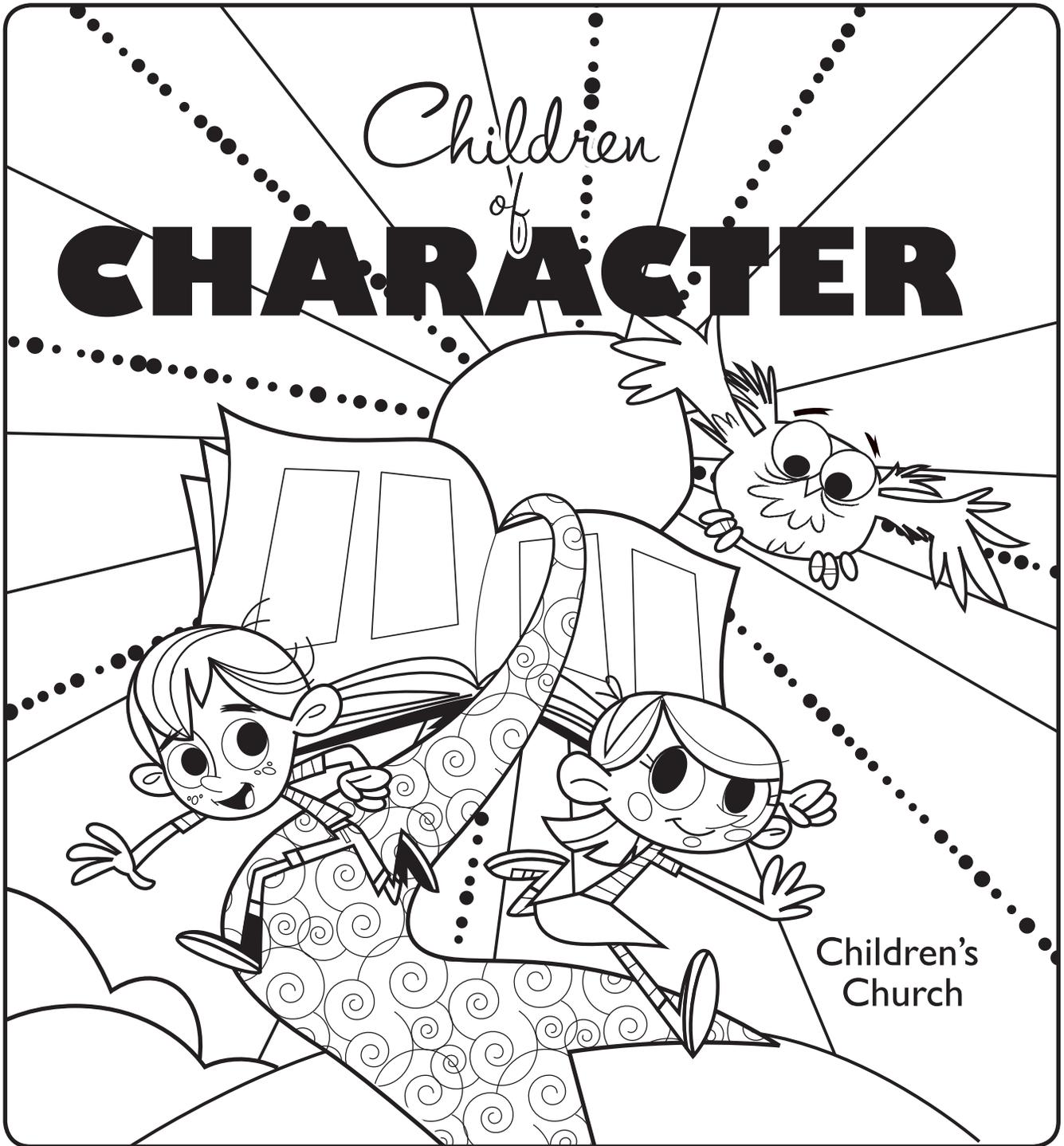


Children
of
CHARACTER



Children's
Church

Year Two

Children of Character

Year Two

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TO THE TEACHER

IMPORTANT ----- PLEASE READ

LESSONS DO'S AND DON'TS

- Do make the lessons exciting. Be enthusiastic. Keep your energy and personal interest level high.
- Do use props, visuals, vocal and bodily expression as you tell the story.
- Don't get ahead of your lesson. Some of these lessons zero in on just one life lesson. The entire story may take weeks to tell. Therefore, stick to the Life Lesson and portion of the lesson at hand. Otherwise you may overlap and tell too much of the story. Always read ahead to see where you are going in a quarter.
- Do dwell on the Life Lesson. This needs to be at the front of your mind and the focus of each lesson. Keep pointing it out to your students.

ABOUT THESE LESSONS

PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION

- This is your time to set the mood and introduce the day's Life Lesson. Quiet everyone down for prayer. Prepare hearts to listen.
- Use the introduction to direct thoughts.

SONG TIME

- The song time should be used to quiet the children's hearts and prepare them for the lesson. Many, well meaning children's workers, think this is the time to have the children scream and yell in order to "get the wiggles out." Having them sing enthusiastically can still be reverent without having them yell at the top of their lungs.

- Don't sing meaningless, nonsense songs. You can use both old and new songs. If you can find songs to fit the day's theme, great! You can spend time teaching them hymns and what the words mean. Some of the supporting stories are hymn histories. Teach these songs ahead of time so when you get to the lesson with that song, they will say, "I know that song," and it will mean more to them.

- A great source for children's songs that zero in on specific character traits is Majesty Music. Ask about the "Patch Praises" song books. They are inexpensive and have many songs per book. You can call them toll free at 800-334-1071.

SUPPORTING STORY

- Sometimes you will be given a story, sometimes an object lesson, hymn history, puppet script etc. These are designed to emphasize the Life Lesson.

MEMORY VERSE

- Play memory verse games to aid learning. Several games have been included in the back of this manual.

- Aim for repetition while learning the verse. This aids memory.

- Emphasize that knowing the verse could bring team points at the end of Children's Church.

- Vary the games and methods used to teach the verses. Games that are well liked can be done often, but not every week.

- You can go back and review verses from past lessons every month or so, if you have the time.

BIBLE LESSON

- Read the Study Text for your own knowledge.

- Weave the scripture into each lesson. You can also bring in the memory verse and Life Lesson as appropriate.

- Keep the lesson exciting. Act it out using different voices and postures. Ask questions. Bring in props occasionally.

INVITATION

- Always present the plan of Salvation in a simple manner. Never assume everyone is saved.
- Have appointed counselors ready so the main leader will not have to leave the other children.
- If someone responds, continue with quiz time or quiet songs while the child is being counseled.

QUIZ

- If you have extra time, you can use the quiz to review the story. You can even go back and use questions from past lessons.
- Divide the students into two teams and keep score. You need not give prizes, just winning is enough. You may occasionally wish to give a small treat.
- Use this time to review the lesson.

LIFE LESSON

- Emphasize it!
- You can write it on the board or an 11 x 17 poster board.
- Work it in often.

ACTIVITY SHEETS

- Copy what you need before Children's Church.
- Hand them out as the children leave to avoid distractions during the story.
- You can have the children do the sheet during the time period if you have lots of extra time.

LESSON 1

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 1:15-21

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Who do you watch carefully and follow in life? Some people follow famous people whom they admire. Some follow their own desires. They do what they want to do regardless of what others say.

God wants you to faithfully follow Him. It isn't always easy to follow God. In our story today we will see some women who followed God and did the right thing even though it meant they were in great danger.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

GLADYS AYLWARD: CALLED TO CHINA

Obtain Flash Card

What kind of people do you suppose God calls to serve him? Some people would say, "People with good personalities. People with lots of charm. People who are very smart. And don't forget people who have lots of talent."

Sometimes God calls people who don't seem at all fit to be a servant of God, but the one thing God always seems to look for is a person who is willing to follow wherever He leads them. Good looks, charm, brains, talent - all those things are fine, but they mean nothing if the person does not have a heart that is willing to serve and follow.

You see, God can overcome the problems of not being very smart or talented. God can give a person everything they need to serve Him. But the one thing we must first give to God is the will to follow Him. God never forces anyone to serve and obey Him. That is our choice.

Many years ago in the early 1900's there lived a woman named Gladys Aylward. Gladys lived in England and she was a parlor maid. She didn't seem like a very good candidate to be a missionary. She had very little education and was a slow learner. The only talent Gladys seemed to possess was the ability to clean houses. She had no money. She was pretty plain looking too.

No, Gladys did not seem like the perfect person to be a missionary. But do you know what Gladys did have? She had a heart that was willing to follow God. You see, one day Gladys was

attending a meeting at church. At that meeting she heard about all the millions of people in China who had never even heard about Jesus Christ. Gladys' heart was touched. It bothered her to think of people who did not know about the love of God. (Show flashcard.)

God spoke to Gladys' heart. He gave her the desire to go to China to tell the people there that God loved them and wanted to forgive their sins.

So Gladys said yes to God. Now that may sound like an easy thing to you, but it was not so easy for Gladys. First she had to go back to school to learn more about the Bible and to learn the Chinese language.

Gladys started her studies, but like I said earlier, she was not a very fast learner. She wasn't dumb, but studying came hard for her. She did the best she could, but apparently that wasn't good enough. It wasn't long before she was called to the office and told she wasn't doing well enough to stay in school. They suggested she go back to her old job and serve God by being a good Christian.

Gladys went back to being a parlor maid for a retired missionary couple, but she did not give up. Gladys knew God had called her to China. Even if no one else believed she could be a missionary, Gladys knew God thought she could. So instead, Gladys began to read about China. Her employers let her use their library and they told her about an old missionary lady in China named Jeanne Lawson. Gladys wrote Mrs. Lawson and soon she got a letter back urging her to come and help her.

How excited Gladys was! Finally someone else also believed she could be a missionary to China. Now she had a place to go and serve God.

But Gladys still had a big problem. How would she get to China? Gladys went to the train station and asked how much a ticket to China would cost. The poor man who worked behind the counter could not believe that this woman wanted to take a train all the way to China by herself.

"Young lady, you can't possibly go to China all by yourself!" the ticket master said.

"Oh, I won't be alone. God will be with me!" Gladys assured him.

The ticket master was not assured. After all, there was a war going on between China and Russia at the time. It just wasn't safe! But Gladys was not worried about that. She knew God would be with her and keep her safe.

The Ticket Agent finally told Gladys that the ticket would cost about \$750.00. Wow! That was a very, very large amount of money back then for a woman who worked as a parlor maid cleaning house. But Gladys fished around in her purse. She pulled out all the money she had saved so far and plunked it down on the counter. She had seven dollars and fifty cents. That was all.

But Gladys had more than just a willing heart, Gladys also had determination to follow God. So she determined that day to save until she had enough money to buy that ticket to China.

Every week Gladys would go to the Ticket Agent and give him all the money she had saved that week. Gladys constantly scrimped and saved. She never spent her money on the nice little extras she would have liked. Instead she put aside every penny. And guess what? She soon had enough to pay for the ticket to China!

So began the first part of Gladys' journey as a missionary. She hadn't stepped one foot out of England yet, but she had gone a long ways toward obeying God's call on her life.

On October 18, 1930 Gladys Aylward waved good-bye to her friends and family who had come to see her off on her train trip to China. In the folds of her clothing she carried treasures that she wanted to keep safe.

Can you imagine how her parents must have felt? They knew they were sending their daughter off to a far away country and might never see her again. But Gladys was excited to finally be on her way to China.

The train rattled through Germany, Poland, and into Russia. As the scenery became more and more foreign, Gladys began to realize what a big step she was taking. All around her sat people who could not speak or understand English. Constantly she reminded herself that God was with her even if she did feel all alone. It was only the strong conviction that God wanted her to go to China that kept Gladys from taking the next train back to England.

As the train traveled through Russia, moving closer and closer to the China border, Gladys began to notice that the ordinary people were leaving the train. Taking their places were Russian soldiers. Soon the entire train was packed with only soldiers.

At the last station before the Chinese border the ticket agent tried to explain as best he could that Gladys must get off the train. Gladys realized they wanted her to get off the train, but she was determined to stay put. She was afraid if she got off, she would lose her ride to China and she could not afford to buy another ticket. So she just refused to exit.

So the Russian Ticket Agent gave a shrug and the train began to move. But instead of traveling over the border and into China, the train stopped short of the border. And there it sat. All the soldiers got off and soon Gladys realized that there was a war being fought all around her. This was the end of the line. The train would go no further.

There was nothing else for Gladys to do but get off the train and begin the long walk back to the last train station; the station where she should have gotten off in the first place!

The walk was a cold one. The snow had already begun to fall and Gladys was glad she had worn her warmest coat and boots. It was a long walk, but finally she trudged onto the station platform. But there was no one there to talk to. No one there seemed to care what happened to her. She stomped about to keep warm as best she could. How discouraged she must have felt.

Finally some soldiers came and took Gladys to be questioned. They spoke no English and Gladys spoke no Russian so they didn't get very far. The soldiers took her passport and all her possessions. The only thing they left her was her Bible. During a quiet moment Gladys went into a corner and opened her Bible. From between the pages slipped out a sheet of paper with a verse written on it. Gladys could not remember ever seeing the paper before, but she read the verse and knew that it was God's comfort to her during this frightening time. The verse said, "Be ye not afraid of them . . . I am your God." It was exactly what Gladys needed to calm her fear and assure her that God was with her.

The soldiers looking at Gladys' passport could not read English, but they decided that the word "missionary" on her passport was the word machinist. They thought she worked with machines. This sounded like the woman they held might be a valuable worker in Russia if she could work on machines, so Gladys was taken to a room to be held until someone could figure out what to do with her.

One night, as Gladys was on her way back to the room that had been assigned to her, a young lady approached her. To Gladys' complete surprise the lady spoke English into her ear. She quickly whispered that Gladys must escape soon if she wished to get out of Russia. Gladys whispered back that she had no idea how to leave. The woman cast a quick look over her shoulder and then whispered back some quick instructions. Then she quickly disappeared and Gladys never saw her again.

The woman had told her that a man would knock on her door at midnight. She should be packed and ready to follow quietly. The man would take her to a ship headed for Japan where she should beg for passage.

At midnight Gladys followed a silent man to a ship and set sail for Japan. The British Consulate met Gladys as she landed in Japan. He made it quite clear to her that he thought she was a complete fool to have ever tried to take a train to China. But Gladys knew she had done exactly what God had wanted her to do.

Finally the tickets for a ship to China were obtained and Gladys was on the last leg of her journey. Soon she would land in the country she had longed to see. God had protected Gladys as she traveled through many strange lands. He had delivered her to freedom in Russia. Now Gladys knew that God could take her safely to China. She could safely follow wherever God led her!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 1:15-21

LESSON

PHARAOH'S PLOT

Do you remember that when Joseph ruled right under the Pharaoh, he invited his family to come live in Egypt because of the famine? When things got better, they remained and over the years they grew to be a mighty number of people. Pharaoh became frightened by all the Children of Israel living in his country. He was so afraid of them that he decided to make them slaves. He thought that if they were slaves he would weaken them and soon their nation would die out.

But just the opposite happened. The Hebrew people became stronger. They continued to multiply despite the hard work and cruel treatment at the hands of the taskmasters.

So now, Pharaoh has come upon a new plan to abolish the Hebrews. He decided that he would have all the boy babies killed. He must have thought the boys would grow up strong and be able to fight. But the girls wouldn't be a threat to him. He decided this was an excellent scheme to rid his land of Israelites.

MERCIFUL MIDWIVES

Pharaoh called in the Hebrew women who helped the women who were going to have babies. These women were called midwives. They helped women when their babies were ready to be born. Two of the women he called in to speak to were named Shiphrah and Puah.

The Pharaoh gave the women a command. He told them that when they went to help a Hebrew woman give birth, if she had a boy child, she should kill the child. But if a woman gave birth to a girl, then the child would be allowed to live.

Exodus 1:16 says, *And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.*

What a terrible thing to be commanded to do! These women must have been afraid to disobey the Pharaoh. He was the ruler of Egypt. He was rich and powerful. He had the power to put them to death if they disobeyed him. They were mere slave women.

Yet, they did disobey the Pharaoh. They feared and revered God more than they feared Pharaoh. They knew that God would not approve of what the Pharaoh had told them to do. The Hebrews were God's chosen people. These midwives knew that they needed to follow God's commands more than Pharaoh's commands.

Exodus 1:17 says, *But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

So these midwives did not do as the Pharaoh had commanded. They saved the boy babies.

PHARAOH DEMANDS ANSWERS

It didn't take very long before the Pharaoh realized that his orders had been disobeyed. I don't imagine that he was very happy.

The Pharaoh called the women to appear before him again. As he glared down at them from his throne, they stood quietly before the king. They must have been afraid. They had no way of knowing what would happen to them next.

The king demanded that the women account for what had happened. Why had they not killed the boy babies?

The midwives told the king that the Hebrew women were not like the Egyptian women. They said that by the time they had entered the homes of the Hebrew women, they had already delivered their babies.

Exodus 1:18-19 tells us, *And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.*

I'm certain this did not please the king, but he dismissed the women and let them return to their homes. I'm sure the women gave a sigh of relief that the Pharaoh had not killed them. But I also believe the women had trusted that if they followed God, He would reward their trust in Him. They knew they could not sin by killing those children.

And God did reward them.

Exodus 1:20 tells us, *Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.*

Despite the Pharaoh's plot, God had protected the Hebrews. He had shielded them from the evil the king had meant to do to them. And the Israelites continued to multiply and grow even stronger and stronger.

GOD CAN PROTECT AND SHIELD YOU

Just as God protected and shielded those Hebrew midwives, He can also protect and shield you in life when you faithfully follow Him.

2 Samuel 22:3 says, *The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour.*

Psalm 119:114 says, *Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.*

No one is greater than God. The Pharaoh was not greater than God. He had big plans to destroy God's people, but he was no match for God. Satan still has big plans to destroy God's people and the testimony of God's people. But Satan is no match for God. God is far greater than any force in Heaven or earth.

No one could harm the Children of Israel without God's permission. And the same is true of you. Every day, every moment, you are under God's watchful eye. He sees you at all times. He is always in control. If you are a follower of God, then God is with you.

But wait a minute! What about when bad things do happen in your life? Being a Christian doesn't mean that nothing bad will ever happen does it? No. There are times when things that we don't like will come into our lives. There may be pain. There may be sorrow.

But no matter what happens, we can know that God is still in control. Sometimes God allows hard things to come into our lives for a reason and a purpose. He may have lessons to teach us. He may want to draw us closer to Him. He may be using the hard times to bring honor and glory to His name.

But whatever comes into our lives, we can know that God watches. He controls. He loves and cares for us. He does what is best for us. And nothing can touch us that is not allowed of God. All we must do is faithfully follow God.

ARE YOU A GOD FOLLOWER?

Are you a God follower? If you have asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart, then you are one of His followers. But if you haven't, then you are not a follower of God.

Would you like to know that you follow a God who will be with you and protect you each day? You can know that. You can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and then you will know that every day God is with you and He will protect and shield you.

We can have someone open their Bible and show you how you can accept Jesus as your Savior.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember that no matter what problems you may experience, God is your shield and protector. If you follow faithfully, then God will be with you and help you each day. That can be a wonderful thing to know!

I challenge you to review our memory verse every single day. You can take your activity sheet and put it in your Bible or somewhere where you look often. When you have hard times, stop and remember or read today's verse. Then ask God to help you to faithfully follow Him.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to faithfully follow Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Recite today's memory verse.
2. Who did Pharaoh call to help him with his plot against the Hebrew people?
3. What was Pharaoh's plot?
4. Why did Pharaoh want the boy babies killed?
5. What did the midwives do instead of killing the babies?
6. What did the midwives tell the Pharaoh when he called them back to see him?
7. Who rewarded the midwives for disobeying the Pharaoh's orders?
8. What happened to the Hebrews as a result of the midwives' disobedience?
9. What couldn't Pharaoh do unless God permitted it?
10. Who is greater than God?

Faithful Followers



If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26

I will follow God.

I will be a faithful follower.

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

How many new words can you make from the words:
I will be a faithful follower?

LESSON 2

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
MOSES' MOTHER FOLLOWS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 1:22-2:1-9

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Right now, many of the choices and decisions made in your life are controlled by your parents. You have to follow their choices for your life. But you are starting to make more and more decisions on your own. The older you get, the more you will decide for yourself. That's called independence. We all want independence. It's nice to make our own decisions. It's nice to follow our own way.

We like to control a few things in our life. We like to decide where we will go, what we will wear, and who will be our friends.

But we are human. We actually don't always know what is the best way to go or the best thing to do. There is one who does know what is best for you and He is the one you should follow. He is never surprised by the unexpected. He is never helpless to change an event. Who is that? That's right. God.

Today we will be talking about the fact that we should always follow God.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

GLADYS ALYWARD: TELL ME THE STORY

Obtain Flash Card

Last week we remember that Gladys Alyward had determined that God wanted her to be a missionary in China. She began her journey but things had not gone according to her plan. Gladys had escaped the soldiers in Russia and followed a mysterious man to safety. She begged passage on a ship to Japan. Japan was not where she wanted to go, but things finally got straightened out and she was soon on her way to China. What a lot of courage it must have taken for Gladys to continue on her journey.

When Gladys landed in China, she was met by some missionaries who gave Gladys a hot meal and a place to sleep before beginning her long journey through the mountains to the city of Yang Cheng. There she would be working with Mrs. Lawson.

The missionaries also gave Gladys a dull gray jacket and baggy pants to wear. It was what all the people in China wore. It made Gladys look more like everyone else and stand out less. You see, many of the Chinese people had never seen a white woman.

So Gladys began the long trip into the mountains by mule train. It took many days to reach the remote village. As they traveled, Gladys admired the beautiful trees and rivers along the mountain sides. China was a land of breathtaking beauty. (Show flashcard.)

When the mule train reached Yang Cheng, Gladys almost forgot how tired and hungry she was. She was so excited to finally be where God had called her. At the gate of the run down old inn, Gladys peeked inside. There was a small woman industriously working away at clearing the courtyard.

“Mrs. Lawson?” Gladys timidly inquired.

“Yes? Who are you?” the woman snapped. Gladys was really very surprised that Mrs. Lawson did not know who she was. After all, who else could she be? Gladys hoped the old missionary lady had not forgotten she was coming. Maybe her memory wasn’t very good.

But Jeanne Lawson’s memory was just fine and she soon had Gladys ushered into the yard. She explained to Gladys that she had just bought the old inn and was in the process of cleaning it up.

Mrs. Lawson asked Gladys if she was hungry. Yes, she was starving! It had been a long trip and the meals on the mountain path had been simple and small. Gladys was pleased to see a kindly Chinese gentleman approach her with a steaming bowl of delicious smelling food. As Gladys ate, she was introduced to Yang, Mrs. Lawson’s cook. And he was a wonderful cook too. Gladys ate every bite and gladly accepted seconds. Yang grinned his pleasure as he watched Gladys eat.

There was much work to be done and the next day Gladys pitched in. They cleaned and scrubbed and carted off old junk. They repaired doors and painted walls. Then they cleaned some more.

All the while, as Gladys cleaned, she asked Yang the names of everything in Chinese. It was like a game to them and soon Gladys was able to identify many objects in Chinese. Yang was a patient teacher and Gladys was a willing student. She eagerly learned every new word she could.

After several days, the inn was all clean and sparkling. The two women looked around with satisfaction. They had worked hard and their efforts had paid off. They now had a home that was clean, warm, and dry. And with Yang’s and Mrs. Lawson’s help, Gladys was learning Chinese!

Gladys remembered that many people had told her she was too old to go to China. They had said that she was too slow of a learner to learn a difficult language like Chinese. But here she was, and she was learning Chinese. God had called Gladys to China and she had willingly followed. Now God was helping her to do what He had called her to do.

When Gladys, Mrs. Lawson, and Yang finally had the old inn all cleaned up and in tip top shape, Mrs. Lawson had a wonderful idea. She decided that the place should be made into an inn again. Gladys questioned this idea. After all, she had not come all the way to China to run an inn!

But Mrs. Lawson pointed out that they had to make a living somehow. The inn would bring in a small income at least. But that was not Mrs. Lawson's main plan for the inn. She explained to Gladys that she wanted to use the inn as a way to witness to the people who came to stay there.

The little town of Yeng Chang was high in the mountains. There was not another town nearby. In fact, the next town on either side was a whole days journey away. Every day mule trains carrying supplies would pass through. The men who lead the mule trains were called Coolies. They traveled from town to town each day. First in one direction, then they would unload the donkeys, reload with new cargo, and set off back the way they had come.

The Coolies did not dare sleep on the trails for there were robbers and wild animals. It was far too dangerous. So at night they always stopped at the inns in the small towns they passed through. There they would get a meal and a bed to sleep in. Many of the inns were old and dirty and the food was not very good, but the men had little choice. It was better than sleeping on the cold, dark trails.

Since Yeng Chang was on the mule train's path, the inn was at a perfect place. The ladies could be assured of visitors every night. So they set about preparing for the first night's business. The beds were made and the food was cooked.

Mrs. Lawson decided that Gladys was to go outside the gate and bring in business. Gladys wasn't too happy about this idea, but Mrs. Lawson declared Gladys was the only logical choice. Mrs. Lawson said she was too old and Yang was busy fixing the food. So Gladys stood outside the gate. But every single mule train passed them by. The Coolies would not even look in her direction.

Then Mrs. Lawson told Gladys to grab the head mule and pull it into the courtyard. Once the mules were in, they would not budge for the night. Yang taught Gladys an advertisement to chant. It was very simple since Gladys was still learning Chinese. It went like this. "We have no bugs. We have no fleas. Good, good, good. Come, come, come."

Gladys trembled at the thought of grabbing a mule. Did mules bite? But she bravely stood outside the inn's gate and chanted that saying. When the first mule train came by she reluctantly grabbed the head mule and pulled the mule team into the courtyard. The poor coolies had no choice but to follow the mules.

The Coolies were pleasantly surprised to find that this inn was not like the other inns. Here they were given clean beds and hot, delicious food. But that was not all. There was one more pleasant surprise for the men. As the men ate the food, Mrs. Lawson perched on a stool and began to tell stories.

The Coolies' eyes opened in surprise. This was wonderful! The men loved stories and it was not often they received such entertainment as they traveled. As they listened, they heard stories they had never heard before. Mrs. Lawson told them about a man named Jesus. She said that Jesus loved them and had come down to earth to help them to find eternal life. The men drank in every word. They had never heard of Jesus or any of the Bible stories Mrs. Lawson told.

Yang was not a Christian but he eagerly listened to the stories also. After awhile he offered to tell the stories to give the women a break. Yang told the stories with gusto. Fortunately one night Gladys paused from her work to listen to the story Yang was telling. She was shocked to hear him describing Jesus helping to put the animals on the Ark. The women quickly corrected the story and explained to Yang that the stories were true, so he could not change them around to make them different.

Soon the inn was packed every night and Gladys no longer had to stand outside and pull in mules. The Coolies came gladly. They especially loved the stories. As Gladys learned more Chinese she was also able to tell the stories. It thrilled Gladys' heart to be able to tell the men about Jesus Christ. What joy she found in following God's call to China!

Each morning as the men went on their way, they also spread the Gospel. They told the other Coolies and they told their families. God used the inn and two simple missionary ladies to spread His word to many people in China.

You see, if God calls you to serve Him, God will always give you the courage and ability to do the job He asks you to do. What a joy it is to follow God!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 1:22-2:1-9

LESSON

KILL ALL BOY BABIES

The Pharaoh had tried to have all the Hebrew boy babies killed by telling the midwives to kill them at the time of their birth, but the midwives had disobeyed the Pharaoh and followed God instead.

So the Pharaoh came up with a new plan. He commanded his own people that every time they knew of a boy child being born to a Hebrew woman, they were to kill it. If the child was a girl, then they could spare its life.

Exodus 1:22 tells us, *And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.*

It is hard for us to imagine how such a terrible thing could happen. Here in the United States we would not tolerate a President who ordered that children be taken from their parents and put to death. But in Bible times, the Pharaoh was very powerful. The people could not argue with him. They merely had to follow his orders.

The midwives had disobeyed Pharaoh and followed God instead. They had taken the risk of being put to death themselves, but they were Hebrew women. They did not have the heart to kill the boy babies of their own people. But now the Egyptian people had been given the order and they were ready to obey.

Can you imagine the great sorrow and grief the Hebrew people experienced? I suppose that many Hebrew mothers and fathers wept in agony as their precious sons were taken from their arms and thrown into the Nile river.

MOSES IS BORN

A young man by the name of Amram married a young woman by the name of Jochebed. Both of them were from the tribe of Levi.

You will remember that Levi was one of Jacob's twelve sons. Everyone born as one of Levi's descendents was of his tribe. You are born to your father, so that's like saying you are one of your father's or grandfather's tribe.

Now Amram and Jochebed had two children born before the time when the Pharaoh had ordered that all the boy babies be killed. Their oldest son was named Aaron and their daughter was named Miriam.

Then, one day, Moses was born. Oh how Jochebed loved Moses. He was such a beautiful baby. Even the Bible mentions what a beautiful baby Moses was. She was determined that no one would come to kill her beautiful son. She had no intention of following Pharaoh's wicked orders!

So Jochebed hid the baby for three months. When a baby is very young, its cry is weaker and a mother would be able to hide the child so that no one could hear him. But as Moses grew his cries became louder and stronger. She could no longer hide him. So God gave Jochebed wisdom on how to protect Moses.

HIDING BABY MOSES

Jochebed took bulrushes, which are a flat type of plant, from the edge of the river Nile. She wove them tightly together so that no water could seep through. She formed the bulrushes into an ark. Then she took the slime or mud from the river and the pitch, which is the sticky stuff found in tree sap, and she used that to totally waterproof the ark.

An ark? Like Noah's ark? In a way, yes. The word "ark" means a box. Noah's ark was a big, big box. It wasn't a boat but it did float. The ark of the bulrushes was not a boat, but Jochebed made the ark so that it would float in water and not sink. It was a box that floats.

Jochebed gently laid baby Moses into the ark. Then she went down to the water's edge and placed the ark just at the very edge. She did not want the ark to go floating down the river, so I am sure she placed it in such a way that it would float but not move.

Then Jochebed gave Miriam a job. She instructed Moses' older sister to stand a distance away and keep an eye on the baby. Miriam must have felt a bit like a secret agent. She was to keep an eye on the baby, but not call any attention to herself or to the ark. She basically kept surveillance on the ark.

Exodus 2:3-4 says, *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. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.*

Miriam followed her mother's orders and kept careful watch on her baby brother. It may have seemed like a boring job after awhile, but then one day she heard some voices. Someone was coming and they were headed right for a spot nearby. She must have crouched down low so that she was completely out of sight. But she never took her eyes off the ark that contained her brother.

Imagine Miriam's surprise when she realized that the person who had come to the river Nile was the princess. The princess was a wealthy woman. She had many serving maids that attended her and took care of her every need.

The princess had come to the Nile to bathe. Back then there was no indoor plumbing. No bathrooms. In order to take a bath, you either had to have water hauled into the room, bucket by bucket, to fill a tub, or you went down to a body of water, if there was one nearby.

The Nile River is an extremely large body of water. It flows through the country of Egypt. The Egyptians revered the Nile because of its life giving qualities. It provided water to drink for both humans and animals. It was used for cleaning clothing and homes. It was used to water the crops so food could be raised. In nearby lands there was dry desert because there was so little rainfall and there were no bodies of fresh water that the people could use. But in Egypt they had the Nile.

So here was the princess, daughter of the powerful, wicked Pharaoh. Her father was the one who had ordered that all the boy babies be thrown into the Nile to drown. And she stood just feet away from the ark with a Hebrew baby boy nestled snugly inside.

As the princess bathed, something caught her eye. It seemed to be a small floating box. Right away the princess sent her maids to bring the box to her. She must have been quite intrigued to find a box in the Nile. What could it be? She wanted to know.

Cautiously she lifted the lid. How surprised she must have been to see a baby! The box must have been dark inside and when the sunlight shined inside, Moses squinted his eyes and let out a cry.

Instantly the princess' heart was touched. The motherly qualities in her came out and she wanted to calm and protect the child. Mothers are like that.

Exodus 2:5-6 says, 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. 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.

The princess knew instantly that the baby was a Hebrew. She also knew that her father had ordered all the Hebrews boys be put to death. She could have ordered the child to be drown right there, but she had already fallen in love with the child. God had melted her heart.

GOD WAS IN CONTROL

God is in complete control of everyone and everything. When we follow God, we will always be following the right way!

The princess was not a Hebrew. She did not love God. Yet God was able to control what she felt and what she did. She didn't willingly follow God, but God still controlled her actions.

Miriam was still hiding at the river's edge. She must have watched carefully and prayed that the baby Moses would be protected. When she saw that the princess had seen the child, she made a very courageous move. She stood up and ran forward to speak with the princess. She asked the princess if she should bring a Hebrew woman who could care for the child. Miriam was a quick thinker!

When the princess agreed, Miriam ran as quickly as possible to get her mother. Then the two women hurried back to the edge of the Nile. When Jochebed and Miriam returned, the princess asked Jochebed if she would be willing to care for and raise the child. She told Jochebed that she would pay her if she would.

What joy and praise to God must have flooded Jochebed's heart! Her son had been restored to her. Now she could take Moses home and she would no longer have to hide him. Now she could love and nurture Moses. Now she could raise Moses and teach him about God. What joy! Moses mother had followed God and God had taken good care of her.

Exodus 2:9 says, *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.*

God had placed the baby Moses in exactly the right spot, at exactly the right time. The princess had seen the ark. And she had fallen in love with the child. None of that was an accident. God was in complete control of the entire situation. When you follow God in your life, you can be sure that God is in complete control of all that happens!

GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL

God was in control back in Moses' day and God is still in control today. He has not grown old. There is nothing that is not in God's control.

We humans like to think that we are in control of our own lives, but the truth is, we have very little control. We cannot control our health. We cannot control the weather. We cannot control other people.

People do not always want God to control them. They resist God's work in their lives. And God does give us the free will to choose whether or not we will love and serve Him.

But God is never out of control. Even when people choose to defy and reject God, He still will control the final outcome.

Sometimes even Christians don't want to let God control their lives. Isn't that sad? They are afraid that if they follow God and allow God to control them, then He will do something with their life that they won't like.

Did you know that it takes trust and courage to follow God and allow Him to control your life? We humans like to control ourselves. We like to follow our own plans. It can be hard to hand our life over to God's control and trust Him to give us what is best in life.

Following God is always the best choice. God only wants what is best for you. He also knows what the future will bring. He knows what lies ahead in your life. Following God control may take courage and trust, but it is the wisest thing you can do.

Do you follow God and allow Him to control your life? Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life. Would you like to do that? Would you like to tell God that you know you are a sinner and that you want to be forgiven? God wants to forgive your sin.

Maybe you have already accepted Jesus as your Savior, but you haven't been too sure about following God. You have wanted to choose your own path in life. You want to make your own decisions.

Jochebed could have rejected the one thing that saved her son's life as being too risky. She could have decided that putting a baby in a box in the river watched over by a young girl was a foolish plan. But it was God's plan and it worked out perfectly. How joyful she must have been that she followed God's plan!

The same is true for your life. You can't see into the future. If you follow and obey God, then He is working in your life. You may not understand how or why He is working a certain way, but you still trust Him to do what is best.

So will you be a child who follows God? You can tell him today that you are willing to follow Him anywhere.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week's challenge is for you to follow God every day.

Don't fight Him. Instead, pray and tell God that you are willing to let Him have complete control. Tell Him you are willing to follow wherever He leads. Since God only wants what is best for you, it is safe and wise to follow Him. Every morning when you open your eyes, tell God that today you want to follow where and how He leads you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to follow Him each day.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. After the midwives refused to kill the boy babies, who did Pharaoh order to kill the babies?
2. What was Moses' mother named?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. How many brothers and sisters did Moses have? Name them.
5. How long did Jochebed hide Moses in her home?
6. Why did Jochebed have to come up with a new way to hide Moses?
7. What did Jochebed do to hide Moses?
8. What does the word ark mean?
9. Why had the princess gone to the Nile river?
10. What did Moses do to melt the princess' heart?

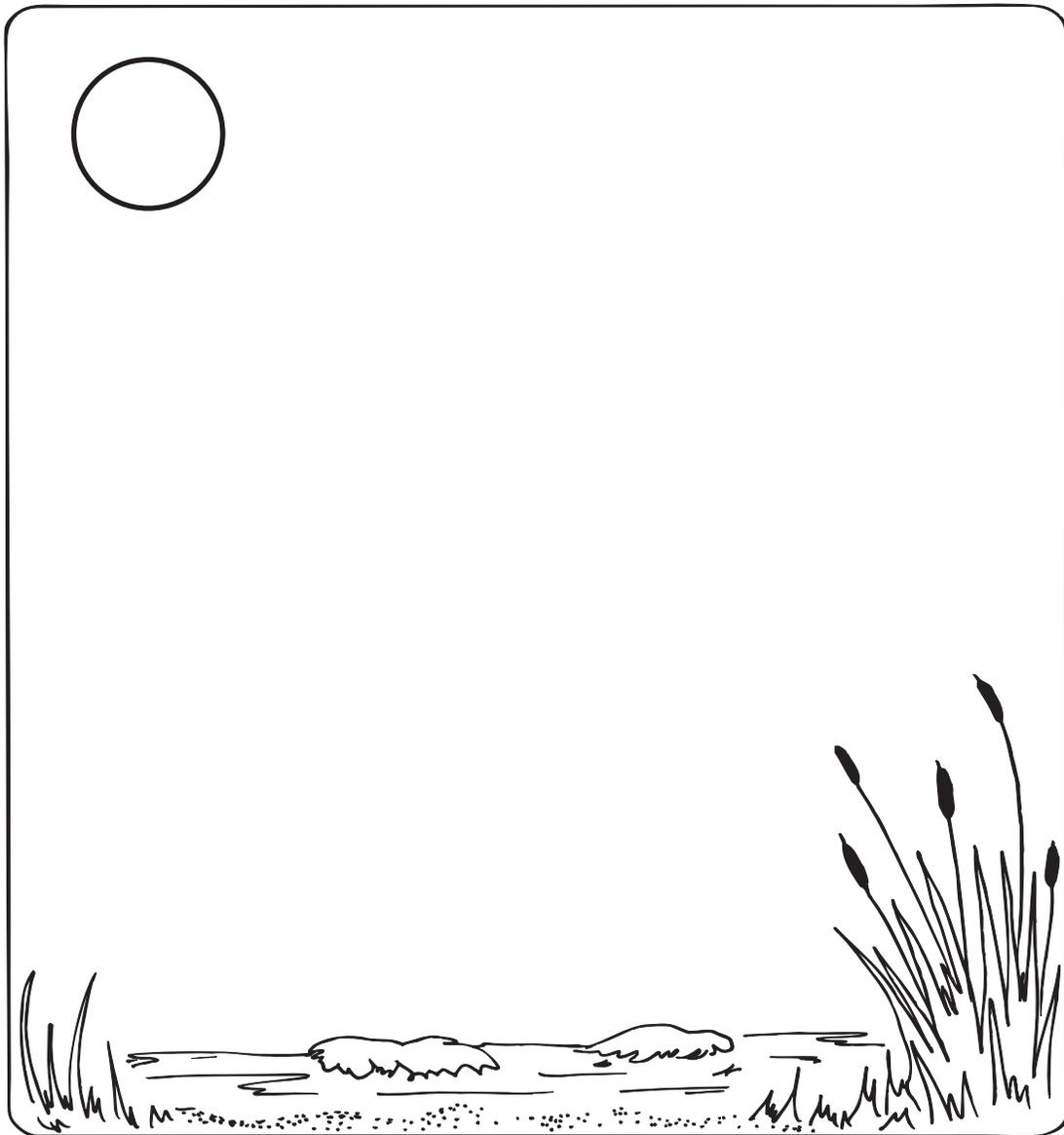
Moses' Mother Follows God

If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26



I will follow God.

Draw a picture of Miriam watching baby Moses.



LESSON 3

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
FEARING TO FOLLOW

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 2:10-4:20

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Life can get scary sometimes. There are many things that may frighten you. Maybe you are afraid of the dark. Maybe you are afraid of someone at school. Maybe you are afraid of something coming up like a hard test.

We all have fears. But God does not want us to be afraid. And we don't have to walk around afraid all of the time. God is all that you need. He is with you. He can meet your needs. All God wants you to do is never fear to follow Him.

Today's Life Lesson: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

Gladys Alyward: Big foot

SET UP

Obtain 2 Flash Cards

STORY

Things seemed to be going well at the little inn in China. Mrs. Lawson and Gladys had named it "The Inn of the Eight Happinesses." Nightly it was crowded with Coolies who came for the delicious meals, clean beds, and wonderful Bible stories that the missionary ladies told.

Gladys' language studies were coming along nicely, but she still had much to learn. Yang spent hours teaching her new words and phrases as they worked around the courtyard. Yang was a good and patient teacher.

Even after the Coolies began to populate the ladies' inn, the people of town kept their distance. It took a long time for Mrs. Lawson and Gladys to be accepted by the people of the remote village of Yang Cheng. They had never seen white women before and they were frightened and suspicious of the two missionaries.

Often when Gladys went to town, she would come home covered with mud. The children would follow at a distance and call out taunts and jeers. They threw mud and then would run.

So when Gladys got back to the inn, she would unload the supplies from her basket, wash up, and change into clean clothes. Then she would go back to her chores.

The women tried to make friends with the village people but everyone fled in fear. They wanted nothing to do with them. So, slowly the women did their best to smile at the people. They kept their tempers even when being covered with mud. They tried to go about their business in hopes that one day they would be accepted.

At times it must have seemed lonely in the remote village for the two women. But they trusted that God had sent them there. They knew God was always with them even when they felt all alone.

Just as things seemed to have settled comfortably, a very terrible thing happened. Mrs. Lawson took sick and died quite suddenly.

What a shock. And how Gladys missed her. She felt totally alone in a strange country. She knew so little of the language, customs, and people. She had greatly depended on Mrs. Lawson's knowledge of China to guide her. But now she was alone.

But God had provided Gladys with a good friend in Yang. God also helped Gladys to learn in the days to come that she needed to depend on the Lord and not on other human beings. God comforted Gladys' heart and gave her the courage to continue to serve him each day.

As time went on, Yang informed Gladys that she needed to go to meet the Mandarin. The Mandarin was the ruler in their portion of China. He was a very powerful man. He was somewhat like a governor, but he held absolute power in the many tiny villages he ruled over. In fact, he held the power of life and death in his hands. If he felt a man deserved death for a crime, he could command that the man be put to death. The people greatly feared and respected the Mandarin.

It frightened Gladys to think of paying a visit to the Mandarin. She had no idea of what to wear, how to approach the great man, or what she was not allowed to say. Suppose she made a mistake? What would he do to her? This was something that Gladys did not like to think about.

One day as Gladys was going about her work at the inn, Yang came running. He was so excited he could barely speak. Gladys listened in confusion. He spoke so quickly that she had a hard time understanding him. Every now and then a word made sense, and slowly Gladys began to realize that Yang was telling her that the Mandarin was on his way to visit her. And he was coming right now!

Gladys looked down at her dusty, rumpled outfit. The matter of when to see the Mandarin and what to wear were taken completely out of her hands. Quickly Gladys ran a hand over her work frock in a feeble attempt to rid it of wrinkles. Gladys breathed a prayer for God's help. Then she squared her shoulders, lifted her head high, and went to meet the Mandarin.

The Mandarin and his servants swept into the courtyard of the simple inn. Gladys stared in awe at the beautiful robe on the Mandarin. It showed he had great riches. Gladys bowed low before the Mandarin in respect. Then she looked up to see a man who she knew could be quite stern, but he was smiling at her. Gladys thought he had gentle eyes.

Then the Mandarin began to address Gladys. She was amazed when she realized that the Mandarin had come to ask her for a favor. And she was very shocked at his request.

For years the women of China had lived with the custom of feet binding. When a girl was born, the child's feet were bound tightly. The bindings stayed on all the time and as a result, the little girl's feet could not grow. Instead the feet remained small and deformed. This was a very painful thing, and the women had a difficult time walking, but it was a custom that every woman in China lived by. (Show flashcard A.)

"The Chinese Government has just recently banned feet binding. It is my job to see to it that all the women in my providence unbind their feet and discontinue the practice in the future," the Mandarin informed her.

Gladys nodded politely as the Mandarin explained this to her. She was bewildered as to why he was telling her. Her feet were never bound. What did he want?

"I have come to ask if you will travel to all the cities and villages in my providence to tell the women of this new law. I have decided you will be the perfect one to tell the women since you have such big feet," the Mandarin went on to explain.

Big feet? Gladys stared down at her dusty feet. They didn't look that big to her, but since they had never been bound like the feet of all the Chinese women, she supposed her feet did look big to the Mandarin.

The Mandarin told Gladys that she would be paid to go and that two guards would accompany her to protect her and make sure his orders were carried out. Gladys realized that it would be a very big job to travel from village to village. It would take many years to complete the task while at the same time returning often to the inn to carry on with her life there.

But Gladys also realized that this was not a casual favor asked of her. The Mandarin had the right to command that she go. He rarely ASKED anyone to do anything, especially a woman, but instead he was asking politely. It was not something he did often she suspected.

Gladys realized she really must do as the Mandarin asked, but she gathered her courage and spoke up.

"Sir, I am a Christian. If I do this, I will tell everyone I meet about Jesus Christ," she boldly told him.

The Mandarin solemnly nodded his head. He told her he did not care what she told the people as long as she carried out his orders about the feet. Gladys swallowed the lump in her throat and agreed to do as the Mandarin asked.

So Gladys began to travel to the tiny surrounding villages. She packed her things and headed out over the rough mountain ranges, reaching to the most remote villages possible.

The people listened in amazement. They had never seen a white woman with "big" feet. But she was with the Mandarin's guards so they listened politely. The women were grateful to

unwind the cloth that had so long mangled their feet. The mothers were also eager to unwrap their daughters feet. They watched in joy as the baby girls wiggled tiny toes. Now their daughters could walk and run freely as they never had before. (Show flashcard B.)

Then Gladys would tell all the people of the village the stories from the Bible about Jesus Christ and how much he loved them. The people listened carefully as Gladys explained that Jesus came to unbind them from sin. It was a thrill for Gladys to see many of them come to know Christ as their personal Savior.

Isn't God amazing? He used a heathen custom, a heathen ruler, and a very ordinary, big footed woman to spread the Gospel throughout the wild back villages of China!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me.

John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 2:10 - 4:20

LESSON

THE CHILD GREW

In the first part of Exodus 2:10 we read a few very simple words. They say, *And the child grew.*

Moses was placed in the River Nile by his mother, Jochebed. There the baby floated as his sister, Miriam, kept a close eye on the ark in which he lay. Then came the day when the Princess found and claimed Moses for her own.

Since the princess was not prepared to care for a baby, she entrusted his care to Jochebed. How wonderful that must have been for Jochebed and her husband, Amram. They were able to raise their own son without any worry of anyone doing any harm to him. What a joy for them to be able to be together without fear.

LIFE IN THE PALACE

Finally the day came when the child was old enough to live at the palace. The princess chose the name Moses. The name meant, “because I drew him out of the water.”

Exodus 2:10 says, 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.

At the palace, life must have been totally different for Moses. He went from living with the Hebrew people who were slaves to living as the son of the princess of the Egyptian people.

I imagine that with his real family he learned many things about his own people, but he probably also learned how to do chores around the house. While his father was out working for Pharaoh as a slave, his mother and younger members of his family did everything that needed to be done around the house.

But in the palace, life was different. Moses went from great poverty to great wealth. He went from people who were forced to work hard all day to people who had leisure to spend their days as they wished.

Moses got a good education. He must have learned to read and write in Egyptian. He may have learned the languages of many of the surrounding countries with which Egypt did business. He learned history and mathematics. He most likely learned physical skills also. What a fortunate young man he was. God was laying the ground work for what would happen many years later.

TWO WRONGS

One day when Moses had become older he decided to go out to where the Hebrew people were working. Moses may have been brought up like a prince, but he knew that he was a Hebrew. He watched as the taskmasters forced the Hebrews, his brethren, to work. He could see how unfairly the slaves were being treated.

As Moses walked along he saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave. This really upset Moses. Moses looked all around. It appeared that there was no one close by. No one seemed to be watching. So Moses let his temper get the better of him. He went up to the taskmaster and he killed him. Then he hastily dug a shallow grave in the sand and covered the body of the taskmaster.

Exodus 2:11-12 says, 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. 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.

BUSTED

The next day Moses went walking again. This day Moses came upon two Hebrew men who were having a disagreement. They were shouting at one another and soon they began to fight. Moses decided to play the peace maker. He thrust himself between the two men and asked why they were fighting.

“Who are you to tell us what to do?” one of the men asked Moses. “Who made you a prince or judge over us? And what are you going to do? Kill us like you killed that Egyptian?”

Moses fell silent. He was afraid. They knew! Someone had seen him kill the Egyptian! There was only one thing for Moses to do. Run! And that’s what Moses did. Moses took off. He left Egypt and ran as far away as he could so that the Pharaoh’s men could not capture him. He ran to the far side of the desert.

Exodus 2:15 says, *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.*

THE KING DIES

Finally the Pharaoh died and a new Pharaoh took his place. The new Pharaoh was not a more kindly man than the last Pharaoh had been. In fact, he must have been even crueller to the Hebrew people because he made the Israelites work even harder and the taskmasters were even meaner than ever. The Hebrews must have been very discouraged. Instead of life getting better, it only got worse and worse. Soon the Hebrews began to beg God to save them from Pharaoh.

THE DESERT

In the mean time Moses was in the desert caring for sheep. One day as Moses was watching over the sheep, he noticed a strange thing. In the distance he saw a bush burning. Moses decided to investigate. He moved closer to the bush and saw an amazing sight. The bush was burning with fire, however, it was not burning up. How strange!

Exodus 3:2 says, *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of the bush: and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

The Lord called to Moses. And Moses answered, “Here am I.” The Lord, Himself, had come down to the desert to speak with Moses. The Lord told Moses to remove his shoes because he was on holy ground. God had a job for Moses.

GOD REVEALS HIS PLAN

When God began to speak to Moses, the first thing God did was identify Himself. He told Moses that He was the God of his fathers - his ancestors. Moses’ first reaction was one of fear. He hid his face. He was frightened to look at God.

God began to explain to Moses that He had heard the cry of the Hebrews. He saw the cruel taskmasters. He knew they were suffering. He told Moses that He had come to help them. And even better than just delivering them out of slavery, God also told Moses that He was going to take them to a wonderful land where they would be happy and prosperous. He was going to take them to the land that He had promised to Abraham many, many years before.

Exodus 3:8a says, *And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.*

Moses should have been thrilled. These were his people. His brother and sister were still slaves in Egypt. He had wanted to help them. That was why he had killed the Egyptian taskmaster. He should have said, "Great! When do we start?"

But that wasn't the reaction God got.

Why? Because the next thing God said to Moses put fear in his heart. You see, God then went on to tell Moses that the plan was for him to go back to Egypt. He was supposed to go before the Pharaoh.

That scared Moses. It had been a long time since Moses had fled Egypt. The old Pharaoh was dead. But still, Moses was sure the new Pharaoh would remember that he had killed an Egyptian. He feared he would have him put to death. And it had been a long time since he had been in the palace. For many years he had been a simple shepherd. The thought of going to the Pharaoh and demanding that he release the slaves was frightening.

Moses looked at himself and thought. "I can't do this. I'm just a simple shepherd. God must have the wrong man." Moses remembered Pharaoh's power, but he forgot that God is more powerful than anyone or anything.

In Exodus 3:11 Moses asked God, *Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?*

MOSES COULDN'T, GOD COULD

God reminded Moses that it was God Himself who would be doing the job, not Moses.

Moses was right. He couldn't do the job. But he forgot one very important thing. God could do the job. You see, God was not picking Moses to do the job because Moses was such a great leader or so brave or so smart. God knew that Moses was fearful. God knew that Moses was just a mere human. But God wasn't worried about all of that. God knew that it would really be Him, not Moses doing the job

Exodus 3:12 says, *Certainly I will be with thee.*

God told Moses, "I will be with you. You won't be doing the job, I will!"

But Moses had some more excuses. He said, “The people of Israel won’t believe you sent me. The last time we talked, things didn’t go so well. What makes you think they will accept me now? Who should I say sent me? What’s your name?”

So God told Moses His name. God said, “I AM. Tell the people that I AM has sent you.”

Exodus 3:14 says, *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

Here is what God’s name means: It means, “I AM all you need. When you go to Egypt and you need courage to face Pharaoh, I AM your courage. When you need wisdom to know what to say, I AM your wisdom. When you need strength, I AM your strength. Whatever you need, I AM your need.”

Then God continued. He told Moses to gather the elders of each tribe of Israel. He told Moses to tell them that he was chosen by God to deliver them out of slavery. He assured Moses that they would believe him. God also told Moses that the Pharaoh wouldn’t let the Hebrews go without a fight, but God assured Moses that he would do many wonders and the people would be released.

MOSES BALKS AGAIN

You would think that Moses would have quit arguing with God. But Moses was not convinced. This time Moses told God that he couldn’t possibly be the spokesperson for the Children of Israel because he was not a good speaker. He said he was slow of speech. He said he had a heavy tongue.

Exodus 4:10 says, *And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.*

God said, “Moses, who made you? Who made your mouth? Isn’t it me? Don’t you think I know what I am doing? Just trust me. I will be with you. I will show you what to say. It will be me doing the job through you.”

Exodus 4:11 tells us, *And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.*

Moses should have said, “You’re right God. With you by my side, I can’t fail. I’ll do it!”

But did he? No. That’s not what he said. In fact, Moses looked straight into that burning bush and told the Lord that he should send someone else. Moses was afraid to follow God.

GOD’S ANGER

Moses continued to argue. This angered the Lord. It must also have made the Lord feel sad that His servant was not willing to trust or obey Him.

Exodus 4:14a says, *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well.*

So the Lord said, “OK, Moses, if you can’t trust me to do what I say I will do, then I will go to plan B. I had a perfect plan and you would not trust or obey me. You don’t have the courage to follow me so I will allow your brother to speak for you.”

So the Lord appointed Aaron to speak instead of Moses.

MOSES FEARS TO FOLLOW

What was Moses’ problem? Why was he so resistant to God’s plan?

Moses was afraid. He lacked the courage to follow God.

Do you know that if Moses had trusted God, then he would have found that he was able to overcome his fears. Had he been willing to follow God, then God would have helped him overcome his fears. God would have given him courage.

Moses settled for second best. He was not willing to trust God, so he did not receive the wonderful blessing of seeing what God could do in his life.

FACE YOUR FEARS

We all have fears. We are often afraid to follow God when He calls to us. What is your fear? It may not be what Moses feared. But when God calls you to do a job in life, will you be afraid to follow?

What if God asked you to be a missionary in the jungles of South America and you have a fear of snakes and such things. Would you say “No” to God? Or would say, “God, if you want me to be a missionary in South America, then I trust you to give me the courage to face my fears. With Your help, I know I can overcome my fears.”

What if God asked you to be a preacher or evangelist and you, like Moses, have a fear of public speaking? Would you say, “God, you have made a mistake. Choose someone else for the job.” Or would you say, “God, with Your help, I know You can help me to face my fears.”

Maybe you are afraid to ask Jesus to come into your life. You have been coming to church for awhile, maybe all your life, and you know that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. But you are afraid that if you ask Jesus to come into your life, then He will ask you to do something you don’t want to do. Or maybe you are just afraid to come forward and do it.

Today you can face your fears. Today you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and be your Savior.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week's challenge is for you to follow God every day.

Don't fight Him. Instead, pray and tell God that you are willing to let Him have complete control. Tell Him you are willing to follow wherever He leads. Since God only wants what is best for you, it is safe and wise to follow Him. Every morning when you open your eyes, tell God that today you want to follow where and how He leads you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to follow Him each day.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Moses see that was so unusual?
2. What did Moses say to the Lord when He first called to Moses?
3. What did the Lord tell Moses to do as he approached the bush?
4. What did the Lord say was the reason He had come to talk to Moses?
5. What about God's plan made Moses so frightened?
6. What did God say His name was?
7. What did Moses tell God he couldn't do?
8. What was God's reply to Moses?
9. Who did God say He would have speak instead of Moses?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Fearing to Follow



If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26

I will follow God.

Find the words below. Look forward, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

N	T	P	Y	G	E	Q	Y	Z	J	G	Z	E	M	F
N	I	H	T	M	Z	O	Q	M	N	S	H	E	E	P
S	L	A	V	E	R	Y	S	I	O	Z	O	A	C	G
W	H	R	T	B	U	S	N	B	C	S	R	C	O	R
E	Y	A	Y	N	J	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	N	C
R	A	O	H	D	U	O	C	S	S	B	B	S	N	R
B	Q	H	Z	B	R	O	C	R	U	O	L	K	K	K
E	G	T	U	W	U	Z	M	S	C	C	P	E	Y	A
H	W	K	P	R	I	D	H	L	T	Y	X	G	A	O
U	D	B	A	V	L	V	A	P	D	E	S	E	R	T
L	F	G	Q	P	P	Z	F	D	Q	R	O	W	P	P
Z	E	R	Q	R	D	V	D	H	Z	C	G	K	X	I

BIBLE
BURNING
BUSH
COURAGE
DELIVER

DESERT
EGYPT
EXCUSES
FEAR

GOD
HEBREWS
HOREB
MOSES

MOUNTAIN
PHARAOH
PRAY
SHEEP
SLAVERY

LESSON 4

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
A FAMILY THAT FOLLOWS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 4:14-31, 15:20-21

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It's always easier to do something when you are surrounded by family members who are there to help. When God has a job for you to do, it would be much easier to do that job if you had a family who would help you, wouldn't it?

Today's story is about a family who followed and served God together.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

GLADYS ALYWARD: GATHERING PRECIOUS GEMS

Obtain Flash Card

Gladys went on about her life in China. At times she was at home, caring for the cleaning and running of the inn. At other times she would journey to the villages in the surrounding mountains to tell people about unbinding their feet from the cloth bondages and their hearts from the bondage of sin.

During the day the inn was a quiet place, inhabited only by Gladys and Yang the cook. At night the inn bustled with mules and the Coolies who drove the mule trains.

Now that Mrs. Lawson had died, the inn seemed like a lonely place sometimes. But Gladys knew that God would take care of things in His perfect time. Someday she wouldn't be so lonely, she would just have to keep following God.

One hot day Gladys headed to the home of the Mandarin to give him her report on her latest trip into the mountains. As she walked along she felt the sweat roll down her face. The sun beat down and there was little shade to cool things. It was so hot!

Ahead Gladys noticed a woman and child seated by the roadside. The thing that caught Gladys' attention at first was that the woman was a stranger to the village. She could tell this because the woman was dressed in a different manner from the women of the village. Then Gladys took a closer look at the child. She was deeply distressed at what she saw.

Gladys could not tell if the child was a boy or a girl. Whatever it was, it was a terrible mess. Covered with filth and dressed in rags, the child lay by the woman as limp as a rag from the heat and most likely from hunger also. The sun continued to beat down unmercifully on the almost lifeless child.

Gladys could not believe the woman was making no attempt to shield the child from the sun or get water or food for it. Gladys began to question the woman on why she was allowing the child to bake in the sun. But the woman shot back a surly answer telling Gladys to mind her own business.

But Gladys could not do that. She could tell the child would not live much longer in such a condition. So she pleaded with the woman to help the child.

“If you care so much,” the woman replied, “give me \$2.00 and the girl is yours.”

Gladys could not believe that the woman could be so cruel or that she was willing to sell the child. And for so little!

“How can you sell the child?” Gladys demanded. The woman said she had bought her and could sell her if she wanted. Then she lowered the price to \$1.50.

Gladys was so upset that she rushed on to see the Mandarin, fuming all the way. When she was shown in to speak with the Mandarin, she told him of the terrible woman and the pitiful little girl. The Mandarin was not upset. It seemed that buying and selling children was acceptable. And girls were of little value. He advised Gladys to turn her head the other way on the return trip if it bothered her to see the child.

Well, Gladys was not very good at turning her head. When she passed the two again she saw that the girl was in worse condition than before. She would not live much longer. Gladys knew she could not turn her head and walk away. She decided to try one last time to talk the woman into helping the child.

But the woman merely wanted money. Gladys told the her she did not have \$1.50.

“How much do you have?” she demanded. Gladys pulled ninepence from her pocket. It was only pennies. The woman snatched the coins, thrust the child at Gladys, and hurried away.

Gladys stared down at the girl. It took her a few seconds to realize that she had just bought a child. She looked down into the dirty, sad face of the girl. In the child’s eyes was a flicker of hope. Gladys knew she had done the right thing.

Gladys took the child to the inn. She fed her, bathed her, and gave her clean clothing. She decided to name the girl “Ninepence” since that is what she had paid for her. Slowly Ninepence began to laugh and enjoy life again. She felt secure knowing she had someone who loved her and would care for her.

One day Ninepence came into the inn holding the hand of a grimy, hungry-looking little boy. He reminded Gladys of Ninepence on the day she had found her.

Ninepence looked up eagerly at Gladys. She asked if she ate a little less if they could feed the little boy. He was an orphan with no one to care for him. Ninepence wanted to help the boy. So the boy was fed and joined the family. They named him “Less” since Ninepence had been willing to eat less for his sake.

Gladys realized that she was a mother now. She had a boy and a girl. But that was not to be the end of it. Almost daily a new child would arrive. They came with the children, they came from people in town who knew Gladys would care for unwanted children. They just kept showing up! Eventually Gladys established a mission for the children. Over the years she cared for as many as 200 children at one time. Gladys could not turn away a single child. She remembered how Jesus Christ had loved children. She knew if children were important to God, then they should be important to her also.

Now Gladys was no longer alone. With all those children she was never lonely. In God’s perfect time He had given her a whole new family to love and care for.

Here is a picture of Gladys and one of the children she cared for in her mission. (Show flashcard.)

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 4:14-31, 15:20-21

LESSON

THE KING DIES

The Pharaoh had died and a new Pharaoh took his place. The new Pharaoh was not a more kindly man than the last Pharaoh had been. In fact, he must have been even crueler to the Hebrew people than the last Pharaoh. This Pharaoh made the Israelites work even harder and the taskmasters were meaner than ever. The Hebrews were very discouraged. Instead of life getting better, it only got worse and worse.

GOING HOME

Finally, God had convinced Moses that he needed to leave his father-in-law's sheep and leave the land of Midian. So Moses and his family headed for Egypt. Every step of the way for Moses must have filled his heart with dread. He was doing what God had told him to do, he was following, but he wasn't totally convinced that he was the right man for the job.

After God had finished telling Moses that he was to go to the Pharaoh, God told him that even though the Pharaoh saw all the amazing signs that Moses had been given, the Pharaoh would still refuse to listen.

So Moses knew that no matter what he and Aaron said, they would still meet with failure. That must have been discouraging. But Moses should have realized that even though the Pharaoh refused to listen to him and refused to release the Hebrews, the outcome would still be good. The Hebrews would have the victory because God was still in control. But that didn't seem to cross Moses' mind as he headed back to Egypt.

Moses also didn't know what type of reception he would receive from his family that he had left behind in Egypt. Moses had an older brother named Aaron. God had told him that Aaron would be happy to see him, but Moses was not convinced that everything God said would be true. How untrusting of Moses! But we have to give Moses a little credit, he did pack up his family and head back for Egypt.

Exodus 4:20 tells us that Moses headed out for Egypt. *And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.*

Moses wondered how his family would greet him. Besides Aaron, Moses also had an older sister named Miriam. Do you remember what Miriam did for Moses many years before? Do you think she would be glad to see Moses after all those years apart? He wasn't so sure.

But Moses did not need to worry. God had told him that Aaron was coming to greet him. He had also told Moses that Aaron would be glad to see him.

Exodus 4:14b says, *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

Despite all of Moses' fears, Moses and Aaron had a joyful reunion. God had told Moses that Aaron would be glad to see him. And he was.

God spoke to Aaron and told him to go out to the wilderness to meet Moses. Aaron did what God told him to do. And he was happy to see his brother.

The two brothers must have embraced and looked each other over carefully to see how the other had changed. Maybe they had gray hair now and wrinkled faces. Then they spent time catching up on what had happened in the years they had been apart. Moses told Aaron all about how he had met Jethro and his wife. He introduced him to his two sons. He told Aaron about his years of learning to tend sheep in the desert.

Aaron told Moses news of his family and of what had happened since the old Pharaoh had died. He told of the great sorrow and oppression the Hebrews were suffering under the hands of the Egyptians.

MOSES' MISSION

Then Moses got down to business. He told Aaron all about how God had appeared to him in a burning bush. He told him that God had said he had heard the cries of the Hebrew people and He intended to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians.

Then Moses told Aaron that even though he was sure God had made a big mistake, God wanted him to go the Pharaoh and show him the signs and wonders and tell the Pharaoh that he was supposed to release the slaves and let them leave Egypt.

Then Moses must have looked down at his feet and shuffled them a bit as he tried to think of the best way to break the news to his brother. It may have sounded something like this.

“Umm. That's not all. You see, I was so sure that I couldn't do the job God asked me to do that I kind of argued with God. After awhile, God got upset at me and said that since I had put up such a fuss, He would send someone else with me who would act as the spokesman to Pharaoh. So, umm, it's you.”

Apparently Aaron did not put up a fuss like Moses had done. We don't read that Aaron said, “Are you kidding? What makes you think I could do a better job? Not me!”

Instead Aaron must have had the peace in his heart that if God had asked him to go with Moses as the spokesman, then God would give him the courage and ability to do the job.

In Exodus 4:15-17 tells us what God told Moses to say to Aaron.

And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

Then Moses and Aaron went together into Egypt. They rounded up all the elders who represented the twelve tribes of Israel. They stood before the elders and Aaron told them what God had told Moses. They showed them the signs of the rod and the leprosy and the water turning to blood.

Exodus 4:29-31 says, *And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed.*

The Hebrew people believed Moses. They were thrilled that God had heard their cry. They were thrilled God was going to help them. The first thing they did was worship God.

Exodus 4:31b says, *And when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.*

They were humbled and grateful that God loved and cared for them enough to help them.

A SAINTLY SISTER

The Bible doesn't tell us what happened when Moses and his sister, Miriam, were reunited, but I am positive she was also happy to see her brother. She had watched over him when he was a tiny baby. She had the courage to run up to the princess of Egypt and speak to her on behalf of her baby brother. I am sure she felt a special love for him.

If we jump forward in the book of Exodus to chapter fifteen we see one thing that Miriam did after the Children of Israel left Egypt. She led the women of Israel in singing praises to God.

Exodus 15:20-21 says, *And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.*

Miriam loved Moses and she loved God. She was a godly sister who followed God.

Moses was a fortunate man. He had a family that loved him. When they saw him after so many years, they were glad in their hearts. They greeted him warmly. They showed love toward him.

Moses was also fortunate because he had a family who loved and served God. His brother and sister were there for him when he needed help. He was afraid to go stand before Pharaoh, so his brother went with him and spoke for him. Moses had a big job ahead of him of leading the Hebrews out of Egypt and toward the Promised Land, but his sister helped in leading the women in praising God.

Moses' support from his family must have been a great source of comfort and joy to him. They were a spiritual encouragement to him. He knew that whatever trials and troubles he faced, they would be there to help him along. He was not alone.

YOUR FAMILY

How wonderful to have a family that loves God and worships Him! Does your family obey and worship God together? When there are problems in life, do you support each other? When one of you has a difficulty to overcome or face, do you face it with your family. Do you encourage and support each other? Do you make time for each other? Do you say kind words to each other? Do you say, "I love you," even to your brothers and sisters?

If you have a family that loves and follows God, you should be grateful to God. You should make sure you do everything you can to treat every member of your family with love and respect. You should watch the words you say to your family. Keep them sweet. Watch your attitudes. Look for ways to help your family and do it with a right spirit. That is what God had in mind when He put the first family together. He made Eve to help Adam. He meant for each member of the family to work together, to help each other, to love each other, and to follow God together.

Not everyone has a godly family. Maybe your family doesn't love God. Maybe they don't come to church or read their Bibles. Maybe they haven't been saved. You still need to love your family. If you are a Christian, then it is very important for you to show the love of God to your family. It could be through the testimony of how you live and act that they will come to know God.

You can be a real witness to your family. If you willingly obey your parents when they ask you to do something or not to do something, then they will see that you have a godly attitude. If you speak kindly to your brothers and sisters, then they will see the love of God in your life. If you are a peace maker and not a trouble maker, then they will see the peace of God in your life.

It is wonderful to be a part of a family. Here today we probably have many different types of families represented. Maybe you just have a Mom or a Dad who lives with you. You may have a step-family. You may have an unsaved family. Whatever family you have, you can know that for some reason, God has placed you into the family you have. God has a purpose for the family He gave you.

And no matter what type of family you have, God wants you to do your best to love them and to promote family unity.

FAMILY OF GOD

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to come into your life and forgive your sin. Did you know that if you haven't been saved, then you are not a part of the family of God? You cannot follow and serve God unless you are a part of His family.

But you can become a part of God's family. You can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. Would you like to do that today? We can show you how.

Maybe you have asked Jesus to be your Savior. You are a part of the family of God. How are you treating your family? Do you have a godly attitude? Do you show love to your family? Do you obey willingly? Do you promote family unity?

You should. Everyday you should be working hard to make a happy family.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to promote family unity so that you and your family can follow God together. If you have had a problem obeying without complaining and whining, then ask God to help you change your attitude. If you have trouble speaking to and treating your brothers and sisters with love and respect, today ask God to help you to show love instead of anger and jealousy. If you have been lazy and didn't want to help around the house, today ask God to help you to learn to be a helper.

Family unity takes work. This is what you need to do.

1. Pray and ask God to help you.
2. Put action to your prayers. Do your best to help your family.
3. If you fail, try again.

If you have a family who follows God, then you are very blessed. If your family doesn't follow God, then you can show them the way by acting and speaking in such a way that they will see Christ living in you!

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to love your family and do all you can to follow after family unity.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Moses leave behind in Midian?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Who went back to Egypt with Moses?
4. What was Aaron's reaction when he saw Moses?
5. What did Moses tell Aaron that God wanted them to do?
6. Who was the first group of people that Aaron and Moses met with?
7. What did Aaron and Moses tell the elders that God was going to do?
8. What reaction did the elders have? What did they do?
9. What did God bless Moses with to help him with his job?
10. Why should you love and support your family?

A Family That Follows God

If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26



I will follow God.

Can you unscramble these words that tells us of Moses' family.

SOMSE _____

ROPHAHA _____

ANRAO _____

RMIAIM _____

ORHTEJ _____

YLFIMA _____

Answers: Moses, Pharaoh, Aaron, Miriam, Jethro, Family

LESSON 5

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
SAFELY FOLLOWING

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 12, 13, 14, 15

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It isn't always safe to follow just anyone. You have to know a person very well to be certain that you can trust and follow them.

Some people follow people who are rich and famous. Some follow people who are talented in sports or music. Some follow people who they admire for their looks. But those things don't always mean you should follow someone. You need to be careful who you follow.

The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 6:9-11, *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

You shouldn't follow just anyone, but you can safely follow God!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

GLADYS ALYWARD: THESE PRISON WALLS

Obtain Flash Card

The last few weeks we have been hearing about missionary Gladys Alyward who followed when God called her to China. She was now at the inn where she daily cared for many orphaned children and shared the Gospel with the Coolies who nightly lodge at the inn.

One day as Gladys was working at the inn, a red-faced messenger came running into the courtyard. He was urgently demanding to speak to Gladys. It was hard for Gladys to understand what the man was saying. He was speaking so quickly. Whatever it was, Gladys could tell it was urgent. Slowly Gladys realized the man was saying that she was needed at the prison. Now!

The man shook with fear and Gladys had a terrible feeling come over her. Why would they want her at the prison? Had she done something wrong? But there was no time to argue. Gladys could tell by the important looking paper the man waved under her nose that she had no choice but to go to the prison. (Show flashcard.)

So Gladys followed the man. When they arrived at the prison, Gladys was met by a group of somber faced prison officials. They all surrounded Gladys and began to tell Gladys that there was a riot going on in the prison. They demanded that she do something about the riot.

“Why have you sent for me? Why do you expect me, a mere woman, to calm the wild riot that is raging within the prison walls?” Gladys asked.

“We are all too frightened to enter the prison, but you will be safe. You have always said that your God will protect you. If that is true, then you have nothing to worry about!” they explained to Gladys.

Gladys realized that the people of the village had listened to what she had been telling them about God. Now they were putting her to a real test. If her God was real and if He protected her like she said, then she had nothing to fear in the prison.

Gladys knew that just because God protects Christians it does not mean that they are untouchable. She knew that if she entered the prison she had a very good chance of being hurt or killed. But Gladys also knew that these people would not understand that. Now she had the opportunity to show the people that her God was real and powerful.

So Gladys took a deep breath, breathed a quick prayer, and told the men to open the gates so she could enter. She was determined to trust God to help. She was determined to follow Him, even into a prison riot. Gladys squared her shoulders and marched through the gates that slammed closed behind her.

The sight that met Gladys’ eyes when she entered the prison almost wiped out all her courage. Confusion and chaos were on every side. Men were running and fighting each other. She heard screaming and saw blood everywhere.

Then Gladys noticed that the crowd seemed to part in front of her. A man ran toward her. He ran, swinging a large cleaver, hitting anyone who got in his way. And he was headed straight toward her.

Then an amazing thing happened. The minute he set eyes on Gladys, he stopped dead in his tracks. He had probably never seen a white woman before. The sight of Gladys must have been a shock. Everyone else in the prison also saw her and there was complete silence. No one moved.

At that instant Gladys stepped forward. “Hand me the cleaver,” she demanded.

Gladys used her stern voice that she always used when scolding the children in her orphanage. To her utter amazement, the man reached out and handed the cleaver to her! Then Gladys again barked out another order. She told the men to sit on the ground. And they all sat! Gladys continued to call out orders until all was completely calm and quiet.

The guards crept hesitantly into the prison as they heard the noise die down. But Gladys was not done yet. She had been asked to stop the riot, now she wanted to know what had started the riot.

Gladys selected one of the men to act as spokesman for the men. He stood and explained that the prison provided no food. Only prisoners with family who brought food got to eat. Also there was nothing to do. The combination of hunger and boredom had caused great trouble.

As Gladys listened to the men's complaints, she realized that God loved them also. She promised to speak to the prison officials about finding occupations to fill the men's time. She also saw to it that men with no means of getting food were fed daily. And every week Gladys would go to the prison and hold church services to tell the men about Jesus Christ.

Gladys had gladly followed God and every day Gladys could see that God was with her. The people of the entire village saw that God had protected her. God does not always work in such miraculous ways. But sometimes He does allow His servants to do great things to show His great power. But that day Gladys learned that if she faithfully followed God's leading then God truly was with her in every situation. She could safely follow!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 12, 13, 14, 15

LESSON

GET OUT!

We know that God sent terrible plagues to Egypt, but until the first born from each family who did not have the blood on their door posts was killed, Pharaoh refused to let the people go free. Then Pharaoh insisted they leave.

God had told Moses that the Pharaoh would not only release the Hebrews, He would force them to leave. God had been right. Pharaoh was so angry and full of grief that he called to Moses to come to the palace. He must have shouted something like this when he saw Moses.

“Get out of here! Take your people. Take your animals. Take whatever you want! Just get out of my land and leave us alone. I don't ever want to see your face again!”

Exodus 6:1 says, *Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.*

The Israelites were prepared. They had their bags packed, their coats on, and they didn't even take their shoes off that night. At midnight when the death angel passed over the Egyptian section of the land, they began to hear the people wailing and crying as they discovered the first-born of their families were dead.

When Moses gave the command to move out, the Hebrews went out of their houses. They were met by the Egyptian people who gave the people gifts. They gave them jewelry, clothing, and other valuables that the Israelites could sell along the way to use to buy necessities.

Exodus 12:35-36 says, *And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.*

THE MIXED MULTITUDE

The Israelites were ready to go. Now we are not talking about a small group of people. The Bible says there were 600,000 men alone. That didn't include women and children. There must have been over a million people moving out. Add to that all the sheep and cattle that they owned also.

Exodus 12:37-38 says, *And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.*

THE EXCITEMENT OF ESCAPE

Finally the Israelites had left the Egyptians behind them. They were on their way. I imagine that their excitement of escaping slavery ran high. Here they were, more than one million strong, marching away from their old life of bondage and slavery, never to return. They must have been very emotionally charged.

It was a good thing, too, because the Bible says that God gave them a pillar of cloud to go before them during the day and a pillar of fire for night. The pillar of fire at night gave off plenty of light, which they needed because they kept walking all day and all night. God led the Israelites through the wilderness and they followed.

Finally they came to the Red Sea. Here the Lord told them to make camp. So the people set about setting up makeshift shelters or tents. They dug fire pits to boil water to wash clothes and to cook food. They were all pretty happy to finally have a few minutes to rest.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, the reality of what had happened set in for Pharaoh and his people. God hardened Pharaoh's heart once more. That stubborn old king began to think.

"Hey, what did I just do? I just let all our slaves go free. Now we don't have anyone to raise our crops or tend our animals or build our cities. What was I thinking?"

Just then a messenger ran into the palace to tell Pharaoh that he had gotten the report that the Israelites were camped by the Red Sea. The wheels in Pharaoh's mind started turning. He knew that if the Israelites were between Egypt and the Red Sea, then they were sitting ducks. They were stuck with no way to go forward or to retreat.

Pharaoh ordered that his army prepare to roll. He called out 600 chariots and drivers. He called out the finest horsemen in the army. He rallied every man he could find. Then they headed out to destroy the Israelites. They would show those slaves who was boss!

Exodus 14:5-7 says, *And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.*

BACK IN CAMP

The Israelites were probably relaxing and enjoying a meal that was cooked and did not have to be eaten as they walked. They may have been laughing and calling to one another's tents. All of a sudden one man jumped up. He shouted for everyone to look. The Israelites strained to see

what he was talking about. All they could see was a huge cloud of dust that seemed to be coming their way. It was very distant, so they weren't sure, but it looked like an army. How strange.

