministry functions.
  - a. Ministering in the hospitals.
  - b. Teaching.
  - c. Visiting.

**C. Deacons.**

1. Ministers to the physical needs of the church.
  - a. Serving communion.
  - b. Ushering.
  - c. Helping care for the poor and hurt.
2. Ministers also to spiritual needs and must listen for the "mind of God."

**D. Governments.**

1. Helps run the business of the church.
2. Advises the pastor on economic issues.

**III. Variations by Church.****A. Every church should have a pastor.****B. Not all churches will have:**

1. Elders.
2. Deacons.
3. Governments.

**C. God's structure does not stop. It is set in motion so that, as growth occurs in a church, there is a means of handling it and ministering to the needs of the people.**



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus Christ is the head of His Church.
- The Pastor is to be the head of the local church, under Christ.
- Elders are called to help the pastor, by serving the spiritual needs of the body.
- Deacons are called to minister to the physical needs of the Body.
- God's church is a theocracy (ruled by God), not a democracy (ruled by the people).



## Lesson Material

In the outline provided, there are several examples of different types of ministries in the Body, and scripture to correspond with those particular ministry areas. Depending on the size of your church, you may have several pastors on staff, or there may be one. This lesson is not to identify the variations that exist, but to explain that there is a pastor who is the head of the church. God has set the basics of the church structure. In addition to the pastor, God has established several other positions related to the administration of the church.

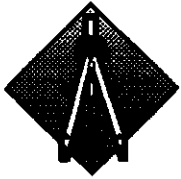
The word "pastor" (Gr. *poimen*) means "shepherd." Jesus often referred to His followers as sheep, for there are many similarities. This is an important analogy.

Sheep need the protection of shepherds and must be fed and watered. They are not self-sufficient or resourceful. When God calls some to be pastors, He gives them special ability to understand and teach the Bible, and gives them a special love for the people.

A pastor is the God-appointed leader of the church, in a similar way that the father is the appointed leader of the family. God is still the Head, but He raises up certain individuals to function in different ways. The word "minister" means to serve, to meet a specific need. Whenever we help someone in their need, whether it is teaching the Word or cleaning the toilets, we are "ministering." That is why we should not refer to our pastor as our "minister," because we are all ministers. He is our shepherd. He is God's servant to the body of Christ. He is our leader, and we should pray for him every day so that he hears clearly from God.

Make the lesson not only one of basics about the Church universal, but make it a lesson that tells your students about your church. As you identify the various parts, name those who serve in that capacity in your church. If a member of the staff is available to share with the students about his responsibility, this would be a great addition to the basic lesson.

By the time you finish with the class, the students should know the role of the pastor, the elders, the deacons, and any governments or helps ministries that your church may have.



## Methods

### *Lecture and Illustration*

Have pictures ready to show the students who the people are in your church that fit the particular roles. Better yet, have one or two of those individuals come in to the class and identify themselves so the students get to know them. Give a brief explanation of each area of ministry, and ask the students what they think about those ministry areas. Point out that they (the students) are called to

“ministry”, and can take the message of the Gospel to their friends and neighbors.

### *The Rock Principle*

Visualize the scene in Matthew 16. Jesus had asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” Discuss the fact that people thought that Jesus was the reincarnation of a great prophet, but would not admit that He was the Messiah. When Jesus asked Peter who he thought He was, Peter responded, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Jesus said, “Thou art Peter (*Petros*, little stone), and upon this rock (*Petra*, great stone, the revelation of who Jesus really is) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

# Four Little Wise Guys

Volume 1

Lesson 19



## Bible References

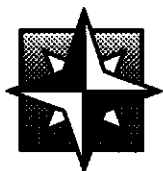
Proverbs 30

Proverbs 6:6-11

Psalms 62:1-6

Hebrews 10:25

Genesis 32:22-29



## Theme

We can learn wisdom from God's creatures.



## Scripture Reading

Proverbs 30:24-28

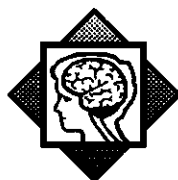
24 *"There be four (things which are) little upon the earth, but they (are) exceeding wise:*

25 *"The ants (are) a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;*

26 *"The conies (are but) a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;*

27 *"The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;*

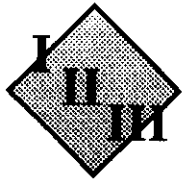
28 *"The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."*



## Memory Verse

Ecclesiastes 5:12

*"The sleep of a labouring man is sweet..."*



## Outline

### I. Wisdom.

#### A. Seeing life from God's viewpoint.

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
2. We need to see that everything really belongs to God.

#### B. Knowledge.

1. Getting information.
2. We learn by listening and watching.

#### C. Understanding.

1. Using knowledge rightly.
2. Knowing why and how, and not just what.

#### D. Four wise, but small, creatures:

1. Four illustrations of character.
2. We can learn from God's creation.

### II. Ants.

#### A. Small social insects.

1. Store up their food in the summer.
2. Example of diligence.
3. Work before play.
4. Prepare for winter.

### B. Planning.

1. It is wise to prepare for hard times.
2. The more mature we are, the more we will plan for the future.
3. He who fails to plan, plans to fail.

### C. Preparing for winter.

1. We go through seasons in life.
2. Summer is the time to sow seeds of kindness and work for God.
3. Winter is a symbol of hard times in life.

### D. Sluggard.

1. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard..."  
Proverbs 6:6
2. A slug is a slow-moving, snail-like creature with no shell.
  - a. Symbol of laziness.
  - b. "Sluggard" means a lazy person who moves like a slug, when it is time to work.

### E. Slothful person.

1. A sloth is a very slow-moving mammal.
2. Sloths hang from trees in the jungle.

### III. Conies.

#### A. Similar to hyrax, or rock badger.

1. Looks like a rabbit, or a badger.
2. Conies live around the Dead Sea.
3. Brown fur, with a yellow spot.

## B. Home in the crags.

1. Conies do not burrow in the ground, but live in the hollow places among the rocky ledges of the desert.
2. They are weak, but the rock is a strong shelter.
3. The Psalmist David often referred to the Lord as his "rock" of shelter.
  - a. "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress...." (Psalms 18:2)
  - b. Psalms 18:31, 46
  - c. Psalms 31:2-3
  - d. Psalms 62:2, 6, 7

## C. We should abide in Jesus and find peace.

**IV. Locusts.**

## A. Another social insect.

1. Some swarms number in the billions, and create a cloud of creatures several miles in diameter.
2. They can eat their own weight in plants in a day.
3. Locust swarms are greatly feared by farmers, for they can destroy the crops of many fields.

## B. Go forth in bands.

1. As Christians, we need the fellowship and support of other believers.
2. When we go in teams, we are most effective as witnesses.
3. We should all be a part of a local, Bible-teaching church.
4. We need a teacher, a spiritual leader, and a counselor.
5. Jesus prayed that we might be one (in one accord) so that the world

might see Him through our love.  
(John 17:23)

**V. Lizards.**

## A. Wrongly translated "spider" in the King James Version.

1. The Bible is perfect, but all translations have errors and weaknesses.
2. The Word of God was written centuries ago, primarily in Hebrew and Greek.

## B. Tenacity.

1. The lizard takes a hold with her hands, and is in the king's palaces.
2. Jacob took hold of the Lord, and would not let go until he received the blessing.
3. We should seek after God with our whole heart, and not give up.
4. Work hard to learn skills, such as music or art, and practice diligently.
5. As a boy, David practiced music as well as military skills.



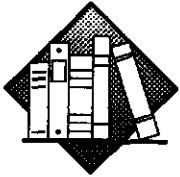
## Spiritual Truths

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- God demonstrates wisdom in many ways through His creation.
- Wisdom is the ability to see the whole picture concerning a situation, and not just the natural or physical aspects of it.
- A lazy person lives for the moment, and does not plan or prepare ahead.



- Jesus Christ is our rock and our fortress; the source of our spiritual safety.
- We can abide in the safety of Jesus only if we trust and obey.
- Each of us needs to be a part of a local, biblical church.
- It is good for us to be a part of a family, as well as a part of a church fellowship.
- People who become skilled at something have diligently taken hold and have sacrificed to study and practice.
- We should also be diligent to pray and seek God every day.



## Lesson Material

Chapter 30 of Proverbs was apparently written by Agur, whose name means "gatherer, or collector." It was probably a group of inspired quotations collected through the life of Agur, of whom we know nothing except his name. Most of the Proverbs were written by Solomon, the wise son of King David, who lived a thousand years before Christ.

God uses many animals to illustrate both positive and negative character qualities. Jesus has been prophetically pictured as the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God. Christians are often portrayed as sheep, and carnal people as goats, dogs, and swine. False leaders are called "wolves," and Satan is referred to as the "roaring lion."

Here, Agur writes briefly about four creatures who are small and weak, but their characteristic behavior demonstrates an aspect of godly wisdom that we should study and imitate.

The ants are small, but they prepare their food in the summer. This thought had been dealt with in greater detail by Solomon in Proverbs 6, where the sluggard was advised to learn from the ant. The ants are not creative or intelligent. They are born to work, and they instinctively reap the harvest necessary to survive the winter and feed the larvae of the nest. They are not distracted by entertainment. They work first and receive the benefit later.

We are living in a day of instant gratification. Children in our culture tend to be spoiled by the easy life, and often react to anything that involves work. But we do not have any skills instinctively. The young person who is a "talented" violinist or pianist did not just receive a special gift during a Post Toasties commercial: indeed, he was practicing instead of vegetating at the television set. If you want to reap the greater reward in life, you will have to work and study when you are young. Contrary to the message of Hollywood, it does not come by luck or magic. The key to success is a four-letter word called "work."

The hyrax is a small, furry rodent which is similar to the rabbit in appearance, although there are other physical features that make it seem more related to a rhinoceros. It is important for all of us to see that we have natural spiritual enemies, such as the devil and his demons, as well as wicked men, and need God's protection. Christianity is not just a matter of coming to Jesus to get into heaven when we die. Christianity is a

relationship of trust and care, where we learn to abide in Him daily and depend on His wisdom, provision, and strength. King David was one of the most dynamic and successful people who ever lived. The secret to his success was his constant pursuit of God. David saw himself as running into the strong tower of God's love and presence for safety. He knew that his strength and safety depended on God. God is everywhere, but we need to make ourselves aware of His presence every day, and determine to go to Him as our rock and strong tower.

The locust is much like a flying grasshopper. One locust is basically worthless, for locusts produce nothing of value. They are simply consumers in life. But a locust can lay thousands of eggs. If they are allowed to breed unchecked for a time, they can number in the billions, creating giant clouds of destruction that cover the land for miles. A hoard of locusts can strip the land of all vegetation, and create famine for people.

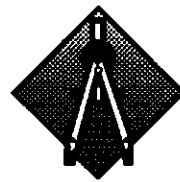
Now, God does not want us to be greedy consumers, but He does want us to learn that there is safety and strength in numbers when we are seeking Him together. A large church can do much more good for the community than a bunch of small ones, and can have a stronger evangelistic outreach. Large churches can provide better meetings and services for people and have more opportunities for friendship and relationship. Satan loves to get lambs away from the flock, for they are most vulnerable alone. We need each other as Christians.

The lizard is another small creature who is commended for tenacity. Lizards can crawl up vertical walls, because their feet can create suction. This "stick to it" attitude is important for us if we want to

be achievers in life. Do not quit just because things are hard. Find out what God wants you to do, and then do it with all your might. (Ecclesiastes 9:10) Lizards also have an advantage in life, because they can eat what bugs them.

The Bible gives the account of Jacob. When he met with the Lord, they began to wrestle. The Lord started to leave, and Jacob hung on, saying "I will not let you leave until you bless me." Jacob was diligent to take a hold on life and on God. How different from his brother Esau, who sold out for a bowl of soup. God is not mediocre. He loved Jacob, but hated Esau. Jacob was not strong in himself, but he hung on to the Lord, and God liked that quality.

The world seeks to get us to center on ourselves, saying "you can be what you want to be." But that is not really true. By God's grace, however, it is true that if you will learn wisdom and diligently pursue God's best in life, you can become all that God designed you to be.



## Methods

### *Pictures*

If you cannot bring an ant farm or something to illustrate the lesson, find some pictures or drawings of these little creatures. If you cannot, do not worry. Most children have seen ants and locusts, at least, and you can describe the creatures well enough give students a visualization. Be sure you understand at least one aspect of wisdom in each of the creatures depicted by Agur. Remember that this is

about weak creatures; so, it is ideal for relating to very young people. However, there is wisdom here for anyone, for we are all weak compared to the spiritual

forces at work in our world, and we cannot rely on physical strength to win spiritual victories.

# I Cannot See

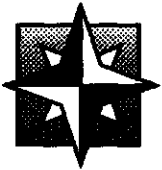
Volume 1

Lesson 20



## Bible Reference

Acts 9:1-22



## Theme

The story of Saul on the road to Damascus.



## Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-5, 8, 17, 18

1 "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 "And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: (it is) hard for thee to kick against the pricks....

8 "And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought (him) into Damascus....

17 "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, (even) Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost."

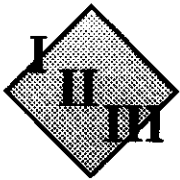
18 "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."



## Memory Verse

Psalms 118:27

*"God is the Lord, which hath shewed us light...."*



## Outline

### I. Saul of Tarsus.

#### A. Saul's background.

1. His mother was a Jew, but his father was a Roman citizen.
2. Jews were under the rule of Rome, and only Roman citizens had rights.
3. Because Saul was a Jew who also had the rights of a Roman, he was in a special place to be used by God.
4. His parents named him "Saul," perhaps after the tall and magnificent King Saul of history.
5. However, this Saul turned out to be short and sickly.

#### B. Saul was a Pharisee.

1. Pharisees were religious Jews, who were zealous about keeping the law.
2. Generally, they were so absorbed in their own works and religious exercises that they had not recognized that Jesus was the true Messiah sent by God.

3. Many Pharisees saw Christianity as a threat to their religious empire, and really thought they were doing God a favor by attacking Christians.
4. Saul was extremely zealous in defense of his Jewish religion, and he was feared by Christians.

#### C. Saul went to the high priest in Jerusalem.

1. He asked for a letter from the Jewish leadership, authorizing him to prosecute the followers of Jesus.
2. He requested that he be allowed to find the Christians in Damascus.
  - a. Saul wanted to chain them up and bring them back to Jerusalem.
  - b. He wanted them to be tried and executed.

### II. Confrontation.

#### A. God sent a very bright light from heaven to Saul.

1. Saul fell to his knees.
  - a. The light blinded him.
  - b. He sensed the presence of God.
2. A voice spoke to him.
  - a. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"
  - b. Saul said, "Who are you, Lord (Sir)?"
    - (1) The term, "Lord" is the same as the word, "sir" used today.
    - (2) He did not recognize the Lord. Saul wanted to know who was speaking to him.
  - c. The voice said, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest."

B. Saul asked what the Lord wanted him to do.

1. He was told to go to the city.
2. He was told to wait and he would be told what to do.

C. The men with Saul were amazed.

1. They saw the light.
2. They heard the voice that Saul heard, but they saw no one.

### III. Saul Was Blinded.

A. When Saul arose, he was blind.

1. His men had to help him.
2. They led him by the hand into the city of Damascus.

B. Saul fasted for three days, waiting for God to send help to him.

### IV. Ananias.

A. A follower of Christ living in Damascus.

B. God called Ananias.

1. God told him to go to the house of Judas of Damascus.
2. The Lord told him to pray for Saul.

C. Ananias was afraid.

1. He knew what Saul had come to do.
2. He knew what Saul had done in Jerusalem.

D. God revealed His plan to Ananias.

1. He told him Saul was a chosen vessel to bring the message of Christ to the Gentiles.

2. God revealed that Saul would go through much hardship and suffering.

### V. Ananias Prayed for Saul.

A. Ananias told Saul that Jesus had sent him with a message and a command:

1. To lay hands on him.
2. To tell him that when he was healed, he would receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

B. Ananias prayed.

1. The scales fell from Saul's eyes.
2. Saul was baptized.



## Spiritual Truths

- We should not be afraid when we are doing the Lord's work.
- Jesus taught that we should never fear those who can only destroy the body.
- God knows our hearts.
- Until we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, all of us are spiritually blind.
- Many people see the light but fail to hear God's voice, because of the hardness of their hearts.
- Jesus is the light of the world.
- When someone is fighting against God's work, we should pray that God

will save them, not pray for their destruction.

- Most people who persecute others think they are really doing a good thing, because they are deceived by false philosophies.
- God does not save us to make our life easy, but to make us useful in His work.
- When people persecute God's servants, they are really fighting against God.
- God can redeem even the most wicked sinner.



## Lesson Material

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He established His Church on the earth. On the day of Pentecost, He poured out the Holy Spirit on 120 followers who were waiting obediently in Jerusalem. The Church rapidly multiplied as a result of this powerful anointing and other religions were threatened, particularly the Jewish religion. For 1500 years the Children of Israel had observed the good teachings and laws of Moses. They continued to offer sacrifices and keep the feasts and Sabbaths, not realizing that God meant to fulfill the law by sending the perfect sin offering, Jesus, the Son of God.

Instead of searching the scriptures to see if this Jesus was the true Messiah, the Pharisees, a particularly zealous sect of religious Jews, set about to oppose Him and His followers. They often debated and harassed Jesus, and sought to turn the

Roman government against Him. After His death, they continued to persecute the followers of Jesus.

Saul of Tarsus was an especially zealous Pharisee. He assisted at the stoning of Stephen, who is considered to be the first martyr of the Christian church. Saul was a terror to the followers of Jesus. Saul was convinced that Christianity was evil, and that it was a threat to his Jewish heritage. His father was a Greek, with full rights as a Roman citizen. The Jews did not have such rights. They were a conquered people, and were forced to pay taxes and give services to the Romans.

Saul grew up in the great Syrian city of Tarsus. He was trained in secular humanism and was extremely well-educated. In Tarsus, the dominant culture was Greek, but there was a large Jewish colony. Saul's father probably offended his family by marrying a lowly Jewish girl, but this union produced a man who was in a good position to help the church later. He grew up with both the religion of Israel and the knowledge of the day. Obviously, he chose the religion of his mother, who was the stronger influence on his life. He worked hard to defend his religious tradition from the fanatic Christians, until Jesus Himself confronted him in a most dramatic fashion. Undoubtedly, some of the believers were praying in faith, "God, please save our enemy, Saul, from the darkness and deception of his sin."

Many of the students may come from homes where there is an unsaved person in the house. We need to let them know that there is hope. Jesus changed Saul from a persecutor to one of the greatest champions of the cause of Christ who ever lived. Many students may come from homes where there is prejudice. They need to know that it is not God's will for

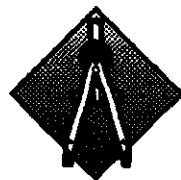
them; and, as in the case of Ananias, they must be willing to take the message of God's love and hope to all mankind.

When the scales fell from Saul's eyes, they were more than physical scales. Saul had been blinded to the reality of Christ. It was not just the voice he heard on the Damascus road that helped him see the light. It was three days later when a man Saul had come to oppose was willing to come to Saul and pray for his sight. When the scales fell from Saul's eyes, he saw physically. But more important than that, he saw spiritually. He saw the true love of Christ and of God's people.

When God completed the physical and spiritual healing in Saul's life, He was able to transform him and baptize him in the Holy Ghost. We need to point out that God wants to enter into us and give us power, not like a comic book hero, but a power which allows us to feel God's love and the boldness to share Him with others. Do not miss this part of the story as you share it with your class.

Saul's Damascus-road experience was the turning point in his ministry to the Gentiles. For a time, it slowed the persecution that was taking place among the Christians, so they could take their message to the street. Saul was told that he would have to suffer many things. Many of us will have trials and persecutions; but, when we go through them in the name of

Jesus, we will endure; and God will reward us for our faithfulness.



## Methods

### *Flannelgraph*

This is a good story to tell with the use of flannel. Keep the flannel pieces in order and move through the basic story fairly fast. Have two boards set up, if possible -- one with the road to Damascus; and one with the inside of the house of Judas in Damascus.

### *Skit*

Have a person in costume tell the story from the perspective of Ananias. He can tell the students about Saul, and how Saul had planned to take all of the Christians back to Jerusalem. How the light came; and the voice spoke; and how God called out to Ananias. Show Ananias' great fear in going to the house on Straight Street to pray for Saul, the persecutor. Show how, when we obey God, we are filled with joy. Either have another person play the part of Saul, or have Ananias pretend that Saul is there and do the dialog.



# A Little Boy Lives

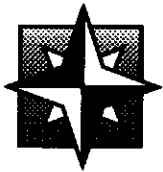
Volume 1

Lesson 21



## Bible Reference

John 4:46-54



## Theme

Jesus healed the nobleman's son.



## Scripture Reading

John 4:46-51

46 "So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 "When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49 "The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 "Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

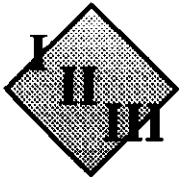
51 "And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told {him}, saying, Thy son liveth."



## Memory Verse

Acts 5:16

"...and they were healed every one."



## Outline

### I. Jesus in Cana of Galilee.

#### A. Jesus was returning from Samaria.

1. He had preached there to the Samaritans.
2. There was a religious awakening among the Samaritan people.
3. Samaritans were "half-breeds," (mixed race, part Jew) and were looked down on by the Jews.
4. Jesus had spoken to a woman at the well in Samaria, and this famous meeting sparked a revival in the city.

#### B. Jesus had stopped in Cana of Galilee.

1. Where he had performed His first miracle.
2. The people followed after Him, having heard of His mighty works.
3. Galilee was the region around the Sea of Galilee, north of Jerusalem.
  - a. The Jordan River flowed south out of the Sea of Galilee and ended at the Dead Sea.
  - b. Galilee was in the northern part of the land of Canaan, which rightfully belonged to the descendants of Israel.
  - c. At the time of Christ, it was all controlled by the Roman Empire.

### II. The Nobleman.

#### A. A leader.

1. He was a high-ranking official, under Herod the Tetrarch.
2. Herod was something like a governor over the region of Galilee, under the authority of Caesar in Rome.
3. The man was probably a Jew, working for the secular government in Galilee.

#### B. From the city of Capernaum.

1. Capernaum was a city in the low area north of the Sea of Galilee.
2. It was more than twenty miles northeast of Cana.
3. Cana was a city located on high ground.

#### C. The nobleman's son was dying.

#### D. The nobleman sought after Jesus.

1. He traveled to Cana to meet Jesus.
2. He asked Jesus to go to Capernaum to heal his son, who was at the point of death.

### III. Dialogue.

#### A. "Except ye see signs and wonders, you will not believe." vs. 48.

#### B. Jesus knew the heart of the nobleman.

1. He had a portion of faith.
  - a. He had traveled from Capernaum to find Jesus.
  - b. He had never met Jesus.

2. He came with a measure of faith that Jesus could heal.
  - a. He knew that he must meet this man, Jesus.
  - b. He trusted that if Jesus came, He could heal.

C. Jesus knew that the nobleman still had reservations.

1. He had not seen or heard of Jesus healing anyone.
2. He was filled with his own prejudices, based on his position in life.
3. He needed to see the physical evidence of healing, in order to believe.

#### IV. Healing.

A. Jesus told the man to leave.

1. He told him his son was living.
2. He did not go with the man to do the healing.

B. The man's faith was stirred.

1. He did not plead for Jesus to come.
2. He left immediately, and believed in his heart that his son was healed.
3. He obeyed Jesus in faith.

C. The nobleman's servants met him half way.

1. They left Capernaum to give him the good news.
2. His son has been healed.
3. It was at the very time that Jesus had spoken the words.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus Christ has the power to heal us.
- The prayers of a concerned parent are important.
- Christ hears not just what we say but, He knows the intent of our heart.
- Christ knows that we may not always understand why we have faith, but He honors our desire to seek after Him.
- Faith is more than believing with the mind.
- Faith means agreeing with God and then trusting Him with the outcome.
- Faith involves a focus on God and His purposes.
- God loves to answer unselfish prayers.
- Real faith does not require continual proofs to reaffirm truth.
- Faith looks at who God is, and not only at what God does.



## Lesson Material

Even though the story does not indicate the age of the boy involved, children can relate well to the suffering of a friend. When we tell the story, we need to assume the child was very near the age of our students and get their empathy toward that child.

This boy's father loved him. He had an important position, and probably could have called on the greatest doctors in the area to come to the aid of his son. But he heard of this man, Jesus, and had faith that his son could be healed, if he could only get to see Jesus. There was no reason to believe that this would happen naturally. Jesus had not yet performed His many other healing miracles. There was no proof that this man, Jesus, could heal; only a father's longing to help his son, coupled with a feeling in his heart that Jesus was the answer. Many fathers pray for their children daily. We need to point out that the love of fathers, mothers, grandparents, and guardians can mean a lot to the life of a child. The students also need to know that their faith can be important to those whom they love.

Jesus knew the situation the man faced. He knew his position, his faith, and his need. Jesus knows our needs, too. Jesus knew that He did not have to be physically present for the boy to be healed. Today, Jesus is still in the healing business. He may not be physically on this earth in the form of a man, but His Spirit is here, and His healing power is here.

When the nobleman left to go back to his son, he did not beg Jesus to join him.

He took Jesus' word, by faith, that his son was healed, and started home. "...*Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1) The man did not see his son healed, but he received it in his heart. He was not surprised at the news of his son's healing; but, he was overjoyed by the message. The news of the healing brought such faith that his entire family received Christ as Savior and Lord. All of us need to have that same faith, and make a true commitment that Christ is the Lord of our lives and the Savior who heals.

Use this lesson as an opportunity to pray for those who need healing. Pray for the students, for their families, their friends, and others they know. Tell them Jesus is still healing today. We must believe in our hearts that Christ is able, and we must trust Him with every aspect of our lives. The one danger we need to be aware of is teaching that, if someone does not get well, it is a result of a lack of faith. There are many factors involved in every life, and only God knows all of them. We can only see in part. But, we do know that God loves to heal the sick, and that He does respond to faith. Some sickness is unto death. Some is for chastening for unconfessed sin. Some sickness is the natural result of human or natural situations, and some sickness is for the glory of God, as this was. The boy was completely healed, because his father believed Jesus, and Jesus received the honor.

God has not changed. He has both the power and the desire to heal the sick today, and we are instructed to pray in faith for those who need healing. Whenever possible, those who are sick should ask for the elders of the church to pray for them, and should confess their faults when needed.



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## Methods

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### *Skit*

This is a great lesson to teach through the use of a skit. Use either the teachers or the teachers and some of the students to represent the individuals in the story. When they are through with the reenactment of the story, make sure that you ask the students to comment on the important questions raised by the story. Why was Jesus sought out? Why was Jesus asked to heal? Could Jesus heal? Why did the nobleman want Jesus to come to the child? Why did he need to see the sign and the wonder? Why did Jesus choose not to go

to the child? Was the child actually healed?

### *Testimony*

Ask the students, or teaching team members, if any of them have a relative or acquaintance who was dramatically healed by the Lord. Invite someone to the class who has a vivid testimony of personal healing. Take time for personal healing testimonies.

Ask if anyone needs prayer for divine healing, and have the team lay hands on those who believe for a miracle.

### *Puppets*

Have the puppets re-enact the story and have them ask the students the questions suggested above.

# Give Thanks



## Bible References

Leviticus 22:29

1 Chronicles 16, 25

Psalms 95:2

Psalms 147:7

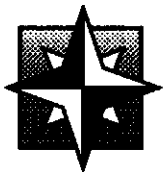
2 Corinthians 9:11



## Scripture Reading

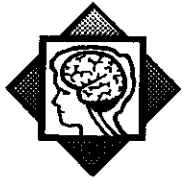
1 Chronicles 16:7-14

- 7 *"Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the Lord into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.*
- 8 *"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.*
- 9 *"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.*
- 10 *"Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.*
- 11 *"Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.*
- 12 *"Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;*
- 13 *"O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.*
- 14 *"He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth."*



## Theme

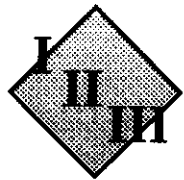
We need to give thanks daily for everything God has done for us.



## Memory Verse

Psalms 147:7

*"Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving;...."*



## Outline

### I. King David.

A. David was one of the greatest people in the history of the world.

1. The key to his success was his love for God and his grateful spirit.
2. David led the nation of Israel in praising God.
3. David was a skilled musician and composer.
4. He even invented musical instruments and wrote most of the Psalms compiled and preserved in the Bible.

B. Bringing up the ark.

1. The ark of the covenant was the symbol of God's presence.
  - a. Made of acacia wood, overlaid with pure gold inside and outside.
  - b. Approximately 4 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet high.
  - c. Carried the tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

d. The mercy seat was located on top of the ark, and was overshadowed by two golden cherubim.

e. The ark was portable and was carried on poles by the priests.

f. Exodus 25:10-22

2. David brought the ark to Zion, a high place in Jerusalem.
  - a. The move was accompanied by great rejoicing.
  - b. There were many musicians, singers, and dancers.
3. He built a new tabernacle there, where choirs and orchestras praised and worshipped God 24 hours a day.

C. Asaph.

1. Asaph was one of the chief musicians under David.
2. There were several Levites who were skilled musicians and worship leaders.
3. Other notable musicians were Heman, Jeduthan, and Cheneniah.

D. Heman.

1. Heman had fourteen sons and three daughters who were all skilled musicians.
2. Heman was also a prophet.
3. These mighty men would often prophecy in song.

E. The Psalms.

1. These were songs which were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and accompanied with musical instruments.
2. The largest book in the Bible.

## II. Being Thankful.

- A. God's Word says to be thankful for being "enriched in everything." (2 Corinthians 9:11)
- B. God's Word says we are to be thankful in our songs of praise to Him. (Psalms 147:7)
- C. God's Word says we are to "come before His presence with thanksgiving...." (Psalms 95:2)
1. It is improper court ethics to come before a king without a gift.
  2. God does not need our money, but He does enjoy a loving, thankful heart.
  3. Jesus lives in the praise of His people. (Psalms 22:3)
- D. God's Word says we are to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Him. (Psalms 50:14)
1. It has always been necessary to sacrifice as an act of worship.
  2. We sacrifice when we offer something we need.
  3. We sacrifice praise when we give thanks when we do not feel like it, but praise God because He is worthy of it.

## III. Give Our Thanks.

- A. We need to give thanks to the Lord.
1. Gratitude is good for us.
  2. A thankful heart keeps us from being selfish and wicked.
  3. Thanksgiving helps us keep our focus on God, and realize that He is the center of life.

- B. We need to honor the Lord through our thanksgiving.

1. God enjoys our expressions of appreciation.
2. God loves to give more to those who are thankful.



## Spiritual Truths

- God is worthy of our gratitude, because He is our loving Creator and provider.
- God desires our gratitude.
- We have much for which to give thanks.
- We need to give thanks, even when things do not seem to be going right.
- Giving thanks helps us to develop a grateful spirit.
- It is good to begin every prayer with thanksgiving.
- We should be careful to express appreciation to the people who help us in life.
- In every situation, we should learn to be thankful to God.
- We should thank God for all things in life.





## Lesson Material

This is a simple lesson taught about celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday, which is celebrated in the United States and other Western nations. This holiday is a reminder that the nation was founded on Christian principles, although it is moving away from that heritage at an alarming rate as a nation. It should be noted that thanksgiving is important worldwide, and it is not a unique concept in American tradition. God has called all of us to give thanks. We have included it in this material to allow each class to take time to review the things for which they are thankful.

One of the things that made David such an important person in history is the fact that no matter what happened, he kept his focus on God. It is a human tendency to drift away from God when life is easy or prosperous. But David had trained himself to be lavish in praise to God every day. He cultivated a grateful heart by continually reminding himself of the goodness of God. He became the wealthiest and most powerful man on earth, and still stayed tender before God. David also endured some great hardships in life, but he kept on praising and thanking God, even through his darkest hours.

There are two times when we are tempted to forget God: when things go our way, and when we go through great difficulties. Prosperity brings the temptation to think we deserve the blessings we are getting. But, the habit of thanksgiving reminds us that every good thing comes

from God's good hand, and that He deserves the honor. Hardships can tempt us to be bitter and resentful, and to focus on the negatives in life. But through the hardships, we can keep our focus, and decide to be grateful for what we do have, rather than magnify the problems.

A Christian was in a hospital one day, when a poor old man was wheeled into the emergency room. He wore shabby clothes, and he had no possessions. He had been attacked by a pack of dogs and was bleeding from many wounds. The Christian heard the old man muttering, "Thank you, Jesus. You are so good." Later, the same Christian who had witnessed the poor old man was in the home of a very wealthy and powerful man. This man was not a believer. He was unhappy, angry, and bitter at life, even though he was surrounded by wealth and comforts. The rich man had much to be thankful for; but, he was so focused on himself that he did not even see it. The old man had little, but he was thankful and much happier than the other man.

Teachers in each city and country around the world are going to find a different list of things for which to be thankful each year. We need to teach that God's Word stresses the need to give thanks in all things. We need to look for the positive things we have. Foremost is the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. That promise is the greatest blessing anyone can have or hope for, no matter what their circumstances.

Teach the class the importance of thanksgiving. Have praise, prayer requests, and sing songs of thanks to the Lord. This lesson is one that will allow the class a great deal of flexibility. At the same time, it allows the teacher to become better

acquainted with the children and those things for which they give thanks.

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## Methods

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### *Lecture*

Probably the best method is to be interactive with the students. Teach them the basic verses on giving thanks and then ask them to name things for which they give thanks. Make certain you close the time with prayer, and invite the students to participate with you in offering prayers of thanksgiving.

### *Puppets #1*

Use puppets to re-enact scenes about things for which the students are thankful. Have the puppets portray someone who does not think that they have anything for which to be thankful. Have the students enter into a time of helping those puppets find things in their lives for which they should offer thanks to God.

### *Puppets #2*

Use a basic Thanksgiving story about the first pilgrims who came to America and the true meaning of the first Thanksgiving. Dress the puppets in costumes appropriate for the era involved. Make sure that the pilgrims are acknowledging that God was the source of their miraculous survival and bountiful harvest, and that it was a very happy, spiritual occasion.

# He Understands

Volume 1

Lesson 23



## Bible Reference

Luke 2:39-52

44 "But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among {their} kinsfolk and acquaintance.

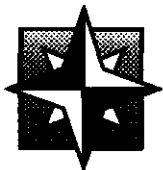
45 "And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 "And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 "And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"



## Theme

Jesus came to earth as a human so we could know Him. He grew up as a child just like you!



## Scripture Reading

Luke 2:42-49

42 "And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

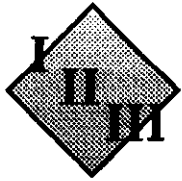
43 "And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not {of it}.



## Memory Verse

Luke 2:47

"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."



## Outline

### I. Jesus Went to Jerusalem.

- A. Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago.
1. He was born in a small town called Bethlehem.
  2. Bethlehem was near Jerusalem, in Judaea.
  3. Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth in Galilee.
    - a. Galilee was the area to the north of Judaea.
    - b. It was on the border of the Sea of Galilee.
  4. Jesus was born to a Jewish woman, Mary, who was a direct descendent of David, of the tribe of Judah.
- B. Jewish families gathered each year at the temple in Jerusalem.
1. The Hebrew people had celebrated the feast of the Passover for 1500 years.
  2. They were celebrating their deliverance from Egyptian slavery.
  3. Jesus was twelve years old.
  4. This was considered the Jewish age of young manhood, and now He was allowed to enter into the temple.

### II. Jesus Was Left Behind.

- A. After a day at the temple, the family left Jerusalem.
1. Jesus was still in the temple.
  2. He stayed and talked to the leaders.

- B. His parents thought He was with the group. They had traveled toward home for one full day before they discovered he was missing.

1. They were concerned.
2. They returned immediately to Jerusalem to look for Him.

### III. Jesus Was Found.

- A. After searching three days, they found Jesus in the temple.
1. It is interesting that they searched for three days before they looked in the temple.
  2. It seems reasonable to us to find Jesus in church.
- B. Jesus was talking with the elders about spiritual things.
1. People were amazed at His questions.
  2. People were amazed at His answers and knowledge.
  3. As a boy, Jesus knew that God was His Father.
- C. Mary was worried about Jesus.
- D. Jesus responded.
1. "Did you not realize that I must be about my Father's business?"
  2. But Jesus, who was totally yielded to God, submitted to His parents, and went with them back to Nazareth.
  3. He appealed, but left the decision to them.

## V. Jesus, the Child.

A. Jesus grew up in a normal home.

B. He had parents whom he obeyed.

1. His actual Father was God, but Joseph was the husband of his mother, Mary.
2. Joseph was the head of the home.
3. Joseph and Mary had other children, but Jesus was the firstborn in the family.
4. Jesus was human, but not carnal. He had no sin nature.

C. Jesus understands how you feel.

1. He was a child once.
2. He lived a normal life on this earth.
3. Jesus was tempted to sin, but He overcame the temptation by using the Word of God.
4. Jesus served His Heavenly Father first and foremost.
5. We should follow the example of Jesus.
  - a. We are called to be about the business of Jesus.
  - b. We are called to be witnesses to others.
  - c. We are called to learn more of the Word of God.
  - d. We should go to God's house.

- Jesus understands us.
- Like Jesus, we should grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially.
- We must be more like Jesus and be about the business of our heavenly Father.
- We must also be in our heavenly Father's house -- church.
- We should always obey God.
- We know what God commands, because He gave us the Bible.
- We should obey our parents, unless their command violates God's Word.
- Church is a good place to find Jesus.



## Lesson Material

Jesus is our Lord and Savior, but He also was a man. He felt the same emotions and went through many of the same things we face daily. He had brothers, and sisters, and cousins. He had aunts and uncles. He had work to do and lessons to learn. He was a human being, and that was a part of God's plan. By coming and living on this earth as a man, He was better able to understand us and the needs we face on this earth.

Jesus is the only "begotten" Son of God. That is, there are millions of us who are created and adopted children of God, but Jesus is part of the Holy Trinity. He was never created. He always was, and always will be. When He came to earth, He was



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus was a child once.
- Jesus had parents who naturally were concerned about Him.

"incarnated." That means He became a man. He diminished His eternal glory and power so that He could identify with fallen mankind and become a "kinsman redeemer." He is not half God, half man. He is very God, and very man. This is impossible for us to comprehend fully, so do not feel intimidated if it is beyond your ability to understand. God is far greater than any genius can understand. We should just receive and believe what He reveals to us in the Bible and not worry about it.

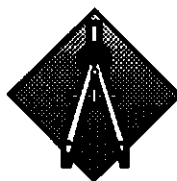
Jesus was in His Father's house. That is an important lesson in this material, which should not be missed. It is important for all of us to go regularly to our Father's house -- to church. Children, especially, need to learn the importance of going to church, and that Jesus also attended church when He was a child. Jesus amazed everyone with His knowledge. Your students need to know it is their responsibility to learn all they can about the Word of God, so they can share the Word with others.

Now, we realize that God really lives in the hearts and lives of His people, and that the church building is not really the "Church." But, the church building is a place set aside and dedicated for worship and ministry, and the way we respect the facility reflects the way we feel about God. When we love God, we will love to meet with His people, and we will respect the place designed for spiritual growth. When we find ourselves preferring secular pleasures to church, or losing interest in the Bible and prayer, we should be concerned about our spiritual condition. If we genuinely love God, we will naturally love to worship and hear about His Word.

All of us must be about the work of our Heavenly Father. Doing God's work at an

early age means to worship and love God with the whole heart and to grow spiritually. It also means learning to take the good news of the gospel to friends. It means learning to be obedient to parents and to other God-given authorities. This is the work of the Lord for a young person. "Understanding" is the key word of the lesson. If the students can grasp the truth that Jesus understands them, then their prayer lives and their relationships with Jesus will be that much greater. The fact that God's Son became a boy helps us to believe that He understands.

Just as the main job of a young person is to learn and grow, so it is in spiritual matters. Our main function is to learn about spiritual things and to grow to be mighty in spirit. Jesus was balanced in life. He grew spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially. Our task is to grow strong in all of these areas, and not in just one or two. Sadly, many people grow up with very little emphasis on spiritual growth, and this is the most important part of our education.



## Methods

### *Lecture Method*

Use of an interactive lecture method can work well. Have a story time, with the students sitting in a semicircle around the teacher. Have them imagine themselves as Jesus, and what Mary and Joseph must have thought when they discovered that Jesus was missing. Keep the students involved in the lesson and have them answer the questions as they would have done if they were Jesus.

We should be aware that the sin nature is such that we naturally desire the power and wealth that was the possession of the Pre-incarnate Jesus. But, when Jesus came to earth, He deliberately entered the human race through a humble, working family. He showed us that to be like Him, we would need to be poor in spirit, and meek, and gentle. He showed that the goal is godly character, which will result in honor and blessings in eternity. Those who live this life in search of power,

honor, pleasure, or wealth, will lose it all forever. Those who live in the pursuit of God and holiness will find Him and will have all the other things in eternity as a bonus.

#### *Flannelgraph*

Flannel can be used with this story, but it should complement the lecture method. Do not try to teach this story to young students by simply telling it through flannel. Get them involved.

# Mary Hears a Voice

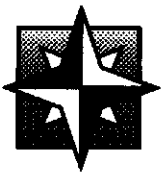
Volume 1

Lesson 24



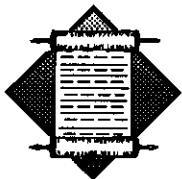
## Bible Reference

Luke 1:26-56



## Theme

The beginnings of Christmas.



## Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-36

26 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name {was} Mary.

28 "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, {thou that art} highly favoured,

the Lord {is} with thee: blessed {art} thou among women.

29 "And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 "The said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 "And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

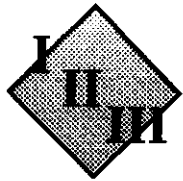




## Memory Verse

Luke 1:31

*"...thou shalt ... bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."*



## Outline

### I. Introduction.

A. The nation of Israel was waiting for the arrival of the promised Messiah.

1. Messiah -- the anointed one from God.
2. The one who would lead the people of God.
3. The one who would fulfill God's purposes for mankind.

B. Mary fit the criteria God had ordained.

1. Both she and her future husband, Joseph, were of the lineage of David.
  - a. God had determined to use the family line of Abraham and his descendent David to bring forth the Savior of the world.
  - b. David was a direct descendent of Judah, the great-grandson of Abraham.
  - c. The Old Testament prophets had decreed that the Messiah would be from the tribe (Hebrew

family) of Judah (one of the sons of Jacob).

2. She was a believer in God.
3. She was unmarried and a virgin.
4. Mary had sinned, but she trusted God, and had asked forgiveness.

### II. Mary Was Chosen.

A. The angel's message.

1. You are very blessed by God.
2. Do not be afraid.
3. You will have a baby.
4. He is to be named Jesus.
  - a. The promised Messiah.
  - b. He shall be great.
  - c. He shall be called the Son of the Highest.
  - d. He shall be given the throne of His father David.

B. Mary was perplexed.

1. She was not yet married.
2. She was still a virgin.
3. She was just a teenager.
4. How could she have a child?
5. A woman cannot conceive a baby without the seed provided by the husband.

C. The angel spoke again.

1. The Holy Ghost would cause her to conceive supernaturally.
2. This child would have an earthly mother, but no earthly father.
  - a. Therefore, the child shall be Holy.
  - b. The child shall be called the Son of God.
  - c. He will inherit a human nature, but not a sin nature.
  - d. He will be tempted to sin, but He will not have to commit a sin.

### III. The Magnificat.

#### A. Mary's song of praise to God.

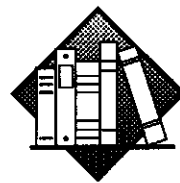
1. Her response to Elisabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist.
2. Recorded in Luke 1:46-55.

#### B. Some traditions exalt Mary.

1. Many religious superstitions have been spread about Mary.
  - a. Some people pray to Mary.
  - b. Some teach that she remained a virgin and had no other children, even though the Bible says she did.
  - c. Some teach that Mary's mother was also a virgin, and that Mary ascended to heaven without dying.
  - d. These are all in error.
2. Mary was human, normal, and is one of the saints in heaven who worship Jesus, their Savior and Lord.

#### C. Mary gave all the honor and glory to God.

- The plan to bring Jesus to earth was ready long before Moses brought the people out of Egypt to the promised land.
- Mary was wise to "ponder these things in her heart," rather than talk to people about them.
- Jesus is the only "begotten" Son of God, but we can be created, adopted sons of God.
- It is wrong to pray to Mary or any other dead person, because Jesus told us to pray to the Father in His name.
- God gave Mary a special job to do, and she was blessed, because she faithfully obeyed.
- Jesus is "Emmanuel," which means "God with us."



## Lesson Material



## Spiritual Truths

- God looks for those who are humble and pure in heart.
- God does not have to use natural measures to accomplish supernatural things.
- The plan to bring Jesus to earth was in place long before Mary was born.

The visitation of the angel to Mary was "in the sixth month." That is, the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy. Zacharias the priest was told by an angel that he and his wife would have a son in their old age, and that he was to be named John. Zacharias had a hard time believing for that miracle, but it came to pass. This boy would grow up to be the bold prophet who would proclaim to the world that Jesus was the Messiah from God.

It was prophesied that the Messiah would come to free the Jews from enslavement and bring back the throne of David. Many argued about how God

would do it, but none doubted that the coming of the Messiah was part of God's plan. Mary was very aware of the prophecies and that the lineage of the promised Messiah was shared by both her and Joseph, her husband-to-be.

God had promised to David 1,000 years earlier that his dynasty would last forever. After Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon had conquered the nation of Judah in 586 B.C., it seemed that the ruling family of David would never see a valid throne again. But the prophets, especially Isaiah, had declared many times that God would send an anointed leader to reestablish the throne of David. Many of the Hebrew people expected a military or political leader, who would restore the power and splendor of Jerusalem. But, God had a greater plan. He would fulfill His covenant with "whosoever will." He would send His own Son to earth, to be born in humble surroundings to a little Jewish girl, and He would save people from sin.

For nearly 600 years the Jewish people had suffered under the dominion of cruel, foreign nations. The Medo-Persian empire had conquered Babylon, and had taken over the Jewish slaves as part of their property. Later, Alexander the Great conquered the world for Greece, and the Greeks continued to oppress the conquered Jews. Many of the Hebrews fought valiantly against their Greek masters, and obtained military help from the growing Roman Empire. But, when Rome conquered the world, it proved to be an even more harsh master than the Greeks. The chosen people were still controlled, and taxed, and were looking for someone to set them free from Rome. They did not understand it then, but God sent Jesus to set them free from sin, which is also bondage.

When the angel appeared to Mary, she was not ready to accept the news of being chosen. Mary was a humble girl (probably one of the reasons why God chose her), and she could not believe that she had been selected for such an honor. At first, she was fearful of the angel.

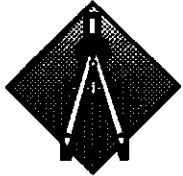
The angel told Mary that she was the chosen vessel, the one who had found favor with God. Still, she had questions. She had never "been with a man," so it was not possible for her to bear the Holy Child. The angel answered her fears by saying that the Holy Ghost would perform a miracle and place a supernatural seed in her womb.

The child to be born was the promised Messiah. God chose to send His only begotten Son, Jesus, to this earth. He sent Him as a baby into a poor carpenter's home and to Mary, a young girl who was awed by the responsibility. Mary and Joseph were real people, and Jesus was a real human who lived on this earth. Jesus was also God Almighty, and He lives in heaven (where He has gone to prepare a place for us, when we go to be with Him).

Over the centuries, traditions have evolved which have seen the image of Mary elevated to some strange places. Mary noted in her "Magnificat" that "from now on, everyone will call me blessed." She did not realize that people would actually worship or pray to her. She just realized that she was blessed. She recognized that she was a sinner, undeserving of such an honor. Mary wisely gave all the honor to God, and realized that she was simply a vessel. Jesus was the treasure.

Like Mary, we should always realize that every good thing in our lives is from God, and that we should be continually grateful to Him. We should see ourselves as His servants. The greatest thing in life is

to love and follow Jesus and to become His servants. Mary saw that Jesus was the Lord, and that she was His servant. She and Joseph lived a normal married life, and had several other children. When she died, her hope was in the same blood that saves us today: the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son.



## Methods

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### *Lecture*

One of the best approaches is to use the interactive lecture. Give the students the opportunity to ask questions, as you tell them about Mary and the angel. Ask some of the girls what they would have thought if an angel had come and told them that they were to be the chosen vessel of God.

Note that Hebrews, chapter one, downplays the idea of angelic visitations. Basically, the writer is saying that the revelation of Jesus and the Word of God is greater than the word of an angel. Some people get carried away with stories of angelic visits, while neglecting the greatest communication of all time. We should realize that the same God, who used Mary to do a task, speaks to us through His Word, and wants each of us to be a "vessel unto honor." The important thing is to let God speak to us, through His Word and through His Spirit, and then be willing to obey, whatever the cost.

### *Skit*

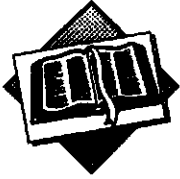
Have two teachers play the roles of Mary and the Angel. Show the importance of what was asked of Mary. Have the children interview Mary and ask her how she feels about being selected to be the mother of Jesus. Teachers should be ready with sample questions so the students will understand how they are being asked to participate.

# The Stable

Volume 1

A Christmas Lesson

Lesson 25



## Bible Reference

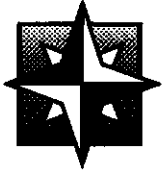
Luke 2:1-21

4 "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)"

5 "To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."

6 "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered."

7 "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."



## Theme

The birth of Jesus.



## Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1, 4-7

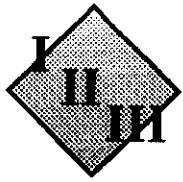
1 "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."



## Memory Verse

Luke 2:11

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."



## Outline

### I. The City: Bethlehem.

- A. The decree of taxation.
  - 1. Made by Caesar Augustus, the supreme ruler of the Roman Empire, which ruled the known world at the time.
    - a. Every nation under Rome's authority was to be taxed heavily.
    - b. Taxation was evidence that the people were not free.
  - 2. The location of taxation.
    - a. There was no consistent form of tax collecting.
      - (1) People were always on the move.
      - (2) Many did not have homes.
    - b. The people were told to go to the towns of their ancestry to be counted in a census and taxed.
- B. Joseph went to his home.
  - 1. Joseph was from the "House of David."
    - a. The lineage of the promised Messiah.
    - b. David: the most revered King Israel ever had.
  - 2. Joseph returned to Bethlehem.
    - a. The birthplace of David.
    - b. The prophesied birthplace of the Messiah. (Micah 5:2)
    - c. "Bethlehem" means "house of bread."

### II. The Parents: Joseph and Mary.

- A. Mary was expecting her first child.
  - 1. He was the anointed Messiah.
  - 2. He was the promised one.
  - 3. Jesus, the Son of God.
- B. Joseph and Mary found no room at an inn.
  - 1. Because of the census, the town was overcrowded with travelers.
  - 2. Joseph and Mary were forced to sleep in a stable -- a place used for animals.
- C. Mary had the child while staying at the stable.
  - 1. They wrapped him in swaddling clothes.
    - a. Square piece of cloth used for infants.
    - b. The cloth was wrapped around the baby and then fastened with a long band of cloth around it.
  - 2. They laid him in the manger.
    - a. A manger was a feed trough for animals.
    - b. It was probably full of straw, to make it comfortable.

### III. The Message.

- A. Shepherds.
  - 1. They were in a field near Bethlehem.
  - 2. They were watching their sheep at night.

**B. An angel.**

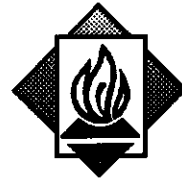
1. Appeared to the shepherds.
2. The glory of the Lord was like a bright light.
3. They were afraid.

**C. The announcement.**

1. The Angel told the shepherds.
  - a. Do not be afraid.
  - b. The Savior, who is Christ the King, has finally come.
2. They would find Him in Bethlehem in a manger.
3. A multitude of angels appeared, glorifying God.
  - a. They said, "Glory to God in the highest..."
  - b. It does not say in the Bible that angels sing, although they probably do.

**IV. The Verification.****A. The shepherds went to find the newborn King.**

1. They went quickly.
2. They found Him as the angel had said:
  - a. In a manger (a feed trough).
  - b. In swaddling clothes.

**B. They told others about the newborn King.****C. They returned to Bethlehem and worshipped the child.**

## Spiritual Truths

- The prophecies of God always come true.
- Jesus was born of humble circumstances to show that God wanted to teach us to be servants, and that His focus was on character, not things.
- The angels rejoiced at the birth of the Savior. They were sent to announce His birth on earth.
- God will not live in those who do not choose to make room for Him.
- Jesus came to reveal the character and nature of God to a race that had turned from Him.
- The first people who were told were shepherds, because they could relate to Jesus, the Great Shepherd.
- The first thing we should do when we hear about our Savior is to tell somebody.
- The birth of Jesus was not a secret. It was known by many that the Messiah had finally come.



## Lesson Material

The story of Christmas is the message of giving. Sin turns us inward in our affection and devotion. We tend to seek for ourselves. The heart of the sin problem is the "I" problem. In fact, in the English language, the central letter in the words "sin" and "pride" is "i". When we live for ourselves, we tend to hurt other people, and we separate ourselves from God, who is holy. Sin also results in all kinds of physical and emotional problems and ends in spiritual death.

Jesus came into this sin-cursed world to be the greatest message of love the world has ever known. Love is the opposite of sin. Love seeks for others at the expense of self. We cannot really love unless God's grace is working in our hearts and lives, because the sin nature is by definition self-centered. "God so loved that He gave" is the message of Christmas. Jesus left His perfect home in heaven, emptied Himself of His power and glory, and became a servant. (Philippians 2) He became "Emmanuel" -- "God with us." The term "incarnation" means that God became a man.

Jesus did not come to establish a political kingdom; so, He did not come to a powerful family. He did not come to overthrow the Roman Empire; so, He did not come to a military family. He came to redeem lost humanity and to build His church; so, he came to a poor, common family and grew up in the home of a carpenter. He was to be the Good Shepherd who would give His life for the sheep; so, He had His coming announced to humble shepherds. The world hardly noticed the

event, but the spiritual realm in the universe was stirring with excitement. The angels trumpeted the news, and the kingdom of Satan was in turmoil. God was launching a powerful attack on darkness by sending the Light of the world. God was giving the Bread of Life in the city of bread.

A factor to remember is the potential for visitors. Many families, who do not attend church or send their children to church on a regular basis, will do so on Christmas. Take advantage of this time to proclaim the Gospel. When the students know the story, find out how many visitors are in the class. Take the story-line a little further and tell the class this same baby Jesus, who was born that night in a manger, came to earth to die for their sins. He came to this earth so they might have life and have it more abundantly. They can go to heaven and live with Jesus forever, if they will give their lives and hearts to Him.

Another area needing to be addressed is "gifts." The students receiving this teaching may come from different cultures and economic backgrounds. Many of them may not have the ability to give or receive big gifts, but many may. Jesus was the greatest Christmas present anyone could ever give. He was a gift given to us by our Heavenly Father. As we give and receive gifts during the Christmas season, we need to remember the greatest gift of all, the "Reason for the Season": our Savior, Jesus Christ.





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## Methods

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### *Skit*

This method is highly recommended for this age group if you have time to prepare the students. Practice once before class starts and have teachers and students do the narration of the Christmas story. Dress the students in costume (nothing elaborate) and perform a Christmas pageant. When you are finished, have the students tell you the story. The students will remember more if they are participating, than if they are just watching or listening to the story. Try to get everyone involved in some aspect of the story.

### *Puppet*

Do the Christmas story with puppets. Have the students ask questions. Have another set of puppets say they can do the story better, and then have them perform the story all wrong. Get the students involved in telling the puppets they are not right and what they are supposed to do next. This gets the students involved, not only viewing the story, but participating in teaching the story of the birth of Christ.

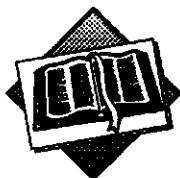
### *Miscellaneous*

There are several videos, films, and filmstrips available on the story of the birth of Christ. Use them with wisdom. Make certain the students are paying attention, and then ask them questions afterward.

# The New Beginning

Volume 1

Lesson 26



## Bible References

Ezekiel 11:19

Ezekiel 18:31

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 4:24

John 3:1-21

*man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

*4 "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"*

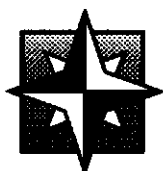
*5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and (of) the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

*7 "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."*

2 Corinthians 5:17

*17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*



## Theme

God wants us to be born again.



## Scripture Reading

John 3:3-7

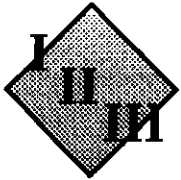
*3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a*



## Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17

*"...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:...."*



## Outline

### I. Story of Nicodemus.

#### A. Nicodemus was an important man.

1. A Pharisee.
2. A leader of the Jews.

#### B. Nicodemus recognized Jesus.

1. As a teacher who came from God.
2. Acknowledged His miracles.
3. Acknowledged that God was with Him.

#### C. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night.

1. He was nervous about what other people would think about him.
2. He was unsure about what to think about all of this.
3. He was one of a few Pharisees who were honest enough to talk to Jesus without forming opinions based on their own discussions.

#### D. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that to see the Kingdom of God, he must be "born again."

1. We cannot see supernatural things with natural eyes.
2. God operates in the spiritual realm, while our natural senses can only relate to physical things.
3. God is able to cause us to see spiritually, but only when we are born of the Spirit.

#### E. Nicodemus did not understand.

1. He asked if he must be physically born a second time.
2. He wondered how this was supposed to happen.

#### F. Jesus explained.

1. Our first birth is from our mother.
2. Our second birth is from the Spirit of God.
3. All born of us were born of the flesh; but, now we must be born of the Spirit.
4. A new birth takes place in our hearts when we:
  - a. Accept Christ as the one who saves us from sin.
  - b. Receive Christ as the Lord (master) of our lives.
  - c. Repent from our sins (make a change in our lifestyle).
  - d. Begin to live for Jesus and not for self.
  - e. Believe with the heart that our sins are forgiven.

### II. We Are to Be New Creatures.

#### A. The story of the butterfly.

1. The egg hatches into a caterpillar.
2. The caterpillar spins itself into a cocoon.
3. The butterfly breaks forth from the cocoon.

#### B. We need to become a "new creature."

1. Jesus will change our old selfish ways into new and loving ways.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "All things are become new" with Jesus as our guide.

### C. Born of the Spirit.

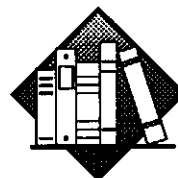
1. The Bible teaches that all of us have three parts:
  - a. Spirit (God-conscious part of our being).
  - b. Soul (self-conscious).
  - c. Body (sense-conscious).
  - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
2. When we are born in sin, our spirit is very insensitive, and we are naturally selfish and carnal.
3. When God's Spirit moves on our conscience, our spirit comes alive as we respond to the light of God.
  - a. Then we can begin to "see" the kingdom of God.
  - b. Then we can have fellowship with God, and the hope of heaven.

- Only those who are born again can make it to heaven, regardless of how good they have been in life.
- Jesus Christ died to make salvation available to "whosoever will," because God does not want anyone to be lost forever.
- The new birth is not just a decision or a religious experience, but a supernatural work of God which brings us into an eternal relationship with Him.
- Only by giving our lives totally to Christ can we truly be born again.
- Our position in life is not as important as the position of our heart.
- Being born again also means that our "fruit" will be evident to those around us.



## Spiritual Truths

- God wants us to be born again.
- We cannot become Christians by learning creeds and following rules.
- We can be born again only through a supernatural miracle of God's grace.
- We must respond to God by faith when His Spirit convicts us of sin.
- We are born as selfish, rebellious sinners; but, we can receive a spiritual birth that makes us righteous children of God.
- We are all born spiritually blind and cannot see the kingdom of God until we are born again.



## Lesson Material

We are reiterating the concept of being "born again." Do not assume that all of the students understand, or that all of the students have made a real commitment to Christ. Instead, continue to teach them the basic tenets of the faith. This lesson's basic principle is that, without a sincere commitment to Christ and a change in our lives (repentance), we will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Nicodemus saw Jesus as a teacher, not as the Savior. Christ recognized that Nicodemus was desiring great words of wisdom, and explained the concept of a new birth. Nicodemus did not understand

the analogy of a new birth (just as the person in your class who has never heard); but, Jesus explained the difference between a physical birth and a new birth of the Spirit. Our spirits are not born with Christ in them. We have Jesus living in us when we repent of our sins and ask Him to come into our lives.

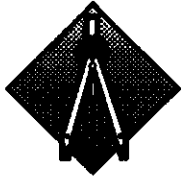
It was difficult for Nicodemus, this educated man, to grasp the analogy of the new birth; so do not expect young people to grasp it fully. An analogy creates a picture of a concept by comparing it with something similar in the physical realm. Spiritual birth is not exactly like physical birth, as Nicodemus discovered; but, it is like a birth. We were spiritually dead and blind because of sin; but, we came into life when the Spirit of God breathed into our hearts, and opened our eyes to the truth of Jesus.

False religions of the world are, in fact, generally built on the errors that come from trying to enter into the realm of God's eternal kingdom through the mind, emotion, or will. But the Bible is written to the spirit of man and can be understood only as the Holy Spirit guides the minds of the teachers and hearers. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." He was not just communicating with the mind, and neither should we. There are principles of God, like the Trinity and hell, which are impossible to understand or comprehend with the mind. We receive them by faith and take hold with our spirit. Children do not have the mental ability to grasp analogies or abstract concepts as well as adults; but they can receive truth in their spirits just as easily as adults. We do not have to understand the new birth fully to experience it. We grow in the relationship, not into it.

After responding to the opportunity for salvation, there will be a change in our lifestyle. We need to see the "fruit" of our conversion. The new person now lives his life with the joy of Christ in his heart, and his lifestyle reflects that change to the rest of the world. We are not saved by the works of righteousness; but, the works that we do clearly indicate what we are through God's grace. Jesus is able not only to save us from the consequences of sin, but He is also able to save us from the controlling power of sin, so that we do not have to live in moral defeat all of our lives. The grace that can save us from hell can make us clean before God.

This lesson is designed to start the new year with things being made new. Use the analogy that, as we are about to change our calendars and the year we live in, we can also make a change in our lifestyle and in our hearts if we want to spend eternity with Jesus. Use this as an opportunity to lead the children in the sinner's prayer and ask them to make a change in their lifestyle. Give them examples of things they can do to show that change. They can be better friends to their classmates. They can be obedient to their parents, teachers, and other adults in authority (the law of the land). They can read the Bible and pray more. Ask them to tell you other ways they can change and write them on a blackboard.

End the class with a New Year's celebration. Instead of celebrating simply the new year, you will be celebrating the new creation in all of the students. Make this a fun experience. Let the students see and feel that being "born again" is not dull or boring, but is a time of joy and great excitement. Through that joy, you will find more true conversion than if you force them into a decision out of fear.



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## Methods

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### *Illustration*

Bring in a caterpillar, a cocoon, and a butterfly (pictures, if none are available) to show the stages of development. Let the students touch the caterpillar and the cocoon or imagine what it would be like to touch it. Explain the process that takes place. Then explain through the use of 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Nicodemus' story how they, too, can be changed.

### *Flannel*

Use flannel to tell the story of Nicodemus and the questions he asked Jesus. Use modern figures to show how a child can be born again, showing the contrast in the lifestyle they must lead when they make a public confession of Christ being in charge of their lives.

### *Skit*

Two people can play the roles of Nicodemus and Jesus. Tell the story of their meeting and what Jesus said. Have Jesus leave the room and Nicodemus stay to talk to the children. He may ask questions, or answer the questions they have about being "born again." Nicodemus can lead them in the sinner's prayer.

# In the Beginning

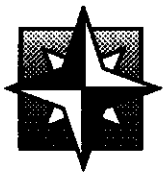
Volume 1

Lesson 27



## Bible Reference

Genesis 1:1-25



## Theme

God created the world and the animals.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1, 3-6, 8-25

1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

3 *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

4 *"And God saw the light, that (it was) good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

5 *"And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

6 *"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.*

8 *"And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

9 *"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry (land) appear: and it was so.*

10 *"And God called the dry (land) Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that (it was) good.*

11 *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, (and) the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed (is) in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

12 *"And the earth brought forth grass, (and) herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed (was) in itself, after his kind: and God saw that (it was) good.*

13 *"And the evening and the morning were the third day.*

14 *"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day*

*from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

15 *"And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*

16 *"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: (he made) the stars also.*

17 *"And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,*

18 *"And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that (it was) good.*

19 *"And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*

20 *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl (that) may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.*

21 *"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that (it was) good.*

22 *"And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.*

23 *"And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.*

24 *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*

25 *"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the*

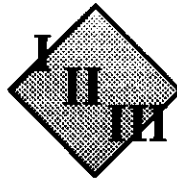
*earth after his kind: and God saw that (it was) good."*



## Memory Verse

Genesis 1:1

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*



## Outline

### I. In the Beginning: Day One.

#### A. God created:

1. The Heaven: the firmament (sky) above the waters and the earth.
2. The Earth: the dry land.
3. God created something out of nothing.
  - a. There was no substance until God created it.
  - b. When he made the earth, it simply came into existence by the power of God's Word.

#### B. The earth was without form.

1. There was no order or ecology as there is now.
2. This could also be translated "the earth became without form and void."



3. There was no separation of water and land.
4. There was no light.
5. Void means that the world was dark and empty.

C. The Spirit of God moved on the waters.

1. There was no life.
2. God's Spirit brings life.

D. God said, "Let there be light."

1. God is light.
2. God created light on earth.
3. God called the light day.
4. God called the darkness night.

## II. In the Beginning: Day Two.

A. God created the firmament.

1. This means, "expanse."
2. What we call the sky or the atmosphere.

B. God divided the waters from the firmament.

1. He put water under the firmament: the seas.
2. He put water over the firmament: a great vapor canopy.
3. There was no rain on the earth, because there was a protective atmosphere before the flood in Noah's day.

C. God called the firmament "heaven."

1. This was not the heaven we go to when we die.
2. This heaven refers to the natural atmosphere over the earth.

## III. In the Beginning: Day Three.

A. God separated the waters on the surface of the earth.

1. Dry land -- called the earth.
2. The seas.

B. God caused the earth to bring forth plants.

1. Grass.
2. Herbs.
3. Fruit trees.
4. God created life out of inorganic matter.
5. Only God can do this. "Spontaneous generation" is impossible.

## IV. In the Beginning: Day Four.

A. God divided the light and the darkness.

1. The Sun -- to rule the day.
2. The Moon -- to rule the night.

B. God created the Stars.

## V. In the Beginning: Day Five.

A. God created living things.

1. In the seas.
  - a. Fish.
  - b. Whales.
  - c. Abundant life: plants, fish, and all other animals and plant life in the sea.
2. In the air.
  - a. Birds.
  - b. Abundant life: insects, and everything that flies above the earth.

B. God told them to multiply and fill the earth.



## Spiritual Truths

- God is the great Creator.
- The fact that there is a creation proves that there is a Creator.
- Physical laws of science prove that order and structure are not possible in the universe without intelligent design.
- Evolution is a theory based on belief in the false gods of chance and time.
- The only reason that some people believe the theory of evolution is that they do not want to believe that there is a God who will judge their lives.
- God did not create the earth over millions of years. He did it in six days.
- God does not need anything to create things.
- Every detail of each organism was hand-crafted by God.
- Even the heavens and the space around us were created by God.
- God wanted neither the earth nor us to be without substance or to be void. God's Spirit is with us so the empty place inside of us (the void) may be filled with the love, power, and the majesty of God.



## Lesson Material

God created something out of nothing. This concept is a difficult one to understand as an adult and even more difficult for a child. The message is so strong that, if the students could grasp it, they would see the magnificence of God. As we begin our series of lessons from Genesis, we must lay the foundation for the truth that God can, by His very Word, create something out of nothing.

God also created organic matter out of inorganic matter. For centuries, men have tried to believe and prove that life could begin by chance out of matter, but it cannot. What mysterious force makes the difference in some hydrocarbon compounds that causes it to grow and move? Why is it that a puppy has life, and a rock does not? The difference is the creative power of God. God spoke all matter into existence, and then commanded life in millions of forms.

God's creation can be illustrated by the building of a house. First, the house needs a foundation. On the first day, God created the material to form the foundation and then reviewed the material. He also said, to build this new home, we must have light. So, He created light. God is the great Illuminator. God created light so we could see His brilliance through His creation. God made a division between light and dark.

On the second day, our Heavenly Builder separated the materials for his creation into groups. He divided the heavens from the water and put the water into two categories: the water on the earth

and the water above it. With this separation of the waters, God was ready to complete the foundation. That was the end of the second day.

On the third day, God separated the water and the land. Thus, the foundation of our house was laid. Now there was a place for our building and a place to put all of the parts of God's creation. Upon the foundation, God placed the first framework. The first floor of our earthly home is the grass, plants, and trees. From plant life, we get oxygen, the product that sustains animal life. God created them before man so the house would have strength and would not fall. That was the end of the third day.

On the fourth day, God created the sun and the moon. God knew that we needed to have a special light to help things grow. God knew a little light would be reflected by the moon to help us see in the night. The sun and the moon serve as our roof. He also created the weather and the tides of the sea through the movement of the sun and the moon. That was the end of the fourth day.

On the fifth day, God created the animals, the fish, the birds, and the creeping things of the earth. All of these are the inhabitants of the house God created. They provide the basis for the life cycle around us. God created them to provide our covering, our warmth, our food, and our decorations. God supplies all of the parts to our new home. That was the end of the fifth day. God prepared the house for His greatest creation, man.

In most cultures today, you will hear about Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Charles Darwin was a man who lived more than a century ago in America. He had personal doubts about God; and, when he observed creation, he began to form

some ideas as to how it all came about. He speculated that, given enough time, life could just happen, and that all of life must have gradually developed of itself though millions of year.

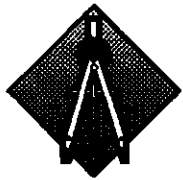
It is important for every student of the Bible to know that the evolution argument is not a scientifically proven fact. Many thousands of trained scientists in the world believe strongly that it is a false concept. All of the basic concepts on which Mr. Darwin based his theory of evolution have been proven false by scientific studies. The more we discover about fossils and natural laws, the more doubts are created about the theory. As Christians, we do not have to bow to the lie of evolution. We have the more scientific approach to origins than the humanists, because we have the account of the One who was there at the time. Man at his best can use only guesswork, but science is repeatedly proving that a special creation is the only viable explanation of the design and splendor of creation.

Species cannot evolve from one to another. Each life form was designed to reproduce after its kind. It is impossible to find any life form which did not come from a like life form. The whole doctrine of evolution was developed by people through history, simply because they wanted to believe it. The awesome and amazing complexity of creation declares by its very structure and existence that there must be a powerful and intelligent God who continues to rule over everything.

Evolution is based on the idea that, left to themselves, species develop and mutate to improve. Now, while there are ways to develop desired characteristics in animals and plants by controlled breeding, it is also impossible for chance to develop characteristics that insure survival. No mutation

in history has ever improved an animal. Chance only comes to disorder. Science has proven that the natural order of the whole universe moves from order to disorder. In other words, left to themselves, things break down, fall apart, rust, decay, and die. Only by intelligent intervention can order come out of chaos.

It is important that we emphasize creation, because the more we realize that we are created, the more we see that we are accountable in life to our Creator. It is also the reason that so many people so strongly oppose the teaching of creation. To think about God is to have to deal with sin and guilt. From an early age, we want our children to be armed to resist the indoctrination of the anti-Christian doctrine of evolution, that is falsely called a scientific theory.



## Methods

### *Illustrative Lecture #1*

Use the illustration of a house. Bring in either a doll house or materials to build a stick house to help tell the story. Bring small toy animals and fish to inhabit the

house, and a picture of the sun and moon to shine over them as the roof. Read the scriptures of creation as you build the house.

### *Illustrative Lecture #2*

Bring in an item that works mechanically or electronically, such as a tape player, or a complex tool. Show how a few things were made, and how they operate. Tell the class that this electrical gadget was formed by rolling a piece of metal down a hill, and it just fell the right way on a pile of rocks. Let them see that the idea of chance evolution is a stupid theory, based on the wishful thinking of people who choose to exclude God from their thinking. Have some facts about the human body that show how infinitely complex and marvelous it is. Show them that they are "fearfully and wonderfully made," and that there has to be a wonderful Creator to design such an amazing world.

Ask such questions as "Why is there gravity? Why do not all of us fly out into space? Why does water begin to expand when the temperature gets down to 38 degrees Fahrenheit? Why do plants need carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, while people and animals need the oxygen and give off the carbon dioxide the plants need? Why cannot dogs have baby cats? Where are all the "missing links" in the fossil records?"

# Adam and Eve

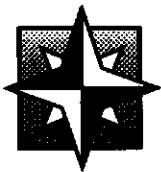
Volume 1

Lesson 28



## Bible References

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:20-25



## Theme

God created man.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:26-31

26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 "So God created man in his {own} image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which {is} upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which {is} the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 "And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein {there is} life, {I have given} every green herb for meat: and it was so.

31 "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, {it was} very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

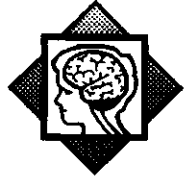
Genesis 2:20-23

20 "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

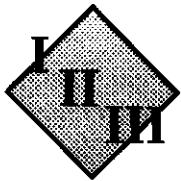
23 *"And Adam said, This (is) now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*



## Memory Verse

Genesis 1:27

*"So God created man in his (own) image,...."*



## Outline

### I. Man's Creation: God Created Man.

- A. God created man in His own image.
1. After His likeness: character image, not physical.
    - a. God is Spirit.
    - b. God is infinite and eternal, and is not limited to a body.
  2. Man was made with a body, soul, and spirit.

### B. Special creation.

1. God made the earth and animals out of nothing by speaking a creative word.
2. God formed man from some earth (dust, or clay).
3. God breathed His life into man.
4. Man was created uniquely with a temporal body and an eternal spirit.
5. Animals have a body, but no spirit.

### C. God gave man dominion -- rulership or authority, not ownership.

1. Dominion means stewardship: responsibility to oversee God's property.
2. God gave man authority over the fish of the sea; fowl of the air; cattle; every living and creeping thing upon the earth; and over all the earth.
3. All of the creatures were placed under man's rule.

### II. Man's Provision: God Supplied the Food.

- A. God supplied food for Adam.
1. Herb bearing seeds.
  2. Fruit of the trees.
- B. God supplied every green herb for food for the animals.

### III. Man's Obligation: God Gave Responsibilities to Adam.

- A. Adam named all the animals.
- B. Adam cared for the garden of Eden.
1. God created a beautiful garden in the earth, in what is now the desert of the Middle East.
  2. It was a perfect place, with warm, pleasant weather all year long.
  3. Man did not have to plant or toil, because the garden was perfect.

### IV. Man's Companion: God Gave Adam a Mate.

- A. God formed woman.
1. God put Adam to sleep.
  2. God formed Eve from a rib from Adam's side.
  3. God awakened Adam.
- B. God's command.
1. Be fruitful and multiply.
    - a. Adam and Eve had many children.
    - b. They were the first humans on earth.
    - c. They did not evolve from monkeys. They were created by the hand of God.
  2. Replenish the earth.
  3. Subdue the earth.
- C. Procreation.
1. God designed the man and woman to produce children in their image.
  2. Children are the product of the union between a father and a mother.

3. Neither can produce the miracle of birth without the other.
4. Ultimately, God is the Creator of all life in the universe.



## Spiritual Truths

- God is the great Creator of all things.
- God made man in His own image.
- God's plan is for all of us to work.
- God cares for us and does not want us to be alone.
- God created man to fill a special place in His fatherly heart.
- God designed woman to be a helpmeet for man.
- Men and women are equal in importance to God, but different in function.
- The highest good in life is to love and worship God.
- The purpose of life is to please God who made us.
- Some people reject the idea of creation because they do not want to be accountable to a supreme authority.



## Lesson Material

God created the world and the animals out of nothing, but He formed man from the dust of the ground. God breathed His breath into man, who became a unique expression of God's creative power, and a special object of His love. God made mankind for Himself. Man is not just another species of mammal. Man uniquely has a spirit, soul, and body. We relate to the physical world, and our construction and function are similar to that of other creatures, but we were made with a spirit and soul for eternity. Our bodies are temporary dwelling places for our spirits. The bodies of Christians will one day be resurrected and perfected, and then they will last forever.

God created dogs, but He formed man, and gave him spiritual life. God also formed a woman from the rib of the first man. This is not just an allegory. God did not develop man with millions of years of evolution. He made a man from clay, and a woman from man. He made them for relationship, first with Himself, and then with each other. God also designed mankind with the fabulous ability to procreate. That is, God designed the woman to bear children in the likeness of herself and her husband.

For years, people who choose not to think that there is a God have labored to develop a way to explain creation without admitting that there is a Creator. The best of the ideas invented by man seemed to be the doctrine of evolution, because it is based on the idea that, given enough time, anything could happen, even if it is infinitely complex and marvelous. But the

natural laws of science prove that, left to themselves, physical things move from order to disorder; that things are running down, not up. Only by intelligent intervention does anything move from chaos to order, yet the evolutionist, with admirable faith, chooses to believe that this whole marvelous ecosystem on earth was created by a god called "chance."

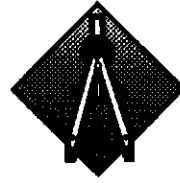
To support this theory, men have looked to paleontology, or the study of fossils. They note that there are many layers of sediment (strata), which often contain fossilized skeletons or plants. Again, the thinking has been that "these fossils were formed over millions of years." But, this is ridiculous. In the natural order of creation, there are no fossils, because, when animals die, they are eaten by predators, scavengers, and insects. They rot and decay. The only way a fossil can form is through a sudden calamity, such as a flood. The Bible records that there was a massive, world-wide flood about 5,000 years ago. The biblical flood can explain the majority of fossils, coal and oil deposits in the earth, glaciers, and many other things we find on the earth. When the world was suddenly covered with water, millions of dead creatures were buried in mud, and great forests were changed into coal beds. It does not take millions of years to form coal and oil. In fact, oil can be made from garbage in a few days.

God did not make man just to sit around. God created man to work, to subdue the land, to name the animals, and to tend the garden. Man was created with a drive to work and not to be lazy. This is an important lesson our students need to understand. They were created to do God's work on this earth. We have to answer to our Creator. This gives us a sense of the fear of the Lord. This helps us to avoid sin,



because we realize that it is never worth it. Also, the fact that we were designed by such a wise Creator means that God had something in mind when He made each of us. God had a special purpose for your life. As we grow spiritually, we should find our calling in life. We are all created to worship and serve God, and to help other people. But each one of us has a special gift and calling to do something in life that no one else can duplicate exactly. The purpose in life is not to find out what we want to do, but to find out what God wants us to do.

God cares about our relationships. He not only created man, but also gave him a helpmate so he would not be lonely. God then told them to multiply and replenish the earth. God's plan is for man to have many other people around him for fellowship. God wants us to be friends with each other, all around the world. No matter what our color or ethnic background, we need to reach out to each other, because we are all God's creation. Since God loves people, He loves our families and our churches, because of the people in them. We should develop a love for people, and do all we can to see that as many people as possible get genuinely saved, so that our Heavenly Father can have more children in heaven.



## Methods

### *Lecture*

Invite the students to sit in a semi-circle around the teacher. Use illustrations (pictures) of Adam and Eve, and the animals God placed under their dominion. Show the pictures as you tell the story and ask the students to respond to whoever is in each picture. Make up a list of Adam's jobs and ask the students to name them. If time allows, you might bring in a picture of an ape and ask the students if they think that man evolved from the ape. Make certain they know the answer is NO.

Ask, "Why do some people believe the theory of evolution?" The answer is, "Because they do not believe the biblical account of man's creation."

### *Puppets*

The puppets will re-enact the story of Adam and the joy he experienced as he named the animals. Show Adam lonely, and then sleeping. A second puppet will be Eve. Show Adam and Eve walking through the garden together. Involve the students in helping to name the animals.

# The Great Fall

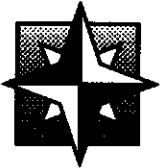
Volume 1

Lesson 29



## Bible Reference

Genesis 3:1-24



## Theme

Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:1-6, 8-13, 23, 24

1 *"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"*

2 *"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

3 *"But of the fruit of the tree which (is) in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

4 *"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

5 *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

6 *"And when the woman saw that the tree (was) good for food, and that it (was) pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make (one) wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat....*

8 *"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

9 *"And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where (art) thou?"*

10 *"And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I (was) naked; and I hid myself.*

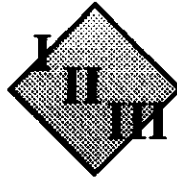
11 *"And he said, Who told thee that thou (wast) naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"*

12 "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest (to be) with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 "And the LORD God said unto the woman, What (is) this (that) thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat....

23 "Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."



## Outline

### I. The Serpent.

A. The most subtle of the beasts of the field.

1. A physically beautiful creature.
2. It is likely that animals could talk.
  - a. They still have the physical mechanism.
  - b. God allowed Balaam's donkey to talk.
  - c. Eve was not surprised when the snake spoke with her.
3. The serpent apparently had legs.

B. Satan took control of the serpent.

1. The devil spoke through the animal.
2. Eve did not realize that it was "possessed."

### II. The Suggestion.

A. The serpent asked Eve if she could eat the fruit of all the trees.

1. Satan knew the answer. He was just trying to trick Eve.
2. Satan knew that Eve was not allowed to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
3. This was God's restriction, as a reminder that He was the owner of everything.



## Memory Verse

Genesis 3:20

"And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

**B. Satan wanted Eve to disobey God.**

1. Satan knew that rebellion would destroy the fellowship between man and God. (1 Samuel 15:23)
2. He knew that he could influence their lives when they were out from under God's protection. (1 Peter 5:6-8)
3. We are safe when we are under God's care. (1 John 5:18)

**III. The Slander.**

A. The serpent suggested that God had lied.

B. The serpent said good things would happen if they ate of the fruit.

1. They would grow in knowledge.
2. They would be like gods (having the right to make the final decisions in life).
3. Maybe they would not really die.

**IV. The Sin.**

A. Eve looked on the tree.

1. It was pleasant to the eyes.
2. It would taste good.
3. There is "pleasure in sin for a season," but, there are always consequences.

B. Eve took the fruit and ate it.

C. Eve gave the fruit to Adam.

1. He was there by her side.
2. He saw all that had happened.
3. He did not stop Eve in her sin.
4. She was deceived; but, Adam took the fruit from Eve, knowingly, and ate it.

**V. The Shame.**

A. Adam and Eve realized that they were naked.

1. They tried to sew fig leaves together.
2. They attempted to cover their nakedness.
  - a. They became aware of their nakedness AFTER eating the fruit.
  - b. They did not know about evil before that incident.
  - c. They had seen each other clothed in God's glory before being deceived by Satan.
  - d. Now they saw with the eyes of carnal flesh.

B. God came and dealt with their act of rebellion.

1. "Adam, where are you?"
  - a. God is all-knowing.
  - b. God knew where Adam and Eve were.
  - c. God knew about their sin.
2. Adam responded, "I hid because I was naked."
  - a. God asked him how he knew he was naked.
  - b. Had they eaten of the tree that was forbidden?

C. Adam points a finger of blame.

1. The woman God gave him.
  - a. He blamed God for giving Eve to him.
  - b. If God had not made Eve, Adam suggested, then he would not have sinned.
2. "It was Eve's fault."
3. We cannot become Christians until we accept responsibility for our own sins, and then we can seek forgiveness.

4. Blaming someone else is one way we try to justify ourselves.
5. God cannot justify a person who justifies himself.

D. Eve, in turn, blamed the serpent.

## VI. The Sorrow.

A. God cursed the serpent by making him crawl on his belly.

1. Evidently, serpents walked then.
2. God also put a natural dislike for serpents in the hearts of women.

B. God cursed Eve by giving her sorrow (pain) in the birth of children.

1. The pain of childbirth is a reminder that there are consequences to sin.
2. Only human mothers experience such pain in childbirth.
  - a. Animal mothers do not.
  - b. It is not biologically necessary.

C. God cursed Adam.

1. He would have to work hard for his food.
2. He and his descendants would physically die.

## VII. The Separation.

A. God covered Adam and Eve with garments made from animal skins.

1. A sacrifice offering.
2. The blood of the animals was shed to cover their sin.
3. This was the first picture God gave of the sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world.

B. God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden and kept them from returning.

1. God sent cherubim (mighty angels) to guard the entrance to the garden.
2. To keep them out, God placed a flaming sword which turned every way at the entrance of the garden.



## Spiritual Truths

- God created man perfect, with no sin.
- Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world, with no problems, sickness, strife, or death.
- God owned everything, but gave man dominion over the world.
- Sin is the tendency to seek for self, rather than the tendency to love and serve.
- All of us inherited a sin nature from Adam.
- Jesus did not inherit that sin nature, because He did not have a human father.
- Those who have a relationship with God still have the potential to sin.
- We cannot hide our sins from God.
- It is not wise to blame others for our sins.
- There is always a price to pay for sin.
- Satan always tries to deceive by hiding the price tag when he promotes sin.

- When we rebel against God's authority, we become subject to spiritual darkness.



## Lesson Material

The fall of Adam and Eve could be like the fall of any one of us. All of us face temptation. God looks at how we resist temptation. It is never in God's plan for us to sin or falter, but He knows we have a nature that tempts us to sin. All of us were born with that sin nature, because we inherited it from our fathers. It is our nature to act out of selfish motives, and to focus on temporal values. Eve was attracted to the good fruit, but the real attraction to disobedience was the appeal to self-assertion. Satan suggested that disobedience to God would make them like God, because they could "be their own persons." All of us are tempted to reject authority, and to make our own choices in life. Satan loves it when we are out from under spiritual authority, because then he has opportunity to deceive and destroy. When we are doing our own thing, we are like stray lambs, wandering away from the safety of the flock and the protection of the Shepherd. Then, the old lion, the devil, can easily trick and devour the helpless lamb.

Satan chose the serpent, because he had the ability to charm the mind and emotions of Eve. Through smooth talk and untrue promises, he caused Eve to believe the reward of sin was greater than the punishment. Each of us faces our own serpent in life. For many, it is the powerful world of secular entertainment. The

television and movie industry today is dominated by liberal humanists who seek to promote their godless ideas about morality, values, and civil government. The emphasis is that "life just happens, and there are really no consequences to sin. In fact, there is no such thing as sin."

The message of the world is still the same. It is based on the concept of evolution -- that man is just an animal. Satan had to get Eve to focus on things rather than on God. He had to get her to see life from the viewpoint of the temporal, and therefore, develop temporal values. The fruit did taste good, and there was some thrill in being self-assertive. But, the consequences will last forever. Sin is never worth the price we pay. So, Satan always deceives by focusing on immediate gratification, and obscures the long-term results.

There are always those around us who will tell us that it is okay to sin, that it will not really cause us harm, and it will bring us great pleasure. We live in a society looking for the pleasures of the world. The temptation to sin is strong, because the focus everywhere is on the pleasures of sin, and not on God and the Bible. If we are to receive a good education, it must include daily reminders of God's holiness, as well as God's love. To learn about the secular world, without learning about God, is dangerous, because it leads us to false conclusions about life. A secular (leaving God out of the picture) education leads to rebellion, depression, addictions, and even suicide, because it removes the basis for hope and purpose in life. We were created for God and for eternity. To be educated with a secular world view is to gain a fatalistic view of life. A positive education must begin with "In the beginning, God...."

Eve knew God, and had daily communion with Him. But, she was deceived by the same bag of tricks Satan uses on us today. She got her eyes on self, and on the beauty and pleasure of things, which diverted her thoughts away from God. She was tricked into valuing the wrong things and made a tragic decision that changed the human race forever.

Adam was with Eve all the time. When she offered the fruit to him, he did not stop her or say a word to correct her thinking. (It may have been an apple, but we do not know. Some traditions suggest it was a banana.) He took it and ate without protest. He, too, wanted a taste of the forbidden fruit. Yet, when caught in the act by God, he pointed a finger of blame toward Eve. One of the problems in our society is that we are too quick to blame others for our sin. All of us have the ability and choice to stop that sin ourselves. The students in the class need to know they are like Adam. They have a choice. They may be tempted; but, they do not have to yield to temptation.

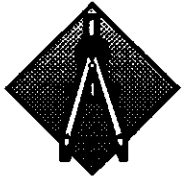
Eve, in turn, blamed the serpent. Eve was quick to blame the source of the temptation. It is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus Himself was tempted to sin. But, sin comes when we make the choice to partake. We know we are violating God's command. That is why we believe that babies go to heaven when they die, unless they have come to the age of accountability. That is, the age at which children consciously and knowingly rebel against what they know to be right.

The result of sin is death. For Adam and Eve it meant expulsion from the garden of Eden, their safe home. In the garden, they had all they wanted to eat, and their work was not difficult. Outside the garden, they had to plant their own

food and work hard. Inside of the garden, they had good health, no pain, and the promise of eternal life. Outside of the garden, they no longer had access to the tree of life and had to endure the reality that, eventually, they were going to die.

Our Garden of Eden is heaven. God has promised that we will be able to join Him in heaven, if we, in this life, are restored to the fellowship that Adam and Eve had with God originally. The key is ownership. Sin says, "I am my own person. I will be my own god, and I will decide what is good or evil for me." That is also the philosophy of the secular humanist. But, the believer says, "God has the right to rule my life, because He made me, and Jesus died for me. I will live for Him instead of for myself. I will confess my sin and ask forgiveness. I will believe on Jesus as my Savior AND my Lord (owner).

The promise of salvation from the controlling power of sin comes as a result of the love of Christ and the sacrifice that He made on the cross to insure that we have eternal life. Our bodies will die, but our spirits will live on with Christ in heaven. The door to the garden was blocked by a flaming sword. The door to heaven is closed and guarded, so no one may enter who does not have his name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Our key to admittance is regeneration. Be sure your students understand this concept, and that they have the opportunity to make a confession of Christ as their Savior. Pray with them about their temptations, about the sins they have committed, and about their eternal destiny. Tell them about the love God has for them. He did not destroy Adam and Eve for their sin. He let them live. He let them multiply, and He sent His son to the earth so future generations would have the opportunity of life in the final, greatest Garden of Eden.



## Methods

### *Flannel*

If it is used properly, flannel is an excellent way to tell the story in this lesson. Be certain that you have the pieces in place in advance. Have one board set up with the "Garden" scene, and one with a scene outside of the "Garden." Have the children identify the characters and what they are doing, so they can feel like they are part of the story.

### *Comparison*

Discuss each point of the temptation, and relate it to the way Satan tempts us to sin today.

1. *"Ye shall not surely die."* I can get away with it. I will not get caught. If I do, it will not be so bad.
2. *"Your eyes will be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* You need to decide for yourself

what is right for you. You should establish and clarify your own values.

3. *"The tree was good for food."* If it feels good, do it. If it feels good, then it is good.
4. *"It was pleasant to the eye."* How can it be so awful if it is nice. Are not witches nice people? Is not that extra-terrestrial creature in the movie nice? Are not these occult cartoons well-made?
5. *"A tree desired to make one wise."* To deal with the world, you really need to understand evil. You need to know all about evil people, and examine alternative lifestyles, and not just the Bible. You really need to experience things to understand how to get along in the world.

### *Puppets*

Use puppets to portray the entire story of the fall of Adam and Eve. Have the students participate in a conversation with the puppets about why they acted as they did. Make certain there is interaction between the students and the puppets.