Then it dawned on them. Oh no! It was an army! It was Pharaoh's army coming to capture and destroy them. They jumped up to run, but they looked ahead and there was the Red Sea. It was too deep to swim across. There was no bridge. It was too wide to walk around in time to save themselves. They were trapped. What were they going to do? The Israelites panicked.

Exodus 14:10 says, *And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.*

The Israelites turned into an angry mob. They turned to Moses and screamed, "What are we going to do? Why did you bring us out here in the wilderness to die? We told you we wanted to stay in Egypt. Why did we follow you?"

The Children of Israel forgot all about the fact that they had cried for God to get them out of Egypt. They forgot about all of the miracles God had already done for them. They could only see what was before their eyes.

But Moses was not worried. God had already told him earlier that this would happen. So Moses raised his hands in the air to quiet the people. Then he spoke these wonderful words from Exodus 14:13-14.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

GOD AT WORK

Then God caused the pillar of cloud to go behind the Israelites. It settled over the approaching Egyptians. They thought it was night, so they made camp for the night. After all, there was no reason to hurry. They had the Israelites right where they wanted them. There was no way they could escape. Tomorrow would be plenty of time to finish the job. So the Egyptian army went to sleep.

Meanwhile, God told Moses to stretch out the rod over the sea. God performed an amazing miracle. The sea pulled back on each side and the waters stood up in a large wall. The floor of the sea dried up and made a path through the middle. God told the people to begin to walk to the other side. So a million Israelites and their animals began to walk across the dry sea bed. On either side they could see and touch great walls of water.

Exodus 14:21-22 says, *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. 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.

Just as the Israelites got to the other side, God lifted the pillar of cloud. It became light and the Egyptians woke up. They couldn't believe their eyes. There was a path through the sea and the slaves were all safely on the other side. They jumped into their chariots and onto their horses and away they went as fast as they could with the Pharaoh at the head. They entered into the Red Sea. As they rushed toward the middle, God caused the wheels to begin to fall off of the chariots. He caused the men to bump into each other and fall off their horses. About this time, the Egyptians became frightened. They realized that the God of the Israelites was fighting against them. So they turned to leave. But then, when all was in complete chaos, God made the walls of water to close back up. In rushed the water and not a single Egyptian escaped.

Exodus 14:28 says, *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.*

The Israelites stood on the far bank of the Red Sea and watched as every man in the Egyptian army drowned.

WORSHIP TO GOD

How did they react? The Bible says that they feared God and believed God and Moses.

Exodus 14:30-31 says, *Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*

Moses led the people in worship to God. Moses must have forgotten all about his fear of public speaking, because he got up in front of the million people who stood on the shore of the Red Sea and led them in singing praises to God.

The Bible says in Exodus 15:1-2 that they all sang to God.

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

SAFELY FOLLOWING

Even though things didn't look so good for the Israelites for a short while, they found out that they could safely follow God. God was leading them in the right way. The same is true for you. God wants to lead you on every path you take in life. He has a plan for you. He can safely lead you. Will you follow?

If you are a Christian, then you know you are on your way to Heaven, but do you let God lead you each day? Do you read your Bible to see what God wants you to do? Do you pray and ask God to lead you? Do you trust God to safely lead you? If not, you can start today!

Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart. God does not lead your life because He is not your Heavenly Father. The Bible says that we are all sinners and we can't take away our own sin. But Jesus died on the cross to take your sin away. If you ask Jesus to forgive you, He will!

Today we can have someone take a Bible and show you some verses to help you understand how you can become a follower of God.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to follow God as He works in your life. When you are tempted to panic at a problem that may come into your life, determine now that instead, you will trust God.

Even in life's hard times you can know that God is leading you. You can safely follow God every step of your life. Sometimes the things that seem like trouble to us are God's way of working in our lives.

So, trust God and follow close behind.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember that you can always safely follow God.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What guided the Israelites by day as they traveled?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What gave the Israelites light by night as they traveled?
4. When the Israelites first left Egypt, when did they travel?
5. Where did God lead the Israelites before they stopped to camp?
6. Why did the Egyptians decide to follow the Israelites?
7. What did the Israelites say and do when they saw the Egyptians coming?
8. Why did the Egyptians stop and make camp?
9. What did God do for the Israelites?
10. What happened to the Egyptians?

Safely Following



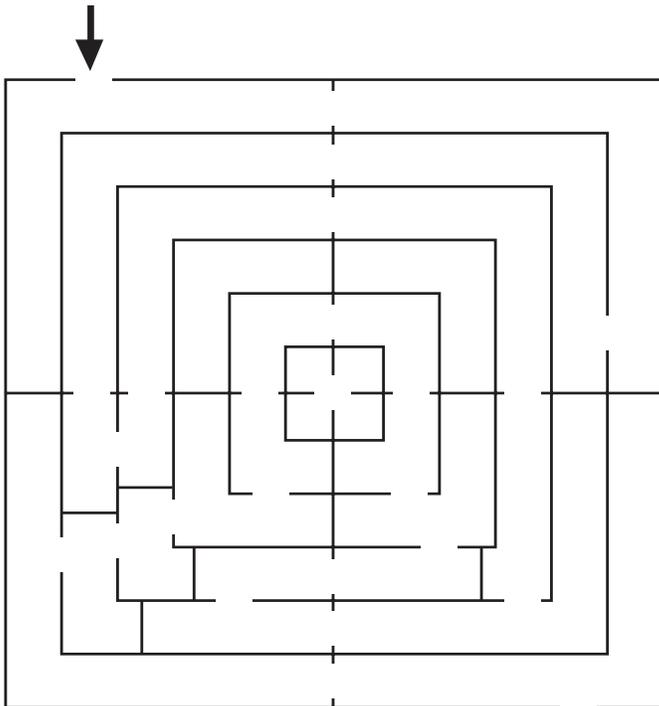
If any man serve me, let him follow me.
John 12:26

I will follow God.

Help the Hebrews find the way out of Egypt to the Promised land



Egypt



The Promised Land.

LESSON 6

A CHILD WHO FOLLOWS GOD
FOCUSED FOLLOWING

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 15, 16, 17

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will follow God.

MEMORY VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

What do you focus on in life? You should fix your eyes on God and follow Him as closely as possible. You will never get lost and never go the wrong way when you focus on following Him!

For quite a few weeks we have been talking about following God. Are you willing to follow?

Today's Life Lesson is: I will follow God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

WILLIAM CAREY: THE FATHER OF MISSIONS

Obtain Flash Card

A large world map hung on the wall over William Carey's rough and worn workbench. The bench was laden with the tools and leather necessary to make and repair shoes. As William cut, stitched, and hammered away on a pair of shoes, he would gaze at the different countries on the map. He would think of what life would be like in a foreign land, not because he wanted to explore, but because he truly was concerned for the souls of the millions of people in each country. (Show flashcard.)

William looked at the countries and thought of the lost souls each one represented. William began to pray for the people in those countries who had never heard the Gospel. He knew praying was something he could do even as he stood in his shop in England and repaired shoes.

William worked on shoes and prayed for souls day after day. One day as he was praying for the lost, he began to feel God's prompting to do more. He had a strong feeling that God wanted him to do more than just pray.

But what could he do? He was just a shoemaker. He wasn't a preacher. But William could not deny that God was speaking to his heart. Eventually the shoemaker followed God's urgings to his heart and became a Baptist minister.

Week after week, William preached to the people in his church about following God and going to tell the lost about Christ. He would share his great burden for the people who did not know Christ and would never know if someone did not go to tell them the Gospel. He pleaded with his people in hopes of persuading them to go to tell the unsaved about Jesus Christ.

Many of the people in Williams congregation jeered and ridiculed him. Why should they leave their homes, families, and jobs? Why should they care about people they had never seen or met?

William refused to be silent. He continued to present the need in hopes that someone would catch his vision. He prayed someone would follow God's call.

Once again, William pleaded with the Lord in prayer to send workers into the world. As William prayed, a strange thing happened. The Lord began to work in his own heart. William began to realize that it was no longer enough to tell others of the need to go spread the Gospel. God laid it on his own heart to put his prayers into action. God was calling him to go!

Soon William Carey surrendered to God's calling. He boarded a ship and sailed to India. There he began to spread the Gospel. It was a hard ministry. India was a heathen land and they had many false beliefs, but God gave him wisdom and strength to serve. God helped William to do the job He had called him to do.

Soon after William Carey went to minister, he was followed by other men and women who also felt the call of God to foreign missions. But it was William Carey who was the first to answer the call.

William Carey is known as the Father of Modern Missions. Through his life and ministry many were won to Christ and many Christians also felt called to missions. William followed when God called. Are you willing to follow if God were to call you?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Be sure to explain words like benefits to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

If any man serve me, let him follow me. John 12:26

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Exodus 15, 16, 17

LESSON

FROM WORSHIPPING TO WHINING

After the Israelites had a time of praise to God, Moses led them on into the wilderness. After they had traveled for three days, there was no water. The Bible says the people began to complain to Moses. They went from worshipping to whining. Already they had forgotten what God could do for them. Moses went to God and told Him what the problem was. The water they did have was bitter and undrinkable. It was just that simple. God gave them sweet, pure water.

Exodus 15:22-25a says, So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

God had every intention of providing water, but I think He was testing their faith. Would they panic again and think that God could not provide, or would they think back to all the miraculous things He had already done for them and keep following? Fortunately for them, God is merciful. He gave them water and shortly after that He led them to a place where they could camp that had 12 springs of water.

MORE COMPLAINING

After the people had rested a few days, it was time to move on. I imagine that everyone filled their water sacks and anything that would hold water. After all, they were in a desert and water was hard to come by. But within a few days, the water was gone and they found no new wells to refill their sacks and water their animals. They could have gone to Moses and asked kindly for God to provide for their needs, but that was not what they did. Again they whined and complained to Moses.

Exodus 16:2-3 says, And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Now the whining becomes more than just begging. The Israelites had begun to complain. They made rash claims. They said they would rather be back in Egypt where everything had been so wonderful. They acted like Moses had taken them out of Egypt against their will.

So now they Israelites confronted Moses. They were angry. They wanted Moses to fix the problem, NOW! Things weren't going the way they wanted them to go. They were not content to trust God to do what was right for them. They were discontent with what God had given to them.

They were not really complaining against Moses, they were actually complaining against God. Discontentment is a sin. Whining and complaining is a sin. When we become discontent with what God has given to us or done for us, we begin to complain. That is a sin against God!

In Exodus 16:8 Moses confronted the people. He told them, *For that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.*

GOD'S PLAN

God told Moses the plan for providing the food for the people. Then Moses told the people what God had told him would happen. Here was the plan: In the evening, God would send quails. That was meat for the people. In the morning, God would send manna.

Exodus 16:13-15 says, *And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

Sure enough, in the evening, the quails came and the people were able to capture them to eat. And when the people got up the next morning, there was the manna on the ground.

GOD'S RULES

Now God told Moses to tell the people that there were some very specific rules for gathering the manna. God said that early each morning, before the sun became hot and the dew had disappeared, the people were to collect only what manna they would need for that day. He said to collect about one omer per person. The people were to take only what they could eat. They were not to have any leftovers.

WHY OBEY?

So, what was the reason for God's rules for the Israelites? He wanted to see if they would obey Him. God knew that for the years that they wandered in the desert it would be important for them to learn that they needed to depend totally on Him.

Obedying God about the manna was a little thing, but God knew that in the days to come they would need to know how to obey Him in the big things. If they could not obey with the little things, they would not obey Him with the big things.

God has rules for you also. Why? For the same reason. God wants you to learn to obey. He wants you to learn to follow and obey now, when you are young and only facing the little things in life. When you are older and facing the big decisions in life, you will know how to obey God.

NO WATER

God had taken care of the Israelite's need for food. Every morning there would be manna on the ground. In the evening the Lord sent quail, which is a type of bird, for the people to eat. No matter where they went, God sent the manna in the morning and the quail in the evenings.

But again, as they traveled in the wilderness, they came across a common problem. There was no water where they camped. You would think that since the people were so used to seeing God provide for them, that when a new problem arose, they would look to God.

But that's not what happened. Instead, the first thing the people did was to start complaining. They complained so bitterly, that Moses was afraid they might actually attack him.

Exodus 17:3-4 tells us, *And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.*

MASSAH AND MERIBAH

Moses went to God and told Him that the people were very upset and likely to harm him. God told Moses to take the elders of Israel and the rod and to go to the rock on Mount Horeb. He told Moses to strike the rock and water would come out of it.

So that is what Moses did. Out of the rock poured enough water to satisfy over a million people.

Then Moses told the people what God had told him to name the place where the water came out of the rock. He named it Massah and Meribah. Those two names, combined together meant, "proof of contention." The names meant faultfinding. The people had done nothing but find fault with the way God did things for them.

You would think these people would be so grateful to God for all He had done for them. But they were not grateful. Not only did they not praise and thank the Lord, they actively complained and fussed against Him. Instead of having a focus that looked at giving to God because of all He had given to them, they only looked at what more they wanted God to give to them.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

The Israelites never looked for ways to do something for God. They were so worried about getting all the things they thought they deserved in life. They were quick to complain every time something went wrong. But they were very slow to thank God.

We are all human. We all have a sinful nature. We all must exasperate and frustrate God many times. But God gave us these examples from the life of the Israelites so that we can learn lessons. God wants us to see what they did right and then do it in our lives. He also wants us to see what they did wrong and learn to avoid the mistakes and sins that they committed.

We often have a hard time trusting. Instead we worry and fret. But we have a great God who cares for us. It is an insult to God to see His children always worrying instead of trusting. We also tend to ignore God's blessings. We gripe and whine about the things we don't have, when God has given us so much.

FOCUS ON ETERNAL THINGS

In Jesus day, the people had the same problems. They were so wrapped up in worrying about all the things they needed and wanted that they forgot about the things that were eternal. Those are the really important things. Those are the things God wants us to focus on.

Jesus took the time to sit down with his disciples and teach them what they should do when they had needs so they could keep their focus on the eternal. Here are some of the things Jesus said to His disciples.

1. Jesus told His disciples not to get too caught up in worrying about having lots of things. Everyday we see TV commercials that show us the latest toys and gadgets, and clothes. Those commercials convince us we need all of that stuff. But Jesus said that those things wear out so soon or are so easily stolen from you. They are not important.

In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.*

2. Jesus told His disciples not to worry. He said to trust God instead. We shouldn't waste time worrying about our daily needs. God knows what our needs are. God will provide for us.

Matthew 6:25-26 says, *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

3. Instead, Jesus told His followers to be more concerned with Heavenly things. He said to focus on the eternal. Jesus said that we should lay up treasures in Heaven. In Heaven, our treasures will never be stolen from us. They will never rust or wear out. They will remain with us forever.

Matthew 6:20 says, *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

THINGS THAT LAST FOR ETERNITY

What lasts for eternity?

1. The good you do for God will last for eternity. Good works won't get you into Heaven, but the good works we do after we are saved, if they are done for the glory of God, will be of lasting value.

2. A human soul will last for eternity. It is very important that we tell others about Jesus Christ and what He did for us. Every person will all spend eternity somewhere. If they have asked Jesus to forgive their sin, then they will spend eternity in Heaven. If they have not asked Jesus to forgive their sin, they will spend eternity in Hell.

Matthew 25:46 says, *And these (the unrighteous) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

So, where is your focus? What are you looking at and following after? Are you so focused on earthly things that you are not prepared for eternity?

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross by shedding His blood for your sins, then you are not going to go to Heaven. You are not ready for eternity.

You can be. Today we can show from the Bible how you can accept Jesus.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you are so busy focusing on all the things that this world offers, that you haven't spent much time focusing on the eternal. You are following earthly things, not eternal things.

You may say, "But I am saved! What more do I need?" You need to be laying up treasures in Heaven. Remember the two things I mentioned that are eternal? Those are just two of many things, but they are a good place to start. Focus on the eternal by doing good works that will bring honor and glory to God. And tell others about Jesus Christ.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to focus on following. Focus on the eternal. Take your eyes off the world and everything you think you need in order to be happy. Instead look for ways to lay up treasures in Heaven.

Focus on laying up good works by helping others, being kind to others, obeying God and your parents, and many other ways you can show God's love.

Focus on laying up souls for eternity by telling others about Jesus Christ. Tell them what He has done for you. Tell them He loves them. Invite them to church.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to keep your focus on following things that are of eternal value.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What caused the Israelites to complain?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What was Moses afraid of?
4. How did God tell Moses to get water?
5. What mountain was the rock on that gave water?
6. Why was God displeased with the Israelites?
7. What did God tell Moses to name the place?
8. What did the name mean?
9. Why was God patient with the Israelites?
10. What type of focus does God want us to have?

LESSON 7

A CHILD OF OBEDIENCE
OBEDIENCE FROM THE START

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-24

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will obey God.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever get upset when your parents tell you what to do or what not to do? It's not always easy to obey, is it?

Did you know that your parents have to obey also? They do. If they want to please God, then they must obey Him. One of the biggest jobs God gave to your parents was to raise you and the rest of your brothers and sisters. You may have never thought of it, but your parents have to answer to God for the things they say and do to prepare you to serve God.

So remember, you aren't the only one who needs to be obedient. Your parents need to obey God, just as you do.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will obey God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

MARY SLESSOR

Obtain Flash Card

Long ago in the 1800's there lived a lady by the name of Mary Slessor. When Mary was born, no one would ever have guessed that one day Mary would grow up to become one of the greatest missionaries to ever set foot in Africa. The things that happened early in Mary's life would seem to be so bad that surely she would never want to serve God. But Mary trusted God to be doing the right thing at the right time for her. Mary knew that God's timing was always perfect. Mary's greatest desire was to obey God.

Mary was born into a poor family in Scotland in the year 1848. She was the second oldest child and all together there were seven children in her family. But sadly, several of her brothers and sisters were in poor health and only four of the seven children in her family lived. Three of them died at young ages. It was a great sorrow for the family, but Mary's mother faithfully sent Mary to church and she taught Mary about God. She did not let her sorrow make her angry with God.

Mary's mother was a godly woman who did everything she could to teach her children to love and obey God and His Word. It was at her mother's knee that Mary learned about the Bible.

Mary's father was a shoemaker. At first he worked hard to make a living for his family, but he was not a Christian man and he began to drink liquor. Most days he would drink so much that he would become drunk. Soon he wasn't able to hold down a job. This took a terrible toll on the family. It was a great shame for the family and they had little money to spend on the things they needed to live. Before the time when Mary was just a young teen, her father was often so drunk that he couldn't find his way home.

As a little girl Mary heard her mother talk about the Bible, yet she had never accepted Jesus as her own personal Savior. There were days when Mary would get into mischief. A neighbor lady was quite concerned for Mary's soul. She knew that Mary needed to accept Jesus. One day the neighbor called for Mary to come visit in her home. A fire burned brightly in the fireplace and the lady pointed to it.

"Mary," the kind lady said. "Do ye see that fire? If you put your hand into that fire, it would burn ye! Don't ye know that if ye do not repent of your sin and believe in Jesus Christ, then ye will burn forever and ever?"

Mary went home deep in thought. She couldn't get the lady's words out of her mind. She could see that fire burning and she didn't want to burn in Hell for eternity! Mary knew that she needed to repent of her sin and ask Jesus to forgive her and come into her life. And so she did. Because that neighbor lady took the time to talk with her that day, Mary got saved.

What a happy day that was for Mary! She gave her life completely to God and God made a big change in Mary's heart. Instead of wanting to get into mischief, now she wanted to obey and please God. What an obedient child Mary became!

One day Mary's mother heard a missionary speak of a place in Africa where the people desperately needed to hear the Gospel. Mary's mother decided that she would encourage her oldest son, Robert, to go to Calabar, Africa, as a missionary. But sadly that would never happen because one day Robert became very ill and he died. Mary made up her mind that she would go as a missionary to Calabar in her brother's place. It wasn't normal for a girl to have such plans. Most girls who were brought up in poor homes got very little education. They did not usually become missionaries but Mary was sure God wanted her to go. Her mother agreed with Mary that if God had called her to be a missionary, then that was what she should do.

But things did not look good for Mary. Her father's drinking had caused him to lose his job. He wasn't able to care for his family any longer and Mary had to go to work to help make money to support the family. Mary was only eleven years old when she began working in a textile factory. From six a.m. in the morning until six p.m. in the evening, for six days a week, little Mary worked hard learning to run a loom to make cloth. At first Mary worked for six hours in the factory and then went to the factory school for six hours. But as she grew older she worked all day long.

For over fifteen long years Mary worked in the mills, but she did not give up her dream of going to Calabar as a missionary. Mary was very active in her local church. She loved the Lord and she learned everything she could about Him. (Show Flash Card.)

Mary never missed a single service at her church. She loved being in God's house. She loved learning about God. Mary said, "We would as soon have thought of going to the moon as of being absent from a service."

Mary faithfully read and studied her Bible. She still worked long hard hours but she always made time to spend with God. Reading God's Word was never a chore, but rather it was a joy for her.

As Mary grew older, she began to teach in the Sunday School and in the evening Bible classes. She had a real burden for the poor children in the neighborhood who often got into trouble and didn't know anything about Jesus. When she was a little girl she had pretended to teach her dolls about Jesus, now she was teaching real children to love the Lord!

Mary would go out onto the streets to find children to attend her classes. The children did not always want to go to services and learn about God and it was a dangerous thing for Mary to walk the streets as she invited children to come to her classes. One day a boy, who was about as big as Mary, tried to scare her, but Mary would not back down. She stood bravely and continued to invite the boy and his friends, even when people threw mud at her. She was determined to reach those children. As a result, many of those children did come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Mary endured some hard things in order to reach those children for Christ. Mary had a hard family life with a drunken father and she worked long hours in a factory from such a young age. Yet, God was in complete control of Mary's life. Mary was determined to be obedient to God regardless of how hard things were.

Although Mary had no way of knowing the things she would face in the future, God was preparing her, even as a child. In the Jungles of Africa she would face many, many hard things. She would need to learn courage. She would need to learn to trust in God. She would need to learn complete obedience to God. She would fight against the drunkenness and witchcraft that was destroying the lives of those native people to whom her life would be devoted. God knew that the things she faced early in life would be exactly what she needed for her future ministry.

Next week we will learn more about Mary's life.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-24

WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

What is obedience? For the next few weeks we will continue talking about obedience. One of the best examples of obedience we have in the Bible is the obedience of Jesus. While He was here on earth, He was willingly obedient to his earthly parents. He was also obedient to His Heavenly Father. Everything He did reflected obedience.

So let's start our search for obedience at a time just before Jesus was born.

GOD HEARS ISRAEL'S CRY

For 400 years God had not spoken to Israel. There were no messages from the prophets, no visiting Angels, no phone calls, no emails. It had been 400 years of complete silence. Many of the Jewish people had finally turned away from idol worship and were searching for the One True God of Israel again, but it seemed to many of them that He was nowhere to be found.

The people cried to God to deliver them from Roman domination. They wanted the freedom to worship God in the temple without fear of Rome defiling their holy place. They did not want to call the Roman Caesar their king.

So the people cried to God. But did God listen to their cries? They did not know. It had been so long since they had heard from God. Did He still care about them? Some feared that He didn't, but there was a faithful group who knew God would hear their cries.

And God did hear them. God was about to speak loudly and clearly. The question was: Would anyone listen?

The New Testament begins with four books that tell us about how God answered Israel's cries. These books are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are referred to as the Gospels. The word Gospel means Good News and these four books tell us some very good news! They tell us all about how God sent Jesus Christ to earth to live and die for the sins of all mankind. That is very, very good news!

PREPARING HEARTS

God was preparing to speak to the Jewish nation again. Were they ready to listen? God wanted to make sure at least some of them would listen to and obey Him. So God began to prepare the way for the message He would send. God began to prepare hearts to accept His message.

God sent an angel by the name of Gabriel to bring some very amazing news to a young lady named Mary. Mary was not married but she was promised to a man named Joseph.

Luke 1:26-27 says, *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,*

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The Angel greeted Mary by calling her highly favored and he said the Lord was with her. I am sure that Mary was a pure woman who loved God with all of her heart and had a deep desire to obey Him. That was why God selected her. But she was amazed and confused when the Angel Gabriel began to say such amazing things to her. She wondered why he was there talking to her. It wasn't an every day thing for Angels to talk to people. In fact, you will remember that it had been 400 years since God had communicated to His people in any way! How surprised Mary must have been!

Luke 1:28-29 says, *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.*

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Can you imagine what must have been going through Mary's mind? Mary was frightened. But the Angel was quick to calm her fears. He assured her that God was pleased with her. Then he told her the amazing news that she would give birth to the Messiah. The angel told Mary that the child would be named Jesus. The name Jesus means Joshua or Savior. God purposely chose this name because Jesus was going to come to earth to save His people.

Mary could not imagine how such a thing could happen. How could she have a child? She wasn't even married yet! The angel assured her that the child would be the Son of God and with God anything is possible. God was about to perform a miracle in her body.

Luke 1:30-37 says, *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.*

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

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:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

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.

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.

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Mary did not doubt the angel. She did not question him. Instead she humbly accepted what he said and willingly offered herself to be used of God.

Luke 1:38 says, *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

The Angel, Gabriel, visited Mary, but the Bible tells us that the Angel of the Lord was about to pay a visit to Joseph.

Now, Mary and Joseph were espoused. That means they were engaged to be married. But in Bible times when you were espoused to someone it meant more than it does today. Today people who are engaged can easily change their minds and back out of a marriage, but in Mary and Joseph's day, when you were engaged, it was almost as if you were married. The ceremony had not occurred yet. They were not technically married. But everyone knew they were promised to each other.

When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, it was a very big shock. Joseph knew the baby was not his. It made him very sad to think Mary did not love him enough to keep herself pure for him. But Joseph was a kind man. He could have publicly shamed her and refused to marry her, but he hated to do that. So Joseph began to think that he would send her away somewhere where no one knew her.

Joseph was very troubled but he went to sleep thinking about what he should do. As he slept the Angel of the Lord came to him in his dream. God knew that Joseph also needed to hear from Him just as Mary had. The Angel reassured Joseph that Mary was a pure woman who he could take as his wife. He told Joseph that Mary was the one chosen by God to give birth to the promised Messiah.

Matthew 1:18-23 says, *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Can you imagine what Joseph felt? It must have given him joy to know that Mary would be his wife. It must have also given him joy to know that he would have a part in helping God's plan to send the Messiah to earth.

Joseph did not doubt his dream. He did not question God. Instead he got up right away and did as the Angel of the Lord told him to do. He was quick to obey. He took Mary to be his wife.

Matthew 1:24a *Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.*

SILENCE IS BROKEN

Mary and Joseph both experienced something very amazing and wonderful. God sent them each a very personal message that would change their lives forever. God had broken His silence and the very first message He sent was a very wonderful one! God was sending the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to save His people.

God had a plan for Mary and Joseph. They did not question God. They did not doubt God. They did not refuse God. Instead they trusted that God's plan for them was best. They listened carefully when God spoke to them and in faith they obeyed.

Most of the other Jewish people of their day would not have believed, but Mary and Joseph believed. That was why God selected them. He knew they would listen, believe, and obey.

GOD SPEAKS TO YOU

Did you know that God has a very special plan for your life? He does. It was not by accident that you were born. God planned for you to live and He plans to do something with your

life. Will you be like Mary and Joseph? When God shows you His plan for your life, will you listen, believe, and obey?

If you have already asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life, then you are God's child. He has something He wants you to do for him in your life. You may not know what God has for you to do yet, but someday He will show you.

Let me ask you, when God shows you His plan for your life, will you be listening to Him and will you be willing to obey? In a minute I will talk a bit more about how you can be ready to listen to God in your life.

Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart. You have never given control of your life to God. God loves you very much and He has a plan for you too. The very first part of that plan is for you to ask God to forgive your sin. We can have someone show you from the Bible how you can become God's child. Would you like to do that today? You can.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to actively listen to and obey God. How do you do that? Here's how.

1. Read your Bible. Listen to God speak to you.

God uses the Bible to speak to you. He sometimes speaks to you in other ways too. He may speak to you through Bible lessons you hear here at church. He may speak through the Holy Spirit in your heart. But most often God speaks through His Word. That is why it is so important to read the Bible often!

2. Think about what you read.

Pick a verse or two to read. But don't just read the verse and then put your Bible away. Instead, reread the verse. Think about what God is saying in the verse. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to understand what you are reading.

3. Now, obey what God is telling you in His Word.

It is one thing to listen to God. It is another to obey God. Be like Mary and Joseph who listened when God spoke to them. Then they both obeyed. God wants you to do the same. Read the Bible and think about it. Then obey it.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to obey Him when He speaks to you.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. How long had it been since God had spoken to Israel?
2. Who was oppressing the Jews?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What does the word Gospel mean?
5. Who came to visit Mary?
6. What news did the angel Gabriel have for Mary?
7. Who came to visit Joseph?
8. What does the name Jesus mean?
9. What other Bible name means the same thing as Jesus?
10. How did Mary and Joseph react when they heard what the angels told them?

Obedient from the Start



The LORD our God will we serve,
and his voice will we obey.
Joshua 24:24b

I will obey God.

START HERE → **I** R W V I S L B L C T A U Z N W
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Start with the letter I. Write every other letter, in order, on the blanks in the box. Find the secret message.

LESSON 8

A CHILD OF OBEDIENCE

ACCEPT AND OBEY

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 2:8-38

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will obey God.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

For the next few weeks we will be talking about being a child of obedience. Sometimes we don't like to obey. We want to do things our own way. We want to be our own boss. But God knows what is best for you. He placed you in the home that is best for you. He plans the things that will happen in your life.

There is only one way to be obedient. That way is to obey with a willing heart. Do you obey with a willing heart?

Today's Life Lesson is: I will obey God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

MARY SLESSOR

Obtain Flash Card

Last week we started the story of Mary Slessor. Mary was born in Scotland in 1848. Even though she had a godly mother, her father was a drunk and this made Mary's life very difficult. Mary faced many sad and hard times as she lived with poverty and the death of three of her brothers and sisters.

When Mary was only eleven years old she had to go to work in a factory to help her struggling family with money. She worked long hours and must have been very tired at the end of each day, yet Mary did not become angry and bitter. Instead she loved God very much. She willingly obeyed His command to obey her parents.

Mary spent long hours at work, yet she still found time to read God's Word. She loved to study the Bible. She spent as much time as she could learning more about God.

Not only did Mary love God and His Word, she also wanted to reach out to those around her. She looked around and saw that there were so many children in the town where she lived who desperately needed to hear about the love of God. Her heart was burdened to tell them about Jesus. Mary would go out into the streets where the rough children lived and invite them to her church classes. She loved to teach them about Jesus.

One day some of the rough young men in the neighborhood challenged Mary as she stood on the street and began to tell others about Jesus. They didn't want anything to do with God. They thought they could run her off but they didn't know Mary. One boy took a heavy cord and began to swing it at Mary. He thought she would run away in fear, but Mary stood there bravely. As the boy swung the cord closer and closer to her face, she did not flinch but stood very still. Finally the boy gave up. He turned to his friends and said, "She's game, boys." That meant that Mary was very brave. Those boys never bothered Mary again. In fact, they admired Mary for her courage.

One day when Mary was holding a Sunday class for children, a strange thing happened. A boy stood outside the door with a whip. He was cracking his whip, not to scare children away, but instead he was forcing other children to go into the class to hear about Jesus. When Mary went out to ask him if he would come in also, the boy refused.

"Why do you urge others to attend my class, but you won't come?" Mary asked.

"If I went to your class, I would feel this whip on my own back," the boy replied.

"I will take the whip in your place," Mary replied.

The boy was shocked. "You would bear a whipping for me?" he asked.

"Yes! Gladly, and more!" Mary replied.

The boy was so moved that he threw down the whip and went into Mary's class. That very night the boy accepted Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior.

Mary cared deeply about the children in her own neighborhood, but she was also very mission-minded. She had a strong desire to go tell others in foreign lands about the Lord. In particular, Mary had a burden for Calabar, Africa.

Mary and her mother had heard a missionary speak of the needs of the savage people in Calabar who had never been reached with the Gospel. Mary's mother prayed fervently that her oldest son, Robert, would go there as a missionary, but Robert became very ill and died. Mary's heart was burdened to take his place. She felt God wanted her to go to Calabar.

In 1874 the great missionary to Africa, David Livingston, died. The news went out around the world and many Christians were so touched with his life-long mission of reaching others with the Gospel that they also gave their lives to missions as a result. The news of David Livingston's death caused Mary to determine even more strongly to go soon. She began to save her money.

The day finally came when Mary was accepted to go train to be a missionary at a school in Edinburgh, Scotland. Mary eagerly left her home town and went to learn all she could about serving God and about God's Word. She would excitedly tell others that God had called her to Calabar, Africa. (Show Flash Card.)

Not everyone was so excited for Mary. There were many who tried to talk her out of going to such a wild and savage place. They warned her that she was going to “the white man’s grave.” Calabar was an especially dangerous land. The people there were fierce and cruel. They most often killed anyone who would dare to come near them. They practiced witchcraft.

A small mission station had been founded on the coast and it had found some success in a small area, but there was still a large jungle area that had not been reached because any missionary who dared to venture in to visit those savage tribes were murdered.

But Mary was not deterred. She would not change her mind. Her heart was set on Calabar because God had put it in her heart to go. She considered it a great honor to serve God there. If she had to give her life to serve God in that land, then she would do so willingly!

Mary was thrilled when she got word that she had been accepted as a teacher at the mission station in Calabar. She was 28 years old and much of her life had been spent laboring in a factory, but she had also been working faithfully for Jesus. Now her dream of going to Africa was about to come true. How excited she was!

On August 5, 1876, Mary set sail on a steam ship called the “Ethiopia.” It was not a comfortable passenger ship. Instead she was surrounded on the ship by cargo, but she was thrilled to be on her way!

Many of the casks that stood on the deck of the ship were filled with alcohol. Mary’s father had been a drunkard and there were many people in the land of Calabar who were also enslaved by alcohol. She determined to take a firm stand, with the Lord’s help, against that terrible substance which had destroyed the lives of so many, including her own father.

There Mary stood and exclaimed, “This ship is filled with many casks of cargo and just one missionary!”

Oh, what a missionary Mary would be for the Lord! She did not want to spend her life pleasing herself. No. She loved the Lord so much that she was determined to live her life pleasing and obeying Him!

Next week, we will learn more about the wild land of Calabar.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Joshua 24:24b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 2:8-38

LESSON

BE OBEDIENT

This week we will continue talking about obedience. Jesus' earthly parents were obedient to God. That's why God selected them to care for Jesus while He was on this earth. God knew He could trust them to do what He wanted them to do.

So let's continue our search for obedience by learning about Jesus' earthly story.

NOT A KING

When our story opens today, we find Mary and Joseph heading to Bethlehem. The foreign leader, Caesar, had demanded that all the people return to the land of their ancestors to be counted in a census. Both Mary and Joseph were direct descendants of King David. Bethlehem was the city of David. That was where they were headed. Mary and Joseph obeyed the laws of the land where they lived.

It was not a good time for Mary to be traveling. Her baby would soon be born. I'm sure she would have preferred to remain in the town of Nazareth where they lived, but they had no choice. They were forced to travel over 100 miles to the tiny city of Bethlehem to satisfy a Roman king. But this was all a part of God's plan.

God sent the Messiah to earth as a tiny baby. And this baby was no normal baby. This baby was the Son of God!

Bethlehem was full of travelers when Mary and Joseph arrived and there was no room for them to have a comfortable bed. There was no warm food served to them. So they bedded down for the night in a stable with the horses and camels and donkeys that crowded the stables. They made a bed of straw and when Jesus was born Mary wrapped Him in a clean blanket and laid Him to sleep in a feeding trough.

Jesus was definitely not a king who was born of royal parents. He was not a king who was laid in a golden cradle to sleep. But regardless, He indeed was the King, the Son of the Great God of Heaven!

When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they filled the sky and loudly announced Jesus' birth. They proclaimed that the Christ, the Messiah, was born that day in the city of David. They told the shepherds that this child, this Messiah, would bring great joy to all people. The Messiah was sent to the Jewish people, but He was also sent to the entire world, which includes you and me! Oh, how obediently the King of Heaven came to earth!

Luke 2:8-11 says, *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He was not born into an earthly kingdom nor was He welcomed as a king.

Who would suspect that a King would be born to a poor couple? Who would suspect that a King would be found laying in a manger? Who would suspect that God was about to speak through a baby's cry?

Only those who had the faith to listen to God and to believe His messengers understood that the baby before them was a true King. There were a few who believed God and welcomed the new King. The shepherds and the Wisemen welcomed Him as King, but no one else did.

This new King, this Messiah, was Jesus Christ. The word Christ means Messiah and Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, who was sent to earth by God to save all people!

WHAT GOD TOLD ISRAEL

God intended that the Messiah would be a king. But God had an entirely different king in mind for the Jewish people than the one they expected.

The Jewish people believed their Messiah would come to save them, but they could not accept the fact that He would also come to save the whole world. They believed their Messiah would deliver them from their enemies, but they did not realize that their greatest enemy was a spiritual one, not an earthly one. Jesus Christ was not at all what they had in mind. But God knew what was best for them. God knew what He was doing!

Numbers 24:17a says, *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.*

Mary and Joseph lived many miles to the north in Nazareth. The Messiah was not supposed to be born in Nazareth. The Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. If Mary and Joseph had not obeyed the Caesar's decree to go to Bethlehem, Jesus would have been born in Nazareth. But they obediently journeyed to Bethlehem so Jesus would be born where the Old Testament prophets had predicted. God worked it out that Jesus would be born in the City of David so that all would know His connection to King David.

Jeremiah 23:5 says, *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

Micah 5:2 says, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

WHAT ISRAEL EXPECTED

The people of Israel longed for someone to rescue them from their enemies. God told them in the Old Testament that there would be a leader, a king, who would come to deliver His people. The Jewish people in Mary and Joseph's day thought it was the perfect time for the Messiah to come and deliver them from the Romans.

The Jews hated being ruled over by heathen kings. They did not want the Romans in their land. The Promised Land should have been theirs. For many years in the past the land had been theirs. There had been kings who ruled over them. But the Jews and their kings had disobeyed God and God had allowed them to be forced out of their land. Disobedience can have terrible consequences.

They did finally return to rebuild their temple, but there was no peace for them. They were ruled by foreign countries and foreign rulers who did not worship as they did. They hated that!

The Jewish people had a definite idea of what their Messiah would be like. He would be their king. He would be a Savior who would rescue them from those who oppressed them.

The Jewish people did not expect the Messiah to be anything like Jesus Christ. Their desired Messiah would be a king who would come to deliver them from their present captors. They wanted a king who would put down the Romans and free them. They wanted a king to deliver them from their earthly bondage.

The true Messiah turned out to be very different from what the Jews expected. You see, the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, came to deliver His people from the bondage of sin and disobedience. He came to set His people free from Satan's power. He would one day rule from an eternal throne in Heaven as the King of all the Universe.

But that was not what the Jews expected from their Messiah. They were very short-sighted. They were only looking at their present problems. They were not looking at things from an eternal perspective. A tiny baby was not what they expected.

SOME REJECTED

Many people did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the King. At Jesus birth, King Herod rejected Him. He told the Wisemen he wanted to go worship the young king, but he was lying. He really wanted to kill Jesus. He rejected Jesus.

Later, when Jesus had grown, there were many others who could have accepted Him as their Messiah, but instead they rejected Him. The religious leaders of the day rejected Him. The political leaders rejected Him.

SOME ACCEPTED

Fortunately, there are always those who have the faith to believe God. There are always a few who will accept Jesus as their Messiah.

When Jesus was eight days old He was taken to the temple to be given to God. His parents obediently named Him Jesus, as they had been instructed by the Angel.

Luke 2:21-22 says, *And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord.

While Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus were in the temple, a man approached them. His name was Simeon. He was a man of God and he had been waiting for many, many years for this day to come. The Lord had promised him that before he died he would see the Messiah, the Christ. The minute he saw Jesus he knew that God's promise had been fulfilled. He recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

Luke 2:25-33 says, *And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

While Mary and Joseph were thinking over the things Simeon had said, an older lady approached them. Her name was Anna. She had faithfully served God in the temple since she was young. She also eagerly awaited the coming of the Messiah and the minute she saw Jesus, she knew her wait was over. She praised God and told everyone she met that she had seen the Messiah!

Luke 2: 36-38 says, *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;*

And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

OBEDIENCE

God allowed Mary and Joseph to raise Jesus here on earth because God knew that they were both obedient servants of His. He knew that they would do what God wanted them to do.

How about you? Are you an obedient person? If God tells you to do something, will you obey? If God tells you not to do something, will you obey?

God blessed Mary and Joseph's obedience. He will bless you too, if you are obedient to Him.

IS JESUS YOUR MESSIAH?

Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is the King. One day He will rule for all eternity. Does He rule in your heart?

God sent Him to earth to save the whole world. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary to take on Himself the sins of the World. No longer would a lamb need to be killed to cover the sins of the people. Jesus Christ was the perfect Lamb of God who died to take away the sins of the World.

Let me ask you a very important question. Is Jesus Christ your Messiah? He came to save you from your sin, but you must ask Him to do that.

You see, even today some people reject Jesus as their Messiah. They don't believe He can save them from their greatest enemy, who is Satan. They refuse to believe in Him.

What about you? Do you accept that Jesus is the Messiah sent from God to save the World from it's sins? Have you accepted the fact that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself from your sins? Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and save you? Today you can do that. We can take a Bible and show you how. Then Jesus will be your Messiah too. He will rule in your heart.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to make Jesus the Christ in your life. Let Him rule as King in your heart. Be obedient to Him.

How can you obey Jesus?

1. First you must accept Him into your life. You must be His child. Have you been saved from your sin?

2. Spend time with Him. Talk to Him in prayer. Let Him talk to you through His Word, the Bible.

3. Love the Lord. Think of all that Jesus Christ has done for you. He died for you. He guides you daily. He intercedes for you in Heaven. And He will take you to Heaven someday. Oh, how much He loves you! He deserves all of your love.

3. Obey Jesus. If you don't obey Jesus Christ, then He really isn't the King of your heart.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be an obedient servant of God just like Mary and Joseph.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What city did Mary and Joseph live in?
2. Why did they need to go to Bethlehem?
3. What is another word for Christ?
4. What did the Jewish people want their Messiah to do?
5. Who was ruling in Israel when Jesus was born?
6. What kind of kingdom would Jesus rule over?
7. What kind of bondage did Jesus come to free His people from?
8. Name some who did accept Jesus as the King at His birth.
9. Recite today's memory verse.
10. What had God promised to Simeon?

Accept and Obey



The LORD our God will we serve,
and his voice will we obey.

Joshua 24:24b

I will obey God.

M	S	C	E	G	X	H	C	A	E	S	A	R	T	F
E	I	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	W	M	A	R	Y
H	M	R	E	X	C	I	L	D	M	I	X	N	A	J
E	E	I	U	P	T	S	C	H	L	Y	M	N	V	E
L	O	S	T	N	H	S	P	U	A	B	I	A	E	S
H	N	T	A	E	E	E	O	S	Y	M	P	I	L	U
T	C	R	R	Y	S	M	R	M	O	Y	U	D	D	S
E	U	O	O	O	T	L	E	D	R	Z	F	W	V	F
B	D	L	J	B	G	W	G	S	S	T	A	B	L	E
Y	J	Y	M	K	P	N	Y	T	I	G	U	B	G	W
K	P	D	L	N	I	Q	I	O	P	W	F	T	O	J
E	D	A	Q	K	A	R	I	K	Q	Q	W	H	C	X

MARY
JOSEPH
JESUS
CHRIST
MESSIAH

BETHLEHEM
CAESAR
TRAVEL
STABLE
ANIMALS

ROYAL
KING
SHEPHERDS
WISE MEN
BORN

KINGDOM
NAZARETH
HEROD
SIMEON
ANNA

LESSON 9

A CHILD OF OBEDIENCE
AN OBEDIENT CHILD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 2:41-52

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will obey God.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

David grumbled as he pushed the lawn mower. His dad had told him before school that as soon as he got home he needed to go out and mow the lawn. That hadn't sounded like much fun, but David reluctantly agreed and headed for school.

"David, let's play ball after school," his best friend said.

"I can't," David grumbled. "I have to mow the lawn."

"Do it when you get home after we play."

But David knew that would be wrong. His father had told him to go straight home and mow the lawn. He knew that a stop at the park would not be approved. So David went home, but his heart sure wasn't into mowing the lawn.

Do you know what? David had a choice. He could either mow the lawn and mumble and grumble the entire time, or he could decide to have a cheerful attitude about it. He could have whistled as he mowed and happily done as his father had asked. He could have been glad that he could do something that pleased his father.

If you are a Christian, God is your Heavenly Father. You need to obey Him. I know He would love it if you would obey Him with a cheerful attitude!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will obey God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

MARY SLESSOR

Obtain Flash Card

Mary Slessor was a poor girl who did not let a difficult life stop her from obeying the Lord and determining in her heart to serve Him. Mary had determined as a young girl to do as her Heavenly Father wanted her to do. And she was certain that God wanted her to go to Calabar, Africa to tell those savage people of God's love. (Show Flash Card.)

In 1874, when the great missionary to Africa, David Livingston, died, a fire was set in Mary's heart. She was determined even more strongly to go.

Mary went to Edinburgh, Scotland, to train at the Foreign Mission Board. There she worked hard and served faithfully as she prepared to go to Calabar. She was thrilled when she got word that she had been accepted as a teacher at the mission station in Calabar. Finally she would be able to tell those people about Jesus.

On August 5, 1876, at the age of 28, Mary set sail on a steam ship called the "Ethiopia." It was not a comfortable passenger ship and she stood surrounded by cargo, but she was thrilled to be on her way!

On September 11, 1876, her ship docked in West Africa.

Mary looked around at the strange new land. How beautiful it was! The jungle was like nothing else she had ever seen. The sun beat down fiercely every day. All around were heavy green trees that seemed full of brilliantly colored birds. She could see them fly about and hear their exotic calls to each other. The flowers were abundant and beautiful, not at all like the small, sweet flowers that bloomed in Scotland.

From the ship Mary could see the eyes and long snouts of the crocodiles as they peered at her from the shore. The rivers that branched off from the sea looked muddy and dangerous.

Mary was so inspired by the beauty of Africa that she wrote a poem about it. Here is part of it.

The shimmering dancing wavelets,
And the stately, solemn palms,
The wild, weird chant of the boatman
And the natives' evening psalms,
The noise of myriad insects
And the firefly's soft, bright sheen,
The bush with its thousand terrors
And its never fading green.

For all the beauty of Calabar's landscapes, there was also much that was ugly. The land was filled with terrible diseases that killed many who dared to visit. There were wild beasts such as elephants and lions that everyone feared and avoided. The people themselves were fierce and savage. They did not like strangers and often killed anyone who dared to venture among them. The Mission Station was safe, but few wandered beyond its boundaries to the outer villages for fear of their lives.

The people of Calabar were immoral, cruel, and lawless. They captured and sold their own people as slaves. Their lives were controlled by alcohol and superstition. Any money they got for selling slaves went to buy liquor. They worshipped idols and were involved in witchcraft. They had no idea that there was such a thing as a God of love.

At the Mission Station, the missionaries had established a school, an orphanage, a chapel, and a hospital. People heard about the medical help and other services that were offered there and came. They would listen to the story of Jesus as they had their needs met.

For three years Mary worked faithfully with the missionaries who had established the Mission Station on the coast. She learned the language of the people so she could talk with them. She taught the children in school. She held church services for the children to teach them about Jesus. Mary even became good friends with a local chief named Chief Eyo.

But Mary could not get the desire to travel deep into the jungle out of her heart. She longed to reach those people who had never been reached. She knew that her Heavenly Father wanted her to do just that. She prayed that someday she could obey God's call and venture deep into the jungle to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to those who have never heard of God's love.

Next week, things get really exciting for Mary!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Joshua 24:24b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 2:41-52

LESSON

JESUS' CHILDHOOD

The Bible doesn't tell us too much about Jesus' childhood. But it does say a few things. We know that Jesus did not spend his entire childhood in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph moved into a house after Jesus' birth and it was there that the Wisemen came to worship Him and present Him with gifts.

King Herod was jealous and worried about the fact that the Scriptures said a new King was to be born in Bethlehem. When the Wisemen showed up at his palace to ask about the new King, Herod decided to use these men to find Jesus and destroy Him. He told the Wisemen that he too wanted to go worship the new King. He instructed them to return and report on where the child was staying. But the Wisemen were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Instead they returned to their homes by another route.

When King Herod realized that the Wisemen would not return, he decided to get rid of the child another way. He ordered that all the boy babies, ages two and under, be killed. What a terrible thing that was, and Jesus would have been killed, but an Angel warned Joseph in a dream to take his wife and son and flee to Egypt where they would be safe. Not long afterward King Herod died. Then the angel told Joseph it was safe to return. Mary and Joseph went to the region of Galilee and made their home in the town of Nazareth.

We know that Joseph was a carpenter and I suppose from an early age Jesus learned how to hold tools and how to use them. He most likely began to work side by side with His earthly father in the wood shop.

Other children were born to Mary and Joseph, so Jesus had brothers and sisters. Maybe they quarrelled like most brothers and sisters do, but I am sure that Jesus was a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. Jesus was learning how to be obedient to His earthly parents.

The Bible says in Luke 2:40 says, *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*

Jesus grew, just as every child grows and gets bigger and stronger. But Jesus was always so much more than a regular human being. Not only did Jesus become stronger in his body, but He also became stronger in His spirit, He was filled with wisdom, and He had God's grace with Him.

Sometimes children make unwise decisions and sometimes they don't like to listen to their parents or obey the rules in their home, but Jesus was the kind of child who wanted to obey. He made wise decisions. He must have been a thoughtful boy who wanted to please His parents and God.

Because Jesus was God the Son, His desire was to please those in authority over Him. But He was also a normal human boy. I am sure He was tempted to do wrong things and have wrong attitudes like all children, but Jesus chose to be wise and loving and obedient.

You may think, "If I were Jesus then I would do everything right, but I am just human. I can't help it when I disobey or have a bad attitude." If you are a Christian, you do have a choice! You have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of you to help you make wise decisions and to warn you when you are doing wrong. Just as Jesus chose to obey authority and please God, you can do the same. Just ask God to help you!

KEEPING THE PASSOVER

Jesus was brought up in a home where God was put in first place. His parents taught Him to love and obey God. Mary and Joseph took Him to the place where they worshipped and taught Him the Laws and commandments of the Old Testament.

Yearly, Jesus would join His family on the trip to Jerusalem for the Passover. I'm sure that everyone anticipated this special trip. The Passover is a very high and holy celebration for the Jewish people and if possible, anyone who could would make the journey so that they could celebrate in the temple. The Passover is the Jewish celebration where they remember the time when God delivered Moses and the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

The Bible tells us about one special time when Mary and Joseph took their family to celebrate the Passover. Jesus was twelve years old and was more of a young man than a child.

Luke 2:41-42 says, Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

It must have been a big thing for the family to get ready for the trip. It was about 100 miles away and they would need to take food for each meal and bedding to sleep on since it took more than one day to get there. Jesus and his family did not go alone. There were probably many other families from Nazareth who banded together for the trip. They must have all spent lots of time talking about what they would do when they got to Jerusalem.

Finally the day came when they set out. They would have been up at the crack of dawn. As they walked along the adults would have talked with each other about things that interest adults and Jesus would have traveled and played with the other children and young people. They probably ran ahead and laughed and talked.

HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS

The family celebrated the Passover in Jerusalem. They spent time in the temple listening to the priests talk about the books of Moses. They would have offered a sacrifice also. Jesus paid special attention to all that was said and done. This was more than a holiday for Him. This was a time when He could worship His Heavenly Father and learn more about Him.

Finally the celebration came to an end. Mary and Joseph prepared to head home. They purchased the necessary food and wrapped their bedding up. They gathered together with their friends from Nazareth and when it looked like everyone was ready to go, they headed out of Jerusalem.

Again the adults traveled together and talked about all that had happened at the celebration. The children ran and laughed and played games. Everyone was enjoying themselves and no one noticed that someone was missing. No one noticed that Jesus was not with the group of young people.

Luke 2:43 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.

In the evening, when the bed rolls were being laid out and the women were making fires to cook dinner, Mary began to look around for Jesus. She called for Him to come eat, but He did not come. Soon Mary and Joseph began to go from campfire to campfire and ask all of the other children and adults if they had seen Jesus. No one had. Jesus was not there!

Can you imagine how worried Mary and Joseph must have been when they realized that they had journeyed an entire day while Jesus was still in Jerusalem? They headed right back to look for their son. Three days passed before they found Him.

Who can tell me where they found Jesus? That's right. He was in the temple. He was surrounded by a group of doctors, priests and men of the law. They were reading the Scriptures and talking about what they meant. Jesus was listening closely and asking questions. These men were reading and talking about His Heavenly Father. That was very interesting to Jesus.

The men of God were amazed by the wisdom and maturity that Jesus showed. Surely no other twelve year old boy had spent so much time willingly listening to them discuss the Scripture. And no other twelve year old boy asked such wise and insightful questions. Jesus astonished them men with His understanding and with the things He knew about God's Word.

Luke 2:44 - 47 says, But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

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.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Jesus had been so interested in listening to the men of God teach and talk about the Scriptures that He didn't even notice when his family and friends had packed up and headed out. He was surprised when his parents came rushing up to him.

Mary was a typical mother. She was relieved to see Jesus, but she was also very upset. As soon as she had determined that Jesus was fine, she began to scold Him.

"Jesus! There you are! Why did you do this? Don't you know how much your father and I have worried for these past three days!"

Jesus very respectfully answered His mother. He knew that it was important for Him to be reading the Scriptures and learning more about God. Jesus was a boy, yet He was also God the Son. He knew He had a job ahead of Him that He must do for His Heavenly Father. He was preparing for the day when He would do that job.

"Mother," Jesus asked. "Don't you realize that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus was not talking about doing a job for His earthly father. He was talking about His Heavenly Father. Jesus was on earth for a very specific reason. When He reached adulthood, He would begin to carry out the task He had been sent to earth to accomplish. Now was His training period and He took His training very seriously.

Luke 2:48 - 49 says, *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.*

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

AN OBEDIENT SPIRIT

Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was a very special young man. They remembered in the back of their minds that He had been sent to them by God to be the Messiah, but I suppose as they lived with Jesus, day by day, it was easy to forget that He was more than just any other young boy. They had forgotten that Jesus was God's Son too.

But Jesus did not sass His parents. He did not tell them that He was God and they couldn't tell Him what to do. He did not disrespect His earthly parents in any way.

Instead, Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents and He continued to obey them and love them and help them out around the house. When Mary asked Him to help set the table, He did it cheerfully. When Joseph asked Jesus to help make a chair in the wood shop, Jesus set right to work and did His best job.

Day by day Jesus grew older, stronger, and taller. At the same time He became wiser. The people who saw Him helping His mother around the house and saw Him working with His father in the shop took note of how He behaved. They noticed His good attitude. Both God and the people around Jesus were pleased with the young man He became.

Luke 2:50 - 52 says, *And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.*

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

YOUR EXAMPLE

Jesus Christ should be your example. He was a child who could have told His earthly parents, "I am God! You can't tell me what to do! I will do as I please!"

He would have been right. He was God. No man could tell Him what to do. But Jesus never said that to Mary and Joseph. He never acted disrespectfully. He willingly obeyed. He loved His earthly parents. He learned things from them. He helped them out around the house and at the wood shop.

Jesus was God and He displayed a godly attitude in His obedience. What an example He is to each one of us. We should try to be like Jesus.

God placed you in your family for a reason. He knew what He was doing. He gave you the mother and father He intended you to have. He gave you the brothers and sisters He intended you to have. God wants you to work together with your parents and the other members of your family. He wants you to learn each day to be a godly person. He wants you to help out at home. He wants you to be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. He wants you to obey willingly.

Do you follow Jesus' example?

YOUR SACRIFICE

It's kind of hard to imagine Jesus as a young person like you are, isn't it? It seems strange that Jesus did things you do, like play outdoors and set the table and do chores. It seems strange that Jesus had to obey His parents. But Jesus came to earth to be a human for a very wonderful reason.

1. Jesus came as a human so He would understand what you feel like. You can know that Jesus was a child like you are. He understands what it is like to have to obey His parents. He understands what it is like to have brothers and sisters. He understands what it is like to be sick with a cold. He understands what it is like to be you!

Hebrews 4:15-16 says, *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Jesus came as a human so He could take your place. You see, because the first man, Adam, sinned, everyone else born on earth has been born a sinner. We are born dead in sin. And nothing we do can take away our sin. The Jews would offer animals, such as a lamb, as a sacrifice to God. When the blood was shed, the blood would cover their sin. But the blood of those lambs did not take away their sin. Over and over again they had to offer a sacrifice to God to have their sin forgiven.

God knew that mankind needed someone to help them to get rid of their sin so they could be close to God and so that they could spend eternity in Heaven with God. But no man could do the job. No man could take away his own sin.

That is why Jesus Christ came to earth as the Messiah. He did not come to set His people free from the bondage of Rome. Jesus Christ came to set all people free from the bondage of sin. Jesus is the perfect Lamb of God. When He died on the cross of Calvary, He shed His blood and that blood has the power to take away sin, not just cover it. Because Jesus is God the Son, He did not stay in the tomb like other dead men. Instead, He came out alive. His perfect sacrifice is what we need to be forgiven of our sin. It is what we need to have peace with God.

I Corinthians 15:3-4 says, *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

3. Jesus came as a human because He loves you so much. He was willing to die on the cross for you. Before Jesus left Heaven, He knew what would happen to Him on earth. He knew that as He preached many would reject Him and hate Him. He knew that He would suffer and die in your place. It was not a surprise to Him. Because Jesus knew that you could not have your sin forgiven or go to Heaven without His perfect sacrifice, He was willing to leave Heaven and become a human and die on the cross for you. Oh, how much He loves you!

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Now let me ask you, have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? Think of all that Jesus did so that you could have Salvation. Think of all He went through here on earth so that you could ask Him to come into your life.

Today we can take a Bible and show you how you can ask Jesus to be your personal Savior from sin.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

Even though Jesus was God, when He was a child He willingly submitted to His earthly parents. He loved them and obeyed them. And I am sure He did it with a cheerful attitude. I do not think Mary ever told Jesus to make His bed and heard Him grumble as He dragged away to do it. I am sure that He quickly and cheerfully obeyed. In fact, He most likely made the bed before He was told to do so.

All through Jesus' life on earth, He willingly submitted to authority. Often He talked about doing His Father's will. He was referring to His Heavenly Father. Jesus delighted in obeying God. He wanted to do as His Father wished.

I challenge you to follow Jesus' example. Decide right now that you will obey the authority over you willingly and with a cheerful spirit. Decide that when your parents ask you to do something, you will do it with a good attitude. Decide that when God and the Bible tell you to do something, you will obey with a good attitude. Determine in your heart to do everything your Heavenly Father wishes.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to willingly obey God in all you say and do.

BIBLE QUIZ

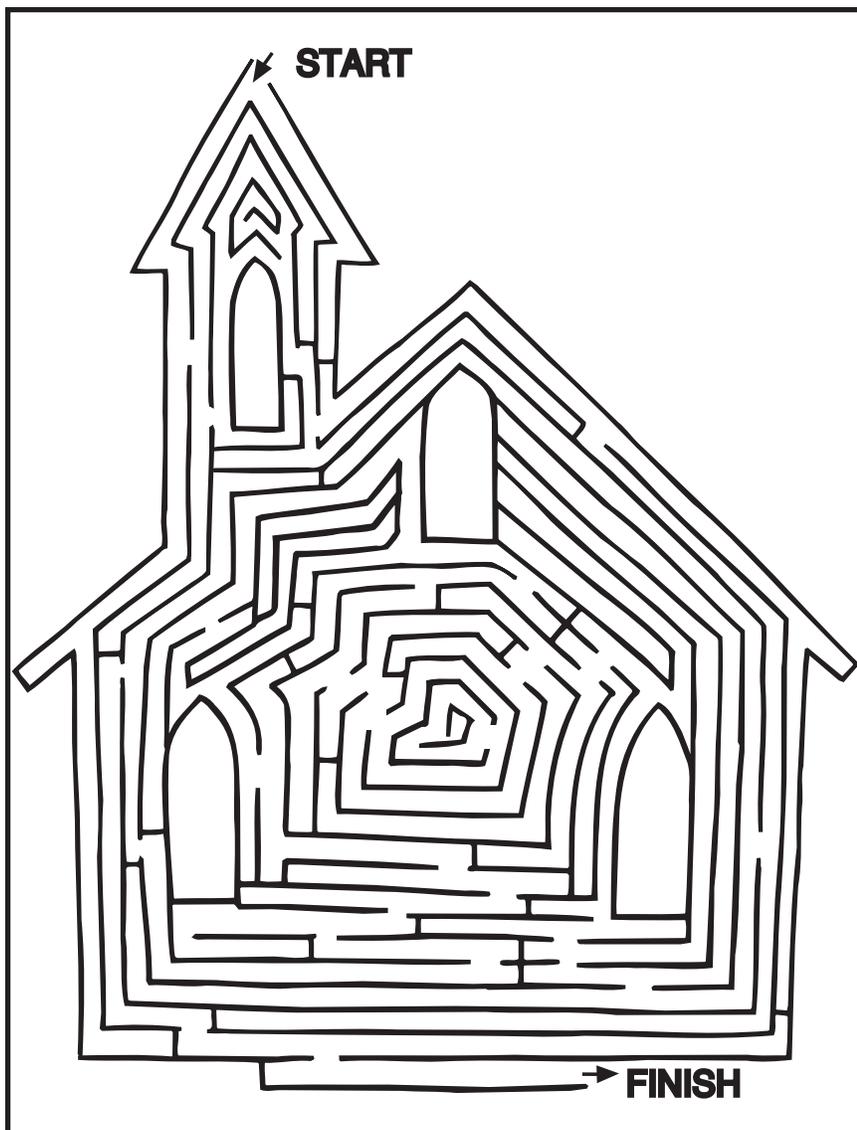
1. Who came to visit Jesus when He was a young child?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Who else said they wanted to go visit and worship the young child?
4. What did the angel warn Joseph to do?
5. Where did the family go when it was safe to leave Egypt?
6. Why did Jesus' family go to Jerusalem each year?
7. What does the Passover represent?
8. What happened the year Jesus was twelve?
9. What did Jesus say to Mary and Joseph when they found Him in the temple?
10. Why were the priests and teachers so amazed by Jesus?

An Obedient Child

The LORD our God will we serve,
and his voice will we obey.
Joshua 24:24b



I will obey God.



A good place to find
out about how to please
God is at your church.

LESSON 10

A CHILD OF OBEDIENCE

LISTEN AND OBEY

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 4:16-37

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will obey God.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Carrie was nestled on the corner of the couch in the living room. Her nose was buried in a book she had just gotten from the Library.

“Carrie,” her mom called. “Did you set the table yet?”

Carrie didn’t even look up. When she read she could tune everything else out and concentrate completely on her book. She was so interested in the book she was reading that she did not hear her mother call.

Sometimes you might be so busy concentrating on things in this life that interest you that you fail to hear God’s voice when He speaks to your hearts. You don’t have your ears open to listen when He speaks to you. That is not a good thing. Instead you need to listen carefully for God’s voice so you can obey Him!

Today’s Life Lesson is: I will obey God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

MARY SLESSOR

Obtain Flash Card

Mary Slessor was born in Scotland in the home of a drunkard father and a godly mother. Mary got saved at an early age and she learned to love, obey, and serve God with all her heart. How thankful she was that Jesus Christ came to earth to die for a poor, sinful girl like she was.

Mary started working in a factory at the age of eleven, but she determined in her heart that one day she would go to Calabar, Africa, as a missionary. While Mary worked long, hard hours in the factory, she never let that stop her from devoting as much time as possible to the Lord. She taught church classes and street classes. She was busy for the Lord.

Finally, at the age of 28, God opened the door for Mary to go to the mission field.

For three years Mary worked faithfully with the missionaries who had established a Mission Station on the coast. She learned the language of the people so she could talk with them. She taught in the school. She held services for the children to teach them about Jesus.

But Mary could not get the desire to travel deep into the jungle out of her heart. She longed to reach those people who had never been reached. The people there were cruel and wicked and those who had dared to go to them had been killed. Still, she prayed that someday she could venture deep into the jungle to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to those who have never heard.

Mary went back to Scotland for a short furlough and when she returned she was pleased to learn the Mission was sending her to minister in several new villages that were located farther up the coast. These villages were not deep in the jungle, but they were desperately in need of her help. There Mary was able to take medicine to those who were sick. She was able to teach the people about Jesus. Mary lived in a beaten up, old mud hut, but that did not bother Mary. She did not care about where she lived, she only cared about obeying God.

Mary became good friends with a local chief named Chief Eyo. His friendship provided her with some protection as she traveled from village to village in the area. The people called her "White Ma." (Show Flash Card.)

On Sundays Mary would hold services all day long. She would start out early in the morning and two boys would travel with her. They carried a bell and when the people heard the bell ringing, they knew it was time to gather. The chief of the village and all his people would come out to hear Mary teach about Jesus Christ and how He had come as the perfect Lamb of God to die for their sins.

Then Mary would go to the next village. The bell would ring and the people would gather. Mary would start all over again. She did this every Sunday.

Mary was very concerned about some of the heathen customs that the people practiced. The people were involved in witchcraft and their hearts were far from God. They did some very wicked things. One terrible thing that the people believed was that twin babies were an evil omen. If a woman gave birth to twins, the babies were either killed or they were abandoned out in the jungle to die. Then the mother was driven away to be killed by wild animals. Mary abhorred this practice and she tried to teach the people how wrong it was. Whenever Mary heard that twin babies had been thrown out to die, she would rush out to save them, if possible. Mary raised several of these children.

Another evil practice that Mary hated was the belief that when the chief of a village died, then all his wives would have to be put to death also. What a cruel and senseless practice! Mary set about teaching the people how wrong it was to kill innocent people for no reason.

One day a chief, named Chief Okon of the Okoyong tribes, called for White Ma to come to his village. He sent a canoe to bring her up river. It was a dangerous thing for Mary to go to this wild tribe, but she packed her children and a few supplies and off they went. It took ten hours for Mary and her children to reach the village by canoe.

Mary knew that the savages in these tribe were only interested in three things: guns, chains to bind slaves, and liquor. Mary was quite dismayed. She remembered how her father had destroyed his life and his family with liquor. She knew that these people were chained by sin. They needed the Lord!

When Mary got to the village she began to help the sick. She taught the people about cleanliness so they would not die of the terrible diseases. And she preached about Jesus Christ. For many in the tribe, it was the first time they had ever heard the name of Jesus. It was the first time they had ever heard of a God of love.

All of a sudden Mary heard a commotion. She went to see what was wrong and saw that they were about to beat two of the chief's wives 100 times with a whip. She begged them not to harm the women and asked what was wrong. They had somehow offended the chief.

Mary scolded the women for disobeying their husband. Then she scolded the chief and men of the tribe for such terrible treatment of their women. The wives were only given 10 stripes and allowed to go.

Mary then returned by canoe to her mud hut, but on the way home she became very sick. Mary eventually got better, but off and on for the next few years Mary would suffer from illnesses. She wasn't a strong-bodied woman, but she was a strong-willed woman. She would not let illness stop her. In 1883 she returned to Scotland for a short rest to try to restore her health, but soon she was back in Africa.

For fifteen years Mary worked among the Okoyong Tribes. She was constantly trying to rescue children from dying in the jungle or heal a sick person with her limited medical knowledge. She was always trying to help someone. And always, she was telling the people of Jesus and His great love.

Join us next week as we again travel into the deep jungles with "White Ma."

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

Joshua 24:24b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 4:16-37

LESSON

JESUS AT THE SYNAGOGUE

A Synagogue is a Jewish place of worship. It is like our church. The Jewish people would go there to worship God, to offer sacrifices, and to learn from God's Word. It was the custom on the Sabbath day for seven readers to present the Scriptures. First a Priest would read, then a Levite, then five other men from the gathered crowd would read.

In Jesus' day they had the books of the Old Testament. They would read about Adam and Eve and about Moses and the deliverance from Egypt. They would read what God had told their ancestors through the prophets such as Isaiah. Many of the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of the Messiah whom God would send to deliver His people. Though many, many years had gone by since the prophets wrote of the Messiah, there were still Jewish people who believed God would still send the Messiah just as He said He would. They believed God would keep His promise.

From an early age Jesus had gone to the synagogue in Nazareth. He listened closely as the Scriptures were taught. He heard the words of the teachers as they talked of God. But now things were a bit different. Today Jesus, as an adult, went into the synagogue and when it came His turn, He requested that the book of Isaiah should be brought to Him.

Luke 4:16 says, *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*

Jesus looked up the passage of Scripture He wanted to read. Here is the exact passage that Jesus read that day in the synagogue. Listen carefully to what the Scripture is saying.

In Isaiah 61:1-2a Jesus read, *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*

The religious leaders and the Jewish people gathered in the synagogue had no way of knowing that the Messiah was standing before them and teaching them in person! But Jesus was about to tell them the truth.

The passage that Jesus read from in Isaiah was referring to the Messiah and what He would do for His people. Jesus sat down and began to tell the people that the Scripture was finally being fulfilled. He was telling them that He was the Messiah. As the Scriptures said in Isaiah, He was the chosen one who God had promised to send who would bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to open the prison for those who are bound.

“This is talking about me!” Jesus exclaimed. “I am the one sent from God! I am your Messiah!”

He was saying that the time had come for the Messiah to do all God had promised. He was plainly telling the people that He was the Messiah!

Luke 4:20-21 says, *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

AMAZED!

The people were amazed by what Jesus was saying. They couldn't believe he was claiming to be the Messiah.

They should have been so excited that their Messiah had come, but that was not the reaction Jesus got when He told the people He was the Messiah. Instead the people said, “He does speak such wonderful words, but isn't this Joseph's son? Didn't we know Him as a little boy? How could He be the Messiah?”

Jesus knew that the people in His home town would never accept Him as their Messiah. He knew that in their eyes He was just a man whom they had known since He was a boy. He wasn't anyone any more special than they were. They were too familiar with Him to accept the fact that He could be the Messiah sent from God.

Jesus said to them, “You won't accept me because you are too familiar with me.”

Luke 4:22-24 says, *And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?*

And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Jesus went on to tell the people that during the days of Elijah when there was a drought that troubled the land, God didn't send Elijah to help the Israelites, but instead He sent Elijah to help and heal the Gentiles in the surrounding lands. The Jewish people had rejected Elijah in the same way they were rejecting Jesus.

Jesus was pointing out to the people that God not only wanted to save the Jews, He also wanted to save the Gentiles. God loved everyone and it was in His plan from the very beginning to send Jesus to bring salvation to the entire World!

Boy did that make the people in Nazareth angry! How dare this simple carpenter claim to be the promised Messiah from God? How dare He say that God sent the Messiah to the Gentiles also? They hated the Gentiles. Surely God would not try to save the Gentiles too!

The people crowded together and determined to capture Jesus and put an end to Him. They wanted to kill Him. They intended to drag Him to a high cliff and throw Him over the top. But they were not able to do any harm to Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth for a purpose and those people could not stop Him. It was not time for Jesus to be killed. Jesus had just begun His ministry. He had just begun to spread the good news that God had sent Him to free all people from their sin.

Jesus simply walked away. They could not touch Him.

Luke 4:28-30 says, *And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,*

And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

But he passing through the midst of them went his way.

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus Christ came to earth to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews? Since the time of Abraham, God had a special relationship with the Jewish people. They were God's chosen people. But God did not limit His love to the Jews only. When Jesus came to earth to set the people free from their sins, He came to set all men free!

AUTHORITY AND POWER

Jesus left Nazareth behind. He knew the people there would never accept Him as their Messiah. But that did not stop Jesus. Now that His ministry had begun, Jesus began to travel and teach in other cities. Next Jesus traveled to Capernaum, a city in the region of Galilee. When the people there heard Jesus teach, they were astonished. They had never heard anyone teach and preach with such authority. They could tell that Jesus knew what He was talking about. He spoke with such conviction so many believed He was the Messiah.

It didn't take long for the word to spread. From house to house the people were all buzzing about this Jesus who claimed with power and authority that He had been sent by God!

Luke 4:31-32 says, *And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.*

And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

MIRACLE IN THE SYNAGOGUE

As Jesus taught in the synagogue in Capernaum, there was suddenly a disturbance. All heads turned as a man who was possessed by an unclean devil began to shout. The devil began to plea with Jesus to leave him alone.

God and Satan are totally opposite. God is pure and holy and good. Satan is filthy and sinful and wicked. The two cannot coexist. When Jesus entered the synagogue, the man with the devil reacted immediately. He instantly recognized Jesus as the Son of God and he wanted Jesus to leave him alone.

Jesus did not hold a peaceful conversation with the man. He did not try to talk him into being good instead of evil. Instead Jesus told the devil to quit talking and to come out of the man. Jesus spoke the word and the devil obeyed. The man was released from the bonds of the unclean devil and made whole.

That was a miracle that only God could perform. Other people may have tried to help the man, but there was no human help for him. There was nothing a mere human could do to rid the man of the devil. But all Jesus needed to do was command the devil to come out and the devil had to obey. Jesus was God the Son and God has the power and authority to do anything.

The people had been amazed before by the way Jesus taught with power and authority, but when they saw what happened to the man with a devil, they were flabbergasted. Many of them understood that they had witnessed God at work. Many of them believed that Jesus was indeed their Messiah.

Now the news of who Jesus was and what He was doing began to spread like a wildfire. They did not have TV newscasts, cell phones, Twitter, or Face Book, but the news spread nevertheless! Soon everyone was talking about Jesus.

Luke 4:33-37 says, *And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,*

Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE JESUS' AUTHORITY?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He has all power and authority. He is the one who God sent long ago to rescue all who are bound by sin. He is the only one who can give true and lasting freedom. Jesus is not just the Messiah to the Jewish people of Bible days, He is the Messiah sent to the entire World to set us all free from our sin.

Do you recognize Jesus' power and authority in your life? Do you obey Him?

Maybe you are a Christian. You have recognized that Jesus died for your sin. You have asked Him to take away your sin and come into your life. That's wonderful. But do you let Jesus have the power and authority in your life? Do you let Him guide you each day? Do you obey His Word? Do you let Him determine how you act and the words you say? Is He the Lord of your life? If not, you need to ask the Lord to forgive you for not letting Him control your life. Then you need to ask Him to help you to let Him control you.

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin. You know you are not a child of God. Do you realize that today Jesus is still the Son of God. He is still the Messiah who loves you and gave His life on the cross for your sins? No one could touch Jesus without His permission. But Jesus willingly gave His life for you. He went to the cross to take the sins of the World on Himself. He went to the cross to take your sins on Himself. Because of what Jesus did when He died and rose again the third day, He is able to forgive sin. He took your place so you wouldn't have to pay for your own sin. He paid the price for you.

Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

God made a promise to send a Savior to the earth. He promised to send someone who would set people free from the bondage of sin. Jesus Christ is the one who God sent. God kept His promise.

This week I challenge you to submit yourself to the power and authority of Jesus Christ by obeying Him daily. How do you do that?

1. Keep your heart right with God.

We all sin. Even Christians sin, and sin keeps us from having a close relationship with Jesus Christ. He wants you to confess your sins to Him and ask forgiveness. Then your heart will be right with God.

2. Stay close to God.

The only way to be close to God is to spend time with Him. Read your Bible. That is God talking to you. Pray. That is you talking to God.

3. Follow God.

The Bible tells you how to obey God. When you read something God doesn't want you to do, then don't do it. When you read something God wants you to do, then do it! A true follower of God wants to obey Him.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. God kept His promise to you when He sent Jesus to this earth. He deserves your love and obedience. I am going to ask God to help you to submit to His power and authority.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is a Jewish house of worship called?
2. What did Jesus ask for when He went to the synagogue?
3. Who did Jesus say the Scriptures in Isaiah were talking about?
4. What did the people in Nazareth say when Jesus claimed to be the Messiah?
5. What did Jesus say that made the people the most angry?
6. What did the people try to do to Jesus?
7. What town in Galilee did Jesus go to next?
8. Who confronted Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum?
9. Recite today's memory verse.
10. What did many of the people realize when Jesus cast out the devil?

Listen & Obey



The LORD our God will we serve,
and his voice will we obey.

Joshua 24:24b

I will obey God.

X	A	B	A	O	B	R	C	A	E	S	A	A	T	F
L	U	O	L	D	T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	Y
E	T	R	M	U	A	N	R	E	P	A	C	G	A	J
X	H	N	U	E	T	S	G	H	L	Y	M	E	V	E
H	O	E	T	N	S	E	R	U	T	P	I	R	C	S
T	R	T	A	E	N	S	Y	N	A	G	O	G	U	E
A	I	S	R	T	I	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	D	S
B	T	I	I	S	O	S	E	A	R	Z	F	W	V	F
B	Y	L	J	W	U	J	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	E
A	E	E	E	K	E	S	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	W
S	P	R	B	W	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	O	J
S	A	M	S	O	O	G	O	J	G	H	D	V	F	E

SYNAGOGUE
WORSHIP
SABBATH
SCRIPTURE
NAZARETH

ISAIAH
MESSIAH
CHRIST
JESUS
JEWS

GENTILES
ANGER
CAPERNAUM
MIRACLE
POWER

AUTHORITY
LISTEN
OBEY
OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 11

A CHILD OF OBEDIENCE
OBEDIENT AND VALUABLE

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

John 1:1-15. Mark 6:30-44

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will obey God.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

No matter how old you are, God wants to use your life. He can only use you if you are obedient to Him. God can't use a person who refuses to obey Him.