# Raising Cain

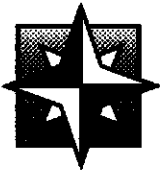
Volume 1

Lesson 30



## Bible Reference

Genesis 4:1-16



## Theme

Obedience is better than sacrifice: the story of Cain and Abel.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 4:1-12

1 *"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*

2 *"And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

3 *"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

4 *"And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

5 *"But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

6 *"And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*

7 *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee {shall be} his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

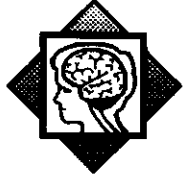
8 *"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

9 *"And the LORD said unto Cain, Where {is} Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: {Am} I my brother's keeper?*

10 *"And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*

11 *"And now {art} thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;*

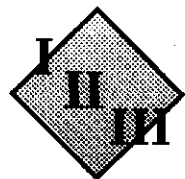
12 "When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth."



## Memory Verse

Psalms 25:14

*"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."*



## Outline

### I. The First Family.

A. Adam and Eve had been expelled from the Garden of Eden.

1. They were kept away from the tree of life.
2. They had to work to eat.
3. God had provided a covering for their sin, so they were restored to God.
4. They still loved and worshipped God.

B. Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful and multiply.

1. Eve bore her first son, Cain.
  - a. Eve exclaimed, "I have gotten a man from the Lord."
  - b. His name signifies possession.
  - c. He was a farmer.
2. Eve had a second son, Abel.
  - a. His name meant "emptiness, or vanity."
  - b. Perhaps she was not so joyful about having a second son.
  - c. That did not keep him from becoming a good man.
  - d. He was a shepherd.

### II. The Offering.

A. Abel brought an offering to the Lord.

1. At a yearly event celebrated to honor the Lord.
  - a. God commanded a yearly sacrifice to atone for sins.
  - b. This was later fulfilled when Jesus atoned for our sins once and for all with His own blood.
2. Abel brought a sacrifice offering.
  - a. A first-born lamb of the flock.
  - b. The best of the flock.
3. God was pleased with the offering.

B. Cain brought an offering to the Lord.

1. Cain brought the fruit of the ground.
2. God was not pleased with the offering.
  - a. God had established what would be pleasing to Him.
  - b. Cain knew that God required a blood sacrifice, but chose to offer what he had on hand, rather than what God wanted.

- c. Cain and Abel regularly exchanged items.
  - (1) Abel supplied Cain's meat.
  - (2) Cain gave Abel grain and fruit in return.
- d. Cain did not want to continue this exchange.
- e. Cain had a bloodless religion.
- f. Cain did things his own way.

### III. The Disappointment.

- A. Cain was despondent.
  - 1. He was angry with God.
    - a. When we do things wrong, we blame others.
      - (1) We find excuses.
      - (2) We say, "Why me?"
      - (3) Cain acted the same way his parents did in the Garden of Eden.
    - b. His countenance fell.
      - (1) Cain was depressed.
      - (2) He felt sorry for himself.
      - (3) He was looking for a solution to his frustration.
- B. God spoke to Cain.
  - 1. He told him to be of good cheer.
  - 2. He told him if he did well:
    - a. He would feel better.
    - b. He would be in God's will.
  - 3. He told him if he continued to do wrong in God's eyes:
    - a. Sin would overtake him.
    - b. He would make things worse.

### IV. The Act.

- A. Cain enticed Abel.
  - 1. He told him he wanted to talk to him about their problem.
  - 2. He asked him to join him in the field.
- B. Cain killed Abel.

### V. The Reaction.

- A. God knows all.
  - 1. He sees everything we do.
  - 2. He even knows everything we think.
- B. God confronted Cain.
  - 1. "Where is your brother?"
  - 2. Cain responds, "Am I my brother's keeper?"
    - a. Cain knew where his brother was.
    - b. Cain tried to find an excuse for his action.
    - c. Cain tried to cover his sin:
      - (1) By his words.
      - (2) By burying Abel.
- C. God knew what had happened.

### VI. The Judgment.

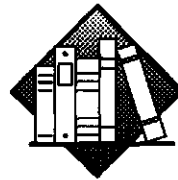
- A. God placed a curse on Cain.
  - 1. His labor would no longer bring forth crops.
  - 2. He would be banished from the face of his people.
  - 3. Sin destroys relationships.

## B. Cain was sent away.

1. Banished to another area.
2. There were many other brothers and sisters.
  - a. They have moved to other areas and started new cities.
  - b. God told Cain the others would try to avenge the death of their brother, Abel.
  - c. There were long-term consequences to his sin.

## C. Cain left the area near the Garden of Eden forever.

- We need to care for our brothers and sisters and love them in the Lord.
- The first sign that we are a true Christian is our ability to put the needs of others ahead of our own.
- Sin has its own built-in "stinger" -- punishment.
- Sin will always result in consequences.



## Lesson Material

God is absolutely just in all of His dealings with mankind. He had established the "ground rules" for what was an acceptable sacrifice, and what was not. Too often we want to take the "easy way out," to give what we want and not what we know God wants. That is what happened to Cain. Rather than go to his brother and offer to buy a lamb and sacrifice it, and offer his best crops to his brother in exchange, he offered something that was not acceptable in God's eyes. (After all, a sacrifice was a sacrifice. He did have to work to harvest those crops.) But, God looks not only at the sacrifice, but also at the heart. Cain's heart was not right.

Cain may not have understood the principle of a blood sacrifice. He probably did not realize that the lamb was a prophetic type of Christ who would come many centuries later to redeem the human race. In his mind, he probably rationalized that he was making a true sacrifice to the Lord for his sins. But, Cain knew that God had commanded a sin offering, and he disobeyed. He thought he had a better idea. Why go to all the trouble



## Spiritual Truths

- God knows and sees everything we do, say, and even think.
- Jesus said that hatred is like murder, because hatred means that the other person will never have another chance to make things right.
- People who have resentment against God may sometimes do us wrong, but we must always keep our hearts right.
- Abel died as a result of the sin in Cain's heart, but Abel went to heaven, because he obeyed God.
- Death is not the worst thing that can happen to us. Death without being right with God is.
- We need to listen to what God wants and not do only what we want.

of obtaining a lamb for his crops, when he could just offer up the crop? His self-will resulted in rejection and led to the murder of his younger brother.

God is God. He is the sovereign Lord of the universe and will not allow anyone to serve Him on their own terms. That is what vain religion is all about. All over the world, people bow to false gods they have made, or observe traditions men have designed, and all of it is in vain. Only the worship and service we do in obedience to God's Word will please the heart of God. Only faith and obedience will be rewarded in eternity. Religious traditions impress people, but not God.

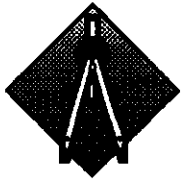
We must have our heart right with God. When we do not, we open ourselves to sin. That is what happened to Cain. He became upset over God's rejection of his offering (an offering that he knew was improper). Rather than ask for forgiveness, he pouted and sought to take revenge on his brother. We must be careful that we do not act the same. How many times have any of the students been angry at their parents, and taken out their anger on their brothers or sisters, or their friends or neighbors? They are making the same mistake Cain made.

Cain became a murderer. He planned to kill his brother for revenge. He tricked him into coming to the field, and then he tried to hide the body. The students need to know when a sin is planned, God knows it. He knows our every thought. We are no less guilty than Cain when he killed his brother. We may try to hide it, but it will always come back to our memory. Not only does God know what has happened, but, eventually, others will know, too. The Bible says that Cain would be a vagabond (someone who travels all the time). That was because, despite his

attempts to hide his sin, others would learn the truth. Eve knew what happened, and so did many others. Our sins will be found out, and we will pay not only the price God has set, but we will also pay the price set by our parents, friends, and society.

There is a difference between sin and sins. Sin is the self-willed condition of the heart that puts self on the throne. Sins are the acts of disobedience that flow out of that kind of mind set. God does not only deal with sins by forgiveness, but He deals with the sin in our hearts, and is able to free us from its stranglehold on us.

As Christians, we need to guard our hearts and seek God's face. We need to strive to please Him. That means honoring our parents and our elders. That means getting along with our brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors. We should not get angry when we are caught in sin. We should ask for forgiveness. Even after Cain had made the unworthy sacrifice, God told him that he could still be forgiven. Instead, Cain chose to be sorry for himself. Do not make the same mistake Cain made. Ask God, your friends and family for forgiveness. Then change the way you live. Jesus will help you if you trust Him.



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## Methods

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### *Skit #1*

Have adults portray the parts of Cain, Abel, and God in action. Make sure you let the students see Cain try to reason with God and hear God explain to Cain what he did wrong. Cain should get angry and pout and say, "I am going to get even with my brother." Show God's love and His wrath through the actors. Let the students comment on what they have seen and heard.

### *Skit #2*

Have students put on a skit similar to the one above, but do not make it as

elaborate. Have a teacher read the narration and let the students portray what happened.

### *Puppets*

Puppets can be used effectively to tell this story. Have the puppets ask the students what they would have done if they had made some of the same mistakes Cain made.

### *Questions*

Deal with the question: Why is hatred like murder? (1 John 3:15) It is because a murderer cuts off someone's opportunity. The victim can never make things right. He cannot do anything more in life for anyone.

Why did God reject Cain's offering, even though it was a religious act?

# Build an Ark

Volume 1

Lesson 31



## Bible Reference

Genesis 6-8

7 "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD....

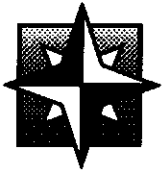
13 "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch....

17 "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein (is) the breath of life, from under heaven; (and) every thing that (is) in the earth shall die.

18 "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 "And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every (sort) shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep (them) alive with thee; they shall be male and female...."



## Theme

Story of Noah and the ark.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 6:5-8, 13, 14, 17-19

5 "And God saw that the wickedness of man (was) great in the earth, and (that) every imagination of the thoughts of his heart (was) only evil continually.

6 "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

## Genesis 7:10-12, 17, 18, 23, 24

10 "And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

11 "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 "And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights....

17 "And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 "And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters....

23 "And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained (alive), and they that (were) with him in the ark.

24 "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days...."

## Genesis 8:13, 20-22

13 "And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first (month), the first (day) of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry....

20 "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and

of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 "And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart (is) evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

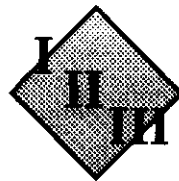
22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."



## Memory Verse

Genesis 6:8

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."



## Outline

### I. Background.

#### A. The world had become populated:

1. For the first 1,000 years, people apparently had large families.
2. They lived much longer lives, and were able to have many children.



3. The earth had a much more temperate and even climate.
4. People did not live as long after the flood, which did great damage to the atmosphere and terrain.

**B. The people had become corrupt.**

1. They had fallen away from God.
2. They had become wicked:
  - a. Lusting after each other.
  - b. Lusting after each other's possessions.
  - c. Having relationships with the "sons of God."

(Note: there is more than one theory on who the "sons of God" are; some believe them to be the fallen angels that left with Lucifer. Others believe them to be the remnants of a pre-Adamic race that were on earth with Lucifer before the creation of the earth as we know it. Many believe that "sons of God" referred to the godly, human line of Seth.)

**C. God was displeased that He had created man.**

1. Man had learned to focus on self and things, and had turned away from God.
2. When men stop fearing God, they become very evil.
3. People tend to become more and more wicked each generation, until God rains a judgment on them, so they will repent.

## **II. God Reacted with Wrath.**

**A. God determined to destroy the earth.**

1. God has the ability to create and destroy.
2. God determined to destroy all flesh, both man and beast.

**B. God knew about one pure heart: Noah.**

1. Noah was acceptable in the eyes of the Lord.
2. God had compassion on Noah because of his love for God.

## **III. God Required an Act of Faith.**

**A. Noah was told to build an ark:**

1. A large boat.
  - a. The ark was about 450 feet long, with several floors.
  - b. It was about 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
  - c. It was designed with perfect dimensions, because God designed it.
2. Large enough to house:
  - a. Noah's family.
  - b. Two each of every unclean animal.
  - c. Seven each of every clean animal.
  - d. Food and provision for all of them.

**B. It took Noah and his sons nearly one hundred years to build the ark.**

C. Noah demonstrated his faith by obeying God.

1. His works proved his faith.
2. If Noah had not done the work in response to his faith, he would not have been saved when death came to the world.

#### IV. God Remembered His Word.

A. God sent a flood.

1. Waters came from below the ground.
2. God sent rain from above.
  - a. It had never rained before.
    - (1) A mist came from the ground each day.
    - (2) The source of water for plants and man.
  - b. A canopy of water vapor surrounded the earth.
    - (1) God placed it there during Creation.
    - (2) It protected man and helped him live.
    - (3) God opened a window in the canopy, and the water came down on the earth.

B. The earth and everything on it was destroyed except:

1. Water creatures.
2. Noah and his family.
3. The animals in the ark.

C. It rained for forty days and nights.

#### V. God Rewarded Noah's Faithfulness.

- A. The waters receded.
- B. The Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat.
- C. The land began to dry.
  1. After one year, one month and one day.
  2. The Ark was opened on dry land.

#### VI. God Responded to Noah's Worship.

- A. Noah built an altar to the Lord.
- B. Noah offered sacrifices to the Lord on the altar.
  1. One of every clean animal.
  2. One of every clean bird.
- C. God saw Noah's heart.
  1. He promised never again to destroy the earth by flood.
  2. God placed a rainbow as a sign of His covenant to Noah.



## Spiritual Truths

- God is holy, and hates evil.
- God will always judge evil in the end, although He patiently waits for us to repent.

- Sin always results in serious consequences, but they are not always immediate.
- God does not save the best 10 or 20 percent. He saves only those who believe and act on their faith.
- God will know your heart is pure by your thoughts and deeds; not by what you say.
- The prayers and faithfulness of a father can affect his sons and daughters.
- God's plans are always right, even when we do not understand them.
- God fulfills all of His promises.
- God will never allow us to endure more than we are able to bear. God knows better than we, how long we can stay in our "ark."
- God has made a covenant with His people to never again destroy the earth by flood, but He has told us there will come a day when it will be destroyed by fire.



## Lesson Material

Although humanists do not like to admit it, the story of Noah and the flood is one of the most important events in human history. It happened about 5,000 years ago. It had been about 1,000 years since the fall of man into sin. The human population had become quite large, and the people had all but forgotten God. They were caught up in themselves, and in

things. They were busy with pleasure and greed. Each generation rejected the moral standards of their parents, until the young people were wholly given to selfishness, violence, and lewd practices.

Put yourself in the place of Noah. He was over 600 years old. He had lived a full life, and he loved his Lord. He had endured living in a wicked world, but had not been corrupted by the things that were going on. God told him that the earth would be destroyed by rain. There had never been rain. God told him to build an ark to house all of the animals. There had never been an ark or a boat built. God told him to bring in two of every kind of animal. What would your feelings have been if God asked you to do these things and you did not understand what it all meant?

Noah was a man of obedience. He did as the Lord told him to do and received a great deal of ridicule. The people had never seen an ark before, and Noah was building this enormous boat on dry land. It took over 100 years for the ark to be built by this 600 year old man and his family. Think of the remarks from the neighbors when Noah began to bring two of every unclean beast, fowl, and creeping thing into the ark; then, brought in seven of every clean animal and fowl into the ark, plus the provisions for them and for his family. This was a tremendous undertaking.

The first lesson we learn from this tremendous historical event is that sin has consequences. God is holy, and cannot tolerate evil. He is patient, but must, by the very nature of His integrity, judge wickedness. The wages of sin is death. Death is the order of the human condition. We are all doomed. But there is hope. God has provided an ark of safety

from eternal death, which is the blood of Jesus Christ. When we are "in Christ," we are saved from the eternal consequences of sin. But we must respond to the Gospel in faith, and enter into God's covenant.

The second lesson we learn from the ark is that God does not change His standards. If there is only one family out of ten million who obeys His Word, then only one out of ten million will be saved from sin. God will not conform to our standards.

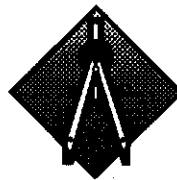
Another great lesson is that, even though we are forgiven, sin always diminishes us as a person. After the flood, the world dried up, but there was great damage. The atmosphere had lost most of its vapor content, so that there were extremes of weather. The earth now had some frozen wastelands where there had been lush forests before. Most of the earth's surface was covered with salt water, and many other areas had become either too hot or too cold to live in. There were now storms and extremes, and places like the Grand Canyon where erosion had scarred the planet forever. When we sin, we lose something we can never regain. It is better to serve the Lord from a young age than to live in wickedness and then turn to God. Many people have become believers after a life of sin, but still died from the diseases that were a direct result of their wicked lifestyle.

When God poured out His wrath, Noah and his family were safe inside. Outside the ark, people must have been clamoring to get in, to find safety. However, they had not obeyed God's Word, and now they were paying the price for disobedience. Noah had to sit and listen to the rain, and the yelling of the people. He certainly must have been

affected by it, but he knew God had spared him and his family for a reason.

For over one year they sat on the ark, many times wondering if their provisions would last and if they would ever see land again. Certainly a man of faith like Noah knew that God would not have planned to rescue him and his family and all of these animals from the flood to only have them die of starvation on the ark. Then one day the dove came back with an olive branch; then, Noah knew that soon they would be on dry land.

The first thing that Noah did when they landed was to build an altar and thank God for His provision of safety. God honored that altar and the sacrifice Noah made on it by making a covenant with Noah and all mankind that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. That covenant and promise are still true today.



## Methods

### *Flannel*

This story can be told with flannelgraph because of all of the animals that can be used, and because of its simplicity. Move quickly, and do not dwell long on any part. Keep to the main story so there is time for questions and answers about Noah and what the story means to the students.

### *Evidence of Creation*

Be sure to note that all over the earth, there are cultures who maintain some

version of the great flood story in their folklore. On every continent on earth, regardless of their religion, the nations have a flood story in which one family survives a worldwide flood by building a great boat and collecting animals.

Also, talk about the size of the ark. Go outside, if possible, and measure 450 feet. Let the class see that it was a very large boat. Also, note that Noah did not have to carry a full-grown pair of elephants or

other large animals in the ark. He could have taken very young ones, which would have required less room and food.

#### *Video*

There are several video tape programs available on the story of Noah. Use them wisely and preview them in advance. You may find it to be better to use just a part of the video to show the highlights and fill in the rest through the lecture method.

# Water Baptism

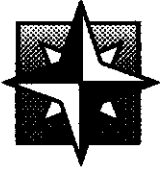
Volume 1

Lesson 32



## Bible Reference

Matthew 3:1-17



## Theme

The meaning of water baptism and the story of John the Baptist.



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1, 4-8, 11, 13, 16, 17

1 *"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,...."*

4 *"And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey."*

5 *"Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,*

6 *"And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."*

7 *"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*

8 *"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:...."*

11 *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and (with) fire:...."*

13 *"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him....."*

16 *"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

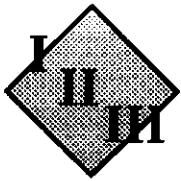
17 *"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*



## Memory Verse

Acts 2:38

*"....Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,...."*



## Outline

### I. John the Baptist: The Messenger

- A. John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness of Judaea.
1. Judaea was the region in Palestine which contained Jerusalem.
  2. It was the land in Southern Israel which had been settled by the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
  3. It was between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.
  4. Jordan is a great river which runs from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.
- B. People from the region around Jordan came to John the Baptist.
1. John was the son of the old priest, Zacharias, and his wife Elizabeth.
  2. Elizabeth was Mary's much older cousin.

3. John was six months older than Jesus.
4. John was anointed by God to be the forerunner to Christ Jesus.

### C. John called people to repent because the Messiah was coming.

1. John had been spoken of by Isaiah as one who cried out in the wilderness to prepare for the Lord's coming.
2. John was identified by his unusual clothes and unusual food choices.
3. He was a hardy outdoorsman, not a sissy.

### II. Repentance: The Message.

#### A. John was baptizing people in water.

1. People came from all around the region of Jordan.
2. People confessed their sins.
3. John baptized people with water for the repentance of their sins.
  - a. Baptism means to be buried in water.
  - b. John's baptism was to show that the people recognized their sin, and their need of a Savior.

#### B. Resistance from the religious leaders.

1. John knew the Pharisees and Sadducees did not believe in baptism.
2. The Sadducees denied the supernatural.
  - a. They did not believe in the resurrection from the dead.
  - b. They were "sad, you see."
3. The Pharisees believed in the supernatural, but they focused on works and religion, rather than a personal relationship with God.

C. The purpose of John's baptism was repentance.

1. Baptism was preparation for the coming of Jesus.
2. Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost.
3. Jesus would baptize with fire.

D. Jesus came to John to be baptized with water.

1. John did not want to baptize Jesus, because He had no sin for which to repent.
  - a. He only baptized for repentance.
  - b. Jesus was creating Christian baptism.
2. Jesus told John this needed to be done to fulfill all righteousness.
3. John did baptize Jesus.

### III. Jesus Christ: The Messiah.

A. When Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened, and John saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus.

1. The Spirit probably did not take on a dove form.
2. John saw a supernatural presence of the Spirit come down, and it seemed to him to come down gently like a dove.

B. God, the Father, said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."



## Spiritual Truths

- Water baptism is a part of our Christian experience.
- Water baptism is an outward sign of a change within our hearts.
- Confession of sins is an important part of salvation.
- Repentance must come before Christian water baptism.
- Going down into the water signifies the death of the old sinful nature.
- Coming out of the water signifies the new birth.
- Water baptism is a public demonstration of our desire to follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- Water baptism symbolizes that we have been cleansed of our sins.
- Water Baptism is preparation for the baptism of the Holy Spirit which will be given by Jesus to all believers who will receive it.





## Lesson Material

This story about John the Baptist teaches the spiritual significance of water baptism. These scriptures help us get a better understanding of the cousin of Jesus, John the Baptist. We see John as a man who was committed to what he believed and was willing to act on his faith.

John the Baptist's activities were based at two points on the River Jordan: one accessible to the people of Samaria, and one to the people of Judaea. Early tradition has always represented the place where Jesus was baptized by His cousin John as being the spot shown today: the ford at Hajlah. It seems that John lived for some time on the east side of Jordan, perhaps to avoid the authorities of Judaea and Jerusalem, perhaps because of the regular and clean flow of the Wadiel-Kharrar river from the east into the Jordan.

Luke carefully states that it was in the year 28 that John began his public ministry of baptizing in the river Jordan, and preaching the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark includes the prophecy of Isaiah, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face who shall prepare thy way." All four evangelists see John's coming as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight ...," but only the first three Gospels describe the power of John's message which drew all Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem. They describe his dress of camel skin and his diet of locust beans and wild honey, in the

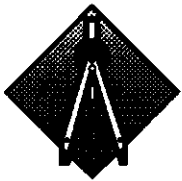
pattern of the Bedouin today. The theme of John's teaching was revivalist: the Messiah is coming, and people need the spiritual preparation of repentance. Water baptism was the traditional Jewish symbol for cleansing from sin. The Greek word for "repentance" means "a change of heart." John's baptism by water was to prepare people for the Messiah's baptism by the Spirit of God, and the coming of Jesus for baptism; then, John's work was finished.

Another definition for repentance is "to turn around." Our sin nature causes us to live selfishly. Our basic purpose in life is to pursue our own pleasure and wealth. To repent from sin means to have a complete change of purpose in life. We begin to live for Jesus instead of for self. We become God's servants instead of self-centered individuals. John's baptism was not Christian baptism, because a group of people from Ephesus who had received John's baptism were instructed by the apostles to be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 19) They needed Christian baptism, which was a sign of the covenant for people who had both repented and believed on the Lord for salvation. Christian baptism relates us to the death and burial of Christ, and is a seal we place on our covenant with God.

The term for baptism simply means "to be completely immersed." Baptism is a burial in water, designed to be a picture of the burial of Christ. We show that we have genuinely repented, and are "dead to sin, but alive to God." The best explanation of the spiritual work done in water baptism is given in Romans 6. We bury the "old man of sin," and "rise to walk in newness of life."

If you are teaching very young children, then you need to encourage them not to rush into water baptism until

they are sure they have been born again through repentance and faith in God, and that they understand the spiritual work of water baptism. Most younger children would do well to wait until they have a better understanding of baptism, so that they will fully receive what God has for them in this great Christian sacrament. They will receive teaching every year in this manual on water baptism.



## Methods

### *Testimonies*

Several members of the teaching team should share their personal testimonies of water baptism. Most very young students have not yet been baptized. Do not open up to general testimonies, because some might testify of being baptized as infants, which is not scriptural.

### *Pictorial Descriptions*

Have students draw pictures of what they believe John the Baptist may have

looked like. Then compare John the Baptist to our culture today. Dress a student as they believe John would dress today, and describe what foods they believe he would eat today.

### *Game*

“If You Were John.” Have students pretend that they are John the Baptist. When Jesus came to be baptized, how would they respond? Would they believe that they were worthy to baptize Jesus? Would they argue with Jesus? Would they baptize Him with no questions asked? Would they ask Jesus to baptize them instead?

### *The Dry Run.*

Have at least one student go through the motions of baptism. Ask an experienced elder or pastor to lower them down toward the floor, and bring them back up. Teach them to keep straight and stiff, and hold their breath, trusting their weight to the elder to lift them back up. Let them know that their is nothing to fear.

# Abram: The Man of God

Volume 1

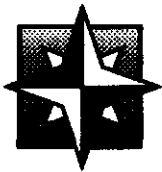
Lesson 33



## Bible References

Genesis 11:31-14:24

Genesis 12:1-5, 7



## Theme

Abram's calling teaches us that God is faithful to keep His word.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-5, 7

1 "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

2 "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4 "So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram {was} seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 "And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came....

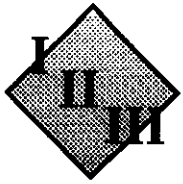
7 "And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."



## Memory Verse

Genesis 12:2

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee,..."



## Outline

### I. Abram's Comfort Zone.

A. Abram was born in the area known as the Ur of the Chaldees.

1. Near the original Garden of Eden.
2. Area now occupied by Iraq.

B. Abram's family had been told by the Lord to go to the land of Canaan.

1. They went to the land occupied by Haran.
2. They stopped and did not go on to Canaan.

### II. Abram's Call.

A. God told him to leave his homeland.

1. Get out of the country.
2. Leave his father's house.
3. Go to a land that God would show him.
4. While God loves the family, God knew that Abram's idol-worshipping family was a hindrance to him.
5. God wanted to establish a new nation in a new land.

B. God promised that He would:

1. Make him a great nation.
2. Make his name great.
3. Make him a blessing to others.
4. Bless those who blessed him.
5. Curse them who cursed him.

6. Bless all the families of the earth through him.

### III. Abram's Commitment.

A. Abram went to the land of Canaan.

1. He took along his wife, Sarai, and their possessions.
2. Abram took his brother's son, Lot, and his possessions.
3. God spoke to Abram again with more promises.
  - a. God promised He would give this land to Abram's seed.
  - b. God promised Abram's seed (descendants) would be without number.

B. The land of Canaan.

1. It was a very fertile land, hundreds of miles to the east.
2. It was east of the Jordan River.

C. Abram built an altar to thank and worship God.

### IV. Abram's Choice.

A. Abram took his nephew, Lot, and all of his possessions.

B. They enjoyed great prosperity.

C. Their wealth and numbers resulted in problems in the camp.

1. There were too many servants and possessions to occupy the same area.
2. The servants were in conflict.

**D. Abram gave Lot his choice.**

1. Lot could choose to the right or to the left.
2. Lot chose the land to the east toward Sodom, which was already fertile.
3. Abram was gracious and generous.

**V. Abram's Conquest.**

- A. Kings of many other cities battled against one another.
- B. They took Lot and his possessions away with them.
- C. Abram and his servants rescued Lot.
- D. Abram was blessed, because he was obedient to God.
1. Melchizedek the priest, king of Salem.
    - a. "Salem" means "peace."
    - b. Melchizedek was a prophetic picture of Jesus, the "Prince of Peace."
    - c. There is no record of his family line.
    - d. Many scholars believe that Melchizedek was actually Jesus Christ.
    - e. Hebrews 7.
  2. Melchizedek blessed Abram for his deeds and his faith.
  3. Abram gave one tenth of his wealth to Melchizedek as a tithe to the Lord.



## Spiritual Truths

- We should always obey God.
- One blessing of purity and spiritual devotion is the ability to hear God's voice.
- The greatest quality of Abram was that he was God's friend, and God blessed him because of their relationship.
- God honors the faithfulness of His people.
- Too often the easy road we take (as Lot did) is not easy in the end.
- Sin always looks good at first sight, but there are consequences.
- It is unwise to try to live as close to the world as we can. We should seek to be as close to God as we can be.
- When we see a friend who is in captivity, we should try to set him free.
- Abram offered his tithes to Melchizedek because he recognized him as a true Priest of God. We give our tithes to the Lord through our local church.



## Lesson Material

There is a great deal of material to cover in this section, but the lesson does not cover every aspect of Abram's life. What is important to stress is to be faithful, to listen to God's voice, and obey Him. This is the same lesson that each of us needs to learn for our lives today.

Abram's father had been given a command to go to Canaan, but he had not kept that command. Abram was called upon to complete the task, and he did so willingly. It would have been easier to stay where he was with his family and friends, but Abram was obedient. For his obedience, God made a covenant with Abram. God promised to bless him and to make him great in the land. God promises us eternal life when we follow the plan that He has for us. Our first step is to follow Him into a relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

The land of Canaan was a good, fertile land. But the primary reason Abram was told to go there was so that he would break away from his heathen friends and relatives and establish a new nation. While Christians should be a light to the unsaved, they should establish their close relationships with other believers. People who reject God in their lives will always pull others down spiritually, because they have a temporal values system. That is, their lives are focused on things and self. Christians, on the other hand, are preparing for eternity and realize that they must give an account to God for the way they have lived their lives. This guiding

principle of influence also caused the Apostle Paul to say,

*"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,...." (2 Corinthians 6:17)*

Upon arriving in the new land, Abram made an altar and worshipped the Lord. God never left Abram, for Abram continued to abide in God. We need to thank God for the fulfillment of His promises in our lives. Abram realized that the most important thing in life was his relationship to God. It has been about five thousand years since Abram lived his natural life of 167 years. He continues to live happily in the presence of His Lord in heaven. The people he left behind have long been forgotten and cast away.

Abram took his wife, Sarai, his servants, and his nephew, Lot, to the land of Canaan. There, God prospered him greatly with great herds of livestock and many servants. He shared the wealth with Lot; but, eventually, their servants had interpersonal conflicts. Abram felt that Lot's group should use a separate pasture.

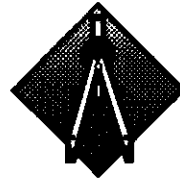
When Abram offered to divide the land with Lot, he was taking a step of faith. Lot could take the best and leave Abram with almost nothing. But Abram had faith in the promises of God, and Lot made his choice. Lot chose what seemed like the best the world had to offer, but it was not God's best. Lot chose the pleasures of the world and a simpler life. Too often the choices we make seem good when we make them; but, if they do not include seeking God's guidance, they will probably be wrong. Lot made a bad choice, considering the consequences of that choice.

The secular world always seems to offer the most attractive things in life. That is because we do not see the consequences, and the reward always comes first. The greenest looking pastures were near the city of Sodom, which was characterized by wickedness. Lot had wealth, but his family was eventually destroyed, because of the influence of the immoral people around them. Lot and his family were taken captive. This is a picture of people who get their eyes on the world and get involved with evil people. They become slaves to things like alcohol, drugs, or moral impurity. They need someone who is close to God to pray for them and to help them become free again.

Abram did not have to risk his life and the lives of his servants for Lot. After all, Lot made his choice to go to the land around Sodom. However, Abram felt that it was the will of God that his brother's son be rescued, and he sought out Lot. After Lot's rescue, Abram gave tithes to the king of Salem, Melchizedek. Melchizedek blessed Abram for his faithfulness. God is always pleased when we do His will and give of our substance to those He has called to serve Him on earth. Abram was a wealthy man. He could have said that this tithe was too much to give, but he did not. He gave out of his abundance and with great joy. God honored that faithfulness with more blessings to Abram.

If we remember that God is always with us and turn to Him for guidance, we too will be blessed. Abram sought God and often did things the world did not understand. But God was always faithful to him. We need to live our lives in the same fashion. Ask the question, what would I do if God were right here with me? Indeed, God is with you! Make right choices and trust in God, and He will

prosper you abundantly through life on earth and in life eternal.



## Methods

### *Lecture*

This lesson covers many aspects of Abram's life, so a lecture may be the best method to use. You may want to use some flannel and pictures to complement the story.

Keep the attention of the students by asking them to communicate with you during the lesson. Ask them what they would do in the same circumstances that Abram faced.

Would you have built an altar?

Would you have given Lot the choice of the best land?

Would you have left your parents' home? Does this mean we should leave our family, or simply avoid getting too close to worldly-minded people?

Would you try to set a friend free, who has become captive to a habit?

Would you have given your tithes to the Lord's house?

### *Puppets*

Use puppets to re-enact the main segments of the story and have a narrator bridge the gap through use of the scripture. Keep the students involved at all times.

*Skit*

Have a man (dressed as a servant of Abram) come and tell the story of what happened and of the fierce battle they encountered trying to rescue Lot.

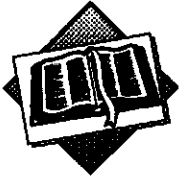
Have him question Abram's decisions and get "feedback" from the students as to whether they think the servant or Abram was right. (Participation by students will help them to remember the lesson.)



# Promises, Promises

Volume 1

Lesson 34



## Bible References

Genesis 15-21

Psalms 66:2

Matthew 6:9

John 4:24

Hebrews 11:6



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:4,5

4 *"And, behold, the word of the LORD {came} unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.*

5 *"And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."*

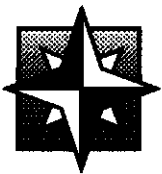
Genesis 16:2

2 *"And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai."*

Genesis 17:2-8

2 *"And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.*

3 *"And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,*



## Theme

God is faithful to keep the promises He makes to us.

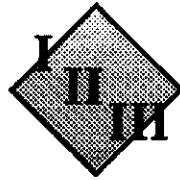
4 "As for me, behold, my covenant {is} with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5 "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6 "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7 "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8 "And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."



## Outline

### I. God's Promises.

#### A. God made several promises to Abram.

1. Abram would be blessed abundantly.
2. Abram would be the father of many nations.
3. Abram would have a son who would be the father of a great people.
  - a. The promised people.
  - b. Possess the land.
4. His descendants would possess the land forever.
5. He and Sarah would have a son.
6. His people would suffer four hundred years of bondage (Genesis 15:13).
7. God would honor the faithfulness of His people in prayer.
8. God would establish a covenant with His people forever.

#### B. God made a promise to Sarah (Sarai).

1. She would bear a son.
2. His name would be Isaac.
3. He would be her "child of laughter."
  - a. She laughed in her heart when she heard the promise.
  - b. She felt she was too old, and barren.

#### C. God made a promise to Hagar.

1. The life of her son, Ishmael, would be spared.
2. He would be the father of many nations.



## Memory Verse

Genesis 15:1

"...I {am} thy shield, {and} thy exceeding great reward."

## II. God's Protection.

### A. God protected the life of Abraham:

1. In Egypt.
2. From Abimelech, king of Gerar.
3. From the destruction of Sodom.

### B. God protected Hagar:

1. From the wrath of Sarah (Sarai).
2. From the lack of water in the wilderness.

### C. God protected Sarah (Sarai).

1. From her unbelief.
2. From King Abimelech.

### D. God protected Lot:

1. From the men of Sodom.
2. From the destruction of Sodom.

## III. God's Prerequisite.

### A. Obey His Word.

1. God is both Lord and Master.
2. When we disobey God, we are establishing our own rule.
3. If we love and trust God, we will obey His commands.
4. Abraham was obedient to God, and God greatly honored him for it.

### B. Honor God.

1. God deserves to be honored and esteemed.
2. Psalms 66:2, Matthew 6:9.

### C. Worship God.

1. God seeks worshippers. (John 4:24)
2. Worship means to minister to God with your spirit.

3. To worship God is to give Him love and adoration from your heart.
4. God wants an intimate relationship with us; not just religious service.

### D. Trust God.

1. God has a good plan for our lives.
2. Faith pleases God, and results in great reward. (Hebrews 11:6)
3. God wants us to look to Him as our source, and not to man or self.



## Spiritual Truths

- God will always keep His promises, even when they seem impossible to fulfill.
- A covenant involves giving yourself to someone else.
- Abraham gave himself to God, and God gave joy, wealth, and eternal blessings to Abraham.
- The Christian covenant is based on the fact that Jesus Christ gave His life for us, so that we could give ourselves to God.
- God makes His covenant promises to those who respond to His Word with repentance and faith.
- God made certain promises to Abraham concerning his natural descendants.
- Abraham became the "father of many nations," because he trusted God.

- Our faith and commitment to God will be tested in life.
- God's goal is relationship, not just religion.
- It is always a wise choice to be honest and truthful.
- We are never to take the solutions of the world's problems into our own hands. We should wait for God's solutions.



## Lesson Material

This lesson covers a great deal of information and needs to be taught with only the "highlights" in mind. The student needs to learn the promises made to Abraham and those around him, and to know that God always kept those promises. Many times we do not think the promise will take place, because of our impatience. We want God to answer us right now. God's timetable and ours are not the same. He will always give us what He promises, but it will not always be when we expect it.

God promised Abraham a son; but, in his impatience and at his wife's insistence, Abraham took Hagar to be his wife. Abram and Sarai were both old when God promised to give Abram a son. At least twelve years passed before they became frustrated, and their faith faltered. It was already physically impossible for them to conceive a child. So, it became harder and harder for them to believe that God would make it possible for them to have a child.

It was here that Sarai reasoned, "Maybe God helps those who help themselves." She felt that she was being noble and unselfish by letting Hagar act as a wife to her husband. But, it was really a lack of faith. When Hagar had a son, there were many new problems that developed in the family as a result. The Apostle Paul taught the church in Galatia that the birth of Ishmael is a picture of the "works of the flesh." That is, when we try to help God with our natural ability, rather than praying for direction from Him. God wants us to learn to trust and obey Him in everything. The more we pray, the stronger our spirit becomes, and the more easily we can act in faith.

Ishmael was not the "seed of promise." But, God blessed Ishmael with his own promise. Ishmael became the father (ancestor) of the nations of Palestine and, to this day, they battle with the descendants of Isaac (Israel and the Jewish people) over the land of Canaan. Both have the same father, Abraham, and both claim the promise of the land to themselves. This is the basis for the wars in the Middle East today. Had Abraham simply waited for the timing of the Lord, there would not have been a problem.

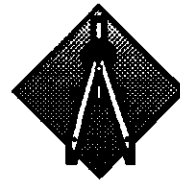
After Ishmael was born, God finally answered Abram's prayers, and enabled Sarai to bear a bright, healthy son. They had waited 25 years after God had promised this blessing. Sarai was 90 years old, and Abraham was 100 years old. Actually, there were several "miracle babies" who were born to women who were barren, such as Samuel, Samson, and John the Baptist. God told Abraham the fate of Sodom, and he interceded on Lot's behalf. God knew Lot was there, and his love for his brother's son was great. He sought the Lord for mercy and was given a promise: "If ten were found righteous,

then God would spare the city." Abraham was depending on Lot's household to be righteous, and thus spare the city by their presence. But, Lot's sons-in-law did not heed the warnings, and the city was destroyed for its wickedness. All of us are called upon to exercise our righteousness. We may be the people whom God wants to save our city, or to intercede on behalf of the soul of another. We must always be ready and willing to stand for righteousness and be counted on the side of the Lord. We never know, as the sons-in-law of Lot did not know, what fate may be in store for those who do not heed the warnings of the Lord.

Sarah had her child, Isaac, at a very old age. Why did God wait? Because in doing so, it would be a sign to all the world that it was God's hand of intervention that brought about the birth. Isaac was to be the father of the nation of Israel. God fulfilled His promise, and the nation of Israel was born. We know that Abraham is looked to as the father of many nations, and, particularly, as the father of the nation of Israel.

It is important to realize that God does not make promises to just anyone. There is a reason when God does anything. Since God is "no respecter of persons," we can be sure that God is absolutely just. He will not give special favor to anyone unless they respond to Him from the heart. Those who go their own way in life, without seeking after the things of God will not hear or receive from God like those who humble themselves and seek God's face. Those that seek Him will find Him. Those who trust and obey God will reap a great blessing in this life and in eternity. Abraham loved God, and God blessed him in return. God was able to make a wonderful covenant with

Abraham, because Abraham was God's best human friend.



## Methods

### *Lecture*

Because of the nature of the lesson material, a lecture is probably the best method. Keep the message simple, and involve the students in the material through questions and responses. Use pictures of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Ishmael, Lot, and the city of Sodom to tell the story. Keep it simple and moving.

It is important to start early in explaining the concept of a covenant, because this is the basis of Christianity. Most religion is based on the idea of a contract. Generally, in religion, people obey rules and fulfill requirements in order to appease God in some way and make it to heaven. But a covenant is more than a contract. A contract says, "I will if you will." A covenant says, "I give myself to you without reservation. I will not leave you." God initiated the Christian covenant with "whosoever will" when He sent Jesus to give His life on the cross. Our response is not just to accept Christ, but to give ourselves to Him in faith and trust. Everyone wants to go to heaven, but God seeks people who will love Him and give their hearts and lives to Him. God is seeking a covenant people who will worship Him forever. Everyone wants eternal blessing and reward, but not everyone wants to give their lives to God.

*Skit*

Have someone come dressed as Isaac and tell the story about how no one thought he would be born. Tell about his father's nephew, Lot, and what happened in Sodom, and how Lot's wife turned to

salt. You may even have him tell about how he was to be sacrificed by Abraham and how God delivered him at the last possible second by substituting a ram in the thicket.

# I Am Not Lying

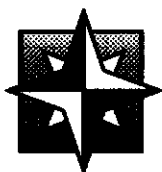
Volume 1

Lesson 35



## Bible Reference

Genesis 27:1-29



## Theme

Lying always has consequences.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 27:1-29

1 *"And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, {here am} I.*

2 *"And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:*

3 *"Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go*

*out to the field, and take me {some} venison;*

4 *"And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring {it} to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.*

5 *"And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt {for} venison, {and} to bring {it}.*

6 *"And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,*

7 *"Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.*

8 *"Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.*

9 *"Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:*

10 *"And thou shalt bring {it} to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.*

11 *"And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother {is} a hairy man, and I {am} a smooth man:*

12 *"My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.*

13 "And his mother said unto him, Upon me {be} thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me {them}.

14 "And he went, and fetched, and brought {them} to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

15 "And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which {were} with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

16 "And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

17 "And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18 "And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here {am} I; who {art} thou, my son?

19 "And Jacob said unto his father, I {am} Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

20 "And Isaac said unto his son, How {is it} that thou hast found {it} so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought {it} to me.

21 "And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou {be} my very son Esau or not.

22 "And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice {is} Jacob's voice, but the hands {are} the hands of Esau.

23 "And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

24 "And he said, {Art} thou my very son Esau? And he said, I {am}.

25 "And he said, Bring {it} near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought {it} near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 "And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.

27 "And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son {is} as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

28 "Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

29 "Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed {be} every one that curseth thee, and blessed {be} he that blesseth thee."

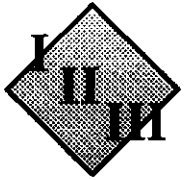


## Memory Verse

Colossians 3:9

"Lie not one to another,..."





## Outline

### I. Isaac Was Facing Death.

- A. Isaac was an old man.
- B. Isaac was blind.
- C. Isaac's natural life on earth was ending.

### II. Isaac Had a Desire.

- A. Firstborn blessing.
  - 1. God gave fathers a special ability to pass on a spiritual blessing to a favored son.
  - 2. Isaac had twin sons: Esau and Jacob.
    - a. Esau was a rough outdoorsman.
    - b. Jacob was a soft "mama's boy."
    - c. Isaac preferred his manly son, Esau, and had decided to give his paternal blessing to him.
- B. Preparation for the blessing.
  - 1. Isaac called Esau to him.
  - 2. Esau was sent to hunt venison (deer) for a final meal for his father.

### III. Isaac Was Deceived.

- A. Rebekah, Isaac's wife, overheard the conversation between Isaac and Esau.
- B. Rebekah wanted the paternal blessing for her favorite son, Jacob.
- C. Rebekah called Jacob to her.
- D. Rebekah planned to deceive Isaac.

- 1. Rebekah sent Jacob to slaughter two goats.
- 2. Jacob returned with the goats and Rebekah prepared a delicious meal with them.
- 3. Rebekah put goat skin on Jacob's hands and neck to make him feel hairy, like his brother Esau.
- 4. Rebekah gave Esau's garments to Jacob to wear.

### E. Isaac and the deceitful Jacob meet.

- 1. Isaac did not discern the deceit.
- 2. Isaac's poor eyesight and the smell of Jacob's garments concealed the truth.

### IV. Isaac Was Distressed.

- A. Isaac heard the voice of Jacob.
- B. But Jacob felt like Esau.
  - 1. Should we base our decisions on what we feel, or on what we hear from God?
  - 2. Jesus said, "As I hear, I judge: (decide)...." (John 5:30)
  - 3. Jesus did not depend on feelings, but on faith.
- C. Jacob gave Isaac a kiss of deceit.
- D. Isaac gave his blessing to the deceitful Jacob.

## V. Isaac Was Disappointed.

- A. Rebekah sinned against God and her husband.
- B. Jacob sinned against God, his father, and brother.
- C. Esau was robbed of his birthright and his father's blessing.
- D. Esau was very angry with Jacob.
- E. Isaac answered Esau by saying that Esau would have to serve Jacob, but he too would prosper and become independent.

- Many people can be hurt by one person's lie.
- When we practice telling the truth, we are walking in the light of God's love.
- God always tells the truth.
- If we love God, we will desire to tell the truth.



## Lesson Material



## Spiritual Truths

- Whenever a lie is told, some other deceit generally follows to cover the first lie.
- Always tell the truth, so you will not have to remember what you said to whom.
- Sin always affects other people.
- To lie means to deceive.
- God is truth and expects us to be truthful.
- Lying is never right.
- Being truthful is always right.
- There is no such thing as a small lie.

Isaac, Abraham's son, was old and almost blind. Realizing that he was dying, Isaac sent for his favorite son, Esau, who was a skilled hunter. He asked Esau to take his quiver and bow, shoot a deer, and prepare some of the venison he loved. Then, before he died, he would bless Esau.