You may not see much potential in your life. Others may think you can't do much that would count for God. You might think you can't do much that would count for God. But if you are willing to obey God and let Him use your life, He will! He can take your life and make it into something of great value.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will obey God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

MARY SLESSOR

Obtain Flash Card

For the last several weeks we have been hearing the story of Missionary Mary Slessor. Let me ask you a few questions to see how much you remember about our story.

1. What country was Mary's homeland? (Scotland)
2. What was Mary's mother like? (A godly woman)
3. What was Mary's father like? (A drunkard)
4. How old was Mary when she went to work in the factory? (Eleven)
5. Where did Mary feel God wanted her to go? (Calabar, Africa)

Mary Slessor was a very amazing lady! She left her homeland of Scotland to be a missionary in the jungles of Africa. The land and people there were very different from anything she had ever known. Most of the natives had never heard of Jesus Christ and they worship demons and had many cruel and wicked practices, but Mary knew that God loved the people there and she loved them too.

Mary found that one of the best ways to offer a cure for sin was to first offer a cure for the physical needs of the people. The people had no doctors and many died from even simple illnesses.

So, Mary would trek to distant villages carrying medical supplies. The people flocked around to have her tend to their illnesses and she gave them medicines. She was not a doctor but she helped as much as she could and God did the healing.

After Mary had shown the people her love and concern for them, she would have them sit and listen as she told them about God's great love for them. She would tell them that only God can take away their sin and give them pure, clean hearts.

The people of the tribes of Okoyong were controlled by the devil and many evil practices. A great battle raged for their souls. The devil had these people enslaved by witchcraft and superstition. They had never heard about Jesus. But Mary did her best to show them the love of God and many came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. By using God's Word, Mary was able to show the people how God could free them from the devil's power.

One day Mary was called to the bedside of Chief Edem. He was very ill and the people did not know what to do to save their chief. The chief wanted to know if "White Ma" could help him. Mary could see that the chief had a deep abscess or sore in his back. The terrible infection was killing him. Mary did everything she knew how to help. Then she prayed and asked God to heal the chief.

The next morning when Mary entered the chief's hut, she could see that a witch doctor had been there. On the floor lay teeth, powders, bones, and other things. The witch doctor claimed to have taken all those things out of the chief's back. Mary knew that was not the truth. But there was nothing Mary could do. The witch doctor was determined to get rid of Mary. The witch doctor began to blame people in the tribe for the chief's illness. He had those people taken prisoner and threatened to have them killed if the chief died. Then he took the chief away so Mary could not treat him.

Mary knew that the chief would surely die without her help. She quickly sent word to a pastor in another village to come and help her, but the pastor refused to come. He was too afraid. However the pastor's sister came and they let her see the chief. She brought medicine and was able to help the chief. The abscess on his back broke and eventually healed. All of the prisoners were released and the people could see that the witch doctor had lied to them. Mary praised God that He had helped her know what to do.

Back at the village where Mary lived, she talked the people into helping her build a school house. They gathered materials such as clay, stone, bamboo, and palm fronds. They began to build. Soon there was a sturdy building with a large assembly room and a small room in the back for Mary to live in. In this building Mary could teach the children in school and she could teach everyone about Jesus.

What a happy day it was when the people celebrated their new building. The villagers wore their best clothing, which they had gotten from missionary boxes sent to Mary. The chief promised that the building would be kept strictly for God's use. No weapons were allowed inside and

it was considered a safe house where women and children could come to find safety. What a victory that was!

People from other villages saw the school house and thought it would be nice to also have one. So they also allowed Mary to come build one for them. For many more years Mary served the Lord in the jungles of Africa. It was hard work and Mary was often ill. But she would not give up. She was obediently doing what God had called her to do. For 36 years Mary served in Calabar.

Toward the end of Mary's life, the government of England gave Mary a great honor. They awarded her a silver Maltese Cross. But was that Mary's greatest honor? No. Mary knew that her greatest honor had been her many years of serving the Lord, first on rough streets of Scotland and then in the fierce jungles of Africa.

One thing worried Mary as her life neared the end. She knew that the people had worshipped skulls and bones. She was worried that if she died alone in the jungle that the people might take her skull and bones and worship them. How terrible that would be. But Mary need not have worried. Some faithful missionaries came to Mary in her final days and took her back to the Mission Station in Duke Town. They cared for Mary and kept her with them. On Christmas day, 1914, Mary struggled to get up to attend the church service. The place she most wanted to be was in the Lord's house worshipping Him. On January 13, 1915, at the age of 67, Mary Slessor, "White Ma," went home to be with her Lord in Heaven. They buried her there in Africa, the land she had loved since she was a child. (Show Flash Card.)

Mary had been obedient to God from the time she was saved and God had always been faithful to her. She studied God's Word faithfully and it helped her to live and serve faithfully each day! What an influence her obedience had in life of everyone she met! Even to this day, Mary is known as one of the greatest missionaries to ever serve in Africa!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. Joshua 24:24b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

John 1:1-15. Mark 6:30-44

LESSON

REST AWHILE

Jesus was an obedient servant of His Heavenly Father. Wherever He ministered He always made sure He was being obedient to God.

At one point in Jesus' ministry He sent his disciples out two by two to preach of the Kingdom of Heaven and to heal people in His name. When the disciples got back, they eagerly told Jesus where they had gone and what had happened. In some places the people had rejected their message and they had moved on, just as Jesus had instructed them. But in many places when they began to heal people and do other miracles, the crowds of people had been willing to listen. And many had believed!

How excited they were to report back to Jesus and to compare notes with each other. I can see Jesus' eyes shine with joy as He listened to His followers giving their accounts of their travels. He must have been so pleased that they gladly were serving God. He must also have been thinking about the fact that soon these men would continue the ministry without Him.

Jesus could see that even though they were excited and eager to share their experiences, they were also very tired from their travels. Jesus suggested that they come away from the place where they were and find a quiet place to rest. There people were all around, asking questions of the disciples. They were so busy tending to the needs of the crowd that they couldn't even find time to eat!

So Jesus and the twelve got on a ship and sailed to a quiet place.

Mark 6:30-32 says, *And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.*

And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

THE ANXIOUS CROWD

The people saw Jesus and His disciples getting on the ship to sail away. They were so anxious to hear Jesus preach and to see Him perform miracles that they didn't want to lose sight of

Him for even a minute. They followed the progress of the ship from the shoreline. They didn't want Jesus to get away. In fact, the crowd knew where the ship would land and they ran ahead and beat the ship to the dock.

Mark 6:33 says, *And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.*

When the ship came to dock, Jesus looked up and saw all the people waiting for him to arrive. He realized that they had been following on foot just to get a chance to be near Him.

Jesus could have been angry. He could have said, "Why do all these people keep following me? Can't they see I'm tired? Can't they see I need a little 'Me' time?"

But that is not what Jesus said. Instead as His eyes scanned the crowd, His heart was moved with compassion. He could see their great spiritual need. He knew they desperately needed to hear His message about God. The people milling around on the shore reminded Jesus of sheep who are desperately searching for a shepherd but can't find one. They were wandering around lost.

Jesus is the good shepherd. In Psalms David called the Lord our shepherd. Jesus also called Himself the good shepherd. A shepherd's job is to care for and guide and protect his sheep. Jesus knew that He was the shepherd to these lost people.

So Jesus forgot all about His own tired body. He began to teach the people about their own sin and about their need to repent of sin. The people listened eagerly.

Mark 6:34 says, *And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

LATE IN THE DAY

Jesus preached and the day grew late. The people were so engrossed in what Jesus was saying that they didn't even notice what time it was. But Jesus disciples went up to Him and urged Him to send the people away.

"After all," they said. "The day late and there is nothing for anyone to eat out here in the desert. Send the crowd home or to the villages to buy bread."

Mark 6:35-36 says, *And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:*

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.

There were no grocery stores where the people could shop. There was no super Wal-Mart or McDonalds. Where would the people get any food out there in the desert?

Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Give them something to eat.”

The disciples must have looked at Jesus in confusion. How could they give this huge crowd food to eat? Where would they even get enough money to buy enough bread for everyone?

Jesus knew exactly what He would do in a few minutes, but He wanted to see if His disciples had the faith to believe He could feed this huge crowd. Jesus asked Philip if they had enough money to buy bread for everyone. Philip was very practical. He told Jesus they only had two hundred pennyworth. That was definitely not enough to buy the amount of bread they would need. It wasn't even enough to give each person a single bite.

Mark 6:37 says, *He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?*

John 6:5-7 says, *When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?*

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

There was one disciple, Andrew, who must have had a bit more initiative than the others. He had gone out among the crowd to see what the people had brought to eat. All he found was a little lad with a small lunch. He brought the boy to Jesus and said, “Lord, there is this one boy who brought his lunch. But it isn't much. He only has five barley loaves and two small fishes. What good can such a small lunch do for such a large crowd?”

John 6:8-9 says, *One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,*

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

Jesus could see the potential in the lad's small lunch. Jesus reached out and the boy obediently passed the food to Him. Then Jesus looked to Heaven. He thanked God for the food He had provided.

I imagine that the disciples were looking at Jesus and at each other in confusion, but they didn't say anything more. They just listened as Jesus prayed. Then Jesus began to break the bread and fish into small pieces. He would hand one of the disciples a handful. Then He would hand the next disciple another handful. Soon the disciples were telling the people to sit down as they moved about distributing food to everyone.

Again and again the disciples would return to Jesus to get more food. The people eagerly took the food to eat and in no time everyone present had eaten until they were full.

John 6:11 says, *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.*

When the disciples looked around, they noticed that the people could not eat another bite, yet there was still food left over. They took baskets and began to gather up the leftovers. They counted twelve full baskets of barley loaves that remained!

John 6:12-13 says, *When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.*

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.

LET'S MAKE HIM KING!

Wow! The people knew they had just witnessed a major miracle! They knew Jesus had taken a little lad's little lunch and He had multiplied it to feed over 5,000 people! That was amazing! Some of the men in the crowd said, "This is truly a great prophet come to our world! We should make Him our king! He could defeat the Romans for sure!"

Jesus could read their thoughts and He heard them as they whispered together. Jesus was the King of kings, yet it was not God's plan for Jesus to become an earthly king and fight against the Romans. Jesus wanted to become their King, but He wanted to be their eternal King who would reign in Heaven and rule in their hearts. That was not what these men had planned. So, Jesus quietly left and went into a quiet mountain place by Himself.

John 6:14-15 says, *Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.*

When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

LITTLE IS MUCH

Did you know that even though you are just a child, God has a plan for your life and He can use you if you are willing to obey Him? That little lad in Jesus' day had no idea when he grabbed his sack lunch and ran out to hear Jesus preach that he would be used of God as part of a major miracle. But because he was willing to give his lunch to Jesus, he was used greatly of God.

God took a little lad with a little lunch and used it to make a huge difference. God can do the same with you!

You may think, "I'm just a kid. I don't have much to offer God." Do you have a willing heart? Are you willing to obey God? Are you willing to let God use you? If the answer is, "Yes!" then God can take what little you have and turn it into something big.

God can use anyone who is obedient to Him. Are you willing to be used? If you are, then in a minute when we bow our heads to pray, you tell God in your heart that you want to obey Him and be used by Him.

Maybe you are not even a child of God. You have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart. When Jesus was on earth, He preached and told the people that they needed to repent or be sorry for their sins.

We are all born sinners. And we can't get rid of our own sin. Jesus knew that. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross and take our sins onto Himself.

1 Peter 2:21b-25 says, *Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

We are all like lost sheep before we are saved. And Jesus is the shepherd who so lovingly took our sins on his own body on the cross. When Jesus died for you and then three days later rose again, He made a way for your sins to be forgiven. He took your punishment and now all you need to do is ask Jesus to forgive your sin and He will. Would you like to do that today? You can.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to let God use your life. No one is too young or too insignificant that God can't use them if they willingly obey Him. In fact, God often chooses to use small things so that when others see what God has done they will know it was truly God who was working.

No one thought that the little boy's lunch was enough to feed that huge crowd. It wasn't anything the boy did, except be willing to give what he had to Jesus. Everyone knew it was Jesus, God the Son, who took the lunch, blessed it, and multiplied it. God can take what little you have, bless it, and multiply it so that it will accomplish what He desires. So, be like that little boy. Obey Him. Give what you have to God. Let Him use you!

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to obey God so He can use your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Where had Jesus' disciples been?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did the people on shore do when they saw Jesus get in the ship?
4. How did Jesus react when He saw all the people waiting for Him?
5. Why did the disciples want Jesus to send the people away towards evening?
6. Who found the boy with the lunch?
7. What was in the boy's lunch?
8. What did Jesus do next?
9. How many baskets of bread was leftover?
10. Why didn't Jesus want the men to make Him their king?

LESSON 12

A CHILD OF COURAGE
STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 1:1,
Deuteronomy 31:14, 23, Numbers 27:15-23

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

God wants you to have courage. How do I know? There are many verses in the Bible that tell us to be courageous and to be of good courage.

Why does God want us to have courage? When we have courage it shows the world that we trust God. You would never bravely face an enemy or a battle if you thought you were going to lose. But as a child of God, you can know that if God is on your side, you will win the battles in your life. It takes trust in God to know you can win the battles. Courage shows you have trust in God.

The next few weeks we will be talking about being a child of courage. We will be looking at the life of a man in the Old Testament who trusted God so much that he was able to have courage.

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND

Obtain Flash Card

Today we are going to begin a story that was written by a man named John Bunyan. The story is called *Pilgrim's Progress*. Some of you may have read the book and you know how exciting this story is.

At the beginning of our story, we see a man standing outside his house in the City of Destruction. He is clothed in rags. In his hand, he holds a book. (Show Flashcard.) The man is reading from the book and what he reads disturbs him very much. In fact, the more he reads the book, the more he asks, "What shall I do?"

The man, named Christian, has read that the city he lives in is wicked. It is ruled by an evil prince and the city is destined for destruction. This greatly upsets and troubles him, so he goes to tell his family, but they will not listen to him. They think he is crazy. They tell him to throw the book away.

But Christian continued to read the book. He could not understand all it said, but he knew it was important to try to understand it. He could tell that his very life depended upon it.

Did you know that without the Bible we wouldn't know about sin? As we read God's Word we learn about the holiness of God and the sinfulness of our own hearts. Many people don't want to read or listen to God's Word. They are happy living in sin. But our sin will cause us to be destroyed and the only way to be saved is by reading and learning from God's Word. It tells us the way to have our sin forgiven.

One day, as Christian walked in a field and read the book, Christian cried aloud, "What must I do to be saved?"

Just then Christian saw a man named Evangelist coming toward him. Evangelist asked Christian if he understood what he was reading. Christian told him that he understood that the book said he was doomed to die. He told the Evangelist that he carried a heavy burden on his back that would sink him. Indeed, Christian did carry a heavy burden of sin on his back.

Evangelist told Christian to go to the wicket gate. He was to look toward the shining light and follow that. It would lead him to the gate. At the gate, he would be told what to do.

Christian raced home as fast as the burden on his back would allow. He told his wife and children what Evangelist had told him. He begged them to go with him. But they refused. So Christian gathered his courage and began on his journey without them.

The neighbors also came out to see where Christian was heading. They mocked Christian as he left.

Two neighbors followed after Christian. They were Obstinate and Pliable. Obstinate tried to talk Christian into returning but Christian was determined to go on. Obstinate turned back, but Pliable decided to go on with Christian for a ways. Pliable wanted to know more about Christian's book.

"I will read to you from my book," Christian said.

Christian told Pliable that the book told of how to obtain eternal life and how to escape destruction. He told him how the book said that the king of the country where he was headed would give those who went there crowns and entrance into the Celestial City.

"Do you believe the book is true?" Pliable asked.

"Yes," Christian replied. "Because the one who wrote it cannot lie."

As they walked along, Christian and Pliable came near a place called the Slough of Despond. Because of the heavy burden on Christian's back, he began to sink in the mire. As hard as Christian struggled, he could not get out. He became very frightened and upset.

Pliable became very upset also. You see, Pliable was willing to listen to Christian's book, but he had no courage to make him strong.

“If all the wonderful things you tell me are true, then why are we having hard times? If we have such a hard time at the beginning, what will the rest of the journey be like? If I can get out of here, you can go on alone!” Pliable exclaimed.

Then Pliable fought to the edge of the slough nearest his home and pulled himself out of the mire. He quickly headed back to his old home like a coward.

Christian was left all alone. He struggled to the opposite side of the mire and tried to pull himself out, but he could not because of the heavy burden. Christian was so afraid. He feared that he would never be free. He feared he would sink in the mire.

Just then, a man named Help came to stand near him. Help asked Christian where he was going.

“Sir,” Christian replied. “A man named Evangelist told me to go this way so I could escape the judgement to come. So I came this way, but fell in the mire.”

“Why didn’t you look for the steps?” Help asked.

“I was so afraid, I came this way instead and fell in the mire.”

“Here,” Help said as he extended his hand and pulled Christian from the mire. Christian was so relieved to have his feet on solid ground!

Help told him that the Slough of Despond was where many sinners were pulled down by their sin. There were steps placed in the slough by the good Prince, but few saw them.

So Christian had been delivered from the Slough of Despond. The Prince had sent Help to give him a hand out. On his way Christian went.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a frightening situation in life. Like Christian we are weighed down by the heavy burden we carry and we don’t know how to pull ourselves out. Then we become discouraged. We become stuck in the Slough of Despond.

Just as the Prince sent Help to give Christian a hand, God will send you help in your times of need. He wants to free you from your fears. He wants you to journey through life with courage.

(Teacher: If time allows, it is good to review what certain characters and situations represent. Questions will be included at the end of the stories for a quick review. You can go into as much detail as you desire.)

1. Who does Christian represent?
2. What does the book represent?
3. How does Christian know he needs to leave the City of Destruction?
4. What does Evangelist direct Christian toward?

5. What does the word Pliable mean?
6. Why is Pliable so quick to turn back?
7. What is the heavy burden that Christian carries on his back?
8. What does the Slough of Despond represent?
9. Who sent Help to give a hand to Christian? Why?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 1:1, Deuteronomy 31:14, 23, Numbers 27:15-23

LESSON

MOSES ASKS A FAVOR

Moses was 120 years old. He had lived a long time. Now his time on earth was coming to an end. Moses stood on the east shore and looked west toward the land just over the Jordan River. Moses could see the land God had promised to His people. He remembered back to the journey that had brought him and the Israelites from Egypt to this place. It must have been exciting to know God was about to fulfill the promise He made hundreds of years before to Abraham. But Moses knew he would never step one foot inside of the land. He led the people this far, now they would go on their journey into the Promised Land without him.

Moses knew his time on earth was just about done.

Before Moses died, he began to worry about what the vast multitude of Israelites would do with no leader. He knew what a big job it was to lead them, and to judge between them, and to make sure they were following God's directions.

Moses made a request of God. He asked God to provide the Israelites with a new leader who would care for them just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. For all the heartaches and trouble the people had caused Moses, he still loved them and wanted what was best for them.

Moses knew the new leader would need to be a special man of courage. There were well over a million people who would be depending on this leader. It was an important job.

Numbers 27:15-17 says, *And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.*

GOD APPOINTS JOSHUA

God didn't need a few weeks to think about who He intended to appoint as the next leader. God had already selected a man.

God had been watching Joshua. He had seen that Joshua was a faithful man. Do you remember the time when Moses went up into the mountains to get the ten commandments? Joshua went with Moses to the bottom of the mountain. There Joshua camped out and waited patiently for Moses to return. Joshua had not joined the wicked people who built and worshipped the golden calf.

Later, when the 12 spies were sent in to check out the land of Canaan, do you remember that of all 12 spies, only Caleb and Joshua returned with a positive report. They alone believed God would help them to enter and possess the land.

Joshua also proved himself to be mighty in battle. When enemies came to fight against Israel, Joshua fearlessly led as the commander. He was a man of great courage in God. He trusted God to give the victory.

God saw that Joshua was faithful. He saw that Joshua kept himself separate from sin. He knew Joshua courageously trusted and obeyed him.

So God told Moses he was to take Joshua and have the priest bless him and present him to the people as the new leader. He was to do this in front of the entire congregation so they would know Joshua was the man God had chosen and Moses endorsed. Then the people would be willing to follow Joshua.

Numbers 27:18-20 says, *And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.*

And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

In Bible times, when a man wanted to be the new leader or king of a country, often he took the title by force. He would kill the old leader or king and then proclaim himself the new king. No one tended to argue. They may not like the new king, but that was the way it was. At least until someone killed him so they could take over.

But that was not the way it was to happen here. God wanted it to be totally clear to the Israelites that Joshua was their new leader because God had chosen him.

GOD SPEAKS TO MOSES AND JOSHUA

The time came for Moses to turn over his leadership to Joshua. God told Moses and Joshua to go together to the tabernacle and present themselves to Him. God had some things He wanted to say to both men. It would be the last time God spoke directly to Moses and the first time He spoke directly to Joshua.

God told Moses the time was near when he would die. He told Moses some of the things that would happen to the Israelites in the future. God told him that when the Israelites had settled in their new land, they would turn from God and follow after false gods. It was a sad thing for Moses to hear. But it was what would happen in the years to come.

Then God told Joshua now that he was the new leader, he needed to lead with strength and courage. There was a big battle ahead. Joshua would have to lead the huge army of Israel against a mighty enemy. But Joshua would not have to go alone. God promised to go with Joshua.

Deuteronomy 31:23 tells us, *And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.*

What a wonderful promise that was to Joshua. He knew that no matter what they would have to face, he did not have to face it alone. God would always be with him.

When God sends you to do a job for Him, God promises He will be with you also. That can give you courage to follow God!

In Hebrews 13:5b God tells us, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

And so, Moses died. Now Joshua was the new leader.

GODLY CHARACTER

God knew what type of man Joshua was. He knew what type of character he possessed. It was important to God that Joshua was a man who obeyed and followed Him.

Numbers 27:18 refers to Joshua's spirit. *Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit.*

God could see Joshua's heart. He knew he was a man who loved the Lord. He knew Joshua was a man who avoided sin. He was a man who trusted God.

Then God told Joshua to add two more important character traits to his life. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. God knew that it would take a man of strength, not only of body but also of spirit, to be a great leader. God knew it would take a man of courage to lead the nation of Israel into battle and to lead them as they settled in their new land.

God wants you to have the same character traits in your life. He wants you to be strong and courageous.

When God says He wants you to be strong, it means more than just strong physically. God means He wants you to be strong spiritually. That means you should have a spirit in you that loves and obeys and trusts God.

In our world lots of people call themselves "spiritual." Some of them mean they believe in a greater being. Some of them mean they are more than just physical beings but are also spiritual beings. Some of them have no idea what they mean.

But God wants you to be strong spiritually, He wants you to have a godly character. He wants you to say godly things, act in a godly manner, have a heart that is turned toward God.

When God says He wants you to be courageous, that means He wants you to be brave about spiritual things. He wants you to have the courage to let others know that you love and trust Him. He wants you to have the courage to obey Him even when you can't see the path ahead or the outcome of obeying Him. Instead, you trust God to lead you in the right way. It takes courage to trust and obey God.

Joshua had those character traits. If God didn't think he did, God would have selected another leader.

A PICTURE OF JESUS

Did you know that the name Joshua means "Savior?" And the name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. The name Jesus means Savior also.

Joshua is a picture of Jesus. Joshua led his people into the promised land. This is a picture of Jesus, the perfect leader who would come to earth to save all of mankind from their sin and lead the way to Heaven.

Like Joshua, Jesus showed strength and courage. When Jesus left heaven, He knew one day He would have to die a terrible death on the cross and bear the sins of the world. It took strength and courage to do what Jesus Christ did. But Jesus was not a mere man, like Joshua was. Jesus Christ was God. He left Heaven to come to earth because He was the only one who was completely equipped to do what needed to be done to save us from our sin. He alone was able to be our Savior.

OUR EXAMPLE

Joshua was a good example to us of how to live on earth. He was faithful in assisting Moses. He resisted sin when others were indulging in sin. He trusted God by believing that God could give victory, even over a fierce enemy. He had strength and courage.

But Jesus Christ was more than just a good example for you to follow. He is the only one able to be your Savior. He is the only one who can forgive your sins and take you to Heaven.

He is the one who watches over you and hears your prayers. He is the one who guides you on your journey through life.

Have you had your sin forgiven? Is Jesus Christ your Savior? He can be today. We can show you how you can accept Jesus as your Savior.

If you are already a Christian, then God wants you to be strong and courageous. He wants you to have a godly character that trusts and obeys every day.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be strong and courageous for God. Have a strong belief in God. Be strong in your spirit. Trust Him and obey Him on your journey through life.

Be courageous enough to live daily for God. Don't be afraid of what others will think of you because you are a Christian. Instead, be brave enough to tell others about Jesus. Be brave enough to do what is right. Be brave enough to live a life that is pleasing to God.

This week, ask God to help you to be strong and courageous. When God gives you an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus, be courageous and tell them. When you are faced with sin, be strong and resist sin.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be strong in the Lord and to be courageous to serve Him daily.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Recite today's memory verse.
2. How far did Moses get before he had to stop?
3. What was Moses concerned about?
4. How old was Moses when he died?
5. How did Moses know that God wanted Joshua to be the next leader?
6. What did God tell Moses when He spoke to him at the tabernacle?
7. What two character traits did God instruct Joshua to have?
8. Name something that Joshua had done earlier in his life that showed God he was a godly man.
9. What does the name Joshua mean?
10. What did Jesus Christ do for all mankind?

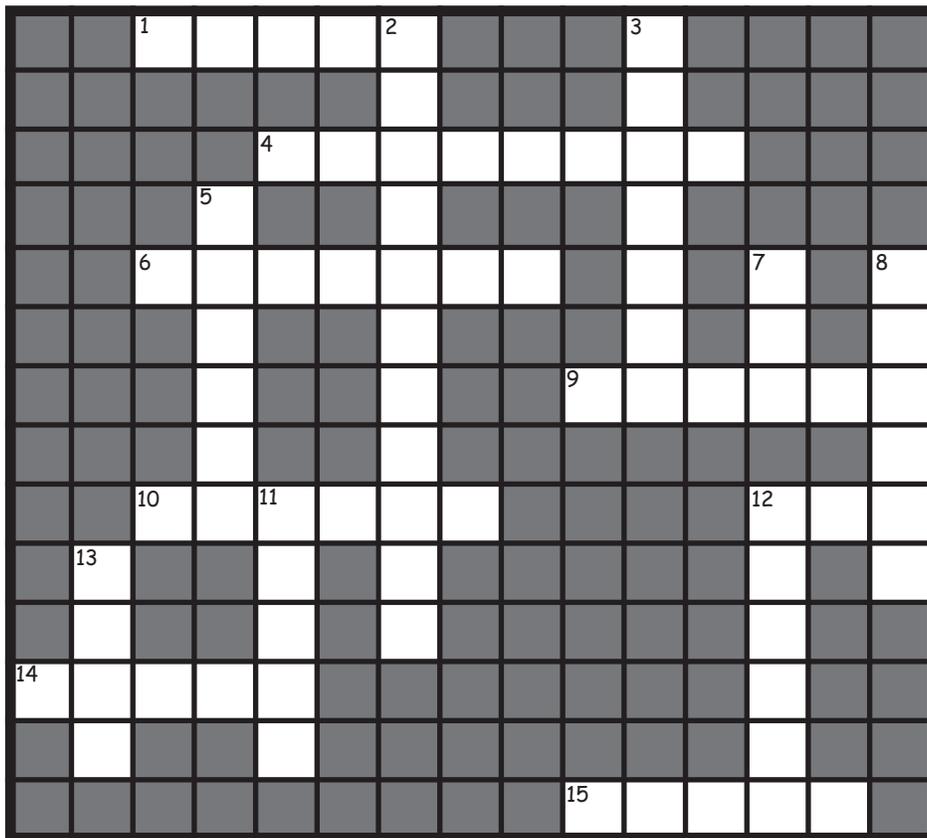
Strong & Courageous



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.



Across

1. Moses died when he was 120 _____ old.
4. Joshua was a _____ man.
6. Jesus wants to _____ your sins.
9. Moses asked God to give Israel a new _____.
10. Joshua was mighty in _____.
12. Joshua stayed away from _____.
14. Joshua is a picture of _____.
15. God could see Joshua's _____.

Down

2. God wants you to be strong and courageous _____.
3. God told Joshua to be "of a good _____."
5. God made _____ the new leader.
7. The new leader was chosen by _____.
8. God told Joshua, "Be _____."
11. God wants you to _____ Him.
12. The name Joshua means _____.
13. We should trust and _____ God daily.

LESSON 13

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO OBEY

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 1:2-18

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that it takes courage to obey God? It does. There are times that God may ask you to do something His way. You have a choice you can obey and do things God's way, or you can disobey and do things your own way. But doing things God's way may seem hard to you. It may take courage to obey God.

But God promises that if you obey, He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will always bless you if you have the courage to obey.

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

SIDETRACKED BY THE WORLD

Obtain Flash Card

Last week Christian left the City of Destruction and was headed for the gate. He got off the path and fell in the Slough of Despond where he began to sink. But Help came to give him a hand out.

Christian slowly continued on toward the gate that Evangelist had directed him toward. He was all alone. Pliable had turned back when he became frightened and discouraged by falling into the Slough of Despond.

Help had come to direct Christian out of the Slough, then Christian went on his way toward the gate.

Soon Christian spied a man coming his way. The man was named Mr. Worldly Wiseman. He came from a nearby city called Carnal Policy.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman knew who Christian was. He lived near the City of Destruction and he had heard the gossip about Christian and how he had left the City of Destruction to begin his journey to the Celestial City. He could see that Christian was struggling along under his burden.

"Well, hello," called Mr. Worldly Wiseman. "Where are you going with such a heavy burden on your back?"

“I do have a heavy burden,” Christian admitted. “I am going to the gate over there so I can be rid of this burden.”

“Don’t you have a family back home?” Mr. Worldly Wiseman asked.

“Yes, but I am so weighted down with this burden that I can no longer enjoy my family or my old life.”

Mr. Worldly Wiseman was a wily, sneaky old fellow. He asked Christian if he was willing to take some advice from him. He told Christian that he knew of a faster way to be rid of his burden than wasting his time going all the way to the gate.

Christian told him that he truly wished to be rid of the burden, but neither he nor anyone in that country could take it from him. He was determined to go on to the gate to be rid of the burden.

“Who told you to go that way?” Mr. Worldly Wiseman questioned. He was determined to sidetrack Christian and get him to turn back.

When Christian told him that Evangelist had been the one who told him to go to the gate, Mr. Worldly Wiseman snorted in contempt. He told Christian that he did not value his counsel at all. He warned that Evangelist had sent him on a dangerous route and was not to be trusted.

“Don’t listen to Evangelist,” Mr. Worldly Wiseman sneered. “I can see you already fell in the Slough of Despond because you followed the path he sent you on! I can see the dirt on you! That is just the beginning of your troubles if you listen to him. Instead, listen to me. I am older. You can trust me. If you continue this way, you will meet hunger, many dangers, lions, swords, dragons, and death. Why are you listening to this stranger?”

Christian told Mr. Worldly Wiseman that it didn’t matter what he must face if he could find a way to be rid of his terrible burden. He said he was willing to face any of the things he had mentioned.

So Mr. Worldly Wiseman decided to try another plan of attack. You see, when someone tries to turn you from trusting and obeying God, then that person is attacking you. They don’t care about what is best for you. Mr. Worldly Wiseman didn’t care about Christian. He just hated the good Prince and wanted Christian to be sidetracked from following in the right way.

“Tell me,” Mr. Worldly Wiseman asked slyly. “How did you get that burden in the first place?”

Christian held up his book. “By reading this book.”

“I thought so! The same thing has happened to others who have tried to understand things too deep for them. You don’t know what you want.”

“Yes,” replied Christian. “I do know what I want. I want to be rid of this burden.”

“But why take the hardest way possible? I know of a better, easier way! You will be able to avoid all those dangers I mentioned.”

“OK,” said Christian. “Tell me the better way to go.”

Mr. Worldly Wiseman smiled a wicked smile.

“Why, of course,” the wicked man replied. “There is a village named Morality. In it lives a man named Legality. He’s a very, very good man. He can help you take that burden off. You’ll be so much happier if you go that way!”

Mr. Worldly Wiseman wanted Christian to believe that he could get rid of his burden by going to someone who was good. That is like Satan. He wants us to believe that if we are good and do good works, then we can get rid of our sin all by ourselves. But the Bible says that we are not saved by our own good works. (Show Flashcard.)

But sadly, Christian decided to follow his advise. So Mr. Worldly Wiseman gave him directions. Christian went the way he said, but the house was on a high hill. Every time Christian went to approach the house, he could not get up the hill. It was such a long way to climb. He just couldn’t climb that high. And as he stood there, fire came out of the hill.

Many people think they can get to Heaven by doing good works. The Bible says we are all sinners and no matter how hard we try, we can never be good enough to take away our own sin. Only Jesus can take away our sin.

Satan, our enemy, will use any lie he can to sidetrack us from obeying God’s Word and getting to Heaven. He knows that Jesus is the only way. But if we stay close to God, He will shield us from Satan’s lies.

Christian did not know what to do. He was sorry he had ever listened to Mr. Worldly Wiseman. He was off the path and his burden seemed heavier than ever!

What was he going to do?

Next week, we will find out what happens to Christian.

1. Who came to talk to Christian?
2. Why did Mr. Worldly Wiseman say Christian shouldn’t go on the path he was on?
3. What do you think all the dangers on the path represent?
4. Why did Mr. Worldly Wiseman want to sidetrack Christian?
5. What way does the world want you to believe that you can get rid of your sin?
6. Why couldn’t Christian get up to Mr. Legality’s house?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 1:2-18

LESSON

TIME TO OBEY

Finally the time had come for Israel to actually go into the land. God gave the command to Joshua to get up and go do the job God had prepared for him to do.

It was time to do what should have been done forty years earlier when the Israelites stood in the same place where they now stood. Forty years earlier they should have gone in to take the land, but when God said, "Go into the land," the people were afraid. They said, "No. We are afraid. Instead we want to go back to Egypt." They didn't have the courage to obey.

The disobedience of the people forty years earlier had been a great sin against God. It had also been a sin that hurt themselves. In the forty years that they trudged through the wilderness, they must have had deep regrets about their foolish decision to disobey God. They knew their disobedience had shown that they didn't trust God.

They didn't have the courage to obey God and it cost them dearly.

God would not allow the Israelites to go back to slavery in Egypt. Instead, God sent them back into the desert to wander around in circles for forty years while all the adults died and the children grew up.

When the people heard what was going to happen, then they said, "Wait, God. We'll obey now!" But it was too late. Their delay to obey had cost them the promised land. Only those 20 years old or younger would get to enter the land. Not one of the adults that delayed in obeying God would be allowed to enter the land.

If a young person had been twenty the first time they arrived at the land, then they would get to go in. But instead of being twenty years old, they were now 60 years old. Sounds old, doesn't it? Just think of all the years they wasted in the wilderness when they could have been settled in their land and enjoying all God had for them there.

Remember that only Caleb and Joshua had the courage to believe they could trust God and win the victory. So the only adults to survive were Caleb and Joshua. They would get to go into the land. Joshua was eighty-five years old by now. But he was still a strong, courageous leader.

GOD'S PROMISES

So God spoke to Joshua. He told him to get up and go!

Joshua 1:2b says, *Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

Then God made some wonderful promises to Joshua and to all the Israelites. First God said that everywhere they walked, they could claim that land as their own.

Joshua 1:3-4 says, *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.*

Another promise God made was that no enemy would be able to defeat them because God himself would be with them. He promised not to leave them nor forsake them.

Joshua 1:5 tells us, *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

That was God's part of the bargain. Then God told the people the part of the bargain they needed to keep. In exchange for giving them the land and fighting for them, and being with them through thick and thin, God just asked a very simple thing. This is what God asked.

Joshua 1:7 says, *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

God said, "Be strong. Be courageous. Trust me. Do what I tell you to do. Obey my law and commands. Then everything will go well for you."

God told them to think on His law. That means that first they should read the law. Then they were to take the time to think about God's law. Joshua was a busy man. He had over two million people to lead now. But God told him it was important to take the time to read and think about the law.

But God didn't want them to just read and think about the law, they were also to obey the law. They were to keep on the right path. They weren't suppose to turn to the right or left. They were to keep straight on the path of obedience to God.

If they did that, then they would prosper. They would do well. They would have success.

That was what God wanted from His people. He wanted them to do their part by being strong and courageous. He wanted them to think about what He had commanded them and then He wanted them to obey His commands.

That is the same for us. God says we are to do our part in life by being strong and courageous. We are also to know His Word, the Bible, by taking the time to read it and think about what it means. Then we are to obey it. If we do our part, then God will do His part of being with us and defeating our enemy, Satan. God promises He will never leave nor forsake us. He will make our way in life successful.

Often people think success means having lots of money or everything you want in life. But that's not exactly what God means by success. God did give the Israelites success in battle and success in gaining land and animals. But more importantly, God wanted them to have success in living a life that was pleasing to Him.

In God's eyes, success is doing God's will in God's way.

When God promises success, He is promising that if you obey Him and His Word, then He will honor you by helping you to love and obey Him. You will be successful in saying and doing the things that please Him.

Joshua 1:8 says, *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.*

If you obey God, when you get to Heaven God will look at you and say, "Congratulations. You loved and trusted and obeyed Me. Your life was pleasing to Me. Good job!"

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have God look at your life and say, "Good job! You were a good and faithful servant."

JOSHUA'S COMMAND

So Joshua went to the people and told them it was time to obey God. It was time to move into action. Joshua had learned to obey right away. He didn't hesitate. He didn't ask God for a few weeks to think it over. Instead he set to work.

He told the people to prepare enough food to last them three days. He told them they were going to go over the Jordan River.

Now the Jordan River was not just a small river that could be waded through and the people would only get their ankles wet. It was a large body of water. But Joshua did not tell the people to build boats. No. He knew if God ordered them to cross the Jordan River, then God would make a way for them to cross.

Joshua had been present when God parted the Red Sea. He remembered walking across the huge sea on dry land as the water stood like high walls on both sides. Joshua knew that if God ordered them to do something, even something that seemed impossible, then God would make it possible for them to do it. Joshua trusted God.

Joshua 1:10-11 says, *Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.*

ISRAEL'S RESPONSE

Then Joshua reminded the two tribes of Israel that had already settled on the east side of the Jordan that they promised Moses and God they would go with the others into the promised land to help conquer it. He told them they should prepare to go and not to return home until the rest of the tribes had gained their land.

This time, the people that stood before Joshua agreed. They were ready to obey God. They said, "Yes. We will do all God wants us to do. Wherever you send us, we will go. We will obey right away."

I can almost hear the people cheer, "We'll obey, No delay! We'll obey, No delay!"

This time they would not delay to obey. That must have been sweet music in God's ears. How it pleased God!

YOUR RESPONSE

How about you? When God asks you to obey Him, will you say, "I'll obey, No delay!" That would be music to God's ears.

When you obey God, you are saying to Him, "God, I will obey you because I know you know what is best for me. When you ask me to do something in the Bible, then I will do it right away. I will obey because I have the courage to trust you. I will obey because I love You."

That's what obedience does. It shows God and others that you love and trust God enough to do what He commands.

You will never be sorry when you obey. God always wants what is best for you. He always leads you in the way that is best for your life. And God always blesses your obedience.

God told the Israelites if they obeyed Him, then He would bless them. The same promise is true for you. If you obey without delay, then God will bless your life.

The first thing God wants you to do is to let Him become a part of your life. Jesus Christ came to earth to die on the cross for your sins. You cannot take away your own sins, but Jesus can.

Would you like to obey God by asking Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? You can do that today.

If you have already done that, then God wants you to obey without delay. The only way you can obey is to know what God wants you to do. How do you find out what God wants? Easy. The Bible tells us.

God told Joshua to read and think about the law. The same is true for us. To know what God wants, we must read the Bible and take the time to think about what we read and what it means.

Every day you should take the time to read a verse or two from the Bible. But don't stop there. Take the time to think about the verse. What does it mean? How does it apply to your life? How can you put it into action?

Diligently keep God's commandments. That means you need to work hard at actively doing what God says in His Word. God's Word is His commandment to you.

God uses lots of other words to refer to His commandments. Psalm 119 uses a lot of those names. Other words for commandments are testimonies, statutes, law, precepts, judgements, and Word.

God wants you to actively obey all He commands you to do. Obey, don't delay!

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to obey without delay.

You will be happy if you immediately do what God asks you to do. But if you put God off, if you tell Him you don't want to obey, or if you tell Him you will obey later, then you will live to regret your sin. You will lose an opportunity to serve God. You will lose the opportunity to show God and others how much you love Him.

And you can't avoid sin's consequences. When you delay to obey, you are sinning against God. God will have to correct you. He corrects you to bring you back into a right relationship with Him. He corrects you to cause you to obey.

You don't have to be corrected if you will learn to obey without delay. Obedience without delay shows that you love and trust God. Have the courage to obey without delay. You will never regret it.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to yield your heart so that you will have the courage to obey without delay when God speaks to you.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. How old was Joshua when they were ready to enter the promised land?
2. What punishment did the Israelites get for delaying in obeying God by not entering the land the first time?
3. Name one promise God made if the people obeyed Him.
4. Name another promise God made if the people obeyed Him.
5. What is success in God's eyes?
6. Recite today's memory verse.
7. What did God ask of Joshua and the people in return?
8. What did God tell them they should do with the book of the law?
9. What did God say they were going to cross?
10. How did the people respond to God's commands?

Courage to Obey



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.

I will obey without delay.

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LESSON 14

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO TAKE A RISK

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 2:1-22

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

If you know how something is going to turn out in the end, then it doesn't take much courage to do that thing. But if God gives you a job to do and you don't know how things are going to turn out, then it takes courage to do as God asks. It involves taking a risk.

In today's story we'll meet a woman who had the courage to take a risk and help God's people.

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS GOING GOD'S WAY

Obtain Flash Card

When we last left Christian, he had determined to follow the advice of Evangelist and head for the gate where he hoped to get rid of the heavy burden he carried.

Along the way he encountered Mr. Worldly Wiseman who told him he should not go the way he was headed. Instead he should go a better way. So he directed Christian another direction. But Christian came upon a high hill and no matter what he tried, he couldn't climb it. His burden felt heavier than ever. What was he going to do?

Just then, Evangelist came up to Christian. He had a stern look on his face. He was not happy with Christian because Christian had turned from the truth that he had told him. The Evangelist's job was to tell the truth and Christian had quickly forgotten the truth and had fallen for a lie.

"What are you doing here? Aren't you the man whom I found crying by the City of Destruction? Didn't I tell you the way to go to be rid of your burden? Didn't I tell you to go to the gate?"

Christian hung his head in shame. "Yes, sir. You did."

"Why have you turned off the right path so quickly? You are on the wrong path!" Evangelist told him.

Christian proceeded to tell Evangelist all about his conversation with Mr. Worldly Wiseman. He told him how he had wanted to be rid of his burden and Mr. Worldly Wiseman said he knew a better way, a less dangerous way.

Evangelist told Christian that he must have faith to believe and follow the exact way that the Prince wanted him to go. It was wrong to pull back and not follow. It would lead to misery. Christian was on the wrong path.(Show Flashcard.)

It is the same way with us. We need to be careful to follow God and not listen to Satan's wicked advice. The only way to get to God is by God's way. There are not many different paths to God. There is only one path to God and that is God's path that we read about in the Bible. If we get off the path, then we are headed in the wrong direction. We are headed toward destruction.

Christian fell down on his knees and cried in sorrow for his foolishness. But Evangelist quickly reassured him that the Prince would forgive him if he had courage to stay on the right path.

Evangelist told Christian that Mr. Worldly Wiseman was a wicked man who wanted only to turn him from the true path and to make the cross seem hideous, and to lead him astray to the place of death.

That is what Satan wants to do to us. He wants us to get off God's path to Heaven. He wants us to reject what Jesus did for us on the cross. And he wants to lead us to the destruction awaiting in Hell.

Evangelist told Christian to reject everything Mr. Worldly Wiseman told him. As they spoke, Evangelist called out and words came out of the high hill. They said: "As many as are of the works of the law are under the curse."

No, good works could not save Christian. They cannot save you. Only the forgiveness gained from the blood of Jesus shed on the cross can gain forgiveness.

Christian thought he was hopeless since he had gotten off the path, but Evangelist assured him that if he got back on the path and stayed there, he could still find the gate.

1. What does Evangelist represent?
2. What way is the only true way?
3. What does the World want you to believe?
4. Could good works save Christian?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 2:1-22

LESSON

TWO SPIES ON A MISSION

Forty years earlier, Moses had sent twelve men into the land of Canaan to see what to expect. Of course, they came back and said, "The land is great, but the people are big and mean. We can't defeat them!"

Now Israel once again stands on the borders of Canaan. They face one of the greatest cities that they must defeat to begin taking possession of the land God has promised to them. Just over the Jordan River looms the great city of Jericho.

Joshua had been there before. But it was forty years later and he wanted to know exactly what they would face when they went to battle the inhabitants of the city of Jericho.

Joshua was a mighty man of battle. He had great courage. He led the Israelites in many battles along the way as they traveled through the wilderness. God's hand was on Joshua and he had learned much about fighting and also about trusting God. Joshua knew that when the Israelites went into battle, it was the power and strength of God that won each fight.

So as they stood and gazed at Jericho, Joshua wanted to know what the city was like now. He sent two men to spy on the land. The two spies crept towards the city under the cover of darkness, but they were spotted as they crept into the city and found lodging for the night at the home of a woman named Rahab.

Joshua 2:1 says, *And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.*

The two men of Israel did not know where to go for safe lodging. There wasn't another person in Jericho, except one, who would have welcomed the Israelites. But God knew exactly where the one person in all of Jericho lived who would give them a safe place to hide. So God directed them to the house of Rahab.

A COURAGEOUS WOMAN

The Bible tells us that Rahab was a harlot. That means that she was not a respectable woman. She may have sold her body for money. Or she may have just used her home on the city wall as an inn to earn her living. Either way, she was not highly respected.

But Rahab was a unique woman. She was a woman who realized that the God of the Israelites was the one true God. In Jericho the people worshipped false gods. They were wicked people. They did not believe in the one true God. They heard of the true God, because they knew about the God of Israel, but the people of Jericho rejected God. But Rahab did not reject God. She must have been very curious about Him.

I imagine that for all of Rahab's life she had heard of the Israelites and their journey through the wilderness. She heard of the time they came so close to Jericho once before. She probably hadn't even been born forty years before when the Israelites stood just beyond the borders of her city. Inside the city walls, the people of Jericho had taken notice. They knew a great crowd of people stood poised to march against their city. But something happened and the Israelites turned and went back into the desert instead of fighting them. That fact alone must have been confusing and maybe a bit frightening to the residents of Jericho. The people of Jericho did not know why the Israelites had not tried to enter their city. They didn't know the Israelites had fled in fear.

All of Rahab's life she heard that wherever the Israelites went, when an enemy came against them, their God would defeat the enemy. She heard that their God provided them with food and water, even as they wandered in the vast, barren desert. She knew she would never make it one week in the desert, but with the help of their God, over two million Israelites had lived quite comfortably.

Rahab knew the gods her people worshipped were not real. What had they ever done for her? Nothing! I am sure Rahab had rejected the false gods. But she had no doubt that the God of the Israelites was very real.

How frightened and yet interested Rahab must have been when the two Israelite spies showed up on her doorstep. By this time the entire city knew the Israelites were back. Over two million of them were camped about eight miles away, over the Jordan River. They knew the God of the Israelites would give them the victory when they came to fight Jericho.

But Rahab wasn't just interested in knowing when the Israelites would attack. She was more interested in learning more about their God. She wanted to know about the God who loved and protected and guided His people. She wanted to be one of those who followed the true God. I suppose the first thing Rahab wanted to do was ask the men about their God. So Rahab had the courage to take the risk of welcoming the men into her home.

The Bible doesn't say what they talked about. They must not have had too much time because someone in town saw the spies enter her house. They quickly ran to inform the king.

Joshua 2:2-3 says, *And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.*

And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

It didn't take long for the news to spread to the king that spies from the Israelites were at Rahab's house. The king sent men to question Rahab. They insisted she send out the two men.

Rahab had a choice. It wasn't an easy choice either. She could tell the king the men were in her house, or she could protect the two spies. Now, you can't just tell a king you don't want to give up the enemy spies who are hiding in your house. And if you got caught lying to the king, it could mean death. It took courage for Rahab to risk hide the men and not admit they were there.

It must have been good acting on Rahab's part as she faced the king's men and told them that two men had come to her house, but she hadn't known who they were. She told the king's men that the spies left her house and had gone out at the time the city gates were being closed for the night. She suggested that if they hurried, they might be able to catch the men.

Joshua 2:4-6 tells us, *And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.*

But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

Then she closed her door and drew in a deep breath. She was relieved the king's men had not searched the house. She knew that hidden under stalks of flax on her roof were the two spies. But she was glad to take the risk.

The king's messengers quickly went in search of the spies, but of course, they did not find them.

A RETURNED FAVOR

Rahab went to the spies to let them know they were safe. She told the men everyone in Jericho was scared stiff of the Israelites. They were all terrified. She said that everyone knew God would deliver the land into their hands. The entire city had been keeping close track of them since they had left Egypt forty years earlier. They knew about how God helped them cross the Red Sea on dry land. They knew God fought their battles for them.

She also told the men that when the people of Jericho heard that the Israelites were just over the Jordan, their hearts melted with fear. Not a single man wanted to fight them. They knew they were beaten before they ever began.

Joshua 2:9 says, *And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.*

Then Rahab asked a favor. She reminded the men that she had shown kindness to them. She asked if they would show a kindness in return. She knew it would only be a short time before the Israelites came to destroy Jericho. She asked that God show mercy on her and her family.

Joshua 2:12-13 says, *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.*

The men happily agreed. They were glad to be able to help the kind woman who had protected them.

Rahab used a scarlet red rope to let the men down the outside of the wall of the city. The men told her to hang the same red rope out her window. And when she saw the Israelites coming she was to gather her family inside her house. They promised she and her family would all be safe there.

The cord that Rahab was told to hang from her window was scarlet. Scarlet is the color red. Do you know what color the Bible calls sin? The Bible says that sin is scarlet. It is red. Just like Rahab's cord.

Isaiah 1:18b says, *Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

The color red stands for sin, but it can also stand for blood. Jesus shed his blood on the cross of Calvary for you. The blood of Jesus can wash away your sins and make your heart as white as snow.

GOD'S MERCY ON STRANGERS

We know Rahab was not one of God's chosen people. She was not an Israelite. But because she believed God was the true God and because she showed kindness to the Israelite people, God was going to grant her protection.

Just as God was going to have mercy on Rahab and her family, God will also have mercy on any person who turns to Him and puts their faith and trust in Him.

In Psalms 86:15 David talks about God's mercy. It says, *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

There isn't anyone on earth who deserves to be forgiven of their sins. We are all born sinners. We all sin.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

God hates sin. But God has mercy on us. Now God couldn't just ignore our sin. All sin has to be punished. The Bible says the punishment for sin is death. Spiritual death.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

But God didn't want us to be punished for our sin. So God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die in our place. Jesus went to the cross for our sins, not for anything He did wrong. All we need to do is accept that Jesus took our sin on Himself, ask Jesus to forgive our sin, and He will. Then, through God's mercy, we will be forgiven.

We all need God's mercy. Fortunately, all we need to do is ask for God's mercy. When Rahab asked for mercy, she was given it. The same is true of us.

Psalm 59:16 says, *But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.*

Today, if you would like to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart, you can. God will be merciful to you. Today we can show you how to do that.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be like Rahab. Believe that God is the one true God. Believe that if God asks you to do something that seems risky to you, then He will give you the ability to do it.

It takes courage to do the right thing sometimes. Rahab took a big risk by hiding those Israelite men, but God protected her. It may take courage to do the right thing in your life this week, but know that if you take the risk and do what is pleasing to God, then He will be with you each step of the way!

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have the courage to take the risk of trusting God.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Why did Joshua send two men to spy on Jericho?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Where did God lead the spies?
4. Who found out the men had been at Rahab's house?
5. What did Rahab tell the king's messengers?
6. Where were the spies hidden?
7. What did Rahab tell the spies about Jericho?
8. What request did Rahab make before the men left?
9. What did the men tell Rahab she needed to do?
10. Why did God spare Rahab and her family?

Courage to Take a Risk



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.

- Canaan
- City
- Desert
- Enemy
- Favor
- Fear
- Gates
- Hide
- Jericho
- Joshua
- Kindness
- King
- Mercy
- Protect
- Rahab
- Risk
- Rope
- Safe
- Scarlet
- Spies
- Twelve

S	S	E	N	D	N	I	K	O	N	T	G	R	K	Y
V	O	I	H	N	O	B	H	D	F	C	A	V	I	K
K	S	I	R	K	S	C	A	R	L	E	T	J	Y	V
B	W	O	E	O	I	A	I	H	F	T	E	W	U	Q
K	P	M	K	R	V	N	G	T	A	O	S	K	S	X
E	V	L	E	W	T	A	G	U	Y	R	S	O	E	I
X	H	J	N	R	S	A	F	E	F	P	F	R	U	X
K	E	O	E	Q	C	N	F	H	I	D	E	Q	O	Q
E	Y	S	M	W	N	Y	C	E	S	M	K	S	T	A
A	E	H	Y	Q	S	X	S	U	P	V	F	T	M	M
D	N	U	O	V	O	S	T	M	N	D	A	O	S	O
H	Z	A	Z	G	S	C	L	E	Y	H	A	Q	F	O

LESSON 15

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO BE USED

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 2:23-24, Deuteronomy 11:8-12

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

God has a plan for your life. He has a job for you to do. You may not know what that job is right now, but as you grow older He will let you know. Maybe God wants you to be a missionary, or a preacher, or a person who teaches Children's Church.

Right now you may think that you couldn't do anything like that. It may sound scary to do a job for God. But if you are willing for God to use you, then God will give you the courage to do any job He gives you!

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Lessons In Truth

Obtain Flash Card

Last week, Christian had gotten off the path that Evangelist told him to take to get to the gate. Christian was at the bottom of a hill he could not climb. But Evangelist came and helped Christian to get back on the right path.

So Christian left Evangelist. Christian took courage and determined to stay on the path that led to the gate and not let anything distract or detour him this time.

In the process of time Christian finally got up to the gate. Now over the gate was a sign that had written on it, "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Show Flashcard.)

So, Christian knocked several times. He wondered if he would be allowed to enter since he had gotten off the path and not followed Evangelist's instructions. He knew he did not deserve to be let in the gate.

At last a very serious person came to the gate. He was named Goodwill. He asked who was there, from where he came, and what he wanted?

"I am a poor burdened sinner," called Christian. "I came from the City of Destruction, but am going to Mount Zion, that I may be delivered from the wrath to come. I was told this was the gate I must enter. I need to know if you are willing to let me in."

“Yes!” called the gatekeeper. “I am willing with all my heart.”

And with that he opened the gate and quickly pulled Christian inside the gate.

Once inside the gate, Christian told the gate keeper all he had been through since he left the City of Destruction. Then he asked if this was truly the way to go.

“Yes, indeed,” the gatekeeper replied. “This is the way you must go. There are many other ways you could go, but they are crooked, and wide. They are the wrong way.”

“But how will I know if I am on the right path?” Christian asked.

“You will know the right from the wrong because the right way is straight and narrow.” For the path to Heaven is not an easy path.

Then Christian asked him if he could not help him off with his burden that was upon his back. He couldn’t get it off without help.

“No. I cannot help you get your burden off. You must be content to bear it, until you come to the place of deliverance. There it will fall from your back by itself.”

Then the gatekeeper directed Christian to a house where a man named Interpreter lived. There Christian was to learn many important lessons that would help him on his journey.

So Christian went on his way until he reached the house of Interpreter. There the man greeted him and invited him to come in so he could learn the lessons he needed for his journey.

First Interpreter took Christian where he saw a picture of a man who had his eyes lifted to Heaven, in his hand was the best of books, the law was on his lips and the world was behind him. Over his head was a crown of gold.

Interpreter told Christian this stood for one who has put the world behind him and is only interested in serving his master. The crown above his head represented the future glory waiting for him. The man in the picture is the one to follow because he is the one that the King sent to be the guide.

Interpreter told Christian it was important to know what the man looked like so he would not make the mistake of following the wrong one.

As Christians, our Guide is Jesus Christ. He came to earth to guide us to Heaven. We must know Him so that we will not follow the wrong one and go astray.

Next, Interpreter took Christian into a room full of dust. He gave a broom to a man to sweep up, but the more he swept, the more the dust flew up and soon they were almost choked by it. Then Interpreter told a girl to sprinkle water on the dust. She did and the dust settled down. Then the dust was easily cleaned from the room.

Interpreter told Christian that the dust represented sin and the law was the broom. It was given to help, but the law could not get rid of sin. The water represented the Gospel. What Jesus did on the cross for our sins could rid us of sin.

We cannot be saved by the law. We cannot have our sins forgiven by doing all the good the law represents. Instead, we need the Gospel which is that Jesus came to die for our sins. His blood not only covers, but takes away our sin.

Thirdly, Interpreter took Christian in a room where two children sat. The first was named Passion, the second was named Patience. Patience was sitting quietly, but Passion was very discontent. The King wanted the two children to wait for their reward, but Passion wanted his now! Patience was willing to wait.

So Passion's reward was given to him and he was so happy. But soon, his reward was gone.

Interpreter told Christian that Passion represents men of the world who want their reward now. They are not willing to wait. So they get everything now, but soon it is gone and they are left with nothing.

Patience represents men who are willing to wait till Heaven for their reward. They will get it when they get to Heaven, and it will be the very best and it will last forever.

There were other lessons for Christian to learn, just as we like Christian have many lessons to learn. That is why we come to church. We need to learn what God has to teach us so that we will be prepared for our journey to Heaven.

Finally Christian went on his way, but there were still many adventures ahead of Christian. Next week, we shall see what happens to Christian next.

1. What type of path was Christian supposed to follow?
2. What path is the wrong path?
3. What does the straight and narrow path represent?
4. Who did the man in the picture at Interpreter's house represent?
5. Who did the child named Passion represent?
6. What did the water in the dusty room represent?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 2:23-24, Deuteronomy 11:8-12

LESSON

A GREAT LAND

While the spies were in Jericho, searching out the city and the land that surrounded it, they had a good look around. Do you know what they saw? They saw a land with plenty of rich soil, fields of lush grazing grass for the animals, abundant crops, and a wonderful place to build homes and raise a family.

It was the land of their dreams.

Deuteronomy 11:10-13 says, *For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:*

But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

They had come from the land of Egypt. Egypt is located in a desert. In order to raise crops for food and cattle during the dry season, it was necessary to irrigate. That means they had to build trenches to carry in water to the fields. Once a year the Nile would overflow its banks and would water the crops.

Water was a precious thing in Egypt because it was so scarce. The Nile River was worshipped as one of the main false gods because the people knew that without the water from the Nile they would not be able to live.

The land God had promised to the Israelites would also need to be irrigated at times. They did not have a river that overflowed its banks like the Nile did, so they greatly depended on the rains during the rainy season as well as irrigation. If the rains did not come and they had a drought, they would be in big trouble. The crops would not grow. They would not have food for themselves or their animals. But if the rains came, all would be well.

This land that God led them to was a wonderful and fruitful land, but the Israelites knew they would be totally dependant on God for their survival. God was the one who could send or withhold the rains. If God blessed them with rain, then they would have land that would produce all they needed for a happy and prosperous life.

But if they turned away from worshipping and obeying God, then God let them know they couldn't depend on Him to provide for their needs. If they rejected God, then He would not force them to love and obey Him. But they would also lose the blessings of God. He wouldn't send the rain.

Deuteronomy 11:13-17 says, *And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.*

Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

WE CAN DO IT!

As the Israelites stood on the east side of the Jordan waiting for the spies to return, they were excited. The fact that this was such a great place to live made the news the spies delivered so much better.

The two men returned from checking out the land and the city of Jericho. I am sure everyone gathered around and waited for their report. They told Joshua how God led them to the house of Rahab and how she believed God was the one true God. And how she hid and protected them. They told that they were sure God had delivered the land into their hands. They told what Rahab said about the people being frightened of them.

Basically, they said, “God has delivered this land into our hands. Let’s do it!”

They believed with all their hearts that God would go with them and give them the victory. They believed that finally they could go claim the land for their own.

Joshua 2:23-24 says, *So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them:*

And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

HALF EMPTY, HALF FULL

What a difference between the report this time and the report forty years earlier!

Forty years ago the 10 spies had said, “Sure, they have great crops. It’s the land of our dreams, but there is no way we can defeat those people. They are stronger than we are. They are big and mean. We were scared stiff the whole time we were in there.”

When Caleb and Joshua had stood and said, “Wait a minute! Sure, the people are big and mean, but God will give us the victory. Let’s go take the land!” everyone said, “No way. We want to go back to Egypt.”

But this time, when the spies told the people all that happened, the people had the courage to trust God. They were ready to obey. I guess they learned a few things during the past forty years of wandering around in circles.

Have you ever heard someone say that there are two ways to look at things? (Bring in a clear glass of water filled to the half way mark. Set it out where the children can see it.)

See this glass of water. You can look at this glass of water and see it as half empty or you can see it as half full.

The way you see it determines if you are looking at it in a positive or negative way. If you are negative, then you will say, “That glass is half empty.” You look at the bad. You see what isn’t there.

However, if you are positive, you will say, “That glass is half full.” You look at the good. You see what is there.

Life is the same way. You can look at the life God has given you and say, “I can’t serve God. I am only a child. I am very limited. I can’t drive a car, so I can’t pick someone up and bring them to church. I can’t go be a missionary. I’m too young. I can’t do anything of value for God.”

That would be looking at your life as being half empty. That would be negative. It would be saying, “Because I don’t have the courage to serve God, then God is limited too. He can’t use me.”

Or you can see life as being half full. You can say, “I am a child of the one true God. I am limited, but God is not. If God asks me to do something, then there will be a way to obey Him. I can’t be a missionary now, but I can witness to my friends. I can invite them to church. I can live like a Christian in front of them. I can do anything God asks me to do.”

The Israelites did it both ways. The first time they said, “We can’t do what God has told us to do. Let’s give up. Let’s not even try.”

The second time they said, “We can do what God tells us to do with His help. Let’s do it!”

Seeing life as half full, or even better, as completely full, is not just positive thinking. It is having faith that if God gives you a job to do, then He will enable you to do that job.

God will never ask you to do something He won’t help you do. Never! If God asks you to do anything at all, He will be there to help you. That doesn’t mean you don’t have to do anything, it means He will help you do the job. He will use you if you have the courage to be used.

If God lays it on your heart to tell a friend about Jesus, then you will need to go tell them, and God will help you. If God asks you to help in church by singing a special song or playing an instrument, then God will give you the talent and courage to do the job.

God gives us the talents we need to do the jobs He wants us to do. God won’t ask you to sing a special song in church if you can’t sing. But if He asks you to sing, then it is your job to practice and train so that you can do your best job for the Lord.

Whatever talents God has given to you, it is your part of the job to develop those talents. When you grow up, if you prepare and train to the best of your ability, then God will use you.

Each of us is different. God gives us each different talents. He equips each of us in different ways. And God gives us talents to use for Him. Maybe when you are older, you will sing in the choir or teach a Sunday School class, or help with the youth group, or be a deacon. There are so many different things God wants done.

Your job is to be willing to be used and then to prepare to be used. Any job God asks you to do, you can do.

God gives a promise in the Bible that we can do anything He asks of us. Philippians 4:13 says, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

You can do all things, but it is with the help of Jesus Christ who gives you the strength to do the job.

Finally, the Israelites were willing to obey God. Finally they said, “If God wants us to go take the land, then we can do it.”

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

God wants to use your life. But He can only use you if you are His child. If you don't belong to God, then He can't use you.

How do you become a child of God? The Bible tells us Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for our sins. We needed Jesus to do that for us because we need our sins taken away in order to please God, but we can't take away our own sins. We just can't do it.

But when Jesus died on the cross, He did take away your sins. He did it as a gift to you. But with any gift, it isn't yours until you accept it. If you have never accepted the fact that Jesus died to forgive your sin, then you don't have the gift of God.

But you can. Today we can show you how you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. Then you will be God's child. Then God can use you.

Maybe you have already accepted Jesus. Most of you have. But you have never thought about doing what God asks you to do. You have always thought, "I am just a kid. I can't do anything. When I am an adult, then I will serve God."

You can serve God right now. In fact, God doesn't want you to put off serving Him. The older you get, the less likely it will be that you will decide to serve God. But if you purpose in your heart to serve Him now, and you begin now, then you will most likely continue as you get older.

So today, I am going to ask you to think about your own heart and life. Are you willing in your heart to serve God? Even if you can't think of anything you can do for God, are you willing to tell Him, "Yes, God. If you have a job for me, I am willing to do it. I believe you will help me."?

Maybe you know of a talent you already have that God can use. Are you willing to use your talent for God? Do you trust that He will help you use it for Him?

Take just a minute now to tell God you are willing to use your life and your talents for Him.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to do anything God asks you to do. He will help you to do.

If you don't have anything to use for God yet, then pray and ask Him to eventually show you what He wants you to do. Then ask Him to help you to have the courage to do what He asks.

If you do have talents, tell God you are willing to use those talents to serve Him. Pray and ask Him to help you work hard to develop your talents.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you remember you can do anything God asks you to do.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the land of Egypt like?
2. What would the Israelites need in the promised land to make it prosperous and fruitful?
3. What did God say the Israelites needed to do for Him to send rain?
4. What did God say He would do if the Israelites rejected him?
5. What report did the two spies give when they returned?
6. What report had the ten spies given when they returned to the land forty years earlier?
7. What were the names of the spies who believed they could go in forty years before?
8. What are two ways you can look at a glass of water like this? (Hold up the glass with the water in it.)
9. What does God promise you in Philippians 4:13?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Courage to Be Used



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.

I	E	D	T	F	A	W	O	G	J	I	D	O	O	L	O	D	B
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
L	T	G	T	H	H	I	O	E	A	V	D	L	T	E	O	P	J
3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
S	G	M	O	M	O	E	B										
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4										

I

Write all the number 1 letters in order on the lines below. Then write all the number 2 letters in order. Then the number 3 letters and so on.



LESSON 16

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO EXERCISE FAITH

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 3:1-17, 4:15-18

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It takes a lot of faith to have courage. If you think the enemy that is facing you will defeat you, then you are already beaten. But if you have the faith that God will help you to defeat your enemies, then you can have the courage to meet that enemy face to face.

What type of enemies do you face in your life? You might face the enemy of temptation to do things that are wrong. You might face the enemy of hard times. There are many enemies that we face each day, but if you have the faith that God will help you, then you can have the courage to face each enemy and have victory!

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

CHRISTIAN LOSES HIS BURDEN

Obtain Flash Card

Last week, remember that Christian had gone through the gate and then on to Interpreter's house to learn some lessons. Then Christian was on his way again. On his back was the heavy burden because no one was able to take it away from him and he could not remove it himself.

The highway on which Christian traveled was fenced on either side with a wall and that wall was called Salvation. Up the highway Christian ran with great difficulty because of the heavy burden of sin on his back.

He ran till he came to a place that began to head up a hill. On the top of the hill stood a Cross and a little way below in the bottom was a Sepulchre. Just as Christian came up to the Cross, his burden loosed from his shoulders and fell off his back. It began to tumble and continued to do so till it came to the mouth of the Sepulchre. There it fell into the grave. From that moment on Christian never saw his burden again!

He was free! His burden was gone! Oh how glad and happy Christian was! He rejoiced because his burden was gone!

We cannot remove our own burden of sin but Jesus Christ can. If we come to the cross of Calvary and see that Jesus died there for our sin, then we can ask Jesus to forgive our sin and

remove our burden. Just as Christian's burden fell from his back and rolled away, so will your burden of sin fall from you and be forever removed!

Christian stood still a while to look and wonder. It was very surprising to him that the sight of the Cross should ease his burden. He looked and looked again. Then he began to weep. He wept for joy and he wept because of what Christ had done for him.

Now as he stood looking and weeping, behold, three Shining Ones came to him.

"Peace be to thee," they said to him. They came with gifts for Christian.

So the first said to him, "Thy sins be forgiven."

The second stripped him of his filthy rags and clothed him with a beautiful white garment.

The third put a mark on his forehead and gave him a roll with a seal upon it. He told Christian to read it and to present it at the gate to the Celestial City.

Then the three Shining Ones went their way.

Then Christian gave three leaps for joy and went on singing. He sang of how he had been loaded down with a heavy weight of sin and no one could remove it from him. But the cross of Christ had set him free.

When we come to the cross so that Christ can remove our burden of sin, we also are forgiven of our sin. Our filthy rags of sin are removed and we are clothed with the white clothing of righteousness. We are marked as Christ's child and are given a roll or book to guide us on our way. That book is the Bible.

Just like Christian, we should be joyful that our burden is gone!

Then Christian saw two men come tumbling over the wall on the left hand of the narrow way. They came up to him. The name of the one was Formalist and the name of the other was Hypocrisy.

Christian asked the two where they came from. They said that they were going to the Celestial City but they had different ideas of how they should get there. They had decided to take a short cut and climb over the wall.

Christian warned them that they should not do that but they told him not to worry about them. But Christian noticed that they had neither the white garments nor the roll given to them by the Shining Ones.

They would not listen to Christian. They said they would get into the Celestial City their own way. They only laughed at Christian and his concerns.

So they went on and Christian kept in front of them and stayed away from them. Also he would often read in the roll that one of the Shining Ones had given to him. He was refreshed from reading it.

They all went on till they came to the foot of the Hill of Difficulty. A spring of water was there. There were also three paths. One path turned to the left and the other to the right. But the narrow way went straight up the hill. Christian went to the spring and drank to refresh himself. Then he began to climb up the hill. (Show Flash Card.)

The other two also came to the foot of the hill. But when they saw that the hill was steep and high, and that there were two other ways to go, they decided to go in those other ways. They thought the other ways were just as good and much easier.

Now the name of one of those ways was Danger and the name of the other Destruction. So one man took the way which is called Danger, which led him into a great woods. The other took the way to Destruction, which led him into a wide field full of dark mountains, where he stumbled and fell, and rose no more.

But Christian went on up the hill. He went from running to walking, and from walking to clambering upon his hands and his knees, because of the steepness of the place. It was a very difficult path and Christian was very tired. It took all the courage Christian had but he kept on going.

Now about midway to the top of the hill was a pleasant arbor with a shady area below the trees. This arbor had been made by the Lord of the hill for the refreshing of weary travellers. So Christian sat down to rest. Then he pulled out his roll and read from it. The words in it gave him great comfort.

Christian should have stopped just long enough to refresh himself and then continue on his way but instead he fell asleep. Suddenly he was wakened by one who told him to be on his way. So he jumped up and ran to the top of the hill.

There are many people who think that there are many different paths to Heaven. Just like Formalist and Hypocrisy, they think they can get to Heaven their own way. They don't think they have to go God's way.

When the path gets steep and difficult, they decide to take an easier path. Many times the path a Christian takes in life can be difficult. It can really cause a Christian to have to exercise his faith, but it is the path that God lays before them. The other paths lead to danger and to destruction. How wrong people are who take the path that looks easier, because it will lead them to destruction.

Next week, we will see what other adventures Christian has along his way.

1. Where did Christian finally lose his burden?
2. What was the first thing the Shining One told Christian?
3. What other two things did the Shining Ones give to Christian?
4. What do the garments and roll represent?
5. What did the Hill of Difficulty represent?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 3:1-17, 4:15-18

LESSON

FOLLOW THAT ARK

As you remember, the Ark was a very special and sacred piece of furniture that was kept in the holiest place in the tabernacle. Only the priests could go into that portion of the tabernacle.

Inside the Ark were Aaron's rod that had budded, (Numbers 17:1-10) a pot of manna (Exodus 16:32-34) and the stone tables of the law that God had given Moses on the mountain.

When it was time to move, only the priests who had been appointed by God could go and move the ark. But they never touched the ark with their hands. Instead it was built in such a manner that the priests could take special poles and slide them into holders on the side of the ark. Then the priests would lift the poles to carry it.

Joshua got up early the next morning after the spies returned with their good report. God told him exactly what to do. Then Joshua talked to the people. He told them God had said that the priests should take the ark and walk into the Jordan River.

Wait a minute! Did God want them to take the most sacred ark and walk into a flowing river? What if the current swept the men carrying it off their feet? What if they lost their balance and began to fall? What if the ark got wet? No one could reach out to steady the ark. There would be no way to protect the ark.

But no one made any objections. They obeyed the order from Joshua because they knew the order to carry the ark into the Jordan River came from God. If He wanted them to do that, than it must be the right thing to do.

Then Joshua told the people that when they saw the river part and God allowed them to cross on dry land, then they would know for sure God would be with them and would fight against their enemies for them.

Joshua 3:10 says, *And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.*

TEST OF FAITH

God told Joshua that the priests must first step into the water and then He would cause the waters to stop flowing. The people would be able to walk across on dry land.

It was the same as God had done at the Red Sea, with one exception. At the Red Sea, God had stopped the waters first. Before the Israelites put one foot into the sea bed, the waters parted and the land was dry. They had already seen that the miracle had been accomplished. They didn't have to trust God would do a miracle. They could see ahead of time that the miracle was done.

But this time called for faith. This time the waters would not be parted before the priests and the ark entered the river. Instead, they had to step into the river before it was stopped. They had to get their feet wet. They had to exercise their faith in God. They had to trust that He would do what He promised He would do.

If they exercised faith, then they would experience God's power.

Regardless of the fact God told them what would happen, I would suppose that the entire nation of Israel watched carefully as the priests walked past them on the way toward the Jordan. Everyone was careful to keep a good distance from the ark. Joshua had reminded them of that.

They probably held their breath as the priests stepped out into the river. When the first man got his feet wet, they watched. Then the men advanced slowly until all the priests were standing in water. There they stood, ankles covered and the ark was suspended above the water.

Just as God promised, the minute that all the priests stood in the water, God preformed the miracle. The waters of the Jordan stopped flowing from above and the waters from below stood up in a heap. I suppose that means that the water just bunched up far enough apart that there was plenty of room for the people to walk through.

The entire nation of Israel walked across the Jordan River bed on dry land. As they did, the priests and the ark remained in place. When all had passed through, the men carried the ark onto shore. Then the waters began to flow once more.

Joshua 3:15-17 says, *And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)*

That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

What an experience that must have been! Just think what it must have been like to walk past the ark and then look down and see dust where just minutes before there had been water. How that must have built up their faith and courage. They could clearly see God's power.

They had exercised their faith and God had shown His power.

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH

God wants you to exercise your faith too. And He wants you to do it for the same reasons He asked the Israelites to exercise theirs. God wanted them to realize He was God. He could do the impossible. With His help they could have the courage to do the impossible.

If the Israelites had told a person in Jericho before hand that they planned to cross the Jordan River by walking across on dry land, because their God was going to perform a miracle, I think the person from Jericho would have thought they were crazy. They even might have laughed at them.

But God wanted His people to know nothing was impossible for Him. He created the world and He can control it. That measly old river was nothing for God.

And sure enough, when they exercised their faith in God, they saw His power.

It must also have added to the terror of the people of Jericho. I am sure they were keeping a close eye on their enemies. They were scared already. Now they saw that the God of the Israelites held back the great Jordan River so the multitude could cross to their side. The buffer that separated them was removed. And they witnessed the miracle God performed. They knew for certain all the stories about the God of the Israelites were true. I'm sure they were terrified.

God wants you to learn the same thing the Israelites learned. He is in control of everything. When He asks you to have faith in Him, you can have faith because nothing is impossible for God. Others may not believe that fact, but if you are His child, then you can believe it.

If you exercise your faith in God, then you will see His power.

How can you exercise your faith in God? He doesn't have any rivers He is going to part for you to walk across. But sometimes God asks you to do things you think are impossible. You may be afraid to have faith in God. You may think it is useless to have faith in God.

God may ask you to witness to a friend. You may think, "That person doesn't want anything to do with God. When I ask them to come to church, they won't come. When I try to tell them about Jesus, they laugh at me. They are a lost cause."

But that doesn't mean you should give up. You need to exercise your faith in God. Know that if He wants you to do something, then He will help you. He can do miracles. It may not be the exact time you think it should happen, or it may not happen in the exact way you expected, but if you exercise your faith, then God will show you his power.

God can help you to do anything He asks you to do. God asks you to obey the Bible. He asks you to say no to sin. He asks you to tell others about Him. Exercise faith to do what He asks and you will experience His power.

But just like the priests had to take the first steps into the river, you must have the courage to take the first steps of obedience to God. God won't work if you don't do your part first.

The very first step of faith that God asks you to take is to become His child. How do you do that? You become a child of God by telling Jesus Christ that you know you are a sinner. We are all sinners.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Then ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life.

I John 1:9 says, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Romans10:9 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Today you can become God's child.

Maybe you are already a child of God. You need to learn to exercise your faith. You are not too young to begin to do that.

Read your Bible. Think about what it is saying. Think about what the words mean. If the Bible tells you to do something, then you need to ask God to give you the faith to obey.

Listen in church. When the pastor or a teacher tells you what God wants you to do, then obey. Just as the people of Israel were to follow the priests, God gives us leaders that will help lead us the way God wants us to go.

You can take the first step of faith, then God will do the rest.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to exercise your faith. You do this by knowing first what God wants you to do.

Sometimes God will speak to your heart. He will let you know what you should do.

Sometimes God will speak to you through the Bible or through Christian leaders He has given you.

Then, when you know what God wants you to do, do it. Show some faith.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to exercise your faith so that you will be able to experience God's power in your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was responsible for moving the ark?
2. What did God tell Joshua the priests were to do with the ark?
3. What did Joshua say it would prove to the people when they saw the river bed dry up?
4. What had to happen before God would dry up the river bed?
5. Recite today's memory verse.
6. What was the name of the river they had to cross?
7. What does God want you to exercise?
8. What will God show you if you exercise your faith?
9. What warning did Joshua give to the people before they crossed?
10. Who was most likely watching as the Israelites crossed the Jordan?