There were two very special things that a father was able to give to a special son. They were the birthright and his blessing. The birthright is the right of the oldest son to receive twice as much inheritance as the other children. He would also be responsible to care for his widowed mother, and carry on the family business. The other was the father's blessing, which was imparted as a special spiritual favor, usually to the firstborn. Esau had already sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob, for a bowl of vegetable stew. Esau had esteemed his birthright so lightly that he had displeased God. In fact, the Bible says that God hated Esau.

Jacob wanted the birthright and the blessing and he worked to get them. God was pleased that Jacob sought the spiritual

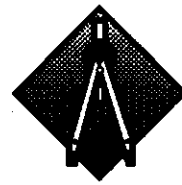
blessing. But Jacob went about it the wrong way. He got the blessing by trickery and deceit. Although he gained the blessing, Jacob damaged his relationship with his brother, and for years Esau sought to kill him. Jacob had to leave his family, and someone deceived him in return. His lie gained an immediate reward, but it resulted in many long-term consequences.

Rebekah heard her husband making arrangements to give the blessing to Esau and she determined to secure it for Jacob. She told Jacob to slaughter two young goats, and she would make a stew of the meat, and send it in to Isaac with Jacob pretending to be Esau. To make the deception more effective, she covered Jacob's smooth hands and neck with pieces of goatskin (for Esau was hairy) and she gave Esau's garment to Jacob.

At first, Isaac was suspicious, saying, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." (Gen. 27:22) When he asked Jacob to come near and kiss him, the smell of the field clinging to Esau's clothing convinced Isaac. He then gave Jacob his blessing, declaring that he would be the head of the family when Isaac died and his brethren would serve him.

Isaac was almost blind, so he had to rely on his other senses. Jacob had prepared himself to deceive his father. He wore Esau's clothes, and his mother had covered his skin with goat's skin. (Esau was indeed hairy!) But Jacob could not disguise his voice. Isaac was puzzled. His senses of touch and smell told him that Esau was there, but his hearing told him that Jacob was standing before him. He chose to go by feeling, which was wrong. Many times, we rely on feelings instead of faith. Faith in God says, "God said it, and that settles it, whether I feel it or not."

We should always emphasize the long range consequences of dishonesty. The fact is, God would have eventually provided the blessing and birthright to Jacob, if he had trusted and obeyed. Sin often has short-term rewards, but there are always consequences. In the long run, sin never pays. Jacob endured a lifetime of problems because of his deceptions, including never seeing his beloved mother again. Stay honest. God and people will honor you for it, and your life will be better.



## Methods

There are several ways for you to teach the lesson. You may choose to select one of the suggested methods below, or you may combine two or more of the suggested methods. Remember that the time you spend on the lesson should fit with the allotted time for each segment.

### #1 *Write a Newspaper Article*

After reading the scriptures, have the students pretend they are newspaper reporters. Have them search the scriptures for answers to the following questions: Who, what, why, where, and how? Write the story for them as if it were taking place today.

### #2 *Who could have stopped the lie?*

After reading the scriptures, have the students suggest how the lie could have been stopped before it was completed.

### #3 *Who was the real loser?*

After reading the scriptures, ask the students to decide which person in the

story really lost the most because of the deceit. Everyone was hurt; but, one person suffered the most. Was it Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, or Esau? Who loses the most when we lie?

# A Mission for God

Volume 1

Lesson 36



## Bible Reference

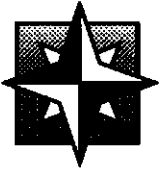
Acts 13:2-4



## Memory Verse

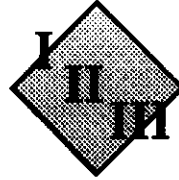
Acts 13:4

*"They were sent forth by the Holy Ghost...."*



## Theme

The role of a Christian missionary.



## Outline

### I. The Call.

#### A. One who has been called out.

1. The Lord established their calling.
2. The Holy Spirit directs them.
3. Others agree: they sense the prompting of the Holy Spirit that tells them they are to go.
4. All of us should seek the will of God and not enter into a ministry because it seems exciting or appealing to us.



## Scripture Reading

Acts 13:2, 3

2 *"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

3 *"And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid (their) hands on them, they sent (them) away."*

5. Generally, we relate the term "missionary" to someone sent by the Lord to a foreign land, or far-away place.
  - a. They may function as a pastor.
  - b. An evangelist.
  - c. A teacher.

B. A missionary is one who is sent out on a specific mission.

1. A church or Christian group sends him or her to minister.
2. The same church is responsible for the financial well-being of those they send.
3. The church should pray and help those they send.

## II. The Challenge.

A. Pray.

1. There have been many instances of miraculous help in times of crisis when somebody far away prayed for a servant of God.
2. God wants to teach us to pray to Him continually.

B. Support them with love.

C. Support them financially.

## III. The Charge.

A. Go where there is a need.

1. To a foreign land.
2. To work for a group that is ministering:
  - a. Bible translators.
  - b. Overseas radio transmissions.
  - c. In our own area ... reaching the lost.

B. Minister where they are called:

1. Even when their call is not where they want to go.
2. Even when there seems to be no way.
3. If God is in it, it will work.
4. To "minister" means to serve.
  - a. "Ministry" might be helping as a doctor, or nurse, or pilot.
  - b. "Ministry" might also mean preaching and teaching God's Word.
  - c. All kinds of different ministries are needed to spread the Gospel to the lost.
  - d. Some people have a special ministry of giving that enables others to go where the need is greatest.

## IV. The Constituency.

A. What are their names?

B. Where do they minister?

C. How can we help?



## Spiritual Truths

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- God will call those He wants to send.
- God has a calling and a place of service for every one of us.
- Through prayer and fasting God speaks to us to confirm the calling.

- Only the call of God on your life will make your calling to the mission field a true one.
- We are all called to be “missionaries,” by helping those who are called, and by reaching out to those around us.
- We all need the help of other believers and spiritual leadership to do the work God wants to do in our lives.
- Each of us has only one life to live on earth, and our situation for all of eternity will be based on our faithfulness and faith in this life.
- All of us should be encouragers and helpers to those who are on missions fields for Jesus.



## Lesson Material

This lesson is to discuss the role of a missionary and the calling that rested on Paul as he left to minister in the missionary field. The students need to learn what a missionary does and how he functions. The Bible does not actually use the term “missionary.” It is a term we use to identify those who have a special calling from God to reach out to other cultures with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This often means learning a new language and spending years away from home.

Most of the people who identify with the “missionary” label are serving in foreign cultures as pastors, evangelists, or teachers. A pastor is a preacher/teacher who works with a local church body as a

leader, much like a father leads a family. The term “pastor” means “shepherd.” A pastor cares for the people, by leading them and feeding them spiritually with God’s Word.

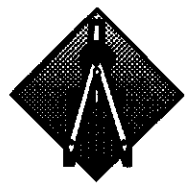
An evangelist is one who is a strong soul-winner. He generally travels from place to place. He has an ability to lead people to the Lord and a heart to motivate Christians to share their faith. An evangelist should be strong in supernatural gifts, with “signs following” his ministry. People, especially in lands where the Gospel is not heard, need to know the miracle-working power of God.

Today more and more teachers are needed in missions fields. It is often far more effective to teach local people to serve as pastors, evangelists, and teachers, than to transport and support foreign leaders. The native people already know the culture and language well. Many nations have closed the door to foreign missionaries, but the work is carried on when Christian leaders have wisely raised up local people to care for the churches.

Each teacher should take the time to explain the role of a missionary and to bring to the class information about missionaries who are supported by the church. Bring in their pictures and talk about where they are ministering. Tell what they do in the mission field and the importance of praying for these missionaries every day. If you support a missionary who has children, have the class write a letter to the children of the missionary and tell them the class is praying for them.

By becoming intimately involved in the experience of supporting a missionary family through prayer, as well as donations, the class will understand better

the role and importance of the missionary. Talk about Paul and Barnabas and the places they went. The most important thing we can teach with this lesson is to make it real to the students. Help them identify with real, live people they can help support. Talk about home missions projects as well and tell the class they are all missionaries. They can go out in their neighborhoods and tell other children about the love of Jesus. In doing this, they are also becoming missionaries.



## Methods

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### *Lecture*

Use maps of Paul's journeys, and pictures of local church missionaries to

illustrate the missionary experience to the students. Relate one of the true-life stories from the life of one of the many missionaries listed in this manual. If possible, do some research to develop your own resource folder of stories of great Christians. Try to avoid the fabricated stories so often used in Christian circles. True stories will have a far greater impact on the lives of those who hear them.

### *Skit*

Have someone pretend to be a missionary (or, better yet, have a real missionary come into the class). Have them explain what it is like on the mission field. Re-enact a short drama from a book, such as Through Gates of Splendor, or some other book about a missionary's experiences.



# Zacchaeus Met Jesus

Volume 1

Lesson 37



## Bible References

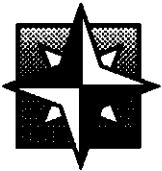
Deuteronomy 34:3

Luke 19

Matthew 6:1-4, 20

1 Timothy 6

Exodus 22:1



## Theme

Money does not satisfy. But Jesus does.



## Scripture Reading

Luke 19:1-10

1 *"And {Jesus} entered and passed through Jericho.*

2 *"And, behold, {there was} a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.*

3 *"And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.*

4 *"And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that {way}.*

5 *"And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.*

6 *"And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.*

7 *"And when they saw {it}, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.*

8 *"And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any*

*thing from any man by false accusation, I restore {him} fourfold.*

9 *"And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*

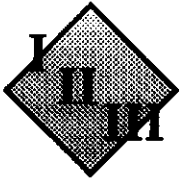
10 *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*



## Memory Verse

Matthew 6:20

*"But, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,...."*



## Outline

### I. Jericho.

A. A city in Judaea, near the Dead Sea.

B. A prosperous city.

1. Jericho had a great fresh water spring.
2. Mild climate.
3. Produce could be grown year-round.
4. Called the "city of palm trees."(Deuteronomy 34:3)

### II. Publicans.

A. "Publican" was the term used for a tax collector.

1. The entire land of the Jews had been conquered by the Roman Empire.
2. The supreme ruler was a "Caesar," who ruled from Rome.
3. The Roman government maintained power over the people by forcing them to pay many kinds of taxes.
4. The Roman government sold at public auction, to the highest bidder, contracts for collecting taxes in several provinces, cities, towns, and districts. The bidders at those auctions, known as publicans, were wealthy men or their representatives. The Roman government required them to post security for the money they collected.
5. These tax collectors, or publicans, increased their wealth by collecting excessive taxes, or by accepting bribes from the wealthy to underassess their property.

B. Taxation.

1. Throughout history in most countries, people in power increase their control of the nation by imposing taxes on the people.
2. When sin reigns, those in government seek to make themselves rich and powerful through many heavy taxes.
3. Nations which are influenced strongly by Christian values tend to have strong families, free people, and a central government which serves the people.
4. When the United States was a strong and free nation, it was predominantly Christian.

5. Today, as the nation moves away from Christian principles, the central government takes more and more control of the people through more and higher taxes.
6. In the time of Jesus, the Jewish people were in bondage, because they had to pay many taxes.
  - a. Land tax.
  - b. Head tax (each person was taxed).
  - c. Export and import taxes.
  - d. Sales tax.
  - e. Animal and vehicle taxes.
  - f. Crop tax.
  - g. A tax to enter the city.

### III. Zacchaeus.

#### A. Small in stature.

1. Apparently, Zacchaeus felt inferior.
2. He worked hard to excel, to be somebody important.
3. He paid a large sum to Rome to get the job of tax-collector.
4. He became very rich at the expense of his fellow-Jews.
5. He was feared and despised by others.

#### B. "Zacchaeus" means "benevolent one."

### IV. Zacchaeus Met Jesus.

#### A. He wanted to see Jesus.

1. His fellow-publican, Matthew, had quit his job to become a full-time disciple of this amazing man, Jesus.
2. Zacchaeus knew that Jesus had just healed the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, on the road near Jericho.

#### B. Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree.

1. Sycamore trees had strong, low branches, so they were easy to climb.
2. There was a large group of people crowding around Jesus.
3. Zacchaeus did not care that people might laugh at him.
4. Jesus saw him, and perceived his need.

#### C. Zacchaeus needed to know Jesus.

1. Jesus accepted Zacchaeus.
2. Jesus went to his house.
3. Zacchaeus repented of his selfish, greedy lifestyle.
  - a. He determined to make restitution to those he had cheated.
  - b. He decided to give half of his wealth to the poor.
  - c. Not to get saved, but because he was saved.
  - d. When you are really saved, you want to bless others and stop living for yourself.



## Spiritual Truths

- The most important thing in all of life is to know Jesus.
- Christianity tends to produce strong families and strong local government, with few taxes.
- Humanism in a nation is generally characterized by powerful, oppressive governments, with high taxation of the families.

- God is not pleased with those who gain wealth at the expense of the poor.
- Wealth and fame do not bring peace or contentment.
- Rich people need Jesus too.
- Though people hated Zacchaeus, Jesus saw his sad heart and accepted him.
- If you seek the Lord, you will find Him.



## Lesson Material

Jericho was a beautiful, prosperous city, with a pleasant climate. But the people suffered, because the powerful Roman Empire had conquered the nation, and ruled it with an iron fist. The Jewish people were controlled by the government in almost every aspect of life. It was difficult to get ahead financially, because everything they produced was taxed heavily to support the luxurious lifestyle of the Romans.

These oppressive taxes were a constant reminder to the people that they were not free. It is possible to have a free nation where the central government is supported by tariffs and other activities without income and property taxes. The United States became a strong Christian nation without the income tax. But as nations turn from the Bible as their source for direction, the tendency for corrupt strong government increases. The more the people are taxed, the less freedom they have.

While the Romans often sent their own people to rule over conquered lands like Judaea, they decided to let some of the local people do the job of tax collecting. Since this was literally a "golden opportunity" to receive wealth from bribes and from overcharging, the Romans gained even more money by selling the job of publican to the highest bidder. The person in charge of tax collecting determined the value of the property, so this gave him great power to make himself rich.

Zacchaeus was a small man, who had lived with feelings of inferiority. He had been bullied and rejected by the bigger boys, and he longed for a sense of power. Since he did not know the Lord, he felt that the way to succeed in life was to become rich. He saw the way people served and honored rich men, who seemed to have the "good life." He worked hard, cheated when he could, and saved his money. One day, he paid a small fortune in order to be named the publican for the city.

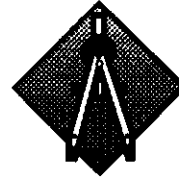
Zacchaeus lost no time in amassing his fortune. Although his name meant "benevolent one," he followed an entirely opposite values system. Instead of being kind to others, he was selfish and cruel. Quickly, he learned that the rich would bribe him to give their property a low assessment, while the poor had to pay whatever price he demanded of them. He would simply charge more than the oppressive rate the Romans demanded, and keep the extra for himself. John the Baptist had specifically commanded the tax collectors to "*exact no more than that which is appointed you.*" (Luke 3:13) He had a lot of wealth, but the only friends he had were those he could buy. He was rich, but empty inside. He had power, but he found that it did not really mean much.

Zacchaeus began to hear about Jesus, an amazing teacher from Galilee, who did miracles. He had been called the Messiah of the Jews, and the whole city was astir. Jesus was coming right there to Jericho. On the way, Jesus stopped by the roadside to heal blind Bartimaeus. Everyone knew him. Zacchaeus had seen Bartimaeus when he walked out of town, but he never gave the beggar any of his precious money. Now, Bartimaeus could see perfectly, and he was in the crowd praising this young teacher.

Zacchaeus was curious and excited. He wanted to meet this Jesus, too. Maybe Matthew had been right to quit this miserable profession and follow Jesus. He tried to talk to Jesus, but there were too many people. He noticed that the crowd was standing by a large sycamore fig tree. Swallowing his pride, Zacchaeus deftly climbed one of the large, low-hanging branches. If someone laughed at him, perhaps he could say he was looking for a ripe fig for lunch.

Not only did some people notice his location, but so did Jesus. The Lord not only saw a little rich man in a tree, He also saw his hurt and need. Jesus called to him, and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up, and come down. I need to go to your house with you today." Zacchaeus was thrilled. He not only received Jesus into his life, but he also repented of his sin. He demonstrated the change in his heart by giving to the poor, and by making financial restitution to those he had cheated. Zacchaeus was not doing works to get saved, but to express the change in his heart. When you are really saved, you become a new creature. Sin makes you selfish and greedy, but Jesus fills the needs in your heart, and gives you the power to love other people. God did a great work in the heart of this

little man, and he spent the rest of his life living up to his name.



## Methods

Discuss self-acceptance. What are some causes of poor self-acceptance? (Poverty, comparing physical features with others, small size, abuse, etc.)

The humanistic approach is to try to overcome low self-esteem by developing high self-esteem (pride). The problem is that pride creates more problems, and keeps us from receiving grace from God, which is given only to the humble.

Why did Zacchaeus seek so diligently to become wealthy?

How did Zacchaeus finally find the key to fulfillment and self-acceptance? (He found Jesus, and began to live for Him instead of for money.)

### *Unchangeable Features*

All of us have features we cannot change, such as our size, ears, and nose, family situation, etc. We need to recognize that these features cannot be changed, but we can change the way we look at them. We need to see these features as reminders that we are all uniquely created by God, and that we can let God change us on the inside by building our character. Zacchaeus learned that giving brings more joy than grabbing for things.

*Picking on the little guy.*

Explain the reason that some children tend to mock, belittle, or even mistreat those who are smaller or weaker. It shows that they have a spiritual problem, and do not realize that God is their judge. When we have the fear of the Lord, we realize that God cares for the little people, and He loves those who are kind to them. Real Christians are kind to little kids, and become their encouragers and protectors.

**Project:** Ask each student to make a special effort to do something kind and encouraging for someone who is smaller, weaker, or mentally handicapped. Have them notice any verbal abuse, such as negative nicknames or mocking remarks that children direct toward others. Ask for a report the following week on an opportunity they had to help someone who was weaker than they.

# Barnabas: Portrait of a Good Man

Volume 1

Lesson 38



## Bible References

Acts 11, 13

John 14:26

1 Peter 4:11

Ephesians 4:11



## Scripture Reading

Acts 11:19-26

19 *"Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.*

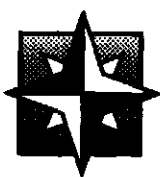
20 *"And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.*

21 *"And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.*

22 *"Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.*

23 *"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.*

24 *"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*



## Theme

We can learn wisdom and good character from men like the gentle prophet, Barnabas.

25 "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

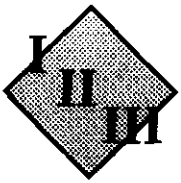
26 "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."



## Memory Verse

Acts 11:24

"...he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith:...."



## Outline

### I. Barnabas.

#### A. A Christian Jewish man.

1. One of the believers in the early church in Jerusalem.
2. A faithful disciple of Christ.
3. A member of the tribe of Levi.
  - a. Levites were not given land inheritance in Palestine.
  - b. The tribe of Levi was dedicated to the priesthood.
  - c. His property was probably on the island of Cyprus.

B. Barnabas was originally from the island of Cyprus, in the Mediterranean Sea.

C. "Barnabas" means "son of consolation."

1. The same word was used to describe the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. (John 14:26)
2. Barnabas was kind, and sensitive to the Spirit of God.

D. Barnabas, the giver.

1. He sold his fine property in Cyprus, and gave all the money to the Christian church in Jerusalem.
2. Ananias and Sapphira sold their land too, but kept back some of the money for themselves.

### II. Barnabas: The Prophet of God.

A. A prophet: one who speaks for God.

1. 1 Peter 4:11.
2. Ephesians 4:11.
3. Prophets are very sensitive to the Spirit of God, and are able to receive a word of wisdom or word of knowledge from the Lord frequently.
4. Prophets know the voice of God, and they are able to encourage the church by giving guidance and helpful information.
5. Teachers are important to the church. They teach the Word to help the church to discern whether the prophet's message is anything that will contradict scripture.



B. Barnabas was teamed with the apostle Paul (Saul of Tarsus), who was a teacher.

1. They made a great team, but they disagreed.
2. Eventually, they went their separate ways.

### III. Barnabas and Saul.

A. Saul of Tarsus was a zealous young rabbi from the city of Tarsus who persecuted Christians.

1. He was a Roman citizen, because his father was a Greek.
2. His mother was a Jew.
3. Saul was a member of the Jewish sect, called the Pharisees.
4. Saul assisted at the execution of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

B. Damascus.

1. Saul had the authority to prosecute Christians on the grounds that they were leading people out of the Jewish religion.
2. The Romans allowed the Jews to execute Christians on religious grounds.
3. Some believers fled to Damascus, so Saul was going after them.
4. On the way, Jesus confronted him, and he became a Christian.

C. Barnabas' dilemma.

1. Saul went to the Christians and testified that he was a believer.
2. Many of the Christians were skeptical and fearful.
3. Barnabas, the prophet, knew by the Spirit that Saul was sincere, and he

helped him become part of the leadership team in Jerusalem.

### IV. Barnabas: The Servant.

- A. When Saul became a Christian, Barnabas helped him get started in the ministry.
- B. When Saul became Paul, and was a more powerful speaker, Barnabas allowed him to become the leader.
- C. When Paul decided to fire John Mark, Barnabas went to Mark's defense, and only then separated from his partner, Paul.



## Spiritual Truths

- We should study the biographies of godly people to gain good role models for life.
- It is impossible to be a genuinely good person without following the Lord.
- When Jesus rules your heart, you naturally want to give to others.
- A prophet is one who is very sensitive to the voice of God.
- We need to receive one another in love.
- The people who are truly strong in character are gentle in spirit.

- A truly great leader will seek to make others successful, and not just promote himself.
- A servant is one who seeks to make others successful.
- Jesus lived His life as a servant, and God exalted Him.



## Lesson Material

Barnabas is one of the greatest, but least known, apostles of the New Testament. He was a great leader in the early church. He is noted in the Book of Acts, which was written by Dr. Luke. But, when Paul and Barnabas split up over their controversy about John Mark, Luke traveled with Paul. So, Paul figures more prominently in Luke's account. We should note that, in their argument, Barnabas proved to be right. Paul later acknowledged that John Mark was "profitable for the ministry."

Barnabas means "son of consolation." He was a natural encourager and peace-maker. He was also a powerful prophet of God. He was able to see things by the Spirit that no one could know with their natural mind. Prophets could hear the voice of God more clearly than the average believer. They functioned as "oracles," or mouthpieces for God. Any believer could prophesy, but prophets had special strength to prophesy words of direction and even correction, while other prophecy is limited to "edification, exhortation, and comfort."

After Jesus rose from the dead, He commissioned the disciples to wait in Jerusalem. The one hundred twenty who were still there ten days later were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they began to speak in tongues. This was the beginning of the great New Testament Church, which continues today, numbering millions of members all over the world. All who are genuinely born again by the Spirit of God through the blood of Christ are part of that great Church.

Barnabas was there in the very beginning. He was a Jew, of the tribe of Levi. He came from the rich and beautiful island of Cyprus. He was wealthy, but he sold his property and gave all of the money to the church, so that the church could meet the needs of the poor Christians. Others followed his generous example, and it was a great encouragement to all.

Of course, this great growth of Christianity was not an encouragement to the Pharisees, who were busily trying to preserve their traditions and political influence. Among them was Saul of Tarsus, who was the most zealous enemy in the land of Christians. When Jesus turned Saul's life around on the road to Damascus, the believers were naturally fearful.

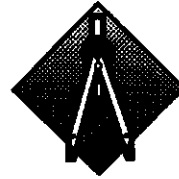
How can you know if someone is really sincere? In the early 1500's, there was a great Reformation in Europe. Martin Luther began by recognizing that the established Roman Catholic church was full of political corruption and false doctrine. He was converted to biblical faith, and led thousands of people to genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Like the Pharisees, the established religious order persecuted and killed many Christians on the grounds of heresy.

One of the great reformers in England was William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English. One day a sincere-looking young man came, saying that the Lord was leading him to help the great Christian in his work for the Lord. But, this fellow was a spy who had been hired by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Tyndale was tried for heresy against the Roman Church. He was strangled and burned at the stake.

The Christians in Jerusalem were afraid that Saul was just trying to get into the church so he could have them killed. Barnabas made a trip to Antioch and then went to Tarsus to visit Saul. There, the Holy Spirit bore witness with his spirit that this former enemy was in fact a sincere believer, and he encouraged the other brothers to receive him. Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, proved to be a tremendous asset to the church. He was perhaps the most highly educated and brilliant man of his day, and he did much to promote the kingdom of God until he was executed in Rome.

Barnabas was a great apostle of the faith, and he demonstrated his greatness of character in the greatest way when he teamed up with Saul, who was a brilliant and zealous teacher. Apparently, Barnabas had no trouble in stepping back to let the new man, Saul, take the place of leadership. He could have said, "Hey, I was here first. I am the senior man." But he did not. The team of Barnabas and Saul became the team of Saul and Barnabas,

and he continued to be an encourager. He did not seek to promote his career in the ministry. He just wanted to promote Jesus. What a man!



## Methods

Select one of the suggested methods below or combine two or more of them. Remember that the time spent on the lesson should fit within the allotted amount of time for each segment.

### *Role Playing*

Have the students portray the various roles and act out the story of the meeting between Barnabas and Saul.

### *Language Experience*

Have several students tell the story in their own words. Talk about the kind of man Barnabas was. Do they know of anyone like him today?

Discussion: What does it mean to have a servant's heart?

### *Storytelling*

The teacher can read the story aloud from the scriptures; then tell the story again, changing important details. Have the students be "detail detectives" and find the changes the teacher has made.

# Jesus Suffered for Us

Volume 1

Lesson 39



## Bible References

Matthew 26:17-56

Mark 14

Luke 9:23

Luke 22:7-50

John 3:17

Ephesians 1:6



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:20-25

20 *"Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.*

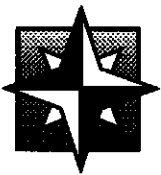
21 *"And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.*

22 *"And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?*

23 *"And he answered and said, He that dippeth (his) hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.*

24 *"The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.*

25 *"Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said."*



## Theme

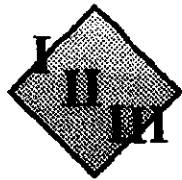
Jesus was betrayed by Judas, and He suffered and died to redeem humanity.



## Memory Verse

John 3:17

*"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."*



## Outline

### I. Who Is Jesus?

#### A. Son of God.

1. He is God.
2. He always has been.
3. He always will be.
4. He is infinite (*has no limits*).
5. He knows everything.
6. There is no limit to His power.

#### B. Son of Man.

1. Jesus came to earth as a baby.
2. God became man (called "incarnation").
3. Jesus was born to a young virgin, named Mary.
4. God the Son became a human being.

### II. Who Were His Disciples?

#### A. They trusted Jesus.

1. Many people followed Jesus and obeyed His teachings.
2. They gave their lives to Him.
3. They wanted to serve Him.

#### B. The chosen twelve.

1. Jesus called some men to leave their jobs and follow Him full-time.
2. They were fully dedicated to Him as their Messiah and teacher.
3. "Disciple" means a "devout follower," or "disciplined one."

### III. Why Did Jesus Have to be Betrayed?

#### A. God was showing us that mankind had wickedly turned against His loving leadership.

1. Adam and Eve rebelled against God.
2. All of us have sinned and grievously wronged God.

#### B. Jesus was betrayed by Judas.

1. Judas was a trusted friend.
2. Judas got his eyes on money, and turned away from Jesus.
3. Judas went to the religious leaders and was paid to lead them to Jesus.

#### IV. Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

A. God is holy.

B. Man is unholy.

1. We are all guilty of sin against God.
2. We deserve to be separated from God forever.

C. Only righteous people can go to heaven.

D. The wages of sin is death.

1. Jesus paid the price for the sins of the human race by His death on the cross.
2. Jesus had no sin, so He could take the place of us, who have sinned.
3. Because of the cross, God is legally just to transfer to the cross the death sentence of those who repent and believe, and to forgive them.

- Because God is holy, the death penalty for sin had to be paid by one who had no sin of his own.
- Jesus gave His life for us, because God is also perfect in His love.
- Judas betrayed Jesus for monetary gain, and later forfeited his eternal relationship with the Lord.
- Satan wants us to focus all of our attention on self and things, so that we will not serve the Lord.
- Sin is awful, and always produces destruction, division, and death.



### Spiritual Truths

- Jesus is a member of the eternal, Holy Trinity, and is equal with God.
- There has never been a time when Jesus did not exist.
- "Incarnation" means that Jesus became a man when He came to earth.
- The name "Jesus" means "Savior," because He came to save us from the power of sin.



### Lesson Material

Our purpose in teaching young people is to bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus. Some tend to teach about Jesus, but we seek to bring others to Jesus. Some seek only to motivate others just to accept Jesus and believe that He is God, but that is only the beginning. The Bible does not tell us to make converts. It tells us to make disciples. Actually, the Bible speaks of the fact that God accepts us. (Ephesians 1:6) We do not merely include Jesus into our lifestyle. We change and are included in His purposes.

The entire class session should be geared to a focus on God and His purposes in the earth. Satan does not care if we want to go to heaven, because everyone does. But he is worried if we decide to give our lives to Jesus and become real

disciples of His. An anointed and skilled teacher will motivate others to seek an intimate and personal relationship with the Lord. He will not just inform, but will inspire. A good teacher will not just give an interesting lesson about Jesus, but will stimulate a desire for knowledge of the Bible.

It is easy to talk people into agreeing to sign up for heaven. Heaven is infinitely better than an eternity in hell. No one would opt for the latter, except by default. That is to say, the only way the devil can keep people from serving God is by directing their focus on temporal values. That is why the teaching of humanism and the doctrine of evolution are so dangerous. People with a secular mind-set are focused on themselves, and things, and people. We must present the Gospel as a real relationship with a living Lord, and we must begin by walking in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives.

Jesus was not just a good man who came to be a teacher. The central point of human history is not the manger, but the cross. Jesus came to fulfill the demands of God's holiness and justice by paying the death penalty for the sins of the human race. It should be noted that there is no plan of redemption for angels. When an angel sins once, he is forever banished from heaven and is destined for the lake of fire. But God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that any human who believes on Him would not be cast away into hell forever, but could receive the gift of eternal life.

The specific purpose of this lesson is to expand on the statement, "The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men." We cannot understand that statement unless we realize that God is

perfectly just and holy. Because of the integrity of His being, He cannot simply excuse sin. Sin is not just a mistake. Sin is willful rebellion against the Creator and Lord of the universe. Sin puts self on the throne of life. "We have turned every one to his own way." Sin is so serious, that it demands the death penalty.

When Jesus redeemed man, he was paying the death penalty that the righteousness of God demanded. Since Jesus was sinless, He could take on the guilt of the sinful and die in their place. The death of God the Son was sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole human race.

Jesus had to die, because God is holy. Jesus did die, because God is love. Preaching holiness without love leads to legalism. Preaching love without holiness leads to presumption. God is perfectly holy, and He is love.

Because Jesus came as the redeemer of man, it was necessary for Him to be both betrayed and crucified by men. Jesus was born a Jew, and it was the Jewish religious leadership that plotted His death. Jesus chose twelve disciples, and it was his friend, Judas, who betrayed Him for money. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and it was the world power, the Roman Empire, which executed Him outside the city of Jerusalem. The crucifixion was not the defeat of Christianity. It was all in God's design. God had given a picture of it 1500 years earlier, when He instituted the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. Jesus had to suffer as a man, and He had to die as the Lamb of God.

God's purpose is not to convince people to go to heaven. God's purpose is to have a people who love Him. Heaven

is a byproduct of relationship. Those who respond to the love of God will indeed live with Him forever. But our calling is not to make Jesus one of the aspects of our life, but to enter into His army, and give ourselves to Him as disciples.

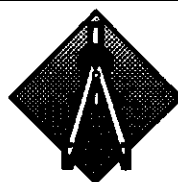
The term "disciple" relates to the term "discipline." In Luke 9:23, Jesus said,

*"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

Self is the problem of sin. In the secular world, our children are being pumped full of self-esteem (pride). Jesus did not come to affirm self, but to lead us to deny self. Humility is the only way to receive grace from God.

When Jesus came to earth to become a man, each person had to determine what they would do with Him. Some simply ignored Him, while others bitterly fought against Him. Some followed Him for what they could get out of Him, thinking that they might get a healing or at least a fish sandwich. But others left all to follow Him with their whole heart, and even gave their lives in His service. Of the twelve original disciples, only John lived out his natural life to an old age. Judas committed suicide, while the other ten were killed by the enemies of the Gospel.

As we show students God's holiness as well as His love, we inspire them to seek wisdom, and we stimulate the fear of the Lord, so that they will turn from sin. We are living in a day when many hear only about God's love and not His holiness, so that they tend to want heaven, but still pursue a selfish lifestyle.



## Methods

### Discussion

Why did God create you? Do you know that you are not just an evolutionary accident, but one who was in God's mind when He created the earth, and one for whom Jesus died when He went to Calvary?

How do we know God is holy? How do we know that God is love?

Who is Jesus Christ? What does it mean that He is the "Son of God"? What does it mean that He is the "Son of man"?

What is a disciple? What does it mean to live for Jesus?

### Altar Call

Why did Jesus have to suffer? Why did his disciples have to suffer for Him? Did Jesus come to make our life easy, or to make us overcomers? Would I be willing to die for Him? Would I be willing to live for Him?

How serious is our sin? Do we grieve that we have sinned against God? Do we want God to wash our sins away and make us clean and pure? Do we want Jesus to live and rule in our lives for the rest of our lives?

"Repentance" means to "turn around" -- to stop living for self and start living for Jesus.

"Faith" means to "trust the Lord," not only to forgive us, but to trust Him with the control of our lives. Faith is a focus on



God and His purposes, instead of a focus on things and self.

"Jesus, you gave your life for me, a sinner. I am sorry I have been selfish and have hurt you and others. I have sinned. Please forgive me, and take control of my life. I give myself to you. Walk with me

every day of my life, and guard my heart against selfishness and sin. Help me to live for you instead of for myself, and make me your disciple, so that I can help other people out of the bondage of sin."

"Amen."

# The Crucifixion

Volume 1

Lesson 40



## Bible References

Psalms 22:18

Matthew 26:31 - 27:66

Mark 15:1-47

Luke 22:1 - 23:56

John 18:1 - 19:42



## Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:1-2; 22-26; 33-46; 50

1 *"When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:*

2 *"And when they had bound him, they led {him} away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.*

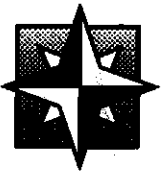
22 *"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? {They} all say unto him, Let him be crucified.*

23 *"And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.*

24 *"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but {that} rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed {his} hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye {to it}.*

25 *"Then answered all the people, and said, His blood {be} on us, and on our children.*

26 *"Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered {him} to be crucified."*



## Theme

The trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

33 "And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34 "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted (thereof), he would not drink.

35 "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36 "And sitting down they watched him there;

37 "And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 "Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

39 "And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

40 "And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest (it) in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

41 "Likewise also the chief priests mocking (him), with the scribes and elders, said,

42 "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

43 "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

44 "The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

45 "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

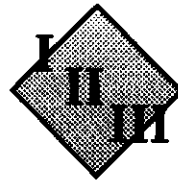
50 "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."



## Memory Verse

Matthew 27:37

"...This is Jesus the King of the Jews."



## Outline

### I. The Trial.

- A. Jesus was falsely accused by jealous religious leaders.
- B. He was brought before the high priests of the Jewish religion.
  1. He was first taken to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas;
  2. Then he was bound and taken to Caiaphas, the high priest. (John 18:13, 24)

- C. They knew they had no power to have Jesus put to death.
- D. The chief priests bound Jesus and took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. (Mark 15:1)
  - 1. False witnesses testified against Jesus.
  - 2. Pilate did not believe the accusations.
  - 3. Pilate offered to release Jesus.
    - a. The crowd shouted that they wanted Pilate to release Barabbas instead.
    - b. They wanted to see Jesus crucified.
    - c. Crucifixion was a cruel means of execution invented by the Romans both to humiliate and torture their victims.
  - 4. Pilate yielded to the demands of the crowd.
    - a. Pilate flogged Jesus with a scourge. (Mark 15:15) Scourges had three or more leather thongs with pieces of lead, brass, or small, sharp-pointed bones attached to them, which tore the victim's flesh.
    - b. Pilate then ordered that Jesus be taken and crucified.

## II. The Ordeal.

- A. The scourging was brutal.
  - 1. The number of times Jesus was struck with the scourge is not indicated in the Bible.
    - a. His skin was torn and lacerated.
    - b. The number of blows inflicted on a victim ranged from a few blows up to 39.

- c. Under Mosaic law, the limit was 40 blows, which often killed the victim.
- 2. Jesus was led away to be crucified.
- B. Jesus was forced to carry His own cross.
- C. Jesus was too weak from the scourging and loss of blood to carry the cross.
- D. Simon, a Cyrenian who was passing by, was compelled to carry Jesus' cross for Him.

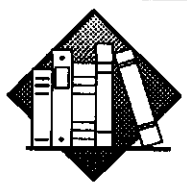
## III. The Crucifixion.

- A. Roman soldiers nailed Him to the cross.
- B. They hung a sign over His head.
  - 1. It said, "This is Jesus King of the Jews."
  - 2. It was written in more than one language, so that everyone could read it.
- C. The soldiers gambled for His garments. (This fulfilled the prophecy of Psalms 22:18.)
- D. Jesus cried out.
  - 1. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani (My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me)?"
  - 2. He cried again with a loud voice, and then He died.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus could have escaped the pain and death, but He died willingly in our place as the sacrificial Lamb of God.
- Jesus chose to die, so that we might live.
- Many people chose to turn against Him, but Jesus loved them anyway.
- The people wanted a king to set them free from Rome, but Jesus came to set them free from sin.
- The death of Jesus on the cross fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah, but many Jews still refused to believe that Messiah had come.
- Christ died for the sins of the human race, and made a way for us to be reconciled to God. Jesus suffered for our sins.



## Lesson Material

This is the second lesson in the three part series on Easter. This lesson should be taught the week before Easter Sunday. Plan your calendar in advance, so these three lessons are taught in the appropriate weeks of the Easter season each year.

The crucifixion death of Jesus is the most important single event in the history

of the world. Without the death of Jesus, we would have no resurrection. Without the resurrection, there is no hope of eternal life for mankind. Bible students need to understand the basic story of Easter. They should be told how Jesus was falsely accused; how He stood trial; how He was found guilty with no evidence to prove His guilt; and how the judge, Pontius Pilate, did not really want to sentence Him, but did so out of fear of the people.

The crucifixion of Christ is the pivotal event of human history. The sacrificial deaths of the animals in the Old Testament all point to this key sacrifice. The Passover lamb was particularly a picture God gave to show the principle of blood atonement. This all demonstrates to mankind that sin is very serious, and demands the death penalty. On the cross, Jesus satisfied the demands of God's holiness by paying the death penalty for the sins of the world with His perfect, sinless blood. If Jesus had sinned when tempted, His blood would have been defiled, and He could not have been the perfect "Lamb of God."

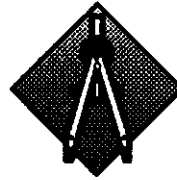
In the crucifixion of Christ, we see the holiness of God, who planned it from the beginning. We also see the sinfulness of man, who rejected the Savior of the world, though He did nothing but good. We also see the love of God, who gave His only Son to redeem, or purchase back, a race that did not deserve mercy.

Christ was whipped so badly that He almost died from the scourging, and then He was forced to carry His own cross up the hill to Golgotha. There He was nailed to the cross, while the people and high priests stood around and mocked and shouted insults at Him. He could have

come down at any time, but He chose to hang there and die for them.

In the end, Jesus cried out to His Father. The pain was more than His human body could bear, but He knew that His time had come. When He died, a great earthquake took place and the veil in the temple was torn in two. The veil of the temple was very significant. It was the heavy curtain that separated the Holy of Holies, which contained the ark of the covenant. For centuries, this ark contained the very presence and power of God. Only the priest could enter once a year to offer the blood of the sin offering to atone for the sins of God's covenant people. When God tore this massive curtain from top to bottom, He was declaring that now, because of the blood of Christ, man could enter boldly to the throne of God, and know Him personally. God showed the world that Jesus Christ had made a way for man to be reconciled to God, if he would repent of his sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

The students need to feel the shame and the hurt that came during the trial and the crucifixion. They need to know that Jesus suffered all of this for them, so they might have their sins forgiven and be with Jesus in heaven. Keep the account simple. The students will learn more each year about the Easter story. Encourage them to share what they have learned from this lesson with others.



## Methods

### *Videos*

There are good videos on the market that portray in dramatic form the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Use them wisely and make certain there is time for questions and interaction.

### *Skits*

There are several ways that skits can be used to tell the story:

1. Have the students hold a mock trial of Jesus. Make certain they know that, at the end, they have to send Jesus to the cross. Let them try to understand what Jesus must have felt while standing in that room, listening to the false accusations which were made against Him.

2. Re-enact the scourging, and the "Via Dolorosa" scene. Show how terrible Jesus was treated, and how much He suffered for us.

# He Is Resurrected and Alive

Volume 1

Lesson 41



## Bible References

Matthew 27:54 -28:20

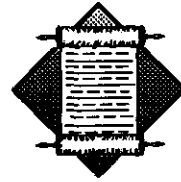
Mark 16:1-20

Luke 24:1-53

John 19:31 - 20:25

Acts 1:1-12

1 Corinthians 15:1-10



## Scripture Reading

Mark 16.1-15, 19

1 *"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the (mother) of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.*

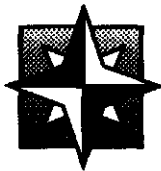
2 *"And very early in the morning the first (day) of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*

3 *"And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?*

4 *"And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.*

5 *"And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.*

6 *"And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.*



## Theme

The Easter story, the resurrection of Jesus.

7 "But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 "And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any (man); for they were afraid.

9 "Now when (Jesus) was risen early the first (day) of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 "(And) she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 "And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 "After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 "And they went and told (it) unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

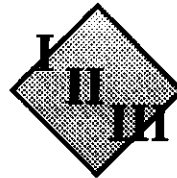
19 "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."



## Memory Verse

Matthew 28:6

"He is not here: for he is risen..."



## Outline

### I. The Crucifixion.

#### A. Jesus had just been crucified.

1. Crucifixion was a cruel and humiliating way of executing criminals.
2. Jesus was executed by the Roman soldiers, at the insistence of Jewish religious leaders.
3. Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected by His own people and hated by the world.
4. He died on the cross.

#### B. The body of Jesus had been taken down.

1. Disciples took Jesus' body to a tomb, which belonged to a wealthy believer.
2. Tombs there were usually carved out of stony hills, and a large rock was rolled across the front.



3. Often many bodies were put into these tombs and laid over the decayed remains of family members who had previously died.
4. Jesus did not have his own burial place.

C. Jesus descended into the place of departed spirits.

1. After Jesus' death, His spirit went to the gates of hell, where he took the keys of death, hell, and the grave from Satan.
2. Jesus did go to Paradise, which was the place where the spirits of the righteous dead from the previous 4,000 years were.
3. It was a beautiful place in the earth, also called "Abraham's Bosom."
4. Jesus led the people from there to heaven.
5. Believers who died in the Lord after that went directly to heaven.
6. Jesus made a way to heaven for us when He died in our place.
7. Unbelievers still go to hell when they die, but Paradise is empty.

## II. The Hope.

- A. Jesus had promised to come back in three days.
- B. The disciples did not really understand what Jesus had meant, until later.
- C. The Apostles (the eleven chosen disciples who had been with Jesus) wept and prayed for guidance.
- D. The women (a few who were close to Jesus in his life) went to the tomb to anoint the body of the Messiah.

1. They took oil and spices to cover the scent of decay.
2. They wondered how they were going to get into the tomb.

## III. The Surprise.

### A. When they arrived:

1. The stone had been rolled away.
2. The guards were unconscious.

### B. They entered the small, dark tomb.

1. An angel was sitting on the spot where Jesus had been.
2. The body of Jesus was not there, but the clothes used to cover the body were there.
3. The angel told them:
  - a. "Do not be afraid."
  - b. "Jesus is not here."
  - c. "Jesus has been resurrected. He is alive!"
  - d. "Tell the disciples that Jesus will meet them in Galilee, as He promised."

### C. The women were afraid to tell anyone, for fear they would not be believed.

## IV. The Appearances.

### A. Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene.

1. She told the disciples.
2. They did not believe her.

### B. Jesus appeared to two of the disciples.

### C. He appeared to the other disciples.

### D. Later, He appeared to hundreds of people.

E. Many people witnessed the physical, post-resurrected Christ.

## V. The Ascension.

A. Jesus gave the disciples instructions.

B. He ascended into heaven before their eyes.

1. He defied the law of gravity and rose up in a cloud.
2. Two men in white clothes appeared, and told the people that Jesus would return to the earth in a similar manner.

- Christ commanded us to take the message of His life and His resurrection to all of the world.
- Christ is in heaven today with His Father. He will righteously judge all of humanity for their responses in this earthly life.
- As judge, Jesus will make all things right. He will exalt the humble, and He will cast the wicked into an eternal lake of fire.
- Jesus Christ is alive forevermore.



## Spiritual Truths

- Jesus died a physical death on the cross, and there were many witnesses.
- Christ rose from the grave and was seen by many in His resurrected form.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, He is able to reconcile us to God and be the head of the church.
- Jesus died as the Lamb of God, but He rose as the Great Shepherd of the church. He lives as our Great High Priest.
- Jesus was transformed, with an eternal body of flesh and bone.
- Christ took the keys of death from Satan, and we have the promise that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life.



## Lesson Material

This is the third lesson in the Easter series. It should be taught on Easter Sunday. In the curriculum, there are three lessons in each volume on the Easter story. Each year the students will be exposed to more detail and doctrine. Our goal is to ensure that the early students know what happened that day and the importance of the resurrection to the scope of history.

This was a resurrection, not a reviving. Some people have had "near death experiences." They seem to be dead; but, their spirit did not really leave their body. Physical death occurs when the spirit leaves the body. Spiritual death is separation from God. Jesus died a physical death. He suffered tremendous physical trauma when He was beaten with the cruel Roman scourge. He bled profusely when His back was torn by the metal shards; when the poisoned barbs in the

crown of thorns was shoved down on His head; and when the soldier stabbed Him in the side with the spear. The blood was drained from His body. Jesus was also suffocating from the effects of hanging on the cross, forced to push his body up, supported by the large rough nails through His feet. Crucifixion was a cruel form of execution, but it was very effective. Jesus did not faint and revive. He died. He deliberately "gave up the ghost" (left his physical body). His spirit went into the earth, while his lifeless body was wrapped up securely and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea.

Christ told His disciples that He would not stay buried. He said that this "temple" would be torn down, but He would build it again in three days. He was referring to his own resurrection. Christ knew that, in order to bring salvation to the world, there must be a sacrifice: the eternal sacrifice of the ages; His own life blood. But death has no sting, when you can be resurrected from the grave and go to heaven. Jesus prepared the way for us by His own resurrection.

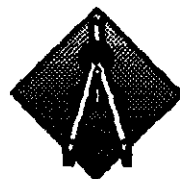
The disciples and the women who loved Jesus were all sad. They had heard what Jesus had said, but their faith was not strong enough to believe. Also, they did not really understand His plan at all. When we do not understand what God is doing, we need to trust Him anyway. That is what faith is all about: trusting when you do not understand. Faith says, "I may not know why, or how, or when, or where; but, I know Who, and that is the most important thing."

When the people saw Jesus alive, they jumped and shouted praises of joy. Christ appeared to many. This fact is established, not by just a handful, but by many who testified they saw Him. Jesus was alive! He

had gone into hell and taken the keys of death, hell, and the grave from Satan. Now he was ready to ascend into heaven and rule at the right hand of the Father.

This is the story of the suffering of Jesus, His death on the cross, and the sorrow that came to His followers. It is also the story of great joy, as Jesus came back to life on the third day. His resurrection provides our hope of eternal life. Your students need to feel the excitement of that joy. They need to know they can experience true joy, only after they have made a personal commitment to that same resurrected Christ.

Many Easter Sunday classes will have visitors who may never be in a Sunday School classroom again. Do not let the opportunity pass on this special Sunday to offer the students time to ask the Lord to forgive their sins and to give their lives to him. After seeing what Jesus did for us, how can we do anything less than make a total commitment to Him?



## Methods

### *Skit*

Teach this lesson depicting the scenes of the resurrection story. Help the students experience the sorrow felt by the apostles as they wept over the death of Jesus. Have the students join and walk with Jesus as He appeared to the first people He met on this earth after His resurrection. The class can join in with shouts of joy: "He is alive!" "Hallelujah!" "The Savior has returned!" Involve the students and be

certain they understand the basic concept of the story.

#### *Video*

There are video tapes, both cartoons and dramas, depicting the resurrection of Christ. Review them and try to use a segment that is no longer than 8 minutes.

#### *Flannel*

Flannel can be used, but you need to use wisdom. If you use flannel, keep a fast pace, moving quickly through the story, and keep the students involved by asking for responses to questions.

# He Is Coming Back

Volume 1

Lesson 42



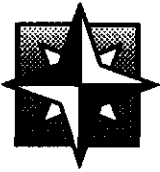
## Bible References

Numbers 10

1 Corinthians 15

1 Thessalonians 4

Matthew 24-25



## Theme

Jesus will come back for those who love and serve Him.



## Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 51-54

51 *"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

52 *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53 *"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal {must} put on immortality.*

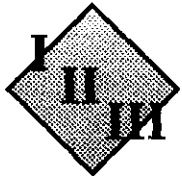
54 *"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*



## Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:51

*"...We shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed,...."*



## Outline

### I. The Mystery.

- A. We shall not all sleep.
1. "Sleep" means physical death.
    - a. This does not mean that the souls of the dead are asleep.
    - b. It refers only to the body.
    - c. When a person dies, his spirit is alert.
    - d. The spirit goes either to hell or to heaven at the time of death.
  2. When Jesus comes again, the godly people who are alive then will not experience death; they will be "caught up" and instantly changed physically.
- B. We shall all be changed.
1. The bodies of the righteous dead will be resurrected (brought back to life).
    - a. Decayed bodies will be rebuilt by God.
    - b. Damaged bodies will be made whole.
  2. The living saints will be changed physically.
  3. Like Christ, the "firstfruits of the resurrection."
    - a. Christ had a body of "flesh and bone."
    - b. The glorified body will not have blood and will never decay.

### II. The Twinkling of an Eye.

- A. In a moment.
- B. In the twinkling of an eye.
1. "Twinkling" is less than a blink.
  2. A twinkling is a quick twitch of the eyelid.
  3. About 7/100ths of a second.
- C. The rapture of the saints will occur quickly, without warning.

### III. The Trumpet of God.

- A. The trumpet shall sound.
1. God used trumpets throughout history to call people.
  2. In Numbers Chapter 10, the silver trumpets were used to signal a move for God's people.
  3. Trumpets signify the Word of the Lord.
  4. Trumpets are used in the Revelation to signal great events in the Great Tribulation.
- B. At the sound of the "last trump" (trumpet).
1. The dead in Christ shall be raised, and restored to their physical bodies.
  2. The living saints will be changed from their decaying bodies of flesh and blood to eternal bodies of flesh and bone.
- C. We will meet Jesus.
1. In the clouds.
  2. A great reunion with God's people.

#### IV. The Rapture of the Church.

A. The word "rapture" is not found in the Bible.

1. It means "to snatch up, to catch away."
2. "Rapture" also refers to great joy and excitement.

B. What we believe:

1. Those who have given their hearts to Jesus in this earthly life shall participate in the rapture.
2. At a time no man knows (except Jesus), the trumpet will blow.
3. The dead in Christ and the living believers will be instantaneously taken up into the clouds to be with Jesus.
4. Many will never die, but will be changed.
5. Only those who are "in Christ" will be taken in the rapture.
6. Are you ready?

- Christ wants all of us to join Him.
- Only the saints on earth will be raptured. Most people living will be left on the earth.
- The rapture will happen so fast that we will not have time to prepare or know what is happening until it is over.



## Lesson Material

The second coming of Christ is the "blessed hope" of the Christians. It will mark a further fulfillment in the eternal plans and purposes of God. It is difficult for young minds to grasp abstract concepts, but it is vital to stir their imaginations with the very real events of the end times.

There are many different ideas about the end times, but all honest Bible students agree that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, that He literally rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, and that He is coming back for His saints. There are questions about whether it will be before or after the Great Tribulation; about whether the half-hearted believers will be involved; and about many other details which are not clearly given. But, the promise of the second coming of Christ is clear, and it is certain.

It is vitally important that all of us learn to focus on eternity, rather than to settle into a temporal world view. We need to see life on earth as preparation for eternity. When we do, it will be much easier for us to overcome bitterness, anger, selfishness, covetousness, and so on. The



## Spiritual Truths

- Christ has promised to come back for us some day.
- He will come when no one expects Him.
- Not all of us will die. Some will be taken up at the resurrection.
- We will all meet together in the sky with Jesus.

secular world of education and entertainment creates powerful images of a world centered on self. The Christian world view centers on Jesus. Contrary to the secularized version of Christianity, Jesus does not exist to make us happy. God created us for His own pleasure. When we learn to see God as the center of our world, we learn the key to freedom and joy.

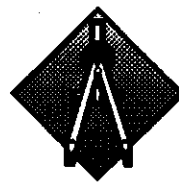
The study of the second coming of Christ helps us to put life into perspective. Even if life is not fair, it can still be fruitful and fulfilling when we realize that Jesus is coming, and that those who were faithful and are ready for His return will be glorified, transformed, and joined to Him with the saints forever. The things of earth rightfully become insignificant in the light of this sublime truth. Jesus is coming. Compared to being ready, what else is so important?

Paul spoke of this as a mystery. A mystery is something that we do not really understand. There are many unknowns. God does not let us know the exact time of the return of Christ, because then millions of insincere people would spend the last days "cleaning up their act," and acting very spiritual. But, God wants people who genuinely love Him, so He does not let anyone know the time of the end of the age. For the last 2,000 years, Christians have lived with the hope and expectation that Jesus could likely come in their lifetime, at any moment. This idea helped them to live for God, and to resist the temptations of sin. It encouraged them to be faithful servants of God, knowing that temporal things would "pass away."

We do know that death is mysterious, because we cannot see the spirits of those who die. We only see their bodies. Those who have died since the cross of Christ have either gone to heaven or hell, but

without their bodies. According to Jesus, most people were not ready to die. They were not right with God, so they were cast into the darkness of hell, in the earth. Those who were righteous have gone into God's presence as spirits, leaving their bodies in the grave. When Jesus returns, these godly souls will come and receive their bodies again. This is called "the resurrection of the dead." But this time, their bodies will be perfectly whole, and will not ever grow old, or die, or decay. We know this because Jesus died and left His body. When He was resurrected, His body was perfect and eternal: a body of "flesh and bone." The life of that new body is in the Spirit, not in the blood.

Nobody knows exactly how all of this will come about. But, we do know that it will happen. Wise is the person who has a loving relationship with God. It will not matter if he is living in wealth or poverty, in a free nation or in bondage, or in a cold place or a warm place. All that matters is that he is ready to meet the Lord in the air. The Apostle Paul told us to focus on the hope of the resurrection, and to "comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18)



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## Methods

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### *Teaching Emphasis*

Make sure the students have some understanding of death, which is separation from the body. They will need to realize that they are not just a physical body with a mind, (like a dog or cat), but that they also have a soul and spirit, which



are eternal. To those who do not know God, death seems like the end. But we realize that we were created for God, and for eternity. Describe death as a transition to an eternal state. When we understand that we are spiritual beings, and when we understand the principle of physical death, then we can understand and appreciate the truth and hope of resurrection.

*The Examples Jesus gave as His illustrations.*

In Matthew 24, Jesus gave a great teaching about the end times, and about His second coming to the earth. In

Matthew 25, He gave the accounts of three kinds of people who were not ready. Briefly discuss at least one of these stories, and how they relate to us today.

Be sure to give an altar call. "Are YOU ready if the Lord were to come today?"

"Do you know that God has forgiven your sins?"

"Are you living for Him?"

"Do you love the Lord with your whole heart?"

# The Great Judge

Volume 1

Lesson 43



## Bible References

1 Samuel 16:7  
Isaiah 6  
Proverbs 22:4  
Malachi 3  
Matthew 25  
Luke 1; 12:48; 18  
2 Corinthians 5  
Romans 2:4-6  
Revelation 1; 20  
Matthew 25



## Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:10

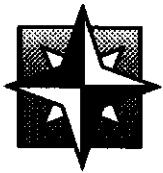
10 *"Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world."*

Revelation 20:11,12, 15

11 *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."*

12 *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is (the book) of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."*

15 *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*



## Theme

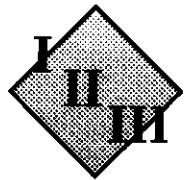
God will judge every one of us for the way we have lived our lives.



## Memory Verse

Romans 2:6

*"Who (God) will render to every man according to his deeds:"*



## Outline

### I. God Is Our Judge.

#### A. To judge.

1. Greek "*krino*" means "to decide."
2. To judge is to evaluate the heart and motives.

#### B. We are not to judge one another.

1. We cannot look on the hearts of other people.
2. We cannot tell their inner motives or read their minds.
3. Only God can look on the heart and judge correctly. (1 Samuel 16:7)

### C. There are two great judgments in which Jesus will judge humanity.

1. Bema throne, or the "Judgment Seat of Christ."
  - a. Jesus will evaluate all those who have their name written in the Lamb's book of life.
  - b. He will judge them according to their works, and give them eternal rewards.
  - c. He will judge them according to what they received and what they did.
2. The Great White Throne Judgment.

### II. The Bema Throne Judgment.

#### A. This is the judgment for those who received eternal life through faith in Jesus.

1. Our judgment will be the punishment in hell, if our name is not found in the Book of Life.
2. The blood of Christ covers our sins.
3. We are guilty and deserve to be cast out, but Jesus paid the penalty for all those who receive salvation by faith.

#### B. God gives out rewards and positions during this judgment.

1. For those found faithful.
2. For our works.
3. For our level of faith.

#### C. There will be weeping when we see what we could have done in this life.

#### D. God will wipe all the tears from our eyes.

### III. The Great White Throne Judgment.

A. For those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life.

1. They did not give their hearts to Christ while on earth.
2. Many are religious, but have not been genuinely born again.
3. Only God can save us from our sins.
4. All of the wicked dead will be resurrected after the Millennium.

B. God will review their lives with them and for all who are there to see.

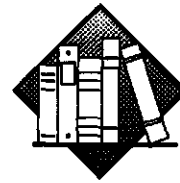
1. Humanity will see the selfish acts and wicked deeds of the ungodly.
2. Every secret sin will be revealed.

C. God will judge them according to their rebellion against Him.

D. If their name is not found in the book, they will be thrown into the lake of fire for all eternity.

1. They will be forever without hope, without God, and without light.
2. Eternal darkness, loneliness, despair, and misery.

- The intent of our heart is important.
- We must be born again if we are to avoid the great white throne judgment.
- There are rewards for faithfulness for those who believe unto salvation.
- Christ's blood has been shed as a covering for our sins.
- With our sins covered and forgiven, we will still be judged by the Lord for our works.
- Everyone, both saved and unsaved, will face a judgment day.
- Jesus Christ is the judge of both the saint and the sinner. All of humanity will stand before Him, and every knee shall bow to Him.



## Lesson Material

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. If we are not careful, we can so overemphasize the love of God that we neglect the holiness of God, which is His greatest attribute. The angels of heaven do not stand at the throne saying "love, love, love." (Isaiah 6) We need to see that God is absolutely just and holy, and that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The teaching of the secular world is basically that life just happens. If you believe the doctrine of evolution, then you believe that there is no Creator and no real purpose in life. History becomes meaningless if it is not seen as "His story."



## Spiritual Truths

- Only God has the right to judge our hearts.
- What we say and do in our lives is important.

Nations just happen to rise and fall, and morality becomes a matter of what everyone, or the majority of people, thinks is right and wrong.

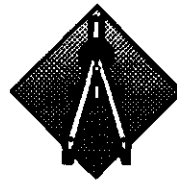
But when we see God as the Creator and designer of the universe, then we immediately recognize that He is also the judge. If God gave life to us, then we rightly belong to Him. Life is not just a matter of eating, existing, and dying. It is a matter of responding to God in life and serving Him. Life must end in judgment. Therefore, the most important thing in life is to please God.

One way or another, every human being who has ever lived will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ. He will not appear as a gentle Lamb of God, but as the mighty Judge of the universe. The picture we see of Jesus in Luke 1 is far different from the Jesus of Revelation 1. There, we see Him with eyes of fire, and feet of brass. Brass is a biblical type of judgment. The Jesus of Malachi 3 is the "refiner's fire," who shall judge the living ("quick" in the KJV) and the dead.

The judgment of Christ is positive for those who have been faithful to God, and very negative for those who have not. To "judge" also means to "make things right." In Luke 18, the woman asked the magistrate to judge her. She did not want to be condemned. She wanted him to defend her against her adversary, because she did not have the power. As judge, Jesus will honor and exalt the humble, and He will also bring down the proud. Those who suffered for His sake will be blessed with joy forever, and the highest honor will go to those multitudes throughout history who were killed because of their faith in Christ. They are called "martyrs." God will also rightly judge those who murdered His saints.

The fear of the Lord is not just the fear of hell. It is the awareness that our works will be judged. We will give an account to the Lord for our works and words in this life. To fear the Lord is to live in awe of His greatness and power, and to be aware that He sees everything we do and think. As His children, we will stand accountable for what we have done. Also, the Lord will take into account our potential and opportunities. *"To whom much is given, of him shall much be required."* (Luke 12:48)

We want to encourage everyone to live with a view to eternity, and to realize that *"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life."* (Proverbs 22:4)



## Methods

### *Flannel*

Have two boards set up, with God sitting in judgment on a throne. Have the Bema seat on one side and the great white throne on the other. Have a believer come to judgment. Then, have Jesus intercede and say that His blood covers the believer's sin and that his name is written in the book. Use a real book or a flannel book, showing the name of the person. Then, continue by showing the believer some souls that he could have won for Christ, but did not, because he was too busy with the things of the world. Show him what he could have become if he had been more faithful. Then, wipe the tears from his eyes as he is given rewards and responsibility in God's eternal kingdom.

*Skit*

Have a person who is a believer pretend to be standing before the throne of God. Have him review his life and have Jesus intercede and offer him rewards. He should be joyful because his name is in the book, and for the rewards he receives. You

may wish to depict some aspect of the Great White Throne Judgment also, but we would consider that too hard to do effectively if your students are very young. It should be adequate for you to teach the principle, and to warn them of the danger of self-willed rebellion against a holy and righteous God.

# The Danger of Envy

Volume 1

Lesson 44



## Bible References

Genesis 37:1-11

Proverbs 27:4

Luke 12:48

Acts 7:9

his old age: and he made him a coat of (many) colours.

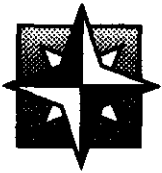
4 "And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told (it) his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 "And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7 "For, behold, we (were) binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8 "And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words."



## Theme

Joseph's brothers reacted against him because their father openly favored him.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:3-8

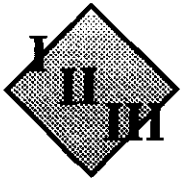
3 "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he (was) the son of



## Memory Verse

Proverbs 27:4

"...Who is able to stand before envy?"



## Outline

### I. Favorite Son.

- A. Joseph was the son of Jacob, whose name was changed by God to "Israel."
1. Joseph had eleven brothers.
  2. He was the first son of Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel.
    - a. Joseph was his father's favorite.
    - b. Rachel's other son, Benjamin, was the baby of the family.
    - c. Joseph's mother had died giving birth to Benjamin, and Joseph was a reminder of her to Jacob.
- B. They lived in the land of Canaan (now called Palestine).
- C. Jacob usually kept Joseph at home while his older brothers cared for the flocks.

### II. The Coat.

- A. Joseph received a special coat from his father.
- B. His brothers were jealous.
1. "Why did his dad get such a nice coat for him?"
  2. "Father loves Joseph more than he loves us."
  3. "What makes him so special?"
  4. They began to hate Joseph and his coat because of their jealousy.

5. Jealousy means the fear of being replaced.
  - a. It is a form of selfishness.
  - b. Jealousy is never a sign of love.
6. The older brothers also envied Joseph.
  - a. They wanted the advantage Joseph had.
  - b. They focused on comparing themselves with Joseph.

### III. The Dream.

- A. Joseph had a special dream.
1. He and his brothers were harvesting grain and tying sheaves.
  2. In harvesting crops, the stalks are tied into bundles. These bundles are called sheaves.
  3. In Joseph's dream, the other sheaves stood around his sheaf and bowed down to it.
  4. This dream made the brothers even more angry.
    - a. The dream implied that they would submit to Joseph as their superior.
    - b. Perhaps Joseph should have kept it to himself.
    - c. Selfish people do not rejoice when others are blessed and they are not.
  5. Joseph received the dream from the Lord.
    - a. He did not know all of what it meant.
    - b. He knew that God was calling him to be a leader.
    - c. He did not know of the hard times ahead.



## B. Joseph had another dream.

1. The sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.
2. This dream made the brothers angry again.
3. This dream also made his father angry, because it included a prophecy that he would someday bow down to Joseph.
4. The sun and moon represented authority figures in Joseph's life.
5. Again, Joseph did not see the reason for his brothers' hatred.

- God will reveal good things to us, so we can endure hard times.
- God has a plan for your life just as he did for Joseph's.



## Lesson Material

Joseph was a hard-working teenager who was happy to help his father. He had ten older brothers, but he was the favored son. This was natural for Jacob, because Joseph was the first son by his beloved wife, Rachel. Jacob had other wives, but Rachel was the one he loved the most. For years, she was unable to have a baby, while Leah and the other wives gave Jacob many sons. Finally, Rachel gave birth to a beautiful boy.

Initially, Joseph was favored because of the relationship between his father and mother. When God blesses a man, He passes on that blessing to his children. Some of you are blessed, because God is honoring the faith and faithfulness of a godly father or mother. Sometimes, we are blessed because of the prayers of a Christian grandparent.

Sometimes, we look at the favored children and are tempted to resent their advantage. This is called "envy." Envy is a destructive emotion. We should love others, and that means to rejoice when they are blessed. If someone is blessed because of their family position, remember that they will have greater responsibility in life because of it. *"To whom much is given, of him shall be much required."* (Luke 12:48) Also, even if you do not have



## Spiritual Truths

- God honors those who serve.
- Jesus will reward us for our faithfulness.
- It is not good for a parent to show preference for one child over another, for it causes hurt feelings.
- It is also impossible for parents to be perfectly "fair" with everyone, but they try.
- Jealousy is the fear of being replaced.
- Joseph's brothers may have been jealous, but their greatest problem was envy.
- Covetousness is the desire to have what God has given to someone else.
- God calls certain people to be leaders. All of us should have a servant's heart, even if we are called to lead.

all the advantages someone else has, you can still be faithful and blessed by God. David was rejected by his father, yet he sought the Lord, and God gave him a life of great honor and joy.

The ten older brothers of Joseph were jealous. Jealousy is the fear of being replaced. We should understand the difference between envy, jealousy, and covetousness. They are all wrong emotions, which indicate selfishness. When we are born again, the Holy Spirit enables us to care for others more than for self. This is an important characteristic of genuine Christians. Sin in the heart causes us to be selfish. When we are selfish, we will tend to resent the blessings of others, and have fears about not being loved or preferred by others. We focus on wanting to be loved, rather than on loving others. Jesus in our hearts enables us to be free from these selfish emotions and stirs us to seek the blessing and benefit of others.

Then Joseph had a second dream. The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down before him. This time, not only were Joseph's brothers upset, but so was his father. The mighty Jacob would never bow down to his son, no matter how much he loved him.

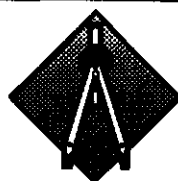
We should note that not all dreams are from the Lord. Dreams usually come when the brain is rested, and the body is still asleep. Sometimes in the latter moments of sleep, thoughts and pictures can unwind in the mind without deliberate thought. They will usually relate to events and images received in life, but they may not have a clear order. We should not be preoccupied with dreams in general, but sometimes God may speak to us through dreams.

As we study Joseph's life further, we will see that it is his gift of being able to see and interpret dreams that will eventually lead to the fulfillment of the prophesies of his dreams. What can we learn from Joseph and his apparent lack of understanding about how other people were reacting around him?

Have we ever been guilty of being jealous or envious?

What about being so angry that we wanted to do something to get back at somebody?

Answer these questions this week, and in two weeks we will see what happened in the saga of Joseph and his multi-colored coat.



## Methods

### *Flannelgraph*

This is a good lesson to teach with flannel, because you can use the coat of many colors and the visual aids of the sheaves, the sun, moon and stars in Joseph's dream.

### *Discussion*

When you think of Joseph, who was so favored and blessed, do you think of someone you know who seems to have it easy?

Do you feel that it is unfair that some people are born with favor?

Are you tempted to think, "If I looked like him, or had her money, or their father, I could be happy?"

If you resent the advantage of others, you are envious. If you focus on wanting what someone else has, you are covetous.

Ask Jesus to give you grace to love others, and not be self-centered.

Another word for favored in life is "blessed." Some people who were not born

in a favored position became very blessed in life, because they obtained God's blessing, and God is able to bless much more completely than man ever could.

What kind of people gain God's special favor in life, even though they did not receive it from society? (Read Psalms 1, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalms 24:3-5, and Psalms 25:12-13.)

# Mothers, Mothers

Volume 1

Lesson 45



## Bible References

Genesis 4:1-3

Genesis 21:1

Exodus 2:1-3

Exodus 20:12

Proverbs 31



## Scripture Reading

Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-28

10 *"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price {is} far above rubies.*

11 *"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

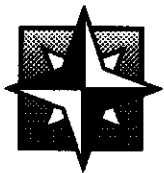
12 *"She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

25 *"Strength and honour {are} her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

26 *"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue {is} the law of kindness.*

27 *"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

28 *"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband {also}, and he praiseth her."*



## Theme

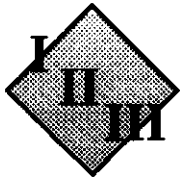
Mothers are special and important people in our lives.



## Memory Verse

Proverbs 31:28

*"Her children arise up, and call her blessed,...."*



## Outline

### I. Some Facts About Mothers.

- A. God commands us to honor our mothers.
- B. Every person who has ever lived had a mother, except Adam and Eve.
- C. Not all of us are blessed with good mothers.
  1. Some die before they can raise their children.
  2. Some get caught up in sin.
- D. If you have a godly mother, you should be very thankful.
- E. It is wise to be obedient to your mother.
  1. God will honor you for honoring her.
  2. She loves you, and wants the very best for you.
  3. She knows a whole lot more than you do, and sees dangers you do not see.

### II. Some Notable Mothers in Scripture.

#### A. Eve.

1. The first mother.
2. She reared the first children with wisdom given by God.
3. Every human being is descended from Eve.
4. Eve had no mother.
5. She was tricked by the serpent into sinning, but Adam sinned willfully.

#### B. Sarah.

1. She was the wife of Abraham.
2. She was very beautiful, even at the age of 65.
3. She honored her husband, and called him "lord" (which means "sir").
4. She was 90 years old when God allowed her to bear a child.
5. She encouraged her husband.

#### C. Jochebed.

1. She was the mother of Moses.
2. When Pharaoh commanded the death of the Hebrew baby boys, Jochebed prayed that God would spare her son.
3. She wisely arranged for his deliverance, as God dealt in the heart of Pharaoh's daughter to adopt him.

**D. Mary.**

1. The only virgin mother in history.
2. The Holy Spirit supernaturally made her pregnant.
3. She was a young Jewish girl, chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus.
4. Later, she and her husband Joseph had several other children.
5. Mary was a good woman, but no one should pray to her or to any other dead Christian.

**III. Mothers Are a Blessing from God.****A. God designed human beings with the desire and ability to bear children.**

1. Conception and childbirth require both a father and a mother.
2. Mothers tend to be closer to their children, but this is not always the case.
3. Both parents should stay together and train the children.
4. Children who have both parents are blessed.

**B. God promises to be a Father to the fatherless.**

1. God is our Heavenly Father.
2. He delights to give special protection and provision to those who do not have a complete family, and to guide them, if they will trust Him.
3. Everyone needs a mother in his life.

**Spiritual Truths**

- Mothers are a blessing from God.
- We are to honor our mothers.
- Our mothers deserve our prayers and support.
- Jesus honored his mother, even though He was the Son of God.
- Mary was a good girl, but she was a sinner who needed a Savior like everyone else.
- We should pray only to God.
- Mothers are the primary influence of young children all over the world.

**Lesson Material**

The four mothers listed in the outline above are those discussed during our study so far. Teach about them and the things we have learned about their lives, and indicate how mothers have played an important role in God's plan on this earth.

Certainly there are many other fine examples of mothers in the scriptures, who made an impact on the world. Actually, the most important mother to any individual is his own. There is, of course, the possibility that in any class there are students who do not live with

their natural mother. So, this can be a sensitive issue. Get to know your students and their families as much as possible throughout the year, so that, as this lesson is approached, you will be prepared for any situation that may exist in the life of a youngster which might cause him to question the love of his mother.

The Word says that we are to give honor to our mothers. Begin a discussion on the meaning of honor and what we can do to show our mothers that we want to honor and love them. Refer back to the love that was shown by Eve, Jochebed, Sarah, and Mary to their children. Ask the children how their mothers might be similar to those women of the Bible.

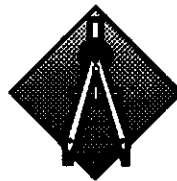
The circumstances of these mothers are varied. Sarah had only one child, and that was at the age of 90, while Mary was probably a young teenager, who later had several other children by her husband, Joseph. Eve had no mother, and no other women with which to relate, but she was given all the understanding for motherhood by God Himself. We do not know how many children she had, but she definitely had some daughters, because there was no one else for her sons to marry. Eve may have had dozens of babies in her lifetime.

Both Jochebed and Mary had to protect their infant sons from a death sentence imposed by a jealous ruler, and both sons led many people out of bondage.

The passage in Proverbs 31 is the writing of King Lemuel, whose name means "belonging to God." We do not really know who he was, other than the fact that he had a terrific mother. Some

suggest that it was Solomon, writing under a pseudonym. Lemuel describes his mother as industrious, resourceful, wise, kind, respectful, supportive, and loved. While none of us have perfect mothers, we can all see qualities in them to appreciate and admire.

One nearly universal trait of mothers is their love for their children. When they give instruction, it is for the benefit of their children. They are not "killjoys" who love to make life hard on their kids. They know much more about life, and what is best in the long run.



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## Methods

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### *Discussion*

Have all of the students sit in a semicircle and involve them in a great deal of conversation and discussion of the role of a mother and why they should be honored. Be prepared with examples about the four mothers who are featured in this lesson.

Have each student tell one thing he appreciates most about his mother. If there is no mother, have the student speak of a grandmother, or mother-figure in his life.

### *Crafts*

Have each student draw a picture of his or her mother. Have them write "I Love You," or something similar, and encourage them to give it to Mom after church.

# Sold to the Highest Bidder

Volume 1

Lesson 46



## Bible References

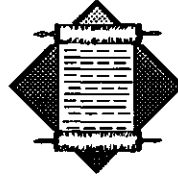
Genesis 37:12-36

Proverbs 28:13

Matthew 21:33-42

Acts 7:9

Philippians 2



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:17-21, 23-24, 28, 31-33

17 *"And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.*

18 *"And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.*

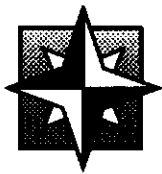
19 *"And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.*

20 *"Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.*

21 *"And Reuben heard (it), and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.*

23 *"And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, (his) coat of (many) colours that (was) on him;*

24 *"And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit (was) empty, (there was) no water in it."*



## Theme

Joseph is a "type" of Christ.



28 "Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty (pieces) of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

31 "And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

32 "And they sent the coat of (many) colours, and they brought (it) to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it (be) thy son's coat or no.

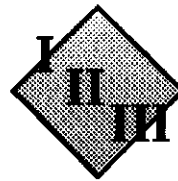
33 "And he knew it, and said, (It is) my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces."



## Memory Verse

Proverbs 28:13

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper:...."



## Outline

### I. The Family of Jacob.

- A. Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob.
- B. Joseph's brothers were envious.
- C. Dreams played an important part in Joseph's life.
  1. The prophetic dreams about the sheaves and the stars stirred his brothers to envy and jealousy.
  2. But those dreams sustained him through thirteen years of difficult times.

### II. The Journey.

- A. Joseph's father, Jacob, asked him to go and see how his brothers were doing with the flocks.
  1. Joseph was quick to do whatever his father asked.
  2. He was also happy to go and check on the safety of his brothers.
  3. Joseph loved his brothers, and did not realize that they hated him.
- B. Joseph went to his brothers.
  1. He traveled through dangerous land to find them.
  2. He came from the father's house to bless his brethren.
  3. He went to demonstrate the father's love.

### III. The Plot.

- A. Joseph's brothers saw him coming from a distance.
1. They immediately plotted to kill him and throw his body into a pit.
  2. His oldest brother, Reuben, stopped them from murdering Joseph.
    - a. He did not want to see bloodshed.
    - b. He hated his brother, but not enough to kill him.
- B. They agreed to put him away.
1. They captured Joseph when he arrived.
  2. They took his coat of many colors.
  3. They threw him into a dry pit.
- C. The Pit.
1. This is where the expression "in the pits" originated.
  2. Joseph had been rejected, and was put into a deep hole (a dried-up well).
  3. It was still damp and cold.
  4. Joseph had not done anything to hurt his brothers.
  5. He could not understand why they had turned against him.
- D. Sold for silver.
1. Some merchants passed by.
  2. The brothers decided to sell Joseph to them for 20 pieces of silver.
  3. The merchants took their slave to Egypt, where they sold him for a profit.

### E. Slavery.

1. A slave is a person who is treated like property by the people he serves.
2. A slave had no rights, and usually has no hope of freedom or reward.
3. A slave existed only to please his master.

### IV. The Deception.

- A. Joseph's coat of many colors.
1. In order to hide their sin, Joseph's brothers used his coat to convince their father that he was dead.
  2. They ripped the coat, and put goat's blood on it.
- B. They took the blood-stained coat to their father, who presumed that his son was dead.
- C. The brothers believed that their brother was now out of their way, and that they could inherit their father's wealth.
1. They thought that there would be no consequences for their sin.
  2. For years, there were none, but their sin later caught up with them.



## Spiritual Truths

- Joseph was a prophetic picture of Jesus. A prophetic picture is called a "type."
- Joseph was rejected by his brothers. He became a servant; remained faithful

through suffering; and saved his people from death.

- We must learn to stand up for what we know is right.
- God always has a way of taking the things that seem to be bad in our lives and turning them into good.
- Bitterness can blind us to God's love.
- During the lifetime of most Christians, they suffer the experience of being rejected by people they love and trust.
- If you are close to your Heavenly Father, other people may react unkindly to you out of envy or bitterness.
- People become bitter, because they do not see God's work in their lives. So, they focus on circumstances or people and become wrapped up in themselves.



## Lesson Material

Joseph is the perfect example of a child under authority. Even in the face of the danger that was in the land, when asked by his father to go and check on his brothers, he went without question. If we teach nothing else to the students with this lesson, it is that we must learn to obey our parents. Jesus was also perfectly obedient. In fact, everything He did was in obedience to His Father in Heaven. He also obeyed His earthly parents.

Joseph did not fully grasp the extent of the hatred that his brothers had for him;

but, certainly, he sensed the anger that they had hurled toward him. Yet, he cared enough for them and their well-being that he searched throughout the land until he found them. He wore his multi-colored robe, which was a mark of his father's favoritism. He was a teenager and was not aware of the envy that boiled in the hearts of his brothers. Godly people will rejoice to see others blessed; but, carnal people, who by nature are selfish, will resent the blessings of others. Sin makes us selfish. Only God can give us the grace to love without reservation so that we can delight to see someone else honored or favored.

Joseph's brothers had allowed their hatred to overcome them. Too often, we will allow bitterness to take root in our lives, and then we have trouble getting rid of it. In this case, the root grew and grew until it was too large for the brothers to bear. If it were not for the intervention of Reuben, they would have killed Joseph on the spot, instead of selling him. Yet, in the midst of this anger and hatred, they were being used of God to set the stage for the work that He had planned for Joseph in Egypt. As a result of their deed, Joseph would be able to bless them in the future.

But Joseph did not know about all of this. All he knew was that he had come to his brothers with love, and they seemed to have gone mad. They had treated him with cruelty, and they threw him into this dry well. He had been the favored son of possibly the richest man in the world. His life had been filled with happy times and comfort. Now, he was in the pits.

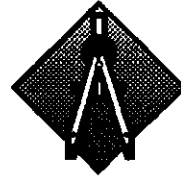
Joseph was a "type" of Christ in the Old Testament. That is, God worked in his life in much the same way He later worked in the life of Jesus, and Joseph responded in a Christlike manner. Joseph was the greatest son of his father. He was greatly loved and

honored. He left his father's house to go to his brothers. He was rejected by them, and treated with scorn and cruelty. He was sold for silver, and became a servant (Philippians 2). Joseph was tempted, but he remained undefiled. He became a ruler who would save his people from death. Eventually, every knee bowed to him.

In Matthew 21, Jesus gave a parable about Himself, which reflects the same situation Joseph had experienced. The father had planted a vineyard and had hired men to work there. The workers reasoned that if they killed the son, they could receive the wealth of the vineyard. They killed the servants sent by the father, as men have killed God's prophets throughout history. They killed the son. Jesus was telling His disciples that He would be killed by men who had the same kind of spirit that Joseph's brothers had; men whom He regarded as His brethren.

The brothers thought that they had covered their sin when they dipped Joseph's coat in the blood of the goat and took it to their father. They expected him to mourn the loss of Joseph, and they thought that eventually he would begin to show more appreciation of them again. The Bible says that Jacob never stopped mourning the loss of Joseph. We may think that when we do wrong things, people will quickly forget; but, many times our sins of the past will haunt us the rest

of our lives. This is what happened to Joseph's brothers. They had to live with their father's grief for many years.



## Methods

### *Flannel*

This lesson works well with flannel when you keep it simple and moving. Keep the children close to you, so it is more of a story telling prop than the focus of attention. Keep the students involved.

### *Comparison*

Be sure to explain the idea of a "type" in scripture, and show that Joseph, although a real person, was a type of Jesus Christ. Point out the similarities in their circumstance and response. Show also that we all go through difficult times in life, and that God uses these situations to teach us patience and wisdom. God is building our character, because He wants us to be like Jesus, too. That is what the word "Christian" means ("little Christ"). Explain that God can help us to love even those people who do us wrong, and can help us to refuse to become bitter, even when life is unfair.

# Behind Bars

Volume 1

Lesson 47



## Bible References

Genesis 39-40

Psalms 146:5

Isaiah 26:3

2 "And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 "And his master saw that the LORD {was} with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 "And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all {that} he had he put into his hand.

7 "And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

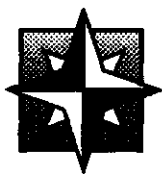
8 "But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what {is} with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

16 "And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

17 "And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

19 "And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

20 "And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the



## Theme

Suffering for doing right.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:1-4,7, 8,16, 17, 19, 20

1 "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

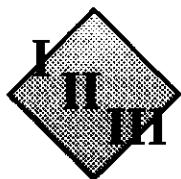
king's prisoners {were} bound: and he was there in the prison."



## Memory Verse

Psalms 146:5

"Happy {is he} that {hath} the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope {is} in the LORD his God:"



## Outline

### I. Review.

- A. Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers.
- B. He was taken to Egypt (southwest of Canaan).
  1. There he was sold to Potiphar.
  2. The captain of Pharaoh's guard.
    - a. Potiphar was a rich and important military man.
    - b. Egypt was the world's most powerful empire at that time.
    - c. "Pharaoh" was the title of the supreme ruler of the empire.
    - d. Pharaoh was like the king of kings.
    - e. Potiphar was Pharaoh's commander of bodyguards.

### II. A Faithful Servant.

- A. Joseph did not give up.
  1. He accepted his new place in life.
  2. He still trusted in the Lord.
  3. He did all he could to serve his new master to the best of his ability.
- B. Joseph's efforts were rewarded.
  1. He was made master of the house.
  2. All of the servants were responsible to him.
  3. God prospered Potiphar's house, because of the presence of Joseph.
    - a. God causes nations to prosper as a result of godly citizens.
    - b. When God blesses a man, those around him are blessed, too.

### III. Treachery.

- A. Potiphar's wife was attracted to Joseph.
  1. She wanted him to sin with her.
    - a. She invited him to be intimate with her.
    - b. This is something designed to be limited to marriage.
    - c. To violate that covenant is the sin of adultery.
  2. Joseph refused.
    - a. He was an honorable man.
    - b. Even though he was far from home, and had been cheated, he retained his integrity and refused to sin.
- B. Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph.
  1. She falsely accused him of tempting her.
  2. She used a piece of his clothing to "prove" her accusation.

## C. Joseph was taken to prison.

1. He was taken to the king's prison.
  - a. Not the worst prison.
  - b. He could have been killed for such an offense.
  - c. Potiphar still remembered Joseph's service and dedication.
    - (1) Some writers believe Potiphar knew the truth about what happened.
    - (2) He had Joseph put away rather than face the wrath of his wife.
2. Joseph was introduced to the captain of the guard of the prison with due favor.

## IV. The Dreams.

## A. Joseph was made the master of the prison.

1. Because of his faithfulness and ability.
2. Because he had favor with the Lord, everything he did prospered.

## B. Two prisoners had dreams.

1. Pharaoh's butler dreamed about serving wine to the Pharaoh.
2. The Pharaoh's baker dreamed of three baskets.
3. Joseph interpreted their dreams.
  - a. He asked the butler to remember him when he returned to Pharaoh.
  - b. The dreams came true.
    - (1) The butler went back to Pharaoh's court.
    - (2) The baker was hanged.
  - c. The butler forgot his promise to Joseph.

## C. Joseph remained in prison for two more years.



## Spiritual Truths

- It is possible to do right, and still suffer for it.
- Resisting temptation always brings rewards in the end, even if it does not seem like it now.
- Being faithful does not guarantee that everything will be perfect in life.
- Do not put your hope for the future in people. Put your trust in God, who can work through people.
- If you are in the position of a servant, then be the best servant you can be.
- Do not doubt in darkness what God has shown you in the light.
- Run from moral impurity.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- God pronounces a special blessing and honor for those who suffer for doing right.
- No matter what the circumstances say, God will keep His Word, and God will never fail.
- Evil men can take your money, your freedom, or your life, but they cannot take you away from God's love.



## Lesson Material

This is the third lesson in a four part series on Joseph. Joseph was in Egypt, the greatest political and military power in the world at that time. He had been sold by his own brothers to be a slave to Potiphar. Notice that Joseph did not whimper and whine and just "do what he had to". Joseph looked at his circumstances and decided that he must make the best of it. He also decided that he would honor God more by being a faithful servant to Potiphar than by complaining about what his brothers had done to him.

Potiphar rewarded Joseph for his faithfulness by giving him the position of master over the household. People have a tendency to avoid those who are focused on themselves and their rights. Bitter people repel others. But those who keep a cheerful attitude and a positive outlook tend to draw people to themselves. When you focus on God, you tend to be attractive to other people.

But, there is another dynamic at work at the same time. While godly people are attractive in many ways, they also cause wicked people to feel more guilty about their own sin. Guilt is a strange thing. Sometimes, people who feel guilty about their evil deeds try to get a godly person to become immoral, so that they will feel justified. They like to think that "everyone does it." When they see true righteousness in someone else, the wicked tend to feel guilty, just as those who are in darkness are irritated by a sudden bright light.

When confronted with the temptation to sin, Joseph maintained his integrity. He

could have rationalized that he was far from home, lonely, and that it was normal in a heathen place like Egypt. But, Joseph refused to sin, because he knew that God still saw every deed, and he trusted God with his life. But Potiphar's wife had a piece of Joseph's clothing, and she used it to accuse Joseph falsely of trying to sin against her.

Potiphar heard the accusation and was upset. Note, however, that he could have had Joseph executed immediately. He was the captain of Pharaoh's guard and certainly had the power and ability to do so. He also could have chosen to have Joseph placed in the deepest of dungeons and have him tortured for his indiscretion. However, he chose to send him to the king's prison. Potiphar must have suspected that his wife was not telling the truth. But, he also knew that he must live with his wife. So, he sent Joseph to prison rather than standing up to his wife. This is like the situation years later, when Pilot gave in to the Jewish leaders and had Jesus executed, not because he was guilty, but, because it was easier to kill one man than to face the daily anguish of the Jewish leaders.

Now Joseph was suffering again for something he did not do. In fact, he was suffering for doing right. But God did not forget Joseph. God was testing his faith. If Joseph had put his focus on himself and his hopes in man, he would have given up in bitterness and despair. Many people give up because they do not see God in the situation. But, when our motives are pure, we will see the hand of the Lord, and we will not lose our hope. Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God working in the situation.

Joseph decided that, if he were to be a slave, then he would be the best slave he



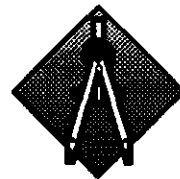
could be. If he had to go to prison, then he would be the best prisoner in Egypt. How often people today cry, "I do not deserve this! I should be paid much more than I am. Life is not fair. I demand my rights!" But Joseph kept his eyes on God, and kept the promise of God in his heart. He knew God was in control, even though the situation went from hopeless to impossible. He was such a model prisoner that he was made master of the prison. He was faithful in his position and impressed all of the guards and officers who were there.

It is amazing that in life, some people become angry and bitter over little things, while others keep a sweet spirit and a positive attitude although they are suffering through great tragedy, and have experienced terribly unfair treatment. It is a matter of where your faith is. *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."* (Isaiah 26:3)

While Joseph was in prison, two of his fellow inmates had dreams. The butler dreamed of Pharaoh's cup in his hands, and of three grape vines. Joseph interpreted his dream. He would be released in three days, and would be restored to his former high position. Joseph asked the butler to remember him to the Pharaoh when he returned home.

The baker also had a dream which involved three baskets. Joseph interpreted his dream to mean that after three days, the baker would be hanged. At the end of three days, both of the interpretations proved to be true. But, the butler failed to tell the Pharaoh about Joseph. God was giving Joseph one more test, to see if he would become bitter toward the butler. He did not.

Joseph remained in jail for another two years. Joseph had done everything right and yet he was still facing problems. God wants us to understand that leading a Christian life is no guarantee of constant success and wealth. Often, God allows us to go through hard times in order to fulfill the plan that he has for us in the future and to develop godly character. There are some lessons in wisdom that we can only learn through suffering. That is the case with Joseph. At all times he was in the place that God knew he had to be. Joseph may not have understood why he was there, but he knew that as long as God was with him, it was okay. He always did his best in the midst of the circumstances and never gave up the faith.



## Methods

### *Puppets*

This is a good lesson for using puppets. Focus on the scene in prison, where Joseph interprets the dreams of the butler and baker. Explain the difference between "fairness" and "justice." The world system, which focuses on self, seeks to make everything "fair." But in reality, life is seldom completely fair. As Christians, we need to learn to respond to God in life, and not just react to people and things. Our purpose in life is not to get our way, but to live in a way that will glorify God. Sometimes, that may involve suffering for doing right.

### *Focus*

Talk about heaven and eternity and the fact that God may wait until then to make

everything right. In this life, we may see the righteous suffer, and the wicked prosper; but, this life is only temporary, while eternity is forever. We need to look at life with a view to eternity and avoid the bondage of bitterness. If anyone had a right to complain and become bitter at people, Joseph did. But where would it have taken him? Because he kept a good spirit, Joseph was eventually honored and blessed.

#### *Illustrated Lecture*

As you tell the story, gather the students together and use props, such as a

piece of clothing, a cup and a basket. Have the students ask questions and be a real part of the story. End the session by asking them if they have ever felt as though unfair things happened to them as they did to Joseph.