LESSON 17

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE FOR THE BATTLE

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 4:1-4, 6:1-5

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had a problem in your life? Maybe you have had a hard time in school. Maybe you or someone you love has been sick. Maybe there are people who are unfair or unkind to you.

We all face battles in life. Those battles can cause you to be frightened and discouraged. God wants you to face your battles with courage. You may not have the faith or the wisdom to face win the victory on your own, but God wants to help you. God wants you to have courage for the battles in your life.

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FACING FEARS

Obtain Flash Card

Remember that last week Christian had lost his burden and been given forgiveness, new clothes, and a roll.

Along came two others who thought they could get to the Celestial City by going their own way. So when they all reached the Hill of Difficulty, the other two took the two easy paths that went around so they could avoid the difficulty. The paths they took led to danger and to destruction. How foolish they were!

But Christian headed up the hill. It was tough going so Christian sat down to rest. He read his roll. Then, he became so comfortable that he fell asleep when he should have continued climbing. But he was warned to wake up. He did and he ran to the top of the hill.

Now when Christian got up to the top of the hill, two men came running towards him. The name of the one was Timorous and the other Mistrust.

"What's the matter? You're running the wrong way?" Christian called to them.

Timorous turned to Christian. He was out of breath from running.

“We were going to the Celestial City. We made it up that difficult hill; but the farther we went, the more danger we met. That’s why we have turned, and are going back!” Timorous cried.

“Yes, for just before us lie a couple of lions in the way! We don’t know whether they were sleeping or not. We didn’t stay around to find out. We were worried that if we came within reach of them, they would pull us to pieces!” exclaimed Mistrust. (Show Flashcard.)

“You make me very afraid,” said Christian, “but where shall I go to be safe? If I go back to my own country, that is destined for fire and brimstone, I will certainly perish there. If I can get to the Celestial City, I am sure I will be safe there! I must keep going on. To go back is nothing but death; to go forward is fear of death, but beyond that is life everlasting. I will go forward!” Christian determined with courage.

So Mistrust and Timorous ran down the hill, and Christian went on his way.

But as Christian thought of what the men had said, he reached into his coat to pull out his roll. He thought if he read from it, he would be comforted. But he searched for it and it was gone!

Christian was greatly distressed. He didn’t know what to do. He wanted the roll to comfort him. He also knew that the roll was his pass into the Celestial City. He was very upset to think he had lost the roll. Where had he lost it?

At last he thought to himself that he had slept by the road on the side of the hill. He must have lost it there. Christian fell down onto his knees and asked God to forgive him for his foolish act. Then he headed back to look for his roll.

All along the way back he was very sorry for what he had done. Sometimes he sighed, sometimes he wept, and most times he scolded himself for being so foolish to fall asleep in that place that had been built only for a little rest.

All the way back to the place he had slept he carefully looked on this side and on that to see if he had dropped the roll somewhere along the way. He went till he came within sight of the arbor where he had sat and slept but just seeing the place renewed his sorrow. It reminded him of his evil of sleeping when he shouldn’t have.

“Oh wretched man that I am,” Christian moaned. “How could I have slept when it was still daytime with all that difficulty ahead of me. Because of my sin, I now have to retrace my steps and waste precious time. The day is almost over, and I am behind where I should be!”

By this time he was at the arbor again. At last, looking sorrowfully around, he spied his roll. With a trembling hand he quickly snatched it up and put it into his coat.

How joyful he was, when he had got his roll again! For this roll was the assurance of his life and his acceptance at the Celestial City. He held it close and gave thanks to God for directing his eye to the place where it lay. Then he began his journey again.

Oh, how nimbly he went up the rest of the hill! Yet before he got up it, the sun went down on Christian; and this made him again recall the foolishness of his sleeping, so all over again he began to scold himself.

Just then he remembered the story that Mistrust and Timorous told him of how they were frightened by the sight of the lions.

“If these lions hunt in the night for their prey, they will surely see me,” Christian began to worry. “If they should meet me in the dark, how should I avoid them? How should I escape being torn in pieces?”

So Christian went on his way, but he was very afraid. After a time, Christian saw before him a very stately palace. The name of which was Beautiful. It stood just by the highway-side.

So he quickly went forward. He wanted to get there as soon as possible to see if he could stay there for the night. Before he had gone far he entered into a very narrow passage which was just a ways off from the Porter’s lodge. Looking ahead he saw two lions!

“Now I see the dangers that Mistrust and Timorous were talking about!” thought Christian.

The lions were chained, but he did not see the chains.

Christian was very afraid. He seriously thought about going back. It seemed that nothing but death was before him. But the Porter at the lodge, named Watchful, realized that Christian had stopped and was considering going back.

“Is your strength so small?” called the Porter. “Fear not the lions for they are chained and are placed there to try your faith. They are there to see whether or not you have any faith. Keep in the center of the path and you will not be hurt.”

So Christian believed him and went on. All the while he was trembling for fear of the lions, but he trusted the directions of the Porter. He heard them roar, but they did him no harm. It was hard for Christian to face his fears, but he did. When he got to the Porter, he was told that the lions were chained and never any real threat to him.

It is also hard to face our fears. But God is with us all the time. He watches over us. He guides us in the best way to go. When fear comes into our lives, it is best to do as Christian did and go and face that fear with God’s help. Don’t turn back and run when the Christian life gets hard or fearful. Instead, keep your eyes on God and stay on the path in which He leads you.

1. Where did Christian lose his roll?
2. What were the two men afraid of?
3. Why were the lions chained before the Palace named Beautiful?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 4:1-4, 6:1-5

LESSON

TWELVE STONES

As the Israelites were preparing to enter the promised land, they had to cross over the Jordan River to get into the land. Remember last week we said the priests were instructed by God to take up the ark of the covenant. They stepped into the river and when the water covered their ankles God caused the water to pile up on one side and to run out on the other so that a path was cleared for all the Israelites to walk through on dry land.

It must have been an amazing miracle to see! I am sure that it strengthened the faith of the people and gave them courage. They would need to have faith in God because they were about to go face their enemies. By seeing what God could do, they would have the courage to believe that God would fight their battles for them.

After the people crossed to the other side, God gave Joshua an instruction. He told Joshua to pick a man from each tribe to go select a stone from the river bottom before the waters closed back up and the river began to flow like normal again.

How many tribes were there? Can anyone tell me? That's right. There were twelve tribes. So Joshua selected twelve men, one from each tribe, to go back into the river and select a stone.

Joshua 4:1-3 says, *And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,*

And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

Now the stones the men were to select were not tiny stones. They weren't supposed to bend down and pick up a stone small enough to fit in their pockets. Instead, they were to select large stones that they would need to hoist up off the river bed and onto their shoulders in order to carry. These were big, heavy stones.

Joshua 4:5 says, *And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel.*

So the men who Joshua selected from each tribe did just as God commanded. They took the stones and carried them with them as they entered the promised land. When the men had carried the stones out of the river, Joshua gave the command for the priests to also come out of the river. When they did, the river went back as it had been. The waters began to flow, and the people watched as the mighty Jordan River surged past them.

They now stood on the opposite shore and they knew God had performed a miracle. I'm sure they must have remembered back to when they were just children and they had watched God part the Red Sea so they could walk across to safety as they escaped Pharaoh's army. They knew God was with them then and He was still with them.

They also knew God had definitely appointed Joshua to be their new leader. They could see that God spoke to Joshua just as He had spoken to Moses. Now they were completely willing to follow and honor him as they had Moses.

JERICHO WAITS

When the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan River, they were now in the position to go fight their enemies in the city of Jericho. Jericho was the first city they had to conquer.

You will remember that when the spies went in to check things out in Jericho, Rahab told them everyone in the entire city was frightened of the Israelites. She said that their hearts melted within them.

So now, when the people of Jericho heard that the God of the Israelites had performed the miracle of allowing them to cross the Jordan on dry land, I suspect the people of Jericho were more afraid than ever! Now there was no river to separate them from the Israelites. Now the Israelites were closer than ever.

All the people of Jericho went into their city, they closed the gates and bolted them shut, and then they waited to see what would happen.

Joshua 6:1 says, *Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.*

Can you picture the scene in Jericho? They had been afraid in the first place. They knew a great nation of about two million people were just over the Jordan River. Then God performed a miracle and all the people safely crossed to their side. They must have stayed awake nights just worrying and wondering what the Israelites would do next.

They had good reason to be afraid. God was about to punish the wicked city of Jericho for their sins. Instead of shaking in their boots, they should have been repenting of their sin and asking God for forgiveness. But instead, they peered through the walls of their great city and held their breath as they waited.

PICK YOUR WEAPONS

God spoke to Joshua and told him exactly what he wanted the Israelites to do and what weapons He wanted them to use.

When our country goes to war, we begin to produce all sorts of weapons to use in battle. There are rifles and machine guns, hand grenades and land to air missiles. Factories produce air craft to carry troops to battle and sleek jet fighters to drop bombs and run reconnaissance missions. Tanks and jeeps are manufactured. And I am sure there is much more.

But this was the olden days. They didn't have tanks or aircraft or machine guns. But I am sure they did have knives, swords, spears, shields, bows, and arrows. There may have been other things also that they could take into battle against their enemies.

The Israelite men were men of battle. All throughout their trip from Egypt to the promised land, the men fought against enemies who tried to take them captive or tried to prevent them from passing through their lands.

But now God told Joshua what the Israelite men were to use as weapons in this great battle. God told them to use trumpets of rams horns.

Joshua 6:2-4 says, *And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*

And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Again and again as they traveled, the men had gone to fight and over and over God had given them the victory. But every time before they had taken weapons with them to fight the enemy. Now God was asking them to go before a mighty walled city filled with a mighty enemy with only horns to blow.

What? What kind of weapons were ram's horn trumpets? Was God kidding? Was He trying to place the Israelites in danger?

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

This was not going to be a normal battle. God was not going to have the Israelites take up arms and go into hand to hand combat. Instead God planned to fight the battle for them. All God wanted them to do was to trust and obey Him.

Joshua 6:5 says, *And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.*

The weapons God told the Israelites to carry into battle would never defeat an enemy in the normal way, but God was not worried about that. God knew He was in control. He knew He could destroy the enemy with no weapons at all.

Only God could do that. The Israelites could not defeat an enemy with just ram's horns. If they were to take ram's horns into a battle, without God telling them to do it, they would blow the horns and then the enemy would kill them.

But this was no ordinary battle. In this battle, God planned on doing all the fighting. The Israelites only had to have the courage to do as God said. They only had to watch God work.

I think it may have taken quite a bit of courage for the Israelites to leave behind their swords and spears and take only trumpets instead.

You also have to courage when you go into battle with your sin. You cannot fight that battle for yourself. God must fight for you. He is the only one who can destroy your sin.

WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION

What types of destruction does Satan want to cause in your life? Satan wants to use all types of sin to destroy your testimony and your effectiveness for God. He will use things like hatred, envy, greed, lying, stealing, cheating, impurity, rebellion, and other sins.

And it doesn't take much to get you to sin. You are born a sinner. Even if you have asked Jesus into your life, you still have a sin nature that tempts you to sin everyday.

But you don't have to lose the battle to sin. God gives us weapons to use to fight Satan and sin.

1. The first weapon God gives is confession of sin. We all sin every day. You will never stop battling sin here on earth, but you can go to God and tell Him what you have done and tell Him that you are sorry for your sin. Sin will keep you separated from God, but if you put sin out of your life, then you will be close to God. If you confess your sin to God, then He is willing to forgive and He can help you fight against the sin in your life.

2. The next weapon God gives is His Word. The Bible tells us how to live a pleasing life for God. It tells us what we should do that will defeat sin. It tells us all we need to know. How wonderful God was to give us the mighty weapon of His Word.

The Bible tells us that God's Word is more powerful than any sword. God's Word will help you to cut through the sin in your life.

Hebrews 4:12 says, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

One thing we learn in the Bible is that we are to fight the devil and the sin he wants to bring into our lives. We shouldn't just let him take over.

James 4:7 tells you, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

3. The next weapon God gives is prayer. Prayer is your personal link to God. You can go to God at any time and talk to Him. You can tell Him you are struggling with a sin and ask for His help.

Philippians 4:6 says, *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

When a battle is being fought, the soldiers must stay in contact with their commanding officer so they will know what to do. The same is true for you. Prayer is your way of communicating with your commanding officer, God.

4. Another weapon God gives you is the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that when you ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life, God sends His Holy Spirit to live within you. The Spirit warns you when you are about to sin. That is why you feel guilty when you think about sinning. It is the Holy Spirit saying, "NO! You don't want to do that. It is wrong."

The Holy Spirit also urges you to do what is right. When He is in your life, He will help you to want to do and say things that please God. But you must listen to the Spirit when He talks to you. You must use the weapons that God gives to you if you hope to win your spiritual battle.

Galatians 5:16-17 says, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other.*

And Galatians 6:7-9 says, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

The Holy Spirit is a powerful friend who will stand beside you daily as you fight to live for God and to resist Satan.

You see, every day you fight a spiritual battle. But you don't fight the battle alone. God is by your side. He has given you powerful weapons to use. He gives you the opportunity to confess your sin, the Bible, Prayer, and the Holy Spirit. These weapons that God gives you will help you to live an effective Christian life.

WHY?

Let me ask you a question and I want you to think about it for a minute. Why did God tell the Israelites to go into battle with only ram's horns? They had used regular weapons before. What made this battle different?

I think that one reason was so that the Israelites could never proudly say, "Didn't we do such a great job of winning the battle and destroying our enemy! We are pretty good! We got into the promised land by our own power."

God didn't want the Israelites to be proud and puffed up because they had defeated their enemy. He wanted them to know for certain that He alone had defeated their enemy.

Just as the Israelites did not get into the promised land by their own power, you cannot have your sin forgiven and you cannot get into Heaven, your promised land, by your own power.

When you have your sin forgiven and when you are able to live a Christian life that is pleasing to God, you can never say, "It sure is a good thing that I overcame my sin by being so good. I am a wonderful person and I am going to go to heaven because I am so good."

No. No human is good enough to take away their own sin. Only God can take away your sin. Only God can fight the sin battle for you. Only God can destroy the enemies you fight in your life.

Sin is your biggest enemy and you are born in sin. It has already taken complete control of your life. You can't defeat your own sin. Only God can defeat your sin. Only God can destroy your sin and take it away completely.

When you look at your forgiven sin, you must give God the credit. You must give God the glory for what He did, not for what you did.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

So, how about you? Have you realized you are a sinner and there is nothing you can do to take away your own sin? Do you realize you can't take away your sin and get to Heaven by being good or going to church or giving money to God? Those things are good, but if you could take care of your own sin by doing those things, then Jesus would not have needed to come and die on the cross for your sins.

You must realize that only by accepting Jesus into your heart and life will you be forgiven of your sin and on your way to Heaven. Would you like to do that today? We can take the Bible and show you how to do that.

Maybe you have already asked Jesus to come into your life, but you know that you still sin. You still do things that don't please God. What should you do about the sin in your life? I'll tell you.

You need to take the first weapon we talked about today. That is confession. You need to tell God that you are having a problem battling sin. Ask Him to forgive you and to help you to avoid sin.

Then you need to read the Bible. It will tell you what you should do and what you shouldn't do. And don't forget prayer. Stay in touch with your Commanding Officer so you will know how to fight the battle. Finally, listen to and obey the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. God sent Him to you to help you with your daily battles against sin.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to allow God to destroy the sin in your life. You can't battle sin alone, you will surely lose if you try to do it all by yourself. But when God fights your battles for you, then you can't lose.

1. Confess your sins and let God forgive them and take them out of your life.
2. Read your Bible. Get to know God. Learn what God wants you to do and not to do.
3. Pray. Stay in contact with your Commanding Officer so that you will know exactly what He wants you to do.
4. Let the Holy Spirit work in your life. When He warns you to stay away from sin, listen. When He urges you to be obedient, obey!

Use the weapons God gives to you with courage. Then, when you win a battle against sin, you can say, "God helped me to do that. I couldn't do it myself. God destroyed my sin. All the credit goes to God!"

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have courage for each battle you face this week.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What were the people of Jericho feeling after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?
2. How do you know the Jerichoites were afraid? What did they do?
3. What did God tell Joshua the Israelites should use as weapons?
4. Why did God have the Israelites use horns instead of swords?
5. What is the first weapon God gives us to fight sin?
6. What is the second weapon God gives us to fight sin?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What is the third weapon God gives us to fight sin?
9. What is the fourth weapon God gives us to fight sin?
10. Why does God have to destroy our sin?

Courage for the Battle



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.

- Battle
- Bible
- Captive
- Danger
- Defeat
- Destroy
- Fight
- Holy Spirit
- Horns
- Israel
- Jericho
- Jordan
- Lose
- Prayer
- Saved
- Shields
- Sin
- Swords
- Trumpets
- War
- Weapons
- Win
- Wrath

H	N	R	Z	T	P	E	T	P	K	M	A	S	K	E
J	O	L	W	I	N	I	S	A	D	W	Q	G	D	L
W	O	L	P	L	R	D	T	O	E	L	T	T	A	B
A	R	R	Y	G	E	G	E	A	L	F	C	D	N	I
S	M	A	D	S	C	A	P	T	I	V	E	I	G	B
H	N	W	T	A	P	O	M	X	Q	V	J	D	E	B
P	J	R	F	H	N	I	U	A	A	V	W	U	R	Q
W	O	G	O	S	E	S	R	S	L	Z	E	T	P	V
Y	S	H	A	H	W	U	T	I	G	V	C	Z	A	Q
L	J	R	C	S	F	O	I	S	T	N	T	B	G	T
S	D	L	E	I	H	S	R	T	Z	F	Y	X	S	H
D	L	O	G	Y	R	R	F	D	S	A	E	D	G	M
F	O	H	Q	A	A	E	K	C	S	I	J	F	F	H
N	T	U	E	J	Z	R	J	A	S	H	Q	P	H	S
K	N	L	D	C	D	R	P	E	S	D	B	P	I	H

LESSON 18

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO TRUST GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 6:8-17, 20-27

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Today we are going to talk about having the courage to trust God. If you don't know God in a personal way and you don't believe that God loves you and wants what is best for you, then you will never have the courage to trust God.

God is trustworthy. He is dependable in everything. Do you know Him well enough to have the courage to trust Him completely?

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FAITH AFFIRMED

Obtain Flash Card

Remember that Christian had climbed the hill called Difficulty. He had been so tired, that in an arbor of trees he had stopped to rest for a second, but instead he fell asleep.

When he woke up, he climbed the rest of the way up the hill but he did not realize he had lost his roll where he had slept. When he found the roll was gone he had to go all the way back to get it.

By this time, it was getting late and Christian saw a house ahead, but he had to pass some lions before he could get to the house. The Porter called to Christian to tell him to stay to the center of the path and he would be safe. Christian decided to have the faith to do as he was told. And he made it safely to the house because the lions had been chained and could not reach him in the center of the path.

Finally Christian stood before the gate where the Porter was. His name was Watchful.

"Sir," called Christian. "What house is this, and may I lodge here tonight?"

The Porter told Christian that the house was built by the Lord of the hill, and he built it as a place of relief and security for pilgrims passing that way.

“How does it happen that you come so late? The sun is set,” the Porter asked.

Christian hung his head in shame. “I would have been here sooner, but wretched man that I am, I slept in the arbor that stands on the hillside. Also in my sleep I lost my roll. Later when I felt for it, I could not find it. I was forced to go back to the place where I slept. I found it, and now, finally, I am come.”

The Porter told Christian he would call one of the maidens who lived in the house. She would take him in the house and tell him the rules.

So Watchful rang a bell. Out of the house came a solemn and beautiful girl, named Discretion.

The girl went to the door, and called to Prudence, Piety, and Charity, who, after some discussion, invited Christian to stay with the family. They welcomed him to the house built by the Lord for weary pilgrims who had just come from climbing the hill of Difficulty.

Christian followed them into the house. They gave him something to drink, and decided that until supper was ready they would talk with Christian.

Christian gladly told them of all that had happened to him since he had found the book that told him of the coming destruction of the city in which he lived. He told them of his burden and of Evangelist who had directed him to the gate. He told them of how his burden had fallen off at the cross. He told them of the three Shining Ones who told him he was forgiven and gave him a new set of clothing and a roll. He told them of the hill and of the lions.

“Do you think sometimes of the country from where you came?” they asked.

“Yes, but with shame and disgust,” Christian answered. “I do not have a desire to go back, because I go to a much better country.”

“But don’t you remember your past sins? Prudence asked.

“Yes,” answered Christian, “But when I think about what I saw at the Cross, and when I look upon my embroidered coat, and the roll that I carry, then I am glad I left them far behind me.

“What is it that makes you so desirous to go to the Celestial City?” Prudence asked.

“There I will see Him alive that did hang dead on the Cross. And there I will be rid of all these sins that so follow me. There, they say there is no death. To tell you the truth, I love Him, because He took away my burden,” Christian said.

The next morning the sisters took Christian into a room that held armor. There was a sword and a shield, a helmet, breastplate, all-prayer, and shoes. There they fitted Christian with armor he should take on his journey to protect him. (Show Flash Card)

So now Christian could go forward in faith and courage knowing he had his roll for guidance and comfort and his armor to protect him on his way.

Did you know that we also have our roll, God’s Word, to comfort us and guide us each day? And we can put on the whole armor of God to protect us from the devil. Our courage should be strengthened and built up to know we are shielded and protected daily by the Lord. He gives us everything we need for our journey through life.

And, like Christian, we can look forward to the day when we reach Heaven where our greatest joy will be to see Jesus who died on the cross to take away our heavy burden of sin. Oh, how we should love Him for taking away our burden! It should give us courage to trust God each day!

1. What was the purpose of the house that stood just beyond the Hill of Difficulty?
2. What was Christian given there to help him on his journey?
3. What are we given to strengthen our courage and faith on our journey?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 6:8-17, 20-27

LESSON

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS

The time had come. The battle for the city of Jericho was about to begin.

God told Joshua what to do. Then Joshua went to the people and told them what God had instructed. This was no usual battle, so the battle instructions were not usual either.

Joshua 6:8-10 says, *And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.*

And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

Joshua told the people that the priests were to carry the ark of the covenant. Seven priests were to walk in front of the ark. They were to carry trumpets made of ram's horns. As the priests walked, they were to blow the trumpets.

I don't imagine that the sound from the ram's horn trumpets was a pretty sound like the sound from a brass trumpet would be, but it was what God commanded.

In front of the priests and the ark were the men of Israel who held their weapons. Even though the men had weapons of war and were supposed to carry the weapons, they would not use them in this battle. God would fight this battle for the Israelites. They simply needed the courage to trust God.

Behind the ark came the rear guard. These were either more armed men, or they were the rest of the unarmed people of Israel. Either way, it must have been a huge crowd of people that set out to march on the city of Jericho.

God instructed His people to march once around the city. Joshua warned the people to keep complete silence. Only the sound of the trumpets was to be heard. The people were not to utter a single word.

So that is what happened.

For the next five days they did the same thing. For six days the massive army of God marched silently around the city of Jericho one time as the priests blew the trumpets.

A STRANGE ATTACK

Can you imagine what the people in the city of Jericho must have thought and felt? They were already frightened when they learned the Israelites were on the borders of their land and had sent in spies. They watched in fear as the massive crowd crossed over the Jordan River on dry land. They had heard the stories of how the God of the Israelites went before them and helped them win their battles.

I imagine they watched in fear as they saw the great crowd approaching their city. The people of Jericho had all gone inside the walls and locked the gates tightly. No one would be able to enter that way and the walls of the city were massive. There were houses built into the walls, so we are not talking about thin walls like you might have in your house or like the thin fences you may have around your yard. These walls were tall and wide. The people were sure they were safe inside. Or so they hoped. Yet, they were still afraid.

How strange it must have seemed to them when the Israelites did not attempt to attack the city, but instead silently walked around their walls one time each day with only the sound of the horns blowing.

Some of the people of Jericho may have laughed and thought the Israelites were fools. Others may have been even more frightened as they wondered what on earth was going on. This was no normal attack. It was so unusual.

So they waited. I am sure there wasn't a single person inside Jericho who did not spend those days watching and wondering. The sound of the trumpets may have given them goose-bumps.

A TRUST REWARDED

On the seventh day things were different. The first time around it seemed the same, but the army of God did not go back and make camp after one march around like they had done on the previous six days.

Instead, God had instructed them to march around the city seven times. Then, when the seventh circuit had been completed, with a mighty voice, Joshua commanded all the people of Israel give a loud shout.

So the people shouted with all their might. It was a shout of victory because they knew they had won. God had given the city into their hands. For there before their eyes, before the shout had died down from their lips, they watched as the massive walls of Jericho began to crumble and fall.

Joshua 6:20 says, *So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.*

The people of Jericho placed their trust in their strong walls, but their trust was misplaced. The walls they had trusted had proven false to them. The walls were no defense at all. The entire city crashed down into a heap of crushed stones. All except one small section of the wall that housed Rahab and her family was completely destroyed.

The people of Jericho put their trust in the wrong place. But Rahab put her trust in the right place.

Rahab had helped the spies to hide and then to escape to safety. She had asked for mercy because she believed they served the one true God. And God granted her request. Everyone inside Rahab's house was alive and safe.

Joshua 6:23 tells us, *And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.*

Rahab and her family went to join the Israelites. They lived with the Israelites from then on. God granted Rahab another special honor as well. Because Rahab displayed such faith and trust in God, God allowed Rahab to become the great, great grandmother of King David. But more importantly, she was something like the great, great, great, great, great grandmother to Jesus Christ.

There were 28 generations between Rahab and Jesus, but she was honored to be in the family line of the One who would become the Savior of the entire world!

Rahab had put her trust in the right place!

A TRUSTWORTHY GOD

Sometimes people put their trust in the wrong place. You see, the one thing in life that is the most important is having your sin forgiven and knowing you are going to Heaven. Those are things that will last for all eternity.

Only God can be trusted to do both of those things. Only He can forgive your sin, but so often, people won't trust God.

Some people like to trust themselves. They think they are smart enough or strong enough to take care of themselves. But trusting self is not wise. The person who trusts their own self cannot muscle their way into Heaven. They can't outsmart God and get into Heaven their own way.

Some people put their trust in other people. But people are only human. They can fail. They can lie. People are not always trustworthy. There isn't a person on earth who can forgive another person's sins or get anyone into Heaven.

Some people put their trust in money. They think if they have lots of money, then they can buy whatever they need in life. But money can't buy everything. And money can vanish so quickly. No one is rich enough to buy their way into Heaven. No one can buy salvation.

Rahab was a wise woman because she knew she should put her trust in God to save her. And God did save her, not only the day when the walls of Jericho fell, but also for all eternity.

So whom have you put your trust in? Have you put your trust in the right place or the wrong place? Whom or what are you trusting to forgive your sin and get you to Heaven?

If you are trusting anyone or anything besides Jesus Christ, then you have put your trust in the wrong place. There is only one way to have your sin forgiven and to get to Heaven. That way is through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Jesus is the only way. He is the only way to forgiveness. He is the only way to spend eternity in Heaven with God. But not many people want to trust God. They aren't sure they can trust God.

God can be trusted. He will never lie to you. He will never leave you. He will forgive your sin and give you an eternity in Heaven. How do I know that? Because God has taken the time to give us the Bible. That is God's letter to you. In the Bible He tells you all about Himself and His plan for the world. He tells you what kind of a God He is. He tells you how to live a pleasing life in His sight. He tells you of all the blessings He will give you if you love and obey Him.

God is trustworthy. He is the One who deserves your love and trust.

Have you ever put your trust in Jesus? You can do that today. We can show you how.

Maybe you have trusted Jesus. You are a child of God, but you still have a hard time trusting God to control your life. It may frighten you to let God control your life.

People can't always be trusted, so we sometimes have a hard time trusting God. But God is not like humans. God is perfect. He is completely trustworthy.

Psalms 18:30 says, *As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.*

It is hard to trust someone you don't know. In order to completely trust God you need to know Him as your personal friend. You can get to know God better. Do you know how? By reading the Bible. Everything we know about God is in the Bible. God gave us the Bible so we can know Him. He wants us to read and learn about Him. And once you know Him, it will be easy to trust Him.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to trust God to control your life.

You will only give control of your life to someone you know. You need to get to know God better so you will daily want to trust Him to guide and direct you.

Read your Bible and learn more about Him. Every day this week, spend some time reading the Bible. Then spend some time asking God to help you understand what you have read. Think about what the Bible says about God. Find out what kind of God you serve.

God is trustworthy. Learn to trust.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have the courage to trust Him with you life each day.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who marched first as the Israelites went to battle against Jericho?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Who and what came after the armed men?
4. Who marched behind the ark?
5. What did the priests do while they marched?
6. What did the people do while they marched?
7. When did Joshua give the order to shout?
8. What happened when the people shouted?
9. What part of the city was not destroyed?
10. Who should we trust for our salvation?

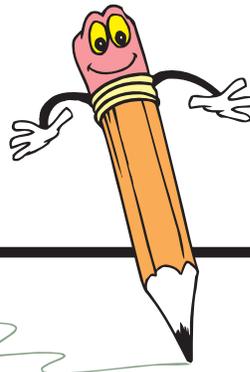
Courage to Trust God



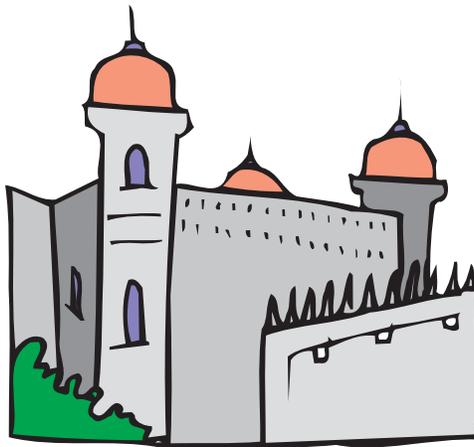
Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.



Draw Israel
marching around
Jericho. Don't
forget Rahab's
red cord.



LESSON 19

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO NOT SIN

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 6:18-19, 24, 7:1-26

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that it takes courage not to sin? It does. It's easy to sin. It is easy to do things that are wrong. It is much harder to say no to sin. It's harder to resist temptations. It can take real courage to stand up to things that are sin and say, "I will not do that. That is not pleasing to God."

When you say no to sin, there will be people who won't understand you. They may even make fun of you. It isn't easy to do what is right when the people around you try to make you feel foolish for obeying God.

Every day you will be faced with the temptation to sin. Every day you need to ask God to give you the courage to say a loud and clear "NO!" to sin! That may take courage, but God will help you.

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

CHRISTIAN FACES APOLLYON

Obtain Flash Card

Remember that last week Christian had stopped at the house called Beautiful and had been given some armor to protect him if he should chance to meet an enemy. So with his new armor and his roll, Christian set out.

Christian had gone but a little way before he saw a foul fiend coming over the field to meet him: his name was Apollyon. Christian began to be afraid. He tried to decide whether to go back in fear or to stand his ground with courage. But then he remembered that he had no armor for his back, only for his front. If he turned his back to Apollyon, it would give him the advantage to pierce him with his darts. So Christian resolved to bravely stand his ground. (Show Flash Card)

So he went on and Apollyon met him.

Now the monster was hideous to behold. When he came up close to Christian, he glared at Christian with a disdainful look and began to fire questions at him.

“From where did you come and where are you going?” Apollyon shouted.

“I am come from the City of Destruction, which is the place of all evil and am going to the Celestial City,” Christian answered.

“Then you are one of my subjects; for all that country is mine, and I am the prince and god of it. How is it, then, that you have run away from your king?” Apollyon snarled.

“True,” Christian answered. “I was born in your land but your service was hard, and your wages such as a man could not live on; for the wages of sin is death. So, when I was come to age, I did as other thinking people do, I went to see if perhaps I might better myself.”

“There is no prince that will lightly lose his subjects. And I won’t lose you! But, since you complain of your service and wages, then come back and what our country will afford I promise to give you.” Apollyon said in a sneaky voice.

“But I have given myself to another, even to the King of princes,” Christian said. “How can I go back with you? Besides, to speak the truth, I like His service, His wages, His servants, His government, His company, and country better than yours. Don’t try to persuade me further: I am His servant, and I will follow Him.”

“You had better consider again what you are likely to meet with in the way that you are going. Most of His servants come to a terrible end. How many of them have been put to shameful deaths! And besides, He never came from the place where He is, to deliver any of His servants out of my hands; but I have delivered, either by power or fraud, those who have faithfully served me. And so I will deliver you,” Apollyon said slyly.

“My Lord refrains to deliver them on purpose, to try their love. He wants to see whether they will cling to Him to the end. And, as for the terrible end you say they come to? Why that is most glorious in their stories. For they wait for their glory, and they shall have it when their Prince comes in His and the glory of His angels,” Christian boldly told Apollyon

“Ah, but you have already been unfaithful Him. How do you expect to receive wages of Him?” Apollyon sneered.

“How have I been unfaithful to Him?” Christian asked.

Then Apollyon began to list all the things Christian had done wrong so far on his journey.

“You almost fainted when you were almost choked in the Gulf of Despond. You attempted wrong ways to be rid of your burden. You did sinfully sleep and lose your roll. You were almost persuaded to go back at the sight of the lions. And when you talk of your journey and of all you have seen and heard, you are inwardly desirous of vainglory in all that you say or do,” Apollyon laughed at him.

Poor Christian hung his head in shame.

“All this is true, and much more which you have left out. But the Prince whom I serve is merciful and ready to forgive. I obtained pardon of my Prince,” Christian boldly shouted in joy.

Then Apollyon broke into a grievous rage. He was furious with Christian.

“I am an enemy to this Prince. I hate His person, His laws, and people. I am come out on purpose to destroy you!” Apollyon shouted.

“Beware, Oh Apollyon, of what you do, for the way in which I stand is the King’s highway. Be careful what you do,” Christian warned.

Then Apollyon spread himself over the whole path on the way.

“I do not fear you! Prepare yourself to die; for I swear by my infernal den, that you shall go no farther. Here will I spill your soul.”

Apollyon threw a flaming dart at Christian’s breast; but Christian held his shield in his hand. He caught the dart and was able to prevent the danger of it.

Then Christian drew his sword, for he saw it was time to arm himself. Apollyon as fast came at him, throwing darts as thick as hail. It was all that Christian could do to avoid them.

Apollyon wounded Christian in his head, his hand, and foot. This made Christian give back a little. So Apollyon, kept at Christian with full speed. Back and forth it went. This battle lasted for more than half a day, until Christian was almost exhausted. Because of his wounds, he grew weaker and weaker.

Then Apollyon spied his opportunity. He drew in close to Christian and, wrestling with him, threw him to the ground. With that, Christian’s sword flew out of his hand.

“Ah, ha! I am sure of you now!” Apollyon shouted, for he was sure that Christian could no longer fight without his sword.

He continued to fight till Christian was close to death. Christian feared that he might die. But, as God would have it, while Apollyon was striking his last blow, Christian nimbly reached out his hand for his sword and caught it!

“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall I shall arise,” Christian shouted excitedly.

And, with that, Christian gave him a deadly thrust. Apollyon pulled back, for the sword dealt him a mortal wound. Christian, realizing that, thrust at him again.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us!” Christian shouted in triumph.

And, with that, Apollyon spread forth his dragon wings, and sped away. And for a long time, Christian saw him no more!

Satan wants to fight and defeat each of us. But with our Sword, God’s Word, we are more powerful than Satan will ever be. We will always win with the power of God on our side. It can be a fearful thing to face the wiles of the devil, but God will help us to face and defeat our fears!

1. Who came to fight with Christian?
2. Why did Apollyon say Christian was one of his subjects?
3. What happened to make Apollyon think he would defeat Christian?
4. What gave Christian the victory?
5. What does Christian’s sword represent?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 6:18-19, 24, 7:1-26

LESSON

TOUCH NOT

Just before Israel went to march around the walls of Jericho, God gave specific instructions to Joshua that no one was to take any of the spoils of the city for their own use or gain. All the silver, gold, brass, and iron from Jericho was to be taken and set aside for use in God's house.

But the people were not to touch the other things because God said everything else was accursed. God did not want His people to desire and take what did not belong to them.

In Joshua 6:18-19 God told Joshua, *And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.*

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

God was very clear about what He wanted done. Joshua made sure all of the Israelites knew they were not to take anything for their own private use.

So, when the walls of Jericho fell, it appeared that everyone did exactly as God had ordered. The precious metals were brought out and set aside for use by God. All else was burned in Jericho.

SECRET SINS

At least everyone thought no one took anything for their own private use. But one man disobeyed God. His name was Achan.

I imagine when Achan entered what was left of the city with all the other men of Israel, he must have looked around. He saw all the rich pieces of clothing piled to be burned. He saw the great wealth in gold and silver. He saw all the pretty things the Israelites had not had access to for the years they were traveling. In his heart he began to want what wasn't his to take.

Achan began to think about it. He must have thought something like this: "Wow! Look at all the beautiful linens and other garments that are going to be burned. What a waste! I sure would love to have something like that. And the gold and silver! My, there is so much of it. Surely God would never miss it if I took just a little. I'll just take one bar of gold, a handful of silver, and a few garments to use later on. No harm done!"

In his heart Achan coveted all the things he saw in Jericho. So he convinced himself that even though God had said, "Touch not!" it wouldn't hurt to take just a few things. After all, "Who would know?" he thought. "It will be my little secret."

Achan did not have the courage and strength to resist sin. He gave in to his selfish desires when he was tempted.

It is so easy to think the same thing Achan thought when you are tempted to do something you know is wrong or take something you know does not belong to you. You may think, "Who will know? I know it is wrong, but I want to do this. I can get away with it. It'll be my little secret."

You may be able to fool others sometimes. You may think you can get away with sinning, just as Achan thought he could. You may even be able to fool yourself into thinking you did nothing wrong, but there is One who knows all. You can never fool God. You can never hide anything from Him.

Jeremiah 23:24 says, *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD.*

But Achan thought he could keep this secret from God. So he craftily sneaked out a share of the spoils and hid them in the ground under his tent. He thought no one knew. But God knew.

DEFEATED!

Now we often think that when the Israelites conquered Jericho, they were in complete possession of the promised land. That is not so. Jericho was only one city in the land God had given to them. There were still many other cities they would need to conquer in order to take complete possession of the land.

So when the battle was over in Jericho, they turned their eyes to the next city. Joshua sent spies to check out the city of Ai. The spies came back with the report that Ai was a small city. All of the army would not be needed. Only two or three thousand men would do the job.

So Joshua sent three thousand men to fight Ai. But a terrible thing happened when the men of Israel began the battle. The army of Ai put up a good fight and it wasn't long before the men of Israel realized God was not helping them to win the battle. The men of Ai killed thirty five Israelite men and chased them out of their city.

What a terrible defeat they reported when they got back to Joshua. The mighty city of Jericho had fallen without one man of Israel raising a finger, let alone dying in battle. But the tiny city of Ai had trounced them.

Joshua 7:5 says, *And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

They had lost the battle!

Joshua and the elders of Israel were baffled and all of Israel was troubled and frightened. Why had God deserted them? What was the problem?

Joshua and the elders mourned before God and inquired why the enemy had defeated them.

That was a smart move! Sometimes when we realize things are not going well in our Christian life, we forget that the wise thing to do is to go directly to God and ask Him what we are doing wrong. Instead we try to blame everyone and everything else.

But Joshua did the wise thing. He went directly to God to ask what was wrong. And God told Joshua that Israel had sinned.

Joshua 7:10-12 says, *And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?*

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Wait a minute! Israel had not sinned. Only one man had sinned. Why should everyone in Israel suffer because of one man's sin?

The sin of one person can hurt many others. The very first sin we read about in the Bible was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they sinned, they caused the rest of the entire

human race to be born in sin. The Bible said that one man's sin caused all the rest of us to become sinners.

Romans 5:12 says, *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.*

It is still true today. When a person sins, that person's sin can hurt many other people. When a man gets drunk and drives a car, if he crashes, then those he hits will be hurt by his sin. When a person tells a lie, everyone else involved with that person can be hurt by the lie. And so it goes.

Sin causes many to be hurt. And worse, sin causes death. Maybe not always physical death, but always spiritual death.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

That can be hard to think about. We don't like to think that we have sinned. We don't like to think that our sin can hurt others. But sin always hurts us and those around us. That is why it is so important to do what we need to in order to get rid of the sin in our life. It takes courage to face the truth and admit that we have sinned.

The bad news is we can't get rid of the sin in our life. We can never be good enough to quit sinning and be perfect. We can't do anything to get rid of the sins we have already committed.

The good news, is even though we can't get rid of our sin, God can. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ down to earth to die on the cross for our sins. The Bible says the wages, or payment, for sin is death. Someone had to die. And Jesus died on the cross for your sin and for my sin.

If you ask Jesus to forgive your sin, He will. Then you can be forgiven. You can have eternal life in Heaven.

Later I will tell you how you can do that. But, back to our story.

NO SECRETS

God told Joshua to tell the people that on the next day they were supposed to prepare themselves to stand before God.

The next day, one by one the tribes passed before Joshua. When God had indicated which tribe was involved, then family by family of the guilty tribe passed by.

As all of this went on, Achan had plenty of time to step forward, admit he had sinned, and ask for forgiveness. I think God would have been merciful if Achan had truly been sorry in his heart and confessed what he did wrong. But he didn't. He kept silent.

Finally it was narrowed down to Achan's family. When Joshua questioned Achan, he admitted his sin. His secret was out and all of Israel knew that because he had disobeyed God, they had lost in battle and God's judgement was on them also.

Psalm 90:8 says, *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*

There are no secrets that can be kept from God. He sees all. He knows all. How foolish we are when we think we can sin against God and then we can keep our sin a secret. There are no secrets from God.

It would be much wiser of us to stop trying to fool ourselves and stop trying to fool God. It would be wiser and more courageous to be honest with God and confess our sin. If we confess with a truly sorry heart, then God is merciful to forgive.

SIN EQUALS DEATH

As punishment for his sin, Achan, his family and all his possessions were destroyed.

Achan couldn't keep secrets from God. You cannot keep secrets from God either. God will not destroy you for you sin, but you can destroy yourself. As we said earlier, sin causes death. Spiritual death. Your sin will separate you from God for all eternity if you don't do something about it.

What can you do? You can tell God you know you are a sinner. Tell Him you are sorry for your sin. Tell Him you know Jesus came to die for your sin. Then ask Him to forgive your sin and cleanse your heart. He will.

If you would like to do that today, we can show you how.

Maybe you are a Christian. God has forgiven your sin and you are on your way to Heaven, but you know you still sin. You still have a sinful nature. You are still tempted to do things that are wrong.

When you do sin, God will not kick you out of His family, but your sin will cause you to be distant from God. You will not have a close, loving relationship with God.

When you do something wrong at home, you probably want to avoid your parents. You have a hard time looking them in the eye because you feel guilty or because you know you did wrong. You don't feel close to them. But if you confess to them what you did and tell them you are sorry, then you can be back in a close and right relationship with your parents.

The same is true with God. God knows when you sin. Like I said before, He sees all, He knows all. Your sin is not a secret to Him. And your sin causes you to not be close to God.

Psalm 66:18 says, *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*

God hates sin. But He loves you and He wants you to get things right with Him. Have the courage to do that today. You can pray and confess your sin. You can ask God to forgive you and to restore you to a close relationship with Him.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to quit trying to keep secret sins in your life. Instead, confess your sin and ask for forgiveness. You will be amazed at how good it feels to have a clean heart and mind. You will be happy you put sin out of your life.

But sin is something we struggle with every day. It is not a one time thing. Every day you will be tempted to say or do or feel something that is a sin. You need to ask God every day to help you to resist the temptations that come into your life. And when you do fail, don't try to hide your sin, instead go to God right away and make it right.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have the courage to resist sin.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Recite today's memory verse.
2. What did God tell Israel to do with the silver, gold, iron, and brass that they found in Jericho?
3. What did God tell Israel to do with everything else they found in Jericho?
4. Who disobeyed God?
5. What did Achan take?
6. How did Joshua find out Achan had disobeyed God?
7. What city did Israel go to fight?
8. How many men went to fight in Ai?
9. Where did Achan hide his stolen goods?
10. What happened to Achan?

Courage Not to Sin

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

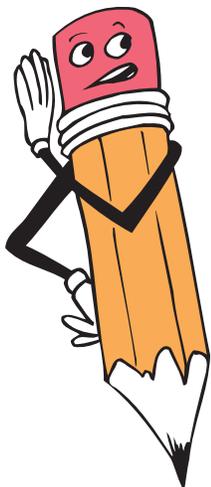
Psalm 27:14



God will give me courage.

Nothing is a secret from God.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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Psst! How many
new words can you
make from today's
life lesson?

LESSON 20

A CHILD OF COURAGE
COURAGE TO FOLLOW GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 14:1-3, 21-24

CHARACTER TRAIT

God will give me courage.

MEMORY VERSE

*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:
wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Psalm 27:14

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

When God made Joshua the leader of the Israelites, God told him that he needed to have courage. Courage is important to God.

In Joshua 1:9 God said to Joshua, *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

God wants you to have courage. Courage means that you trust God. When you trust God, it pleases Him! So, every day, as you follow God, remember to be a child of courage!

Today's Life Lesson is: God will give me courage.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

FINALLY HOME

Obtain Flash Card

Last week Christian defeated Apollyon by using his sword which is the Word of God. Now he is nearing the end of his journey, but his troubles are not over yet. On Christian travelled.

Now Christian came to a valley called the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Christian had to go through it, because it was the only way to the Celestial City. This valley is a very solitary, lonely place.

When Christian got to the borders of the Shadow of Death there two men met him. They were hurrying to go back.

“Where are you going?” Christian questioned the men.

“Back, back; and you should too if either life or peace is prized by you,” the men told him.

“Why, what's the matter?” Christian asked.

“Why, we were almost in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, but by good chance we looked before us and saw the danger before we came to it,” they said.

“But what have you seen?” Christian inquired.

“Seen! Why, the valley itself! It is as dark as pitch. We also saw there the hobgoblins, satyrs, and dragons of the pit. We heard also in that valley a continual howling and yelling, like people in unutterable misery, who sat bound in affliction and irons. Over that valley hang the discouraging clouds of confusion. Death always spreads his wings over it. In a word, it is very dreadful,” the men cried in fear.

“But, this is my way to the desired haven. That is the way to the Celestial City!” Christian exclaimed.

“Go on if you choose, but we will not.” And the men fled away.

Christian went on his way, but he had his sword drawn in his hand, for fear of being assaulted.

As far as this valley reached there was on the right hand a very deep ditch. On the left hand, there was a very dangerous quag, into which, if even a good man falls, he can't find bottom for his foot to stand on.

The pathway here was also exceedingly narrow and good Christian had a much harder time staying on the path. When he tried in the dark to stay away from the ditch on the one side, he almost tipped over into the mire on the other. When he sought to escape the mire, without great carefulness he would almost fall into the ditch.

About halfway through the valley, the mouth of hell gaped open. Christian did not know what to do. The flame and smoke came out in abundance, with sparks and hideous noises. So Christian was forced to put up his sword, and take another weapon, called All-prayer.

“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul,” Christian prayed to God. It took all of Christian's courage for him to continue on this fearful path.

On and on he went. The flame would reach towards him. Also he heard doleful voices. This frightful sight was seen and these dreadful noises were heard by him for several miles together.

A little ways further Christian thought he heard the voice of a man going before him.

“Though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me,” the voice said.

Then Christian was glad because he knew from the voice that someone who feared God was in this valley as well as himself. He also realized God was with them, even in this dark and dismal state.

So Christian went on and by and by the day broke. How excited and happy Christian was. Now morning was come and he looked back. He saw all that he had passed through. He had been delivered safely from it all.

On Christian went on his journey and by and by he was joined by a friend named Hopeful who traveled with him.

Finally Christian and Hopeful came to the borders of the Celestial City. There before them lay the beautiful city of the King. It had walls of pearls and streets of gold. But the best part of all was that the King would be there. (Show Flash Card)

Between the land where they stood and the city was a river. They must cross the river to get to the city. They were greeted by men whose clothes shined like gold and whose faces shined like a light. The men told them the only way to the city was to cross the river. When Christian asked if the water was very deep, the men said the water was deeper or shallower according to how they believed in the King.

So Christian entered the river, but right away he became afraid and began to sink. He called out to Hopeful.

“I will sink!” Christian said.

But Hopeful encouraged him. “Be of good cheer. I feel the bottom!”

But Christian was fearful. He forgot many of the lessons he had learned along the journey. But Hopeful continued to encourage him and reminded him of all the King had done for him.

Then Christian began to think of Jesus and with a loud voice he called out, “I see Him! He tells me, ‘When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.’”

So Christian took courage and soon found ground to stand on. From that point on the river seemed shallow and soon Christian and Hopeful climbed out the other side.

Oh what joy Christian experienced to know that now he would see the King and serve Him for all eternity. He would be welcomed home to be a part of the family of the King!

We will all face the Valley of the Shadow of Death. How will you face it? Will you go through it knowing you are a Christian and that God is with you each step of the way?

And when it comes time to cross the river to eternity, where will you spend eternity? Will you be in Heaven with God the King? Today you can know for sure where you will spend eternity.

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, then you know that someday you will be welcomed into Heaven by Jesus Christ. God will be your eternal Father and you will be forever home!

1. What does the Valley of the Shadow of Death stand for?
2. What does the river stand for?
3. What helped Christian to find his footing in the river?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
Psalm 27:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Joshua 14:1-3, 21-24

LESSON

THE LAND IS THEIRS

How happy the Children of Israel must have been! Finally they were in the land God promised to them. At last the enemies had been driven out and they could settle the land. Altogether it had taken about six years to gain total control of the promised land. Jericho had been the first and most decisive battle, but it wasn't the last. But now, it was over. Now the Israelites numbered over three million people. What a large group of people they were. They certainly seemed to number more than the stars in the sky. And there would be many more sons of Israel born, even until this day!

Now that the enemies had been driven out, there was peace in the land. Finally the people could begin to live normal lives. No more traveling. No more battles. And yet, even though the travels were over and the battles were over, they would still need courage to follow God each day!

Two and a half tribes had already settled on the land east of the Jordan River. All the men who had left their families behind to go fight with their brethren could now return home to their families.

The Levites did not get any land, but God made sure they were well cared for. Since it was their job to care for God's house, God made sure they had all they needed for them and their families to live.

The other nine and a half tribes that had crossed into Canaan now divided the land by drawing lots. That was the way they decided who would live in each section of the land and no one could complain.

Joshua 14:2-3 says, *By lot was their inheritance, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes, and for the half tribe.*

For Moses had given the inheritance of two tribes and an half tribe on the other side Jordan: but unto the Levites he gave none inheritance among them.

The people could build homes for their families. They could work the ground and plant food to eat. They could let their cattle and sheep graze on the green pasture lands. They could be normal at last.

God had fulfilled His promise. Finally the people had victory and they had peace. How wonderful that must have been for them.

Joshua 21:43-45 says, *And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.*

And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

AT REST

The years passed and Joshua grew to be an old man. Joshua was over 100 years old. He knew he did not have much longer to live. So Joshua called the leaders together to have an important talk with them. He wanted to remind them of some very important things they would need to remember and put into practice if the nation of Israel hoped to continue following God.

Can you picture it? Here was Joshua. He had been a young man when Israel left Egypt. With his own eyes he witnessed the Red Sea part so all could walk across on dry land. He stayed close to Moses and helped him whenever he could. He learned what it was like to lead such a vast multitude of people.

He also watched as Israel sinned and he witnessed the patience of Moses as he pleaded with God to spare the sinful people. He had seen God forgive and restore Israel again and again.

He learned to be a good and patient leader just as Moses had been. When he was a young man he had been given control of the leadership of the nation. Joshua had been strong and courageous in battle. He had been wise to help the new nation settle their land and build homes. He had been godly in keeping Israel close to God in all they did.

Now, he is an old man. Perhaps he could only stand to talk for short periods of time because he would tire so easily. But today, God gave him the strength to stand once more before the people. He had some very important things to tell them and the people listened quietly in respect for Joshua and in anticipation of what he had to tell them that was so important.

Joshua 23:1-2 says, *And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age.*

And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age.

Joshua reminded the leaders of all God had done for them since they had left Egypt. He reminded them it was the Lord who had given them this wonderful land they now lived in. Joshua did not want the people of Israel to forget all God had done for them. He did not want them to wander away from God. Joshua knew it was very possible they would do such a thing.

He was very concerned in his heart that as soon as he was dead and his influence was gone, then the people would forget all about God.

Joshua 23:3 says, *And ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God is he that hath fought for you.*

FAREWELL TO JOSHUA

Joshua was 110 years old when he died. The Bible says that the children of Israel loved and obeyed God all the days that Joshua lived and then continued to serve God as long as the leaders who knew Joshua lived also.

Joshua 24: 29-31 says, *And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.*

And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathserah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash.

And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

A GALLANT WARRIOR

Joshua was a man who deserved to be followed because he was a man who loved and obeyed God faithfully. Joshua was a gallant warrior. Time after time Joshua was required to lead Israel into battle. And Joshua did that very courageously.

As the Israelites traveled to the promised land, there were many times they had to cross enemy territory. Not all the countries they came to wanted to let them pass. So Joshua would go before them to build up their courage, to lead them in battle, to figure out the best strategies. But always, Joshua would go to God first and find out how to fight and when to fight. God always gave Joshua the answers. So Joshua was wise as well as gallant.

When the Israelites finally came to the promised land, Joshua led them in one of the strangest battles they would ever fight as they marched silently around the walls of Jericho waiting for Joshua's order to give a mighty shout. Then, for the next six years they continued to battle in the land until all of Israel had a home in which to settle down.

Joshua did not shy away from battle. He never was afraid to go. Why? Because he knew God was with Israel and would fight the battle for them.

A GREAT SAVIOR

The name Joshua means Savior. God knew that some day Joshua would grow up to lead his people to victory. He would save the people. Without him, when Moses died, the people would not have had someone to lead and direct them. Joshua was the great savior of Israel at that time.

Joshua was a type of Christ. That means Joshua was a picture of Christ and what Jesus Christ would do. All the things that Joshua was, Jesus Christ is also.

There were many battles for Israel to fight on their way to the promised land. Joshua led them to victory in each battle.

We also have many battles to fight while we are on our journey to Heaven. Jesus Christ is our gallant warrior who will help us as we fight each battle we face. There is no enemy that is too strong for Jesus.

Psalm 24:8 says, *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*

The biggest battles we face in life are against sin and Satan. But we can be sure that Jesus will go before us to help us fight and defeat our enemies. Jesus, the gallant warrior, leads us in battle. He gives us the armor we need to fight the enemy. And He will always give us the victory if we let Him lead us. He is the gallant warrior we should courageously follow.

Ephesians 6:11-12 tells us, *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

A GREAT SAVIOR

The name Joshua means what? That's right, it means Savior. The name Joshua is a Hebrew form of that name. The Greek form of the same name is Jesus. The name Jesus also means Savior. Jesus is our Great Savior. Jesus was sent to earth to be the Savior of all mankind. He was born as a baby so He could grow up to be our Savior.

Matthew 1:21 tells us, *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Jesus is God. And Jesus, God the Son, came to earth to die on the cross for your sins and for my sins. No one else can do that. No one else can take away our sins. Only Jesus, God the Son, our Great Savior, can do that.

Isaiah 43:11 says, *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

Some people think there are many ways to Heaven, but they are wrong. Some think their own good works will get them to Heaven, but they are wrong. There is only one way to Heaven, and it is not by being good. The only way to Heaven is through Jesus Christ.

And the wonderful thing is that He wants to forgive our sin and take us to Heaven. That is His will. Because Jesus took our place on the cross, we can be forgiven and go to Heaven. He is the Great Savior we should follow.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Just as God wanted Israel to follow Joshua, God wants you to follow Jesus Christ. Jesus is worthy of your trust. He is the one you should follow in life.

Are you a follower of Jesus? By that I mean, have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart? Do you want to be His follower? You can do that today.

If you are already a follower of Jesus, how well do you follow? Do you stay close and try your best to obey and serve Him everyday? Are you afraid to face the battles you need to fight in order to have victory over sin? Do you follow your Gallant Warrior?

Do you stay away from sin because you don't want to live like a worldly person? You have been forgiven of sin and delivered from the power of sin. Do you follow your Great Savior?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have the courage to follow the right leader. There are so many people who want to lead you astray. There are so many things that look like fun but are not pleasing to God. The World would love to tempt you to quit following Jesus and to follow them instead.

Be a courageous soldier who follows your Gallant Warrior into battle with the World and Satan. Be a godly Christian who follows his Great Savior while you are on your way to Heaven.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you follow close to Him. He is worthy to be followed.

Courage to Follow God



Wait on the LORD: be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,
I say, on the LORD.

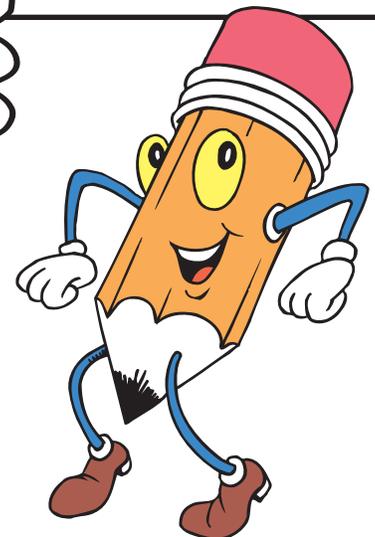
Psalm 27:14

God will give me courage.

Follow the right leader.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three columns of horizontal lines. Each column has ten lines.

How many new words can you make from today's Life Lesson?



LESSON 21

A CHILD OF COMPASSION
A NEED FOR COMPASSION

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Jonah 1:1-17

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have a heart of
compassion.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

God wants you to be a child of compassion. Compassion is showing kindness, patience, mercy, and love toward someone in need.

Sometimes we don't have much compassion in our hearts. We think that if someone is in trouble, maybe they deserve to stay in trouble. But a person with a heart of compassion tries to offer a kind word and a helping hand if possible. Put yourself in their place. When you have a need for compassion, wouldn't you like to have someone help you?

Check your heart. Do you find compassion for others there?

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have a heart of compassion.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

HIDDEN

Obtain Flash Card

"Justin," his mom called. "Have you seen Davey?"

"Not lately," Justin replied as he grabbed a freshly baked cookie.

"I'm worried," Mom said.

"You mean you have freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and Davey hasn't been here begging for a handful of them?" Justin asked in surprise.

"No, he hasn't," Mom said.

"Well, now I'm worried too," Justin teased.

"I'm serious," Mom said. "He always comes directly home from school. But he's really late today."

"Okay. Let me take a look around. I might be able to find him," Justin mumbled as he shoved a cookie into his mouth and grabbed another. "Here, let me take one for Davey. I'll use it as a lure to bring him out of hiding."

“Do you think you know where he is?” Mom asked hopefully. “Where?”

“I’m not sure, but I have an idea. And don’t ask where. A fella needs a few hiding places, you know.”

Justin dropped his books in his room and headed out the back door. He had a pretty good idea where Davey might be. The real question was why on earth would he be hiding out instead of going inside to eat warm Chocolate chip cookies? The smell was so strong and wonderful he could smell it even at a good distance from the house. Davey must be in some kind of trouble if he was in the hiding place.

Justin headed across the big back yard. His long legs took him quickly over the lawn and back over the ridge that headed down into the swamp behind their property. There was a thick ring of trees all around the swamp. There were a couple of great hiding places out there. The swamp wasn’t as bad as it sounded. It rarely had any water in it. Only after a really hard rain was there enough water to stop you from walking most of the way across to the property across the way.

Justin figured he’d start looking at one of his favorite spots when he was Davey’s age. Mom and Dad had discouraged Justin, and later Davey, from spending time in the swamp. It was safe enough most of the time, but his parents were always very cautious.

Sure enough, just as Justin rounded the bushes that hid the tiny hiding place in the swamp, he spotted the tips of Davey’s tennis shoes. He was crammed back in the cozy area under a large Magnolia tree with branches that hung low and thick to the ground. Davey was pulling his feet in as close as he could. He was obviously hoping Justin wouldn’t see him.

“Hey, Davey,” Justin called out softly as he knelt and looked under the tree. Davey was sitting with his knees pulled up tight to his chest and he was trying to be invisible, but he wasn’t. Beside him lay his book bag.

“How did you know I was here?” Davey asked softly.

“I showed you this hiding place, remember?” replied Justin. “You can’t hide from me.”

“Oh, yeah,” Davey mumbled.

“You’re kind of late getting home,” Justin said.

“I know,” Davey said. He was only a few feet away from his big brother, but he refused to look Justin in the eyes. (Show Flash Card.)

“Mom’s worried about you,” Justin said. He could tell that Davey was really upset about something. Instead of saying anything, Davey kept his eyes downcast. Finally he spoke.

“Mom won’t want to see me today,” Davey said.

“What did you do? Are you in trouble?” Justin asked. “Did you beat up somebody or something?”

“I got a D on my report card,” Davey whispered.

“Oh. So you figure you can hide out here?” Justin said.

“Yep,” Davey said.

“How long do you think you can hide?” Justin asked.

“I don’t know. Maybe after dark I can sneak into the house,” Davey said.

Justin tried not to smile. He actually knew how Davey was feeling. He remembered when he had gotten a bad grade on his report card. He had been scared stiff about how Mom and Dad would react.

“This happened to me once. I got a worse grade than you did. I got a F - in English. I hid my report card for days and I couldn’t look Mom and Dad in the eyes for the entire time.”

“Really? What happened?” Davey asked as he looked up at his brother.

“They found out about the report card when my teacher called. Boy was I in trouble!” Justin said.

“See! You know why I don’t want to go home,” Davey pointed out.

“I know,” Justin said. “But it would have been alot better for me if I hadn’t tried to hide.”

“How do you mean?” Davey questioned.

“When Mom and Dad found out that I hid my report card, they were really upset. They said it would have been much better if I had just told them the truth in the first place. They would have been more understanding if I had just told them the truth. They can be very understanding, you know?!”

“Well . . . Do you think it would be better if I just show Mom the report card?” Davey asked.

“It would be a lot better!” Justin reassured him.

Justin held out his hand and helped Davey to his feet.

“Here,” he said as he handed Davey a cookie. “The cookies are really good today. And just in case you’re in more trouble than I think, you can eat one now.”

Justin put his arm around Davey and they both headed back to the house.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Jonah 1:1-17

LESSON

THE PROPHET JONAH

Our Bible story today is about a prophet who lived in Israel under the reign of King Jeroboam III. The prophet's name was Jonah. We all have probably heard the story of Jonah. It is a story that really lets our imaginations run wild, trying to imagine what it must have been like to be Jonah.

The book of Jonah plunges right into the action, so let's do the same.

A JOB FOR JONAH

God often spoke to his prophets. He would give them a message to carry to the people of Israel about what He wanted them to do or not do. The prophet would go convey the message to the people. He would try to convince the people to listen to God and to obey.

Jonah got a message from God, but there was something very strange about this message. God told Jonah to go and cry against evil. What was strange about that? Wasn't that what God usually told His prophets to do? Yes. The message was exactly what God would send to those who were living in wickedness. The strange part was for whom the message was intended.

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. Nineveh was not a city in Israel. It was not a city in Judah. The people in Nineveh were not God's people. In fact, Nineveh was a city in the country of Assyria. The Assyrians were enemies of the Hebrews. The people of Nineveh were what the Hebrew people would have considered heathens. They were non-Jews.

What's so strange about God telling Jonah to go to Nineveh? Almost the entire Old Testament is about the Hebrew people, God's chosen people. God often punished the heathen people if they troubled His people. But He rarely reached out to save them or chastise them. In some cases, like in the case of Naaman, if a heathen came and asked God for help, then God had mercy and helped them. But it rarely happened the other way around.

What was God doing? God was showing that His mercy and compassion was for all people. He was showing that one day, He intended on opening up Salvation and Grace to everyone who would accept it. When Jesus came to earth, He showed that God's love and compassion was available to everyone. Jesus Christ died on the cross for everyone. Isn't that wonderful?

It's exciting to know that God was willing to show compassion on a wicked, heathen land.

Now, God had a job for Jonah. He wanted Jonah to go to the heathen city of Nineveh and cry out against their wickedness.

Jonah had his orders directly from God. So, he got right up, and he headed in the opposite direction!

What? Why did Jonah go the opposite way instead of going where God told him to go? Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh because Nineveh was a heathen country that often caused trouble for Israel. The people of Nineveh were enemies of his people. He didn't want to help them. He probably thought, "Why should I go tell those wicked people to repent? It would serve them right for God to rain down judgement on them! They deserve it!"

Jonah had no compassion on the people of Nineveh!

Of course, Jonah couldn't say that to God. He couldn't say, "God, I think you've made a mistake so I'm not going to obey you."

Instead Jonah tried to hide from God. He went to the city of Joppa and paid for passage on a ship that was heading for Tarshish which was in the opposite direction from Nineveh.

Silly Jonah! He wanted to hide from God. He wanted to get as far away from God as he could.

Jonah 1:1-3 says, *Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.*

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

A FIERCE STORM

Jonah may have thought he could hide from God, but God was completely aware of where Jonah was and what Jonah was trying to do. God could see Jonah even as he lay sleeping on a ship headed for Tarshish.

God is the creator of the entire world, so it was no problem for Him to cause a great storm to begin to whip the sea into a frenzy. The wind blew. The waves crashed. The ship was tossed up and down on the sea as if it were a toy boat. This storm was so fierce that the sailors feared the ship would be torn in two pieces. They had seen bad storms before, but they had never seen one as fierce as this.

The heathen men who sailed the ship were so terrified, that they began to beg their false gods to save their lives. While they were crying to their gods, they started to toss everything overboard that was not fastened down. They wanted to make the ship lighter so it would ride higher in the water. I am sure that as the waves crashed against the ship, it was taking on water and soon the ship would sink.

When the men got to the bottom of the ship's hold, there they found Jonah sound asleep. He must have been a sound sleeper to have been able to sleep while the wind howled, the waves crashed, the rain poured down and the men were crying out for help. But Jonah was asleep!

Jonah 1:4-5 says, *But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.*

Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

A SINCERE CONFESSION

"Hey!" the men shouted at Jonah. "Get up! How can you sleep? Why aren't you calling on your God? We'll all die if we don't appease the god who is angry at us!"

The men cast lots to find out whose god was angry. That meant they devised a method to point to the man who had caused the trouble. I'm not sure how they cast lots, but maybe they drew straws. They may have taken a stick for each man. All the sticks would have been the same length except one would be shorter. Each man would draw a stick and the one who drew the shortest stick would be the one whose god was angry at him.

The lot fell on Jonah. The men demanded to know what he had done. Why was his God angry?

Jonah knew exactly why God was angry at him. He told the men.

"I am a Hebrew. My God is the one true God who made the heavens. He made the sea and the earth."

"Your God made the sea?" the men asked in fear. "Why is your God angry?"

So Jonah told them that he was running away from God. He told them he had tried to hide in the belly of their ship hoping his God would not see him.

The men were astonished that Jonah had tried to run from his God. “Why did you do this foolish thing?” they asked. “What should we do to calm the sea?”

Jonah told the men to toss him overboard. That seemed like a horrible thing to do to Jonah. The men did not want to throw Jonah into the sea. They tried all the harder to bring the ship to land, but nothing they did helped. Soon they realized that if they did not throw Jonah into the sea, they would all die.

So, they tossed Jonah overboard.

Jonah 1:6-13 says, *So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.*

And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

A GREAT FISH

The sailors picked Jonah up, and as they were heaving him over the side of the ship, they called on God to not hold them accountable for Jonah’s death.

The instant Jonah hit the water, the sea fell calm. The storm stopped raging. All was peaceful again. Then the men knew for certain that Jonah’s God was the one true God. They stopped calling on their false gods and they offered a sacrifice to Jonah’s God.

Down, down, down Jonah sank into the sea. As the water swirled around him, he must have thought that soon he would have to get some air, but since he was in the sea, all he would get would be water. Jonah knew he was about to drown.

But God had other plans for Jonah. God prepared a big fish to swim by at that precise moment and as it opened its mouth to take in plankton, and seaweed, and small fish, in went Jonah. The great fish swallowed Jonah.

That fish must have been very large! Some say it was a whale, but the Bible says a large fish. There are fish that are large enough to swallow a man. And there have been cases of men who have fallen off fishing boats who have been swallowed by fish and lived to tell about it. But even if there weren't those documented cases, even if Jonah was the only man to be swallowed by a large fish, God could have performed this miracle for Jonah.

So, Jonah was swallowed by a large fish! When he took his first breath, there was the oxygen he needed inside that fish. I don't imagine it was a pleasant place to spend time, but Jonah was alive. He had air to breathe! He could be thankful for that!

For three days and three nights Jonah camped out in that fish's belly.

Jonah 1:14-17 says, *Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.*

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

A COMPASSIONATE GOD

Silly Jonah tried to hide from God. Why did he hide? Because he did not want to obey God. But God knew exactly where Jonah was. He knew exactly why Jonah was hiding. God could not be fooled and God could see Jonah no matter how far he ran and no matter how well he hid.

God could see where Jonah was hiding. God could also see the hearts of those people in Nineveh. He could see that their hearts were full of sin. They needed someone to tell them about God's great love and compassion.

Jonah had no compassion on those people, did he? Instead of willingly telling those people about God's love, he refused and ran the other way. Sometimes we do the same. God wants us to tell others about Him. He wants us to share with others the fact that even though they are lost in sin, God loves them and Jesus came to die on the cross for their sin. But we hide from God instead of obeying Him.

Do you have a heart of compassion? When God asks you to tell others about Jesus, do you? When God asks you to invite a friend to church, do you? Don't be like Jonah. Don't run from God when He gives you a job to do. Instead, have a heart of compassion that is filled with love and mercy for others!

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. The Bible says that everyone is a sinner. You can't hide your sin because we are all sinners and God knows it.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

You are a sinner. And your sin separate you from God. In fact, your sin condemns you to eternal punishment.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The wage or payment for sin is death, spiritual death. But you do not have to pay that payment because Jesus already paid for your sin. Jesus Christ died on the cross in your place.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

All you need to do to be forgiven of your sin and on your way to Heaven is believe that you are a sinner. Believe Jesus died for your sin. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin. He will.

Would you like to do that today? We can have someone show you Bible verses and show you how to accept Jesus as your Savior. They will show you how you can become a Christian.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

Today I challenge you to have a heart of compassion toward those in need. Maybe you will meet someone this week who does not know Jesus as their Savior. Will you have enough compassion on them to invite them to church? Perhaps you will see someone who needs a friend. Will you have enough compassion to be their friend? Perhaps you will meet someone who needs some help. Will you take the time to help?

You can have a heart of compassion. You need to pray and ask God to help you to have compassion toward others each day.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember to have a compassionate heart toward others.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was king when Jonah was a prophet?
2. What job did God give to Jonah?
3. What was so strange about God telling Jonah to go warn Nineveh?
4. How did Jonah feel about the task God gave him to do?
5. Where did Jonah head for instead of Nineveh?
6. What happened on the ship that scared the sailors?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. How did the sailors determine that Jonah's God was angry at him?
9. What did Jonah tell the sailors to do with him?
10. What happened when Jonah was thrown overboard?

A Need for Compassion



The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
Psalm 111:24b

I will have a
heart of compassion.

O	G	G	M	Y	Q	R	W	J	M	E	R	C	Y	Z
H	V	F	D	L	R	E	O	O	R	G	F	O	P	W
S	I	E	X	L	A	G	M	P	O	U	F	I	P	N
A	X	T	R	E	S	C	N	P	T	I	H	Y	M	L
T	Y	O	U	B	T	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	X	R
G	Z	B	O	J	O	N	A	H	A	D	C	O	S	D
B	T	S	Q	T	L	A	C	C	I	C	B	L	P	E
T	E	S	N	N	D	N	R	H	L	L	N	Q	K	H
M	V	L	A	S	H	I	P	D	O	L	L	H	B	S
F	P	M	D	W	F	N	G	V	R	X	J	R	X	J
B	K	G	N	I	P	E	E	L	S	Y	Q	V	R	W
M	O	J	C	M	H	V	F	O	B	H	V	A	J	B
W	S	E	O	I	O	E	L	A	D	S	P	T	F	R
Q	X	Z	W	X	E	H	V	E	A	E	Z	C	Y	N

Jonah	Ship	Sleep	Overboard	Angry
Message	Joppa	Lots	Calm	Mercy
Nineveh	Storm	Sleeping	Fish	Love
Hide	Sailors	Sacrifice	Swim	Belly

LESSON 22

A CHILD OF COMPASSION
A GOD OF COMPASSION

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Jonah 2:1-10, 3:1-10

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have a heart of
compassion.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It is easy to mess up and do something wrong. In fact, we are all human. We all sin.

When you sin you may feel like there is no hope for you. You may feel like no one, especially God, can forgive you. But you would be wrong.

God is a God of great compassion and He loves you so much that He is willing to forgive you when you sin. He can see your heart. He knows if you are truly sorry for your sin. He listens for you to confess your sin and ask for forgiveness. When you do, He quickly says, "I will forgive you!"

Isn't that wonderful!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have a heart of compassion.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY A SECOND CHANCE FOR DANIEL CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

"Quick! Somebody's looking! We'd better get out of here fast!" Daniel warned his friend Rand.

"Okay; okay! Just act like we haven't done anything."

Rand put his hands in his coat pockets and walked out of the store with two stolen CDs in his coat. After he was sure he had gotten away with it, he laughed. "You're such a chicken! I think you're growing feathers out of your head!"

"Leave me alone! You're gonna get me in big trouble with my dad. I can't believe you brought me along to be your lookout while you stole CDs from that store," Daniel said.

"You won't be in trouble if we don't get caught. But if you don't help me again, I'll make sure your dad knows that you've been up to some 'questionable activities.'"

Before Daniel could answer, Rand had disappeared around the corner and down a side street. He knew he was stuck. If he helped, he could get caught; and if he didn't help, he would get in trouble with his dad for sure! "What am I going to do?" Daniel asked himself.

Daniel went straight to his room when he got home. He had a sick feeling in the pit of his stomach. When his mom called him to dinner, he wasn't hungry.

"Get down here and eat your food!" His dad yelled up the stairs. Daniel knew he'd better get down there before his dad got really mad. When dad got mad, things sometimes got broken. And if Dad was mad at Daniel, sometimes he got thrown around, too.

The next day as Daniel walked the streets of downtown, he heard something. It was singing, but a different kind of singing than he was used to. Not the kind on the CDs that Rand had stolen. He followed the sound until he came to an old store that was being used as some kind of meeting place. The man kept on singing as people walked in and sat down. Daniel decided to do the same. He walked through the door and sat near the back of the room, so he could get away quickly if he needed to.

After the man stopped singing, another man got up and started talking. He was telling a story about a kid who used to live in a building near downtown. The kid ended up in a juvenile facility because he was caught stealing from the Quick Mart down the road. "That could have been Rand." Daniel thought to himself. But the truth was—and Daniel knew it—it could have been him, too. The man continued talking about this kid in the juvenile facility and how tough he tried to act, when really he was hurting on the inside. Daniel listened. He knew about hurting. Finally, when the man was getting to the end of the story, he said, "And folks, that boy was me. Something wonderful happened to me in that juvenile facility. Someone introduced me to Jesus Christ. Someone gave me a second chance at life."

Daniel had heard the name of Jesus Christ, but never in a good way. Usually he heard it when someone was angry, especially his dad. But this man said the name differently. Like it was . . . almost . . . holy. When the man finished, he asked if there was anybody there who was like he used to be. Someone who didn't have a lot of hope for the future; someone who wanted to know what was so special about Jesus Christ. Daniel decided that he'd like to know.

He stuck around after the meeting was over. The man who was talking to everyone walked over to Daniel and stuck out his hand. "My name's Rob. What's yours?"

"Daniel," he responded.

"Do you live around here?"

"Yeah, just down the street a few blocks in an old run-down apartment building. I don't like to stay around home much, though. Nothing to do. And my dad gets mad a lot."

"Mind if we talk?" Rob asked. "Just for a while?"

“Sure; okay,” Daniel said, feeling a little out of place. Rob seemed to be different from anybody he had ever been around.

The two sat down and began talking. Rob asked Daniel about school, friends, his mom and dad, and things like that. Pretty soon, Rob could see that Daniel was headed for the same life he had been a part of as a teenager. “Let me tell you about what changed my life; can I do that?” Rob asked. (Show Flash Card.)

“Okay.”

Rob shared with Daniel about the first time he heard that Jesus Christ was God’s Son Who came to earth to die for the sins of everyone who had ever lived. He told him about how Jesus rose from the dead, and how He wants everyone to trust in Him for eternal life. Daniel never imagined that anyone could ever care that much for him. He decided to come back the next night. As he sat there for the second time, he heard the story of Jesus Christ again. This time, he really believed it. He knew that what Rob said was true. And he wanted to get to know Jesus. After the service, Rob spoke to Daniel.

“I’m so glad you came back. Do you have any questions?”

“Just one,” Daniel said. “How do I get to know Jesus the way you know Him?”

Rob smiled. “I’d love to tell you how.”

That evening, Daniel trusted Jesus as His Savior. It wasn’t an end to his problems, but it was a beginning of a new life.

The next day Daniel met up with Rand on the sidewalk. “Hey, Buddy! Let’s hit another store this afternoon. You up to it?”

“No,” Daniel answered. “I’m not; and I won’t help you any more. I don’t care if you go to my dad. He can hit me all he wants to; I’m not wasting my life in jail.”

“Who needs you anyway?” Rand yelled. “I can do this by myself! Just watch!” And Rand stormed into an electronics store. Daniel waited for him to come out, but it was taking too long. The next thing he knew, a police car was pulling up to the curb. In a few minutes, out the policeman came, leading Rand, handcuffed, out to the car. Rand didn’t even look Daniel’s way. That was the last time Daniel ever saw him—on his way to jail.