Have they ever been falsely accused and then punished?

Ask what they think they would have done if they were Joseph?

What would they do differently now, having learned how well Joseph did by trusting the Lord?

✱

# In Charge

Volume 1

Lesson 48



## Bible References

Genesis 41-46; 50:20

2 Corinthians 7:10

Psalms 105:19

*this, (there is) none so discreet and wise as thou (art):*

40 *"Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.*

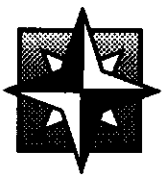
41 *"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.*

57 *"And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy (corn); because that the famine was (so) sore in all lands."*

Genesis 42:5, 6

5 *"And the sons of Israel came to buy (corn) among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.*

6 *"And Joseph (was) the governor over the land, (and) he (it was) that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him (with) their faces to the earth."*



## Theme

Faith and forgiveness.



## Scripture Reading

Genesis 41:38-41, 57

38 *"And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find (such a one) as this (is), a man in whom the Spirit of God (is)?"*

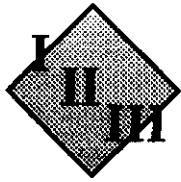
39 *"And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all*



## Memory Verse

Genesis 50:20

*"Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good....."*



## Outline

### I. Pharaoh's Dream.

A. Pharaoh, the ruler of the great Egyptian empire, had a dream.

1. He needed an interpretation of it.
2. The butler remembered Joseph from the prison.
3. Pharaoh sent for him.

B. Joseph interpreted the dream.

1. There would be seven years in which the crops would be plentiful.
  - a. Pharaoh was advised to store the surplus.
  - b. Take a fifth of what was grown for future use.
2. There would then be seven years of famine.

### II. Pharaoh's Response to Joseph.

A. Joseph was made governor, or prime minister, of the empire.

B. In seven years, an abundant supply of food was stored away.

C. Seven years of famine.

1. Egypt had more than enough in storage.
2. They received visitors who sought to buy the excess.

### III. Joseph's Family.

A. They came from Canaan to buy grain from the Egyptians.

B. Jacob sent the ten older brothers, who came before Joseph.

1. They did not recognize their younger brother.
  - a. Joseph was now about 30 years old.
  - b. He had been away for 13 years.
  - c. He was dressed in Egyptian clothing.
2. Jacob had kept Benjamin at home for fear of losing the only remaining son of Rachel.

C. Joseph made them concerned.

1. He told his brothers he thought they were spies.
2. Joseph detained one brother, Simeon, in Egypt.
3. Joseph demanded to see the youngest brother.
4. He sent the others on their way.
  - a. He hid their money in their bags of grain.
  - b. This would make them look like thieves.

### IV. The Reunion.

A. The brothers returned home, then traveled back with Benjamin to Egypt.

1. Joseph was overjoyed to see Benjamin, but hid his face so they could not see his joy.
2. Joseph made a feast and sent them home.
3. He ordered his servant to hide a cup in Benjamin's sack.
4. Servants were sent to bring them back.

5. Joseph accused Benjamin of stealing.
6. The brothers all repented of their sins.

#### B. Conviction.

1. Joseph used these tactics to help show his brothers the need for repentance.
2. Godly sorrows helps us to repent. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

#### C. Forgiveness.

1. Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers.
2. They were terrified.
3. Joseph forgave them.
  - a. He released them from the offense.
  - b. I know you meant evil, but God used it for a good purpose. (Genesis 50:20)
  - c. God can use people's faults and errors to develop our character, and to bring about positive results in our lives.

#### D. Pharaoh's offer.

1. Pharaoh heard their rejoicing.
2. Pharaoh offered land and homes to all of Joseph's family.

#### E. The trap of the world.

1. Egypt is a symbol of the world's system (sin).
2. The people of God turned to the world during the dry spell.
3. God had given Canaan to them, but the world seemed to have a better offer.
4. Their immediate need was met, but eventually it brought them into bondage.

5. When we look to the world to meet our needs, eventually it will lead to bondage.



## Spiritual Truths

- God uses difficulties to develop character in those He loves.
- Even in prison, Joseph was still free and content, because he had a word from God which gave him hope.
- Stay positive and do not lose hope, even when people do you wrong.
- God is still in control.
- Godly sorrow leads to repentance.
- God can use people's faults and errors to develop our character and bring about positive results in our lives.
- Forgiveness means releasing others from their past mistakes.
- If you do not forgive others, God cannot forgive you.
- Satan tempts us to sin by making us think he can meet our immediate need.
- When we look to the world to meet our needs, eventually it will lead to bondage.



## Lesson Material

The story of Joseph is full of great lessons for life. We can see him as a type of Christ, who was sent from the father to save people. We can see what happens in the end with those who keep up their shield of faith and refuse to become bitter because of the sins of other people. Throughout Joseph's thirteen year ordeal in Egypt, he was disappointed by people who sinned against him. His brothers sold him into slavery; his master's wife falsely accused him; and his fellow prisoner failed to return a favor -- at least, for two years.

Joseph is a great role model, a hero for all times. Joseph refused to let his life be controlled by circumstances. He refused to let other people determine his attitudes. He did not allow himself to become bitter in life. He kept his focus on God through it all. The Psalmist gives us a keen insight into what was happening in the life of Joseph, and it was the key to his success. Psalms 105:19 says, *"Until the time that his word came; the word of the LORD tried him."* Joseph was tested in life. God had given him a word that he would be honored and successful, but his life seemed to show that he was a loser. He was rejected, and "failed", even though he was faithful. But God came through, and, in an instant, Joseph was promoted from a forgotten prisoner in a dungeon to the prime minister of a world empire. Joseph had that word in his heart, and it sustained his hope and faith through horrible difficulties.

Joseph had established himself as a dreamer and an interpreter of dreams.

When the brothers became envious of Joseph and sought to kill him, they referred to him as the dreamer. Now the same gift which God had given to Joseph would be the very thing he needed to use to gain release from jail, and to be appointed to a position of authority.

When Joseph was able to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh, the king immediately recognized that the "Spirit of God" must be upon this man. He decided that no one would be better suited to run the country and be sure there was plenty of food in the land, than Joseph.

Joseph's prophecies came to pass, and Joseph ruled well as governor of the land. He had successfully gathered an abundance of food, and people from other countries were coming to Egypt to buy their surplus. Among those who came were Joseph's brothers from Canaan.

Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. He made a plan to trick them into bringing their younger brother, Benjamin, to see him by telling them he thought they were spies. They left their brother Simeon in Egypt and traveled home with their corn, only to find that the money they had paid for the food was in their bags. They became frightened about what would happen to them when they returned to Egypt. When they told their father what had happened, he refused to let the youngest son, Benjamin, go to Egypt, because he feared for his life. But their food ran out and the need to return to Egypt became great. So, with reluctance, Jacob sent his sons, including Benjamin, back to Egypt.

Again Joseph tricked them; and, after a feast, he sent them back to Canaan. This time he hid a silver cup in Benjamin's sack. After they left, Joseph sent his

time he hid a silver cup in Benjamin's sack. After they left, Joseph sent his servant to bring them back and search them. When the cup was found, the brothers all feared for themselves and for Benjamin. They shared with the governor that it was important to their father that Benjamin live. Then Joseph revealed who he was. There was such rejoicing that even Pharaoh in his court heard the noise.

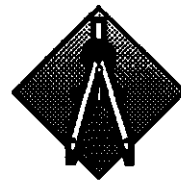
Through betrayal and adversity, Joseph kept a good spirit. He had forgiven his brothers long before and was able to restore them with joy. If he had remained bitter, he would not have been promoted, because the Egyptians would have not responded to him so favorably if he had been sullen and morose. Bitter people cause people around them to become disagreeable. They carry a cloud of anger with them. Bitter people do not usually receive promotions like Joseph did. He stayed positive in a negative world, and God and people honored him because of it.

Pharaoh invited Joseph's family to come and live in Egypt, and to take the best of the land. Upon returning to Canaan and telling their father what had happened, and that Joseph was alive, Jacob offered a sacrifice to the Lord out of joy that his son was alive, and he would see him again.

The story of Joseph and his brothers is an important one in our history. It was in Egypt that the nation of Israel would grow and then leave to return to Canaan. More important than the history is the nature of repentance. The brothers of Joseph were sorry for what they had done to their brother. They did not want to have anything happen to their brother, Benjamin, because they loved him, and they knew it would have a profound impact on the health of their father. God

had done a work in their hearts. They were no longer just thinking of themselves. Now they were thinking more about their brother and their father. God wants us to do the same. If we all learn to love one another, then our lives will be more pleasing to God.

We need to see that, even though Joseph tricked his brothers, he had a plan. He wanted them to see how important it was not to lose another brother. He wanted to see if they had indeed learned their lesson. If they had been willing to sacrifice another brother in order to have more corn, then Joseph would have known that they had not learned anything from their experience with him as a child. Because Joseph was faithful to God, he was in a position to save the family of Jacob, and eventually the nation of Israel, from famine. The line of David and of the Messiah was preserved. God worked out an elaborate plan to accomplish the results He wanted. We need to listen to God, and to be available, so that when His plan unfolds, we are ready, willing, and able to obey.



## Methods

### *Heroes*

What heroes and role models do young people have today? Ask the students to name their heroes, and to discuss the impact these people have on their lives.

What kind of people should we have for heroes?

Who is the greatest hero of all times?  
(Jesus.)

*Puppets*

Puppets can be used to tell this story  
and to get a response from the students.

Try a combination of puppets and students  
working together. Have the students play  
the part of Joseph's brothers.



# The Comforter Has Come

Volume 1

Lesson 49



## Bible References

Isaiah 42:19

Matthew 3:16

John 14:26

John 15:26, 27

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:1-21

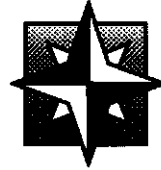
Acts 4:31

Acts 10

Acts 29

1 Corinthians 14

Jude 20



## Theme

God sent His Holy Spirit to mankind to strengthen and enable His people.



## Scripture Reading

John 14:26

*26 "But the Comforter, (which is) the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Acts 2:1-4

*1 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

*2 "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

*3 "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

### Acts 2:14-18

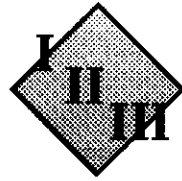
14 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all {ye} that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is {but} the third hour of the day.

16 "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 "And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:"



## Outline

### I. The Promise.

#### A. Old Testament.

1. In the Book of Joel, God promised to "pour out his Spirit on all flesh."
2. The books of Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and others speak of God's Spirit coming upon a person.
3. In Isaiah 42:19, the Spirit is spoken of as God's messenger.

#### B. New Testament.

1. Jesus promised that He would come.
  - a. "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name...." (John 14:26)
  - b. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth...." (John 15:26)
2. The Spirit of God appeared to Jesus when He was baptized in the Jordan River. (Matthew 3:16)

#### C. The "Comforter".

1. Jesus was not referring to a warm blanket.
2. His primary work is not to make us feel comforted, or comfortable.
3. The Greek word translated "comforter" means "to stand along side."
4. His purpose is to give us power and courage to do God's work.
5. Acts 1:8.



## Memory Verse

### Acts 2:4

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues...."

## II. The Fulfillment.

### A. It was on the day of Pentecost.

1. Jesus had fulfilled the Passover on the literal feast day of Passover.
  - a. He became the Passover Lamb.
  - b. His blood was shed so that God's covenant people could be free from spiritual death.
2. The second Jewish feast ordained by God was Pentecost.
  - a. "Pente" means "fifty."
  - b. Pentecost means "fiftieth day."
  - c. It was seven weeks, or 50 days after the Passover.

### B. The disciples had been waiting in Jerusalem for about ten days after Jesus had ascended to heaven in a cloud.

1. Only 120 of them were still waiting for the promise.
2. Early in the morning, as they prayed together, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

### C. The evidence.

1. The disciples began to speak with other tongues.
  - a. Languages they did not learn.
  - b. They could not understand what they were saying.
  - c. The Holy Ghost gave them the ability (utterance) to speak in unknown tongues.
2. A sign of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Acts 10 tells of the Holy Ghost falling on those who heard the Word. They spoke with other tongues and magnified the Lord.
  - b. Acts 19:6 says when the Holy Ghost came upon them they "spoke with tongues" and prophesied.

3. It is good for Christians to speak in tongues.
  - a. Paul encouraged every believer to pray and sing in tongues. (1 Corinthians 14)
  - b. He spoke in tongues frequently.
  - c. Speaking in tongues builds you spiritually, because your spirit is praying, and not just your mind. (1 Corinthians 14:14, Jude 20)

## III. God Wants Us to Receive His Spirit.

### A. It is a gift from God.

1. We do not earn the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. We receive it by faith, and flow in humility and obedience.

### B. Receive spiritual power that comes from Him.

### C. Evidence of receiving the baptism.

1. Speak with other tongues.
2. Power to speak to non-believers about Jesus.
3. Spiritual fruit (practical results: character qualities of Jesus manifested in our daily lives because the Spirit is there).



## Spiritual Truths

- The Holy Spirit was sent from God as a source of strength, courage, and power.

- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is something that every believer needs.
- There is power that comes into our lives when we receive the Holy Spirit and His baptism.
- The first evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the prompting and ability to speak in tongues.
- The greatest evidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the ability to love other people genuinely more than self.
- If you are mature enough to repent and believe for salvation, you are mature enough to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost baptism.
- "Comforter" means "One who stands alongside."
- God does not want us to try to overcome the world with our own strength or wit, but by the abiding power of the Holy Spirit.



## Lesson Material

Teaching new Christians about the baptism in the Holy Spirit may seem difficult; but, it is important that they understand that God sends the Holy Spirit to bring a power into our lives we cannot obtain from any other source. God's purpose is not just that we get to heaven. He wants to teach us to live by grace instead of our own strength, and He wants us to learn to be overcomers by the Spirit, not by fleshly effort.

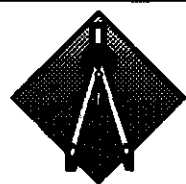
There are several useful techniques that will be explained in the methods section to teach this concept. One of the best is as simple as a balloon. When the balloon does not contain air, it is still a balloon. When it is filled with air, it is still a balloon; but, now it is full. When it is filled with helium, it has power, not because the balloon changed, but because of what was inside the balloon. The gift of God is much like that. Each of us is like a balloon. Without God, we are just who we are. When God comes into our heart, we are filled with His love, and we are promised His eternal salvation. That is the promise of God. However, God says that He has even more for us. God wants us to be filled with His Holy Spirit, so we can use the power He has sent to us to witness to others, and to draw closer to Him.

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but He is a Person: the third Person of the Trinity. He is an infinite, eternal Spirit, so He can be everywhere at any given time. Although scripture indicates that each member of the Trinity is infinite, and therefore equal with the other members, the Holy Spirit always exalts the Father and Jesus. He never exalts Himself. It was the Spirit who enabled the men of God to write the scriptures, and He does not focus on Himself. It is the Spirit that makes us spiritually alive, and we need to seek His presence into our hearts and lives, just as we seek the presence of Jesus.

In the early church, the Holy Spirit was often imparted when Spirit-filled believers laid hands on others to impart what they had. Every believer needs to receive by faith, and trust that the words they are prompted to speak are from the Holy Ghost, and not something impure or made up. It is a step of faith to speak out in joy with a new "tongue;" but, praying in the Spirit and speaking in tongues edifies

our spirit. Tongues also help us to remember that our relationship with God, and our power, are based in the supernatural, and not just in our minds.

God wants to offer that gift to each of the students in the class. Be prepared to pray with members of the class to receive the baptism. If the teachers of the class are not comfortable praying that prayer with their students, ask an elder or the pastor to come to the class and pray with them. Can a child receive the baptism? Yes, the gift of the baptism will come to different people at different ages. Do not pressure the students and do not make it a contest or something that has to happen right now. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in the lives and hearts of those who are spiritually ready to receive His glorious gifts. Seek the person of the Holy Spirit, not just the manifestation of tongues. Seek the power of God in your life to witness, not just an exciting experience in the supernatural. Seek God's anointing to love and give to others, and not just excitement in your own life.



## Methods

### *Illustration*

As described in the lesson material, use a balloon to illustrate, because it is easy for

the students to see. The same concept can be taught with a glass or bowl of water that is filled, and that has power as it overflows.

A glass and a large bowl of water can also be used to show the difference between being filled with the Holy Spirit and receiving the baptism. The word "baptidzo" in the Greek means to be immersed. Fill the glass with water and hold it up. That is a filling. Now, hold the glass down in the bowl so that it is completely covered. That is a baptism. After we are baptized in the Spirit, we need to be filled again and again as we give out to others and as we grow in grace.

### *Pentecostal Prayer Meeting*

Allow some time for a Holy Ghost prayer meeting, where the students take time to seek the Lord with joy. Encourage them to praise and worship the Lord. Jesus is quite willing to baptize every believer, so we do not need to beg for the gift. The Holy Ghost comes in often through a rejoicing heart that is hungering for the presence of God and the glory of Jesus. Do not be too quick to say, "you have received it" to a student, just because they start mumbling. They might think they have received, when they have not. When the Holy Ghost fills them, they will know it.

# Father, Father

Volume 1

Lesson 50



## Bible References

Genesis 37

Exodus 20:12

2 Chronicles 34:2

Psalms 68:5

Proverbs 4:1

Mark 10:19

Luke 15

Ephesians 6:2

1 Thessalonians 2:11



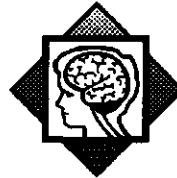
## Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:2

2 *"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;"*

1 Thessalonians 2:11

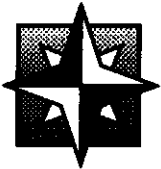
11 *"As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father (doth) his children,...."*



## Memory Verse

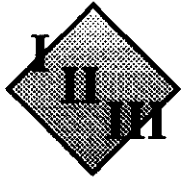
Proverbs 4:1

*"Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding."*



## Theme

The importance of fathers in our lives.



## Outline

### I. What Is a Father?

#### A. Natural father, the father to whom you were born.

1. God designed all of His creatures to reproduce after their kind.
2. All of us were born to a father and a mother.
3. We inherit physical traits from both parents.
4. God gave the responsibility to raise and train children to their parents.

#### B. Adoptive father, a father who chose to nurture a child born to another biological father.

1. Sometimes the natural father has died.
2. Sometimes he is overcome by some kind of sin.
3. Sometimes he is not able to fulfill his responsibility.

#### C. Spiritual father, a person who takes on the role of a father and cares for the spiritual training of a child.

1. Pastors are really spiritual fathers to the church they lead.
2. Elders function as spiritual fathers to families who do not have fathers.
3. You might have more than one godly father-figure to counsel you and give wisdom to you.

#### D. Heavenly Father. God is our Heavenly Father.

1. Jesus revealed that aspect of God's character frequently.
2. He spoke of God as the Father, who loves and cares for His children.

### II. The Role of a Father.

#### A. God holds fathers responsible for the upbringing of their children.

#### B. They are to set an example.

1. Fathers are role models, and shape our opinions and understanding about life.
2. We should see what God is like through the life and spirit of our father.
3. Fathers, who are bound by sin, cannot give godly examples.
4. We need to remember that our Heavenly Father is perfect, while our natural father is not.
5. Fathers generally want to be good examples, because their children tend to be influenced by their lifestyles.

#### C. The father is the provider.

1. The mother is the primary caregiver, while the father is the primary source of income.
2. Fathers should provide spiritually for their families with family devotions and by taking them to church.

**D. The father is the instructor. (Proverbs 4:1)**

1. He needs to get wisdom from God to give to his children.
2. Fathers know much more than their children and want the best for them.
3. Fathers are commanded to teach their children the ways of God.

**E. The father is a protector.**

1. He builds a house and seeks to keep his family safe from harm.
2. A good father would even give his life to protect his children from danger.
3. A wise father will protect his children from immorality and rebellion, and will keep them from evil influences in the world.
  - a. Guard what they see on television or in movies.
  - b. Protect them from secular humanist education.

**III. The Role of a Son or a Daughter.**

**A. Honor your father.**

1. The Hebrew word for "honor" means "weighty, valuable, important."
2. To honor is to esteem and value, and to show respect.

**B. Obey your father.**

1. We should obey our fathers, unless his orders are opposed to God's commands.
2. When authorities do not agree, we must always obey the higher authority.

3. Father is a higher authority than the school teacher.
4. God is the highest authority of all.

**C. Pray for your father.**

1. Pray that God will help him to be a good father.
2. When God blesses your father, you receive the benefits.



**Spiritual Truths**

- God has given fathers to be the head of the household.
- We are commanded to honor our fathers.
- We are to make our fathers proud of us.
- Honoring and obeying our natural father is good training for honoring and obeying our Heavenly Father.
- Fathers are to love and nurture their children.
- If you do not have a father in the home, then God Himself will fill that role if you will seek Him, as David did.
- Adoptive fathers are also worthy of honor, for they have willingly taken the responsibilities a biological father could not fulfill.
- God is our perfect, just, and loving Heavenly Father.



- God is our provider, protector, guide, and counselor.



## Lesson Material

This lesson should be taught on Fathers' Day. The purpose of the lesson is to show the students the importance of honoring their fathers. The lessons that we have just concluded on Joseph are wonderful examples to use as we talk about the love and faithfulness of a father. Israel (Jacob) loved his sons and honored them, to a degree that he would have given his life to protect them.

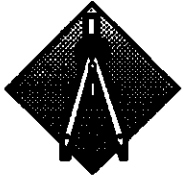
One of the ten commandments instructs us to honor our fathers and our mothers. This was not an idea slipped into the Bible by some parent who wanted their children to fear the wrath of God. This is the basis for which God ordained families. It is the father's responsibility to raise a child in the way of the Lord, and they will not depart from it. It is the child's responsibility to honor, love, and revere his father and his mother at all times. If our society would return to these two principles, as foundation stones for the family, we would have few problems with moral values and other evils which plague the world scene today.

Talk to the students about their fathers. You may have a very mixed group of students. Some will come from single parent homes, and others may have been adopted. Some may come from a home where the father is abusive. It can be difficult to share the love of God and refer to Him as our "caring and loving

Heavenly Father," especially if their concept of a father is a negative one. Do all you can to get to know your students before this lesson is taught so that you will have some idea what kinds of home lives are represented.

For neglected or abused children, it is important to show the difference between their Heavenly Father and their natural one. In fact, God promises to be a "Father to the fatherless" (Psalms 68:5), and that applies to an abusive or failed father as well as to an absent one. For perspective, we see that many good and successful men in the Bible failed as fathers. David, the man after God's own heart, could not bring himself to deal with the sins of his rebellious sons, Amnon and Absalom; and they disgraced him with their immorality and violence. Aaron, Samuel, and Hezekiah are three other notable examples of godly men who failed as fathers.

No matter what their situation, we still need to teach the students what a biblical and spiritual father-child relationship is supposed to be. We need to learn what is right, even if we are not in a home that allows us to practice those concepts. Pray for the fathers of each of the children. Pray with the children to help them do a better job of honoring their fathers. Promise to pray every day for their families. The more intimate you can be in your prayer life for your students, the closer you will be able to relate to them.



## Methods

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### *Lecture*

Question the students about Jacob and David and some of the other fathers of the Bible. Tell them what the Word says about honoring fathers. Get a response from them. Ask as many of the fathers to come into the class as possible, and then pray for

all of the fathers. Let the students lead in prayer, to help them realize their fathers need prayer, too.

### *Comparison and Contrast*

In what ways are our fathers comparable to our Heavenly Father? (Role: to guard, guide, govern, and give.)

In what ways are they different? (God is perfect, infinite, omnipotent, and our final judge.)

# True Religion

Volume 1

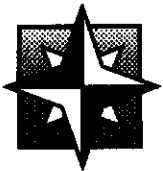
Lesson 51



## Bible References

1 John 4-5

2 Peter 2



## Theme

There are many false religions in the world, but only one that is true.



## Scripture Reading

1 John 4:1-6

1 *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

2 *"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

3 *"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that (spirit) of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."*

4 *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

5 *"They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them."*

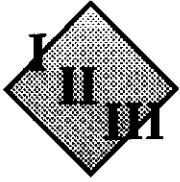
6 *"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."*



## Memory Verse

Matthew 24:4

*" And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."*



## Outline

### I. Many Religions.

#### A. Islam.

1. Moslems pray to a god named "Allah".
2. Their founder was named "Mohammed".
3. They hope he will rise from the grave, but he will not.
4. Moslems are bound to many rules, and they hope to earn heaven with works.

#### B. Hinduism.

1. Many gods, in the image of man and beasts.
2. Based on the false doctrine of reincarnation.
  - a. Souls are recycled as people, animals, and insects.
  - b. We keep going around and around.

#### C. Pseudo-Christian Cults.

1. Religious groups who claim to believe Jesus and the Bible, but do not.
2. They all deny that Jesus is God the Son, and all deny that there is a literal hell.
3. Most reject the doctrine of the Trinity.

#### 4. Examples:

- a. Mormons;
- b. Jehovah's Witnesses;
- c. Christian Science;
- d. Worldwide Church of God;
- e. Unification Church;
- f. Many others.

#### D. Non-Christian Cults.

1. Religions which do not even honor Jesus or the Bible.
2. Many are forms of witchcraft, which focus of human experience and selfish works of the flesh.
3. Examples:
  - a. Scientology;
  - b. Buddhism;
  - c. Spiritism;
  - d. Witchcraft;
  - e. Many others.

### II. Christianity.

#### A. True religion.

1. All false religions come from the mind of man, inspired by Satan to imitate the truth.
2. True religion comes from the heart of God, and is revealed to man through Jesus and the Bible.
3. The Bible has stood the test of time, and it will endure forever.

#### B. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and His plan to man.

#### C. Christianity is based on the blood of Christ.

1. Jesus died for our sins.
2. We cannot earn eternal life.

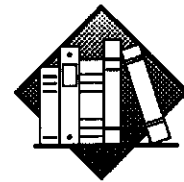
## D. Christians serve a risen Savior.

1. Jesus is alive forevermore.
2. We have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
3. We do not just go through religious forms to appease a harsh God.
4. We love and worship a loving God, who wants us to live with Him in heaven.
5. We are not holy in order to become saved; but, we are holy because we are saved.

- Do not let evil overcome you. Overcome evil with good.
- The secular world seeks to influence the way we think through entertainment and education.
- Satan seeks to clarify a self-centered, non-Christian values system in those who will be deceived by him.
- Be careful to keep your focus on that which is eternal.

## E. Not ritual, but relationship.

1. Other religions focus on religious observances and forms.
2. Christianity focuses on the grace and power of God in our lives.



## Lesson Material



## Spiritual Truths

- There are many false religions in the world, but there is only one true religion.
- False religions come from the mind of man, but Christianity came directly from God.
- False religions exalt people, but true religion exalts Jesus.
- True Christianity results in an unselfish and loving lifestyle.
- Love is demonstrated by the way we respond to hurting or hurtful people.

There are many false religions in the world, but only one that is true. Every church which teaches salvation by grace through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is promoting the true gospel. Christianity is expressed in God's Word, the Bible, which is the ultimate source of truth for the human race.

Satan discovered long ago that the best way to defeat people is to deceive them. Since God created man with an innate desire to worship, Satan provides man with many clever counterfeits. Some religions are openly anti-Christian, such as Islam, which even promotes the killing of Christians. But, others use the Bible and Christian-sounding words to trick unsuspecting people into a false hope.

The ultimate false religion in the world is secular humanism, because it generally does not even claim to be a religion. "Secular" means leaving God out of the picture. This is the most dangerous form

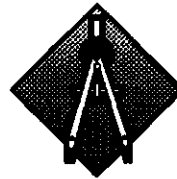
of indoctrination, because the whole purpose of life is to determine our relationship with God and our destiny for eternity. If we focus our life on only temporal things and live only for this life, we will be unprepared for eternity, and unprepared to meet God and give an account for our lives.

If we take Jesus out of history, we remove not only the central figure of history, but we also remove the purpose of history. Every nation has risen or fallen according to its relationship with God and His Word. Christianity is the basis for all free nations, and humanism is the basis for socialism and all other forms of oppression and bondage. Sin in people results in bondage to habits. Sin in a nation results in political, military, and economic bondage. No nation is truly free apart from biblical Christianity. Sin in a society results in weak families and oppressively strong governments. Sinful men always want power over other men, and the history of the world is full of the stories of those who murder thousands or millions in order to gain power or wealth for themselves.

Religion is man's attempt to find or understand God. Christianity is God's attempt to reveal Himself to man. Religion is generally based on works, while Christianity is based on grace and faith. Religion focuses on man and his needs, while Christianity focuses on Jesus and His purposes.

Christianity is true religion, because it is based on God's Word, not man's guesses. Men in their own thinking and observation can only guess about how the

universe was created, but God was there. Men can think up ideas about what God is like, but God knows exactly what He is like. Because of pride, most people like to develop their own theories about truth; so, we have many deceivers, with many opinions. But we can trust the Bible. It came directly from God.



## Methods

### *Field Assignment*

Ask the students if there is any secular program that several of them have seen recently, and analyze its religious content. Does it promote a secular world view, or does it treat Christianity favorably?

Emphasize that one of Satan's favorite tactics is to imitate, so that some people will think they are saved, when they are not. How do we know we are not following a counterfeit to biblical Christianity? We know by the Spirit and by the Word of God. False religions do not measure up to the Bible and do not exalt Jesus as God. False religions center on people and their ideas and goals.

### *Mighty in Spirit*

Discuss the ways in which the world seeks to undermine Christian values. What is the basic underlying message behind the popular cartoons or other children's programs presented in your area? What is the philosophy of life that produces their school curriculum?