Now, years later, another man sings in an old store in the run-down part of the city. When he finishes, a young man named Daniel stands up to tell everyone there about a kid who used to live in that part of the city in a run-down apartment building. A kid who got a second chance. Then he tells them about his wonderful friend named Jesus Christ.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Jonah 2:1-10, 3:1-10

LESSON

JONAH CRIES OUT

Remember where we left Jonah last week? That's right. He was in the belly of a great fish.

God had given Jonah a job. He told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell them that if they did not repent of their wickedness, then God would destroy them. But since God is a God of mercy and compassion, He wanted to give the people of Nineveh a chance to repent of their sin.

Jonah thought the people of Nineveh deserved to be destroyed. He didn't want them to repent. He didn't want to warn those people. He had no compassion on those people. So he got on a ship and went in the opposite direction. The ship set sail, but God sent a terrible storm. It was the worse storm the sailors had ever experienced. They feared for their lives and they began to beg their false gods to save them. When they found Jonah sound asleep in the bottom of the ship, they woke him and asked why he wasn't offering sacrifices to his God. The story soon came out that God was angry at Jonah because he had disobeyed. The only thing to be done was to throw Jonah overboard.

Down Jonah sank, but he did not drown. Instead God prepared a big fish to swallow him. For three days and three nights Jonah was in that fish's belly.

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be inside that fish? Think about it.

Think about how dark it must have been in there. There were no windows. It must have been pitch black. But I don't imagine that Jonah laid down and got any sleep while he was in that fish's belly. It certainly wasn't like being someplace warm and comfy. It was dark and wet.

Think about the smell. Yuck! All around Jonah there was seaweed and fish. And those things weren't just sitting there in the great fish's stomach. They were in the process of being digested. In fact, Jonah would have been sitting smack, dab in the middle of all that fish's digestive juices!

But remember, there was no place Jonah could go where God was not with him. So even though Jonah was in that dark, smelly, terrible place, God was there with him.

Jonah made a smart decision when he found himself in that fish's belly. Jonah decided to pray. He called out to God. He spilled out his problems to God. He confessed his sin of disobedience. Then he did something strange, considering the circumstances. He offered thanksgiving to God. Even in the belly of that fish, Jonah praised God since he knew his God would hear him and have mercy on him. Jonah knew God had such great compassion, so Jonah praised God.

Jonah 2:1-9 says, *Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,*

And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

GOD HEARS

Jonah was wise when he prayed to God. God did hear Jonah. God was right there with Jonah. And when God saw that Jonah was sorry for his sin and when God heard Jonah's words of thanksgiving, God had compassion on Jonah.

God spoke to the great fish, and it vomited Jonah up on dry land. God had caused that fish to turn around and head for land. When it got near the shoreline, it must have felt pretty bad having a person in its stomach. God caused that fish to burp Jonah up and he was able to wash up on the shore.

How relieved Jonah must have been to see the sunshine and stand at the edge of the sea and wash his skin clean.

Jonah 2:10 says, *And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*

A SECOND CHANCE

God was about to give Jonah a second chance. A second time God gave Jonah the instructions to go to Nineveh to warn the people there to repent of their sin.

Do you think Jonah obeyed God this time? Yes. He certainly did. I imagine he jumped right up and said, "I'm on my way right now, God. I'll get there as quickly as I can!"

Jonah 3:1-2 says, *And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.*

JONAH PREACHES

Jonah got to Nineveh as quickly as he could. I don't know if he walked there. Maybe he rented a donkey to carry him. Maybe God had the fish swim back so he wasn't too far from Nineveh. Somehow Jonah got to Nineveh.

Nineveh was a very big city. It took three days to walk from one side to the other. For an entire day Jonah walked through the city. After he had walked for a day, he began to build a crowd of people.

It is possible that Jonah's appearance was unusual. Why? The fish's digestive juices may have damaged Jonah's skin. In fact, do you remember that last week I told you there were other men who have been swallowed by fish? Afterwards their skin turned a strange color. They also lost their hair and were bald the rest of their lives. This may have happened to Jonah. If it did, then I imagine he was a sight to behold. The people of Nineveh would have noticed something wrong with him. They might have crowded around to see the strange looking man with odd colored skin and a bald head.

Jonah began to preach. He told the people they had only forty days before God would judge them for their sin by destroying them. He told them that their wickedness was great before God. He also told them that God wanted to show compassion toward them. God was willing to forgive them.

Jonah must have been a very convincing preacher, because the Bible tells us that the people believed God. All the people of Nineveh repented. From the people who heard him preach in the streets all the way to the king who also heard the news, all believed and repented. The king made a royal decree that no man or any animal was to eat or drink. Instead he instructed everyone to beg God to forgive them. And they were instructed to turn away from their sinful ways.

The people put on sackcloth. They fasted and would not eat. They wanted to show God they were truly sorry for their sin and wickedness.

God looked down on the people of Nineveh. He saw their hearts and knew they were sorry they had been so wicked. They were sorry they had sinned against God. They wanted to follow God.

God was pleased with those people. He was pleased that they so quickly believed the truth they were given. God was pleased they so quickly turned away from their evil. So God did not destroy the city of Nineveh. God was merciful to spare them and their city.

Jonah 3:3-10 says, So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

Wasn't God merciful and compassionate to give Jonah a second chance? Wasn't He merciful and compassionate to give Nineveh a second chance?

God is loving and compassionate. He was compassionate toward Jonah, and toward Nineveh, and He is also compassionate toward you!

God hates sin and we all sin. We all have done wicked, disobedient things. And God must punish sin since He is a righteous judge. He can't just ignore sin.

But God wants to show compassion. He wanted to show compassion on Nineveh when they sinned. He wanted to show compassion to Jonah when he disobeyed. And God wants to show you compassion.

The first compassion God wants to show toward you is to forgive your sin. God hates your sin as much as he hated Nineveh's sin, but if you repent as they did, then God is willing to show compassion to you too.

So, what did Jonah and the people of Nineveh have to do to get God's compassion? They had to do the same thing you have to do to get God's compassion. Here's what you need to do.

1. Show true repentance.

True repentance means that you recognize that you are a sinner and you are sorry for your sin. It does not mean you are sorry you were caught sinning. It means you were sorry you sinned in the first place.

2. Ask forgiveness.

Jonah prayed to God for mercy and forgiveness while he was in that fish's belly. God wants you to also ask to be forgiven.

Maybe you need to be forgiven because you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive you sin. You are like the people of Nineveh. You are not God's child. You can be. We can show you today from the Bible how you can be forgiven.

Maybe you need to be forgiven because you have disobeyed God. You are like Jonah. You are God's child. You are a Christian, but you have disobeyed God. That is something you can take care of the same way Jonah did. Pray and ask God to forgive you. God showed compassion to Jonah. He will do the same for you.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you to learn how to really repent of your sin. Even if you are a Christian, you still sin. You need to repent of your sin. But so many times Christians want to hang on to their sins. They want to do worldly things that are not pleasing to God. They disobey God's Word.

You should want to love and obey God so much that you stay away from sin. God hates sin and you should hate sin. But when you do sin, you should be sorry that you have disobeyed. Don't just be sorry you got caught in your sin. Be sorry you sinned in the first place. Be sorry that you hurt God.

Then be quick to ask for forgiveness. Don't let sin separate you from God. Don't let sin keep you from being close to God. Get sin out of your life as quickly as you can. God is a God of great compassion and He will gladly forgive you if you repent.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to repent of the sins that would keep you far from God.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Why did Jonah try to hide from God?
2. What did God do to get Jonah to obey?
3. What was Jonah's response when God told him to go to Nineveh a second time?
4. Recite today's Bible verse.
5. What did Jonah do when he got to Nineveh?
6. What might have drawn the people's attention to Jonah?
7. How did the people of Nineveh react to Jonah's sermon?
8. What things did the king decree?
9. What did God do when Nineveh repented?
10. Who got a second chance from God in this story?

A God of Compassion



The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
Psalm 111:24b

I will have a
heart of compassion.

It isn't very easy to say, "I was wrong. Please forgive me." Sometimes asking for forgiveness takes courage. It always takes a heart that is sorry for the things you have done wrong.

When you ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sin, He will always do it. He died for your sins because He loves you so much. He wants to forgive you. You just need to ask.

J	I	O	L	E	S	R	O	S	T	G	F	U	W	I	M
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
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1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

J

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Write all the number 1 letters in order on the lines below. Then write all the number 2 letters in order. Then the number 3 letters and so on.

LESSON 23

A CHILD OF COMPASSION
A HEART OF COMPASSION

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Jonah 4:1-11

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have a heart of
compassion.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Lanie grabbed Anne as they were walking out of the lunch room.

“Hey,” Lanie hissed. “What were you doing talking to that new girl?”

“She was sitting all alone. I thought if I was friendly with her, she might come to church with me,” Anne said.

“Church? Our church?” Lanie asked in horror. “Why would you ask her to our church?”

“Why shouldn’t I?” Anne questioned.

“Because! Look at her clothes. You can tell they don’t cost much and her dad drives a really old car! She’s not the kind we want at our church!” Lanie said.

“Maybe she’s exactly the type we need at our church,” Anne said. “Maybe she needs to know about Jesus.”

Lanie shook her head and headed for her next class. Anne knew the new girl didn’t look like all the other girls in their group, but she needed Jesus just like everyone else. Anne was glad she had invited the girl and she made a mental note to meet her at the door and sit with her. She didn’t want Lanie or any of the other girls to make her feel unwanted.

When you look around at school and at other places you go, do you see people who need to know Jesus as their Savior? God wants you to care enough about others to tell them about how much He loves them. He wants you to have enough love and compassion that you will tell them about Jesus.

Today’s Life Lesson is: I will have a heart of compassion.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

HAVE A HEART

You: I brought our friend, Andy, to talk to us today. Let me get him. (Get Andy) Hi, Andy. How are you today?

Andy: I’m great! Couldn’t be better!

You: That's wonderful. I thought we could talk about a Bible verse today.

Andy: Great idea. I love to learn Bible verses.

You: This verse might be familiar to some of the children here. It's a wonderful verse and worth reviewing.

Andy: Let's hear it.

You: It's Romans 5:8. It says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Andy: Wait a minute! Does that verse say that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners?

You: Yes, isn't that amazing?

Andy: Wait a minute! You mean God loves SINNERS?

You: Yes! Its hard to believe that God loved us so much - even while we were still Sinners - yet He sent Jesus to die for our sins.

Andy: It sure is hard to believe. Why would God do that? We don't deserve that!

You: You're right. We don't deserve it. But this verse tells us a lot about the heart of God.

Andy: What does it tell us about the heart of God?

You: God's heart is full of love and mercy for each one of us! That's what compassion is. Compassion is having love and mercy toward others. And God wants us to have a heart just like He has. He wants us to have a heart of compassion.

Andy: What does that mean?

You: It means that we feel love toward others in our hearts.

Andy: Well, that lets me out.

You: What do you mean?

Andy: I don't have to have a heart of compassion.

You: You don't? Why not? God wants us ALL to have a heart of compassion for others!

Andy: Yep, but the problem is. . . I'm heartless!

You: What? What do you mean? I think you're a very nice guy.

Andy: Sure. I'm very nice, but I'm still heartless. You see, I don't have a heart!

You: You don't have a heart?

Andy: Nope. I'm just a puppet. Puppets don't have hearts!

You: Oh! I see. You are right. You are heartless. Puppets don't have a heart! But if you were a real person, like we are, then God would want you to have a heart that's filled with love for others.

Andy: Do you know what?

You: What?

Andy: I've met some real human people who don't love others. Do you think they don't have a heart either?

You: Andy, that's a very sad thing. But you're right. There are people who don't love others. They don't have a heart of compassion. I guess you could say they are HEARTLESS!

Andy: Why is that?

You: I think it's because they don't know that God loved them so much that He sent Jesus to die for their sins. They don't know that God has compassion on them.

Andy: They don't?

You: No. But a Christian should have a heart of compassion. The love of God should be in their hearts. And when God's love is in your heart, it should naturally flow out to others.

Andy: You mean we should love EVERYONE?

You: Yes!

Andy: I don't know about that! Some people are very, very hard to love!

You: I know. Some people are hard to love, but God commands us to love others. And the people who are hard to love are those who need the most love.

Andy: How can you love someone who is hard to love?

You: When a Christian has a hard time loving someone, they need to ask God to give them a heart of compassion. God can do that.

Andy: Do you think if I ask God to give me a heart, He'll do it?

You: No, Andy. You are still a puppet. That will never change. But any real person can ask Jesus into their heart. Then they can ask God to give them a heart of compassion.

Andy: Sounds like a great idea. . . for people with HEARTS! They wouldn't want to be heartless!

You: It's time for you to go now, Andy. Say goodbye.

Andy: Goodbye, everyone. I'll see you again soon. Remember, have a heart!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalm 111:4b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Jonah 4:1-11

LESSON

JONAH'S OBEDIENCE

God told Jonah to go preach to Nineveh, but Jonah did not want to do that. At first Jonah ran from God. He didn't want to obey God, so he tried to hide from God. But finally, after a ride in a big fish, Jonah repented and God gave Jonah a second chance. When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh the second time, Jonah was quick to obey.

Jonah preached in the great city. The people crowded around him and listened eagerly. They were struck to their hearts with grief when they found out there was a God who saw their wicked ways and who would destroy them if they did not repent. Even the king of Nineveh repented and proclaimed a fast. The people all turned away from their sin and turned to God.

As a result of their repentance, God spared Nineveh from destruction.

JONAH'S ANGER

You think Jonah would have been pleased when the people in Nineveh listened to his message. You think he would have been pleased that his message got such great results. After all, a great awakening broke out and the entire city repented of their sin and turned to God.

But Jonah was not pleased. In fact, Jonah was furious. The Bible says that Jonah was so angry he prayed to God and asked Him to take his life from him. Jonah was so angry he wanted to die.

Why was Jonah so angry that he wanted to die? He was angry because God had shown mercy to his enemies. Jonah said, "I knew from the moment you told me to go to Nineveh that this would happen. That is why I ran in the opposite direction. I just knew you would be soooo gracious, and sooooo compassionate, and sooooo slow to anger that you would show kindness. I knew that when I preached and the wicked people of Nineveh repented that you would not destroy them. I knew you would show mercy to them. Just kill me now so I don't have to live any longer."

Jonah threw a big pity party for himself.

Jonah 4:1-3 says, *But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.*

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

Jonah was so angry all he could think of was wanting revenge on his enemy. He did not want God to spare Nineveh. He thought they deserved to be destroyed. He had no compassion on those people.

Jonah was not thinking the way God was thinking. Jonah only saw things from an earthly perspective. He knew Nineveh had sinned. He felt they deserved to be punished for their sin. And he knew God well enough to know that God is a God of compassion.

GOD'S PATIENCE & PROVISION

God did not scold Jonah. Instead God had a question for Jonah. He asked, "Jonah, is it a good thing that you are angry?"

God wanted Jonah to think about his attitude.

Jonah left Nineveh. He probably stomped off in anger. He found an area not too far from the city and he waited to see what would happen to the city after forty days. Maybe God would change His mind and destroy them after all.

Jonah took some branches and tried to build some sort of shelter to protect himself from the hot sun. God again took pity on Jonah and caused a gourd to grow that would provide some shade for him. The gourd must have been a bushy plant with large leaves that Jonah could sit under as he sat and pondered God's question. Jonah was glad for the shade.

The next morning Jonah was still sitting under the gourd. He was staring at the city and still wishing they would be destroyed. God sent a worm to gnaw on the stem of the gourd. Before Jonah realized what was happening, the gourd was destroyed and his place of shade was gone.

God also sent a strong east wind and the sunshine beat down on Jonah. How Jonah missed that gourd that had protected him from the heat. It was so hot that Jonah lay there and wished that he was dead just like the gourd. He began to grumble and moan about his misfortune.

Jonah 4:4-8 says, *Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?*

So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.

And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

MISPLACED GRIEF

Jonah was so grieved over the loss of the gourd that he just wanted to die.

God spoke to Jonah again. He said, "Jonah, you feel so sorry for the loss of that plant. Shouldn't you be more concerned for human beings than you are for plants? Wouldn't you have felt badly if an entire city of people had been destroyed? There are more than 120,000 people in there. Don't you have any compassion on them? Wouldn't you feel the loss of all those people more than you feel the loss of a silly plant?"

Jonah 4:9-11 says, *And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.*

Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

A HEART FOR PEOPLE

God wanted Jonah to think of Nineveh as a city full of people who were needed God. He didn't want Jonah to think of them as the enemy who deserved punishment.

Yes, they were sinful. Yes, they did deserve punishment. And if they had not repented, they would have been destroyed. But because God had compassion on them, He sent Jonah to warn them. God wanted Jonah to feel the same way towards the people of Nineveh as He felt towards them.

The book of Jonah never tells us if Jonah changed his mind in the end. It doesn't tell us if he ever felt any compassion for all those people who God spared. But it is a wonderful story of God's great compassion on sinful mankind.

God saw things from a different perspective than Jonah. He saw the people of Nineveh from the perspective of eternity. He knew they were a needy people with eternal souls who were headed for destruction. He knew they could not save themselves from their sin. He knew that the only way they could be saved was for Him to show them His mercy.

We are like Jonah. We look at life from an earthly perspective. We only see what is going on around us. We only see things our own way.

The sad thing about Jonah is that he did not want to see things God's way. He knew God would show mercy to Nineveh and he thought they did not deserve mercy. He was angry with God for being such a compassionate God. Have you ever looked at someone you didn't like and thought they didn't deserve God's mercy? Have you ever been angry at God for showing His mercy to someone you think did not deserve mercy?

God sees things differently. He knows that life is short and we must all spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. God also knows we can do nothing to save ourselves. He knows that none of us deserves His mercy. We cannot get to Heaven by our own good works. The only way we can be saved from our wickedness is by accepting God's mercy.

Here is something interesting to think about. The people of Nineveh were not the only ones in this story who benefited from God's compassion. God showed compassion to Jonah too, didn't He?

The first compassion God showed to Jonah was to make him His child. Jonah was a prophet of God. He was one of God's chosen people. What a compassion that was! Jonah was also shown compassion when God forgave him in spite of the fact that he directly disobeyed and ran away. God could have let Jonah drown for his disobedience, but God showed compassion and gave Jonah a second chance.

I am sure Jonah was happy to have God show compassion toward him! Jonah should have been happy that God is a God of compassion, both to himself and to others. Jonah should have been happy that God's compassion is not limited to a select few.

We shouldn't want God to show compassion to us, but not to others. God has compassion on all people. God wants us to have compassion just as He does. God wants us to have compassion on others also.

What is compassion? Compassion is a combination of mercy and love. God's compassion says, "I love the people that I created and I pity them because they are lost and without the means to save themselves. So, I will save them. I will show love and mercy in spite of their sinfulness."

Do you have compassion in your heart toward the people all around you who are without Jesus Christ? They are sinners who don't know God and can do nothing to get rid of their own sin. You should have enough compassion to tell them about God's love and mercy.

Maybe you are not a child of God. Maybe you are more like the people of Nineveh. You have sin in your life and you can't get rid of your own sin.

God loves you and has compassion on you. Today you can accept His free gift of Salvation by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can be saved.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

Don't be like Jonah who wanted God to have compassion on him, but he was not willing to show compassion to others. Maybe there is someone you know who needs Jesus, but you have always thought they didn't deserve God's love and mercy. Stop being like Jonah.

Today I challenge you to have a heart of compassion for others. Ask God to help you to see others as He sees them. Ask Him to give you the desire to help others come to Jesus Christ.

Then put your prayers into action. Every day live like a Christian in front of others so they can see Jesus in your life. Invite others to come to church so they can hear the Gospel and learn how to be saved. Tell others what Jesus has done for you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have a heart of compassion.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God tell Jonah to do?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Why did Jonah want to see Nineveh destroyed?
4. Why was Jonah angry?
5. What did Jonah know God would do in Nineveh?
6. What question did God ask Jonah?
7. Where did Jonah go when he was finished preaching?
8. What did Jonah hope would happen?
9. What did God send to protect Jonah?
10. What did God send to destroy the gourd?

LESSON 24

A CHILD OF PRAYER
CLOSE THROUGH PRAYER

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 11:1-13, Matthew 6:5-13

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will be a child of prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

We all like to feel close to our friends and family. They are very important to us. We care about them and we want them to care about us. We like to spend time with them. We like to be involved in their lives.

In order to be close with your friends and family what must you do? (Take answers.) That's right. You must spend time together. You must keep informed about each other's lives. You must stay in close contact.

The same is true of God. He also wants to be close to You and He wants you to be close to Him. He loves you very much. He cares about you. But you won't be any closer to God than you choose to be.

How can you be close to God? It's simple. Read the Bible and pray. That is how He talks to you and how you talk to Him. If you don't take time to read His Word or to talk to Him, then you won't be close to Him. You'll be out of contact.

Make time for God. Be close to Him. What wonderful fellowship you will have!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be a child of prayer.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

Cleland B. McAfee was the pastor of a large church in Chicago, Illinois. He led his people in worship of the Lord. He taught his people that God was always with them and would keep them near to His heart. Little did Pastor McAfee know that one day he would be shaken to his core and would have the opportunity to test the nearness of God.

In the early 1900's, even in the United States, dreaded diseases often swept through communities and claimed the lives of many. One day Pastor McAfee got the terrible news that not one, but two of his brother's daughters had been stricken with Diphtheria. Both girls died from the disease.

Pastor McAfee's brother and family were quarantined in their home until health officials could be certain that none of the rest of them carried the terrible disease. The double funeral would be held without the girls mother or father to attend.

Even in his great sorrow, Pastor McAfee knew that God was close at hand. He wanted to find some way to comfort his brother and family. So he sat down and wrote the song, "Near To The Heart Of God."

Pastor McAfee sang the song at his nieces' funeral.

Listen as I read the song to you.

There is a place of quiet rest,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where sin cannot molest,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where we our Savior meet,
Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,
Near to the heart of God;
A place where all is joy and peace,
Near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
Sent from the heart of God;
Hold us, who wait before Thee,
Near to the heart of God.

Do you want to be near to the heart of God? You can be. Read the Bible and pray. That is how you can talk to God and let God talk to you.

There is never a time when God is not near to you. In times of trouble and in times of sorrow, you can know that you are near to God's heart. He loves you so much!

Isaiah 40:11 says, *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 11:1-13, Matthew 6:5-13

Obtain Flash Card

LESSON

TEACH US!

One day Jesus was praying to God in Heaven. His disciples were nearby and they listened closely. When Jesus came to earth, the disciples must have been amazed to hear Jesus turn His eyes to Heaven and speak directly to God so often. (Show Flash Card.)

You and I probably pray often. We pray when we eat and when we go to bed. We pray in church and many other times. But prayer must have seemed like a strange thing to the disciples. The Jews did pray to God, but it was a more formal thing. They did not talk to God as

if they were talking to a personal friend or to their loving Father. They prayed to God as a way of praising Him, but they did not ask God for requests or ask for forgiveness of sin. When the Jews wanted to let God know they were sorry for their sins, they went to the temple and a priest would offer a sacrifice to God on their behalf. When the Jews wanted to let God know they were thankful, they would take a thank offering to the temple and the priest would offer that to God.

The people did not talk to God as if they were talking to someone they knew and loved. Only the priests could enter the holy of holies at special times and they would reverently offer sacrifices to God. No one just had a chat with God. Even in Old Testament times, when the people wanted to hear from God, they would go talk to a prophet of God. Then God would tell the prophet what to say to them. The people prayed to God, but it was not like the type of prayer that Jesus prayed when He talked one on one to His Father.

So, John asked Jesus if He would teach them how to pray.

Luke 11:1 says, *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

JESUS PRAYED

The Bible often tells us about times when Jesus prayed to God. He kept in close contact with His Heavenly Father. Let's look at a few of the times Jesus prayed.

When Jesus was about to eat the loaves of bread and the fish, He took the time to thank God for the food provided. This was a public prayer that Jesus offered to God for many to hear.

Luke 9:16 says, *Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.*

There were also many times when Jesus would pray in private. He would go away from everyone else and find a quiet place. He talked one on one with God.

Luke 5:16 says, *And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*

Some of Jesus' prayers to God were for definite requests. Although the Jews' prayers to God were expressions of praise, Jesus often prayed to ask things from God. He made specific requests. When it was near the time when Jesus would die on the cross, Jesus went a short distance from three of His disciples and began to pray earnestly. He knew that death on a cross would be painful. He also knew that He would be bearing the sins of all mankind. He was facing a very hard time. Jesus asked God if there was any other way to do what He was about to do, but then He also told God that He would do whatever God wanted Him to do. Jesus prayed for God's will to be done.

Luke 22:41-44 says, *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

JESUS' LESSON

Jesus willingly taught His disciples to pray. He said, "This is the way you should pray." Then He taught them. Let's look at how Jesus taught them to pray.

Luke records the Lord's prayer in a slightly different way from Matthew.

It says in Luke 11:2-4, *And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus said, *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1. Jesus taught His disciples to show reverence toward God.

Jesus showed reverence toward God by recognizing who God was: He is the Father, who is the great God in Heaven. Jesus showed reverence by praising God for who He is: He is hallowed or Holy.

Also, because of who God is, He alone deserves our praise and worship.

Jesus prayed, *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

First recognize who God is and then praise God for who He is. God is the great Creator and Father. He is holy and deserves our praise.

How do you show reverence? Tell God that you know He is the great God and Creator. Then take the time to praise Him for all the wonderful things He has done for you!

2. Jesus taught His disciples to ask for their needs.

Jesus knew His followers had daily needs. They needed to eat and they needed clothing. They needed many things in order to be able to live. Jesus told them it was right to ask God to provide for their daily needs. Notice He did not tell them to stock pile up things. He did not say, "Ask God for a horse and chariot, a beautiful home, many servants, and all the foods you will need for many years to come." No. Jesus said they should ask for their daily bread.

Jesus prayed, *Give us this day our daily bread.*

God wants you to boldly come to Him in prayer. He wants to listen to you. He wants to have contact with you.

Hebrews 4:15-16 says, *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

He wants you to ask for the things you need. God is not a magic genie who will just give you everything you desire, but if you pray, asking for the things that will make you a better Christian, then He will gladly give you what you need.

Many times we tend to get greedy. We want all the things we see on TV. We want all the things that we see our friends playing with. We think we need so many worldly things in order to be happy. But often those things would only steal our hearts away from God. Instead we should ask for what we need each day and be thankful for what the Lord provides.

God knows you have needs. Although spiritual things are the most important, God knows you need physical things also. He created you and your body. He knows what your needs are. You can freely ask Him for what you need.

Luke 12:30b says, *Your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

3. Jesus taught His disciples to repent of their sin and to avoid the evil one.

A child of God should want to keep their hearts, minds, and bodies clean from sin. But we are surrounded by sin and the temptations are all around us. We should desire to avoid sin, but sometimes we still sin. Jesus taught that we should quickly repent of sin. Each time we pray we should deal with sin by confessing it and asking forgiveness.

Just as God is willing to freely forgive your sins, you should be willing to forgive those who sin against you. The word debt is the same as trespass or sin. When we ask God to forgive our sins, then we should be willing to forgive others when they sin against us.

Matthew 6:14-15 says, *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jesus prayed, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

Jesus also taught them to ask for help against the evil one.

Jesus taught them to ask for forgiveness of sin, but also to ask to be delivered or rescued from evil. Satan would love to destroy all Christians, but God is ready and able to deliver His own children from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 says, *But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*

When this verse says “evil” it literally means “the evil one.” The Lord is the only one who can rescue you from the evil one. Satan would love to lead you astray, but God will help you to avoid temptation.

Jesus prayed, *And lead us not into temptation.*

You and I are sinful people. We have had our sin forgiven when we got saved and that is a wonderful thing. But daily sin comes into our lives. We need to quickly go to God and ask Him to forgive our sins. He will do it gladly! And the same way that God is willing to forgive our sins, we should extend our forgiveness to those who sin against us.

Ephesians 4:32 says, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

4. Jesus taught His disciples to accept God's will.

Jesus knew that God has a master plan and that God's way is always best. He desired to do things God's way. God is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. Everything and everyone is in His control. He has a plan and things will work out according to God's plan and God's will. As an obedient Son, Jesus wanted to always do the will of His Father.

Jesus prayed, *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

When we do things our way, then we are ignoring God and we are saying that we know better than God. At times we do think we know better than God, but He is so much wiser than we will ever be. He not only sees the past, present, and future, He also controls it all. We should learn to accept things the way God wants them done.

5. Jesus taught His disciples to worship and praise God.

Jesus understood more than anyone who has ever lived on this earth how worthy of worship and praise our God truly is. We know that God is the great Creator. We know He is pure and holy. We know He loves us. But we will not understand fully until we get to Heaven. Jesus is God the Son. He and the Father are one. He knew that God alone is worthy of all our love and praise.

Jesus prayed, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.*

Our lips should be filled with praise when we go into God's presence. Not only should we praise God for the good things He does for us, we should also praise Him for how holy and how wonderful He is!

Psalm 86:12 says, *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*

Psalm 107:8 says, *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

WE SHOULD PRAY

Jesus also had a few other words of wisdom for His disciples about how they should pray. Let's look at what He had to say.

1. Pray in secret.

That doesn't mean you can't pray in public like at church or before a meal, but it does mean that you should be directing your prayers toward God and not toward those who are listening. Some people love to pray long flowery prayers to impress everyone else. They really aren't praying to God. They are showing off. God must be disgusted at that!

Matthew 6:5-6 says, *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

2. Don't use vain repetitions.

Matthew 6:7-8 says, *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

What does that mean? Some people think that if they repeat something over and over to God that it will get His attention. The Bible says that the heathens, or people who don't know the true God, pray that way.

That does not mean that you can't ever talk with God more than once about a need that you are concerned about. You can certainly spend time praying about things that weigh heavy on your heart. But God does not want us to chant prayers over and over without giving thought to what we are saying.

In Matthew 7:7-8 Jesus said, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The words here mean ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking. God does want you to be persistent in prayer, but He wants your prayers to be from your heart.

ON PRAYING GROUND

We need to be on praying ground. What does that mean? It means that we need to keep our hearts and minds and bodies clean and pure for God. We need to keep sin out of our lives, and when we do sin, we need to confess it and put it away from us as quickly as possible.

When we allow sin to remain in our lives, then we hinder our closeness with God. Sin separates us from God.

Psalm 66:18 says, *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*

The only way to be on “praying ground” is to put sin out of our lives. Most often that is a day by day thing. Daily we need to have our hearts cleansed so that we can have a close relationship with God.

1 John 1:9 says, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

There are two different types of confession of sin. Let’s talk about those two.

First, there is the first time you confess your sin to God and ask Him to give you salvation. We are all born sinners and we are dead spiritually. The only way we can have our sin forgiven and become alive spiritually is to realize that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. Then we ask Him to forgive us and accept His salvation.

If you have never done that, then you are not a child of God. You are not on your way to Heaven. Today you can do that. In just a minute we can have someone take a Bible and show you exactly how you can have your sin forgiven.

The second confession of sin involves our daily sin. If you are a Christian and have asked Jesus to forgive your sin, then you are His child and you are headed to Heaven. But you are still human. You still have a sin nature. You still sin. And sin keeps you from having a close and loving relationship with God.

Daily you need to go to God and confess your sin. Daily you need to ask God to forgive you and to cleanse your heart. Daily you need to ask God to help you to avoid sin.

We will never be sinless in our human bodies, but we can keep our lives as pure from sin as possible. We can try to sin less and less. When you do that, you will be on praying ground and that means you will be able to keep close contact with God!

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to pray as Jesus taught His disciples.

1. Show reverence toward God. God is pure and holy. We should come into His presence in a worshipful and respectful manner.

2. Ask for your needs. God gladly provides your daily needs. Remember, He is not a magic genie who grants wishes. Everything God provides will be according to what He knows is best for you.

3. Repent of your sin and avoid the evil one. Be quick to ask for forgiveness of your sins and be quick to forgive others. And ask God to help you to resist the temptations of the evil one.

4. Accept God's will. God has a master plan for your life. He knows what is best. Don't demand your own way. Instead humbly accept God's will.

5. Worship and praise God. Our great God and Creator deserves all of our love and devotion. Take the time to praise and thank God for all His blessings.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to stay in close contact with God through prayer.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who asked Jesus to teach them to pray?
2. What type of prayers did the Jews offer to God?
3. Name something Jesus taught the disciples to do in prayer.
4. Name something else Jesus taught the disciples to do in prayer.
5. Recite today's memory verse.
6. Name one thing Jesus said not to do in prayer.
7. Name another thing Jesus said not to do in prayer.
8. Why should we offer praise to God in prayer?
9. Why should we confess our sins to God?
10. How can you be on praying ground?

Close Through Prayer

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear
to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2



I will be a child of prayer.

Teach Us To Pray

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

How many new words can you make from the words:
Teach Us To Pray?

LESSON 25

A CHILD OF PRAYER
READY THROUGH PRAYER

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Luke 22:44, Matthew 26:36-46

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will be a child of prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

“Mom,” Susan eagerly called to her mother. “Guess what my Sunday School teacher said today in class.”

“I don’t know,” her mother replied. “You tell me.”

“She said Jesus is coming to earth again! I didn’t know that!”

Susan’s mother smiled. “Yes, she is right. The Bible says that one day soon the Lord will come to take the Christians to Heaven. The Bible says that we will meet Him in the air.”

“When will He come?” Susan asked.

“No one knows, only God. Even the angels in Heaven don’t know. But the day will come. That is why we need to be watching and praying. We need to be ready!”

Jesus will come again some day soon! That is a wonderful thing . . . if you are ready. If you have had your sin forgiven and are living for Jesus, then it will be a wonderful thing. Today we will talk about watching and praying.

Today’s Life Lesson is: I will be a child of prayer.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Obtain Flash Card

Not much is known about the childhood of William Walford. He was born in England in 1772. That’s about all we know. (Show Flash Card)

Most of what we do know about William Walford comes from the time when he was an adult. William spent most of his time in his workshop handcrafting both useful and beautiful objects that families could use around their homes. He would use his hands to whittle shoehorns and other things that he would sell to make a living.

But do you know, William never once set eyes on a single one of his hand-crafted objects. Why? Because William was blind. We don’t know if he was born blind or if something happened later in his life, but by the time William was an adult he was completely blind. He never was able

to see the things he worked so long and hard to create, but his hands told him all he needed to know. They enabled him to know if the shape was right and if the piece was smooth and finished.

William worked hard with his hands, but he also kept his mind very busy. He spent much of his time, as he worked, thinking of God's Word and praying. William loved the Lord and he spent much of his time memorizing Scripture and writing poems about God. Since William couldn't write down his poems, he would commit them to memory.

William Walford was also a preacher. God called him to preach and he would review his sermons and the Bible verses over and over in his mind until he was completely ready to present the message on Sunday to his congregation. It was said that William rarely ever made a mistake or forgot a single word of his message or of the Scripture he quoted. Many said that William had the entire Bible memorized. That is very possible since he spent long hours in his mind going over and over God's Word.

One day a fellow pastor from New York stopped to visit William. As they talked William asked his friend if he would copy down the words to a poem he had written. The pastor gladly took pen and paper and wrote down the words that William quoted.

Two years later the pastor submitted the poem to the "New York Observer" newspaper and the paper thought the poem was so good that it was printed in the paper for the first time on September 13, 1845. Later someone put music to the poem and the hymn has become a favorite all over the world.

Listen as I read the poem to you.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,

And bids me at my Father's throne

Make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief,

My soul has often found relief

And oft escaped the tempter's snare

By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

The joys I feel, the bliss I share,

Of those whose anxious spirits burn

With strong desires for thy return!

With such I hasten to the place

Where God my Savior shows His face,

And gladly take my station there,

And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

Thy wings shall my petition bear

To Him whose truth and faithfulness

Engage the waiting soul to bless.

And since He bids me seek His face,

Believe His Word and trust His grace,

I'll cast on Him my every care,

And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

May I thy consolation share,

Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,

I view my home and take my flight:

This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise

To seize the everlasting prize;

And shout, while passing through the air,

"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

I am sure that because William Walford was blind, he learned to value his time with the Lord in prayer. He couldn't see, but he could pray. Prayer was so precious to him that he wanted to make sure his poem on prayer was passed on to others.

Prayer is a precious and powerful thing. Why? Because when we pray we are talking directly to the God of the Universe who created and controls all things and who loves us so much! You don't have to be an adult to pray. You don't have to be a preacher to pray. You can spend time in prayer anytime of the day or night and be confident that God hears each word you whisper to Him. So remember, spend a sweet time in prayer each day!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 22:44, Matthew 26:36-46

LESSON

TO THE GARDEN

When Jesus was on earth before His death on the cross, after the Passover meal, Jesus and eleven of His disciples went out of Jerusalem just a short distance to the Garden of Gethsemane. It was a quiet garden where Jesus could find a place to pray. By now evening was coming on and it was dark.

Jesus told His disciples to sit and wait for Him by the entrance to the garden, but He asked Peter, James, and John to come farther into the garden with Him. Finally Jesus asked the three disciples to stop and watch as He went a bit farther so He could be alone as He prayed. He was counting on them to be watchful and prayerful. This was a very important time and they needed to keep watch for Him.

Matthew 26:36-38 says, *Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Jesus went a bit farther into the garden. He found a place to kneel down and He fell on His face before God. He poured out His heart to God in prayer. He was feeling sad and burdened in His heart. He knew that the very next day He would hang on the cross and die for the sins of the world. The sins of all mankind were a heavy burden to bear. That is why Jesus longed to talk to His Father.

The Bible says that Jesus was in such agony of spirit that as He prayed His sweat fell to the ground in great drops of blood.

Luke 22:44 says, *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Jesus asked God, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

Jesus did not shake His fists at God and demand that He be delivered from this heavy weight of sorrow. Jesus did not say, “I will not do this! Why should I die for the sins of the World when I am the perfect Son of God. I have never sinned but these people are filthy, rotten sinners! Why should I die for their sins?”

No. Instead Jesus said, “Father, Thy will be done.”

It was a terrible thing to face the death of the cross. Jesus asked God if there was any other way that salvation could be given to mankind, but there was no other way. A perfect sacrifice had to be offered to satisfy God’s judgement on sin. The wages or payment of sin is death and a perfect sacrifice has to die as that payment.

So, Jesus was willing to obediently go to death on the cross. Why? To pay our debt of sin so that you and I could have our sins forgiven. So that we could be saved from our sin. Oh, how much Jesus loves us!

Matthew 26:39 says, *And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

COULD YE NOT WATCH?

Slowly Jesus got to His feet. He went to check on Peter, James, and John. He hoped to find them also praying to God, but that is not what He found. When Jesus got to where He had

left them, all three of them were sound asleep. They were slumbering peacefully. They were not watching. They were not praying.

Jesus woke the three and said, “Could you not watch with me one single hour? Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation.”

Jesus knew that He wasn't the only one about to face some very hard times. When the men came to take Jesus away, the disciples would also experience some traumatic times. Their peaceful lives would be at an end. They would have to watch their master being tried and crucified.

Jesus wanted them to pray so that they would be prepared to face those hard times in a way that would be pleasing to God. But instead of praying, it felt so good to them to drift off into sleep. Their flesh was weak. They wanted sleep more than they wanted strength from God. How foolish they were! They would be caught unprepared.

Matthew 26:40-41 says, *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

THY WILL

Jesus hoped that Peter, James, and John would realize they needed to spend time praying. He hoped that these three would join Him in prayer. So, a second time Jesus left them again and went to pray alone. A second time Jesus asked God if there wasn't some other way to save the world, but this was the only way.

Some people claim that there are many ways to please God. They claim there are many ways to get to Heaven. They are wrong! There are not many different ways to have your sin forgiven. There are not many different ways to get to God. There is only one way. That way is through the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus had to shed His blood in order for our sin to be taken away. Jesus gave His life for our salvation. No other sacrifice would do!

Jesus submissively told His Father that He was willing to do God's will. He would go to the cross to provide us with salvation from sin. Jesus is our example to follow. If Jesus was willing to obey God in all things, then we ought to be willing to obey God in all things also.

Matthew 26:42 says, *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

STILL SLEEPING

A second time Jesus returned to find the three disciples sound asleep. This time Jesus did not bother to waken them. Instead He returned to His place of prayer. He would watch and pray alone. So, the third time Jesus went to His place of prayer. Again He spoke with His Father.

Then Jesus went back to the sleeping disciples. I think He was sad that His closest friends and followers were not willing to stay up and watch and pray with Him in His time of great need. I think He may also have been sad that they would not be prepared for all the things that were about to happen.

Softly He said, "Sleep on. Take your rest. Behold, the hour is come for the Son of man to be betrayed."

Matthew 26:43-45 says, *And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.*

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

HE IS AT HAND

Then Jesus woke the three men. The time to pray had ended. It was time to join the others. Jesus knew that Judas was headed His way. He knew Judas would betray Him. He knew that many lies would be told about Him. He knew that the thing He had been born to do was about to happen. Soon Jesus would go to the cross to die for our sins.

Matthew 26:46 says, *Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

WATCH & PRAY

Jesus hadn't asked the disciples to do a hard thing. He had only asked them to watch and pray. But they were tired and they did not realize how important it was to watch and pray. Jesus asks us to watch and pray also. He wants us to be ready.

Ready for what? Ready to obey. Ready to serve. Ready to tell others about Jesus. And ready for the Lord's return.

The Bible says that one day Jesus will return in the air to take us to Heaven. It is called the second coming. Jesus will come and first He will raise up those Christians who have already died. Then those of us who are alive will be caught up to meet Him in the air. And we will all go to Heaven together. How wonderful and exciting that will be!

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

It's important to be ready! The only way to be ready is to be watchful and prayerful. We cannot be ready without God's help, and God's help is only a prayer away.

Luke 18:1b says, *That men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*

Let me ask you, are you ready? If you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life, then you are not ready. You are lost in your sin. But Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to go to the cross to die for your sins. He wants to forgive you. He wants you to spend all eternity in Heaven with Him.

Today we can show you from the Bible how you can have your sins forgiven and know you are on your way to Heaven.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

Today I challenge you to be watchful and prayerful in your life. Why? Because Jesus is coming again. One day Jesus will return to earth. Like the disciples we don't know when that will happen, but we need to be ready for the things to come. God's Word and prayer helps us to be ready. We don't want to be caught sleeping!

Mark 13:33-37 says, *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

1. Watch! Watch for the Lord's return. One day Jesus will come back for us. We don't know when, but we must be ready!

2. Pray! Pray that you will have the wisdom to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Pray that you will have victory over your flesh. We are sinful people. It is so easy to sin and so hard to do right, but God can help us. Pray for His help!

Be watchful and prayerful! Be ready!

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to be watchful and prayerful.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go after the Passover meal?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. How many disciples went to the garden with Jesus?
4. Who was missing and why?
5. Which three disciples did Jesus take with Him farther into the garden?
6. What did Jesus tell Peter, James, and John to do?
7. What did Jesus do when He was alone?
8. What did Jesus ask of God?
9. What did Jesus find when He returned to the three disciples?
10. Why did Jesus come to earth?

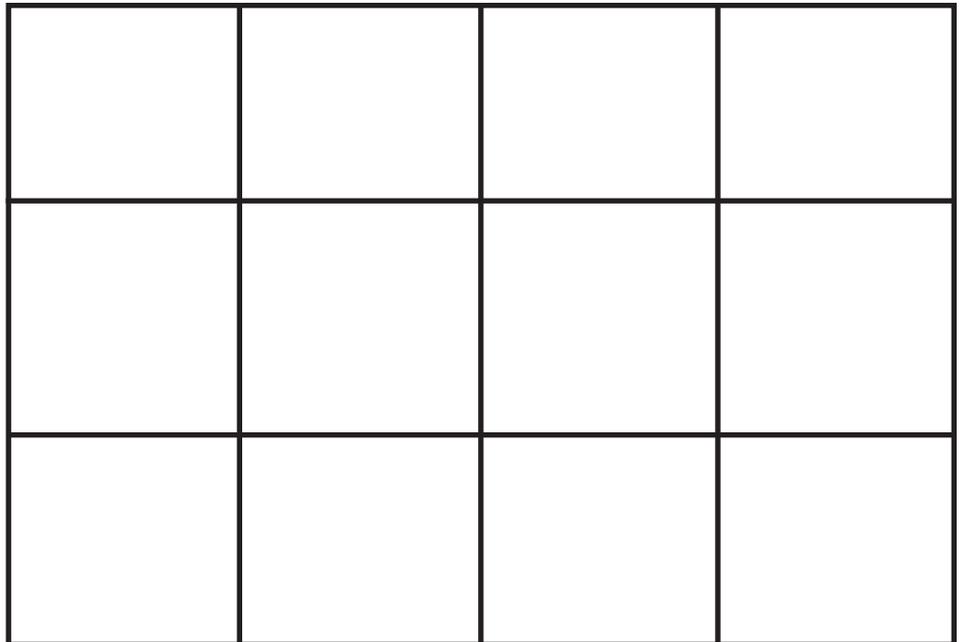
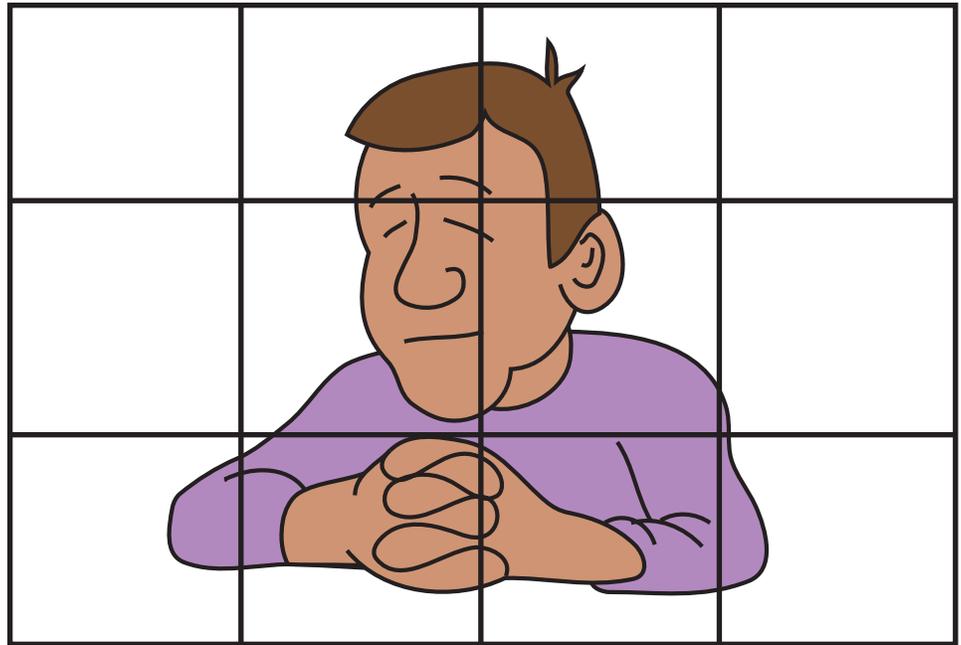
Ready Thru Prayer



Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

I will be a child of prayer.



Talk to God in prayer every day. Prayer is the best way to stay close to Him.

Use the squares as a guide to help you draw this man in the second box. Color the pictures.

LESSON 26

A CHILD OF PRAYER
POWER IN PRAYER

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Acts 12:1-17

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will be a child of prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Do you think that God listens to you? Does He hear your prayers?

When things don't happen the way we want them to happen, we often think that God doesn't hear or care about us. We think that maybe God doesn't answer our prayers. But that would be wrong. God does hear us. He cares about us. And He answers prayer.

Because God hears and answers prayer, it is wise to be boys and girls who spend time talking to God in prayer.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be a child of prayer.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

GEORGE MUELLER

A MAN WHO WALKED AND TALKED WITH GOD

Obtain Flash Card

Many years ago in the country of Germany, there lived a young man by the name of George Mueller. George lived a wicked life. He lied, stole from others, and often became drunk.

George's father wanted him to become a minister, because he felt that was a good way to make a living. So George followed his father's wishes to study for the ministry, but George was not very interested in God.

One day George's friend invited George to come to a prayer meeting with him. George had never been to a prayer meeting before. He was amazed as he listened to the people as they prayed to God.

Why, it sounded like they were actually talking to God as if He would listen to what they had to say! George had never really figured that God would care about anything he had to say.

That night George found out about Jesus Christ. He accepted Christ as his Savior. He was 20 years old.

George was a changed man. He began to pay attention to what he was studying in seminary. Finally, George realized that God was calling him to be a missionary.

When George told his father that he wanted to go into missions, his father was not pleased. This was not what he had planned. So George's father told him that if he was going to be so foolish, he would have to pay his own school bills.

So George prayed. He asked God to provide the money he needed for rent, food, and school. It was a pretty tall order, and George didn't know what would happen. But he decided to trust God to provide, if God truly wanted him to be a missionary.

Shortly afterwards, one of George's professors asked George if he would be willing to be a German tutor for one of the American professors. It paid a handsome fee. God had answered George's prayer.

That was the first time George would pray and trust God. But it was not the last time. George found all through his life that he would have to trust in God to provide for his needs. (Show flash card)

Eventually, George opened an orphanage for the needy children who had no families or homes. It took lots of money to house, feed, clothe, and educate the orphans, but George had learned that, if God called him to do something, God would provide. George had only to ask.

Back in George's day, people shopped daily for their food. They didn't have modern refrigeration to keep food fresh. They had to buy in smaller amounts. Especially foods that were fresh.

One morning there was no money to buy food to feed the children. But George believed that God would provide. He instructed the children and staff to sit at the tables. They began to pray to thank God for the food he would provide.

It took faith to believe God would answer their prayer. But George had seen God answer prayer many times before. He knew he could trust God.

Just then, there was a knock at the door. It was a baker. He told George that he just couldn't sleep that night, so he had gotten up early to bake bread. He asked if they needed any of his bread.

No sooner had the bread been unloaded, when they heard a second knock at the door. It was the milkman, and he had a problem. On the way past, the milk cart had broken. He had to get rid of the milk fast! He asked George if he could get rid of the milk for him.

God doesn't always answer our prayers just like that. Sometimes He does. George found out that God cared about him and that he could go personally to God with any need.

You can do the same. Daily, you can walk and talk with the same God that provided for George Mueller. God waits to speak to you and for you to speak to Him.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Acts 12:1-17

LESSON

A WICKED KING

Do you remember the story of how God changed Saul's life when he saw a great light from Heaven on the road to Damascus? Paul accepted that Jesus was the Messiah. He stopped persecuting the Believers. The man who had been causing their worse suffering had joined their side and things were more peaceful. But not for long!

Shortly after the religious leaders stopped persecuting the believers, King Herod began to do the same. Herod was a very wicked man and he came from a long line of wicked kings. He began to persecute the believers.

King Herod took one of the Apostles, James the brother of John, and he had him killed by the sword. When the king saw that the Jewish leaders were pleased with what he had done to James, he thought he'd keep going. Next he had his men capture Peter.

Peter waited in the dirty, dark prison and wondered if he too would soon lose his head to the king's sword. Surrounding him were four of the king's biggest, meanest guards. They chained Peter up and placed two guards at the door of his cell and two of the guards sat right next to him. They treated Peter as if he were a dangerous, hardened criminal. But Peter's only crime was that he went around preaching to others about salvation through Jesus Christ.

The king was determined to kill Peter but first he had to wait until after that year's Passover had been completed. He didn't want to cause trouble during Passover.

Acts 12:1-4 says, *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*

And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

A PRAYING CHURCH

It didn't take long for word to spread that Peter was in prison. I imagine the early believers kept close track of each other and when something happened the word spread from believer to believer like wild fire. Within a short time all the believers knew that Peter had been captured and they all clearly remembered what had happened to James.

I am sure they were very worried, but they did the smart thing. Instead of sitting around weeping and wringing their hands in fear, they went right to God in prayer. They gathered at the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, and began to pray that God would somehow spare the life of Peter. They prayed around the clock without taking a break.

Praying is a wise thing to do when you have a need, whether it be something big like what was happening to Peter or even something small. When you have a need, the wise thing to do is to go to God in prayer. Tell Him your need. Then trust God to work things out in the best way.

We always want God to do things in such a way that we are happy with how it works out. We want God to keep anything bad from happening, but sometimes God allows things to happen that we don't understand. When that happens, that is the time to trust that God knows and does what is best. We may not understand, but we can trust God to be working out His perfect plan.

Right then the believers were helpless, but they knew that God could help. So they prayed.

Acts 12:5 says, *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

A PEACEFUL PETER

There sat Peter, chained between two guards with two others nearby. I think Peter may have chuckled to think that the king thought he needed so many big, strong men to keep him in prison.

Whether or not Peter thought it was amusing that the king was so worried about his escape that four men were assigned to watch him, I don't know. But I do know that Peter was not worried. Instead Peter was at peace.

How do I know that Peter was peaceful and not full of fear? Simple. The Bible says that Peter went fast asleep.

What usually happens when you crawl in bed and you are afraid or worried about some big problem? You fret and stew and review the problem over and over in your mind. Don't you? You do everything but sleep!

But Peter was sound asleep between those guards. The chains did not keep him awake. The guards did not keep him awake. Fear did not keep him awake.

I think Peter must have prayed, "Lord, if I die, then I will go to Heaven to be with You. If not, then You will get me out of here. Either way, I'll trust You to do what is best."

Then Peter closed his eyes and had a very restful sleep.

Acts 12:6 says, *And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.*

DELIVERANCE

The two guards chained to Peter were supposed to stay awake and guard Peter all night long, but I suspect they thought, "This man is no threat! He's chained and surrounded by the king's best men. He'll never get away. And besides, look at him! He's sound asleep. We might as well get a little shut eye too!" So the guards also went to sleep.

As Peter slept, something happened. The angel of the Lord came to the prison. A great light shined around the angel. Peter was sleeping so soundly that the bright light did not wake him up. He slept on. So the angel had to reach down and give Peter a hard shake. The Bible says that the angel "smote" or hit Peter. He must have been in a very deep sleep!

When Peter's heavy eyelids opened, he saw the angel, but he thought he was dreaming or having a vision. Peter obeyed when the angel told him to get up and put his shoes and coat on. Peter did what he was told because he thought he was having a very, very good dream!

Then the angel told Peter to follow him. As he stood the chains fell off. Then he began to walk and the gates swung open, first the inner gate, then the next, and the next. Peter just walked through the prison and as he walked through each gate he must have thought, "I really like this dream!"

Finally Peter and the angel got outside and stood in the street. The angel left and Peter stood in the cool, fresh air wondering what would happen next in his dream. But slowly it dawned on Peter that this was no dream! This was real! He was actually standing outside in the street! Peter realized that the angel of the Lord had actually come to rescue him from prison and from the hand of the king!

Acts 12:7-11 says, *And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

ASTONISHED

Peter thought about what he should do. Where should he go? He knew he had to get out of the street or someone would find him and throw him back in prison. So Peter decided to go to Mary's house. I think the Lord led him to decide to go there. He didn't know it, but that was where all the other believers were gathered to pray.

Peter quickly made his way to the house and knocked on the door. Everyone inside was so busy praying for God to rescue Peter that they sent a young girl named Rhoda to see who was at the door.

Well, when Rhoda heard Peter's voice she instantly recognized who it was. She'd know his voice anywhere. She had heard him preach and teach many times. Rhoda was so excited to hear Peter's voice that instead of opening the door, she ran back inside the house.

"Hey, everyone!" she cried in excitement. "Peter is outside!"

Everyone thought she was crazy! After all, they were praying that God would let Peter out of prison. If Peter was outside, then he couldn't be in prison! That's why they were praying, right?

But Rhoda kept insisting that it was Peter outside, so someone suggested that maybe it was Peter's ghost. But that made no sense!

Peter kept knocking and knocking on the gate. He was hoping someone would come and let him in. The believers finally decided to go see who was knocking so hard at their door.

They all rushed to the door and when they opened it, there stood Peter in the flesh. He was no ghost! He was real and he was out of prison!

All the believers were so astonished that Peter had been rescued from prison. God had answered their prayers! Amazing! They couldn't believe it. But even though their faith in God had been small, God had still heard their prayers and God answered them!

Everyone began to talk at once. They were most likely laughing and crying and praising God that Peter was safe! Peter told them to quiet down and then he told them all about how the angel of the Lord had come to deliver him. Then Peter told them to go tell James (this was another man also named James) and all the others who had not been gathered at Mary's house. He wanted everyone to know what a marvelous thing God had done!

Then Peter went somewhere quiet. I think he may have wanted some time alone to thank and praise God for what He had done!

Acts 12:12-17 says, *And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.*

And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hear, named Rhoda.

And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

HOW DO YOU PRAY?

Let me ask you a question. Are you amazed when God answers your prayers?

Those Bible time believers really shouldn't have been surprised that God answered their prayers, should they? They had gathered to pray. They knew God could hear them. Yet deep down they weren't really sure that God would answer them.

We can be like that too. We can pray about a problem and ask God to help, yet when God does answer our prayers we are often amazed. We didn't really think God would answer us.

Now, God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want Him to. There are times when God has different plans. There are times when God's ways are different from our ways. But God always does what is best. He knows what has to happen in order for His will to come about.

I am sure that the believers also prayed for James, yet God allowed James to be killed. Why? I don't know why, but God knew. It was in God's plan to take James to Heaven and it was in God's plan to leave Peter on earth a bit longer. Either way, God was doing what was best.

But God wants us to pray. He wants us to spend time telling Him about the problems we face. He wants us to ask for help. He wants us to ask Him to do what is best.

Let me ask you, are you on praying ground? Can God hear your prayers? The Bible says that if you have sin in your life God does not hear you. That means two things. Number one, if you are a born again Christian, then you need to pray and confess your sin and deny your sin so that God can hear your prayers.

Number two, if you are not a Christian and God has not saved you from your sin, then the only prayer God hears from you is the prayer when you ask Him to forgive your sin and come into your life. God will gladly forgive you! Have you prayed that prayer yet? Would you like to? You can do that today. We can show you how.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to stay on praying ground. If you are a Christian, you need to keep your life free of sin so that God will hear your prayers. Let me tell you some conditions for getting your prayers answered.

1. Pray in obedience.

This means that your life is right with God. A Christian who allows sin to remain in their life is not on praying ground. They are not going to get their prayers answered. But when you confess your sin and put it out of your life, then you are right with God and He will hear your prayers.

2. Pray in faith.

You need to trust that God does hear your prayers and that He will answer them in the best way. God's way may not always be the way you would choose, but God does answer prayer.

3. Pray in Jesus name.

You also need to pray in Jesus name. It is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross that God is willing to hear our prayers. The Bible tells us that Jesus is in Heaven, standing before God, praying for believers. He is praying for you and me. Through Jesus Christ we have direct access to God. Isn't that wonderful? So we need to pray through Jesus and in Him name.

4. Pray in God's will.

Prayer should not be a selfish thing to get everything you want or desire. God is not a magic geni. We should pray that God's will be done. We should pray that God work things out the way He knows is best for us.

5. Pray with persistence.

We need to be persistent in prayer. Those early believers gathered and prayed without ceasing. They didn't say a quick prayer for Peter and then go their way. They kept praying until God answered them.

We can't always be on our knees, but we can spend time in prayer and we can have an attitude of prayer as we go through our days. When the Bible says "Pray without ceasing" it means that we should live in a way that our lives are honoring to God at all times. We should be able to pray at any time because we are right with God.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember to pray.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who had James put to death?
2. Who did King Herod capture next?
3. What did the king do to ensure that Peter would not escape?
4. What did Peter do that shows he was not worried?
5. What did the church do when they heard about Peter's arrest?
6. What did the angel of the Lord have to do to wake Peter?
7. What did Peter think was happening at first?
8. Where did Peter go when he realized he wasn't having a dream?
9. What did the believers think when Rhoda said Peter was outside?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Power in Prayer



Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 54:2

I will be a child of prayer.

Write all the letters with the number 1 under them, in order, on the lines below. Then write all the letters with the number 2, in order, under them. Then the 3 letters and so on until you get a hidden message.

I	O	S	E	K	D	W	A	N	L	H	K	O	I	E	T
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
W	S	N	O	M	T	I	H	Y	E	S	I	G	N	P	M
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

I _____

LESSON 27

A GIVING CHILD
GOD GIVES TO ME

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 17:1-6, 16:29-33

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will give God my heart.

MEMORY VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

What things do you need in life? Can you name a few? (Take answers.)

We all need the basics like food, clothes, shelter. We would all also like some extras like tasty food, nice clothes, a nice house. And then some of us think we really, really need things like an ipod, a cell phone, computer games, sports equipment, and so many other extras we enjoy.

There is nothing wrong with having nice things. But have you ever stopped to think about the things in life that you really need more than anything? Have you ever wondered what is really of true importance and true value in life? Maybe not, because you are still young, but it's not too soon, even at a young age, to take the time to think about what is really important in life.

God loves you and He knows what you truly need in life. And more than that, He will make sure you have the really important things in life. It's wonderful to know that God will always supply your needs. And as God gives to you, He also wants you to give to others also!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will give God my heart.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

EXACTLY WHAT SHE NEEDED

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Carlie sat at her desk at school, watching Emily and her friends laughing and talking together before the bell rang. Emily had a new outfit—the newest style, of course, and very expensive. She had lots of friends; she was popular because she was very pretty and lived in an expensive home. She had parties, and took trips with her parents, and went shopping as often as she wanted to. Because Carlie felt inferior to Emily, she didn't join the group huddled around her, and no one invited her to, either.

It was easy for Carlie to feel sorry for herself when she compared her clothing with Emily's. She remembered when her sister wore the same outfit two years ago. Although it still looked nice, it was not new. She was sure the other girls knew that she wore her sister's hand-me-downs. Carlie knew that God provided everything she needed, but she began to be dissatisfied. Why didn't God give her what He gave to Emily?

Carlie had a comfortable, clean home, and parents who loved her. Her mother always took the time to spend with her; they played board games and rode bikes, they spent time in the kitchen where Carlie was learning how to cook. Carlie's dad worked many hours each day, but always had time for her. The family prayed together every night and spent time studying the Bible together each evening. Although they didn't have expensive things, they had everything they needed, and Carlie and her sister were loved and cared for.

Those things didn't really matter to Carlie at the moment, though. She was thinking of all she didn't have, instead of all she did have. She was comparing her simple life with Emily's exciting one. All during school that day, Carlie felt sorry for herself and wished that her life was different. She wished her life was like Emily's.

As she compared herself to others, she became jealous and discontent with the life God had chosen for her. Carlie, who was usually happy and carefree at home, became quiet and moody. Her mother noticed the change, and asked her about it.

"Are you feeling okay, Carlie? You're awfully quiet tonight. I hope you aren't getting a cold."

"I'm okay; just thinking about stuff," Carlie answered.

"If you want to talk about anything, I'd like to help," Mom said, and gave Carlie a quick hug.

"No, thanks."

For several days, Carlie moped around the house. She stayed in her room instead of having fun with her family. She didn't want to help cook, and she didn't want to play games. She spent her time thinking about all the things she wanted and couldn't have. She looked through magazines and catalogs, wishing she could buy the things she wanted. (Show Flash Card.) She looked in the mirror and found nothing she liked. She wanted blond, straight hair instead of brown, curly hair. She wished she were taller. She wished she had blue eyes instead of green ones. And, because Carlie's eyes were on herself, she stopped reading her Bible and talking to God.

Carlie's parents were very concerned about the change in her behavior, and since Carlie was unwilling to talk about what was bothering her, they decided to pray extra hard for her. They asked God to be especially close to Carlie and to help her through, whatever the struggle was. They asked God to show her just how much He loves her.

When Carlie went to school on Monday, she noticed that Emily wasn't there. She was also absent on Tuesday and Wednesday. Carlie wondered what was wrong; Emily must be really sick. Later in the day, the teacher walked to Emily's desk and put all of Emily's books and things into a bag. The students all looked at each other, puzzled about what was happening. One of the girls raised her hand and asked, "Why did you take all of Emily's things out of her desk?"

"She won't be coming back," the teacher answered. "She is moving to another town and another school."

No one understood why Emily was leaving school so suddenly. It seemed very strange to them that Emily was there one day, and gone the next. Several of the girls wiped tears from their eyes. They would miss hanging out with Emily, and especially the fun parties she had at her house.

Carlie was puzzled, too. What had happened to Emily? Why wouldn't she even say good-bye to her friends? Where was she going? On Friday, Carlie decided to ask one of the other girls what had happened to Emily. "Oh, she called me last night. Her mom and dad got a divorce and Emily moved away with her mom. She's not happy about it, but she'll get to see her Dad once a month. She was crying. I feel really bad for her."

Carlie didn't say anything. She went to her desk and thought about what she had just heard. She had believed Emily's life was perfect. She had the best clothes, the biggest house, the best parties, the most money, of anyone in the class. Carlie just took for granted that Emily was completely happy. Obviously, she was not. She thought that Emily probably didn't know Jesus as her Savior, either.

It was hard for Carlie to concentrate on what her teacher said the rest of the day. Her mind wandered from Emily's life to her own life. She had compared her parents to Emily's parents; her clothing with Emily's clothing; her house to Emily's house; her appearance to Emily's appearance. Suddenly, Carlie realized something. Emily's life wasn't as wonderful as Carlie had believed. While she was at school, Emily gave the impression that her life was perfect—so perfect that Carlie had begun to feel sorry for herself and wish that she had been born into a different family. She didn't appreciate how God had provided for her needs, even though He had given her a wonderful home with loving parents. Carlie's idea of what she needed was not God's idea. She knew that she had some explaining and apologizing to do when she got home. She wasn't jealous of Emily any more; she felt sorry for her.

As Carlie rode the bus home that afternoon, she had a silent conversation with God. She confessed her sin of jealousy, and she thanked God for providing for her with exactly what she needed. She realized that God had been very good to her, and she was thankful.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 17:1-6, 16:29-33

LESSON

ELIJAH - GOD'S BOLD PROPHET

One of the great prophets that the Bible tells us about is Elijah. He was called of God to teach and preach to the wicked kingdom of Israel. Although Israel had turned away from God to follow false gods and idols, Elijah faithfully proclaimed all that God told him to say. The people did not respect Elijah. They most often did not listen to him. It must have been difficult to be a prophet to those wicked people, yet Elijah did not worry about what the people thought of him or whether or not they listened to him. Instead Elijah remained faithful to proclaim God's Word as he had been instructed.

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Elijah's history. We don't know who his family was or what he did as a young man, but we do know that he must have loved and obeyed God. We know this because God called Elijah to carry out a very difficult task for him. God called him to speak out against one of the most wicked kings that ever ruled over Israel. God called Elijah to stand up against the worship of the false gods that Israel had begun to follow.

The name Elijah means "My God Jehovah is he." The wicked people of Israel followed false gods, but Elijah followed the one true God.

God honored Elijah as a result of his faithful service. Toward the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, one day when He went to pray, he took three of his disciples with him. As Jesus prayed, a glow came on Him and his clothing shined white. Next to Christ appeared Moses and Elijah. The three of them talked about the things that would happen when Jesus would go to the cross to die.

Luke 9:28-31 says, *And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.*

And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.

And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

We are also told that one day in the future Elijah will again return to this earth to witness to the lost sinners about Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation tells us that during the final days on earth, during the great and terrible tribulation, God will send Elijah and one other Old Testament saint, possibly Moses, to preach and proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah. Many will reject their witness, but there will be those who believe and accept Christ before it is eternally too late for them. Of all the great men who loved and served God, only Elijah and the other saint will be given the honor of being the last ones to share the Gospel with the world.

Malachi 4:5 says, *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

AHAB - GOD'S GREAT ENEMY

King Ahab, the king of Israel, was the exact opposite of Elijah. He was an extremely wicked king. He ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel for twenty-two years. The Bible says that no king before him had been so sinful and wicked.

I Kings 16:29-30 says, *And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.*

And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

Not only was King Ahab wicked, but he was married to a woman named Jezebel who was even more wicked than he was! Can you imagine? Jezebel was a mean-hearted, nasty, terrible person. She is known as one of the worst and most wicked women mentioned in the Bible.

During Ahab's reign, he and wicked Jezebel led the people of Israel into the worship of the false god, Baal. They built alters where the people could go to worship and offer sacrifices to the idol.

God clearly told His people that they were never to bow down to or worship any false god. He is the only true God and they were sinning greatly against God when they rejected Him and worshipped a false god.

I Kings 16:31-33 says, *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

Ahab was the king. It was his responsibility to teach and lead the people in the way they should go. He should have told them that Baal was just an idol and not a god at all. He should have told them that the God of Heaven was the true God. Ahab should have told his people to

only worship and serve the true God. But not only did he fail to lead his people in the right way, he purposely lead them in the wrong way!

Ahab's kingdom was rich and prosperous. He enjoyed great wealth. But instead of being thankful to God for all the good things he had, he completely turned his back on God. In fact, he as much as spit on God and all His blessings.

FAMINE - GOD'S PUNISHMENT

When God looked down on wicked King Ahab, He could not let him sin and get away with it. God hates sin and sin must be punished. So God sent Elijah to warn Ahab.

God was about to send a great famine to the land of Israel. Elijah prayed to God and asked that there would be no rain for three and a half years.

I Kings 17:1 says, And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Three and a half years is a very, very long time to not have rain! Can you imagine the damage that would occur to the land in all that time with no rain? Without rain the crops would not grow and there would not be enough food to feed the people. Without rain the lakes and reservoirs would dry up and there might not even be enough water to use for washing up or watering animals. There might not even be enough for the people to have for their own personal use.

Ahab could have prevented his land and his people from facing such a terrible time with no rain and not enough food and water. If Ahab had repented of his sin and commanded that the alters to the false god of Baal be torn down and that the people turn their hearts back to God, then God would have forgiven them. But Ahab was too stubborn and too wicked to listen to Elijah or to God. He didn't care about the troubles of the people in his kingdom. He only wanted his own selfish way.

The kingdom of Israel had enjoyed the blessings of God for a time, but the good times were over now. God stopped the rain, as Elijah prayed He would, and the famine began. Crops failed and people began to suffer.

FED BY RAVENS - GOD'S PROVISION

As soon as Elijah had informed King Ahab that Israel would face a drought and a famine, God spoke to Elijah and told him to leave the presence of Ahab. God has a special place all picked out for him to go where he could hide from the wicked king. God had a place where Elijah would be safe and well cared for even in the terrible times to come.

Certainly Ahab would become upset and angry with Elijah as the famine got worse and the need for rain grew. If he could have gotten his hands on Elijah, he would probably have tried to harm him. So God sent Elijah to a place where he could be out of Ahab's reach. God sent Elijah to a brook called Cherith.

There at the brook, there was fresh water, but what would Elijah do for food? Just as there was no food in the land for the other people, Elijah was also facing a time where food would be scarce. God had it all planned out. God knew Elijah would need food. God knew all of Elijah's needs. And God gave Elijah all he needed. God knows you and He knows all of your needs too! He will give you what you need!

Elijah drank from the water in the brook Cherith, but that was not all! God preformed a miracle for Elijah by sending food directly to him. How did God send food to Elijah? God sent the food with Ravens. Twice a day the Ravens would arrive with bread and meat for him to eat. Ravens are birds of prey that normally would have stolen the food for themselves, but God made sure those birds took the food and dropped it for Elijah. I imagine Elijah praised God for the bread and meat and water that God daily provided for him. How good God was to meet Elijah's every need!

I Kings 17:2-6 says, *And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,*

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

YOUR GREATEST NEED - GOD'S PROVISION FOR YOU

The God who sent food to Elijah twice a day is same God who watches over you and provides for your needs as well. Just as God knew what Elijah would need, God knows your needs. And just as God was able to easily care for Elijah's needs, He can easily care for your needs.

Do you know what your greatest need in this life is? Often we think we need all sorts of things that money can buy, but money and things are not your greatest needs. Your greatest need is a Savior who can forgive your sin and give you an eternity in Heaven.

You cannot do one single thing to get rid of your own sin. You are a sinner, but you are helpless to get rid of that sin. And God hates sin. Just as God punished Ahab's sin, He must also punish your sin. But God is merciful. God loves you. God was willing to give Ahab a second chance. If Ahab had repented of his sin, God would have forgiven him. The same is true for you. If you tell God you know you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive your sin, He will! Isn't that wonderful?

Jesus Christ came to earth for the very purpose of dying on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. The punishment for sin is death and Christ took your punishment for you. Now all you have to do is ask Him to forgive you and He will. Have you done that? You can

today. We can take a Bible and show you how you can have your greatest need met. We would love to do that in just a minute.

After you get saved from your sin, there are other things you will need. God knows about those needs and He has provided for them also.

God knows your physical needs. You may not always have all the things you desire, but God gives you what you need to eat and be clothed.

God also knows your spiritual needs. Physical needs sometimes seem so important to us, but in truth, our spiritual needs are much more important. Things that are physical are for a short time. Sooner than you think you will grow old and die, but your soul will live somewhere for all eternity. The spiritual needs you have are eternal. What are your spiritual needs? Let's talk a bit about the food and drink you need for your soul.

1. You need a guide through life.

The Bible says that when you ask Jesus to forgive your sin that He sends the Holy Spirit to live in your heart. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin. When you are tempted to sin, it is the Holy Spirit that whispers a warning to your heart not to do things that hurt God and harm you. After you have sinned, the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart and urges you to confess and forsake your sin. Another job of the Holy Spirit is to encourage and comfort you. When you need comfort, it is the Holy Spirit who comforts your heart.

God is so good to provide for our daily need of a guide to help us through this life on earth until the time when we are finally in Heaven with Him.

2. You need wisdom from God.

Another great need you have is for wisdom from God. How do you get wisdom? God gave us two things that give us His wisdom. The Bible is the way God speaks to you. It is the way He tells you what is right and what is wrong. It is the way you grow spiritually so that your life will be pleasing to Him.

God also gave you prayer. When you need wisdom, go to God directly in prayer and ask Him for His wisdom. The Bible tells us that God gladly and freely gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it.

James 1:5 says, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Every day God will give you all that you need. You just need to ask!

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to think about this story about wicked King Ahab and God's faithful prophet, Elijah. Think about the spiritual needs you have. Have you had your greatest spiritual need of salvation met? Maybe if you didn't speak to someone today about accepting Jesus, then next week you will do that.

If you are a Christian, then spend time this week letting God meet your spiritual needs. Let God guide you and convict you of sin through the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, don't ignore Him and go the opposite direction. Instead, listen to the Holy Spirit. Obey Him when He warns you to stay away from sin.

Then take the time to let God meet your spiritual needs by seeking wisdom from reading your Bible and praying. You will never know what God wants you to do and what you should avoid if you don't read your Bible. You won't ever learn to listen to the voice of God if you don't spend time in prayer.

I challenge you to set aside a few minutes each day to read a Bible verse or two and to pray. Find a good time when you can be alone, maybe in the morning when you are in your bedroom, maybe in the afternoon when you get home from school, or maybe just before you crawl into bed. We are all very busy, but this is important.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to provide for every need you have. The most important needs you have are spiritual needs. I will ask God to meet your spiritual needs.

BIBLE QUIZ

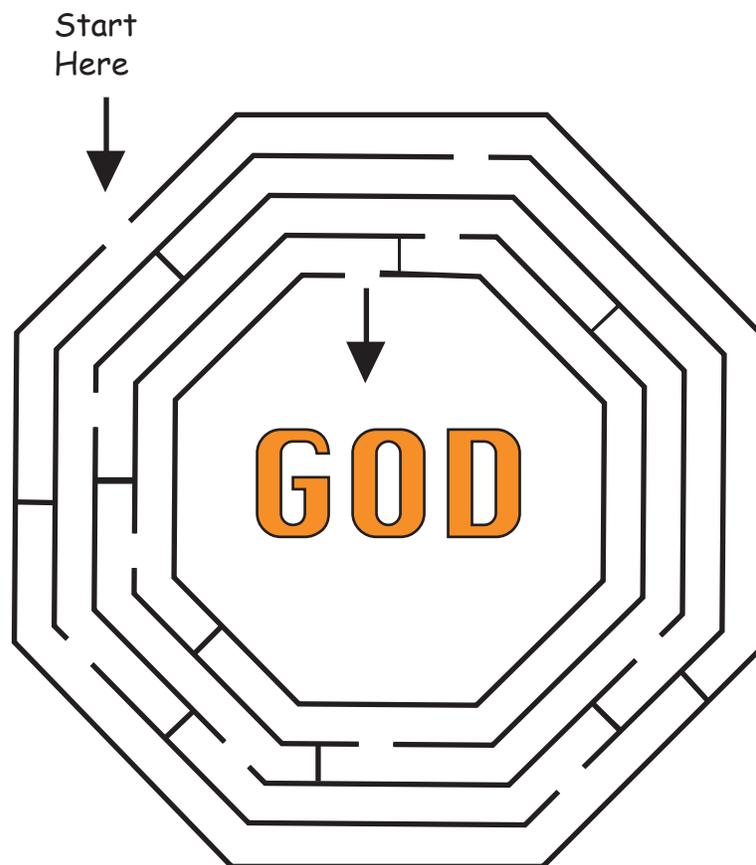
1. Who did God call to be his prophet?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. The New Testament mentions Elijah twice. Tell us about one of those times.
4. Over which kingdom was Ahab the king?
5. What was the name of Ahab's wicked wife?
6. Which false god did the people of Israel worship?
7. Why did God punish Ahab and the kingdom of Israel?
8. Name the number of years Elijah prayed it would not rain?
9. Where did God send Elijah?
10. What miracle did God perform to feed Elijah during the famine?

God Gives to Me



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

I will give God my heart.



Are you always searching for something more than what you already have? Don't. Instead take the time to look at all that God has already given to you. You will find you have all that you need!

LESSON 28

A GIVING CHILD
I GIVE TO GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 17:7-24

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will give God my heart.

MEMORY VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

There is a Christmas song about a poor shepherd boy who went to the manger to see the Christ child on the night that baby Jesus was born. The story goes that the boy looked and he saw that the others who had come to see Jesus all brought some gift. Out of a heart of love the poor boy wondered what he could give since he had no money. The song says:

What can I give to Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd boy, I would give a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

What can I give to Him? Give Him all my heart!

The best thing you can give to God is your heart. A heart filled with love for Him is of true value to Him. That is what He really wants you to give to Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will give God my heart.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

DON'T HAVE MUCH!

(Get Andy)

You: I brought a friend with me today. Most of you already know Andy. (To Andy) Say "Hi" to everyone, Andy.

Andy: (Very despondently) Hi.

You: Why, Andy. You don't sound too good today. Are you sick?

Andy: (Still down) No.

You: Your not very talkative either. Are you sure you're not sick?

Andy: I'm sure.

You: Okay. Then what's the problem?

Andy: (Give a loud sigh) Well . . . you can't help me, so there's no use talking about it.

You: Sometimes it makes you feel better to talk about things, even when no one can help. We all will listen to your problem. (To children) Won't we? Now go on. Tell us what the problem seems to be.

Andy: Okay. The problem is, I don't have much.

You: What?

Andy: I don't have much.

You: What do you mean?

Andy: You know. I don't have things like all those kids out there. Look at all those kids. They have lots of nice clothing. I'm not sure, but they probably have a house to live in and all sorts of fun things to play with. Me? I have nothing!

You: You have a warm (box, bag) to live in!

Andy: Sure. I have that. But I don't have an ipod.

You: An ipod? What would you do with that?

Andy: Listen to songs!

You: But Andy, you can't really hear! You're a puppet!

Andy: See! You just proved my point. I'm only a puppet and I have nothing!!!

You: Andy, you have everything God intended you to have. In fact, you actually have more than most other puppets I know.

Andy: I do?

You: Sure. How many other puppets get to come spend time at church?

Andy: (Reluctantly) Well. . . none that I know of.

You: See! And how many other puppets are as handsome as you are?

Andy: (Sound more encouraged) Well, none! I'm the most handsome puppet I know!

You: And how many puppets do you know that have a room full of friends like you have here?

Andy: Hey! You're right! I'm very lucky, aren't I?

You: You know, Andy, sometimes we all start to feel sorry for ourselves. We look around at others and think they have more than we have. We think they are more talented than we are. We start to feel sorry for ourselves and we forget about all the blessings God has given to us.

Andy: That's what I was doing.

You: Do you know what would please God?

Andy: What?

You: Just think how pleased God would be if the next time you prayed, instead of asking God to give you something, you asked God what you could do for Him. Tell Him you are happy with all He has given to you. Then ask Him what you can give to Him.

Andy: Wow! I've never done that.

You: It is easy to go to God and tell Him everything we want Him to give to us and everything we want Him to do for us. But I know God would be so happy if instead we went to Him and asked what we could do for Him.

Andy: You're right. Instead of feeling bad because I don't have much, I should be glad for all I do have. And just to show God how glad I am, I think I will ask Him what I can do for Him!

You: That's the idea!

Andy: I think they should do the same thing.

You: What a great idea. (To children) Andy wants to ask God what he can do for Him. How about you? When you pray this week, will you take the time to ask God what you can do for Him? Then when God shows you some way you can serve Him, do it!

Andy: I feel tons better. Now I could talk all day long!

You: Sorry, Andy. Our time is up. But I'll bring you back sometime soon and you can talk to us again. Bye, Andy.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 17:7-24

LESSON

PLAN B

Do you remember the name of the prophet we talked about last week? His name was Elijah. Elijah was a bold, fearless, and godly man of God. He went to wicked King Ahab and told him that because of his sin of leading the people of Israel into idol worship, he would be punished. Elijah prayed that God would stop the rain from falling for three and a half years.

After Elijah told Ahab what would happen, God told Elijah to hide himself by the brook of Cherith. There God preformed a great miracle for Elijah. Twice a day God sent Ravens with bread and meat for him to eat.

King Ahab was quite angry with Elijah. But even though King Ahab searched for Elijah and wanted to do him harm, the king could not find him. Elijah was safe in God's keeping. God protected Elijah and He provided for his every need.

As the days went on, just as Elijah had warned King Ahab, there was no rain. The land became dry and parched. The crops could not grow without rain and soon the people of Israel became hungry, thirsty, and very afraid. The false priests called on their false god, Baal, to send them rain, but it did them no good. Baal could not help them. There was no rain. The crops dried up and died. The rivers and brooks dried up. Soon, even the brook Cherith dried up also.

I Kings 17:7 says, *And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

Now what would Elijah do? His water was gone. He would die of thirst if he didn't have water! Had God forgotten about him?

No, Elijah did not need to worry. God was not taken by surprise. God was still in control. God knew Elijah needed water. God had a plan.

A WILLING WIDOW

God told Elijah it was time to move to another location. God had picked out a place and a woman who would willingly obey God and help care for Elijah. Apparently God let this woman know that she should expect a visitor and that she was to help care for him.

I Kings 17:8-9 says, *And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

So Elijah went where God told him to go. He got right up and headed to where this widow woman lived. The woman lived in a town outside of Israel. It was a safe place where King Ahab would never think of looking for Elijah. But even though God spoke to the woman to help care for Elijah, she was not an Israelite woman. In fact, she lived in the city where wicked Queen Jezebel had lived before she was the queen. Almost everyone in that city worshipped the false god, Baal. Yet, even though the widow did not know the God of Elijah personally, but she must have been a woman whose heart was open to God. She must have been a woman who was willing to obey God.

In Bible times women did not usually have much money or land of their own. Anything a woman had was owned by her husband. Women back then did not usually have jobs. They worked in their homes and cared for their families. It was the responsibility of the husband to make a living for his family.

But this woman was a widow woman. Her husband was dead and she had no one to care for her needs. Not only that, this woman had a young son for whom she must provide. I imagine she had a difficult life trying to meet the needs of herself and her young son in a world where women were not accepted. I suppose too that the woman was also affected by the drought and famine just like everyone else. She could not plant tomatoes and beans in a garden in her back yard to grow food. There was no water. She could not grow wheat for bread.

But regardless of the fact that this widow was poor, she was hard at work when Elijah arrived at her house. She was gathering sticks to make a fire. All the food she had left in her house was a handful of grain and a little oil. She was planning on mixing the grain and oil to make a small cake or loaf of bread. It was all she had left to eat, so she thought that after she and her son had eaten that small loaf, they would have no more to eat. They would die.

As she worked, Elijah approached the woman. First he asked her to bring him some water. Then he asked her to give him some bread to eat.

I Kings 17:10-12 says, *So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.*

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

Can you imagine what the woman was thinking? Water was precious and rare during the drought! And all she had left to eat was just a small loaf of bread! Here was this stranger asking her to give him the small bit of water and bread that she had left. If she gave it to him, then they would die sooner!

A PROMISE FROM GOD

Elijah knew the woman had almost nothing to give him. He understood she only had a bit of food and water left in her house. But Elijah also knew what a great God he served. He knew God had sent him to that widow. He knew God had provided for all his needs up to that point. And he knew God would continue providing for him in the future. Elijah had great faith in God and he passed his faith on to the widow woman.

Elijah told the woman that she had nothing to worry about. He told her, “Fear not.” Often in the Bible people were told to “Fear not.” Men of God said it. Angels said it. Even the Lord Himself said it. They knew there was nothing to fear. When God has a plan, nothing and no one can change God’s plan. God is always in complete control. Since God is in control, we have nothing to fear! But that poor widow woman did not know that. All she could do was trust that Elijah and God would care for her needs.

The poor widow woman did an amazing thing. She went and fixed the bread and brought it and a jar of water for Elijah to eat. She did not refuse to feed Elijah so she could hoard the food for herself. Instead, she trusted the man of God and gave him all she had.

Do you know what? She really didn’t have anything to fear. From that day forward God provided all she needed. She gave all she had to God’s man and in turn God provided all she needed. As long as Elijah stayed with her, and most likely well beyond, she had all the grain and oil and water she needed!

I Kings 17:13-16 says, *And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.*

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

God preformed a miracle for that poor widow woman. Every time she went to the barrel for flour, there was enough to make her bread. Every time she lifted the pitcher of oil, some would pour out. Every day she made bread from what God provided. For the rest of the time that Elijah was in hiding, God continued to provide for their needs.

GOD PROVIDES AGAIN

The days of the drought and famine continued on and Elijah stayed at the home of the widow. I am sure she gladly provided him a room to sleep in and food to eat since she knew that as long as Elijah was with her, God would care for her.

One day, something terrible happened. The woman's young son became very ill. No matter what the woman could think to do, it did not help. Soon the child died.

The woman quickly went to Elijah. She knew he was a man of God. If anyone could help her, he could. In her great grief she began to question Elijah. She wanted to know why her son had died. Elijah took the boy and carried him up to the room that had been provided for him. He gently laid the boy on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to God. He asked God why such a terrible thing would happen to the very woman who had been kind enough to give him her last bite of food and had for so long been cooking for him and allowing him to stay in her home.

Elijah stretched himself over the boy's body three times. Three times he cried to God to bring the boy back to life. And God listened to Elijah. God brought the boy back to life. Elijah gathered the boy into his arms again and quickly carried him down to his mother. Can you imagine her great joy when she saw her son was alive?

The woman told Elijah that now she truly believed that he was a man of God and that every word he said was true. I am sure she thanked Elijah, but most of all, she gave the glory to God!

I Kings 17:17-24 says, *And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.*

And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

WHY?

Let me ask you a question and I don't want you to answer it out loud. Just think about it.

Why do you suppose God allowed the brook Cherith to dry up? He could have preformed a miracle to keep water at the spot where Elijah needed it, couldn't He? After all, twice a day God sent birds to Elijah with bread and meat. Surely God could have provided water in some miraculous way! Nothing is too hard for God. So why did the brook dry up? Why did that bad thing happen?

There are probably a couple of reasons, but I want to tell you one very important reason and I want you to remember this. This is something that can be very important in your life when you have bad things happen to you and you wonder why God did something you don't understand. So listen carefully!

The thing that seems bad to you may be the very thing God will use to bring good into your life.

What seemed bad to Elijah was the exact thing that God used to make something very good happen. It must have seemed bad to Elijah when he went to the brook and there was no water for him to drink, but because the water was gone, Elijah was forced to move to a new place. In that new place God not only took care of all his needs, God also took care of the needs of that widow woman and her son. They were on the verge of death, but God used the bad thing that happened to Elijah to make something very good happen for that poor woman. God provided for Elijah and the woman at the same time. It was a change, but it turned out to be a good change.

We don't like change. We like things to stay the same. We like things to go our way. We like things to keep going our way. But sometimes God changes things so that something new will happen that fits into His plan. We may not be able to see how God is working. We may not understand why God is making changes, but we can always trust God to do what is best for our good and for His glory.

When God cared for that widow woman by providing food and by bringing her son to life, she knew for certain that the God of Elijah was the true God. I am sure there were many, many days when the woman thanked God for bringing Elijah and for taking such good care of her and her son. When Elijah told her to "Fear not," she truly had no need to fear. God was in control.

You may face a "Why?" time in your life. You may not understand why God is making changes. You may not understand why God would let something happen that seems bad to you. But, fear not! God is in control. He can take bad and use it to make good. Everything He does is for your good and His glory.

So remember, "The thing that seems bad to you may be the very thing God will use to bring good into your life."

Psalm 37:23a says, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD.*

ALL THAT YOU HAVE

Since you know that God is always working for your good and for His glory, you don't have to be afraid to do what He asks you to do. When God speaks to you in the Bible or when the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, you can trust God to do what is best.

So be like that widow woman. Instead of fearing, give your very best and give your all to God.

Maybe you think, "I'm just a kid! What can I give to God?" You can give God your heart. Have you done that?

First you need to ask Jesus Christ forgive your sin and come into your heart. You can do that today. We can have someone take a Bible and show you verses about how you can accept Jesus as your Savior. They will pray with you and you can leave church today knowing you have given your heart to Jesus.

After you have asked Jesus to come into your life there are other ways to give God your heart. Let me tell you some ways.

1. Love God with all your heart.

One of the things God wants most from you is your love. He loves you so much He created you. He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for you. He guides and protects you. How much do you love Him?

2. Obey God with a submissive heart.

God wants you to obey Him because you love Him, not just because you are forced to obey. Are you willing to submit your heart to Him?

3. Serve God with a willing heart.

If you love God with all your heart, you will want to serve Him. It won't be any trouble or a dreaded thing to serve God if you are doing it from a heart of love. Do you love serving God?

God never asks you to do something you can't do. He never asks you to give something you don't have. What He does ask is that you give Him all that you do have. Give Him your time, your talents, and your treasures.

No matter how much time you give to God and no matter what talents you give to Him, if you give God all you have, then He can use you. Are you willing to give God all you have?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to find ways to give your all to God. Remember what we talked about with Andy? This week we are all going to ask God what we can do for Him.

You can do something for God like read your Bible and pray. You can do something for another person as a way of showing your love for God. You could help an older person clean their yard. You could help your mom or dad with a project without being asked. You could do a chore with a cheerful attitude. You could work together with your brother or sister and have a sweet spirit in your attitude toward them.

Right now can you think of someone you can help or something you can do that would show God that you are willing to give all to Him? If you can't right now, think about it when you get home. Then do it for God.

Remember:

1. Love God with all your heart.
2. Obey God with a submissive heart.
3. Serve God with a willing heart.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to give your all to Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. How did God feed Elijah while he hid by the brook of Cherith?
2. What happened to Elijah that seemed like a bad thing?
3. Who did God tell to help Elijah?
4. What did the woman tell Elijah when he asked for water and food?
5. What did Elijah tell the woman to reassure her everything would be okay?
6. After the woman fed Elijah, what miracle did God perform?
7. What bad thing happened to the woman while Elijah was staying at her home?
8. Recite today's memory verse.
9. What did Elijah do with the dead boy?
10. What did the woman tell Elijah after God brought him back to life?

I Give to God



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

I will give God my heart.

H	T	I	R	E	H	C	F	S	T	R	C	H	M	H
P	F	H	D	B	L	L	R	O	E	R	H	B	T	R
V	S	X	G	Q	O	C	M	T	O	F	A	H	O	J
M	J	E	J	U	M	M	A	Y	E	D	N	E	V	E
C	S	O	R	R	O	W	W	R	L	P	G	F	H	A
C	I	Y	I	V	P	R	O	V	I	D	E	P	I	A
L	C	J	E	D	E	A	D	B	J	M	V	W	D	X
W	K	J	B	B	J	J	I	F	A	M	I	N	E	E
N	N	J	H	S	O	N	W	X	H	H	L	Y	P	R
H	J	X	I	Y	B	S	R	B	Y	S	A	O	C	Y
C	T	C	F	T	P	G	S	K	S	T	X	B	V	C
R	W	P	C	V	R	J	K	D	H	M	P	M	N	E

Ahab
Alive
Change
Cherith
Dead
Drought
Elijah

Famine
Flour
Food
Heart
Hide
Joy

Love
Miracle
Move
Obey
Oil
Provide

Serve
Sick
Son
Sorrow
Water
Widow

LESSON 29

A GIVING CHILD
GIVE GOD AWE AND RESPECT

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 18:1-16

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will give God my heart.

MEMORY VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells us that as Christians we are not to worry about impressing others. It doesn't matter what others think about how you talk or how you act or how you dress. The only One you are supposed to want to please is God.

Don't fear man. Instead be concerned about what God thinks about you when He looks at the things you say and the things you do. Is your life pleasing to Him? Do you give awe and respect to God? That is what really matters in life!

Take your focus off of what others think about you and place your focus on what God thinks of you. That is of true importance. When your life is pleasing to God, you can be sure that He is with you and He will take care of you. You see, what others think of you is only for a short time, but what God thinks of you will last for eternity.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will give God my heart.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

WHAT WILL OTHERS THINK?

Obtain Flash Card

Justin listened as his teacher began the Science lesson. For the last few days the teacher had been talking about the history of the earth. Justin suspected that soon the teacher would begin to talk about things that he knew did not agree with the Bible.

"Billions of years ago," the teacher began, "the earth did not exist as we know it today. All life slowly evolved from a single cell."

Justin knew the Bible taught that God had created the earth. He created everything in just six days. Things did not slowly change and evolve until they were like we see them today. God spoke and things appeared. God created the water, land, animals, nature, and humans.

His teacher was wrong. But should he say something? What would the teacher think? What would his classmates think? Then another thought popped into Justin's mind.

“What will God think if I don’t stand up for Him? What will He think if I don’t speak the truth?”

Justin raised his hand. He wouldn’t be a smart aleck. He wouldn’t try to sound like he was smarter than the teacher. He didn’t want to argue. But he did want to put in a good word for God’s truth.

“Sir,” Justin said respectfully. “I believe that the earth is only a little more than six to ten thousand years old. The Bible says that God created the earth and all that is in it in just six days.”

“Well,” the teacher said. “That is one theory. I don’t happen to believe it. But it is a good thing to keep an open mind and look at things from different perspectives.”

Justin knew he had not changed the teacher’s mind, but he was glad he had been brave enough to speak up for God. He knew that even though the teacher did not like what he said, he was more concerned with what God thought about him.

Next period it was gym class. Justin liked gym. He was very good at most sports and he enjoyed this class. It was more fun than work for him. They were playing basketball, and even though he wasn’t on the school basketball team, he still was pretty good at it.

The other team had the ball and was attempting to score. Just as Sam, one of the guys from the opposing team, dribbled the ball closer to the hoop, Justin skillfully stole the ball away and turned to head toward his own goal. Sam was not very happy. Justin knew that because he heard him say a bad word. It made Justin feel bad to hear Sam talk that way. But the game rushed on and Justin soon forgot what Sam had said.

As the guys were heading for the showers, Sam brushed past Justin and gave him a slight shove. Then Sam took the name of Jesus in vain. It shocked Justin to hear Sam talk that way.

Justin wondered if he should say something. Sure, Sam wasn’t a Christian, but he still didn’t need to talk that way. After all, what he had done on the court was all part of the game. And Justin didn’t like to hear the name of Jesus being used in such a terrible way. Sam might think he was strange if he said something, but he felt he should.

“Sam,” Justin said quietly. “I wish you wouldn’t talk that way.”

“Oh, that’s right!” Sam mocked him. “Jesus Christ is your best friend, huh?”

“As a matter of fact,” Justin answered, “He is.”

Sam and the other guys standing nearby laughed. They turned and walked away.

As Justin walked down the hallway he could see many of his classmates stop talking to their friends and turn to stare at him. Then, when he got closer they grinned at each other and began to whisper to each other. (Show Flash Card.)

Justin knew they were talking about him. It seemed like lately he had been rocking the boat everywhere he went. He had spoken up in Science class. He had asked Sam to watch his language. At lunch he had turned down a chance to go to a concert that most of his friends were attending.

It had been a tough day and Justin was wondering what everyone at school was thinking of him. By the way they were staring at him and whispering as he walked by, he could tell they thought he was very strange.

Sometimes it wasn't easy to be a Christian. But Justin had settled it in his heart long ago that he would speak up for the Lord and let others know where he stood.

Zach caught up with Justin.

"You've had quite a day. No matter where I turn, someone is talking about how you stood up for God."

"Yeah," Justin said. "Everyone thinks I'm weird."

"Not me," Zach replied. "I don't think I'd have the courage to stand up for God like you did. But since you did, it makes me realize that I need to spend more time worrying about what God thinks of me and less time worrying about what others think of me."

Justin knew that he had done what God wanted him to do. He knew God was pleased. He also knew he had done the right thing!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 18:1-16

LESSON

A TERRIBLE FAMINE

We have been talking about the prophet Elijah who obeyed God when he went to tell wicked King Ahab that God was going to punish his kingdom by not sending rain for three and one half years. God hid Elijah to protect him from the harm the king would do to him if he caught him. God fed Elijah in a couple of miraculous ways.

But finally the day came when it was time for Elijah to go confront King Ahab. God told to Elijah to go meet Ahab. Even though Elijah knew the king would probably want to do him harm, Elijah set out on the journey back into Israel. Elijah was not afraid of King Ahab. Instead Elijah wanted to obey God.

I Kings 18:1-2 says, *And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.*

And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

As Elijah was traveling to find King Ahab, the king set out on a journey of his own. The king decided to take a servant and go look for water for his animals.

The lack of rain in Israel had caused a terrible drought. Without rain it wasn't long before the land was parched, the watering holes had dried up, and even the rivers had stopped flowing. There was no water. There were no crops of food either. When there is no rain to water the fields, nothing will grow. After three years all the people of Israel were suffering from hunger and thirst. And not just the people, the animals were suffering also. The people had to search far and wide to find enough food and water for their animals.

The king was no different. I suspect that for a while the king had plenty of food and water. After all, when the king gives the command for something, the people had to give him anything he wanted. If they had to go without themselves to supply the king's needs, the king didn't care. He was only concerned about himself and his own needs.

But the day finally came when King Ahab commanded that food and water be supplied for his horses and other animals, and the people had to tell him that there was nothing left to give him. Even the king and his animals had to go without. Soon some of the king's horses began to die of thirst. So King Ahab decided to go see for himself if he couldn't find some water so he could water his animals. The king's horses were very important to his army, after all.

The king had a faithful servant by the name of Obadiah. Now Obadiah was not at all like the king. King Ahab was a very wicked man who never listened to or obeyed God. But this servant did love God. It was very unusual for this servant to serve such a wicked king and yet still love God, but Obadiah feared God. That means that Obadiah had great respect for God. It means he was always careful to listen to God and to obey God.

Wicked Queen Jezebel, Ahab's wife, did not fear God in the least. In fact, Jezebel hated God and she hated the prophets who did their best to remind the people to love and obey God. One day Jezebel commanded that all the prophets of God be killed. She thought God could do nothing to harm her. She only believed in the false god, Baal.

When the godly servant, Obadiah, heard what Jezebel planned to do, he quickly went and gathered as many of God's prophets together as he could find. He intended to hide them. He hid 100 men of God from the wicked queen. He took them and split them into two groups of fifty. He put each group into a different cave and made sure they had the food and water they needed.

1 Kings 18:3-4 says, *And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:*

For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

Now, King Ahab came to Obadiah and took him with him to search for water. The men set out and the king went one way and Obadiah went another. They looked high and low for a brook that had not dried up or a pasture of grass that was still green.

1 Kings 18:5-6 says, *And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.*

So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

A FEARFUL MEETING

As Obadiah was searching for water and pasture land, he saw something that surprised him. It wasn't water. It wasn't grass. It was Elijah!

Elijah had been gone for over three years. The last person Obadiah expected to see was the prophet of God. When he saw Elijah, Obadiah fell down to the ground and bowed before him. He knew Elijah was a man of God and Obadiah had great respect for God and for the prophets of God.

1 Kings 18:7-8 says, *And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?*

And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

Immediately Elijah told Obadiah to get up and go tell King Ahab that Elijah was back in Israel and wanted to talk with him.

Obadiah was very frightened! He certainly did not want to be the person who told King Ahab that he knew where Elijah was staying. He was frightened of what the king would do to him. Perhaps he would kill him. The king had been searching diligently for Elijah so he could kill him. Obadiah was afraid to say that now he knew Elijah's location.

Obadiah was so frightened that his imagination ran wild. He began to think of all the terrible things that could happen when he reported to the king. Obadiah began to panic!

What would happen to him if the king got the idea that he had known where Elijah was all along but had not told him? And even worse, what would happen if he told the king he knew where Elijah was at, but then when they went to look for Elijah, suppose he was gone? Suppose he was hiding again! Surely the king would kill him!

Obadiah was very afraid to do as Elijah told him. He did not want to tell the king he knew where Elijah was staying. Can picture the panic on Obadiah's face and hear the panic in his voice as he pleaded with Elijah?

1 Kings 18:9-14 says, *And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?*

As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.

And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.

Even though Obadiah was a man of God, he was more afraid of the king. Obadiah feared God, but at this moment he feared the king more.

ONLY FEAR GOD

Elijah stood calmly in front of Obadiah and listened as he ranted and raved about what King Ahab would do to him when he heard that Elijah was back in Israel. Elijah was not afraid of Ahab. Elijah knew that it was only God he needed to fear. As long as Elijah obeyed and respected God, God would protect him. Nothing Ahab could do would harm him as long as God was on his side.

Elijah also knew that Obadiah did not need to fear the king. He calmly assured Obadiah that he had nothing to fear because he promised him he would show himself to the king that very day. He was not planning on disappearing. He was not planning on getting Obadiah into trouble.

1 Kings 18:15-16 says, *And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.*

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

Obadiah had enough courage to defy Queen Jezebel and hide 100 prophets of God. He had enough courage to let it be known to the people at the king's court that he did not worship false gods but instead worshipped the one true God. He had been a man of courage in the past.

Remember that it said in 1 Kings 18:3, *And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.)*

Yes, Obadiah did fear God, but on this day, Obadiah's courage failed him. On this day, Obadiah feared a man more than he feared God.

But eventually Obadiah regained his courage and he went tell the king where Elijah was staying just as he had been told to do. Somehow Obadiah refound his courage. Somehow he remembered to trust God.

NO NEED TO FEAR MAN

Sometime we are like Obadiah. We can love and respect God in our life. We can do our best to obey God and His Word, the Bible. But sometimes things happen that make us so afraid that we stop fearing God the most and we begin to fear man more.

There can be many fearful things happen in life. The unexpected circumstances of life can frighten us and cause us to panic. They can cause us to fear man instead of fearing God.

When we or someone we love is hurt or very sick, we can be afraid. When things seem to go all wrong, we can be afraid. When people we love let us down and turn away from us, we can be afraid. When people make fun of the fact that we live for God, we can worry about what others think of us. We begin to fear man and the things of life more than we fear God.

But God does not want us to fear man.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

In Psalm 27:1 David said, *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

The Bible often tells us not to fear. It tells us that we are especially not supposed to fear people. God wants us to know that He is in control and He will provide for us and protect us. If we give Him our love and respect, He will be with us.

THE FEAR OF GOD

However, the Bible does tell us we are supposed to fear God.

What does it mean to fear God?

The meaning of the word fear in the Bible is a bit different from what we think of when we use the word fear. To fear God means to have reverent respect for Him, to stand in awe or amazement of how wonderful He is, and to honor Him in the way we think and act.

We fear God by giving Him worship, obedience, and service. We fear God by honoring and respecting Him with hearts of love toward Him.

If you only obey God because someone else makes you obey, you do not fear God, you fear the one who is making you obey. If you only serve God because you want others to think you are a good Christian, then you do not fear God, you fear what others think of you. If you come to church because it's expected of you, then you do not fear God, again, you are only fearful of what others think.

True fear of God comes from your heart and shows in your attitudes and actions.

The same is true of fear of man. When you are concerned about what others will think of you, then you fear man. When you only think of what will make people like you, then you fear man.

It doesn't matter what other people think or whether or not they like you. The important thing in life is what God thinks of you. So make sure you fear God, not other people. And if you do give respect and honor to God, He will bless you for it.

Psalm 31:19 says, *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

Don't fear men. Fear God. When you fear God, you will experience God's goodness and His blessings!

Let me ask you a question. Do you fear God?

Perhaps you don't even know God as your personal Lord and Master. The Bible tells us that God is your Creator. He is your Master. But unless you have asked Jesus Christ to forgive you sin and come into your heart, then you are not a child of God. You do not know Him.

Would you like to get to know God today? Would you like to have your sin forgiven? Today we can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can become a child of God.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you to practice the fear of God. How can you fear God this week?

Fear God by giving praise and thanksgiving to Him when you pray.

Fear God by doing something nice for someone else as a way of serving God.

Fear God by keeping a good attitude when you are asked to help around the house.

Fear God by showing respect for God's House, the church.

Fear God by telling Him how much your love and respect Him.

These are just a few ideas, maybe you can think of others.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life? (Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge. I am going to ask God to help you to honor and respect Him with all your heart and mind.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God tell Elijah he should do?
2. What was the name of King Ahab's servant?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What were Obadiah and Ahab looking for?
5. What was unusual about King Ahab's servant, Obadiah?
6. What brave thing did Obadiah do when Jezebel had the prophets of God killed?
7. Who did Obadiah see while he was out looking for water?
8. What did Elijah tell Obadiah to do?
9. Why was Obadiah so frightened?
10. What did Elijah say to reassure Obadiah he would be safe?

Give God Awe & Respect



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

I will give God my heart.

ι ω ι λ λ π λ ε α σ ε
γ ο δ .

A=α B=β C=χ D=δ E=ε F=φ G=γ H=η
I=ι J=ϕ K=κ L=λ M=μ N=ν O=ο P=π Q=θ
R=ρ S=σ T=τ U=υ V=ϖ W=ω X=ξ Y=ψ Z=ζ

Find the letters that match the symbols and place them on the line above

LESSON 30

A GIVING CHILD
GIVE GOD WORSHIP

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 18:17-46

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will give God my heart.

MEMORY VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Who do you worship in life? We all worship someone or something. We all have people who we idealize or things we desire so much that we put them ahead of everything else. We all have someone or something that is so important to us that we always put it in first place in our hearts and lives.

Some people worship money. Some worship power and fame. Some worship famous people. Some people even worship themselves. They love themselves so much that they become their own god. Some people worship false gods. Even today there are people who do not know and love the one true God.

The Bible tells us there is only one true God. He alone is worthy of our worship. When we give our hearts to God, we will want to give worship to Him alone!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will give God my heart.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

ONLY ONE GOD

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Buddy was a great student. His favorite subjects were history and geography. His teacher, Mr. Randall, made history come alive; he was the best teacher Buddy ever had. He used lots of games and activities to review for tests. The whole class loved learning about cultures and countries on other continents.

“Today we’re starting a new chapter. We’ll study about the religions of some of the different countries we’ve learned about so far this year,” Mr. Randall announced on Monday. “Beginning today, we’ll talk about a different religion each day. Next Monday, we’ll have a test over each of the five religions we discuss.”

This should be really interesting, Buddy thought to himself. I’d like to know a little bit about what other religions believe.

“Today we’ll discuss the religion of Buddhism. There are four to five-hundred-million Buddhists in the world today. Buddhism is the main religion in many Asian countries. It is a reli-

gion about suffering and the need to get rid of it. Buddhism is different from many other faiths because it is not centered on the relationship between man and God. Buddhists do not believe in a personal creator God. Buddhists believe that there is a cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth. They believe that unless someone gains “enlightenment,” or perfect peace and freedom from suffering, when they die they will be reborn over and over again. They do not believe that Buddha was a god. He was a human being just like them. They believe that he was important because he gained Enlightenment. What is the main difference between Buddhism and Christianity?”

Buddy raised his hand. “Buddhists don’t believe there is a Creator God, and they don’t believe the one they worship was a god. He was just a man.”

“That’s right,” Mr. Randall said. “They worship the teachings of a man who eventually died.”

Wow, Buddy thought. All those people need to know the true God.

On Tuesday, Mr. Randall taught the class about the religion of Islam. Islam began with a man called Muhammad, who claimed to receive messages from his god, called Allah. Those who follow Islam are called Muslims. They believe that Jesus was only a prophet of the god Allah, and that Muhammad was much more important than Jesus. To them, Jesus is not God; He is a man who died and never rose again.

How sad, Buddy thought. All those people who believe in Islam won’t be able to go to heaven when they die. Buddy wondered what religion he would learn about tomorrow. He had no idea that there were so many lost people in the world, and they had talked about only two religions so far!

On Wednesday, Mr. Randall told the class about Hinduism. “The religion of Hinduism began in India about 4000 years ago. When God sent Jesus to the earth, Hinduism had been already been practiced for about 2000 years! For many Hindus, religion is more what you do than what you believe. Hindus believe in a god called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses. Hindus believe that there is a part of their god in everyone and everything. They believe that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, in one body after another, sometimes born in a human body, sometimes in an animal body and sometimes in a plant! They believe that all living things are part of their god.”

Buddy was beginning to feel uncomfortable inside. His heart was sad for all those people who needed to know the Lord.

On Thursday, Mr. Randall started the class by saying, “You probably know a lot about the religion you will hear about today. You’ve read about this religion in your Bibles. Can anyone tell me what you think it is?” Several students raised their hands. They were all correct. They were learning about Judaism. “Judaism is around 3500 years old. It’s the smallest of the religions I’ve told you about so far, with only about 12 million followers around the world. Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship. They believe in Jehovah God, but they do not believe in Jesus, His Son. They are still waiting for their Messiah, their King Who will rule the nation

of Israel. Their Scriptures include only the first five books of the Bible. They believe they must obey all the Old Testament laws given by God to Moses. They do not know of the grace of God through salvation, because they do not believe in Jesus.”

Wow! God’s chosen people don’t even believe that Jesus is His Son! That is so sad,” Buddy thought.

“Tomorrow is my favorite day to teach, because I get to tell you about why Christianity is the only true religion. Then we’ll review everything from this week for your test on Monday.”

Buddy told his mom and dad about each day’s lesson. They were glad that Buddy was getting a burden for the lost people of the world. It was wonderful to see God working in Buddy’s heart.

On Friday, Mr. Randall began history class with a smile. “I’ve waited all week for this day!” he said. “Christianity is the only religion in the world that offers grace. And what is grace? Grace is the free gift of forgiveness of sin through the death of Jesus on the cross. It is a historical fact that Jesus was born, that He died, and that He rose again! Only God could do that! Some religions say that their followers must do good works to have their god’s favor. Even though over two billion people claim to be “Christians,” some people who call themselves Christians believe that they must do good works and say a certain number of prayers to be accepted by God, but that is not true. The Bible tells us that the true God loves us just as we are. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more! The reason we do good works is not to get God’s approval, but to thank Him for loving us and taking our punishment for sin. The Bible tells us that there are many false religions, and that we should not be tricked into believing their teachings. Our God is alive; other false gods are dead. All that is left is a statue. A statue cannot hear and answer prayers. A statue cannot forgive sin.”

Mr. Randall continued. “The main reason I have given you all this information is to help you to understand that there are billions of people all over the world who need to know that Jesus is God. Maybe God has been working on your heart this week. Is there anyone who would like to share what you have learned from all this?”

Buddy raised his hand. It was hard to talk about it in front of everyone, but he knew it was important. “Well, I know that God has been working on my heart this week. I think that when I grow up, I want to go to one of those countries and tell those people about Jesus. If we don’t, then they’ll never know that there’s only one true God.”

Others in the class nodded. God had been speaking to their hearts, too.

“It’s my prayer that several of you will do just that,” Mr. Randall said. “But for now, there are many people here in our town who don’t know Jesus. We have a mission field right here. There is only one true God, and people need to know Him. Let’s get busy telling them about the true and living God.”

Buddy nodded. That was just what he intended to do.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 18:17-46

LESSON

THE MEETING

Do you remember last week when Elijah showed himself to King Ahab's servant and told him to tell the king where he could be found? This week we begin our story there.

As soon as King Ahab saw Elijah, he rushed up to Elijah and accused him of being the one who was causing all of Israel's problems. He held Elijah responsible for stopping the rain and causing the great famine.

1 Kings 18:17 says, *And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

But Elijah was not the one who caused trouble for the people of Israel. It was King Ahab's fault that God was punishing the people. If Ahab had been a godly king who loved and obeyed God, then the people would not be worshipping the false god, Baal. If Ahab had been a godly king, then he would have torn down the alters to the false gods and turned the people's hearts back to God. But King Ahab and his wicked wife had sinned greatly.

Elijah had not troubled Israel, King Ahab was the real problem!

1 Kings 18:18 says, *And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

THE CHALLENGE

The time had finally come for God to confront King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, the false priests of Baal, and the people of Israel about their sin. God sent Elijah to put forth a challenge to prove once and for all who was the one true God of Israel.

Elijah boldly commanded Ahab to gather together the people of Israel and the 450 false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The false prophets came, along with 400 extra false prophets who wanted to watch. The people of Israel came also.

1 Kings 18:19 says, *Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

Ahab called for the prophets and people to come and take up Elijah's challenge. So the people crowded onto Mount Carmel. They came because word had gotten around that Elijah was there to challenge Baal. What would happen? Who would prove their God was more powerful?

Elijah stood before the people of Israel and asked them a question that each one of you needs to ask yourself. He asked them how long they would take to make up their minds about who was the true God. He told them to follow one or the other. They should follow Baal or they should follow God. They could not love and follow both.

1 Kings 18:21 says, *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

THE CHALLENGE BEGINS

Next Elijah told the false prophets to build an altar to Baal. He told them to take their pick of one of the bulls to offer as a sacrifice. That was all part of a normal animal sacrifice. The next thing he told them to do was the unusual thing. He told them to do everything except start the fire. He told them they should call on Baal to start the fire. If Baal was a true god, then he should be able to set the sacrifice on fire without a problem.

So the false prophets set about doing as Elijah said to do. They prepared the sacrifice and then they began to call on Baal to set it on fire. From morning until noon they called and pleaded with Baal to set the fire. But no fire appeared. They began to leap and plead all the more. Still no fire.

1 Kings 18:25-26 says, *And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.*

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

Elijah must have been amused as he watched those foolish men leaping and calling on a god who had no power at all. Baal had never done anything for them before, why did they think he could do anything now. And how foolish it looked for 450 men to be crying and begging to a false god.

Elijah couldn't resist making fun of those foolish men. He shouted to them, "Maybe you should cry louder. Maybe your god is busy doing something else and he can't hear you!"

So the prophets began to shout louder and now they took knives and cut themselves. Perhaps they thought their god would pay attention if they offered their own blood to him. From noon until evening they kept up the leaping and shouting and pleading. But not one thing happened. No fire, no voice, nothing!

1 Kings 18:27-29 says, *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

THE CHALLENGE MET

At that point, the day was almost done. Elijah would not have hours and hours to call on God to set his sacrifice on fire. Elijah calmly set to work preparing his altar. He went to an old altar that had once been used as an altar to God. It was no longer in use since the people sacrificed to Baal, but Elijah repaired it. He took twelve stones to use in the altar. The twelve stones represented the twelve tribes of Israel. It had been many years since Israel had split into two different kingdoms, but in God's eyes they were all still His chosen people.

Elijah prepared the bullock on the altar just as the prophets of Baal had done. But then he did something very strange. He called for four barrels of water to be brought and poured over the sacrifice. Water was precious and rare because of the drought, but they did as Elijah commanded. Again Elijah called for four more barrels of water to be poured over the sacrifice. And again he called for four more barrels. In all, there were twelve barrels full of water poured over the sacrifice. There was so much water that the entire altar and wood on it were soaked and a trench that surrounded the altar was filled to the brim.

1 Kings 18:30-35 says, *And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

Why did Elijah call for so much water to be poured over the sacrifice? He wanted to show clearly that what was about to happen was no trick. He was not secretly setting fire to some dry, parched wood. No. He was calling on the one true God of heaven to send down fire. If that drenched sacrifice could catch fire, then it would prove without a doubt that God was real and powerful. It would prove that nothing was too hard for the God of Israel.

Elijah did not jump and plead for God to send down fire. He did not cut himself. Instead he calmly prayed with just a few words to God. He lifted up his voice loudly enough for all to hear, and he asked God to prove to everyone that He was indeed the God of Israel.

Instantly fire fell from Heaven!

Can you hear the crowd gasp and fall back in amazement as they watched the fire from Heaven burn the sacrifice? The fire continued to burn the water-soaked wood, the stones, the dust on the ground and finally the fire even licked up all the water that flowed in the trench around the altar!

1 Kings 18:36-38 says, *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.*

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

THE CLEAN UP

Truly the people had seen a miracle that only a true and powerful God could perform. They fell down and worshipped God. Elijah commanded the people to put an end to the false prophets of Baal. They needed to be destroyed so they would not continue to spread their wickedness anymore. So the people obeyed Elijah.

1 Kings 18:39-40 says, *And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*

And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Then Elijah heard a sound he had not heard in three and a half years. He heard the rumble of thunder in the distance. He knew rain was on its way. Elijah told King Ahab to eat and refresh himself because soon it would rain.

Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel where he could be alone. The Bible says he threw himself down on the ground and put his face between his knees. I imagine Elijah was taking the time to praise and worship God for what He had just done. Can you imagine seeing the power of God in such an amazing demonstration? Elijah knew without a shadow of a doubt that God was real, but still, it must have been amazing to see God work! I am sure Elijah was giving praise and worship to God!

Then Elijah sent his servant to look toward the sea for a rain cloud. Six times the servant went to look, but there was no cloud. On the seventh time the servant saw a tiny cloud, the size of a man's hand. Elijah knew rain was on its way.

Ahab set out for his palace in his chariot, but Elijah did not get in to ride. Instead he stood up and tucked his robe into the belt around his waist. He needed to be able to move because Elijah planned to do some running. Elijah ran as the rain began to pour from the sky. God helped Elijah to run so fast that he outran the horse and made it to the city of Jezreel before King Ahab could reach it in his chariot!

1 Kings 18:41-46 says, *And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.*

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

ONE TRUE GOD

Once again God had shown Himself to be the one true God. There is nothing too hard for Him. He is in complete control of everything. We are foolish if we decide we want to follow after the false gods of the people in this world around us. But some times we do just that. We want to follow God and the World at the same time.

Sometimes we want to love and serve God, yet we also want to love and serve the World. We desire to listen to worldly music and watch worldly TV shows. We want to have friends who don't love and serve God. We want to be liked by others, so we go along with things we know we shouldn't do.

Elijah asked the people, *How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him.*

Let me ask you, How long will you try to serve two masters? Will you try to serve God and the World? Or will you give your heart to the one true God?

The God of Elijah, who rained down fire on the sacrifice, is the same God today. He never changes. He wanted the people of Israel to give their hearts to Him. That is what He wants from you.

Choose to serve only God. Refuse to let worldly things become a god to you. Refuse to let sinful people keep you from living for God each day. Take a stand for God just as Elijah boldly stood for God. God helped Elijah and proved Himself real back then, He will also help you and prove Himself real to you. He won't rain fire from Heaven, but He will help you and guide you each day.

Let me ask you, are you a child of God? Not everyone is. In order to be a child of God, you must realize a few things. Let me tell you.

1. Realize you are a sinner and you cannot get rid of your own sin.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

2. Realize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins. Then on the third day He rose alive from the grave. Because He lives again, He can forgive your sin.

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life.

Romans 10:9 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

It's that easy. God did not want to make it hard for you to become His child. He loves you so much and He wants you to love Him in return. Today you can become God's child. Today we can take a Bible and show you how to do just that.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you to give your whole heart to God and to worship Him alone!

Elijah stood alone on Mount Carmel as a worshipper of the true God. There were hundreds, most likely thousands, of other people there, but all the rest rejected God and worshipped Baal. Elijah alone worshipped the true God.

You may find that there are times in life when you alone will worship God. No one will join you. You may come from a home where your parents do not worship God. You may have friends who do not worship God. The world is filled with people who do not worship God.

It will take courage to stand alone as Elijah did, but you are not really alone. If you stand for God, then He stands with you. And when God stands with you, what more could you need? When you give your heart to love and worship the mighty, powerful true God, then you are never alone. He is with you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to give worship to God alone.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who accused Elijah of troubling Israel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Where did Elijah tell King Ahab to gather the people?
4. How many false prophets of Baal were there to offer a sacrifice?
5. What happened to the offering for Baal?
6. What did Elijah say to the false prophets at noon?
7. How many stones did Elijah use in his alter and what did they stand for?
8. How many barrels of water were poured over Elijah's sacrifice?
9. What happened when Elijah prayed to God?
10. How many times did Elijah's servant go to look for rain?

Give God Worship



Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psalm 29:2

I will give God my heart.

I
H V H K K N M K X

V N Q R G H O L X

L H F G S X F N C

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.

LESSON 31

A GODLY CHILD

GODLY TO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 1:31-2:1-25

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

God had a specific purpose in creating you. He wants you to be a godly person who loves and serves Him every day. For the next few lessons we will talk about being a godly person. We will talk about why God made you and how you can be the godly person God intends you to be.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

ZACH GETS SAVED

Justin and Zach sat by the stream that ran behind Zach's house. When there was nothing better to do they often ended up there. It was a quiet place to sit and with all the trees it was always cool in the summer. In the winter it was fun to slide on the ice with their boots.

Today they sat and tossed rocks and tried to skip them across the surface of the water. It took skill to get the rocks to skip and they both were concentrating on their throws.

"You know, Justin, I think I'll go to church with you this Sunday," Zach said casually without even looking at Justin.

Justin was so surprised that he stopped and stared at Zach. This was the first time Zach had ever volunteered to go to church on his own. Usually he had to beg him to go with him. This was strange.

Well, whatever Zach was up to, Justin decided to play it cool.

"Okay, come on over around 9:30 to ride over with us."

Zach was quiet for awhile and then he spoke again.

"You know, I've been thinking a lot about that contest at school."

Justin groaned inside. He hated to think of that! He had admitted in front of the entire school that he had cheated. It was the hardest thing he had ever done in his life. His face turned red just remembering it.

"Justin, I always knew you were different because you were a Christian, but I always thought it came easy for you."

“Easy?” Justin asked.

“You know, you’re just a good person. I thought it was easy for you to do everything right. It’s hard for me. But then when you cheated I realized that you do things wrong too!” Zach said.

“Oh, I do things wrong all the time,” Justin admitted.

“I guess I didn’t realize that. I thought it was so easy for you. I didn’t think I could ever be as good as you are,” Zach said.

Justin could see where this was leading. Zach was actually talking about becoming a Christian! John Mark prayed a quick prayer to ask God to help him say the right things.

“I’m not good by myself, Zach. If I’m good it’s because God helps me. I’m tempted to do wrong things all the time, like win that bike by cheating,” Justin admitted.

“Yeah, but you didn’t go through with it. Right in front of everyone you admitted you cheated. That must have been hard!” Zach said.

“Just about the hardest thing I’ve ever done. But I guess God wouldn’t let me do it. I knew that I was sinning against God. I was afraid I had ruined my testimony. I was afraid you would never want to listen to me talk about God again,” Justin said.

“I’ve been thinking about a lot of things lately. You always do the right thing, like not taking that apple I stole that one day, and passing up on a trip to Sandalwood because you had made a promise to help Mrs. Hodges. Then when you made things right about the bike, it really got to me. I can see that God makes a difference in your life,” Zach turned and looked at Justin. “Do you think God can ever forgive me of all the bad things I’ve done?”

“Sure He can! He forgives me all the time. There’s a verse in the Bible that says that if we confess our sins to Him, he will forgive us our sins. That means you too,” Justin said. “Hey, you don’t have to wait for Sunday to ask God to forgive your sins. You can do it now. Would you like to?” Justin asked.

“Well, if God can forgive me of all the bad things I’ve done, then, yeah, I think I would like to do that,” Zach said looking Justin square in the eyes.

“Don’t go away. I’m going to get my Bible. I’ll be right back,” Justin said as he turned to run home for his Bible. He couldn’t believe it! God was answering his prayers for Zach. And he was going to get to lead him to the Lord!

“Thank you, Lord. Help me to know what to say!” Justin prayed as he ran as fast as his legs would take him.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself. Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 1:31-2:1-25

LESSON

CONSIDER GOD'S CREATIONS

It is hard to imagine how God could think up so many different things to create. God started with the planets. He placed each one in just the right place. He placed the earth in the exact spot it needed to be. If God had placed the sun any closer to the earth, the earth would have burned up. If God had placed the sun any farther away from the earth, we would freeze to death. But God knew how to make everything just right.

God gave us oxygen to breathe and gravity to keep us from floating away into space. On earth God made plants and vegetation that are both beautiful to look at, as well as, good to eat. God made animals and gave them instincts that enable them to automatically know how to survive.

Science tells us that all living matter is made up of tiny, smaller than the eye can see, things called cells. You would need a microscope to see a single cell.

An Amoeba is a creature that has one cell. It can move; it can eat; it can divide itself. And yet it only consists of one tiny cell that is so small it can only be seen with a microscope.

On the other hand, God made the human body with millions of cells. And every cell works together with the other cells to make a complete organism that can walk, talk, communicate, breathe, feel, and think. How amazing!

But even more amazing is the fact that people do so much more than just walk, talk, breathe, feel, and think. Humans also have a spiritual side. Humans have a soul. That is what makes us different from animals.

MAN IS A UNIQUE CREATION

Now, animals are very amazing, wonderful, and complex creatures. They can walk, communicate in a limited way, breathe, feel, and think. But animals do not have a soul. They were not made in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26 tells us that on the sixth day of creation God made all the animals. Then God made a man. But the man was different from the animals. Animals were made for man to use and to have as pets. Man was created in the image of God and man was created to have a close relationship with God.

Genesis 1:26-28 says, *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.*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

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.

The Bible tells us that God let the man, Adam, name all the animals. That was quite an important responsibility for Adam.

Genesis 2:18-20 says, *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

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.

After Adam named all the animals, God saw that Adam did not have a companion that was just right for him. The animals were nice pets, but they were not the same as Adam. So God created a woman named Eve. Eve was created from Adam's rib, and she was the perfect companion for Adam.

Genesis 2:21-23 says, *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;*

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

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.

How amazing that God could imagine everything and then bring it into existence just by speaking the word. But that is how it happened. That is how powerful God is.

GOD MADE MAN FOR A PURPOSE

God had a purpose for Adam and Eve. He had a physical purpose for them. God wanted them to care for the animals and everything that grew in the beautiful Garden of Eden where they lived. They used their bodies to work in the garden.

But God also had a spiritual purpose for them. God came into the garden daily to talk with Adam and Eve. He enjoyed talking with them. He enjoyed spending time with them. They had fellowship together.

Because Adam and Eve had fellowship with God, they had spiritual life. God is spiritual life. This was God's most important purpose for Adam and Eve, for them to have fellowship together with God.

How wonderful it must have been for them to be able to spend time every single day walking through the garden having fellowship with God. They must have had some wonderful conversations.

God intended to continue having fellowship with Adam and Eve, but then something terrible happened that destroyed the close fellowship that they enjoyed. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They sinned. God had clearly told Adam not to eat the fruit from one of the trees in the garden. They could eat from any other tree, but one tree they were to leave alone. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16-17 says, *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

They didn't listen to God, did they? When Satan tempted Eve to eat, she did. When Adam saw that Eve had eaten, he ate the fruit also. They sinned against God. They had done a very ungodly thing! Because they disobeyed, they no longer had fellowship with God. They no longer spent time walking and talking with God. They were no longer godly people.

Because Adam was the head of the human race, everyone born since then has been born a sinner. You and I were born in sin. You and I were born dead spiritually. We were born without spiritual life; we are born without God. How terrible!

But God loves you, and God still wants to have fellowship with you. So God made a way for you to have your sin forgiven. He made a way for you to be reborn spiritually. And that is through what Jesus Christ did when He died on the cross.

Jesus died on the cross to take your sins away. All you need to do is believe He died for you and ask Him to forgive you and come into your life. When we are done with the lesson today, if you haven't accepted Christ, but you would like to, then we will give you that opportunity.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages (or payment) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Jesus paid the penalty for your sin. Jesus took your place on the cross. Now you can also have spiritual life, just like Adam and Eve once had.

GOD MADE YOU FOR A PURPOSE

God wants you to accept Christ, because He has a purpose for you.

Did you know that God has a purpose for you just as He had a purpose for Adam and Eve? He does. That is why He created you. That is why you were born. That is why you are one of God's creations.

God created you because He wants to have fellowship with you just like He did with Adam and Eve. Oh, you won't be able to see God like Adam and Eve did, at least not here on earth, but you can talk to God and you can listen to His voice by reading your Bible. That is God's way of talking to you.

So you can have a close spiritual relationship with God by praying, by reading His Word, by obeying His Word, and by daily giving your life to Him. When you do those things, you will become a godly person who loves God and longs to have daily fellowship with Him.

Then some day in Heaven you will be able to see God, as well as, talk with Him. You will be able to spend eternity with God. That will be wonderful. And that is why you are wonderfully made!

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

Just like every other creation of God's, you are wonderfully made. You were made to be godly. You were made to have close fellowship with God.

I challenge you to remind yourself every day this week that you are one of God's wonderful creations. God wants you to love Him and to live a godly life that is pleasing to Him.

Every time you feel down about yourself, remember that God made you exactly the way He wanted you. He didn't make a mistake when He created you. God made you with your unique personality and your unique looks. You are exactly how God wants you to be. Remember that.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember that you are uniquely made to be a godly child who serves Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Quote today's Bible verse.
2. What would have happened if God had placed the sun farther away from the earth?
3. You are made up of millions of these tiny things. What are they called?
4. What makes people different from animals beside the fact that we can talk?
5. On what day was man created?
6. How did the animals get their names?
7. What job did God give to Adam and Eve?
8. What did God do every day?
9. What was your spiritual condition when you were born?
10. What is the "gift of God?"

Godly to Fellowship with God

But know that the LORD hath set apart
him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a



God helps me to be godly.

Wonderfully Made

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

How many new words can you make from the words: Wonderfully
Made?

LESSON 32

A GODLY CHILD
GODLY TO BE LIKE GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 1:3-27

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Has anyone ever told you that you look like your mom or your dad? Children often look a lot like one of their parents. That's because you are their child. You are part of their family.

The Bible tells us that human beings are made in the image of God. If you have asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life, then you are part of God's family.

It is a special honor to be made in the image of God. Of all of God's creations, there were none other that He made in His image, only humans. Today we will be talking about what it means to you to be made in God's image.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

ARE YOU KIDDING?

Teacher: I have a friend I brought to talk to us today. (Pull out Andy) Hello! How are you today?

Andy: Just great. I've been out in nature.

Teacher: What were you doing out there?

Andy: Just laying on my back, watching the clouds float by. God sure did make a beautiful world, didn't He?

Teacher: He sure did, Andy.

Andy: Have you ever wondered how God thought up all of this? I mean, the people and animals, and trees and everything?

Teacher: I've thought about it quite a bit. God made so many wonderful and amazing things. It's too bad there are people who don't believe that.

Andy: What? What do you mean?

Teacher: Some people don't believe God created the earth and everything in it.

Andy: Are you kidding?

Teacher: No.

Andy: What do they believe?

Teacher: Well, there are several different theories. Some believe that somehow life just appeared; and over billions and billions of years, things just kept growing and getting more and more complicated until one day a man appeared.

Andy: (Have Andy pull his head back and stare hard at you. Then ask in an amazed and skeptical voice.) Are you kidding?

Teacher: No.

Andy: So where do they think all this stuff came from in the first place?

Teacher: Some believe in a Big Bang. That was an explosion that somehow blasted everything together to create life.

Andy: Are you kidding?

Teacher: No.

Andy: That's just tooooooo hard for me to believe!

Teacher: It does sound pretty crazy.

Andy: How can people believe something so silly when the Bible says God created everything?

Teacher: I guess they don't want to believe God or the Bible.

Andy: Are you kidding?

Teacher: No.

Andy: The Bible is true, isn't it?

Teacher: It sure is. God gave us the Bible so we could learn about Him. God would never lie to us.

Andy: Now THAT I believe!

Teacher: So the next time you're out in nature, just look around and remember that there is a God who created; and, more importantly, God also loves us.

Andy: Are you kidding?

Teacher: Nope, that's a fact! Time for you to say good-bye.

Andy: Good-bye.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself. Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 1:3-27

LESSON

WE SHOULD BE LIKE GOD

God wants you to be exactly like Him. He wants you to be a perfect mirror image of Himself. That's why He created you. How do I know? I'll tell you.

When God created the world, He made many things. He created the earth we walk on and dig in. He created the sky with the clouds. He created things that live and grow.

Picture in your mind what it must have been like to be at the dawn of creation. Can you imagine watching God stretch forth His hand and speak the word? Just like that things would appear. Try to picture it.

On the first day of creation, God created light and divided the night and the day.

Genesis 1:3-5 says, *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

On the second day, God created the firmament, which is the sky, to separate the waters above from the waters below on earth.

Genesis 1:6-8 says, *And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.*

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

On the third day, God gathered the waters to make the oceans and made dry land to appear. He made grass and trees and growing things on the land.

Genesis 1:9-13 says, *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.*

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

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.

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.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

On the fourth day, God made the moon for the night sky and the sun for the day sky. He divided night and day.

Genesis 1:14-19 says, *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:*

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

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.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

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.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

On the fifth day, God created fish in the sea and birds in the air.

Genesis 1:20-23 says, *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.*

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.

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God made the animals on the earth.

Genesis 1:24-25 says, *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.*

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.

ONLY ONE CREATION IS IN GOD'S IMAGE

But then, after God had created the animals, God said something that He had not said when He created a single other creation of His.

In Genesis 1:26-27 it says, *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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

God had spent five and a half days creating the earth and all that is in it, and never once had He created any of those things in His image. God specifically created man and woman in His own image. He did it for a reason.

What reason? Did He want slaves who he could make do lots of work? No. God did want Adam and Eve to care for the animals and the garden. But He did not intend for them to be slaves. In fact, the Bible said man was to have dominion over everything. That means man was to be the ruler over the other things on earth.

God gave humans a very special position of honor. He wanted beings that could think and act in order to take care of all the other creations. Man was given dominion over everything. Man was put in charge. Man had the power to control God's creations. That is a place of service to God, but it is also a place of honor.

So did God want Adam and Eve to be His robots that went around doing everything He wanted? No. God did want them to obey Him, but God also gave them a free will so they could choose whether or not they would obey. God did not make man into a robot with no mind or will of his own.

GOD WANTS FELLOWSHIP WITH MAN

God made humans in His image for a special purpose. He wanted to have fellowship with man.

What is fellowship? Do you remember we talked about that last week? Fellowship is having companionship with someone. It is spending time together. It is talking with each other. It is getting to know and understand and care for each other.

God created Adam and Eve to be His special friends. He wanted someone in His image with whom he could talk and spend time. God cared about Adam and Eve. In fact, He loved them. They were very special to God.

We don't know how much time came between Adam and Eve's creation and the time when they sinned, but it was a while. During that time, God would come to the beautiful Garden of Eden to talk with Adam and Eve. They all got to know each other very well. They loved and cared for each other very much.

God's greatest desire was for Adam and Eve to be like Him. God is pure and holy. He is loving and merciful. God is godly. He wanted Adam and Eve to be just like Him. He wanted them to be godly!

For a while, I am sure that Adam and Eve wanted to be like God. Just being in God's presence every day helped them to be godly.

When we look up to and admire someone, we often try to act like they do, don't we? I'm sure that is the way Adam and Eve felt about God. They wanted to be godly.

ADAM AND EVE FAILED GOD

But we know that eventually Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan, and they betrayed God. They sinned. They turned their backs on God's teachings, they disobeyed. How hurt God must have been!

You are a descendent of Adam and Eve. You also are made in the image of God. God has a purpose for you. Just as God wanted Adam and Eve to be godly, God wants you to be godly also!

When you were born on the earth, you automatically had people over you to tell you what you should and should not do. Raise your hand and tell me who some of these people are. (Parents, teachers, police, pastor, etc.)

All of these people have rules, don't they? Rules like, "Wear a bike helmet"; "Eat your vegetables"; "Don't talk to strangers"; "Clean your room", and much more.

Sometimes you may think, "I can't wait to grow up so everyone will stop telling me what to do!"

Adam and Eve may have thought the same thing. "Why do we always have to do things God's way?" But when they disobeyed God, they found out that there was a very good reason God gave them rules. God's rules were there to protect them. Those rules were to help them to be more like God.

All the rules in your life are there to protect you and help you to be more godly also.

If only Adam and Eve had listened to God. If only they had acted like the One in whose image they were made, they would have saved themselves so much sorrow and trouble. They would have saved you and me sorrow and trouble, also.

God knew when He made Adam and Eve in His image, with a free will to choose their own way, that He risked losing them. But He wanted to have fellowship with them, so He risked creating them.

GOD WANTS FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU

God also wants to have fellowship with you. That is why you were born on this earth. God loves you, and He wants to spend time with you. If you act like the One in whose image you are made, then you will be godly also.

So how can you be godly? How can you act like the One who made you in His image?

First, you have to take care of the sin problem that started way back with Adam and Eve. Because of their sin, you were born dead in sin. But God is willing to forgive your sin if you ask Him to. Today I would love to show you from the Bible how you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart.

The next step in becoming godly is to spend time with God. Every day you can spend time with God by talking to Him. That's praying.

You can also spend time with God by letting Him talk to you. That's reading your Bible. The Bible is God's word. It is how God speaks to you.

When you love someone, you want to be with them. If you love God you should want to show Him you love Him by spending time with Him. That's why He created you in His image. You were created to be godly!

Today if you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin, you can do it today. We can show you how.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you this week to ask God to help you to be more and more godly. You do that by spending time with God. Pick a time when you can be alone somewhere. First pray and talk to God. Tell Him about your life. Thank Him for all the good things He has done. Ask Him to help you everyday to live for Him.

Then spend some time letting God talk to you by reading a few verses from the Bible. Think about what you are reading. Think about what God is trying to tell you.

Do it everyday. Stretch your spiritual muscles and work at becoming conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be more and more like Him each day.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God create on the first day?
2. What did God create on the second day?
3. What did God create on the third day?
4. What did God create on the fourth day?
5. What did God create on the fifth day?
6. What did God create on the sixth day?
7. Quote today's Bible verse.
8. Name a reason God created man in His image.
9. Why did God give Adam and Eve rules?
10. How can God talk to people today?

Godly to Be Like God

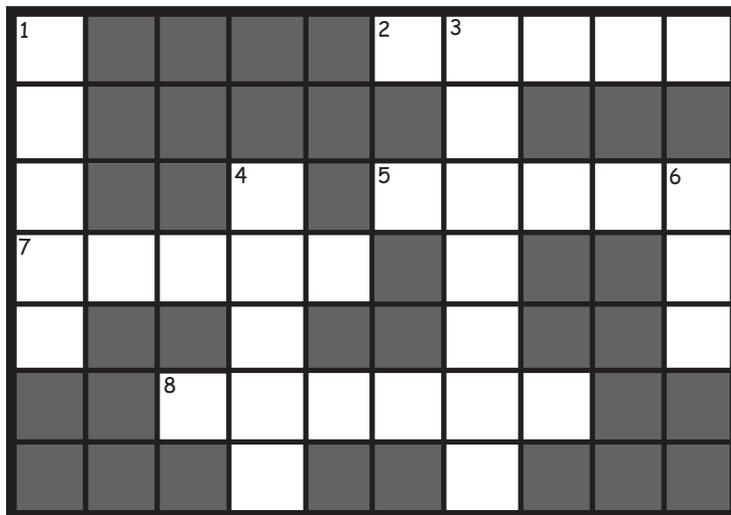
But know that the LORD hath set apart
him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a



God helps me to be godly.

Names of God's creations



Across

- 2. We drink this
- 5. They fly
- 7. Small lights at night
- 8. God only created two

Down

- 1. It is green
- 3. Created just before man
- 4. They grow tall
- 6. The light for day

LESSON 33

A GODLY CHILD
KEEPING HOLY THINGS HOLY

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 2:1-3

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

After God had created the universe, the earth, the plants, the animals, and Adam and Eve, Genesis 2:2 tells us that He rested from His work.

Do you think God rested because He was just plum tuckered out? I mean, it was a lot of work to create everything in the entire universe in just six days. Maybe God had to catch His breath, do you think? No. I don't suppose God is or ever has been tired.

God rested on the seventh day for a very special reason. God wanted to teach us a lesson about Holiness. God wanted us to know that He created some things to be set aside and kept special for Him. You can be like that too. God created you to be set aside and kept godly for Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

PANSIES ON A PLATE

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy was about four years old when she first went with her mother to china painting classes. Wendy played on the floor under the big table where five or six women sat with paint and brushes and china dishes learning to paint. The teacher would walk from student to student to give advice and help.

Eventually Wendy's mom had learned enough that she could paint without a teacher's help. She bought all the paints she needed and lots of plain china bowls, plates, and vases. She bought a kiln to fire her dishes.

For years Wendy's mom did china painting. Everyday when Wendy got home from school, there would be her mom, sitting at a small table in the living room that was piled high with all the necessary equipment to paint china.

The dishes were beautiful. Her mother painted roses and little birds, and acorns with autumn leaves. But the thing her mother loved to paint most was pansies. Pansies were her mom's favorite flower.

As Wendy grew older, she began to realize how much time, effort, and talent went into painting a dish. Wendy would watch as her mom would start out with a plain china dish. It was pure white and shiny. It could have been used just as it was, but by the time her mother got done with it, many weeks later, the dish would be so much more special.

Mom would start by taking a wax pencil and lightly sketching the outline of several pansies and their stems and leaves onto a plain plate. Next she would squeeze several different paint colors onto a palette and dip her brush into the paint. Sometimes she would mix two colors together to get the exact color she wanted.

Then she began to paint. At first, the plate didn't look like much. Mom would only paint the outline of the flowers on the dish. Then she would place the plate into the kiln. For hours the kiln would heat. Wendy wasn't allowed too near the kiln because it got extremely hot, but occasionally her mom would allow her a peek inside.

There was a hole on the side of the kiln called the eye. Mom could remove the piece that covered the eye and look inside the kiln while it was heating. Everything inside was glowing red hot. Mom would look at a small cone she had placed near the eye. When the cone melted, it was time to turn off the kiln and let the plate cool down.

The next day, after the dish was completely cool, mom would remove it from the kiln and begin to paint on the plate again. This time she would add a bit more detail. The stems would be darkened a bit. The petals of the pansies would be given more color. Then back into the kiln the dish would go.

Again the process of firing the dish in the red hot kiln would be repeated.

The next day, when the dish had again cooled, Mom would again add more paint. Each stroke of the brush added more detail, causing the pansies to look more and more like real flowers.

Then into the kiln the dish would go. This process went on and on. After the flowers looked complete, Wendy was sure the dish was done. But Mom would add background shading to give the piece depth. Then back to the fire it went. The final step would be a rim of gold paint around the edge. And one last firing.

What amazing patience and attention to detail a single plate took in order for it to be completed. But the artist knew exactly what was needed to make that plate beautiful. (Show Flashcard.)

The plate could have been used before a single drop of paint had been applied, but how plain and drab the plate would have been. After each firing, the plate could have been used. But with each new detail that was added, the plate became more and more beautiful.

The dishes Wendy's mom painted will be treasured for as long as she owns them. Wendy displays her mother's dishes in her kitchen and their beauty will be admired for years to come.

Do you know, not once did the plate turn to Wendy's mom and say, "I've had enough of this. Can't you work faster?" It never said, "What? Pansies again? I wanted to be painted with roses instead!"

Did you know that your life is a bit like that plain china plate? God is the master Artist. In His mind He knows exactly what He wants to make of your life. He wants your life to be a thing of beauty that will bring glory and honor to Him.

With great care God adds detail after detail. He knows exactly what needs to be applied to our lives to make us like He wants us to be .

Sometimes when God begins to add the details to our life, we turn to God and say, "No, God. I don't want to do that. I think you have made a mistake with my life."

At times you may feel like the process of shaping your life will never end. And sometimes, unlike a plate that has absolutely no say in what will be done with it, we turn to God and tell him that we don't want to do things His way. We disobey God and go our own way.

But God is all-knowing. He knows what is best for us. He knows what He wants to make of us. And with each new stroke of His brush, if you allow Him to, your life becomes more and more beautiful for Him. It will be a thing of lasting beauty and value, not just for here on earth, but for all eternity.

Are you allowing God to work in your life by living a godly life that He can use?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself. Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 2:1-3

LESSON

After a long week of school and play, it is nice to have a day when we can relax and go to church to learn more about God.

God spent six days creating everything and then Genesis 2:2-3 tells us He rested.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

God should always be our example to follow. God had worked hard for six days. Harder than we have ever worked. But God did not rest on the seventh day because He was tired. God rested to teach us about setting aside things to be holy and sanctified for Him. The seventh day was a holy day.

THE SABBATH WAS SET APART

God wanted us to learn that some things should be kept special just for Him.

When God gave the ten commandments to Moses, the fourth commandment says in Exodus 20:8-10, *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

God declared the Sabbath to be a holy and special day set aside to think of Him.

The Sabbath is Saturday. In Old Testament times, God told the Jewish people to set aside Saturday as their holy day. They were very careful what they did and did not do on the Sabbath.

They did not work. No one in their house worked. They could not walk on a journey that was any further than 1/2 mile. That meant they could only go from their home to the temple and back. They could not cook dinner. They always did all their cooking and cleaning the rest of the week. During the day on Friday they would cook their food, set their table, and lay out their clothing for Saturday so that they did not have to do any work on that day.

The Jews took this very, very seriously because God took it very, very seriously. Exodus 31:14 tells us what would happen to a Jew that disobeyed God and did not keep the Sabbath day holy.

It says, *Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

Wow! We can't even imagine someone being put to death because they did some work on the Sabbath, but God meant business!

THE LORD'S DAY IS SET APART

So why don't we go to church and rest on Saturday? We worship on Sunday. What happened?

In the New Testament, the Christians who believed in and followed Jesus Christ began to set aside Sunday as the day to rest and worship God. That is the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The Resurrection of Christ was on a Sunday. We call that day the Lord's Day.

Christians worship and rest on Sunday, but the principle of a day of rest is the same. Sunday is our day to keep holy.

THE PRINCIPLE OF HOLY THINGS

So what do the words holy and sanctified mean?

They mean pretty much the same thing. To be holy is to be pure and set apart for God. Sanctified means to be MADE pure and holy. You see, God is holy already. He has always been holy. But we are humans and we were born in sin. We are not naturally holy. In order for us to be holy, God has to MAKE us holy. I'll tell you more about that in a minute. But first, let's talk about God's holiness.

GOD IS HOLY

The Bible tells us that God is holy and sinless and pure.

Psalm 145:17 says, *The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

Isaiah 6:3a says, *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Because God is holy, we are to worship Him. We should worship Him daily in prayer and Bible study. But we should also set aside the Lord's Day, Sunday, as a special time to worship God.

Sunday is to be a day of rest. First because our bodies and minds need it. Also to give us time to reflect on God and all He has done and will do for us. It is a holy day of remembrance.

That's why Sunday should be kept special. All week we are busy, busy, busy. We don't have time to think about God. All we do is work and run. The Lord's Day gives us a chance to slow down and think about God.

GOD'S WORD IS HOLY

God is holy. The Bible tells us that God's Word, the Bible is also holy. God wanted us to know about Him. He wanted us to know what we should and shouldn't do in life. God wanted us to know that we were sinners. God wanted us to know how we could be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life.

So God gave us His Word. God caused men to write the words that we needed to read.

Psalm 119:140 says, *Thy word is pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.*

Because the Bible is the holy, pure word of God, we should be careful to obey what we read.

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE IS HOLY

There is another holy thing mentioned in the Bible. In the Old Testament the temple was a beautiful building that was built so the people would have a place to come and worship God. The temple was a very holy place. Deep inside the temple was a place called the Holy of Holies. This is where God dwelt. It was separated by a veil or heavy curtain from the rest of the temple. Only the priest could go inside that area. God dwelt or lived in the Holy of Holies.

In the New Testament things changed again. Just as the holy day went from the Sabbath on Saturday to the Lord's Day on Sunday, the temple also changed.

Do you know where God's temple is now? Is it somewhere in the Holy Land over in Israel? No, the Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ died on the cross, the veil in the temple that protected the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

God tore the veil in two, because He wanted everyone to know that He would no longer live in a building. Instead God found a new temple. God sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

If you have had your sins forgiven, you are now the temple of God. The Holy Spirit of God lives in your heart. Your heart is the Holy of Holies.

That's amazing! God lives in you! You are the temple of God. That makes you a holy place. Your body should be kept pure and set aside for God.

Romans 12:1 says, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

I Corinthians 3:17b says, *For the temple of God is holy, whose temple ye are.*

That's pretty clear. If you are a Christian, you are God's temple. You need to keep your body pure and set apart since your body is a holy temple.

DO YOU KEEP HOLY THINGS HOLY?

So, it's time to do a quick check. How are you doing when it comes to setting aside holy things for God?

Do you keep holy things holy? Do you live a godly life that is set aside for God alone?

How about the way you treat God? Do you worship God by telling Him how much you love Him? When you come to church, do you sing and pray and listen to your teachers and Pastor as a way of worshipping and adoring God? Or do you come to see your friends, or just to make your parents happy?

God wants you to worship Him with a heart of love.

Now check how you treat God's Holy Word. Do you take time to read it? Do you obey what it says? Or do you just obey the verses that you like and ignore the rest?

Now check how you treat God's Holy Temple. Do you treat your body as the Holy dwelling place of God? God wants you to set aside your body, your heart, your mind to be pure and holy for Him.

Sometimes people obey God just because they think it is their duty, or maybe they obey only out of fear. Many of the Jews in Old Testament times only obeyed God's rules on keeping the Sabbath because they were afraid of God. God wants you to obey, because you love Him. He wants you to be godly because you love Him.

ONLY GOD CAN MAKE YOU HOLY

Remember I said earlier that sanctified means to be MADE holy. You cannot be holy or godly on your own. You cannot make yourself holy or godly. Only God can make you holy.

We are born sinners. Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

A sinner cannot make himself holy. But God can. God wants to forgive your sin and take it away. If you haven't already asked God to forgive your sin, would you like to today? We can have someone show you how to do that.

Maybe you are already a Christian, but you haven't been keeping holy things holy. You haven't worshipped God as holy. You haven't read God's Holy Word daily. You haven't treated God's Holy Temple as a holy place. God can help you with that, too. You can be godly.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

God wants us to keep holy things holy, because we love Him. Search your heart. Are you keeping holy things holy? Are you obeying just from duty or fear? God wants you to obey from love.

This week, I challenge you to worship God, because He is holy, by taking time to read and think about His Holy Word, the Bible. I also challenge you to keep your body, the Temple of God, holy by acting and talking like a true Christian.

The only way to be holy and godly is with God's help. Ask God to make you a godly person. He will!

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be holy and godly.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the name of the holy day in Old Testament times?
2. On what day was the Sabbath?
3. On what day do New Testament believers worship?
5. Quote today's Bible verse.
6. What does the word Holy mean?
7. How can people become holy?
8. Name something that is holy.
9. Where is God's temple now?
10. Why should we be holy?

LESSON 34

A GODLY CHILD
GODLY TO RESIST SIN

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to be a godly child the way God wants you to be. How do I know that? Because the Bible says that we are all born sinners and because we are sinners, we sin. When temptations come our way, it is so easy to give in and so hard to resist.

But no matter how hard it is to resist the temptations of life, it can be done! God can help you do it!

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

I'M SORRY

Obtain Flash Card

Justin had worked hard at his pitching. He was counting on being the pitcher on this year's ball team at school. He hadn't told anyone except Zach that he wanted to be the team pitcher. That was his dream. All summer he and Zach practiced together taking turns pitching to each other.

Zach was good at pitching and Justin admired his skills. Zach had taught him every trick he knew and had drilled him over and over. Both boys were sure the coach would see how good Justin had gotten and how much he had improved over the summer. They were sure he was a shoe-in. (Show Flash Card)

School was only a few weeks away and summer ball practice for the school team was starting that afternoon. Justin was excited. He was sure the coach would see his pitching potential.

After practice, the coach had the guys line up and he called out positions. The coach had filled the catcher's position and all the bases. Then he called the pitching position. Justin let out his breath when he heard the coach call out, "Zach Coldwell."

Justin couldn't believe his ears! Yes, Zach was good, but Zach didn't want to be the pitcher. He did. Besides, he had gotten really good. He was almost as good as Zach.

How could the coach do this to him?

Justin was so angry that he wouldn't even look at Zach as he headed toward his bike. Zach ran up to him and told him how sorry he was.

"I know you wanted that position. You really should have it," Zach said. "I'm sorry!"

Justin shook his head and walked away without a word. He was really steamed.

"I'll talk to the coach. Maybe he'll change his mind," Zach pleaded.

"Don't bother!" Justin shouted as he grabbed his bike and headed off as fast as he could.

"Wait for me!" Zach shouted after him.

But Justin did not wait. He just wanted to get out of there. And the last person he wanted to be with was Zach.

When Zach came to the door and asked Justin's mom if he could talk with him, Justin told his mom that he couldn't come out. She gave him a strange look, but gave the message to Zach.

For several days Justin avoided Zach. He wouldn't take his phone calls and he avoided being outside where Zach would be. At practice he kept far from Zach and would turn the other way when Zach tried to talk to him.

In his mind, Justin knew this was not Zach's fault, but he was still angry at him. It wasn't Zach's fault he was such a good pitcher. Besides, it didn't have to make sense, he was just angry and that was that!

One night as he was helping Mom clear the dishes off the table, she asked Justin a question.

"I've noticed that you haven't been spending much time with Zach. Is everything OK?" Mom asked.

"Yes," Justin hesitated. He hated to tell her what the problem was.

"Up until a couple of days ago, you two were inseparable. Now you always have an excuse not to be with him. What's wrong?" Mom asked.

"We just don't have much time together since ball practice started. Zach is the pitcher and it takes up all his time," Justin said. He couldn't keep a bitter tone from creeping into his voice.

"Oh," said Mom in the way that mothers' have of saying things when they know something is really wrong. "So Zach is the team pitcher? I think I see the problem."

"I worked hard for that position," Justin blurted out angrily to his mom. "And Zach didn't even want to be the pitcher!"

"But why are you angry at Zach? The coach is the one who assigns positions, isn't he?" Mom asked.

"Right. But it still feels like this is Zach's fault. Oh, never mind!" Justin said as he finished up and rushed out of the kitchen. But Mom followed him.

“Sit down for a minute,” Mom said. “We need to talk.”

“Mom, I know what you’re going to say,” Justin said. “It’s not Zach’s fault. I shouldn’t be angry at him. I know all of that!”

“OK, then tell me this, Zach has been your best friend for a long time. Don’t you miss him?” Mom asked.

Actually Justin had missed Zach very much. He had watched him walk around his front yard and look at his house. He had been tempted to go out to be with him, but he was too angry. So he stayed inside instead.

“Justin, I know you wanted to be the pitcher, and you can blame Zach if you want, but what good does it do you? It’s not Zach’s fault. And what kind of a testimony are you being? Zach hasn’t been a Christian for long. He needs to see a good example.”

“I know. I guess I haven’t been acting very Christ-like,” Justin admitted. “And it really isn’t Zach’s fault. I have missed him.”

Justin began to feel pretty ashamed of himself. He had been punishing Zach for something he had no control over. He had been jealous of Zach because he had gotten what he wanted. Justin realized how wrong he had been to be angry and jealous. It was really a sin!