# **Section 9**

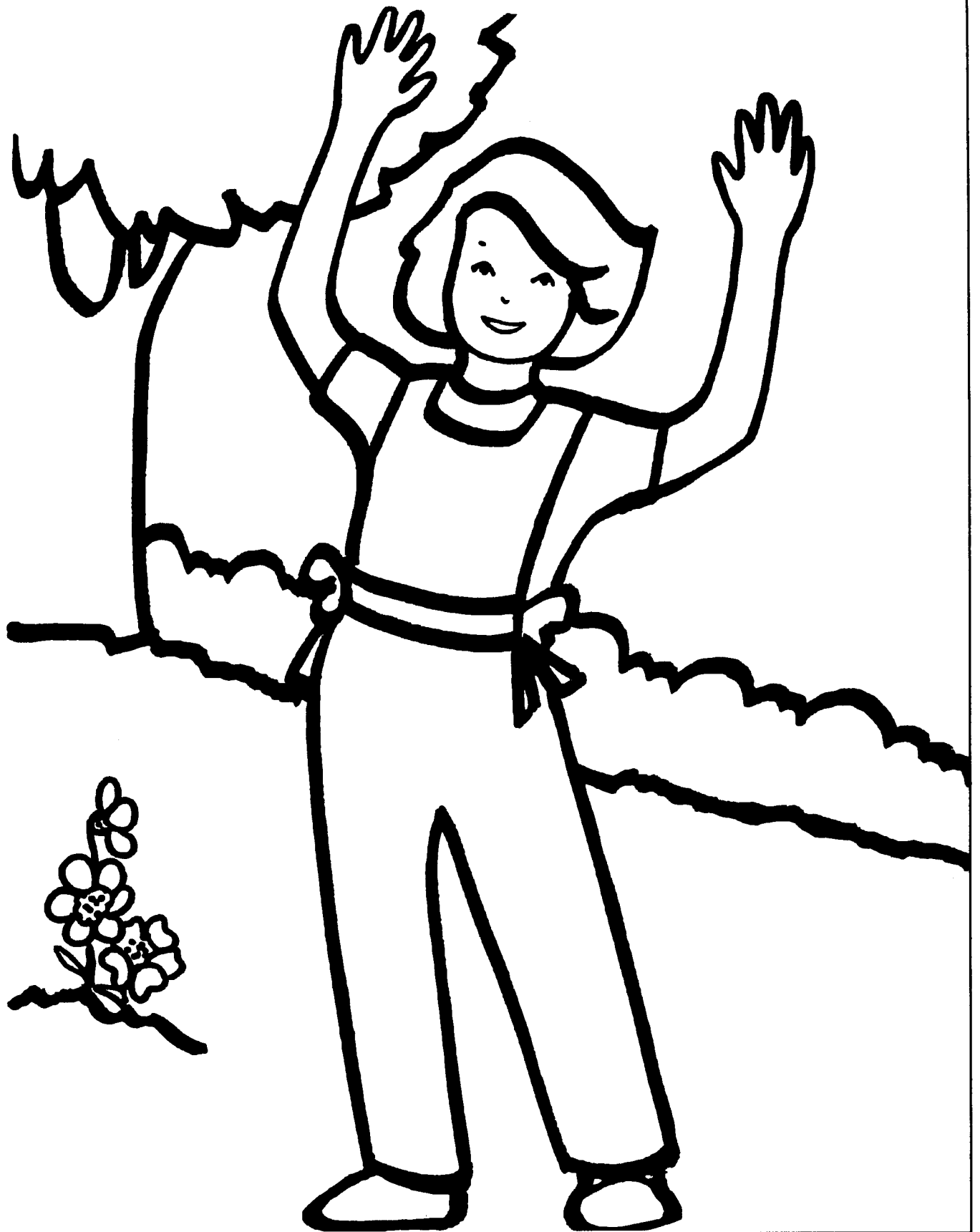
## **Activity Pages**

Teacher, Teacher





# Praise Him, Praise Him



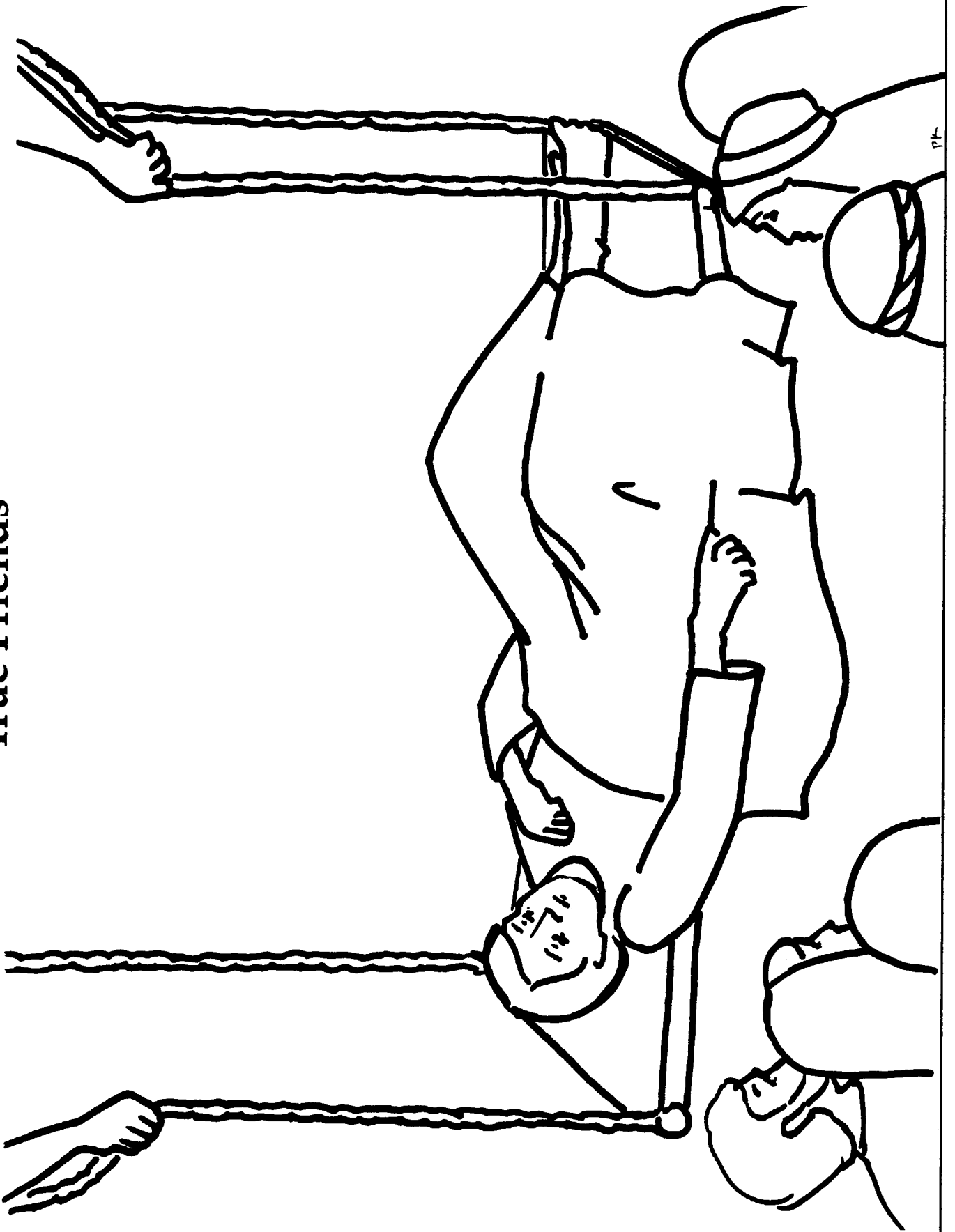
**Lunch Is Served**



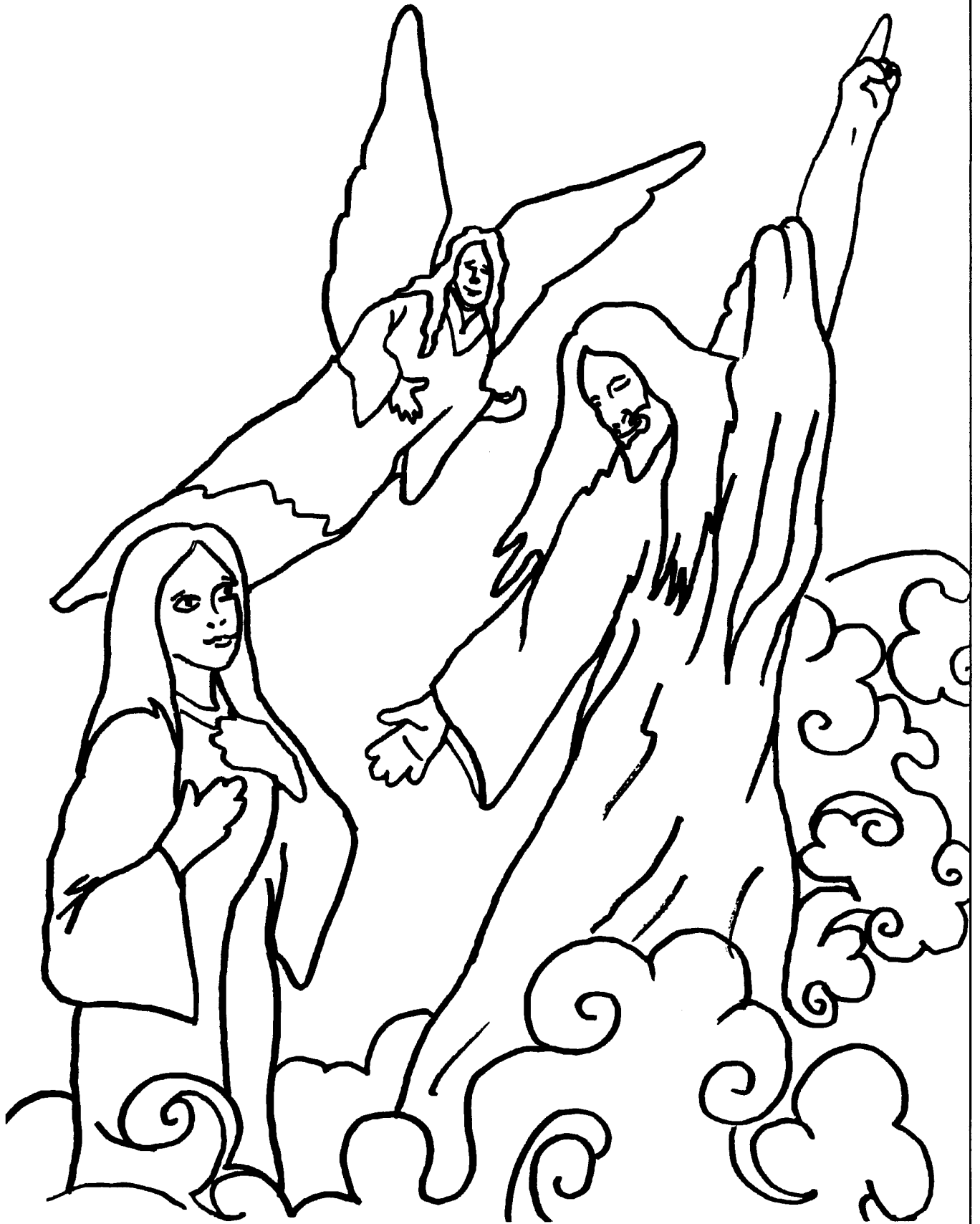
Take This Cup



# True Friends



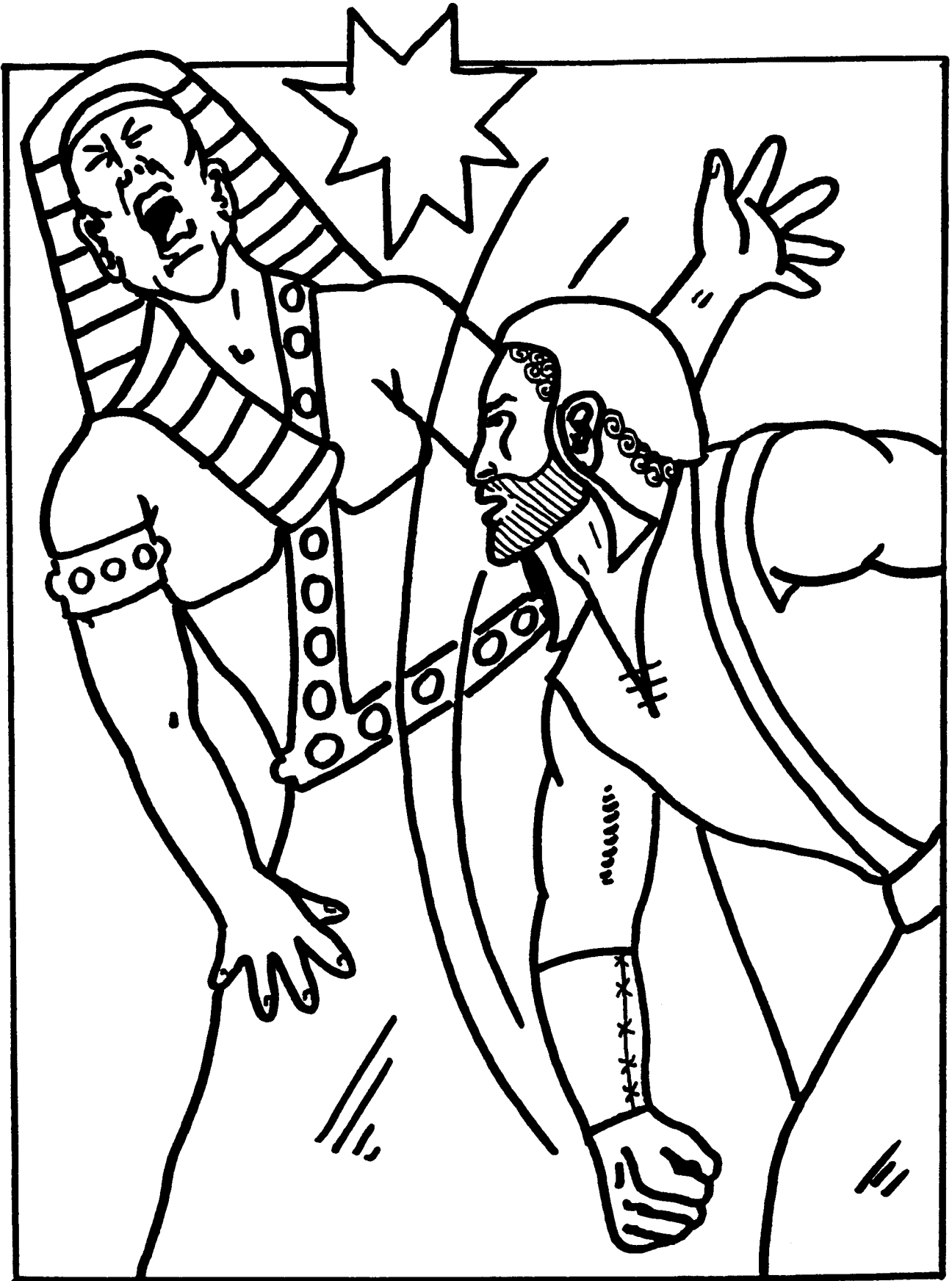
# The Only Way



# The Baby in the Basket



# In the Midst of Trouble

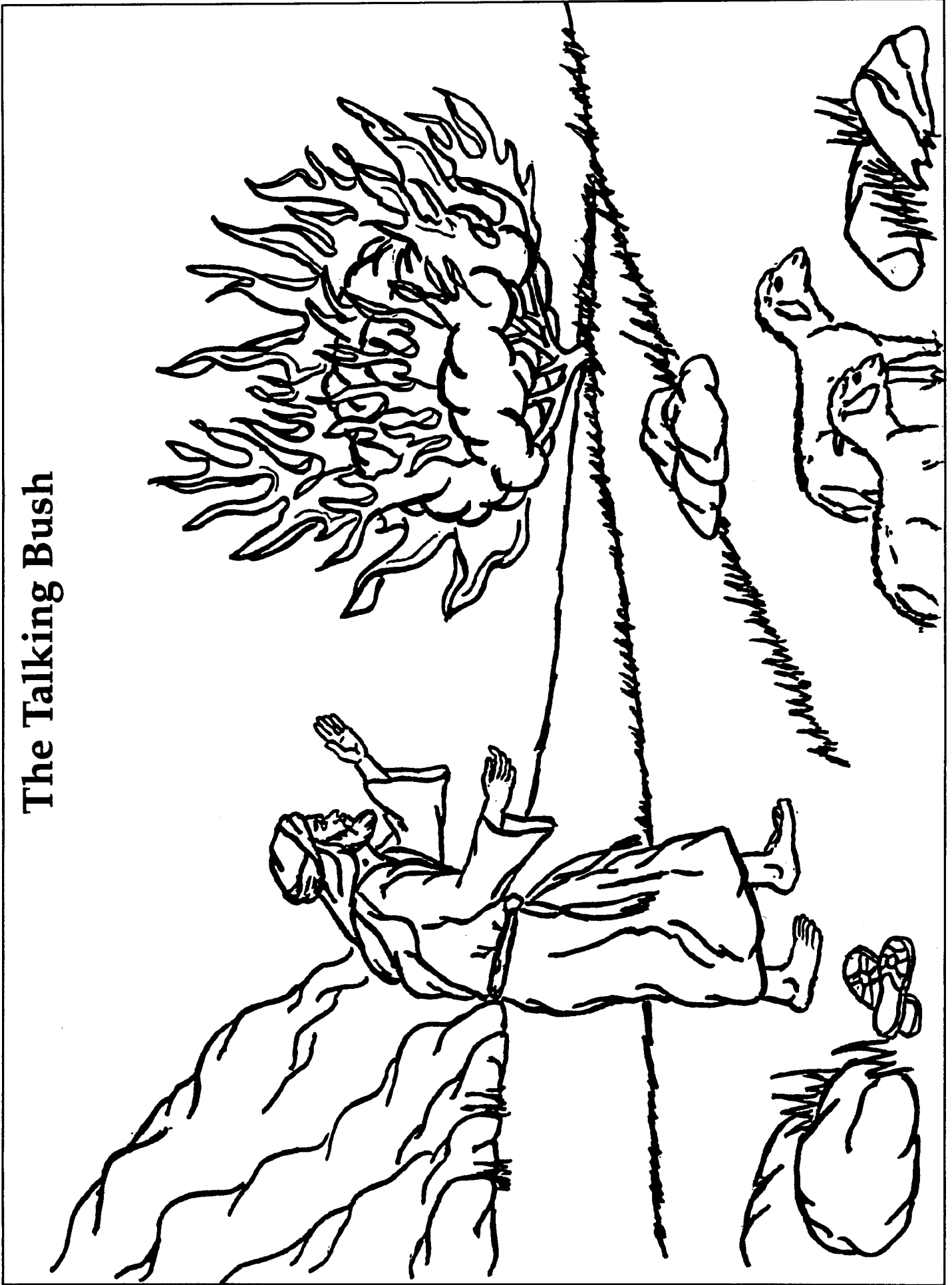


# It is a Dirty Job, But Someone Has to Do It

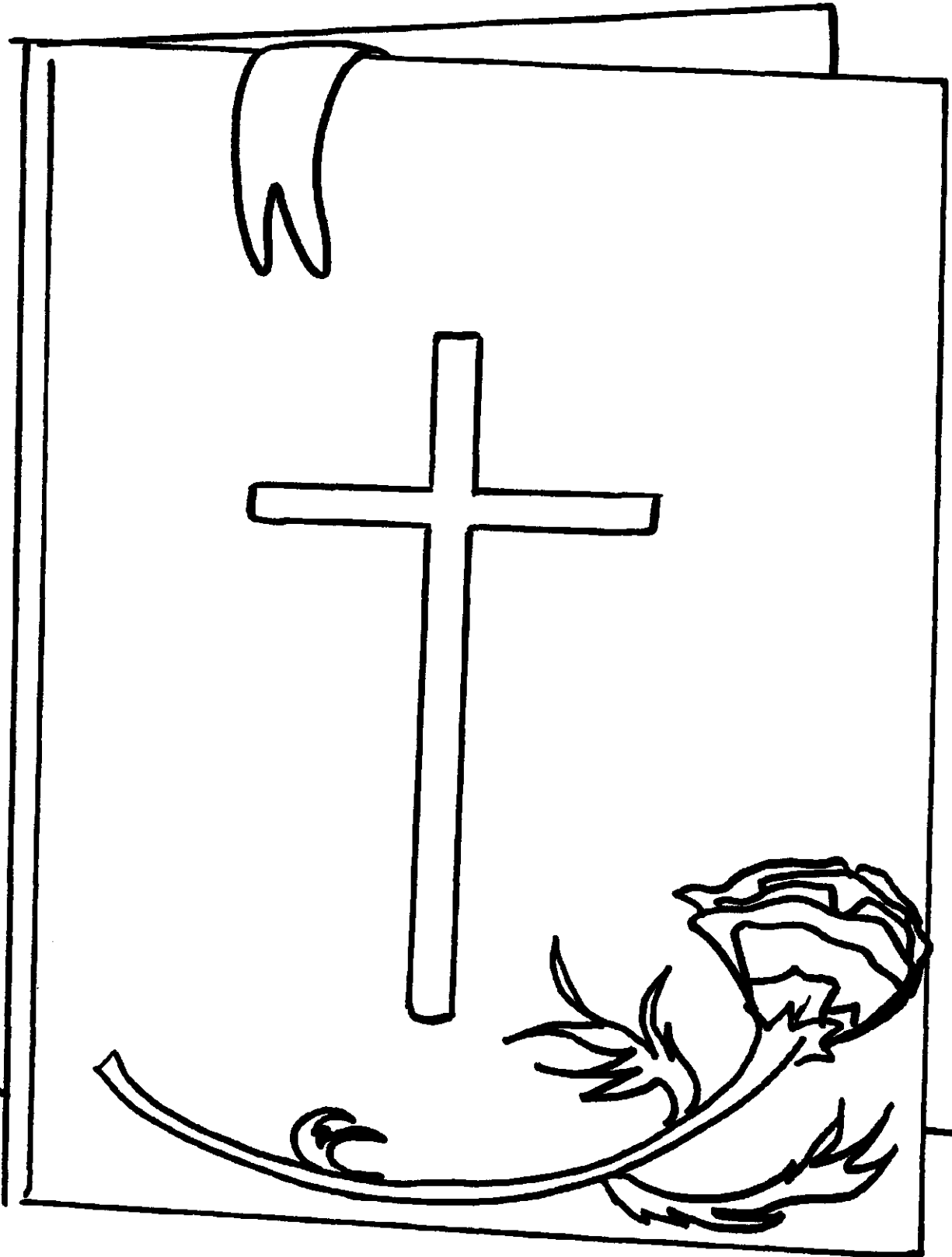




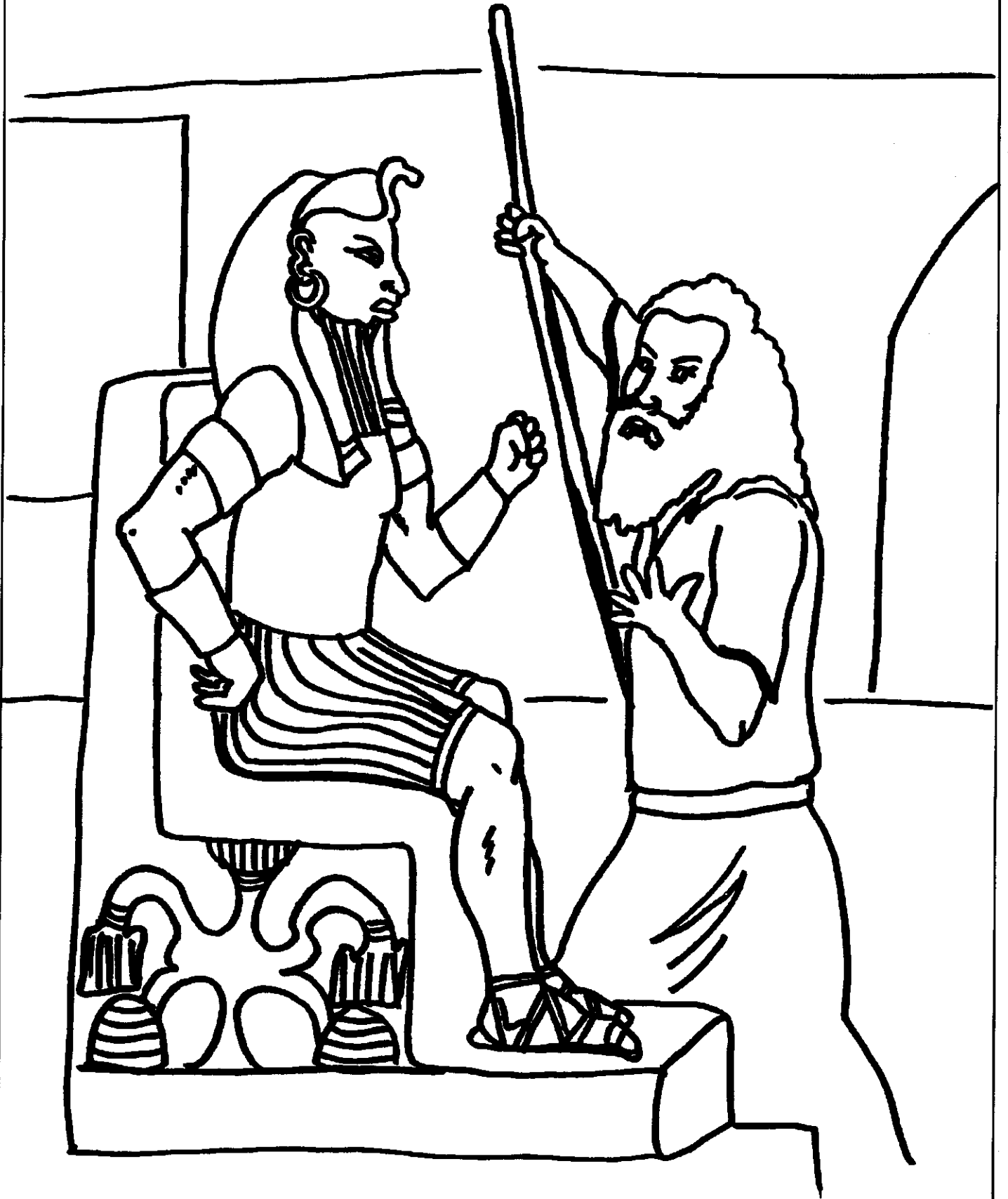
# The Talking Bush



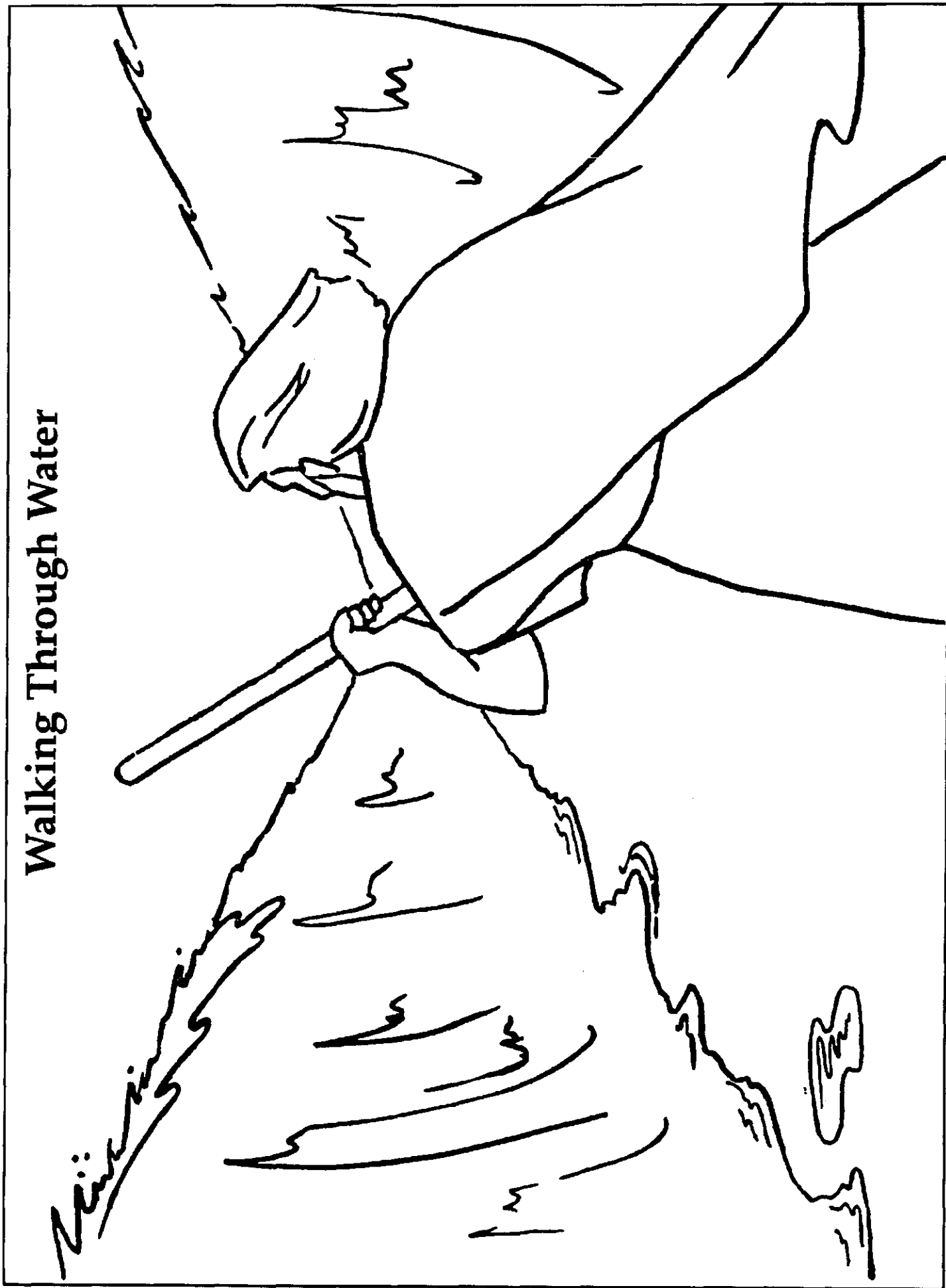
# God's Holy Word



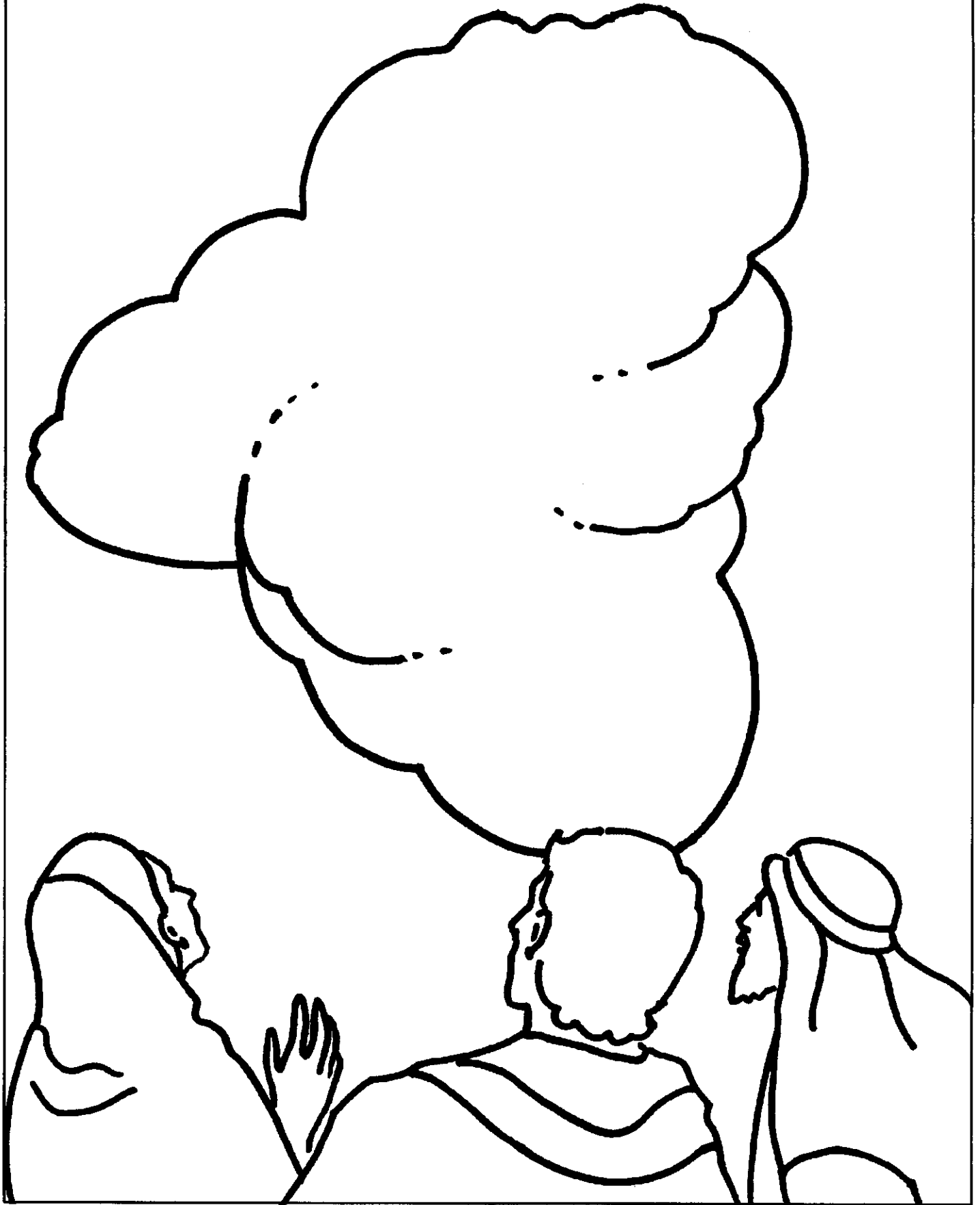
# Let My People Go



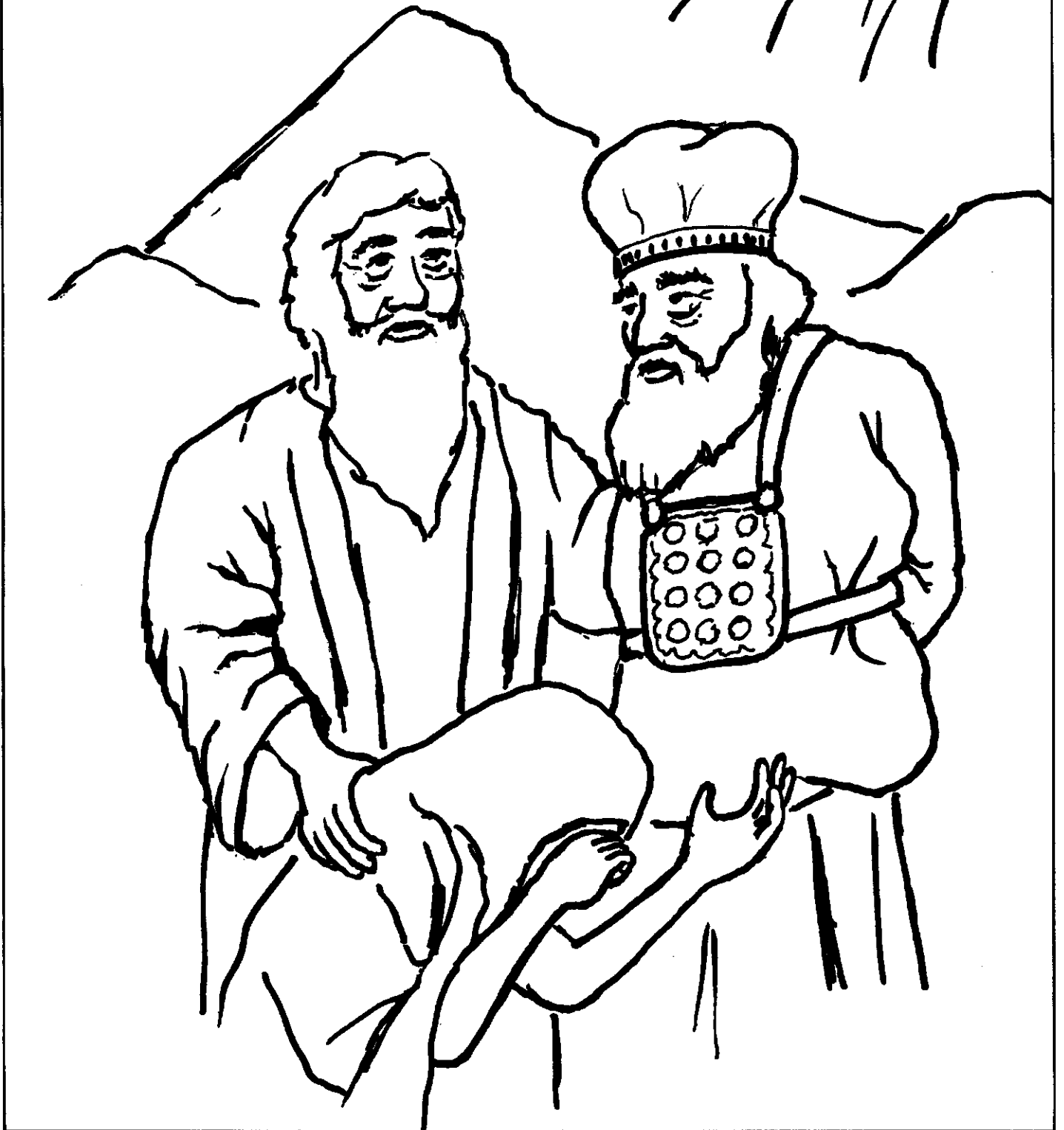
**Walking Through Water**



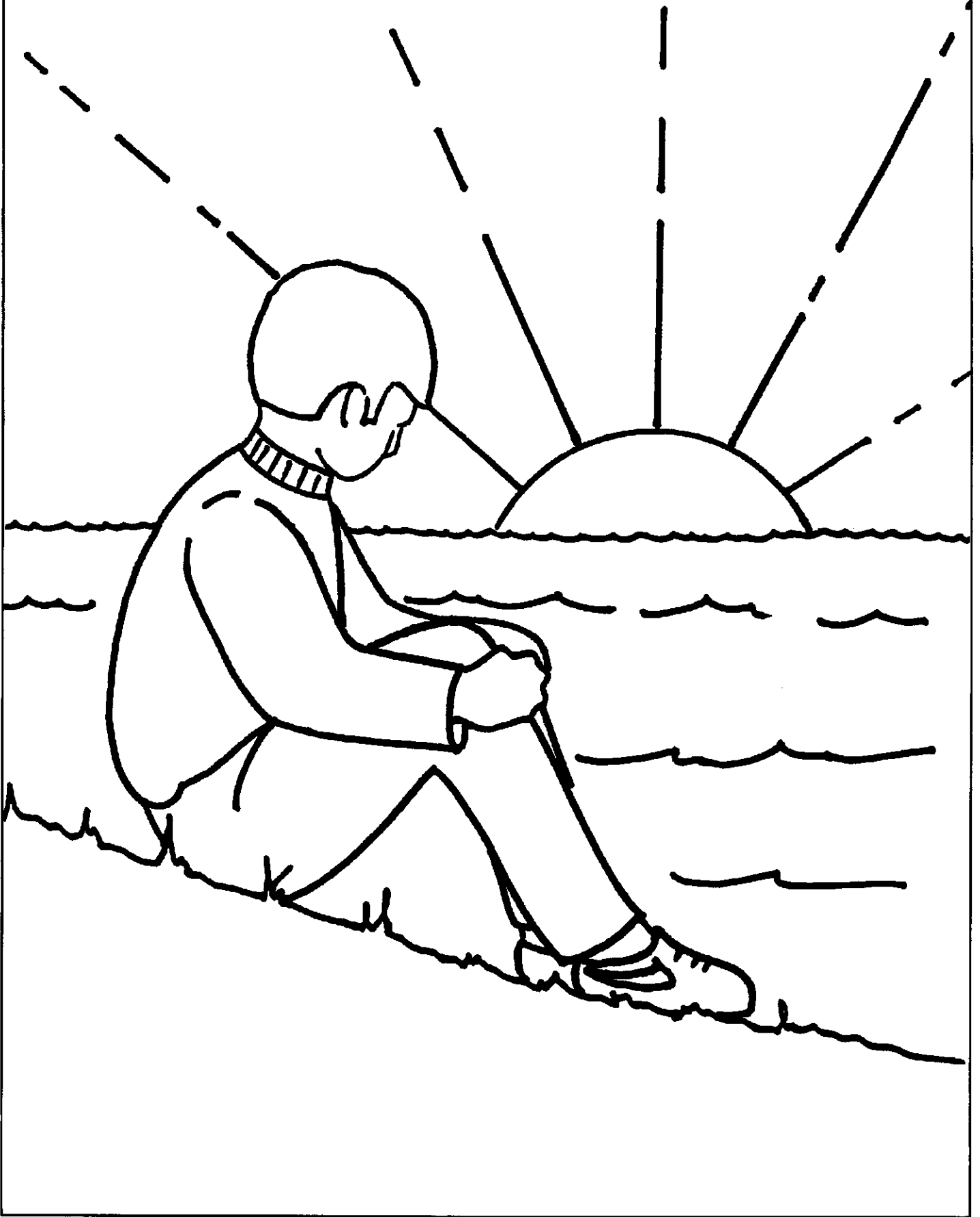
# Fire by Night, Smoke by Day



# Miriam and Aaron



# Forgiveness

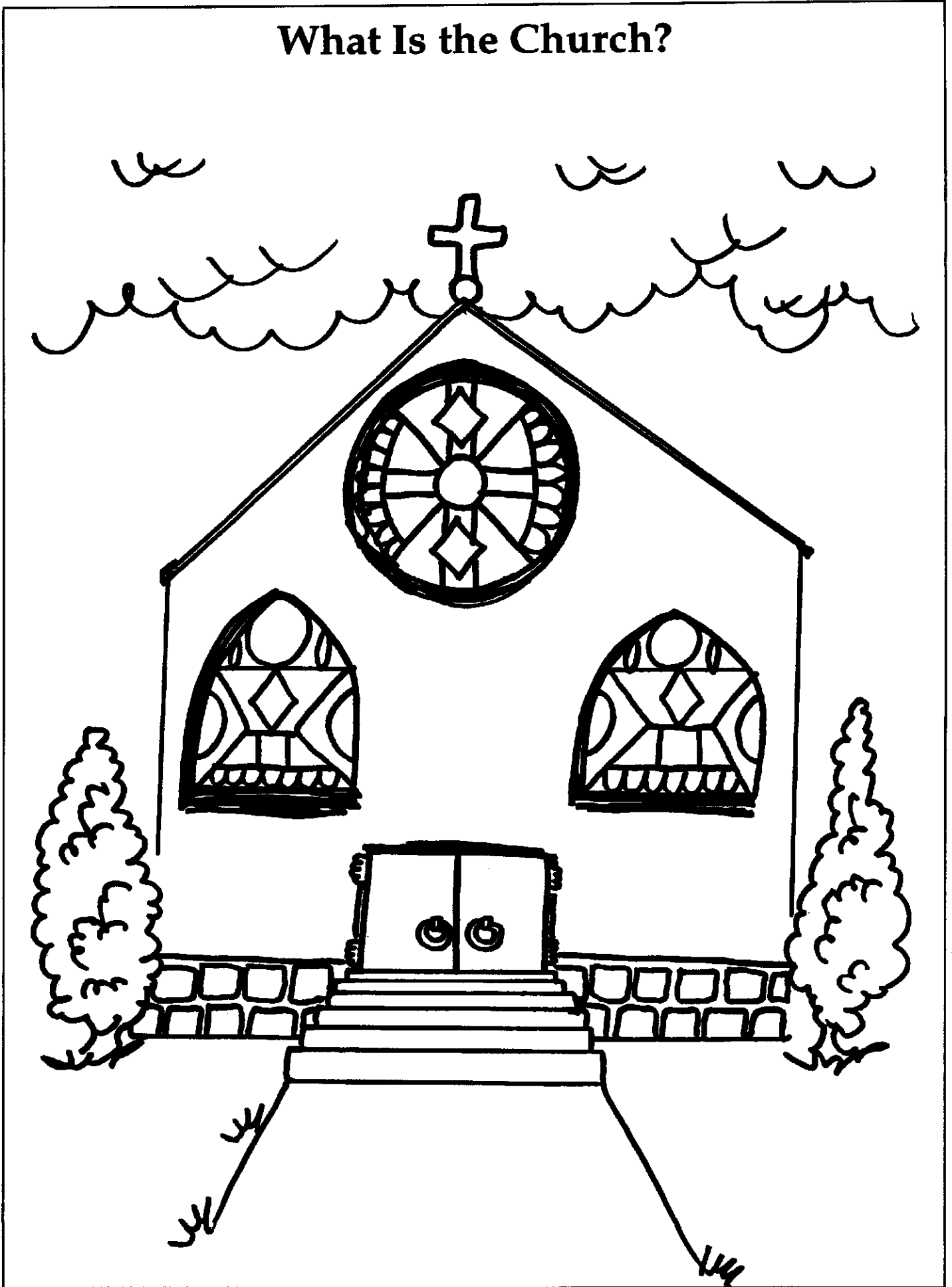


# Do Not Be Fooled





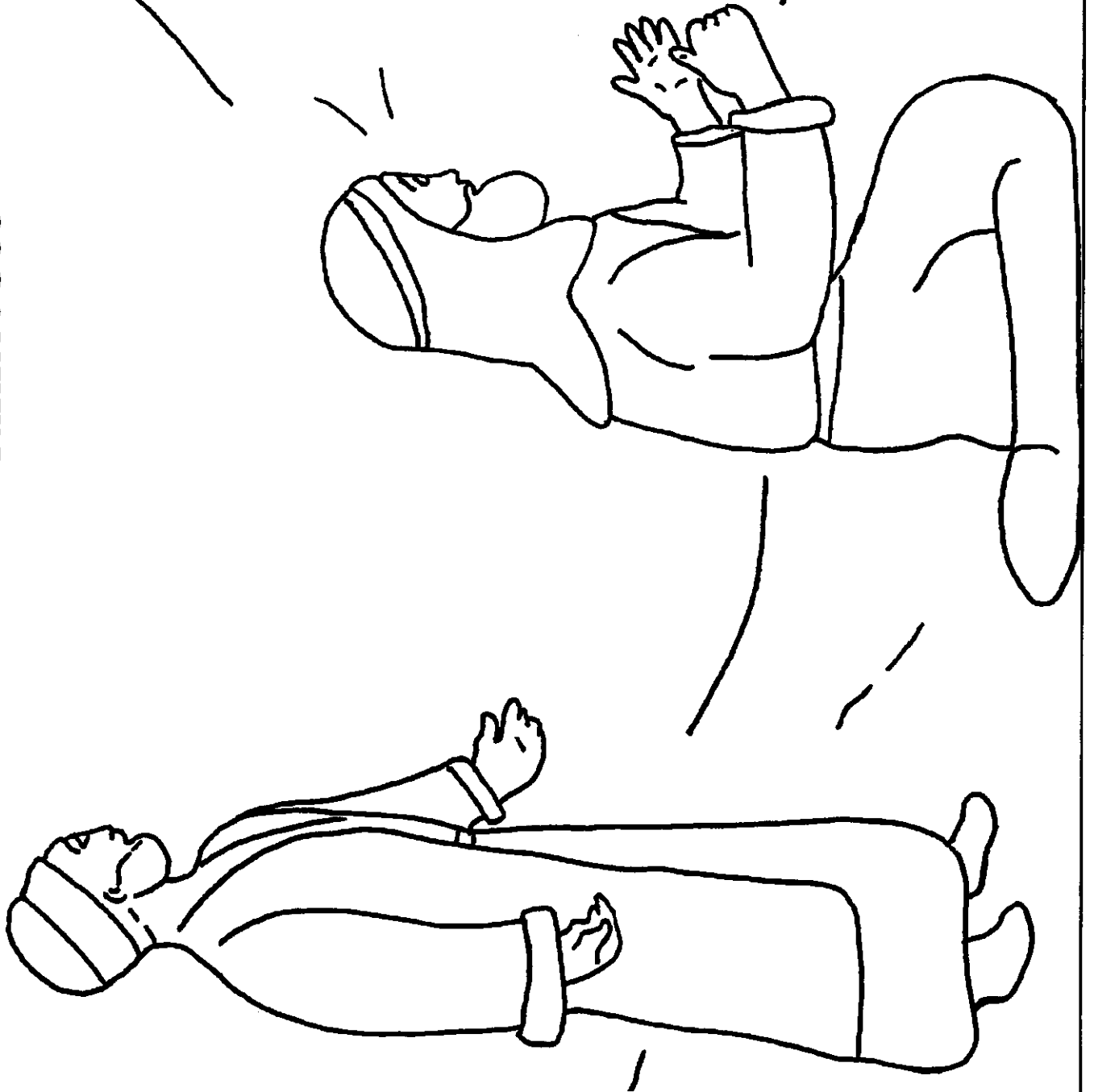
# What Is the Church?