“I guess I ought to go square things with Zach sometime,” Justin admitted.

“Well, he’s standing out in front right now,” Mom said.

Justin wasn’t sure how to ask Zach to forgive him. He had been totally at fault and he hadn’t treated Zach at all like his best friend. So he sheepishly headed out the door. He wouldn’t have been surprised if Zach didn’t want to talk to him anymore.

“Hi, Zach,” Justin called hesitantly as he crossed the street. “Can I talk to you?”

Zach looked pretty surprised to see Justin heading his way.

“Look,” Justin started. “I’ve been treating you pretty rotten lately.”

“It’s OK,” Zach said before Justin could even finish. A big smile broke out on Zach’s face.

“I’m sorry. Will you forgive me?” Justin asked.

“Sure,” Zach answered without hesitation. “No problem.”

Justin was amazed at how quickly Zach had forgiven him. He was a pretty great friend!

Sometimes you and I sin against our best friend. We do things God tells us not to do. We don’t do things God tells us to do. We lose our close feeling with God.

But God is waiting to forgive us. He wants us to come to Him and say, “I’m sorry.” And just like that, if we are truly sorry for our sin, God will forgive us. Isn’t that great?

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6

LESSON

FRUITS IN THE BIBLE

The Bible talks about fruit quite often. Do you like fruit? Most people do. God seems to like fruit, also.

When God created the Garden of Eden, He planted all sorts of trees. Many of the trees were full of luscious, ripe fruit that Adam and Eve were given to care for. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat freely of any tree in the entire garden. Any fruit that looked good, they could eat at any time.

Genesis 2:15 says, *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

They could have any fruit except one! Of the many, many fruit trees in Eden, only one was forbidden. God made it clear to them, that they were not to eat from that one tree. Can anyone tell me the name of the tree that they were forbidden to eat?

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

It was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 2:16-17 God told Adam, *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God was pretty clear with Adam and Eve. He said one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, was off limits. It was forbidden.

Have you ever heard of something being referred to as a “forbidden fruit?” That means it is something - anything - that is not allowed. It is off limits.

But very often, a forbidden fruit is just the thing that tempts and teases us most of all. It is the very thing that we want above all else.

We know that for a while Adam and Eve stayed away from the forbidden tree. They may have wondered why God told them not to eat the fruit. They may have thought, “What would happen if I eat the fruit?” They may have asked each other, “Why can’t we eat the fruit? Why would God deny us that one tree?”

But whatever they wondered, they didn’t touch the tree or its mysterious fruit.

SATAN TEMPTS EVE

But eventually, one day something happened. Satan, in the form of a Serpent, came to Eve.

Genesis 3:1 says, *Now the serpent was more subtil 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?*

Now, you know that if a snake slithered up to most girls today, they would run away screaming. But back then, the Serpent was a beautiful creature. It walked upright on legs. Eve wasn’t afraid of it.

Satan knew all about Adam and Eve. He also knew all about the fact that God had told them not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Satan knew God had given Adam and Eve a free will. That means they could choose what they wanted to do. He knew they could decide what they would do with their days. They could choose how they would spend their time. They could choose whether or not they would obey God’s rules.

EVE LISTENS TO THE WRONG VOICE

Eve listened to the Serpent as he spoke to her. He began to tell her that God was wrong when He told them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:2-5 says, *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

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.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

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.

Satan spoke to Eve, and she listened to him. Let me tell you, Satan was definitely the wrong one to whom Eve should listen. He hated God. He only wanted to destroy all that God had made. Satan did not care about Eve. He wasn't concerned about what happened to her. He wasn't distressed that she was being denied the fruit from that one tree. Satan only wanted to hurt God.

Eve should never have listened to Satan in the first place. As soon as he planted the idea of disobeying God and doubting what God had said, she should have remembered that God only wanted the best for her. She should have known God didn't want her to eat the forbidden fruit for a very good reason.

You see, God knew the terrible consequences of what would happen if they did eat the fruit.

But God allowed Eve to make a choice. He didn't force her to obey what He had commanded.

Eve would have made a wise choice if she had been content with all that God had provided for her. She had plenty of wonderful fruit that was allowed to her. She should have listened to God.

Unfortunately for us all, Eve listened to Satan. When Satan tempted and teased her with the forbidden fruit, she began to doubt God. She began to want something she should never have touched.

Genesis 3:6 says, *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.*

FORBIDDEN FRUIT TODAY

One of these days, like Eve, you are going to come across some forbidden fruit. What is forbidden fruit?

The Bible tells us of many kinds of "forbidden fruits" that we should not touch, such as lying, stealing, murder, envy, impure thoughts and actions. All of these are things we should not have in our lives. They are things that God has said are forbidden to us. They are all things we should resist with all our might!

Why? Why does God say some things are off limits? Is God trying to boss us around? Does God want to spoil our fun? Is God just mean?

No. God tells us what to do and what not to do, because He knows what is best for us. He also knows the terrible price we will have to pay if we disobey God and His Word.

James 1:13-15 tells us, *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Everyone is tempted to sin, but God can help you to resist sin.

A TERRIBLE LOSS

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They ate the forbidden fruit. As a result their lives were completely changed. They no longer were allowed to live in the beautiful Garden of Eden. They were thrown out of the garden. They had to work hard to raise food and make a living.

But the worse thing that happened as a result of Adam and Eve's sin is that they no longer had fellowship with God. Before, God would come to walk and to talk with them daily in the garden. But that would never happen again. Their sin separated them from the one who loved them the most.

God told them in the very beginning that, if they ate from the forbidden fruit, they would die that very day. Forbidden fruit was deadly for them. What a terrible price they paid because they did not resist sin!

FORBIDDEN FRUIT IS DEADLY

Forbidden fruit is the same for you. If you make the choice to do the things that a Christian should not do, then you will pay the price of sin. You will have spiritual death and you will be separated from the One who loves you most - God. God hates sin, and sin must be punished. But God gives you a free will. God lets you decide whether you will obey Him, or if you will disobey Him.

Adam and Eve did not get much of a chance to enjoy the forbidden fruit. It only took one bite. Immediately they regretted it. But they couldn't undo what they had done.

The same is true for you. Forbidden fruit looks so good, but you won't enjoy it for long. You will never be able to undo your sin. And what a terrible price you will pay.

WHOSE VOICE WILL YOU LISTEN TO?

So who will you listen to in your life? What choice will you make? Will you resist sin?

If you plan to obey God, you need to make up your mind right now to listen to God and to ignore Satan when he comes to tempt and tease you.

The Bible tells us it is normal to face the temptation to sin. It also says that with each temptation that comes your way, God gives you a way to resist that sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 says, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

So many times, God's voice is a still, small whisper, while Satan shouts at us to listen to him. All around you, Satan is tempting you to taste forbidden fruit. The TV tells and shows you all sorts of ungodly things. Your friends may tempt you to do things you shouldn't do. Worldly music can tease you to be like the world.

Satan will use everything he can to get you to disobey God. Satan still hates God, and he doesn't care one little bit about what's best for you. All Satan wants is to destroy your life and your testimony.

James 4:7 says, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

You can choose to resist Satan and you can choose to listen to God. God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. You need to spend time reading the Bible to see what God wants you to do.

You can also choose to be content with all the blessings that God has given to you. Every day God guides us. He provides for us. Every day God loves us. And some day we will get to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

The more you choose to be close to God and to obey Him, the easier it will be to resist Satan's temptations!

Maybe you are a Christian, but you have listened to Satan. You have tasted some of his forbidden fruits. God is ready to forgive you. You just need to pray and ask His forgiveness. Then ask Him to help you to resist Satan's temptations every day.

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin. You aren't even a Christian, yet. Would you like to be? We can show you how.

God knows that we are all born sinners and that there is nothing we can do to take away our own sin, that is why He sent Jesus Christ to this earth to die for our sins. Jesus took your sins on Himself when He died on the cross. He did it because He loves you. All you need to do is realize you are a sinner and you can not save yourself. Then you need to ask Jesus to take away your sin and come into your life. We can show you how to do that today.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you this week to spend time remembering that God loves you and wants only what is best for you. Remember that forbidden fruits are not always as sweet as they seem. In fact, they may turn out to be quite bitter.

Make wise choices. Listen to God's voice and learn to be content with what God places into your life. Be content to not desire what God places out of your reach. God will give you the ability to resist the sins that Satan brings into your life. If you ask God to be with you and help you, you can resist sin!

And when you do sin, don't be quick to go to God and ask Him to forgive you. That way you can stay close to Him.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to resist sin.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Name something the Bible calls a "Forbidden Fruit."
2. What animal allowed Satan to use him in the Garden of Eden?
3. From how many trees did God forbid Adam and Eve to eat?
4. What was the name of the tree from which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat?
5. Quote today's Bible memory verse.
6. What did God say would happen if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
7. What other things happened to Adam and Eve after they sinned?
8. How does God speak to people today?
9. How can people speak to God today?
10. Name a way that Satan will tempt you to eat "Forbidden Fruit."

Godly to Resist Sin



But know that the LORD hath set apart
him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a

God helps me to be godly.

- Adam
- Choice
- Content
- Death
- Eden
- Eve
- Evil
- Forbidden
- Fruit
- Garden
- Good
- knowledge
- Life
- Obey
- Satan
- Serpent
- Sin
- Tempted
- Tree
- Whisper

E	G	D	E	L	W	O	N	K	G	J	H	U	B	I
A	A	G	V	V	H	S	E	D	I	L	B	F	S	G
A	R	S	E	M	I	Z	D	F	N	P	Z	G	G	R
D	D	S	E	M	S	L	D	L	I	S	N	U	K	C
D	E	A	T	H	P	M	I	O	S	L	I	O	A	K
E	N	T	M	I	E	N	B	E	O	D	M	U	C	Q
P	I	A	P	V	R	E	R	K	E	G	E	H	X	B
U	Q	N	E	M	Y	P	O	T	C	R	O	L	I	G
X	J	D	W	S	E	P	F	R	U	I	T	R	A	Z
R	X	C	T	N	E	T	N	O	C	X	B	I	R	B
D	A	Q	T	U	R	S	M	E	K	E	Q	Y	V	I
S	N	F	L	K	U	Z	B	J	D	L	A	Q	E	L
R	H	N	U	J	J	E	O	Y	W	E	K	Q	M	S

LESSON 35

A GODLY CHILD
GODLY TO KNOW TRUTH

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-10

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes it is hard to know who to believe in life. On TV, every single commercial claims that their product is the very best or the biggest. Sometimes the burger commercials show a huge, juicy burger that looks so good, but when you actually order one, it's not so huge and doesn't taste so great.

Satan is the Father of all lies. He started lying a long time ago, and he hasn't stopped to this day. He will tell you every kind of lie to try to get you to live and act in an ungodly way. You need to develop a sort of lie-detector, so you will be able to know right away when you are confronted by one of Satan's lies.

God will help you to recognize Satan's lies if you ask Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONGS

PUPPET SKIT

It's the Truth

SET UP

Bring Andy the puppet.

SKIT

Teacher: (To children) Do you remember Andy? Today we are going to talk to Andy again. (Get Andy out.)

Andy: Hey, I'm back. You said I was going to get to come back to help you tell stories and other things to the kids, but I sure began to wonder.

Teacher: What do you mean, Andy?

Andy: Well, you took me home - a long, long time ago - and you put me away in my box.

Teacher: That's true. I thought you'd feel more at home in your warm, cozy box.

Andy: Oh, I do. That's not the problem.

Teacher: So what's wrong?

Andy: I thought you lied to me.

Teacher: Lied to you? What do you mean?

Andy: I thought you were never going to bring me back to church like you said.

Teacher: I'm sorry, Andy. Sometimes it will be several weeks between visits here to church. But as you can see, I certainly would never lie to you.

Andy: How do I know you wouldn't lie to me?

Teacher: Andy, you can trust me to tell you the truth, because I am your owner. I bought you for a purpose. I only want what's best for you. But you know, it is hard sometimes to know who to trust and who not to trust. We all have that problem.

Andy: How can I know who to trust?

Teacher: There are a couple of ways. First examine the person's character.

Andy: Their what?

Teacher: Character. That means how they act and what they are like on the inside. A person with good character is honest. They do and say good things. A person with bad character can't be trusted.

Andy: What's another way?

Teacher: Examine a person's intent.

Andy: Which means?

Teacher: Find out what the person wants to do and to accomplish. For example, look at God and Satan. Satan can't ever be trusted. He only intends evil to others. But God can always be trusted. He always intends good for us.

Andy: How do you know that?

Teacher: Well, the Bible tells us Satan can't be trusted at all. If we examine his character and his intent, we see that he is always up to no good. He wants you to think he is telling you the truth, but actually, he is like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour. He lies, cheats, and tricks people, because he wants to destroy them.

Andy: He's pretty bad.

Teacher: He sure is. On the other hand, the Bible tells us that God's character and intent is only pure and holy and good. If we are Christians, then God is our creator and owner, and He wants only the best for us.

Andy: Can we trust the Bible?

Teacher: We sure can. The Bible always tells us the truth.

Andy: Then God is the one you should trust.

Teacher: That's right Andy. And remember, no matter how long I leave you in your box, you can be sure I'll get you out to use you again.

Andy: That's good to know, because sometimes that box sure STINKS!

Teacher: Say good-bye, Andy.

Andy: Good-bye Andy!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3b

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-10

LESSON

WHO TOLD THE TRUTH?

In Genesis 2:17, God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was a direct command from God to them.

Genesis 2:16-17 says, *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Satan came to Eve and began to tell her lies. He told her that what God had said was wrong!

Genesis 3:1-5 says, *Now the serpent was more subtil 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?*

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

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.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

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.

Satan told Eve, “ye shall not surely die.” Satan told Eve, if she ate the fruit, she would be just like God and that was why God didn’t want her to eat the fruit.

Who told the truth? Did Adam and Eve die on the very day they ate the fruit?

Hmmm? Well, no, you say. They lived and had children, and eventually they died. But not that very day.

Was Satan telling the truth? Was God lying?

No. God told the truth. What God said is exactly what happened. On the day they ate the fruit, they died. They died in not just one way, but in two ways.

GOD TOLD THE TRUTH!

The first way they died was on that day when they began their physical death process. Their bodies began to wear out. Up until then they had been perfect. Their bodies were not wearing out and dying. But sin caused the process of physical death and destruction to begin.

In Genesis 3:19 God told Adam and Eve after they had sinned that they would begin to die. It says, *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

But more importantly, on that very day they died Spiritually. That very day, when God came to have fellowship with Adam and Eve, they were hiding from God. They didn’t want to talk to Him. They didn’t even want to see Him.

It is kind of like when you disobey your mom or dad. You don’t want to look them in the eye. In fact, you probably feel like hiding. You feel guilty. You may be afraid of being punished. You certainly don’t feel close to them.

It was that way with Adam and Eve. They had been close to God. Every day, God would come to the garden. They would walk and talk together. But after they sinned, they felt different. Now Adam and Eve hid from God. They felt guilty. They were ashamed of themselves, and they didn't want to see God. They wished he would go away.

Genesis 3:9-10 says, *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

God called to them as they hid. Finally they came out. God saw that they had attempted to cover themselves with leaves they sewed together. They couldn't look God in the eye. They had acted in an ungodly manner and they knew it.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

God is Spiritual life. Adam and Eve once had Spiritual life, because they had a close, loving relationship with God. But now everything had changed. They no longer felt close to God. In fact, they no longer wanted to be around God.

The very day they ate the fruit, the very day they disobeyed God, they died Spiritually. They were separated from God and from Spiritual life. That very day, they died Spiritually.

God had told them the truth. They did die the very day that they ate the fruit.

How sad for Adam and Eve to listen to Satan's lies, instead of believing God who had created them, who provided for them, who spent time with them, and who dearly loved them.

They chose to listen to the wrong one, didn't they? They chose to listen to lies instead of the truth. They chose to do an ungodly thing.

SATAN'S LIE

Satan lied to Eve. He knew what God meant when He said that Adam and Eve would die. Satan knew that Adam and Eve would die Spiritually. Satan meant them harm. He wanted them to disobey God. He wanted them to die.

Why did it matter to Satan? Why did he go tempt Eve? Because Satan hates God, and he wants to destroy everything that God loves.

Before the earth was created, the Bible tells us that Satan was a beautiful angel. He was powerful and beautiful. He became very proud of himself, and he foolishly thought that he could overthrow God and take over. He wanted to become God.

Satan failed then. But from that time on, Satan has never stopped trying to destroy God. When Satan saw that God had created a world, he decided to take over. Because Adam and Eve listened to him, the world has never been the same. The Bible calls Satan the prince of this world. It also calls him the father of lies.

John 8:44 says, *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Because Satan rules the world, this earth is a pretty messed up place. That is why there is sickness and death and misery. It is all Satan's fault. It is all caused by sin.

But Satan will not defeat God. Satan is not as smart as God. He's not as powerful as God. Someday, Satan will be sent away by God to spend all eternity in Hell.

Satan's goal is to take as many people with him to Hell, as possible. But God has a plan too!

GOD'S TRUTH

God wants you and everyone who will listen to His truth, instead of Satan's lies, to spend eternity in Heaven. That is why Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to earth. He came to die on the cross to take your sin and my sin on Himself.

Jesus shed His blood to take away our sin.

Romans 3:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Adam and Eve's sin brought us death, but Jesus can bring us eternal life.

Jesus died to pay the punishment of sin. He paid the wages or payment for sin so you could spend eternity in Heaven. He died so you could live a godly life.

Don't listen to Satan's lies. He loves to tell you lies. He loves to see you disobey God.

Satan will tell you that it is no fun to follow God. Satan will tell you that if you live for God and live in a godly way that it will ruin all your plans. But Satan is a liar, and he is lying when he tells you those things.

OUR LIE-DETECTOR

God cannot lie.

Numbers 23:19a says, *God is not a man that he should lie.*

The Bible is God's Word. The Bible says in John 8:32, *And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*

God's Word is our lie detector. If we read and study it, we'll know the difference between the truth and Satan's lies.

There is freedom and life in the truth from God. The truth is: God loves you; Jesus died for you; and God only wants what is best for you.

Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin so that you can spend eternity in Heaven? You can do that today.

Maybe you are already a Christian but you have been finding yourself listening to Satan's lies. Today you can start listening to the truth of God. Today you can start living a godly life.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you this week to say, "I will not listen to Satan's lies. Instead, I will read God's Word to see what God has to say to me. I will listen to the truth of the Bible. I will live in a godly way."

Then every day, read your Bible and ask God to help you to shut out the devil's lies and to open your ears and eyes to God's truth. Ask God to help you to be a godly child.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to always know His truth and to be a godly child.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. From what tree did God tell Adam and Eve not to eat?
2. What did God say would happen if they did eat the fruit?
3. Who did Satan say Eve would be just like if she ate the fruit?
4. What animal did Satan use when he spoke to Eve?
5. What lie did Satan tell to Eve?
6. How did Adam and Eve feel about God after they ate the fruit?
7. Why did Satan lie to Eve?
8. Quote today's Bible verse.
9. Can God tell lies?
10. Where can you go to always find truth?

Godly to Know Truth



But know that the LORD hath set apart
him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a

God helps me to be godly.

Y	T	E	B	E	S	.	E	S	U	Y	A	H	R	E	S	A	E
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
S	G	L	L	H	O	L	Y	A	D	N	D	L	S	O	I	L	.
3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

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LESSON 36

A GODLY CHILD
GODLY TO AVOID SIN

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 3:8-23

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Who got hurt when Adam and Eve sinned? That's a big question and the answer might surprise you.

Today we are going to be talking about what happens when you sin or when someone around you sins. Who does it hurt? Is it any big deal?

A child who is godly will ask God to help them avoid sin. Their sin hurts them. It hurts those around them. And above all, it hurts God.

Stayed tuned and we'll answer those and other important questions. But first, let's sing.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONGS

OBJECT LESSON IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

Obtain Flash card or Bring in a piece of pottery.

This is a beautiful (cup, bowl, dish). It is one of a kind.

At home I have another whole set of dishes that all look identical to each other. You could not tell them apart. That is because they were made by machines in a factory. They were mass produced. But this piece of pottery is one of a kind. There may be other pieces that look similar, but no other piece is exactly like it.

When a potter makes pottery, he can make many bowls or cups that are almost identical to each other, but no two are exactly the same. That is because they are all unique. This piece of pottery here is unique. It is the only one exactly like it on earth. It is special. (Show flash card)

This is made of clay. A potter took a lump of clay. He placed it on the wheel and made that lump into this.

Then the potter put this piece and others he made into a furnace called a Kiln. The pottery went through extreme heat so it would fuse together to be made into a useful vessel.

This piece came out of the kiln looking beautiful. But did you know that if this piece had an air pocket, a flaw in the pottery, that the potter could not see, something entirely different would have resulted?

As the kiln heated up, the air pocket would have built up steam. The steam would have eventually caused the piece to explode. The piece would blow apart causing every other piece of pottery around it also to be destroyed.

How sad that would be. All of the pieces destroyed because of a flaw in one piece in the kiln. All of the potter's time and effort blown to pieces!

People are like that. God has something special that He wants to make of our lives. So God goes to work and carefully molds and shapes each life.

Like the clay, each one of us will have to go through the furnace of trials and testings in life. No one is exempt from problems. We all have hard times.

It can be hot and painful when problems are in your life but God, the Master Potter is watching. He won't let you go through more heat than you can stand. And when you come out of those trials, you are more beautiful and useful to God than before.

But some Christians have a flaw in their Christian life. When the fire gets hot, they don't say, "God, I know You know what is best for me." Instead they say, " God, You don't love me. If You loved me this wouldn't be happening. I don't love You anymore, God." They blow apart in the heat and they often destroy those around them. When sin comes into their life, they blow apart in the hard times.

Just like the pottery with an air pocket blows apart in the heat, sin will destroy your life and it can also hurt and destroy everyone around you. Like it or not, everyone around you is affected by your sin!

But it doesn't have to be that way. You can determine right now to trust God and act in a godly manner, even when the furnace of life heats up and times get difficult.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself. Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 3:8-23

LESSON

GOD CALLS; ADAM AND EVE HIDE

“Adam! Eve! Come talk with me!” God called to Adam and Eve. Where were they? God went to the garden to have His daily time of talking with them, but they were nowhere to be found.

They weren't tending to the animals; they weren't pruning the trees or picking fruit. What they were doing was hiding!

Genesis 3:8-9 says, *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.*

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

God called to them. Finally, they slunk out with their heads hung low and their eyes on the ground. They didn't want to look at God. They didn't want God to look at them. They knew they were naked, and their feeble attempts to sew together a few fig leaves to cover their bodies was not working very well. They felt guilty and ashamed.

Genesis 3:10-11 says, *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

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?

Guilt and shame were two feelings that Adam and Eve had never experienced before. Never before had they wanted to avoid God. Never before had they dreaded the time when God would come to talk with them. Never before had they sinned!

Now, Eve wished she had never listened to that old liar, Satan. He had promised her that they would be like God, knowing good and evil. But this did not feel like being God. This felt terrible!

Of course, Satan had lied. They did know the difference between good and evil, but they were less like God than they had ever been. Before, they had enjoyed fellowship with God. They enjoyed being with God. But now, they had done evil. They knew they had done a terrible thing.

Now they feared God. They knew they would have to pay the price for their disobedience. It must have been a horrible thing to stand before God now.

PASS THE BLAME

As soon as God began to question Adam and Eve about what had happened, they began to try to blame each other. They didn't want to take responsibility for what they had done. That's not a very godly character trait is it?

Genesis 3:12-13 says, *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

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.

Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the Serpent. If Eve had refused to listen to the serpent, they would not have been in such a terrible position. If Adam had refused to eat the fruit he would not have been guilty. But they both sinned no matter how much they pointed their fingers at each other.

Have you ever passed the blame on to someone else when you knew it was really your sin that got you into trouble? God wants you to be honest enough to take responsibility for the things you say and do. Taking responsibility is a godly character trait, even if it is hard to do!

SIN'S PUNISHMENT

First, God did put a curse on the serpent who allowed Satan to use him. He could no longer walk upright or be beautiful. Instead, he would crawl on his belly, and others would dread and fear him.

Genesis 3:14 says, *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.*

Then God told Adam and Eve that life for them would be drastically different. They would have to leave the garden for fear that they would eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in their sinful condition. Also they would have to work hard to raise food. No longer would they live in the perfect Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:16-19 says, *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Then God took a lamb, one that they had named and loved as a pet. God killed the lamb so He could use the skin to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness. How it must have broken their hearts to know that the lamb had to die because of what they had done.

Then God drove them out of Eden. He was afraid that if they stayed in the garden they would eat from the Tree of Life and live forever in their sinful condition. So God sent them out of the garden, then God left them. Their close friendship was broken. How sad for them; how sad for God. Never again would they have the same relationship with God that they had once known.

Genesis 3:21-23 says, *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

SIN HURTS EVERYONE

Adam and Eve's sin hurt them. It hurt the lamb. It hurt God. And it even hurt you and me.

Really? Do I mean that what Adam and Eve did when they sinned way back in the Garden of Eden has something to do with you and me? Yes!

Adam was the head of the human race. We are all descendents of Adam. Because of Adam's sin, everyone born since then has been born in sin. You and I were already sinners when we took our first breath. You and I were born separated from fellowship with God.

That is what sin does to us all. Just as Adam and Eve had to pay a terrible price for their sin, you will also have to pay a terrible price for your sin if you allow it into your life.

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. In that case, you will have to pay for your own sin by spending eternity in Hell. Maybe you are a Christian, but sin still can harm you and those around you. When you do ungodly things, your sins will do damage to you and your testimony. It will hurt those around you. Sin always ends in a bad way!

A LAMB DIED FOR YOU

But you know, when God killed that first lamb to cover Adam and Eve's sin, that was a picture of what God did for you and me.

Jesus is called the perfect Lamb of God. He came to earth to die on the cross. He shed His blood, just like the first lamb, but Jesus' blood does not just cover our sin. Jesus' blood can completely take away our sin!

God knew we needed to have our sin taken away. We could not take away our own sin. But Jesus could take away our sin.

The Bible says in II Peter 2:24, *Who his own self (Jesus) bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.*

You may never have asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life, but you can. It is not too late. You can do it today. In just a little bit, I will give you a chance to speak to someone about doing that.

Maybe you have accepted Jesus Christ, and you are a Christian. But did you know that you still sin? Of course you know that, because every day you struggle against sin. Every single day I struggle against sin.

SIN HURTS YOU

Sin will affect every area of your life. It can hurt you mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But if you ask God to help you to live a godly life and to display godly characteristics in all you say and do, then you can grow to be more and more pleasing to God each day.

SIN HURTS OTHERS

Not only does sin hurt you, it also hurts those around you. Even though they may be innocent of any wrong doing, it can still hurt them.

Suppose you start some gossip about someone at school. That lie can hurt the other person's reputation, even if they are innocent.

Every day, on the news and in the papers, we read about how someone's sin has hurt those around them: like drunk drivers who hit other cars, or the thief who broke into someone's house. Sinful actions cause great harm.

SIN HURTS GOD

But more than anything, sin especially hurts God. God never intended for us to live in a world filled with hatred and wickedness. God created us to be companions for Him. He wants to be close to us.

I am sure God's heart is broken to see so many people who push Him away refusing His love. How sad He must be to see all those who prefer to live in sin.

You don't have to be controlled by sin. You have a choice. Like Adam and Eve, you can choose to ignore God by doing what you want to do and you can make the wise choice to obey God's Word. You can choose to love God. You can choose to be a godly child.

What is your choice? If you have never asked Jesus into your life, would you like to do that today? If you are already a Christian, are you willing to commit all that you say and do to God?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week, I challenge you to think carefully about your life. First, are you a child of God? If you are, do you love God and want to please Him in everything you do? Do you talk and act in a godly manner?

You will have many decisions to make this week as temptations to sin come into your life. Think carefully about the choices you make, because sin hurts you and everyone around you. Instead of letting sin harm you and others, choose to be godly.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to avoid sin and live a godly life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What price did the serpent pay for allowing Satan to use him?
2. What price did Adam and Eve pay for their sin?
3. Who was hurt by Adam and Eve's sin?
4. What were Adam and Eve doing when God came to speak to them?
5. What did God have to do to cover Adam and Eve?
6. From what tree was God afraid they might eat, if He left them in the garden?
7. Quote today's Bible verse.
8. Who is called the Lamb of God?
9. Does Jesus' blood cover or take away sin?
10. Name a way that sin hurts you and others around you.

Godly to Avoid Sin

But know that the LORD hath set apart
him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a



God helps me to be godly.

Sin Hurts Everyone

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

How many new words can you make from the title of today's lesson:
Sin Hurts Everyone?

LESSON 37

A GODLY CHILD
GODLY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 3:22-24

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

When you let sin control your life, you don't want to be close to God. You are not godly. But if you let God control your life and you say no to sin, then you can have a close, loving relationship with God. When you have a close relationship with God, then it is much easier to be a godly child.

You can daily walk and talk with God. Of course, you can't see God like you can see me, but God is very real, and you can have a real relationship with Him, if you want. Today we will talk about how to walk and talk with God.

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

QUIZ TEAM

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy sat on the cold cement steps leading down to the church basement. Quiz practice for the Junior Varsity team was held down there and she was going over her verses one last time before she headed down.

"Hey," called Dona. "Come on. Time to start."

Wendy got up and snapped her Bible closed. She had read and reread the chapter so many times. She knew almost every word of Mark chapter eight by heart. That was the chapter that would be quizzed on at the next quiz meet. (Show Flash Card)

Every Monday night Wendy would go home after school with her friend, Dona. Dona lived across from the school instead of out in the country like Wendy did. Dona's mom was one of the J.V. quiz team leaders and she opened her home to any of the kids on the team that wanted to come for dinner and ride to quiz practice instead of going all the way home first. Everyone loved to go there for dinner on quiz night.

Several of the girls would gather and do homework, talk, eat tube steaks, (hot dogs,) and if there was a moment or two, they would even drill each other on their quiz verses. Then off to quiz practice they would go.

Practice was always a jumble of sound and fury. The kids joked around, teased each other, and generally goofed off while the quiz leaders did their best to drill the answers into their quizzers' heads.

But finally, the closer it got to quiz night, the kids would settle down and get down to business. It really was serious stuff. Quiz teams from all across the state of Michigan would travel to the host church to compete. Most took the quizzing very seriously and wanted to do their best.

So did the team at York Baptist, even if they did goof off a bit. And this month, Wendy had particularly made up her mind to do a good job. She had Mark chapter eight down cold! She had taken care to get every little word in its proper place. One word in the wrong order could cost the team valuable points.

Wendy was very shy, especially around people she didn't know. She enjoyed quiz team as far as the studying and practicing went, but when she got in front of a church full of strange people, she just about froze. She just couldn't bring herself to speak out. The idea of getting an answer wrong in front of hundreds of people was frightening. So, often she was slow to jump up, even when she knew the answer.

But this time she vowed to herself it would be different. Wendy was determined to overcome her shyness. Wendy had decided to quiz out. That meant she would answer three questions in a row correctly. Then she would be frozen for the rest of the round. She was going to do the job for the team!

So she studied like crazy. At home she spent a portion of every day reading the chapter. She memorized the most important verses and soon found that she could say almost the entire chapter by heart.

Finally the big day came and the team gathered to ride over to the host church. Wendy was excited. She had a big lump in her throat and a funny feeling in the pit of her stomach. But she was determined not to freeze up. This time she would show the coaches that she could come through.

The quiz started with Wendy sitting on the pew watching her team mates. She wasn't going to be a starter, but she was confident the coaches would know how well she knew the material and would send her in soon.

The night wore on and the York Baptist team was doing well. But so was the other team. The score was close and she knew that tonight was her time to make a difference.

But when she asked to be put in, the coach just shook her head and sent one of the other team members in. The quiz ended close, but the other team won.

Boy, was Wendy angry. She didn't say much on the trip home. She couldn't understand why the coach hadn't given her a chance. All that study for nothing! What a waste of time!

Years later when Wendy looked back to that day, she realized that the coaches probably didn't put her in for their own reasons. But the most important thing she realized was that she had not studied in vain. It had not been a waste of time. It was not for nothing.

Time after time the words of those Bible verses that she had memorized came back to give her guidance and strength. How valuable those verses were to her life! They helped her to live a more godly life.

When she was tempted to give up in her Christian life, Mark 8:34 came to mind. *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.*

When she was tempted to envy her unsaved friends because they could listen to music she was forbidden to listen to and could date boys she knew she shouldn't date, or could do things she knew Christians shouldn't do, then Mark 8:36 would come to her thoughts. *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

Wendy was not the hero of the day at that quiz meet, but she learned that her reward was having hidden away God's Word in her heart so that it could constantly help and teach her.

God's Word was constantly with her and so was God. Every day God helped her to face trials and temptations. How important it is to have the presence of God with each one of us through His Word and through the Holy Spirit!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 3:22-24

LESSON

EDEN WAS A PARADISE

Close your eyes for a minute. Try to picture in your mind what the Garden of Eden must have looked like when God first created it.

Genesis 2:8-9 says, *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.

Look around with your imagination. Can you picture the thick, green grass? Notice the beautiful flowers in every color imaginable. Feel the warm, gentle breeze. The trees are tall, and their branches are bending low with ripe, juicy, sweet fruits of every kind. Above the sky is a beautiful light blue. The sun is shining as it gives light and warmth.

Oh, and also notice the animals wandering between the trees, and the birds singing in the branches of each tree. Aren't they beautiful and amazing?

Okay, open your eyes. Could you imagine how beautiful Eden must have been? God planted every good fruit and vegetable for Adam and Eve to eat. He created every type of flower and bush that was pleasant to the eye. Surrounding Adam and Eve was total peace and beauty. What an amazing paradise! Wouldn't that be a wonderful place to live? It would!

While you were picturing Eden, did you notice something strange? I did. I didn't see a single weed in the grass. The roses had no thorns. And the animals all got along in peace and harmony. There was a lion right next to a dog, and the dog wasn't afraid of the lion. A wolf sat next to a lamb, and not once did it snarl or bite at the lamb.

Why was that? You see, God created a perfect world. Adam and Eve were perfect people. Everything in Eden was perfect. It wasn't hard work to care for the garden or animals. They didn't have to water the grass, or trees, or flowers. The Bible tells us that the earth was watered automatically by a mist that came up from the ground each morning. It was like a built in sprinkler system.

It must have been fun for Adam and Eve to live in Eden. It must have been like visiting the zoo or a day at Disney - only better, much better! And they got to live there every day, all day long!

It's really hard to imagine such a wonderful paradise, because we have never lived in a true paradise. No matter how pretty your home and lawns are, they still need lots of work to keep them looking good. Every week in the summer, our lawns need mowing. Now and then, the flowers need to be weeded. Weeds constantly need pulling. We must water the lawn and flowers, if it hasn't rained or they will die.

In Eden the animals got along in perfect harmony. Now, if you go to a zoo, the animals have to be kept in separate cages to protect them from each other and to keep them at a safe distance from the people. It isn't safe to get near many of the animals that live there.

No longer can you put a lamb with a wolf or a dog with a lion. One of them wouldn't last long. In fact, the other would think that they were being served lunch! We certainly don't live in the Garden of Eden, do we?

SIN DESTROYED PARADISE

So what happened to paradise? Simple. Adam and Eve sinned. Paradise was lost to them. Paradise was lost for everyone else, too, because of their sin. Sin changed Adam and Eve and it changed the whole world. And the change was not for the better. Sin caused everything to begin to die and wear out.

Oh, how much Adam and Eve lost. They just could not resist the one fruit that God had asked them not to eat. Everything else was freely given to them, but the one tree that was off limits was too big of a temptation.

So what exactly did Adam and Eve lose?

They lost their paradise and the wonderful life that they enjoyed there. From that time on, they had to work hard to even grow enough food to eat. They had to plant seeds, pull weeds, water, wait for the food to grow, and then, harvest the food.

They lost their pets. They had to worry about all those animals that had once been their own personal pets. No longer were all the animals friendly. They had to build shelter to protect themselves from the wild animals - Lions and tigers and bears! Oh, my!

Genesis 3:22 says, *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.*

When Adam and Eve had gone from the garden, God placed Cherubims there with big, flaming swords to keep them out. Never again would they be allowed to enter the beautiful garden. How sad that must have been!

Genesis 3:23-24 says, *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

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.

THE BIGGEST LOSS

But the biggest loss that they experienced was the loss of their fellowship with God.

How they must have missed the walks and talks with God. They used to be close with God and to spend time together. How it must have made them sad to think of how they had hurt their Creator and Friend.

Did you know that because of Adam and Eve's sin, we also have lost fellowship with God? Adam was the head of the human race, so we were born in sin. We were born separated from God.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Because we are all sinners, we are not close to God. We are separated from God. Instead of God being our loving Father and Friend, He is our righteous Judge. We are sinners, and God must judge sin.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

PARADISE CAN BE RESTORED

But there is good news! Paradise can be restored to you. You can have fellowship with God. You can have a personal walk and talk with God.

How? By having your sin forgiven. Jesus Christ died on Calvary exactly for that reason. He died to take your sin away. If you ask Jesus to forgive you, He will. Then Paradise is restored to you.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

"Wait one minute!" you say. "This world I live in doesn't look like Paradise to me." And you would be right. Just becoming a Christian doesn't mean you will live in a perfect world. This earth is no longer perfect. The paradise you regain will not be here on earth.

Here on earth, sin is still all around. But the Holy Spirit of God comes to live in your heart. Because of that, you can walk and talk daily with God, just like Adam and Eve did before they sinned. God talks to you through the Bible, and you can talk to God through prayer. The Holy Spirit will help you to live and act in a godly way. He will help you to be close to God.

Sometimes God seems far away. It can be hard to feel close to God when we can't see or hear Him. But the Bible tells us that God loves us and wants us to love Him. He wants us to come boldly into His presence.

If you were to go to Washington D.C. to visit the White House, do you think the President would come out to see you if you asked? Not unless it's an election year, and probably not even then. He would be too busy and too important to see an ordinary person. God is very important, but He is never too busy for you. In fact, one of His greatest desires is to spend time with you. You are extremely important to God.

Do you know the best thing? After you become a Christian, then when you die or when Christ returns, you can go to Heaven which is a perfect paradise - better than Eden. There, you will never again be tempted to sin. There, you will never be sad again. There, you will never again have pain. Heaven is perfect; and best of all, you will be in God's presence forever.

In the Garden of Eden, Paradise was lost. But, because Jesus died for you, Paradise can be restored. How could you pass up such a wonderful offer? How can you pass up the love of such a wonderful God? Make sure you don't!

Today, if you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, would you like to? You can.

Maybe you are already saved, but you don't spend time daily walking and talking with God. You don't live in a godly way. You need to. Today you can tell God that you will do your best to spend time daily with Him and to live in such a way that He will be pleased with your life.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week, I challenge you to spend time daily taking advantage of the fact that you can walk and talk with God. It is really amazing that the King of Kings wants to spend time with you. He will always make time for you. He will help you to want to be holy and godly. In fact, the closer you are to God, the more like Him you will become.

Set aside a time each day when you can be alone. Maybe it is in the morning before you go to school or maybe in the evening just before bed. Pick a book of the Bible to read. Start in the book of John. Read a chapter or several verses. Then talk to God. Tell him you love Him. Tell Him about your life and your concerns. Talk to Him. He wants to hear from you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be close to Him so you can live a godly life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the name of the garden where Adam and Eve lived?
2. What was unusual about the garden before they sinned?
3. How was the earth watered?
4. What did Adam and Eve lose?
5. What did Adam and Eve have to worry about after they left Eden?
6. What was Adam and Eve's biggest loss when they sinned?
7. Quote today's Bible verse.
8. How can you regain paradise?
9. When you get saved, is it paradise on earth?
10. Where will there be a perfect paradise once again?

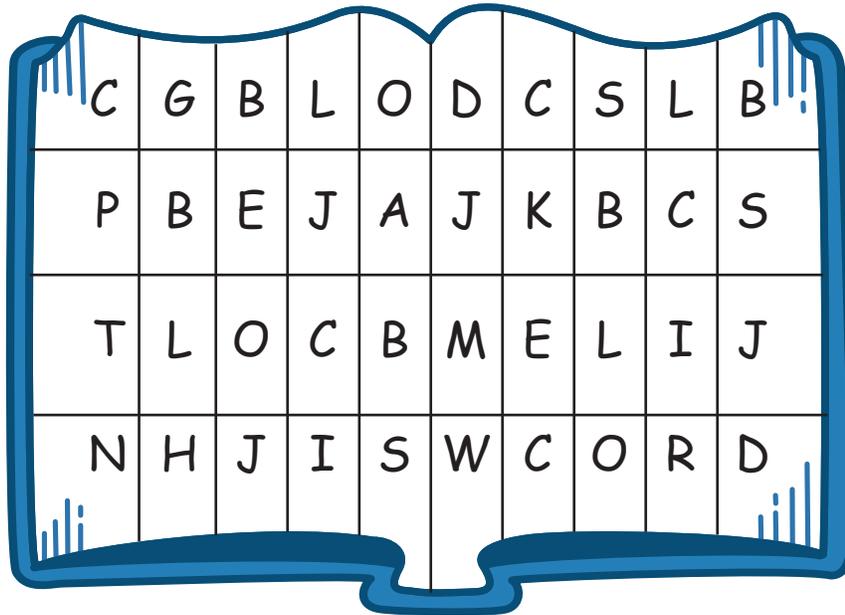
Godly in God's Presence



But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.

Psalm 4:3a

God helps me to be godly.



1. Color all the squares with letters that occur 4 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.

LESSON 38

A GODLY CHILD
PRODUCING GODLY FRUIT

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 4:1-5

CHARACTER TRAIT

God helps me to be godly.

MEMORY VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that your heart and life is a garden that grows fruit? There is good fruit and there is bad fruit. Good fruit brings honor and glory to God, but bad fruit can make your life stink to God and to everyone around you.

Everyday you produce fruit. What kind of fruit is growing in the garden of your life? Is it godly fruit?

Today's Life Lesson is: God helps me to be godly.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

ZACH'S TEST

Obtain Flash Card

Zach kicked at the stones at his feet. He was waiting for Justin to come out so they could head out for the big ball game. They were playing a rival team that always seemed to beat them.

Zach was feeling pretty discouraged. But it wasn't about the game.

"Let's go," Justin called as he raced out the front door. Then he stopped cold. The look on Zach's face told him something was wrong.

"What's up?" Justin questioned. "You look upset."

"I am," Zach admitted. "It's about Gregg. You know I've been witnessing to him ever since we met. Well, last night I shared the gospel with him, but he didn't get saved. What did I do wrong?"

Justin hoped that he would say the right thing to Zach. Ever since Zach had gotten saved, his life had been totally different. He had been a trouble maker before but now he tried his best to change.

Both Justin and Zach had been trying to share Jesus with Gregg. They had met him at the ball park. Gregg was at every game, but he wasn't able to play because he couldn't walk. He was in a wheelchair.

The other guys on the team didn't even notice that Gregg was always on the side lines, but Justin and Zach took the time to talk with Gregg and they even invited him to go along with them on other activities.

Gregg had listened to all they had to say about Jesus, but he hadn't seemed very interested in getting saved. Justin knew that these things took time. He was willing to be patient. After all, it had taken years of witnessing to Zach before he had gotten saved.

But Zach was a new Christian and he was anxious to see someone else accept Christ. Justin was glad that Zach was so excited to share God with others.

"Zach, did you accept Jesus the first time I told you about Him? Or did you even go to church with me the first time I asked you?" Justin asked.

"No. It took me years to listen to you. Mostly I wished you'd just quit talking about Jesus all the time," Zach replied.

"See, it just takes time," Justin said.

"Yeah, and it mostly took me noticing how different you were. You know, you acted different and talked different from the rest of the guys," Zach said.

"Right!" Justin said. "My Dad always says, 'Actions speak louder than words.'"

At the ball field the guys were all warming up for the game. Zach waved at Gregg as he sat in his wheelchair on the sidelines. Then he turned his attention to the game.

The game progressed quickly and the score was pretty close. For every run or two the home team would score, the opposing team came right back. By the bottom of the ninth the opposing team was ahead by two runs. Zach knew that they would need two runs just to tie up the game and they already had two outs.

Zach was up to bat and no one was on base. He hit the ball just hard enough to get himself to first base. Then Justin was up next. He slammed the ball so hard that it went sailing out into left field. It dropped between two of the outfielders and both Justin and Zach ran with all their might as the outfielders scrambled to get the ball and throw it Home.

Zach was just rounding third base and half way to home when he saw the ball sailing toward Home. Zach pushed himself harder. He was sure he could make it before the ball. Just as he slid across Home plate, Zach heard the ball hit in the catcher's mitt, but he knew his foot had touched the plate just a second before that. He was safe!

Zach was shocked to hear the Umpire shout, "Out!" (Show Flash Card)

Zach jumped up. He was furious! The Ump was blind! He had touched that base before the ball had touched the catcher's mitt!

All sorts of angry words crossed Zach's mind and he was just about to blurt out what an idiot the Ump was when out of the corner of his eye he caught a glimpse of Gregg. He turned his head toward Gregg and their eyes locked for just a second. Zach could see that Gregg was watching to see what he was going to do, how he would react.

In that very instant Zach knew that what he said and how he acted would be the real proof to Gregg of whether or not Jesus Christ made a difference in his life. He had told Gregg how much Jesus had changed him. Now was the time to show him how much Jesus had changed him.

Just as suddenly as the angry words had risen in his heart and mind, they all drained out of him. In a flash Zach remembered that he wasn't the same person he used to be. He was a Christian now. And someone was watching him.

Zach looked up at the Umpire and nodded. He didn't even try to argue. In fact, he gave the Umpire a grin as he walked off. The game was lost, but in his heart Zach knew that something much more important had been won.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.
Psalm 4:3a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Genesis 4:1-5

LESSON

LOTS OF FRUIT

Did you know that fruit is mentioned many times in the Bible? It is. Sometimes the fruit is good and sweet and desirable. But sometimes the fruit mentioned is bitter and undesirable.

When I say the word fruit, you probably think of apples, oranges, or bananas. But the even though we will be talking about the fruit that Eve ate, we are also talking about the type of fruit, or works, that you produce in your life.

What type of fruit do you produce in your life? Is it godly fruit that is pleasing to God? Do the things you say and do cause others to draw closer to God, or do they cause others to get farther away from God?

The Bible tells us that we are not saved by our good works. Our good fruit does not get us to Heaven. Only believing on and accepting on Jesus Christ can take away our sin and get us to Heaven. But the Bible also says that once we have accepted Jesus as our Savior, then others can know what kind of Christian you are by looking at the type of fruit you produce.

Matthew 7:17-20 says, *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

If you produce evil fruits or do evil things, then others can see that in your life. But if you produce good fruit, then others clearly see that also!

TWO BROTHERS, TWO SACRIFICES

The first fruit mentioned hung on the trees in the Garden of Eden. There were many different fruits, but one fruit God asked Adam and Eve not to eat. And we all know that was the very fruit they couldn't resist.

The next time that we see fruit in the Bible brings us to the story of Cain and Abel. They were the sons of Adam and Eve.

Genesis chapter four tells us a little bit about Cain and Abel. Abel was a shepherd. He cared for sheep for his living. Cain chose a different profession. He became a farmer. He raised fruit and vegetables.

Both of these men worked very hard to make a living for themselves and for their families. Both had good honest jobs. When the time came for them to offer a sacrifice to God as a covering for their sin, both men brought a sacrifice. But both men did not offer the right sacrifice.

Abel brought a lamb to offer as a sacrifice to God. But Cain decided to bring of the fruit of the ground. He brought fruit which he had grown himself.

GOD REJECTS CAIN'S OFFERING

Was God happy with the sacrifice that Cain brought? No. We know that God rejected Cain's fruit.

Genesis 4:2b-5 says, *And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

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: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Why did God reject Cain's fruit that he had worked so hard to grow? Was it bad to be a farmer? No. Farming is honest work and necessary to survival.

Do you think that perhaps Cain brought rotten, spoiled fruit that angered God? No. I think Cain brought the firmest, ripest, most beautiful fruit he had grown. He was proud of his work and of his fruit.

THE WRONG SACRIFICE

Then why did God reject Cain's fruit? God rejected it because it was the wrong sacrifice. You see, back when God first killed the lamb to make clothes to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, we believe it was then that God taught them how to make sacrifices to cover their sin. The blood of the lamb could not take away their sin, but it looked forward to the time when Jesus, the Lamb of God, would shed His blood, not just to cover sin, but to completely take away sin.

Cain knew what to sacrifice, and he knew why God wanted the blood sacrifice. He knew that fruit could not shed blood to cover his sin. But Cain was full of pride and self-importance. He had a rebellious heart. He didn't want to listen to or obey God's instructions. And when God rejected his sacrifice, he was furious! Cain brought the wrong fruit.

Sometimes we bring the wrong fruit to God also. We try to impress God with our own good works. But God is not impressed. God does not want us to do our own good works. God wants us to do the things He has told us to do in the Bible. Obeying God's Word and living in a godly way is the way you can produce good fruits.

THE RIGHT SACRIFICE

So what is the right fruit to bring to God? What kind of fruit does God want you to have in your life so you can show God and others how much you love Him?

Galatians 5:22-23 tells us what kind of fruit you should have in your life. Let's read it. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

That's the kind of fruit God wants in your life.

GOD PROVIDES THE SACRIFICE

When you think the verse I just read to you, don't miss one of the most important things about it. That is that it is the fruit "of the Spirit." That means that the Holy Spirit, who lives in you if you are a Christian, is the One who actually produces all these good fruits in your life. It is not you who produces the right fruit. It is God.

Imagine we are looking at an apple tree. In order for the tree to produce some apples, does the tree have to strain and push and sweat and grunt to cause an apple to appear on its limb? No, the fruit just grows naturally. The water and nutrition from the soil go up into the roots to feed the trunk and limbs and buds. The sun shines on the tree. Blossoms bloom and drop. Time passes, and eventually, apples appear.

It is the same with you. In order to have love, joy, peace, and the other fruit of the Spirit, you might try to force them to appear in your life. You try really, really hard. You think about it and wish you could do it, but you know, it is the fruit of the SPIRIT. God is the One who produces fruit in your life. He is the One who can cause love and joy to flow out of you and on to others.

No matter how hard you try to produce your own fruit, you are still only a human. You can't do it on your own. But the great news is that God can and will help you to produce the right kind of fruit. He will help you to produce godly fruit in your life.

How? First, you must be willing to allow God to produce fruit in your life. If you are constantly ignoring God or fighting Him away, then you will be unfruitful. God won't force you to bear fruit. You have to be willing.

Secondly, you must fertilize and nourish your heart and mind with God's Word. The Bible is God's way to help you grow as a Christian. It is our instruction manual on raising good fruit.

Thirdly, you need lots of Sonshine. That's spelled, S - O - N - shine. In other words, you need to be connected to Jesus Christ, the Son, through prayer. You need to be talking to God every day.

If Cain would have had a heart that was willing to obey God, then he would never have considered bringing the wrong fruit. He would have wanted to bring the right sacrifice to God.

Have a willing heart, read God's Word, spend time in prayer, and I promise you that you will produce the right fruit in your life.

But maybe you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. If that is the case, then God cannot produce the right kind of fruit in your life. First you need to be saved. You need to ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and become a part of your life.

Would you like to ask Jesus to become your Savior today?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

I challenge you to spend some time this week reading and thinking about Galatians 5:22-23. Ask God to produce good fruit in your life. Ask God to help you to be godly in all you say and do.

Maybe there is one fruit that you just have a really hard time producing. Maybe you have a hard time loving someone in your school. Maybe you have a hard time showing joy because it is easier to whine and complain every time you are asked to do something that you don't want to do.

Ask God to help you to be especially willing for the Spirit to work on that area of your life. Maybe every day this week you can ask the Lord to work on a different fruit, so that when others look at your life they will see God producing good fruit in you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be close to Him so you can live a godly life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Abel do for a living?
2. What did Cain do for a living?
3. What did Abel offer as a sacrifice to God?
4. Quote today's Bible verse.
5. What did Cain offer as a sacrifice to God?
6. Why did God reject Cain's sacrifice?
7. Name a fruit that God wants to produce in your life.
8. What is the reference for the verse that tells us the fruits of the Spirit.
9. Name another fruit God wants to produce in your life.
10. What is one thing you can do to allow God to produce good fruit?

LESSON 39

A CHILD OF SERVICE
MY BEST SERVICE

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 1:1-28, 2:1-11

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

When you love someone with all of your heart, you want to give them the very best that you have. The Bible tells us that we should love God so much that we want to give our very best to Him.

Did you know that you don't need to have lots of money to give your best to God? You can give to God in so many ways that don't involve money at all. You can give God the best of your time, of your talents, of your energy. You can give God your best attitude when you serve Him and when you help others. You can give God your best efforts in everything you do. It pleases God when you serve Him with the best you have to give. It shows Him that you truly love Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

ONLY ONE LIFE

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy looked up at the picture that hung over the couch in her living room. It wasn't a big picture, but it sure was pretty.

In a simple frame was a picture with delicately hand-painted pansies on one side and in the center was a poem. The pansies were her mother's favorite flower and these flowers had been painted by her mom's china painting teacher. The lettering for the poem had been done by the teacher's daughter.

Wendy knew this, because whenever her mom saw her studying the picture, she would tell Wendy the picture's history.

But that wasn't why Wendy spent so much time looking at the painting. What truly fascinated her were the words that were so beautifully printed on the picture. (Show Flash Card)

Only one life,

'Twill soon be past.

Only what's done

For Christ will last.

What could Wendy do for Christ? She was just a child.

There were many things Wendy wanted to do with her life. She and her friends dreamed about what they would do when they grew up. Her friends talked about wanting to be a nurse, or a secretary, or even a mother. Wendy didn't spend too much time wanting to be any of those things, although she thought she'd be a mother someday. What Wendy really wanted to be was a writer. She wasn't sure what she was going to write about. But she loved books.

Wendy's mom had a bookcase full of books. There were books of fiction and books about missionaries. The books were for adults, but already Wendy was reading the books that filled those cases. She dreamed about being a writer. How wonderful it would be to have your words and ideas written down in books. Imagine! Those books would be on someone else's shelves long after you were no longer living. You might be gone, but your words would live on.

"Only one life. 'Twill soon be past."

Even at a young age, Wendy realized that you won't live forever. But a book, that could go on much longer than you did. That wouldn't go away so quickly.

"Only what's done for Christ will last."

That was the part that stuck in Wendy's mind. What could she write about? She didn't know exactly. But she knew that it should be something for Christ. That was what would be important. That was what would last. God planted the desire to write in Wendy's heart. And from an early age, she knew that she wanted to write for Christ. She wanted to write something that would last for eternity.

Of course, Wendy knew that no book would last for eternity, except for God's Word, the Bible. She knew that no book she wrote would last for eternity. It was the effect of what was in the book that could last for eternity. Wendy wanted to write something that would point others to Christ, something that would last.

How true the words of that poem are. God gives each of us just one life. And only what we do for Christ will make an eternal difference. Here on earth we think so many things are important. We busy ourselves doing what we enjoy and what we think is important, but we need to check what we do against whether or not it will be important in eternity. What seems important today may be gone by tomorrow.

There are so many things that can make a difference for eternity. There are so many things we can do for Christ.

Wendy's mom lived to be almost 85 years old. In those years, she did many things. Some were unimportant. But some of the things she did will last for eternity. Wendy's mom loved children. She spent many years teaching children in Sunday School, Junior Church, and Vacation Bible School. She led many little ones to Christ. Over the years Wendy's mom and dad gave money to support missionaries and young people who were training for the ministry.

All of those things will last.

But, what can you do for Christ? You are only a child.

There are so many things that you can do, even now, for Christ. You can pray for your pastor and your missionaries. You can write notes of encouragement to missionaries telling them you are praying for them.

You can invite unsaved friends to church and VBS. You can live a life that is a good testimony in front of others. You can obey your parents. You can help your parents around the house. You can love and respect your brothers and sisters. You can keep your heart and mind pure for Christ.

You can also give your life to God with a willing spirit.

Even if you don't have any talents yet, or if you are just developing talents, you can tell God that when you get older, you will use your talents for Him. Someday you can sing, or tell Bible stories, or play the piano, or help out at church, or tell others about Christ, or visit the sick, or send cards of encouragement, or write for Christ like Wendy does now. The list goes on and on. There are so many things you can do for Christ.

If you are willing to serve God, then He will use you. And it will last for eternity. So remember:

Only one life,

T'will soon be past.

Only what's done

For Christ will last.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 1:1-28, 2:1-11

LESSON

A HOLY MAN

Our story begins with a man of the tribe of Levi named Elkanah. (El-Kay-na) You will remember that the Levites were a holy tribe that had been set aside by God to serve God in a special way. They were to care for the tabernacle of God. They were also to be the priests who served God in a special way.

Elkanah was a Levite. He was not a priest, but he was apparently a very devout man. He loved God and while many other people in Israel did not obey God, Elkanah and his family made an extra effort to serve God. Every year Elkanah would take his entire family to the tabernacle to worship God and to offer sacrifices.

I Samuel 1:3a says, *And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.*

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Elkanah had two wives. One was named Peninnah (Pa-nin-na) and one was named Hannah. It is never a good idea for a man to have two wives! The Bible teaches us that it is wrong for a man to have two wives, but in those days the people did not always listen to and obey God.

Elkanah found that he had double trouble because of the fact that he had disobeyed God and married two wives. Why? Because His two wives did not like each other at all. Peninnah was constantly picking at Hannah and life was miserable.

One reason these two women did not like each other was because Peninnah had several children. Hannah, on the other hand, had no children.

Even though her husband did not love her as much as he loved Hannah, Peninnah would gloat to Hannah about the fact that she had so many children while Hannah had none. The Bible says God had not allowed Hannah to have any children. We don't know why, but God always has a purpose for everything He does.

HELP IN NEED

Year after year the family would go to worship God. Yearly Peninnah would say cruel things to hurt Hannah. And every year Hannah became more and more grieved because she had no children.

Finally, Hannah prayed to God. She promised God that if He gave her a son, then she would give that son back to God. She promised that the child would be raised to serve God. When Hannah got to the temple she knelt in prayer. She was so intent on praying to God and making her request that she did not notice that the priest, Eli, was watching her. She prayed to herself, but her lips were moving.

Eli watched Hannah. He did not realize that Hannah was praying. Instead he thought that Hannah was drunk! So he went to scold Hannah for coming to the tabernacle in such a disgraceful condition.

Hannah quickly told Eli that she was not drunk. Instead, she was so sorrowful in heart that she had come to tell God her problem.

Hannah poured out her grief to Eli. He listened to all she had to say. He heard how she longed for a child and had promised God that if he gave her a child, then she would give the child back to serve God. Eli must have been impressed with Hannah's plea. He assured her that God would hear and answer her prayer.

ASKED OF GOD

Just as Eli had said, Hannah had a baby boy. How happy she must have been! I am sure she loved caring for her little son. She must have enjoyed every minute she took care of him.

Every day as Hannah cared for young Samuel, she was preparing him to go to the tabernacle to serve God. Hannah told God that if He gave her a son then she would give that son back to God to serve Him. Because Hannah asked God for a son, she named her son Samuel which means "asked of God."

The day came when it was time for the family to return to Shiloh to offer a sacrifice to God. Elkanah told Peninnah and Hannah to prepare for the journey. But Samuel was still a tiny baby, so Hannah did not want to travel with her son. Instead she told her husband that until the child was old enough to travel she would not go to the temple. But she also made a promise that when the child was the right age, she would take Samuel to the temple and give him to the Lord. This idea pleased Elkanah. He agreed that Hannah and Samuel could remain home until the time came for Samuel to go to the tabernacle.

I Samuel 1: 21-23 says, *And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.*

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

TIME TO TRAVEL

Finally the day came when Hannah knew that Samuel was old enough to go to the tabernacle with the family. Every year the family would go to offer a sacrifice to God. This year Hannah would offer an entirely different type of sacrifice. She would offer her son to God's service.

We don't know how old Samuel was for certain. Some think he might have been eight to ten years old. Some believe he could have been as young as three years old. However old he was, he was still very young.

So they prepared to go. They packed their clothes and the food they would eat on the journey. They also took the things that they would offer as a sacrifice to God. Then they began their journey.

I imagine that Peninnah was strangely quiet as they traveled toward the temple. On all the trips before she had always spent her time ridiculing and tormenting Hannah. But now she had nothing to say. Finally Hannah had a child.

I Samuel 1: 24-25 says, *And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young.*

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

REMEMBER ME?

This first thing Hannah wanted to do when she reached the temple was to find Eli the priest. She wanted to remind him of how she had prayed for a son. She wanted to let Eli know that God had answered her prayer. She now had a son.

But she wanted to do more than just tell Eli about how God had answered her prayer. She also wanted to keep her promise to God. When Hannah had prayed to ask for a son, she had made a promise to give that son back to God.

How hard that must have been for Hannah to give up her son! She had longed and prayed for a son for many, many years. Now she finally had one, but she would only have him at home for just a short time. The time when he was a baby must have flown by quickly. All too soon Samuel was old enough to take to the temple to give back to God.

Hannah knew that after she left her son at the temple she would only see him once a year when she and her family went to worship. That must have been difficult for Hannah to do. Her son was the thing she valued most on earth, but Hannah knew it was time to keep her promise to God. God had kept His promise to her. She meant to keep her promise to God.

Hannah knew God had given Samuel to her. She also knew Samuel belonged to God. The same is true of all that you have. God has given you everything you have. He gave you life. He gave you your family. He has given you health. All that you have is given by God. All that you have belongs to God.

So Hannah also told Eli that she had brought her son to live at the temple where he could serve God for his entire life. She willingly gave her son back to God.

I Samuel 1:26-28 says, *And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.*

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

THE VERY BEST

So Samuel stayed at the temple. There he learned to love God and to serve God in the temple. The rest of Samuel's life was completely devoted to serving God. Samuel was a blessing that Hannah offered to God. But Samuel was also blessed because he had the privilege of serving God every day of his life. Even though Samuel did not live with his family, he was greatly blessed of God each day of his life.

I Samuel 2:11 says, *And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.*

Hannah offered the very best that she had to God. She gave Him her only son. Hannah knew that she would not have a son if God had not allowed her to have him. She was giving back to God what God had given to her.

You should also be willing to offer your very best to God. God gave His very best for you. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for your sins. How thankful we should be that God loved each one of us that much!

Have you given your best to God?

1. Give God your sin. The first thing you should give to God is your sin. You need to ask God to forgive your sin, cleanse your heart, and take away your sin. You need to give your life to God so that He can make you His own child. Have you ever done that? Would you like us to show you from the Bible how you can give your sin to God?

2. Give God your heart. The next way you can give your best to God is by giving Him the love of your heart. God loves you so much and He wants you to return His love. God has done so much for you. He deserves to have your heart. He deserves your love.

So many times we love other things more than we love God. We love friends, we love things, we love our own selves. But we need to be careful to love God more than we love anything else. You can love others, but you should always love God the most.

3. Give God your life. You can give your best to God by giving Him your life. What does that mean? It means that you can determine to serve God each day. How can you serve God? Here are some ways.

Serve God by spending time in prayer and Bible study. Take time to talk to God. Take time to let God talk to you through His Word.

Serve God by helping others. You are young, but you can help others in so many ways. You can help in your home by obeying your parents and by showing kindness and love to the rest of your family. You can help those around you by doing things that will make their life easier. You can help others by praying for them.

Serve God by giving God your attitude. When you do something for God, do it cheerfully like Hannah did. Don't obey and serve God just because you have to, do it because you want to. Serve God by doing things for Him with joy. If you truly love God, then it will show in your attitude.

Samuel was just a young child, but he faithfully worshipped and served God. You can do the same. Will you determine to do that today?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to give your best to God. Hannah gave her best to God when she gave her only son. Samuel gave his best to God when he gave his entire life to serve God in the temple. God gave His very best to you when He gave His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Will you determine to give your best to God?

1. Give God your sin. Ask God to forgive your sin and take it away. When you have had your sin forgiven, then you can begin to serve God each day.
2. Give God your heart. God deserves all your love. Today you can tell God you love Him.
3. Give God your life. If you truly love God, then you will be happy to serve Him. Every day you can find ways to serve God at home, at school, and with your friends.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to serve God with your very best. You should want to give your best to Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Why was Peninnah so mean to Hannah?
2. Why did Hannah stay home when her family went to worship?
3. Name something Hannah took as a sacrifice when she went to the temple.
4. What did Hannah want to tell Eli?
5. What happened to Samuel when the family returned home?
6. What did Samuel do in the temple?
7. Recite today's Bible Memory Verse.
8. Name something you can give to God.
9. Name something else you can give to God.
10. Name a place where you can serve God.

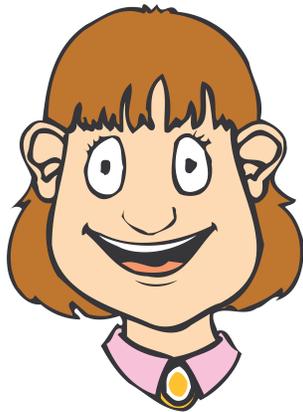
My Best Service



Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

I will serve the Lord.



Show God how much you love Him by giving Him the best of everything you have. Give Him your best behavior and your best attitudes.

- Child
- Dedicate
- Eli
- Give
- Hannah
- Hearts
- Home
- Husband
- Joy
- Love
- Obey
- Praise
- Prayer
- Priest
- Promise
- Sacrifice
- Samuel
- Service
- Son
- Tabernacle
- Travel
- Trust
- Valuable
- Worship
- Young

T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	U	H	S	W	U
T	R	U	S	T	T	I	G	C	L	D	G	O	Z	E
S	S	A	K	I	M	A	I	O	T	W	R	N	T	N
K	H	E	V	N	L	F	V	H	U	S	B	A	N	D
A	F	A	I	E	I	E	E	F	H	A	C	J	X	U
P	I	C	N	R	L	F	F	I	T	I	O	P	V	M
R	R	S	C	N	P	Y	P	U	D	Y	R	G	N	G
A	V	A	L	U	A	B	L	E	N	O	Q	R	L	D
I	S	M	Y	E	T	H	D	C	M	U	E	Z	M	F
S	T	U	W	E	O	R	H	I	H	N	N	L	E	K
E	R	E	Y	M	R	I	S	V	D	G	S	S	P	G
H	A	L	E	U	L	E	C	R	T	R	H	B	X	U
L	E	U	B	D	K	S	E	E	Q	A	P	Z	K	N
I	H	Z	O	C	L	U	O	S	H	O	E	E	W	S

LESSON 40

A CHILD OF SERVICE
SERVING GOD WITH OPEN EARS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 3:1-10

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

In Bible times God spoke to people out loud. He went to the garden of Eden and spoke face to face with Adam and Eve. Sometimes He sent an angel to speak to His servants. He would tell them exactly what He wanted them to know and what He wanted them to do. That was how the people knew how to serve God.

But today, God does not speak out loud to us. He doesn't send angels to give us messages. And so often we think, "I sure wish I knew exactly what God wants me to say and do. If only God would speak to me, then I would listen!"

Let me tell you, God still speaks to His children today. He doesn't speak like He used to speak. He speaks through His Word and through His Holy Spirit that lives within you. He speaks with a still, small voice. And if you are willing to listen, He can make Himself very clear to you each day. And when God speaks to you, be ready to serve Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

A GODLY GARDEN

Obtain 2 Flash Cards

Did you know that your life is a lot like a garden? It is. Every day you are growing things that will affect the way you live and the way you work, the way you play with others around you, and the way you serve God.

There are many different things that gardeners can grow. They can grow flowers that are beautiful. Like a flower, your life should be a thing of beauty so that when others look at you, they see the beauty of the Lord. Gardeners can grow fruit which is sweet and good to eat. Like fruit, your life should produce a sweetness that shows that you belong to God. Gardeners can grow vegetables that we eat to make us strong and healthy. Like vegetables, in your Christian life, you should produce good works that make you grow and strengthen you to serve Him. Good works can't save you, but once you are a Christian, good works show that you love God and want to serve Him.

So, what kind of things should you grow in your life? Here are a few things you should try to grow. (Show Flash Card 40a.)

Grow Lettuce. Let us love God. Let us obey God's Word. Let us love one another.

Grow Turnips. Turn up at church. Turn up to help others.

Grow Squash. Squash sinful actions. Squash hurtful words. Squash gossip.

And every good garden needs a few bees buzzing around helping to pollinate the plants. In the garden of your life you need to have a few "bes" too. Be faithful. Be kind. Be forgiving. Be patient. Be obedient. Be cheerful. (Show Flash Card 40b.)

Those are just a few things God wants in the garden of your life. There are many other things God wants to plant, but in order for your garden to grow and bring forth good fruit, you must first have a garden that is prepared.

When a gardener decides to grow anything, whether it is vegetables, fruit, or flowers, they always need to do certain things before they can begin to grow anything.

First, they need to prepare the ground. They could put a seed or plant into the ground that is hard and rocky, but nothing would grow. No, instead they must work up the soil so that it is soft and cleaned from the leaves and sticks and rocks that lay around.

The same is true for the garden of your life. In order for God to grow anything of any value in you, He must first prepare the soil of your heart. He must rid it of things that don't belong and would harm you.

Psalm 40:2 says, *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

Before you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart and forgive your sin, you were in the horrible pit of sin. Jesus had to reach down and pull you out. He had to clean up your life and make it ready for Him to use.

Then, after the ground has been prepared, the gardener can plant the seeds. The seeds won't put themselves into the ground.

In your life, you must plant the seeds that you want to grow. You can't see good things grow if you don't plant them into your life. If you want to grow love, you must allow God to plant love in your heart. If you want faithfulness, you must allow God to plant faithfulness there. Unlike the ground that has no say about what is planted in it, you have a choice. You can fight God when He tries to plant good things in your life, or you can let Him do what He knows is best for you.

Psalm 92:12 says, *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*

After the gardener plants the seeds, he must wait patiently for the plants to grow and produce what he has planted. He also must carefully tend to his garden. If a gardener planted a seed but never watered it or never weeded the garden, most likely the seed wouldn't have much of a chance of growing.

The same is true for your life. God plants good things in your life, but it takes time and care for those things to grow. God tries to keep out the bad things that would choke out the good fruit, but you must also do your part to make sure you obey God so that sin will not remain in your life. When God tries to help you grow, you need to be willing to let growth occur.

The best way you can grow in God is to stay as close to Him as possible. Think about God. Talk to Him often. Read His Word. And then obey His Word. Make sure that your words and actions are pleasing to God. Have a heart that is good soil which is all prepared for the fruit that God wants to produce in you.

II Peter 3:18a says, *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 3:1-10

LESSON

SAMUEL MINISTERS

Samuel continued to grow after he went to serve God at the Temple. Year by year he was able to do more and more to help Eli with tasks around the temple. He could clean and fetch things for Eli. He could help Eli as he ministered to the people.

Also a large part of what Samuel did was to learn the laws of God. In those days they would have had the first five books of the Bible which were written by Moses. Who can tell me what those books are?

That's right. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were the books God had instructed Moses to write. They may have also had the book of Joshua. We don't know that for certain.

All the laws and instructions on how to worship and serve God were in those books. The history of the people of Israel was in those books. It would have been very important for Samuel, who was to be a priest of God, to learn all about what God had to say in those books.

We know that Samuel did not drag around the temple with sadness or a bad attitude. He did not say, "Boy! I sure have it bad. I'm stuck here in the temple where all I do is run errands for this old man and study all day long. Why couldn't I be back home with the rest of my family?"

Instead, Samuel took joy in ministering to Eli and to God. He loved to serve God!

I Samuel 3:1a says, *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli.*

What does it mean to minister?

It means to serve or help. A minister is a servant. Your pastor is a minister. It is his job to serve God and to serve the people in his church. He serves by praying, by preaching, and by overseeing the work of God in your church.

God also wants all Christians to be ministers. That doesn't mean God wants you to preach. It means God wants you to be a servant. He wants you to be willing to help others and to willingly serve Him.

It is a special privilege to be a minister of God. It is something all Christians should do with gladness.

NO ONE LISTENS

The Bible tells us that God did not speak to His people too often in the days when Samuel was a young boy.

I Samuel 3:1b says, *And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.*

When it says “the word of the LORD was precious,” it means that it was rare. God rarely spoke to His people anymore.

Why didn't God speak to His people very often? Because the people did not want to listen. In earlier days, when God spoke to people like Abraham and Moses, they wanted to listen to God. They were eager to hear what God had to say and what He wanted them to do. The people depended on God to deliver them and to guide them.

But when the people settled down in the promised land they became self-sufficient. They didn't think they needed to depend on God for anything. They had beautiful homes, large herds of cattle and sheep, and abundant crops.

Instead of staying close to God, the people wandered far away. They began to forget God's laws. They began to worship false idols. Their hearts were far from God.

The only time the people wanted to hear from God was when they were in trouble with an enemy. Then they ran to God and begged for help. They weren't sorry for their sins, they were just sorry things weren't going their way. But God was merciful to them anyway. In spite of the fact that the people did not want to listen, God still loved them and was willing to forgive. He wanted to speak to them. Oh, how He wished they would listen!

GOD SPEAKS

One night when Eli and Samuel had put out all the candles and were tucked into bed, something amazing happened. God decided to speak.

I Samuel 3:2-4 says, *And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;*

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

God called to Samuel. But Samuel did not realize that it was God calling. He thought it was Eli calling to him. Eli was an old man and I suppose there were times when Eli would call Samuel to run get something for him so he would not have to get his old bones out of bed.

Samuel jumped right out of bed and ran to Eli. He asked what he wanted. But it was not Eli calling. So he told Samuel to go back to bed.

So Samuel settled down and just as he started to drift off to sleep, God called again. Again Samuel jumped up to go see what Eli wanted. But again, Eli had not called and he instructed Samuel to go back to bed.

Again God called to Samuel.

I Samuel 3:6-7 says, *And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.*

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

Can you imagine what you would think if one night, when you were lying in bed, God called out loud to you? You probably wouldn't realize that God was calling to you. Samuel didn't know it was God calling. He was just a young boy and God had never yet spoken to Samuel.

When Samuel heard the second call, he once again jumped up and ran to Eli. When Eli told him he had not called, Samuel assured him that he had heard his voice. But Eli told Samuel to return to bed. So Samuel obeyed.

Shortly, God called to Samuel again. How confused Samuel must have been. But he obediently jumped up and ran to see what Eli wanted. But again, Eli had not called. But it dawned on Eli that it must be God calling to Samuel. God had never spoken directly to Eli. I imagine this must have confirmed even more to Eli that God had rejected Eli's wicked sons and was instead calling to Samuel to be the new priest. So Eli told Samuel that it was God who had called to him. He told Samuel that if God should call again, he should let God know that he was listening.

I Samuel 3:8-9 says, *And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.*

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

This time when God called to Samuel, he knew it was God. Samuel spoke as Eli had instructed. He told the Lord that he was ready and willing to listen.

I Samuel 3:10 says, *And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

I'M LISTENING

God called to Samuel and even though he did not know God's voice at first, Samuel soon learned to listen for God's voice. When God called the fourth time, Samuel knew the Lord spoke. He told the Lord that he was listening.

Today God does not talk out loud to people. But that does not mean that God does not still call to those who are willing to listen for His voice. God wants to speak to you. He does that in several ways.

1. God speaks through His Word.

God tells you all you need to know to be saved and to live a Christian life. You must read God's Word so you will know more about God and what God wants. No matter how old you are, you can read God's Word. No matter how old you will get, God will always have something to say to you in His Word. The Bible will always speak to your heart if you let it.

2. God speaks through His Spirit.

If you are a Christian, then the Holy Spirit of God lives inside of you. God gave you His Spirit so that He can help you each day. The Holy Spirit is the One who warns and convicts you of sin. When you are tempted to do wrong, the Holy Spirit whispers to your heart that you should not sin. When God wants you to do something for Him, the Holy Spirit is there to help you and encourage you.

3. God speaks through His Servants.

Your Pastor and your teachers at church study God's Word. They work hard to prepare lessons that you need to hear. God speaks through His servants so that you can know what God wants. They help you to understand what the Bible means. When you listen to a Bible lesson or a sermon, that is one way God wants to speak to you.

Maybe you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. If not, then you are not a child of God. You are like Samuel when he did not recognize God's voice or know God.

But like Samuel, you can get to know God. God loves you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die on the cross to take away your sins. Jesus took your sins onto Himself. He paid the penalty of sin for you.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages (or punishment) of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Jesus took your punishment and now He offers you the gift of eternal life in Heaven. But like any gift, you must take it in order to make it yours. You must ask Jesus to forgive your sin and give you eternal life.

Have you ever done that? Would you like to do that today? You can.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you have not been listening for God's voice when He speaks to you. Follow Samuel's example and when you realize that God is speaking to your heart, gladly answer, "Speak; for thy servant heareth."

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to listen for God's voice when He speaks. Then be eager to serve. Remember how God speaks to you?

1. God speaks through His Word.

How much time do you spend reading God's Word? You are still young, but if you can read, then you should be spending time reading and memorizing the Bible. The more time you spend in God's Word, the more God can speak to you.

2. God speaks through His Spirit.

Do you listen when the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin? Do you accept the help that the Holy Spirit wants to give you each day? Or do you ignore Him? God wants you to listen to and obey the Holy Spirit when He speaks to your heart.

3. God speaks through His servants.

Do you listen when God's servants speak? Do you pay close attention during the Bible lessons and during the Pastor's sermons? That is one way that God wants to speak to you. Make sure you listen so that you won't miss what God has to say to you.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to listen carefully for his voice when He speaks to you so you will be ready to serve Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. At what time of day did our story today take place?
2. What happened when Samuel heard God call the first time?
3. How did Samuel discover that it was God calling?
4. How many times altogether did God call to Samuel?
5. Why was it so strange for God to call?
6. Why was it rare for God to speak to anyone in those days?
7. Name one way that God speaks to people today.
8. Name another way that God speaks to people today.
9. Name another way that God speaks to people today.
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Serving God with Open Ears



Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

I will serve the Lord.