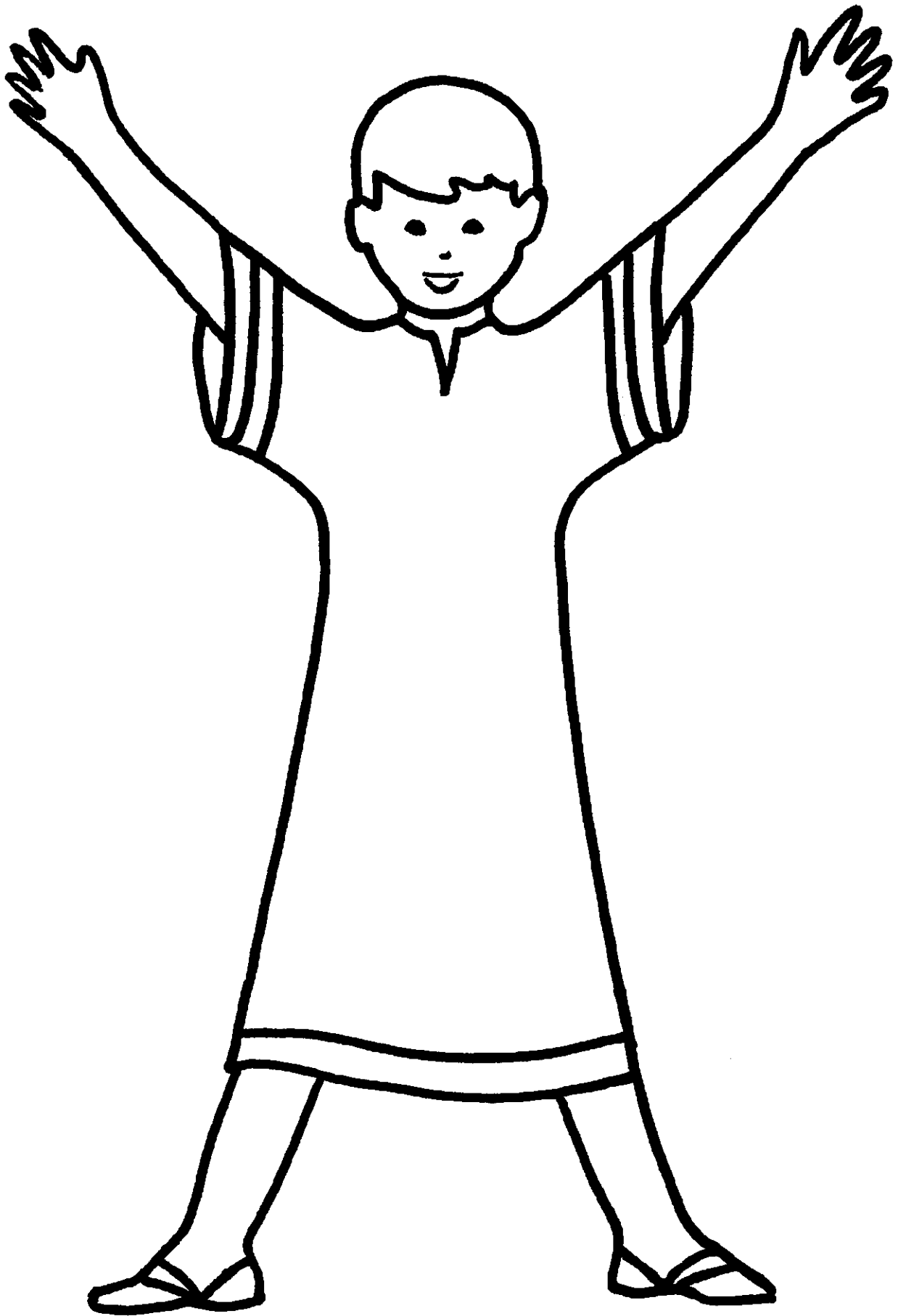
# Four Little Wise Guys



**I Cannot See**



# A Little Boy Lives



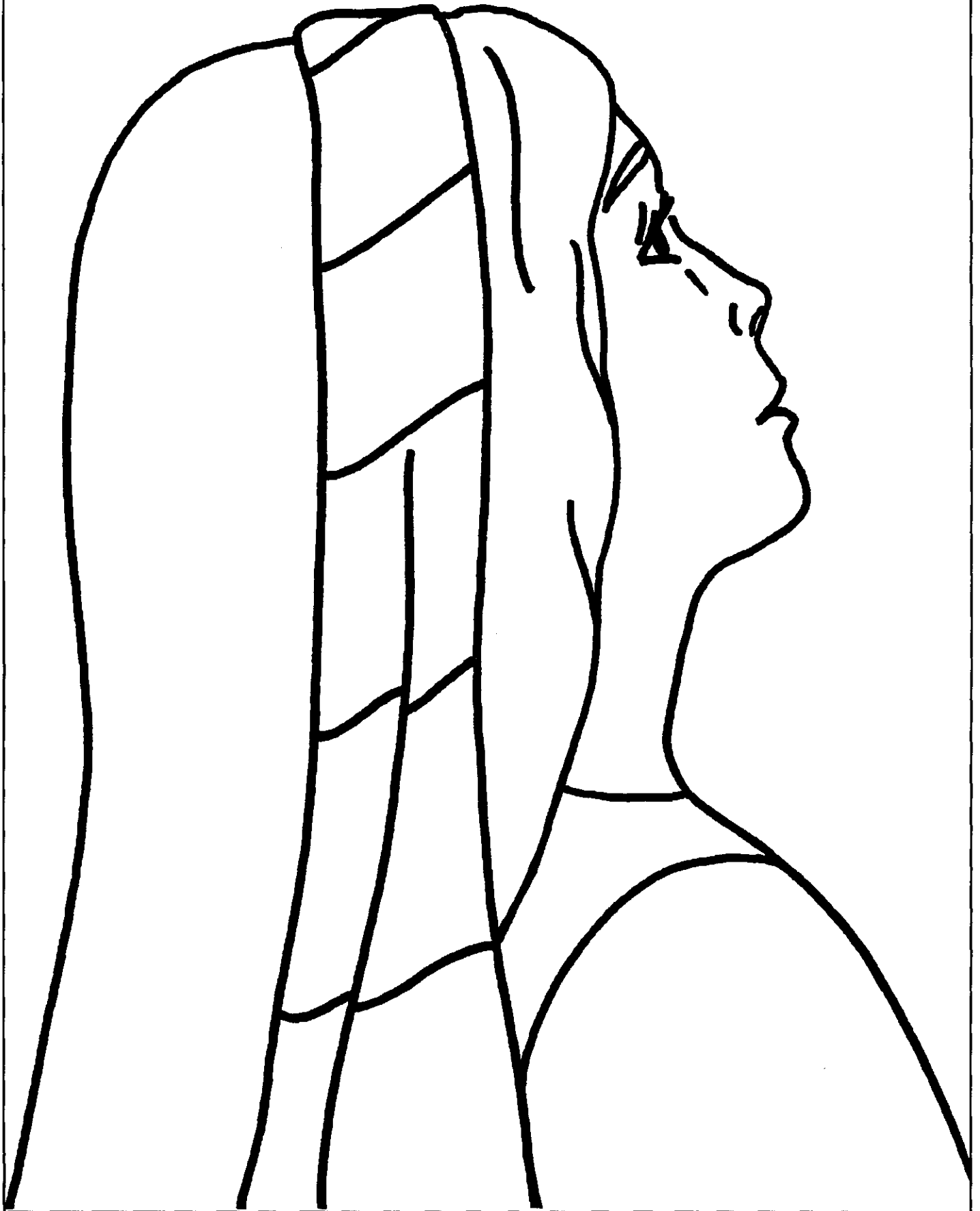
# Give Thanks



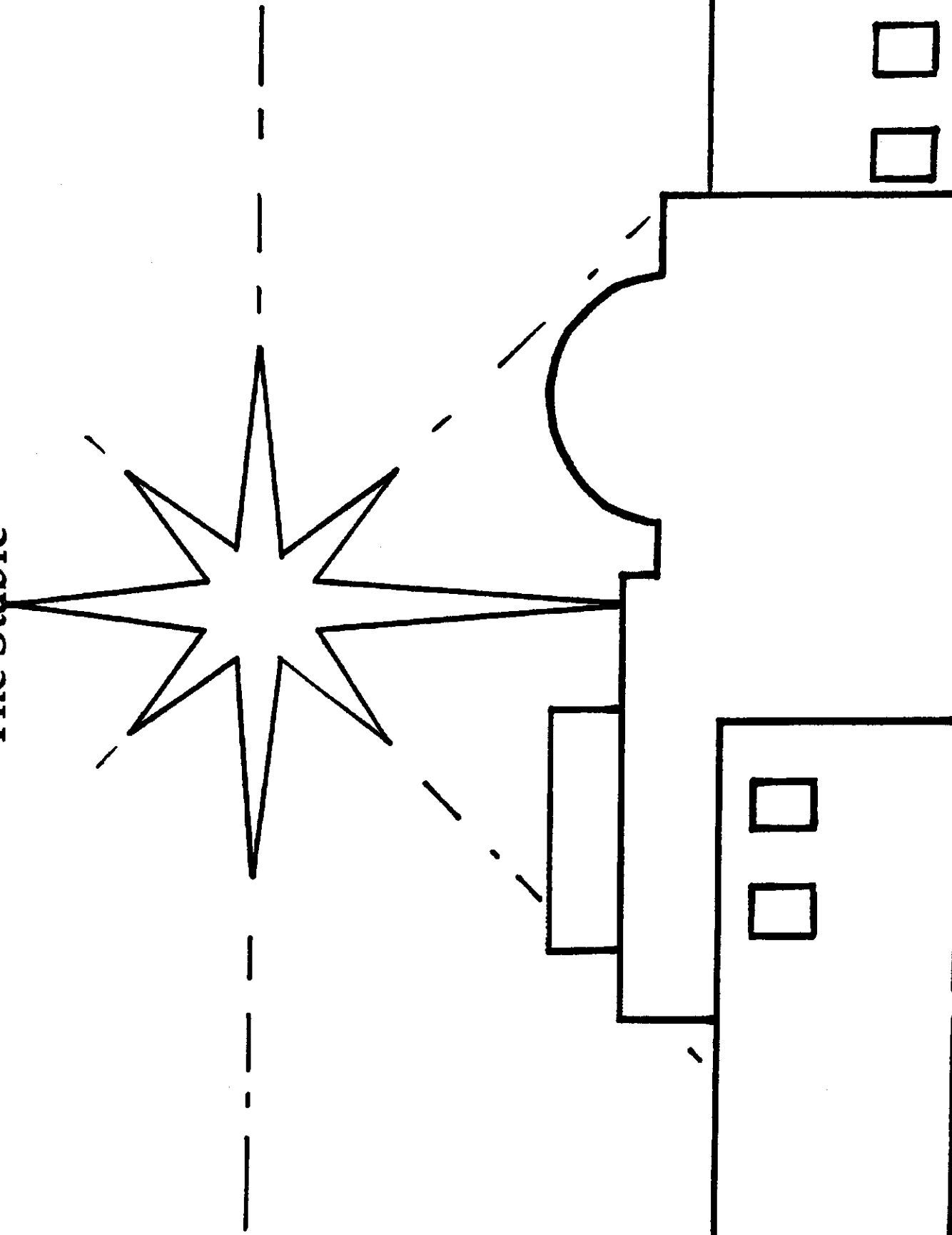
# He Understands



# Mary Hears a Voice



**The Stable**

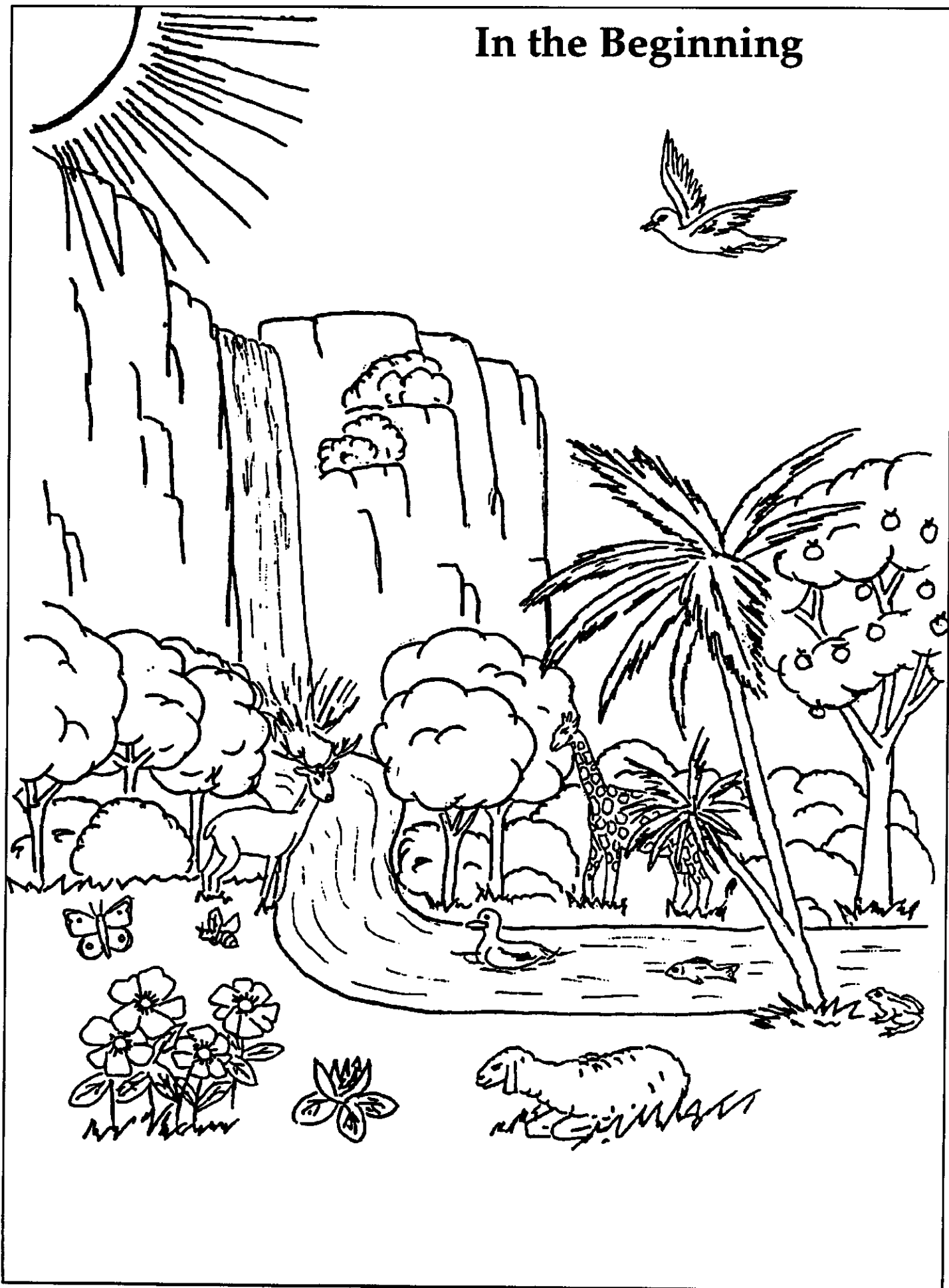




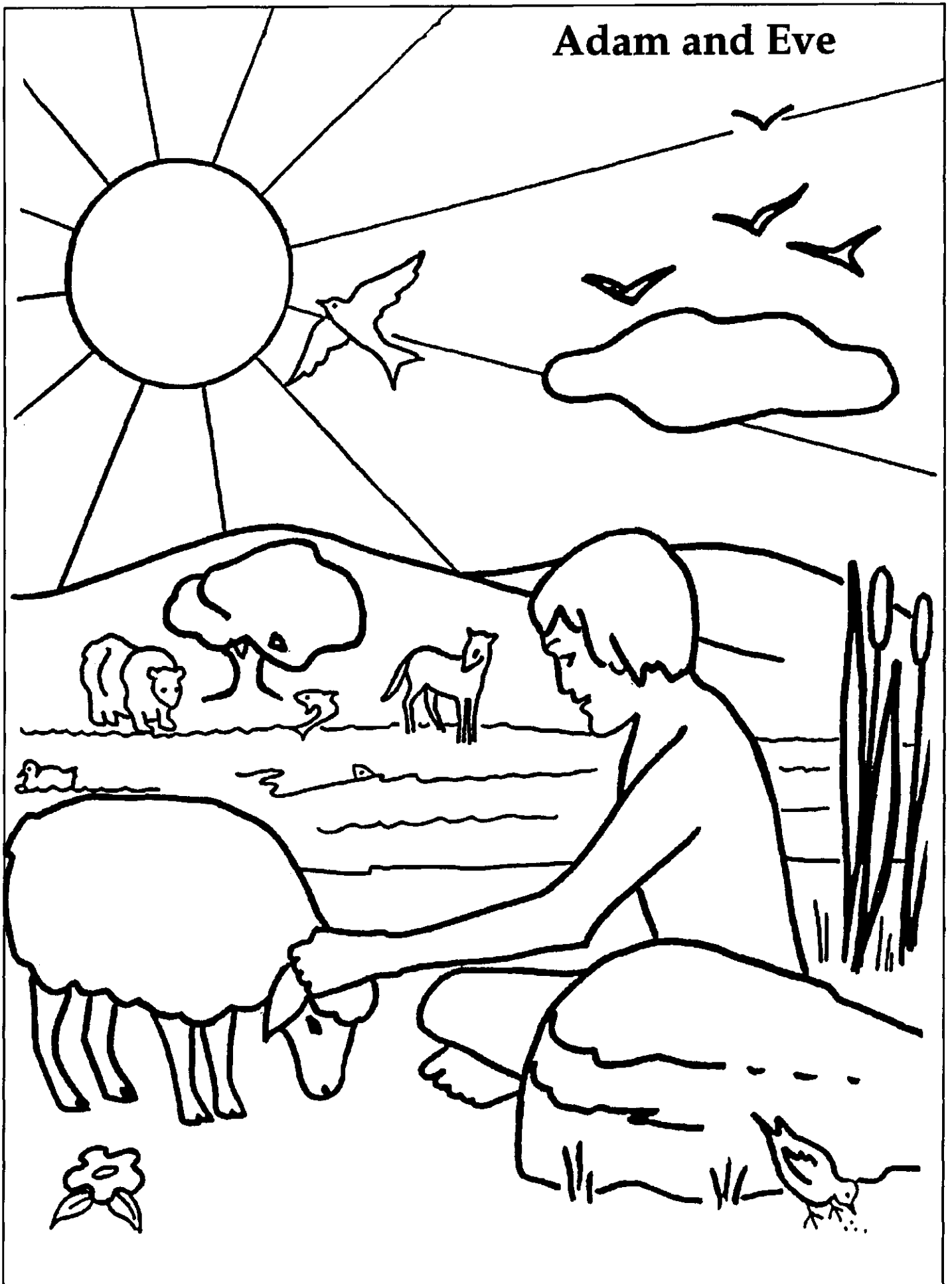
# The New Beginning



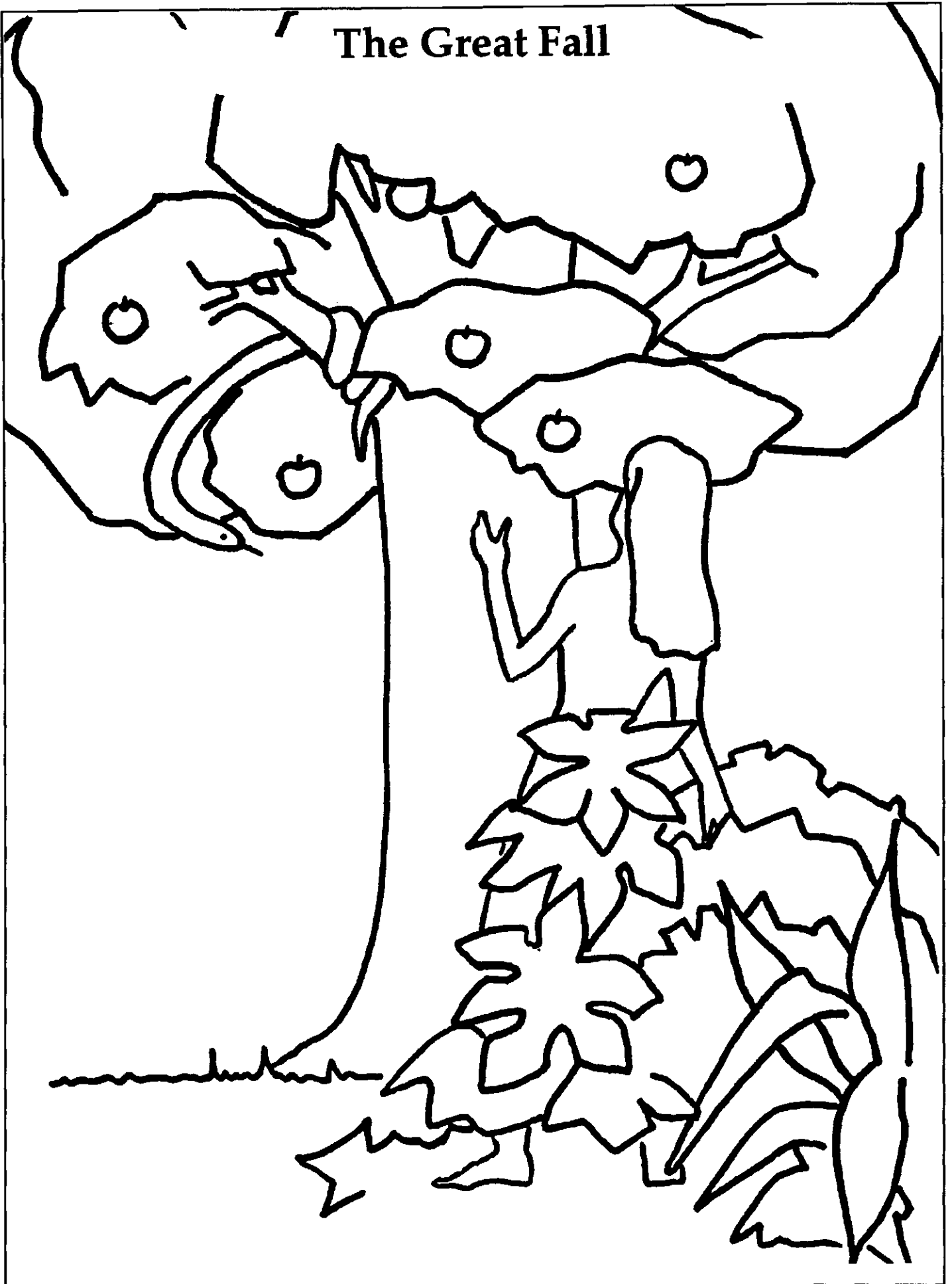
# In the Beginning



# Adam and Eve



# The Great Fall



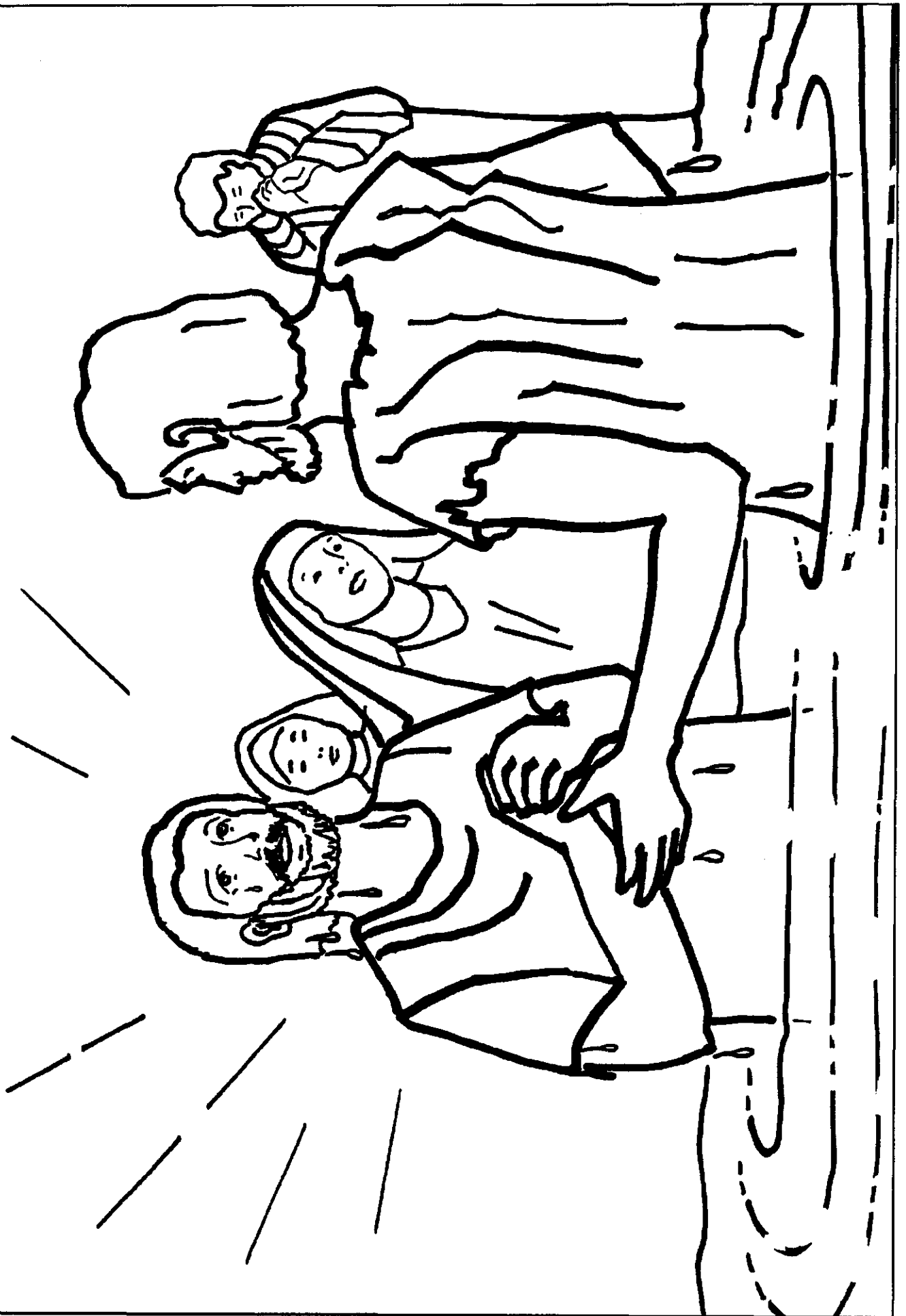
# Raising Cain



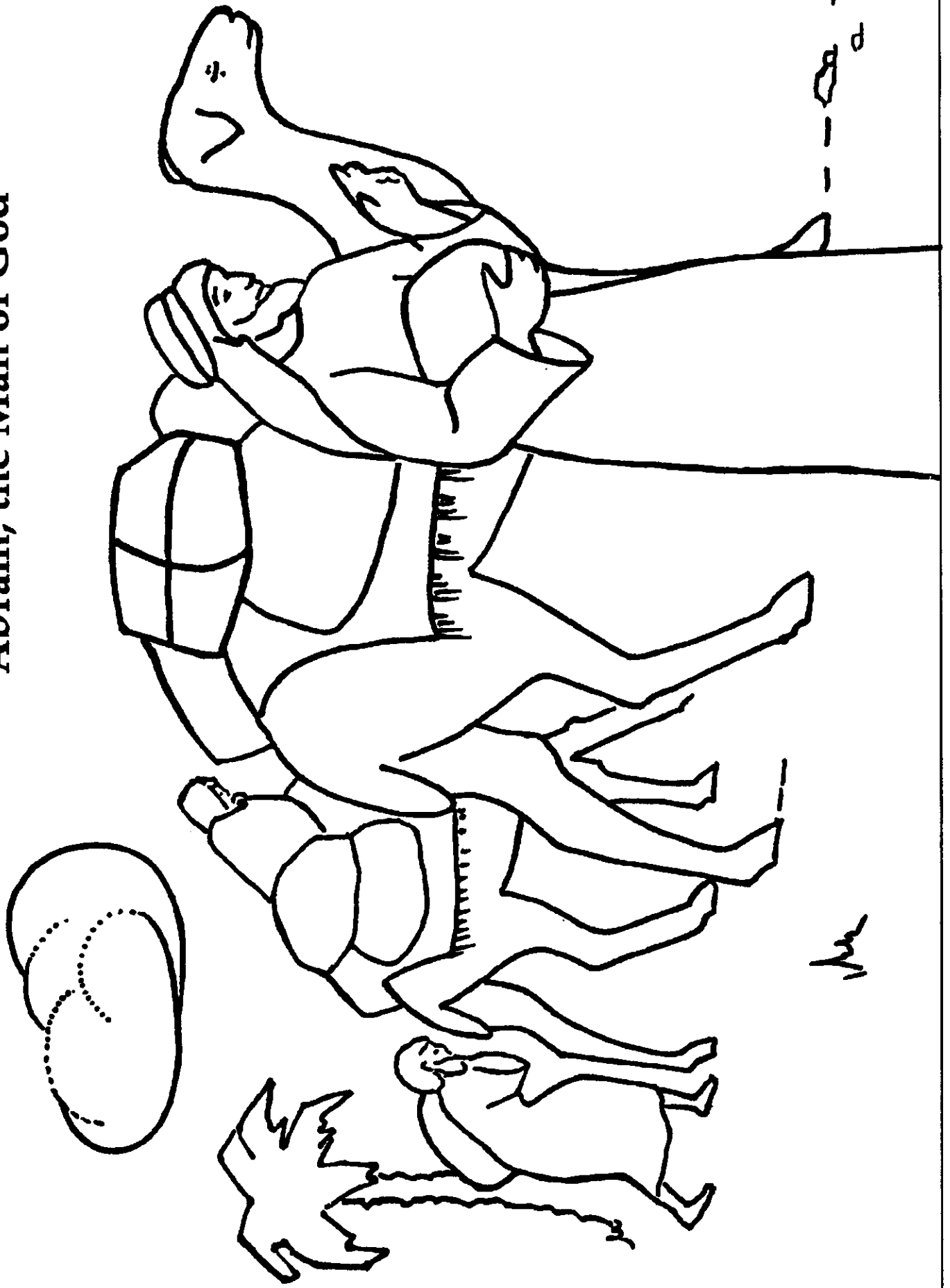
# Build an Ark



# Water Baptism



# Abram, the Man of God





# Promises, Promises



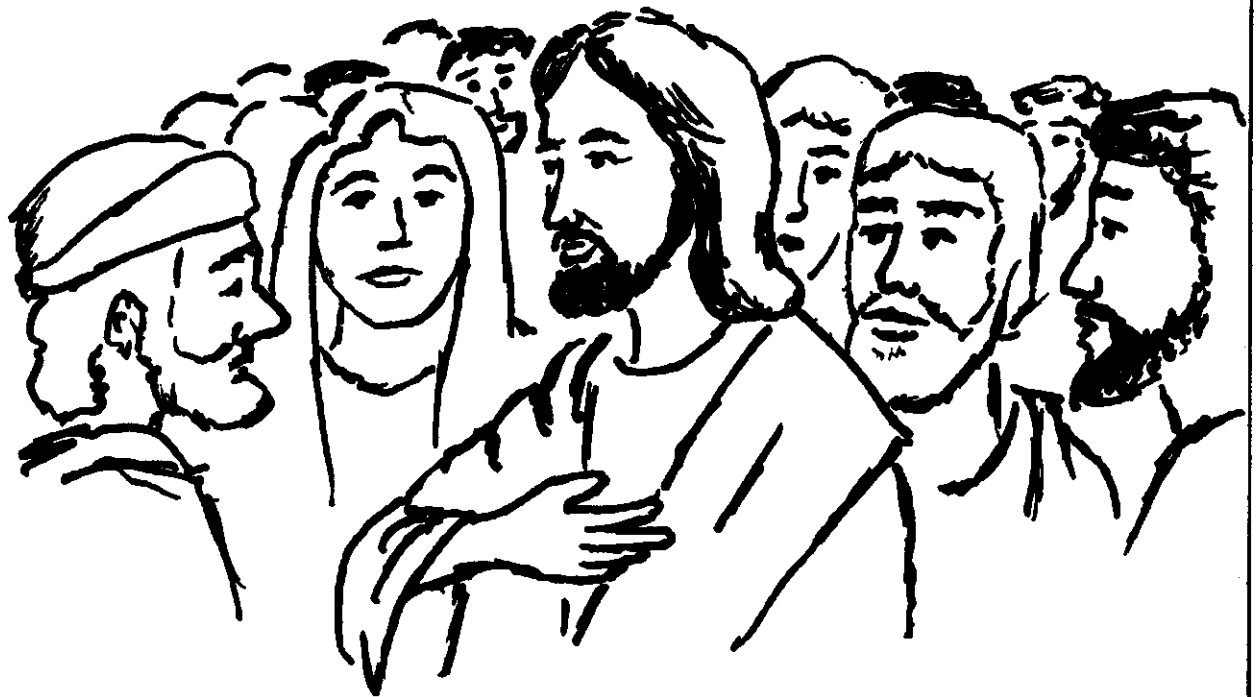
**I Am Not Lying**



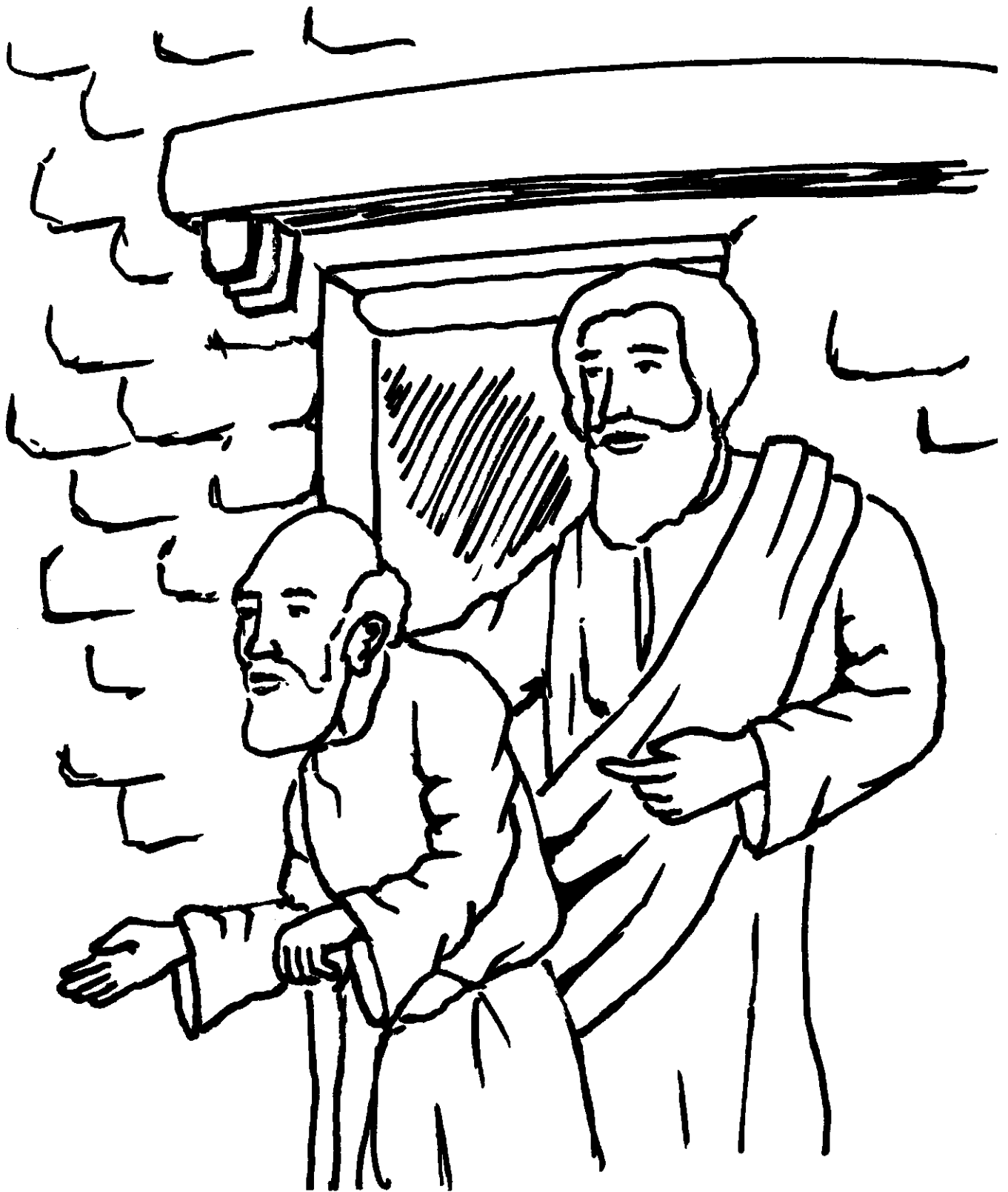
# A Mission for God



# Zacchaeus Met Jesus



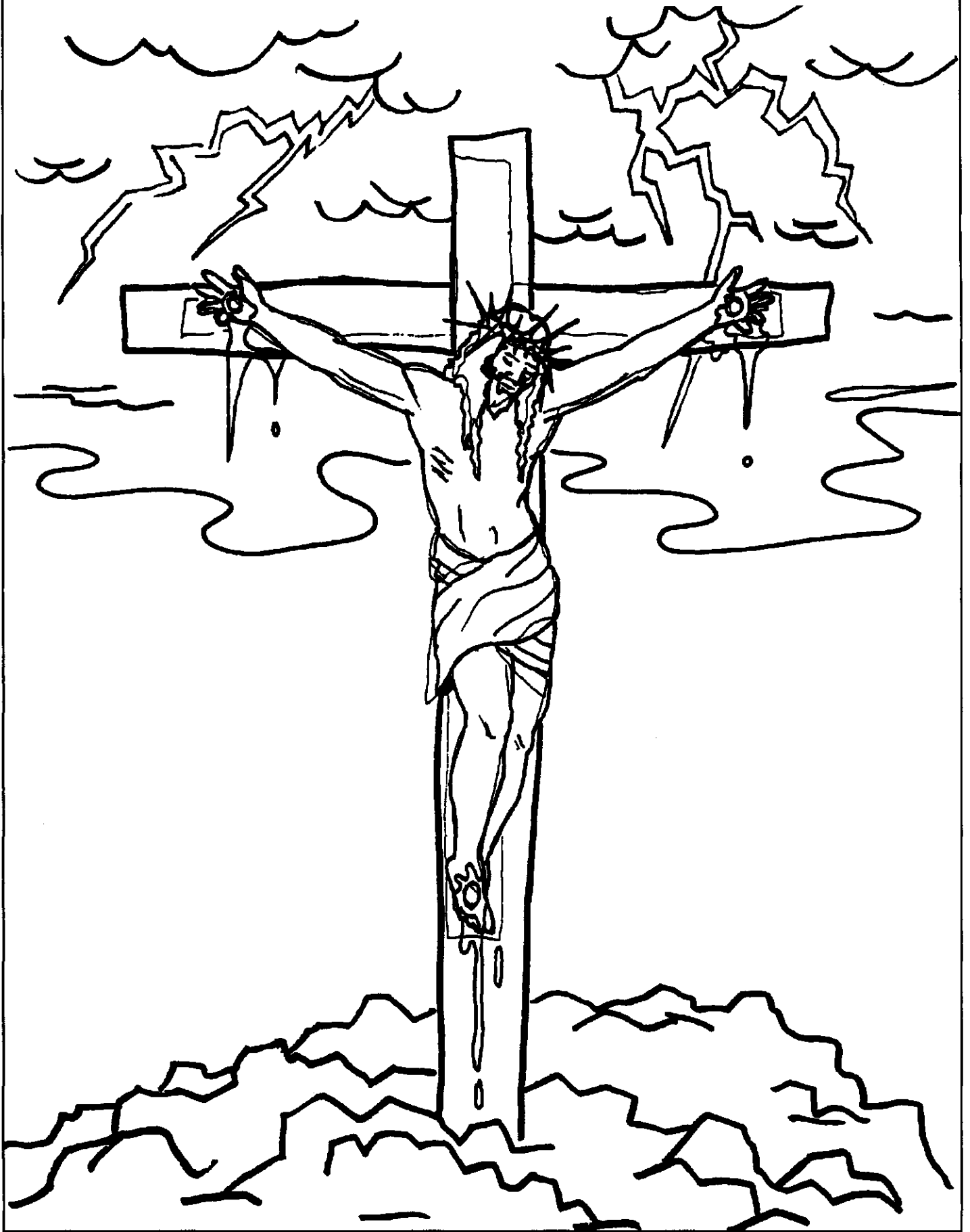
# Barnabas: Portrait of a Good Man



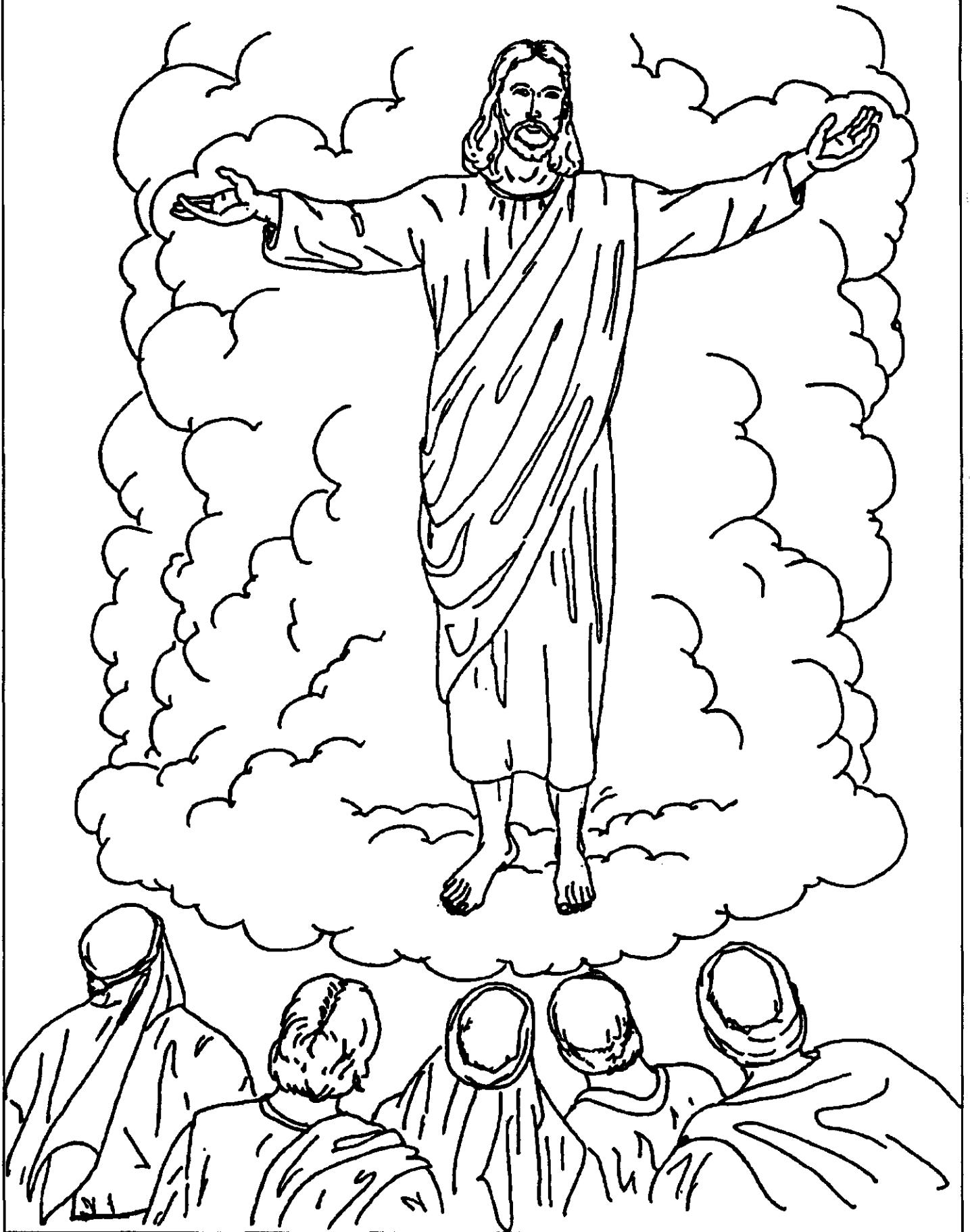
# Jesus Suffered for Us



# The Crucifixion

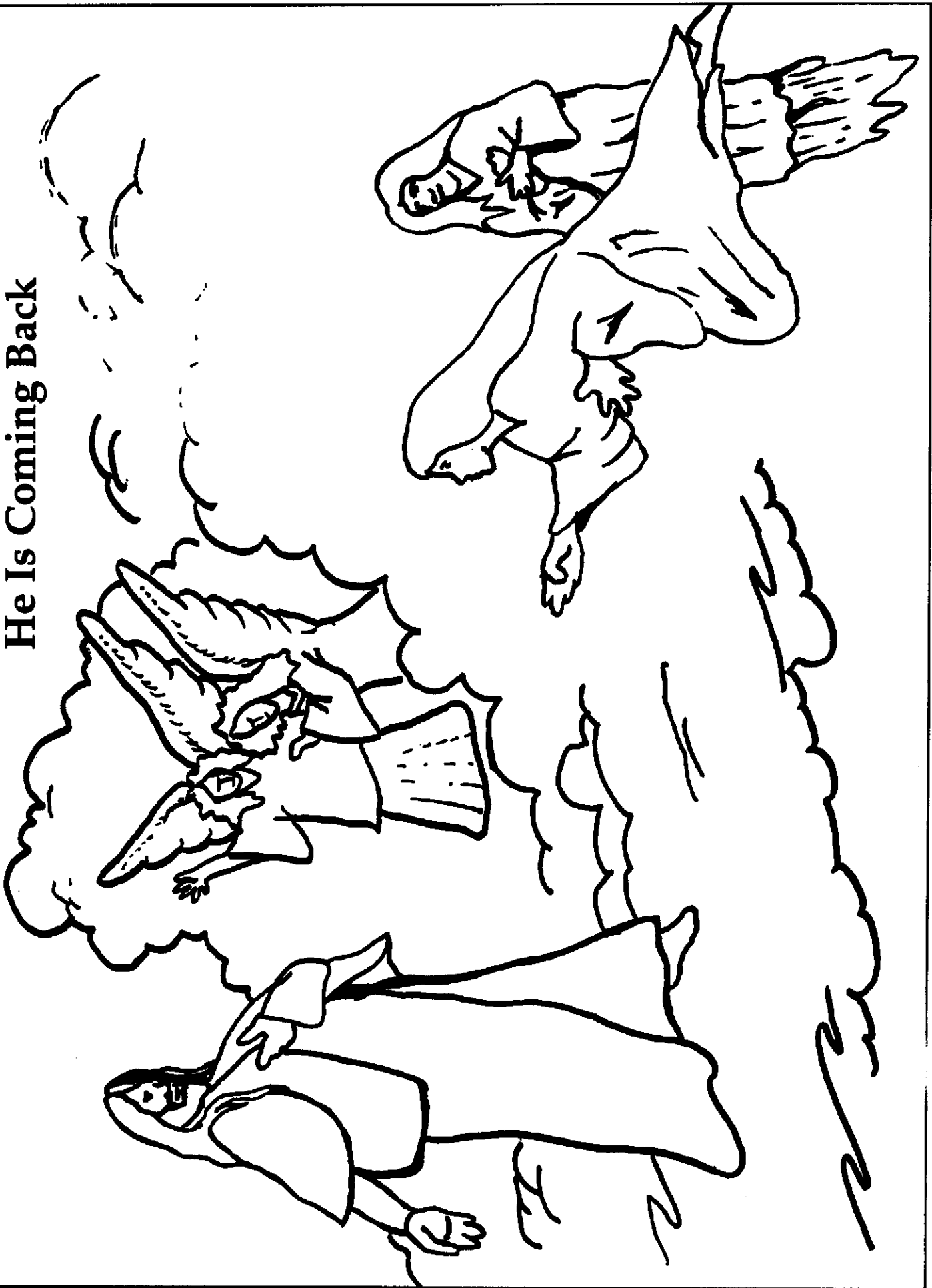


# He Is Resurrected and Alive

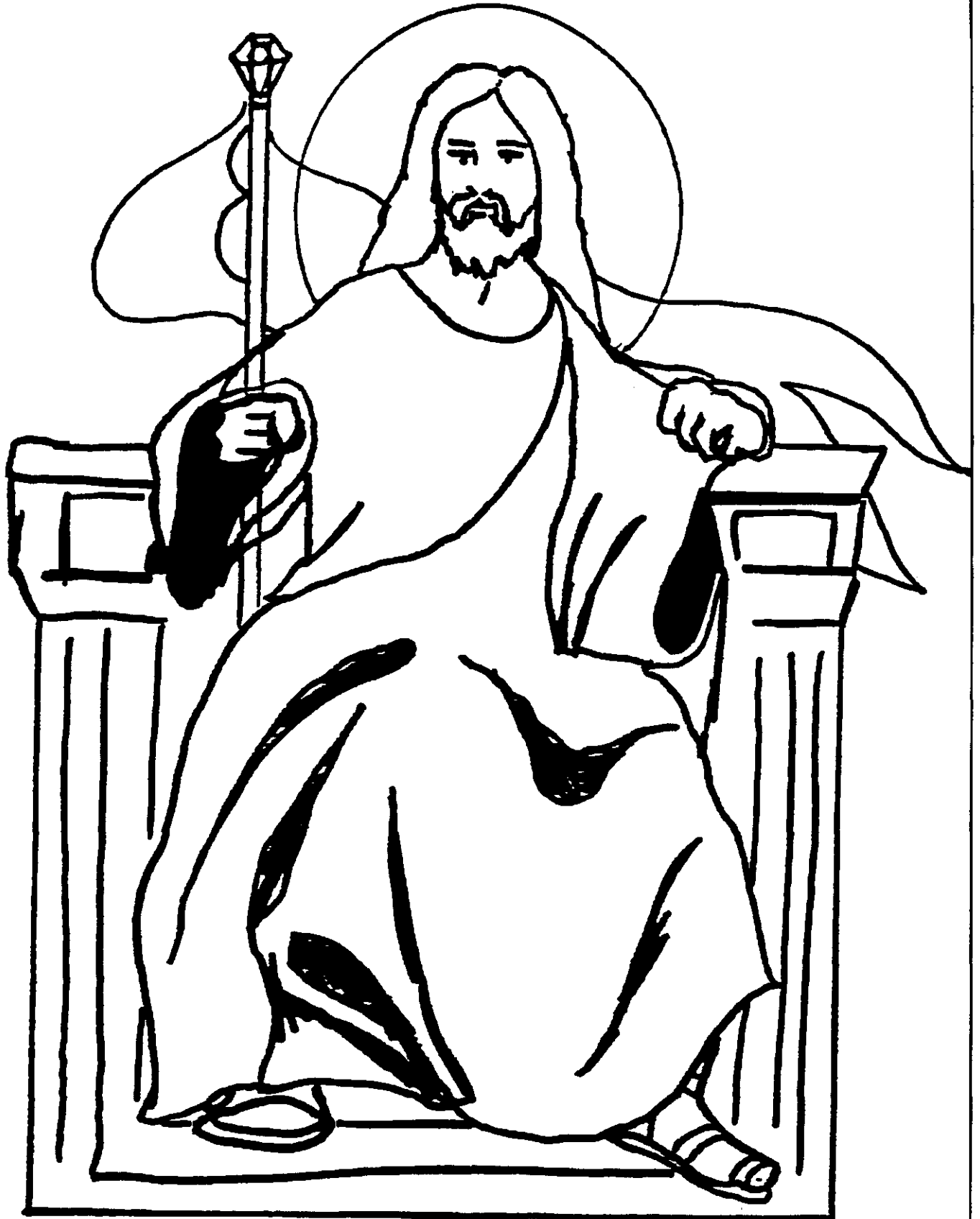




# He Is Coming Back



# The Great Judge



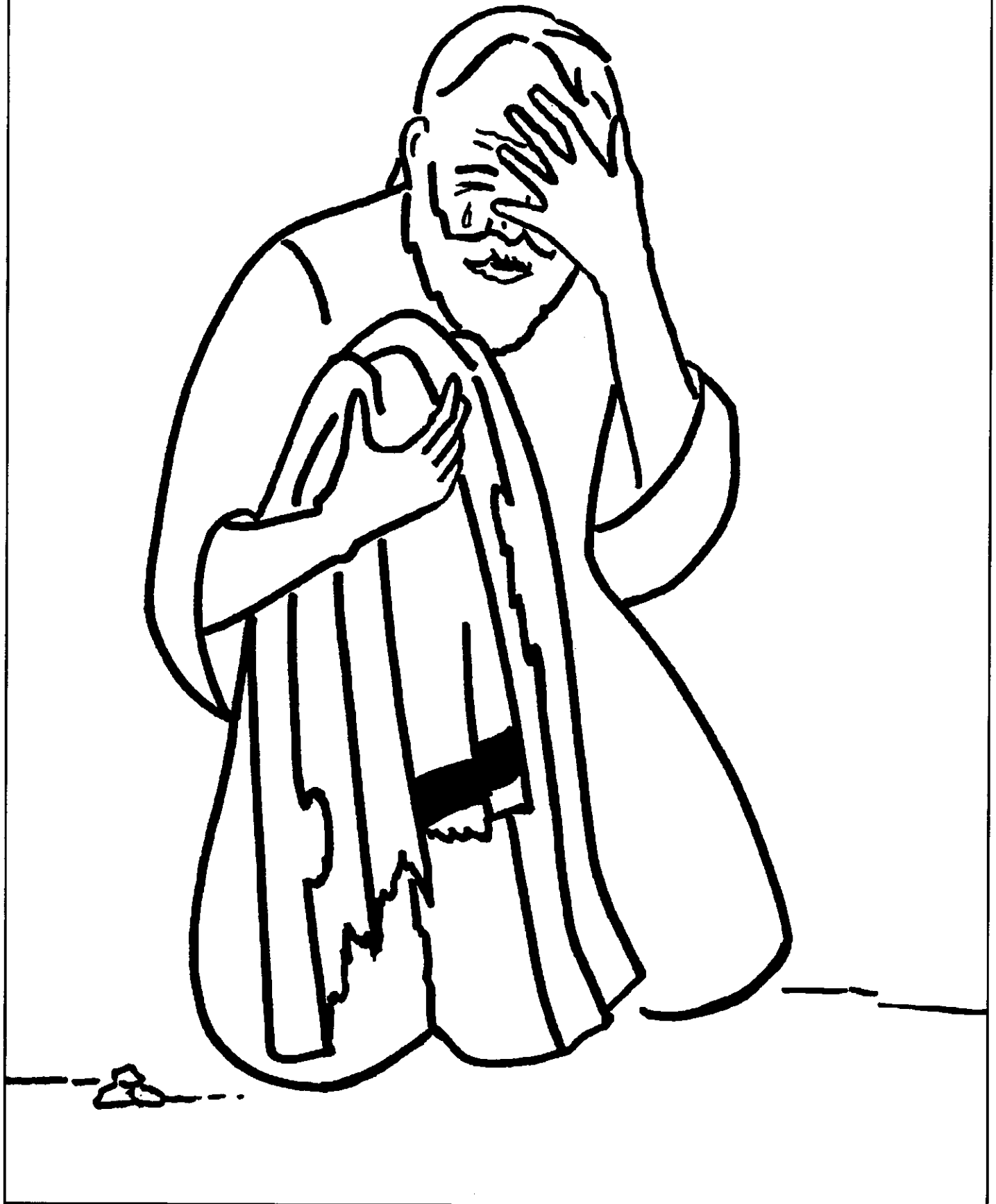
# The Danger of Envy



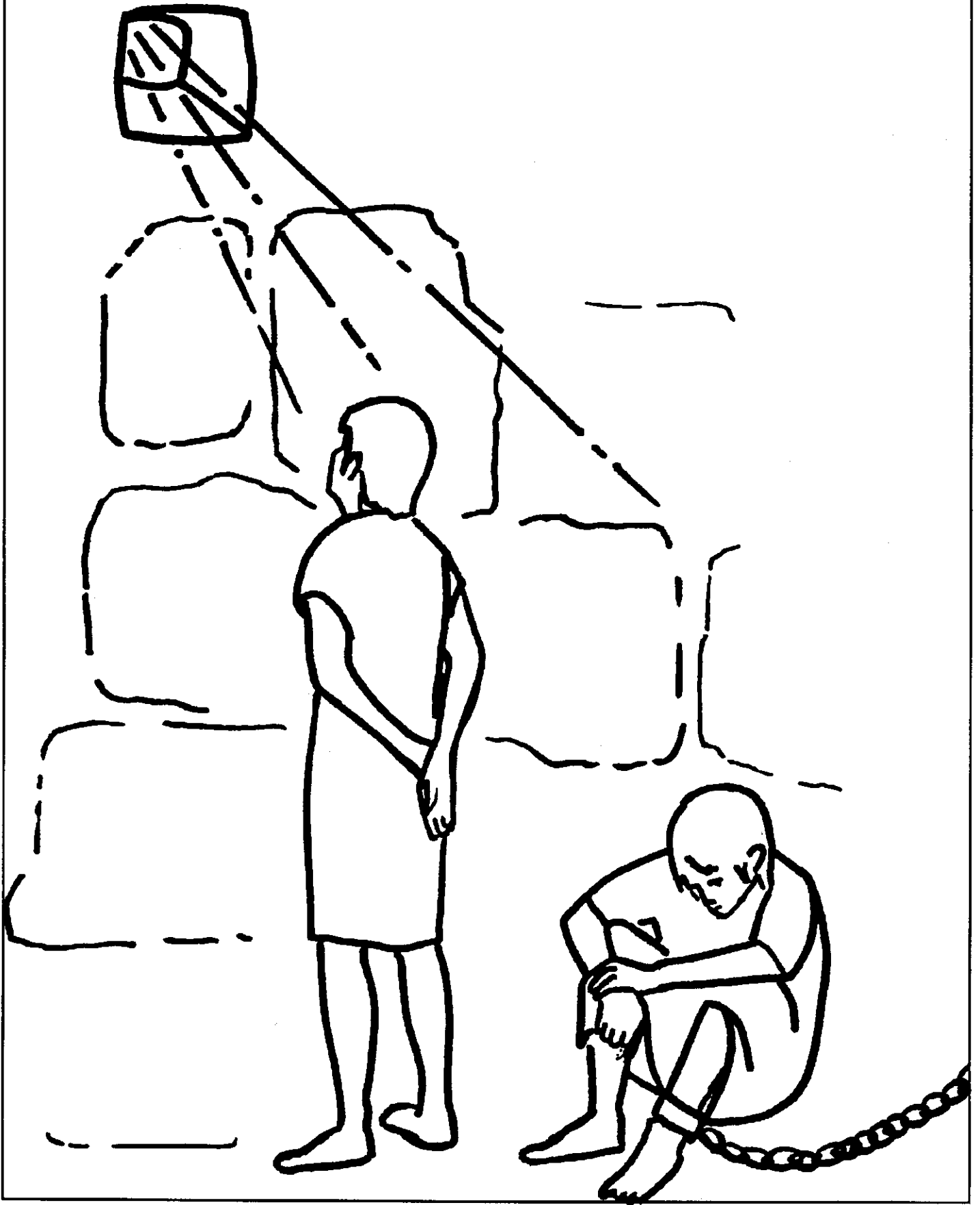
# Mothers, Mothers



# Sold to the Highest Bidder



# Behind Bars



# In Charge



# The Comforter Has Come





# Father, Father



# True Religion