God wants to speak to you. How? God speaks through His Word, the Bible. Make sure to read His Word each day so that God can speak to you.

I
H V H K K K H R S D M
,
E N Q F N C R
U N H B D .

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.

LESSON 41

A CHILD OF SERVICE
SERVING A GOD YOU KNOW

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 3:11-21, 4:1a

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Suppose you took a trip to England. What would happen if you decided that you wanted to have a little chat with Queen Elizabeth? If you showed up at the gate of Buckingham palace, do you think that the guys in the red coats and the big, tall, weird fur hats would say, “There you are! The queen was just asking about you! Come right this way!” Would that happen?

Okay, so that’s not very realistic. The queen would never consent to see you. So let’s move a little closer to home. This is much more likely to happen. Say next week you go to Washington D.C. You go to the gate at the White House and ask to speak to the president. Then certainly the guard would say, “You’re finally here! The President has been waiting for you all morning. Come right in!”

Okay. That’s not likely to happen either is it? No. Unless you are someone very important, you will never get to hold a conversation with either the queen or the president. It just won’t happen. But did you know that the King of kings, waits to speak with you and to you? He longs to have a close, personal relationship with you. At any time you choose, you can go into His presence and spend time with Him. God wants you to talk to Him and He wants to speak to you. And the more time you spend with God, the better you will know Him and the more you will want to serve Him!

Today’s Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

DAVID BRAINERD

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Almost three-hundred years ago in America, life was very different from today. The United States was not a nation; it was still ruled by England. There were less than 200,000 people in all the English colonies put together. A mid-sized city today has at least that many people. There were many Native Americans, probably several million, all over the land area that is now called the United States. These people needed the Lord, and God raised up a man to tell them.

Born into a Christian home in 1718, David Brainerd heard about God probably every day. His life became difficult at an early age. His mother died when David was only nine years old, and his father died five years later. David was left to be raised by a sister, whom he lived with for a few years, then he moved in with the pastor of his childhood.

David was diligent to study the Bible, and he had no desire for worldly pleasures. But by the time he was twenty-one years old, he still had not come to the knowledge of salvation. He spent days fasting and praying, but he had not learned the simple truth of faith in the blood of Jesus to remove his sins. Instead of trusting in Jesus, he had been trying to figure out his own way of finding peace with God. Not long after this time of searching, David Brainerd finally realized that there was nothing he could do to be saved. Jesus had already done it all!

David grew quickly in his love for the Lord. He memorized many Bible verses and wrote in a journal the things God was teaching him. By going back and reading his journal, he could remember all the special times he had in the Word of God. He said that being a Christian was a wonderful way to live!

David became a student at Yale, and stayed there for three years. Although he was saved, he was not perfect. Just as us, he still sinned when he took his eyes off the Lord. One day David made an unkind remark about one of his teachers' spiritual condition, and he was expelled from the college. He never graduated, and even though he apologized for his sin, he was never allowed to re-enroll in Yale. When we sin, sometimes we have to suffer consequences, and that is exactly what happened to David. Do you think that this stopped him from being a great missionary? Of course not! As soon as he confessed his sin to God, he was forgiven.

By this time in David's life, he was very sickly. It seemed that he could not stay well for very long. He could have said, "I'm too weak to preach to people. I'm too sick to live in the wilderness near the Indians. Let someone else go." But He didn't. He knew that God had called him to be a missionary to the Native Americans, and he answered the call. In his journal he wrote that he wanted to be "wholly the Lord's and forever devoted to His service."

The first sermon David preached was in a barn. Soon after that, he began ministering to Indian villages in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He lived in a shack near the villages. His home had a dirt floor, and David slept on a pile of straw. He ate boiled corn and hasty pudding, which was not a quick dessert! It was cracked grain cooked in water until it became thick. If he ever had meat or bread, it was very rarely.

David's poor diet did not help him to gain any strength, but David kept on preaching. He walked about a mile and a half each way every morning to the village, and then back at night. Sometimes he had a horse, but it was hard to find enough food to keep a horse alive.

David was thrilled to find an Indian man who spoke English and could be his translator to the Indians. The man's name was Tattam. David learned to pray with the Indians in their language, and he saw many of his prayers answered. (Show Flash Card.)

Once he learned that the Indians were preparing for a pagan, wicked feast. After he prayed that God would not allow it to happen, the Indians cancelled the celebration. There were many settlers who hated David Brainerd for sharing the Gospel with the Indians, because they wanted to drive the Indians off the land and take it for themselves, which is eventually what happened to many tribes.

David also had many opportunities to preach to the white settlers who came from other countries by ship to start a new life in America. Many of them accepted Christ as Savior. As a matter of fact, David grew famous in the colonies, and he was offered many fine pulpits to fill as pastor, but he refused since God had called him to minister to the Indians, whom he loved dearly.

David was led by God to go to other Indian villages, so he left the Stockbridge village to travel many miles to New Jersey. He traveled on horseback, sleeping on the ground wrapped only in his coat to keep him warm. His health continued to worsen. There were many days that he could not ride or preach. But he never let himself get discouraged. God had called him to these Indians, and if he died, he died. He was totally dedicated to serving God every day and in every way. He wanted to endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ.

While in New Jersey, David helped the Indian people start a church and a school. Many people were saved, but David's health continued to worsen. Finally, he had to leave the Indians. The renowned preacher, Jonathan Edwards took him into his home, where David continued to weaken, and finally died at the young age of twenty-nine. He lived a short life, but a full life. A life filled with service to God.

Living for Jesus every day and in every way does not mean leaving your home and living in wilderness conditions and dying while you are still young. It does mean putting God's will first, and putting others first. God is looking for young people who will live for Him and serve Him where they are right now; at school, at home, at church, in your town. It is a life that will never be wasted.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 3:11-21, 4:1a

LESSON

GOD SPEAKS

Last week you will remember that when Samuel lay down to sleep, the Lord called to him. Samuel had never talked to the Lord before. In fact, in those days the Lord rarely spoke to the people of Israel because they had grown very wicked. But the Lord chose to speak to Samuel because He knew Samuel was willing to yield his heart to Him.

Three times God called to Samuel and three times Samuel thought it was the old priest, Eli, calling to him. Finally Eli realized the Lord was calling to Samuel, so Eli told Samuel that if the Lord called again to answer that he was listening.

The fourth time God called to Samuel, Samuel was ready. Now he knew that God was calling to him.

I Samuel 3:10 says, *And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

So the Lord spoke to Samuel. The Lord had news for Samuel, but it wasn't good news for Eli and his sons. God told Samuel that since Eli's sons had sinned so wickedly, and since Eli had done nothing to stop them, He rejected them as priests. No other men in their family would be allowed to be priests. The Lord also told Samuel that Eli and his sons would be punished.

I Samuel 3:11-14 says, *And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.*

In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

God loves His people, but He hates their sin. Sin must be punished. Eli's sons had sinned greatly against God and they deserved to be punished. So God told Samuel they would no longer be priests.

CHANGE THIS

Samuel lay on his bed all that night. I don't suppose he slept too soundly after speaking to God. Can you imagine what you would feel like if God came to speak to you personally? And suppose the news God told you was bad news that you had to deliver. Samuel must have wondered what Eli would do when he heard what God had said. Would he kick Samuel out of the temple? Would he be angry at Samuel?

The next morning Samuel must have lingered in bed longer. Then he went to open the temple doors. He was trying to find things to occupy his time and keep him away from Eli. But the time came when Eli called to him. He told Samuel he wanted to know exactly what God had said. He told him not to hold back on anything.

I Samuel 3:15-18 says, *And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.*

Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

So Samuel gathered his courage and told Eli all that God had said. Samuel learned in the future that often God would give him bad news to deliver to others, but he knew he must say exactly what God wanted him to say, regardless of how the people listening felt.

Eli was not surprised by what Samuel told him. He knew he and his sons had sinned against God. Eli did not participate in his sons' sins, but he hadn't done anything to stop them either. Eli knew God's judgements were right. He knew he and his sons deserved to be cut off from being priests. He knew they had shamed God.

So Eli did not get angry with Samuel. He knew that someday soon God's judgement would be carried out. In the meantime he continued to teach and train Samuel for the job of being a priest.

PREPARING A PROPHET

So Samuel grew into a young man. Eli continued to teach the Scriptures to Samuel. He continued to train Samuel to be a man of God.

I suppose as Samuel grew into a young man, he began to take more responsibility around the temple. As a young boy he had opened doors, dusted, cleaned, and ran errands for Eli. But as he grew older he began to take on some of the responsibilities of a priest. He began to serve the Lord.

Samuel also may have begun to teach the Scriptures and the Law to the people who came to the temple to worship. The people could see Samuel was a godly man, unlike Eli's sons. They respected Samuel and listened to the things he taught about God.

I Samuel 3:19 says, *And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.*

When the Bible says the Lord did not let any of Samuel's words fall to the ground, it means that God honored Samuel by letting the things he said come to pass. The people knew that God had appointed Samuel not only to be a priest at Shiloh, God had also appointed Samuel to be a prophet. When Samuel spoke, he spoke for God.

The people all knew that Samuel spoke for God. He was not just saying things he wanted to say. He was not taking advantage of the people, as Eli's sons had done. Samuel was God's spokesman.

I Samuel 3:20 through I Samuel 4:1a says, *And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.*

And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

A prophet is a spokesman for God. A prophet speaks the words that God has told him to speak. Samuel was the first prophet of God. Before, the judges had done God's work. The job of the judges was to deliver and govern or rule the people of Israel. The time of the judges had come to an end. Now God would speak to His people through prophets.

The job of the prophet was to speak directly for God. The prophet said the words God told him to say. Samuel was the first prophet of God but there were many prophets that lived after Samuel.

Samuel was prepared especially by God to be His prophet. He was called of God to that special job. Did you know your pastor is called of God to preach the Word of God? He is not a prophet, but he is called to the special task of leading and guiding God's people. It's not just an ordinary job to be a pastor. It is something God calls His chosen men to do. Not everything they say is a direct word from God, but a pastor studies God's Word and prays about what they should preach about and how they should lead the church. They are God's men. We should listen carefully when God speaks through our pastor.

In Samuel's day it had been a long time since God had spoken to the people of Israel. They didn't often want to listen. But God wanted His people to listen to Him. God chose Samuel to speak to the people for Him.

When God wanted the people to know something, God would tell Samuel. Then Samuel would tell the people. And whatever Samuel said always happened just as Samuel said it would. Why? Because Samuel was repeating what God told him to say. God had the ability to do anything He told Samuel He would do.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

So why didn't God speak directly to the people? In the beginning when God first created man, He did speak directly to people. He came daily to the Garden of Eden and walked and talked with Adam and Eve. But then they sinned. After that, God still spoke to them, but it was never the same. Sin separated them from God. Sin caused them to not be close to God.

As time went on, God spoke less and less to people in a direct way. Sometimes the Angel of the Lord would speak to people. But the more people turned away from God and turned toward sin, the less God spoke to His people.

By the day of the judges, the people were so far from God that they did not want to listen to anything God had to say. The only time they called on God was when they had a problem and they wanted God to rescue them.

So God found that speaking through the prophets was the best way to communicate with His sinful people. They could not handle listening to God directly, but sometimes they listened to the prophets and obeyed God. Sadly, sometimes they didn't listen.

Regardless of how sinful some of the children of Israel became, there were always a few who continued to love God. There were always a few who determined to serve and obey God no matter how sinful the other people became. When God spoke, these few listened. When God commanded, they obeyed. They listened to the prophets. They worshipped God at the temple. They offered sacrifices for their sin.

The world we live in today is a very sinful world. Not many people chose to love and obey God. Not many want to serve God. But there are always a few who do love God. There are always a few who will still serve God.

In our city today, there are many people this very day who have forgotten completely about God. They don't come to church. They don't read their Bible and pray. But we have chosen to be here in church. We have chosen to listen to God when He speaks through the Bible when it is taught here in Sunday School and church. We have chosen to be close to God.

Yet just because you are in church does not mean you love and obey God. You can come and sit here with everyone else, but you can close your heart and mind to what is being taught. That must hurt God. When the people of Israel chose to ignore God, He was hurt by them. But God never stopped trying to reach out to His people. Despite the fact that they ignored Him and disobeyed Him, He still sent judges to deliver them, and prophets to speak to them.

The same is true today. God never stops reaching out to you. God wants to speak to your heart. He wants you to accept His gift of salvation. He wants you to love and serve Him. What will you do? Will you be like the Israelites who choose to ignore and disobey God? Or will you be like the few who chose to listen for God's voice and obey what He has to say?

Sin separates us from God. It drives us far away from Him. But Jesus Christ brings us close to God again. Jesus Christ came to earth as a human so He could give us a way to be saved from our sins that separate us from God.

Jesus took our sins onto Himself when He died on the cross of Calvary. He died for your sins and for my sins. All you have to do is ask Jesus to forgive your sins and He will. Then you can be close to God. God will send the Holy Spirit to live inside of you. He will speak to you through the Bible and through the Holy Spirit. Would you like to accept Jesus today?

Maybe you are already a Christian. You have already asked Jesus to forgive your sin. But maybe you aren't close to God. Maybe you don't spend much time allowing God to speak to you. You can. The children of Israel had to wait for Samuel to tell them what God had to say, but you don't. You can read the Bible. The children of Israel had to go to the temple and have a priest offer a sacrifice for their sins. But you don't. You can go directly to God. You can ask Him to forgive your sins. You can tell Him your troubles and needs. You can praise Him.

He loves to speak to you and He loves to hear from you! Take the time to know God and to be close to Him. He longs to be close to you.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to speak daily with your God and let Him speak daily to you. Take the time to tell Him what is in your heart. Take the time to let Him speak to your heart. Here are some things you need to know about communicating with God

1. Be on praying ground.

Sin always separates us from God. If you allow sin to stay in your life, then you will not be close to God. We all sin, even after we are saved. We sin most every day. But you can go directly to God and ask Him to forgive you. He will. Then you will be on praying ground. You will be pure and clean so God can speak to your heart.

2. Be willing to listen to God's answers.

God wants to speak to you. He does that through different ways. The main way is through the Bible. If you read the Bible with your heart and mind tuned to listening for God's voice, then God can speak to you. Spend time each day listening for God's voice.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be ready to listen and obey when God speaks to you.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God tell Samuel about Eli?
2. Why didn't Samuel want to face Eli the next morning?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. Samuel was the first what?
5. What is a prophet?
6. Name one way God speaks to us today.
7. What causes us to not want to listen to God?
8. How can we have our sin forgiven so we can be close to God?
9. Who did God speak to, face to face, on a daily basis?
10. Who makes it possible for us to be close to God?

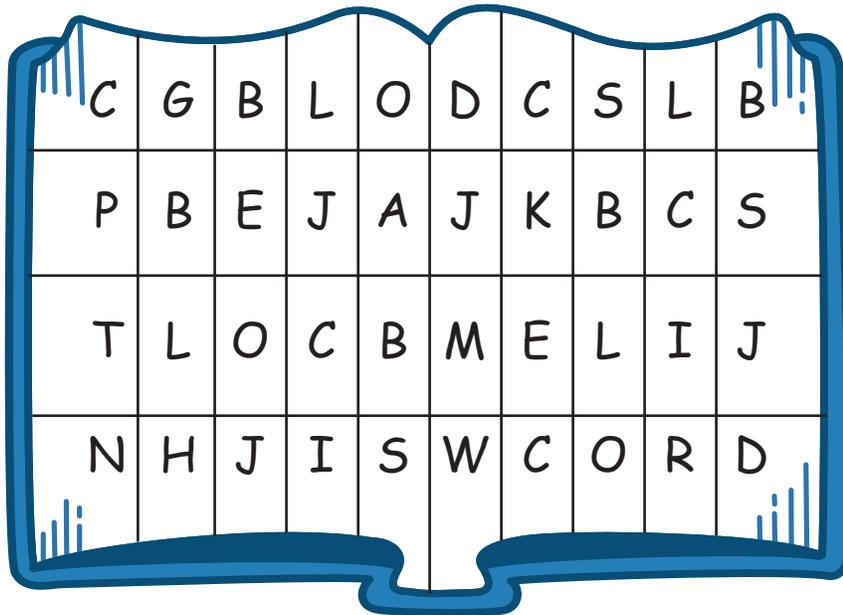
Serving A God You Know



Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

I will serve the Lord.



_____ .

1. Color all the squares with letters that occur 4 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.

LESSON 42

A CHILD OF SERVICE
SERVING WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 4:1-22

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Suppose there were ten men lost in a forest. It was getting dark and starting to rain. Everyone wanted to get out of the woods as quickly as possible. But they had one very difficult problem. All of the men were blind. Because they could not see, they could not find their way out of the forest no matter how hard they tried.

So the men decided that they needed to come up with a plan of escape. Every man had an idea of how to get out of the forest, and so they began to try each idea, but it was no good. Not one single plan helped. They were still hopelessly lost.

After several hours they heard the sound of footsteps. Sure enough, another man walked right up to them and asked them if they were lost and needed help. Before any of the other men could answer, one of the blind men spoke up.

“Are you blind?” the blind spokesman asked.

“No.” the new man replied.

“Do you know the way out of the forest?” the blind spokesman asked.

“Yes. In fact, I live on the edge of the forest and I often come this way as I walk. I know exactly where I am and how to get out.” the new man replied.

Nine of the blind men were very excited. Here was their safe passage out of the forest. But the tenth blind man was not so excited. He said, “What if this man doesn’t really know his way out of the forest? Suppose he is just as blind as we are?”

The other nine men thought about that. It could be true. They didn’t know the new man wasn’t as blind and lost as they were. Now what should they do? What would you do?

Often we are lost in life. We don’t always know the best way to live. We don’t know how to overcome the problems we face in life. We are like blind men groping about looking for an escape. When God comes to us with the answer to life’s problems, we often think that just because we don’t know what to do, then maybe God doesn’t know either.

But God knows everything. There is no place that is a mystery to Him. As we go through life, we need to follow God. Others are not always trust-worthy, but God is. If you are willing to serve God, He will lead you each step of the way.

Today’s Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

THE BIG LAWN

Obtain Flash Card

James looked back at the lawn that surrounded his home. It was a big one. In fact, it was the biggest lawn on the street. The Becker family lived at the end of the street and had extra land. The front lawn wasn't too big, but the back lawn stretched out far beyond the neighbors and sloped down to a creek bed that wound past a bunch of trees and bushes.

James loved to play on the large back lawn. He loved to go down to the creek to fish or toss stones. But he didn't love to mow that big lawn. That was the one bad thing about having such a big lawn. Every week in the summer it had to be mowed. What a job!

James just couldn't believe how fast the grass grew. And the weeds grew even faster! He'd mow one Saturday morning, and by the next Saturday, the grass was long and the weeds were swaying in the breeze as if they were waving hello to him. But James didn't feel much like waving back. (Show flash Card)

Dad helped mow when he could, but Dad was pretty busy at work and he depended on James to help with the yard work. There were lots of weeks that Dad didn't even get to take Saturday off from work.

James never complained, but he often found himself wishing that either the lawn was smaller or that he had a brother to help mow. But all the wishing in the world would not change either fact. The lawn was big and he had no brother.

So the job belonged to James and the last thing Dad had said to him when he left for work was that he wanted the lawn mowed today before he got home. James had been tempted to put it off till later. Dad rarely got home before six o'clock. He had thought about playing some video games first. But then he decided to just get the job done first and play games later. So James started the big job.

Dad pulled up to the garage just as James was putting the lawn mower away. James was surprised to see Dad so early. It was only three o'clock.

"Just finishing the mowing?" Dad asked.

"Yep." James replied. He was glad to see Dad home early.

"Son," Dad said, "Thank you for doing such a great job of taking care of the lawn. You know, I don't often get home early on Saturdays, but since I am, I thought I would do something special for you. You have done such a good job on the lawn this summer that you deserve a treat. I know it's almost supper time, but let's go to the Frosty Freeze and you can buy the largest ice cream sundae they have. My treat."

Boy was James glad he had done what Dad had asked him to do and mowed the lawn first! Now he was reaping a sweet reward for his efforts.

Our Heavenly Father watches us also. He sees what we do for Him. He gives us commands in His Word and He wants us to obey. He wants us to serve. There may be times when we are tempted to ignore God's commands. There are time we are tempted to do things our own way. But God's ways are always best.

How happy God is when we do obey Him. How happy He is when we serve Him with a willing heart. He shows us His pleasure by blessing us. It may not always be a blessing like money or material things, but God's blessings are wonderful and valuable!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 4:1-22

LESSON

BAD BATTLE STRATEGY

The Philistines had been troubling Israel back since the day of Samson. The Israelites were tired of being bothered by them. But instead of going to God and repenting of the wickedness of their lives, they instead decided to take matters into their own hands. They came up with a plan.

Israel decided to battle the Philistines. But they did not go with the power of God. They tried to defeat their enemy by their own power. It was not a good idea. The Bible says that the first day the Israelites lost 4,000 men. Things were looking bad. The enemy was winning.

I Samuel 4:1b-2 says, *Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.*

And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

Things were looking bad for Israel. They blamed God for not fighting for them. Then the men of Israel came up with a plan. They thought it was a brilliant plan. They knew that when God was with them, they always won. So they decided to go to the temple at Shiloh and bring the ark of God to the battle field.

I Samuel 4: 3 says, *And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.*

The ark was kept in the temple in the Holy of Holies. That was the most sacred and holy place in the temple. It was the place where only the priest could enter to speak with God. The ark was a visible sign of God's presence.

Now Eli must have known that it was wrong to take the ark out of the temple without God's permission. He should have refused to let it leave the temple. But Eli did not have the courage to say, "No." Eli's two wicked sons went with the ark. They were as foolish as the rest of the people. They had no respect for God either.

God had not told Israel to take the ark of the covenant to the battlefield. How foolish they all were to think that if the ark was with them, then God was with them. That was not the case. The people had sinned against God and they were not close to God. Eli's sons had sinned against God. God was not with any of them. They could take the ark to the battle, but it did not mean God would go with them and fight for them.

Had they just repented of their sins, then God would have been with them. They would not have needed to take the ark in order to win the battle. How mistaken and foolish they were.

I Samuel 4:4-8 says, *So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.*

And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

The Philistines had more reverence and respect for God than the people of Israel. When the enemy heard that the ark was in the camp of the Israelites, they trembled with fear. They had heard how God cared for and protected His people. When they heard the ark was at the battle-field they were afraid because they thought it meant God would fight for His people.

But the people were not right with God, so God was not with the people. When the Philistines purposed in their hearts to into battle and fight harder than ever, they had the advantage.

I Samuel 4:9 says that the Philistines said, *Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.*

The Israelites had merely strengthened the enemies will to win. And that's exactly what happened.

BIG LOSERS

The Philistines went into battle with a renewed determination to win. They feared the God of the Israelites and they did not want to lose this battle. So they fought with all their might.

Since God was not with the army of Israel, they lost. They lost 30,000 men. They lost their courage because when they saw the slaughter, those who remained fled like chickens. They also lost the ark!

The Philistines killed the two wicked priests, Hophni and Phinehas. Then they took the ark captive. What rejoicing must have occurred in the Philistine camp. They had defeated their enemy and they had defeated the God of their enemy. They had heard how great Israel's God was, but they no longer believed it. They thought that Israel's God was weak and not able to save.

What shame was brought to Israel that day. As punishment for all their wickedness, God allowed Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas to be destroyed. God had already told Eli that some day soon his two wicked sons would be removed as priests. Now God allowed that to happen.

I Samuel 4:10-11 says, *And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.*

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

NEWS TRAVELS FAST

It didn't take long for the news to reach the temple at Shiloh. Eli was an old man by now. He was 98 years old and he was blind. He sat waiting by the city gate to hear what happened with the army and his two sons. A messenger came to tell everyone in Shiloh what had happened. When Eli heard the cries of distress from the people of the city, he urgently asked what had happened.

I Samuel 4: 12-17 says, *And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.*

And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli.

Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

The messenger plainly told Eli that his two sons had been killed. That must have greatly grieved Eli. But the news that really broke his heart was the fact that the ark had been taken captive by the enemy.

When Eli heard the bad news, he fell backward off the rock and broke his neck. Eli died that same day.

The wife of Eli's son, Phinehas, was about to give birth to a baby. When she heard the news, she was so upset that she named her baby and then she also died. The baby was named Ichabod which means "the glory is departed."

I Samuel 4:18-22 says, *And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.*

And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

BAD DECISIONS

Israel should have looked to God for help from their enemy. They may have thought that since the ark was with them, God would help them. But they did not go to God to ask for help. They just trusted their own wisdom. They thought they could make God do what they wanted just by taking the ark to the battle.

But God was not a piece of furniture in the temple. That ark only represented God. God is a living God. He is not made out of wood or stone like a false god. He can not be made to do as people wish Him to do just because they desire it. We are God's servants, He is not our servant!

The people of Israel took matters into their own hands. They did not ask God what He wanted them to do. They did not get their hearts right with God so that God could guide them. They followed their own plan.

Sometimes you and I are the same way. We decide how we want things to go in our life and we rush ahead without once asking God what He wants. When we do that, we are forgetting that God is our Master. He is the One who should say what we do and what we don't do. We should be serving Him, not Him serving us.

When we rush ahead and do what we please in life, we can't expect God to bless us. We can't expect God to work things out for the best. Just as Israel regretted their foolish decision which resulted in many lost lives and the loss of the ark of God, so must we know that we will regret the foolish decisions we make when we don't look to God to guide our lives.

Be wise. Look to God to make your decisions for you. Follow His guidance. Rely on Him to be your wisdom and strength. Our power in our Christian life comes from God. We have no power or wisdom of our own. We can't control anything. Only God has true control. We would be wise to remember that.

When we don't let God guide us daily, then God is discredited. He is shamed. Why? Because people around you know that you are a Christian. But when they see you make foolish, selfish decisions, they not only look down on you, they also look down on God.

Just as the Philistines must have scorned and mocked Israel when they took the ark captive, so the world looks at your foolish decisions and thinks your God isn't so great after all. The Philistines must have thought the stories they had heard about the God of Israel were all fairy tales. When they mocked Israel, they were also mocking God. When people today see the bad results from foolish decisions you make, they think your God is weak and not able to help you.

But you don't have to make foolish decisions in your Christian life. That is why God lets us read stories about what happened to Israel. He wants us to read and learn. He wants us to say, "I won't make the mistakes Israel made. I will look to God for guidance. I will keep my heart right with Him and I will let Him lead me. I will serve God in God's way."

You will never be ashamed when you do things God's way. His ways are always right. He will never guide you the wrong way.

Psalm 25:5 says, *Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*

WHO GUIDES YOU?

If you have never asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior and take away your sin, then you are not led by God. But you can be. God wants you to have your sin forgiven. He wants to be your guide in life.

Today we can take a Bible and show you how you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart. Would you like to do that?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to let God be your guide as you serve Him. When you have a decision to make, go to God. Depend on Him to make the right decisions.

How do you know what God wants you to do? How does God guide you?

1. God guides you through His Word.

The Bible tells you what God wants you to know about how to live for Him. It tells you what to do and what to avoid.

Psalm 119:11 says, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Psalm 119:133 says, *Order my steps in thy word.*

2. God guides your heart.

Keep your heart in tune with God. God cannot guide you when you are not willing to listen to His voice. He cannot guide you when you resist following. In order to keep your heart in tune with God, you need to let God know that every day you are willing to do what He asks you to do.

Jeremiah 17:10 says, *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

3. God guides your Spiritual leaders.

God has given you people around you who do their best to teach you right and wrong. They teach you what the Bible says. They try to help you to live for God. They may be your parents if they love God. They may be your pastor and teachers in church. You would be wise to listen and learn from them.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember to always look to Him for guidance as you serve Him in your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who did Israel battle?
2. How many men were killed at the early stage of the battle?
3. What did the Israelite army decide would help them win the battle?
4. Who brought the ark to the camp of Israel?
5. How did the Philistines know the ark was at the Israelites camp?
6. What happened when the battle began again?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What happened to Eli when he heard the news of the battle?
9. How old was Eli when he died?
10. What does the name Ichabod mean?

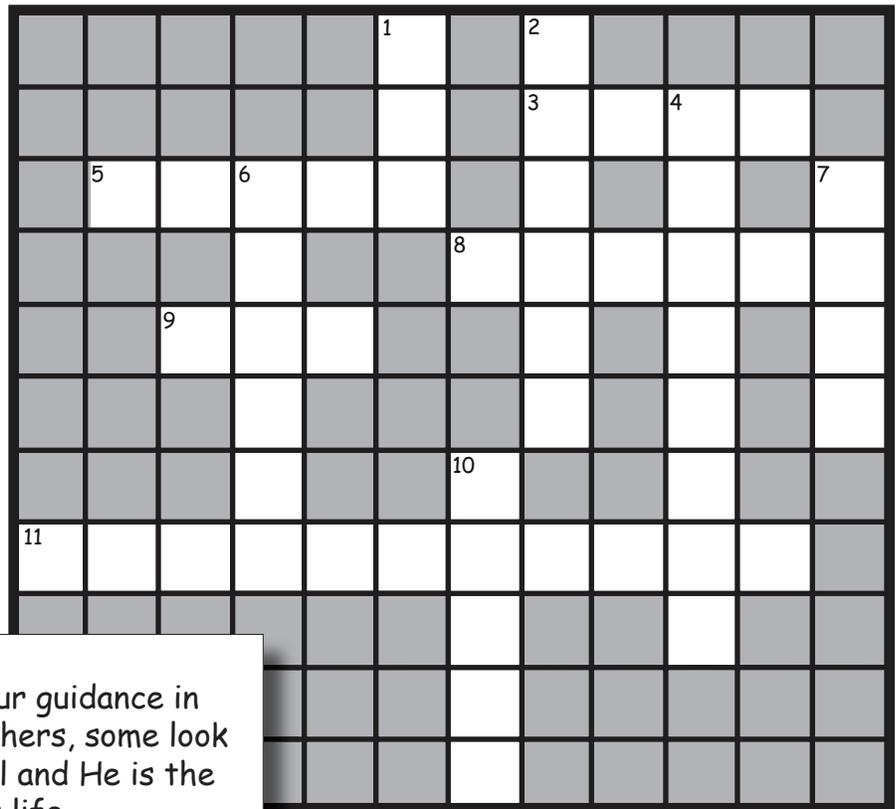
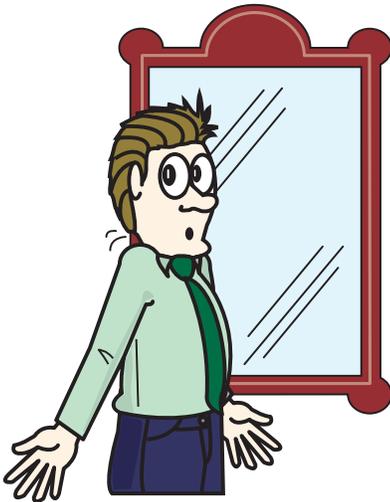
Serving with God's Guidance



Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

I will serve the Lord.



Who do you look to for your guidance in life? Some people look to others, some look to themselves. God knows all and He is the one who wants to guide your life.

Across

3. Eli fell off this.
5. Eli was old and _____.
8. The Holy of Holies is here.
9. They brought this to the battlefield.
11. Enemies of Israel.

Down

1. The Ark was a visible sign of His presence.
2. Eli was one of these.
4. What the Philistines did to the Ark.
6. They sinned against God.
7. The Philistines felt this when they heard the ark was there.
10. God is not made of this.

LESSON 43

A CHILD OF SERVICE
SERVING THE ONE TRUE GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 5:1-12, 6:1-21, 7:1-2

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

There are many gods that people serve, but there is only one true God.

It is funny why people would want to serve false gods. You would think that it is crazy to bow down and worship a god made of wood or stone, but did you realize that you might also be worshipping a false god? If you place anyone or anything before God in your heart and mind, then you are worshipping an idol. If God does not take first place in your life, then you are worshipping an idol.

Jesus Christ came to earth to free us from false idols. He came to show us who the one true God really is. He came to show us the way to gain eternal life.

I John 5:20 says, *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

Today we will talk about knowing the one true God and learning to serve Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

A SERVANT'S HEART

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Mandy hopped off the school bus and ran to the front door. As she walked inside, the unmistakable aroma of chocolate welcomed her home.

"I'm in the kitchen." Mom called. "Come and get some warm cookies, just out of the oven."

"Thanks, Mom. These are great," Mandy said with half a cookie in her mouth. "I'm gonna go watch TV till supper."

Mom finished taking the cookies off the cookie sheet and put a chicken casserole into the warm oven. She quickly placed the dirty dishes into the dishwasher and set the table for dinner.

Mandy's favorite animal show had just begun. "Mom, I'm having a hard time hearing. Could you please make a little less noise with the dishes?"

Mandy's mother appeared the doorway. "Mandy, I am setting the table for our dinner. I would hope that you appreciate that instead of considering it a bother. Don't you have some homework that you should be working on?"

"I'm just so tired from school! I have to relax just a little bit first. I can't just come right from school and start homework!"

"Well, I understand," Mom nodded. "Just don't spend too much time in front of the television. It's a beautiful day, and the flower garden needs to be weeded if you don't have homework to do."

Mandy kept watching television. An entire hour passed before she decided to get off the couch and check her assignment pad. She remembered that Mom had asked her to weed the flower garden, but it was almost time for dinner, so she didn't go outside at all. Mandy then walked into her bedroom and knew she should probably at least make her bed. But then she thought, "I'm just gonna go to bed in a couple more hours; why should I make it now?"

"I'm home," Dad yelled as he came through the garage door. "Where are my girls?"

"In the kitchen," Mom answered. "Dinner will be ready in fifteen minutes."

"Smells fantastic!" Dad said. "Where's Mandy?"

"I think she's outside weeding the flowers. At least, that's what I suggested she should do."

"Good," Dad said. "Mandy needs to help around the house more." But when Dad stepped outside into the back yard, Mandy was nowhere to be seen. He knew that Mom wanted someone to weed the flower bed, so he quickly got it done by the time dinner was ready.

"Hi, Dad," Mandy said as she sat down to eat. "Why are you so sweaty and hot? Didn't you just get home from work?"

"I've been home for fifteen minutes; long enough to weed the flower bed for your mom."

"Oh," Mandy quietly answered.

"What have you been doing since you got home from school?" Dad asked.

"I was really tired today, and I just wanted to relax. Besides, my favorite animal show was on TV. Mom said it was okay."

"Mom is very kind. But when she told you about the flower bed, you should have gotten busy on that right away. Do you think you mom sits around all day doing things she wants to do, or doing the things she needs to do for our family?" Dad asked his daughter.

“I don’t know,” Mandy said. “I guess she does what she’s supposed to do. She’s a mom. That’s her job.”

Mom looked at Mandy and shook her head. “No, Mandy. I consider it a privilege to do the things I do for my family. I don’t do it because it’s my job; I do it out of love for you and Dad, and out of love for God.”

“What does God have to do with cooking supper and doing laundry?” Mandy asked.

Dad answered this time. “Mandy, God places us where he wants us to serve Him. He has placed Mom here in our home as my wife and your mother. Her love for God is the reason she does her best to take care of us and our home. By serving us, she is serving God. She has a true servant’s heart.”

“Oh; I guess I never thought of that,” Mandy admitted.

“Now tell me, Mandy,” Dad said. “What have you done at home today with the heart of a servant ?” (Show Flash Card.)

Mandy thought of how her day began. Mom woke her, cooked her breakfast, packed her lunch, and helped her braid her hair. When Mandy got home, she ate cookies that Mom had just baked. She had lain on the sofa and watched TV, then messed around until dinner. “Nothing,” Mandy whispered.

Mandy was quiet all through the meal. She had a lot to think about. Not only had she not done the weeding Mom asked her to do, but Dad had to do it after he got home from working all day. Mandy was beginning to realize that she had a problem.

“May I be excused?” Mandy asked after she had eaten about half of her meal.

“Okay,” Mom said.

Mandy walked out of the dining room, but then quickly came back and picked up her plate and glass and took them to the kitchen. “Thanks for dinner, Mom,” Mandy quietly said.

After closing the door to her room, Mandy slowly walked to her window. She looked at the flower bed, now neat and clean. Something inside her was beginning to hurt. She knew it was her heart. Mandy was a Christian; she had trusted Jesus to forgive her sins. Mandy knew that the Holy Spirit, Who lived in her heart, was convicting her of sin. And Mandy knew what the sin was. Mandy was guilty of laziness and pride. She didn’t want to work around the house because she wanted her own way. She hadn’t appreciated all the loving things her mother and father had done for her. Her parents were wonderful examples of what a servant should be, and Mandy hadn’t even noticed.

Mandy knew that it was time to take care of some important business. First, Mandy knelt beside her bed and confessed her sin to God. She asked Him to help her to focus on being a servant at home to her parents. Next, Mandy got up and went straight to her parents. “I know

I've been selfish and lazy. I've told God I'm sorry, and now I want to tell you. Please forgive me. I really want to try to change my attitude. Dad, you helped me understand what it means to be a servant. I know that's what I want to be. Mom, can I start by doing the dishes for you tonight?"

Mom hugged Megan and smiled. "No, but we can do them together. How does that sound?"

Megan hugged back. "It sounds good to me."

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 5:1-12, 6:1-21, 7:1-2

LESSON

FROM BAD TO WORSE

As our story opens today, Israel finds themselves in deep trouble. They made a foolish decision to bring the ark to the battle field. God did not tell them to do such a thing, but they foolishly decided that was what they wanted to do.

30,000 men were slaughtered and the ark was taken captive by the Philistine army.

This was a great tragedy, but that wasn't all that happened. It just got worse. The disobedience of Israel gave the Philistines a completely wrong view of God. They thought the God of Israel was weak and could not help His people in battle. They did not know that Israel had lost the battle because of their disobedience to God.

So the Philistines had no fear of the ark of God. They took the ark to the city called Ashdod. They placed the ark, side by side in their temple, with their false god. What a disgrace that was to God!

I Samuel 5:2 says, *When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.*

The Philistines worshipped a false god named Dagon. Dagon was no god at all. He was just an idol that the Philistines made with their own hands. They must have decided that they would add the God of the Israelites to their gods. They would worship them both.

ONE GOD

But God will not share His glory with a false god. There is only one true God. Way back when the Israelites were wandering in the desert before they reached the promise land, God had given them the 10 commandments. Do you remember what the very first commandment was?

In Exodus 20:3 God said, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

It was a great sin for the enemy to take the ark and it was a great sin for them to place it next to a false god.

The next morning when the Philistines went into their temple, they found a strange thing. The idol of Dagon had fallen down and it lay on the floor, face down before the ark. It was as if even the idol knew to bow down to the true God.

I Samuel 5:3 says, *And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.*

So they set Dagon back in place. They must have supposed that it was just an accident that Dagon had fallen down. But it was no accident. The next morning when they entered the temple of their false god, this time they knew for certain that the One true God had knocked down their false god. This time the idol had fallen as before, but it also had its head and hands cut off.

This was no mistake. They could see that clearly. They realized then that the God of Israel was the true God. They may have once laughed at God and thought He was weak, but not anymore!

I Samuel 5:4 says, *And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.*

God is not weak. He is not helpless. God would not allow the ark He had given Israel to remind them of how He delivered them from slavery in Egypt to be defiled. God allowed the Philistines to capture the ark as a punishment to Israel for their foolishness, but God would not allow the Philistines to keep the ark.

TROUBLE, TROUBLE

From that time on, the people in Ashdod had nothing but trouble. When they went to fight other enemies, God's hand was against them. They suffered great loss. Everything they attempted to do went wrong. It didn't take them too long to realize the God of Israel was angry at them for capturing the ark.

So they decided to send the ark to another town. They sent it to a city named Gath. But the same thing happened there. The people had everything go wrong including sores or tumors on their bodies. God caused great misery for them.

After seven months of terrible things happening to them, the Philistines decided to send the ark back to Israel. It was the only way they could think to do to be rid of their problems. I am sure the Philistines now knew that the God of Israel was indeed the One true God. But unfortunately they did not reject their false god and turn to the One true God. If they had, they would have saved themselves a lot of trouble.

I Samuel 6:1 says, *And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.*

And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

So the Philistines took the ark. They placed it on a cart that would carry it safely. Along with the ark they placed many offerings to send along with it. They must have wanted to do everything possible to make the God of Israel happy with them. Foolish people that they were, they decided to make golden images of the very things that had been torturing them. They sent golden images of the tumors and of mice.

Instead of returning the ark to Israel for a ransom, they gladly paid a ransom to Israel to be rid of it.

The Philistines decided to put God to one last test. They placed the ark on the cart that would be pulled by cows that were like homing pigeons. These cows would always head home, no matter where they were. So the Philistines said, "If the cows take the ark back to the Israelites, then we will know for certain their God is real. But if the cows come home, then we will know we were just having a streak of bad luck."

I Samuel 6:8-9 says, *And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.*

And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.

It was not bad luck. It was truly God who had afflicted the Philistines. The rulers of the Philistines followed close behind. They wanted to see what the cows would do. Sure enough, the cows went straight to the land where the Israelites lived. Not once did those cows try to head for their own home. The Philistines saw that God had truly been in charge of all that had happened.

I Samuel 6:11-12 says, *And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.*

And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.

ISRAEL REJOICES

Those cows went to the field of a man named Joshua. When the men working in the field looked up and saw the ark heading their way they rejoiced. How excited and happy they were to see the ark return to them.

They took the ark and placed it on a rock. Then the men cut up the cart and used it to build an altar to offer a burnt sacrifice to God. They were so thankful. The loss of the ark had shamed Israel. It also was a visible sign that God was displeased with them. The return of the ark must have been a huge relief.

I Samuel 6:13-16 says, *And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.*

And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

A GREAT SIN

For some reason, the men of Israel who had been so happy to see the ark return did a very foolish thing. They decided to open the ark. Remember that the ark was holy to Israel. It was kept in the Holy of Holies and only the priests ever entered there. Even the Priests never touched the ark.

Yet these men decided to open the ark. God was not pleased with that. God killed the men and many others who lived in that city. This scared the other people who lived there, so they sent the ark to another city where one man took the ark and placed it in a clean room. He carefully tended the ark in a respectful manner. He knew the ark needed to be treated with respect.

I Samuel 6:19-21, 7:1 says, *And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.*

And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.

And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

It was about 100 years before King David finally arranged for the ark to be brought back and placed where it truly belonged.

WHO IS YOUR GOD?

Let me ask you a question. Who is your God? Who do you serve in this life?

The Philistines served a false god called Dagon. It was just an idol. Many people today serve idols. In other countries there are people who bow and pray to idols made of wood and stone. But even in our country we can serve and worship idols also. I'm not talking about statues of wood and stone. The idols you serve can be things like clothes, sports, and famous people. Anything or anyone that you place before God is an idol.

The Israelites served the one true God, but they often forgot all about God. They often rebelled against God. Maybe you are like them. You know God as your Savior, but you don't always love and obey and serve Him. You rebel against Him.

Examine your heart. Who do you serve? Do you serve a false god or do you serve the One true God? Who has control of your heart?

If you know that you have let something or someone besides God become what you love and worship, then you can make some changes today.

First, change your heart. Let God know you are sorry you placed something before Him.

Then you can change your ways. Stop letting idols take the place of God. Put God in first place in your heart and life.

Maybe you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. You are not even a Christian. Today we can show you how you can have your sin forgiven and you can become a child of God. You can worship the one true God.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to serve the one true God. How can you do that?

1. Change your heart. Give your heart back to God. Tell Him that you love Him more than anyone or anything.
2. Change your ways. Give your life to God. Put idols in their place. Make sure God is in first place.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to keep Him in first place and to serve Him alone.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the name of the Philistines' false god?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What happened to Dagon?
4. What began to happen to the Philistines?
5. What did the Philistines decide to do?
6. How did the Philistines send the ark back to Israel?
7. What did the men of Israel do when they first saw the ark?
8. What did the men do to anger God?
9. How many years was the ark misplaced from where it really belonged?
10. Name something that could be an idol in our life.

LESSON 44

A CHILD OF SERVICE
CHOOSING TO SERVE GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 1:1 - 7:2

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will serve the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Brian and Brandon were twins. No one could tell them apart by their looks. They both had sandy blond hair that hung straight down except for a single tuft at the top that stood straight up and needed extra combing to lay flat. Both had dimples in their cheeks that showed when they smiled really big. Both had deep blue eyes that sparkled. They looked so much alike it was amazing.

But their mom and dad could always tell them apart. So could their everyone else who knew them. Why? How could everyone tell them apart? Because they acted so differently. They were both outgoing, but when Mom asked them to clean their room, Brian smiled and began to clean the room. Brandon scowled and threw his shoe under the bed as he grudgingly began to help Brian.

When Dad asked the boys to help rake leaves, Brian ran to grab a rake from the garage while Brandon said, "But Dad, I had plans to meet the guys this afternoon!"

Which twin do you think showed that they were a true servant of God? A person who loves God with their whole heart will show it in their attitudes and their actions. They will love to serve God and they will serve with a cheerful spirit!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will serve the Lord.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

A LIFELONG COMMITMENT

Obtain Flash Card

In Washington, D.C. there is a place called Arlington National Cemetery. In it are the graves of men and women who died in service for their country. It is a great honor to be buried there. But not everyone that is buried in Arlington Cemetery has a name on their tomb. Not everyone is known. There is one special tomb that bears the bodies of three unknown men. The tomb is called the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Within the tomb of the unknown soldier, there are three men. One soldier was from World War I, one from World War II, and one from the Korean Conflict. (Show Flash Card)

In the 1920's a gentleman was returning from war and he got to thinking about all the families who would lose a son or brother in the war, but might not have that loved one returned to them because their bodies had not been identified. He knew that it would be very hard for those relatives. While he was in England he saw that someone had made a tribute to those lost in war who could not be identified. He thought it was such a good idea that he came home and presented the idea to our government. By 1926 the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier had been built and the body of a soldier from World War I was placed inside.

The spot of the tomb was very popular for families and because it was in such a beautiful spot many began to use the tomb site as a place to picnic. There were some who thought it was inappropriate to use that somber place for such frivolous activities, so it was determined that a permanent guard would be placed at the tomb.

In 1937 the 3rd United States Infantry, known as the Old Guard, took on the responsibility of guarding the tomb. Since 1937 there has not been one minute that the tomb has stood unguarded. By day and by night, in good weather and bad, the men of the 3rd US Infantry stand guard over that tomb.

The guard is changed every 30 minutes in the summer and every 60 minutes in the winter. Even when the cemetery is closed, the men stand guard and they stand then for 2 hours at a time.

After World War II another soldier was placed in the tomb. Again after the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War unknown men were given funerals of honor and metals. Then they were placed to rest beside the last man. Recently, because of the ability to do DNA testing, the soldier from the Vietnam War was identified and returned to his family. But the other three men remain and the men of the Old Guard continue to keep watch.

On the side of the tomb are written these words: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

It is a special honor for a man to be selected to guard the tomb. Of all the men who try out to be worthy to guard, over 80% are not found to be worthy. A man who is selected must be vigorously trained. He must learn each movement needed for the changing of the guard. He must have the strength and stamina to stand at attention before the tomb for long stretches of time. He must be an excellent example of an American soldier in manner, training, and discipline.

It is not an easy thing to stand guard at the tomb. There are scorching hot days, there are freezing cold days. Even in a hurricane that happened in that area, the men who watched the tomb did not desert their posts. No matter how bad the weather, the men must stand tall, firm, and show no sign whatsoever of distress or weakness. It is with special pride that the men endure the hardships that come from guarding the tomb.

Why do these men seek to guard the tomb? Why is it considered such an honor to be in this special infantry? Because these men feel a devotion and respect for the men and women who have given their lives to serve our country. These soldiers in the tomb gave everything they had,

including their lives, to preserve and protect our freedom. From start to finish they served. And from start to finish the men of the 3rd US Infantry have determined to honor these fallen men. How devoted they are!

We have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life to preserve and protect us. He gave everything He had to buy our freedom from sin. We could not do that. We could not fight sin and Satan ourselves. We were helpless to buy our freedom from sin, but Jesus Christ came from Heaven to offer His own life for us.

We should be devoted and faithful to Jesus Christ, from the start to the finish of our lives. Like the men of the Old Guard, we should consider it a privilege to love and serve and honor our Lord. We should devote our time and efforts and energy to training ourselves to do whatever He asks us to do.

And how wonderful it is that we are not devoting ourselves to a dead Savior. He is not still in the tomb. Jesus Christ is risen and He lives in Heaven. He will live for all eternity and we will live with Him. We do not honor a dead Savior. We honor a living Savior who deserves our complete and total devotion.

So, be a faithful and determined soldier of Christ. Be a part of the Old Guard of Christianity who keeps serving and obeying God day after day, from start to finish.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 1:1 - 7:2

LESSON

A GOOD START

The last several weeks we have been studying about Samuel. We know that before Samuel was even born his mother dedicated him to God. He had a good start in life.

While most of the rest of Israel was far from God in their hearts, Samuel's parents still loved and worshipped God. They were careful to obey and serve God. Every year they went to the temple and offered sacrifices to God. I'm sure that at home they also lived in a way that was pleasing to God.

If you have parents who love and obey God, then you should be thankful. You should be glad that you have a family that helps you to do what is right. Not everyone has a Christian family to help them learn to please God. But just having parents who love God is not enough. You must put forth the effort to love and serve God on your own.

Before Samuel was born his mother made a special promise to God. She promised that Samuel would be a Nazarite.

I Samuel 1:11 says, *And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

Do you remember anything about Nazarites? A Nazarite was a man who lived his life in an extra holy way. From the time of his birth his parents would take special care to feed him only foods that were considered pure. A Nazarite also never cut his hair.

Can you think of someone else that we learned about who was also a Nazarite? That's right. Samson was a Nazarite. A Nazarite was a man who only ate foods that were considered pure. They never cut their hair. They also devoted their lives to the service of God.

Both Samuel and Samson were Nazarites. Yet what a big difference we see in the lives of Samuel and Samson. In many ways these two men were similar. They both were promised to God before birth to be a Nazarite. Both had godly parents who raised them to love and serve God. Both were judges of the nation of Israel.

But there the similarities end. Although Samson was taught all about God, and he started his life by serving God, we never see Samson as truly loving God. Samson seemed much more interested in doing things his own way in life. Samson was raised to live in a holy manner, yet when Samson was old enough to make his own choices, he often made very selfish and wicked choices. Samson only seemed to obey God when it pleased him to do so. Otherwise, Samson lived as he pleased.

Samson began by marrying a woman who was not a woman of God. That caused much heartache for Samson. Then at the end of Samson's life he became enticed by another wicked woman. Samson should have realized Delilah was nothing but trouble, but he didn't. Instead of asking God what choices he should make, Samson did what he wanted to do. He saw a woman he wanted and he took her. As a result, Samson destroyed both his life and his testimony for God.

Samson had the choice of doing what would please God or doing what would please himself. Samson chose to please himself.

Now we see another Nazarite. He was promised to God before he was born. But just like Samson, he had a choice to make when he got older. He could either live for God, or he could live for himself. Samuel chose to live for God. That was a wise choice.

And Samuel didn't serve God because he didn't know any different. Samuel certainly did not grow up in the best environment. For all the years he was a young boy and later as young man growing up in the tabernacle, he saw Eli's two wicked sons as they totally ignored God. He saw them bring shame to their father and to God. Eli's two wicked sons were rejected of God, but God did not remove them until Samuel was old enough to begin to fill the office of a priest. For most of his life he watched the wicked things Eli's sons did.

Samuel could have followed their examples. But he didn't. Samuel made the choice to be different from those wicked men.

I Samuel 3:19 says, *And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him.*

A PERSONAL CHOICE

Samuel could have been resentful. He could have said, "I didn't choose to be a Nazarite. I didn't choose to come to the tabernacle at such a young age. I didn't choose to be a priest of God. My mother made all those choices. And Eli trained me to be a priest, but look at his two sons. They don't obey Eli. Why should I do what everyone else tells me to do? Why should I serve?"

Instead, Samuel made the choice to obey and serve God. He could have rejected God just as Eli's sons had. He could have chosen to obey God when it was convenient but disobeyed when he wanted things his own way, just as Samson did.

Did you know that everyone makes their own personal choice about whether or not they will love and serve God? Your parents can bring you to church and train you about God. Your pastor and teachers here at church can teach about God. Everyone else can tell you what you

need to do to be pleasing to God. But it is your choice whether or not you will truly love and serve God.

God will not force you to love Him. He will not force you to serve Him. He leaves the choice to you. But your choice will affect the rest of your life.

Eli's sons made the choice to totally reject God. Samson made the choice to serve God when it was convenient for him, but to do as he please when he wished. In both cases, God was shamed by their actions. In both cases, their testimonies were destroyed. And in both cases their lives were cut short and destroyed.

God judges sin. Those men were judged for their sin by God. They paid a terrible price for choosing the wrong way to go in life. But God also rewards those who make wise and godly decisions.

Samuel made his own choice in life. As a child, Samuel chose to be teachable. He eagerly learned about God and how to serve as a priest. He gladly helped Eli around the temple. When God talked to him, he listened and obeyed.

When Samuel got older, he still chose to love and obey God. His joy was in serving God. As we study the stories of King Saul and King David, we will see that Samuel is still faithfully serving and obeying God. Samuel's entire life was pleasing to God. He allowed God to use him. God was well pleased with Samuel.

THE DIFFERENCE

You face the same decisions in life that Samson, and Eli's two sons, and Samuel faced. You can either serve God or you can serve yourself.

Do you know what made the difference in the choices these men made? What made the difference was WHO these men chose to love more. Eli's sons and Samson chose to love themselves more. Samuel loved God more. Samuel decided that because he loved God more than he loved himself, he would obey God and serve God.

And do you know what? Because Samuel loved God so much, it was a pleasure for Samuel to serve God. He enjoyed it. Samuel didn't get up each morning and say, "Oh, man! I have to go do all the things God wants me to do today. What a bother! I'd rather be doing something that makes me happy!"

No. Instead Samuel said, "Because I love God, I want to do everything I can today to please God!"

You see, Samuel gave his whole heart to God. He knew that was the secret to being right with God. It was the secret to having peace with God.

Samuel told the people of Israel that the way to have victory was to turn away from sin and turn towards God. Listen to what Samuel tells the people of Israel in I Samuel 7:3 *And Samuel*

spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

Samuel knew that if the people loved God with all of their hearts, then they would have the blessings of God.

WHAT DO YOU CHOOSE?

What about you? Who do you love more, yourself or God?

God has not changed. Just as God promised to bless Israel if they turned from their sin and loved Him with all of their hearts, God makes the same promise to you.

Have you turned from your sin? Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart. You can do that today. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can turn to God.

Maybe you have asked Jesus to come into your life and forgive your sin, but you are something like Samson. You serve God when it pleases you. You do what is right when you are forced to or when it suits you. But you do not truly love God with all of your heart. You have not given your whole heart and life to Him.

In order to experience the blessings of God, you must be willing to serve Him. But until you give your whole heart to God, you will never want to serve Him. You might serve Him on the outside so others think you are serving, but if you don't love God, then you are not serving Him on the inside. And God knows exactly what is on the inside of your heart.

I Samuel 16:7b says, *For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

God wants you to love and serve Him with your whole heart.

Jeremiah 24:7 says, *And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*

WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART

So how do you love and serve God with your whole heart?

1. Have a good attitude.

A good attitude toward God and toward others shows what is inside your heart. The way you do things, the look on your face, and the tone of your voice shows what you are truly feeling on the inside. If you drag to church, sass your parents, whine about doing chores, and pout when things aren't going your way, then your bad attitude shows that you are not loving God with your whole heart.

How do I know? Your attitude shows God and others, more than anything, what is really in your heart. Your attitude will clearly show whether or not your heart is turned toward or against God. If your heart is filled with love for God, it shows on your face and in all you say and do.

So do an attitude check. Do you have a good attitude as a result of your whole heart being turned toward God?

2. Demonstrate godly actions.

Godly actions also show others if your whole heart is turned toward God. If your heart isn't right with God, then you will not enjoy serving God. You won't enjoy spending time with God by reading your Bible and praying. You won't want to do anything for God.

You may go through the motions of going to church, but it will be clear that you don't truly love God with your whole heart.

A person who loves God with their whole heart looks for ways to demonstrate their love. They enjoy doing things for God and for others. They get great satisfaction from helping in ways that please God.

So check your actions. Do your actions show that you love God with your whole heart?

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to love God with your whole heart. Samuel certainly did and God blessed Samuel. God will also bless you.

Remember, your love for God will show outwardly by your attitudes and actions. Maybe your life hasn't always shown God and others how much you love God. But that can change. You can change. You can begin today to show everyone that you love God with your whole heart.

1. Have a good attitude.

Keep your attitude sweet. Do things cheerfully for others and for God. Don't complain and whine when things aren't always your way.

2. Demonstrate godly actions.

Look for ways to help others. When you do anything from homework to housework, do the very best that you can. This shows that you are doing your best for God.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to love and serve Him with your whole heart.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Name one Nazarite that we talked about today.
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Name another Nazarite that we talked about today.
4. What could a Nazarite never do?
5. Who did Samson love most?
6. Who did Samuel love most?
7. What did Samuel do to show he loved God with his whole heart?
8. What ability does God have that allows Him to know whether or not you love Him with your whole heart? (Hint: I Samuel 16:7b.)
9. Name one way to show God and others that we love God with our whole heart.
10. Name another way to show God and others that we love God with our whole heart.

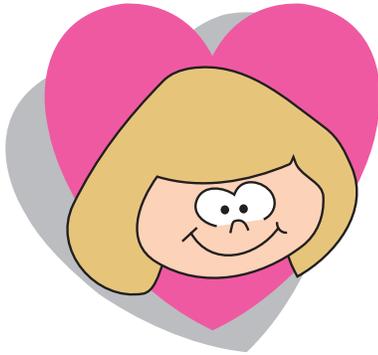
Choosing to Serve God



Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

I will serve the Lord.



Show God you love Him by giving Him your whole heart and life.

Show others you love God by the way you act and the words you say.

M	N	M	J	D	X	L	A	A	O	S	P	E	A	K
O	B	E	D	I	E	N	T	T	E	M	P	L	E	R
L	E	V	L	U	G	D	T	N	K	S	U	N	C	A
P	V	C	M	O	N	L	I	H	A	N	N	A	H	S
K	R	A	I	R	T	T	T	C	S	O	R	R	O	W
Y	S	F	U	V	S	S	U	D	A	I	V	N	I	D
X	H	T	E	I	R	D	D	O	G	T	S	W	C	U
D	E	L	L	A	C	E	E	V	U	C	E	Y	E	W
R	I	I	U	P	H	K	S	P	Q	A	D	D	J	K
T	H	Q	F	O	Z	C	O	M	M	I	T	S	F	P
P	Y	K	N	C	H	I	L	D	A	D	R	G	B	N
C	A	O	I	X	F	W	A	G	Y	X	A	X	I	Y
Z	R	W	S	K	O	E	D	G	P	T	E	G	F	J
H	P	T	J	E	T	C	K	K	N	T	H	B	O	Y
D	Z	Z	R	I	I	D	D	X	T	X	D	Y	Z	N

Actions

Ark

Attitudes

Called

Child

Choice

Commit

Cry

Dagon

Dedicated

Eli

Hannah

Heart

Honor

Joy

Obedient

Philistines

Pray

Return

Samuel

Service

Sinful

Sons

Sorrow

Speak

Stolen

Temple

Wicked

LESSON 45

A CHILD OF FAITH
FAITH TO FACE MY GIANTS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 17:1-11, 16

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have faith in God.

MEMORY VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Sam had a big test in English coming up. If the test had been in math he wouldn't have been worried at all. He was good at math, but English was really hard for him. It seemed like no matter how hard he tried to understand it, he just couldn't get it. Sam was scared he might fail this test.

Jennifer was concerned because her parents seemed to argue all the time. There were a bunch of her friends at school whose parents were divorced, but she didn't want to think that such a thing could happen to her family. Jennifer was scared every time she heard her folks having another fight.

Ben knew he was going to miss his home town. He had lived there all his life, but last night his dad had announced that he had gotten a promotion and the family would have to move to a new city. Ben was scared to think about leaving everything that was familiar to him to go to some new place.

Sam and Jennifer and Ben all had very different problems, but their problems were big and scary to them. They didn't know how things would work out. We all have things in our life that scare us. We all face problems for which we have no answers. But there is someone who knows all of the answers. There is someone who has the power to control each situation that we face. That someone is God. He is never scared by the problems we face. He is in complete control of everything. And if He is your Heavenly Father, He wants you to have the faith to believe that He can help you with each problem that you face.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have faith in God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY SATAN'S WEAPONS VS GOD'S WEAPONS

Obtain Flash Cards

When men go to battle today, they use weapons like tanks, airplanes, guns, and missiles. In Bible days they used horses and chariots, bows and arrows, and swords and shields. Those are all things we think of when we think of battle. But did you know that you are in a battle every single day?

The Bible says that you do battle, not with other humans. The Bible isn't talking about the battles that are going on with earthly enemies. It is talking about the battle we fight with our greatest enemy of all: Satan.

Ephesians 6:12 says, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Satan uses every weapon he has to try to win the victory against us. He uses temptations. He uses trickery. He uses life's situations. He knows that if you give in to the tricks and temptations he sets before you, then you will be out of fellowship with God. He knows that your sin will keep you from being close to God. Satan knows that your sin can shake your faith in God.

Let's take a quick peek at some of the weapons Satan uses to destroy us.

1. Temptations.

Satan places temptations in your path. These are things that you know are wrong for you to do, but they really look good. They look like fun. (Show Flash Card 45a)

Satan loves to tempt you into doing something wrong. He will send things along that tempt you to disobey your parents. He'll send the temptation to steal something that is not yours. He will tempt you to have a wrong attitude or to lie about something, or to do something that will get you into trouble.

Temptations come in all different forms. And it is not wrong to be tempted, what is wrong is when you give in to that temptation. When you act on what you know is wrong is giving in to the temptation.

When Satan uses the weapon of temptation against you, you need stand strong against it, but you must have God's help to stand strong. Ask Him to help you to avoid giving in to temptations.

I Corinthians 10:13 says, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

2. Trickery.

Satan loves to trick you into doing something wrong. He will lie to your heart. He will have those who obey him lie to you. He will try to confuse you so that you will not want to trust and obey God. He will try to make what you know to be the truth about God seem confusing or wrong.

In the world today, there are all sorts of people who will try to trick you into doubting that God is real and that God loves you. They say things like the earth was not created by God, but instead evolved slowly over billions of years. Some people say there is no God. Some people say

there are many gods and it doesn't matter which god you serve or how you get to Heaven as long as you try your best to be good.

Those are lies the world tells to try to trick you into turning away from God's truth. Don't listen to those lies. Don't fall for those tricks.

In John 8:44 Jesus was talking to the Pharisees who hated Him. They were trying to trick Jesus into saying something wrong. Jesus was quite plain about how he felt about that. He told them they were just like Satan who is the father of all lies and tricks.

Jesus said, *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

3. Life's Situations.

Many times Satan will try to defeat you with the things that happen in life. He may bring things into your life in an attempt to discourage you and cause you to lose faith. The important thing for you to remember is that since you are a child of God, He can use everything for your good and His glory. Something that seems bad can actually be used for good in your life.

Don't let Satan use the discouragements in life to win a victory over you. Instead, have faith in God to do what is right and good for you each day. Remember that while not everything that happens in life is good, God can still make it into something good.

Romans 8:28 says, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

So what on earth can you do? After all. You are just a weak human being. You can't hope to win against Satan, can you? The truth is, you can't win against Satan, but God can. God is stronger, wiser, and more powerful than Satan will ever be. He will always be victorious and since God is your Father, He will help you to have victory over Satan if you look to Him for help.

Ephesians 6:13 says, *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

So what are some of the weapons that God gives to help you defeat Satan?

1. Prayer.

Prayer is a special gift to you from God. It is your way of staying personally in touch with Him. Anytime you choose, you can go talk to God. He longs to hear from you and He loves to listen. (Show Flash Card 45b)

Prayer is a mighty weapon against Satan. When Satan starts to pull his old tricks and throws temptations, lies, and discouragements in your path, you can go directly to your Father and tell Him about it. You can ask for help. You can be aware of His presence as you battle Satan.

So use your powerful weapon of prayer each and every day before you head into the battle of life.

Matthew 26:41 says, *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

2. The Bible.

God also longs to talk to you. He does that through His Word, the Bible. The question is, are you willing to listen when God talks to you? He always listens when you talk to Him.

The Bible is the most powerful weapon you can take with you to use against Satan. Satan is helpless to defeat the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 says, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

3. The Holy Spirit.

When Jesus went back to heaven after He was here on earth, He did not leave us alone. Instead, He sent the Holy Spirit to live within us. The job of the Holy Spirit is to help us live a victorious Christian life. The Holy Spirit is the greatest weapon we have against Satan. He lives within us and if we allow Him to do His job, then He will help us to resist temptations. He will help us to know the truth and not lies. He will help us to avoid discouragement with life when things seem really hard. The Holy Spirit will help build up your faith in God.

John 16:13 says, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

Romans 8:26 says, *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

So, even though Satan has weapons and he wants to attack us each day, God gives us more powerful weapons to use. We need to have faith so that we can have victory with God's help. That's wonderful to know and to remember!

I Corinthians 15:57 says, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 17:1-11, 16

LESSON

TWO MOUNTAINS AND A VALLEY

In the early years of King Saul's reign he went to battle with the Philistines and defeated them. But the enemy didn't stay away long. When they heard that Saul had sinned and God had forsaken Saul, they lost their fear of Him. The Philistines boldly march over to the land which belonged to the Israelites and made camp. They did this to show the men of Israel that they were not afraid of them. This time they were determined to battle and to win over Israel.

The land the Philistines selected for battle had a mountain on two sides with a valley between. The Israelites stood on one mountain side called the Valley of Elah. The enemy camped on the other mountainside. The fighting would take place in the valley between with hand to hand combat.

Can you picture the scene? From each mountain side the enemies could look at each other. The battle ground in the valley below was clearly visible to all. The Philistines were certain they would be the victors. In fact, they hoped the Israelites on the other mountainside would see them winning in the valley below and would begin to quake with fear.

I Samuel 17:1-3 says, *Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.*

And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

BIG PROBLEMS!

The Philistines weren't too far from being wrong. You see, the Philistines had a big advantage and King Saul and the army of Israel had a problem. A big, big problem! His name was Goliath. Goliath was a giant who stood almost ten feet tall! When we see someone who is over six feet tall we look up and think they are pretty tall. Some of the professional basketball players can be well over six and a half feet tall. But can you imagine someone who is almost ten feet tall? And I don't suppose he was just tall, I imagine he was a big chested brute too. He must have towered over everyone as if he were a skyscraper!

I Samuel 17:4 says, *And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.*

Not only was Goliath big and tall, he also had some very impressive fighting equipment. He had a brass or bronze helmet to protect his head. He wore a coat of mail which was a heavy metal shirt-like thing that he would have worn over the main part of his body. He also wore a heavy metal protection over his legs because most men only came up to his leg height and he wanted to guard against injury in that area. He carried a bronze javelin or spear of heavy iron that was so thick it was like a beam. On top of all that, a man walked before him and carried a shield to further protect the giant. This man was well protected!

I Samuel 17:5-7 says, *And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.*

And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

Goliath must have been something to behold. Certainly all the men of Israel took one look at him and quaked in their boots! They had no one so tall or strong or well armed and well protected as Goliath!

Another problem was that the Israelite army had very little in the way of metal weapons. Back before Saul was king, the Philistines had completely controlled Israel. They had prevented them from having men who worked with metal. The Philistines did not want the Israelites to make weapons. Not many men in the army were actually armed like the Philistine army. Certainly none could match the armor of mighty Goliath.

THE CHALLENGE

On top of everything else, Goliath was mean. He came out and bellowed out a challenge to fight for all the Israelites to hear. He didn't need a megaphone or microphone and amplifier. When he shouted, everyone could hear his booming voice.

“Send somebody over to fight with me,” he yelled.

No one was willing to go fight that big, mean giant. They just stood on their side of the battlefield and hoped that Goliath wouldn't decide to come any closer.

“What's the matter? Are you all chickens?” Goliath taunted the men of Israel.

Actually, yes. They were all chickens. Not one man from the army of Israel had the courage to go fight with Goliath.

Then Goliath called out another challenge. “If your man can defeat me, then we will be your servants. But if I beat your man, then you will be our servants.” “Come on, you wimps! Send someone brave enough to fight me!”

I Samuel 17:8-10 says, *And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.*

If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

Goliath walked big and he talked big. And the army of Israel was scared stiff! They didn't know what to do. For forty days Goliath would come out to challenge Israel's army. It was humiliating to be standing there day after day listening to Goliath challenge them. Then when Goliath turned to go back to camp I'm sure they could hear Goliath and all the rest of the Philistines laughing and making fun of them because they had no courage.

I Samuel 17:16 *And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.*

Even King Saul was frightened. He didn't know what to do. Even the king was shaking in his boots. God had departed from Saul and he knew that God would not be with him to help him win the battle. Saul knew that with his own power he was helpless. He didn't stand a chance against the giant.

I Samuel 17:11 *When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.*

GIANTS WE FACE

What on earth would they do? They must have wondered how long it would be before the Philistines just rushed over to battle with them. They had little doubt what would happen. They were sure they would be defeated in battle. Then they and their wives and children would become servants to the terrible Philistines.

They were facing a big giant and they forgot all about God. They were so busy listening to the giant shout and looking at his fancy armor and weapons that they totally forgot how great their God was. They had no faith. They didn't turn to the One who could deliver them from their enemy and give them victory. God had departed from Saul and not once does the Bible tell us that a single man in the army of Israel turned to God for help.

Sometimes we face giants in life. Our troubles and problems can look awfully big to us. We can look at things that scare us and wonder how on earth we are going to overcome the problem. We get scared and begin to shake in our boots just like the Israelites. Sometimes we have no faith. Sometimes we doubt that we have a God who is bigger than any problem we face. We forget we have a God who can never be defeated. He is always victorious and we can be too, if we only turn to God to be our helper.

What are the giants we face each day? Let's look at some of the giants we face. Then let's see what God says to do to defeat those giants.

1. The giant of sinful men.

Just as Goliath came to harm Israel, sometimes other people become a giant problem in your life. They may tempt you to sin. They may mean to harm you like an enemy would. You may wonder how you can face the problem of sinful people who mean you harm and not good. You can ask for God's help. Don't be like Saul and the Israelite army who forgot all about asking for God's help. Instead, turn to God for help when you face the giant of sinful men.

Psalm 34:21 says, *Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.*

When sinful men come against you. Turn to God. The Bible says that God is your hiding place. It says that God will deliver you from sinful men.

Psalm 119:114 says, *Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.*

2. The giant of sin.

The Bible says we are all born in sin. No one had to teach you to sin, you were born a sinner. From the very beginning of your life, sin and selfishness was part of your life. From the time you were a toddler when you grabbed a toy from your brother or sister and cried, "Mine!" right up until today, you are a sinner. Sin has ruled your life. There is no question about that. You are a sinner.

The good news is, you don't have to let sin rule your life. You can let God defeat the giant of sin in your life. How? First, by asking Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life. God knew that you could never take away your own sin, so He sent Jesus to earth. Jesus died on the cross for your sins.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The payment of sin is death and Jesus died in your place. If you ask Him to come into your life and forgive your sin, He will. Later today I will give you a chance to do that if you haven't already. When you accept Jesus and what He did for you, then you can defeat the giant of sin.

Romans 8:1 says, *There is therefore now no condemnation (or judgement) to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

But did you know that just because you are saved doesn't mean you don't sin anymore? Even a Christian still faces the giant of sin each day. Satan has a way of making sin look like fun. He loves to tempt us to do wrong. The Bible says that to defeat the giant of sin, we must hate sin and love God. If we learn to hate sin because of the terrible things it does to us and to those around us, then we will want to stay away from sin. But we need to do more than just hate sin, we also need to love God. If we love God with all our hearts, then we won't want to do anything that would hurt Him. Our love for God can keep us away from sin.

I John 2:15 says, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

3. The giant of self.

Another giant you face is yourself. If you are honest with yourself, you have to admit that sometimes you enjoy sin. And you also want things your own way. That is selfishness. When you see something that tempts you and you give in, you are giving in to your selfish desires. When you think of yourself first and put your wishes before others, that is selfishness. We love to think about what we want and when we can't get it, we get angry.

Our hearts are wicked and selfish. We all have a sinful nature that causes us to want things our own way.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

So how can you defeat the giant of self? The only way you can defeat self is to give yourself completely to God. Ask Him to help you each day. Tell Him you don't want to sin and you need His help to avoid sin. God wants you to say no to your selfish desires.

Then practice thinking of God and others before you think of yourself. Put God first in your life. Put others next in your life. When you are with your parents, put them before you by obeying them. When you are with your brothers and sisters, put them before you by being kind to them. When you are with others, try to think of ways to be helpful. Show that you love God more than you love yourself by spending time with God in prayer and Bible study. These are all ways of keeping self in the right place.

A selfish person only thinks about what they want. When they don't get their way, they get angry. Whenever they can, they do everything their way.

Romans 12:10 says, *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*

GOD WILL DEFEAT YOUR GIANTS

By ourselves, we cannot defeat the giants we face in life, but with God's help, we cannot lose. God is greater than any giant we face. He is our help, our hiding place. He is the one who rescues us from our sinful selves. He is the one who is all powerful. We can look to Him for help against any giant. No matter what giant you face, God is your victory in the time of trouble.

Psalm 46:1 says, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Let me ask you a question. What giant rules you? Are you still a slave to sin? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? Would you like to? You can do that today.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you still find that sin causes all sorts of problems in your life. You can ask God to help you to avoid sin. You can put away sinful things that tempt you and replace them with things that would please God. Maybe you find the giant of selfishness is ruling in your life. You always want things your own way. Today you can tell God that you are sorry you have let selfishness rule your life. Ask Him to help you to put away selfishness. Maybe some other person or situation in life is a scary giant. You don't see how you can be safe. Just go to God and ask Him to be your safe place. Ask Him to protect you and give you victory.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to defeat your giants. Remember that God is bigger than your biggest giant. Have faith in God!

1. God will help you defeat the giant of sinful men.

When others around you try to harm you or try to harm your Christian life, you can turn to God. He will be your shield and strength.

Psalm 37:40 says, *And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

2. God will help you defeat the giant of sin.

Sin is a big thing that seems to constantly win the battle over us, but God can give you victory if you ask for His help. The Bible says we are dead to sin. That means we don't have to give in to sin. Instead we can draw on God's power to help us. And when we do lose a battle to sin, we can get victory by asking Jesus to forgive us.

Romans 6:13 says, *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

3. God will help you defeat the giant of selfishness.

This is probably one of the biggest battles that we all fight against. We are all selfish. We all want things our own way. Instead, let God teach your heart how to be unselfish.

Philippians 2:4 says, *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember that God is bigger than your biggest giant. Have faith in Him.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Describe the battle ground where the Philistines came to fight Israel.
2. Who owned the land that the Philistines were camped on?
3. What big advantage did the Philistines have over the army of Israel?
4. Describe how Goliath was suited up to fight.
5. What was Goliath's challenge?
6. What was the army of Israel's response?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. How many days did Goliath shout out his challenge to Israel?
9. Name one giant we all face in life.
10. Name another giant we face in life.

Faith to Face My Giants

For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7



I will have faith in God.

Faith to Face Giants

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How many new words can you make from the words:
Faith to Face Giants?

LESSON 46

A CHILD OF FAITH
FAITH IN MY BIG GOD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 17:12-37

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have faith in God.

MEMORY VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Are there things in your life that are just too big for you to handle by yourself? We like to feel like we can do just about everything on our own, but many times, we can't

There is nothing too big or too hard for God. He is so powerful that He can handle any problem or any enemy that you have. He is so wise that He will always do things in the wisest and best way.

When life seems too big and too overwhelming for you, just turn to God for Help. He is always there for you. You just need to have the faith to believe He will help you!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have faith in God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

EXERCISING FAITH

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

"How can this be happening to me?" Angela said to her mother as she lay in the hospital bed. She looked down at her swollen leg which would be put in a cast tomorrow. As she tried to move herself to a more comfortable place in the bed, every muscle in her entire body ached. (Show Flash Card.)

Early that morning, Angela had been riding in the car with her best friend Casey and her family when they were hit from behind by a large van. Angela and Casey were both injured and taken by ambulance to Valley Memorial Hospital, where they had been x-rayed and tested for internal injuries. Angela had a broken leg and many cuts and bruises; however, her friend Casey was still in surgery for her internal injuries.

Angela let two tears escape down her cheeks, and then many more followed. "Oh, Mom, Casey is going to be okay, isn't she? I mean, she's pretty bad. The doctors will be able to make her well, won't they?"

Mom put her hand on Angela's arm. There were tears in her eyes, too. "Angela, we are so thankful you are going to be all right. We have to trust God to care for Casey. She has fine doctors, and excellent surgeons. They are doing their best to ensure Casey will get better, but it is in

God's hands. Even though it is hard, we are going to need to exercise our faith in this situation. When difficult things come into our lives, we allow our faith to grow by trusting completely in God."

Angela continued to cry softly as Mom prayed for Casey, and for her. "Dear Lord, we have so much to thank You for. You have allowed Angela and Casey to survive this accident. Angela will be fine in a couple of months. Casey is under the care of good doctors and surgeons. We ask you right now to be with the surgeons as they repair the damage in Casey's body. Please give them special wisdom and skill as they operate. Be with Casey during the surgery, and allow her to have a full recovery. We ask all these things in your will and your name, Amen."

As Mom finished her prayer, Angela wiped her eyes. "I've never had to trust God like this before," she said. "But that's all I can do. There isn't anything I can do for Casey right now except to pray for her."

"That's right," Mom agreed. "But that's the very best thing you can do."

Several hours went by, and still there was no word on Casey's condition. Finally, after being in surgery for six hours, Casey was taken to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

Mom found out the doctors had removed Casey's spleen, which had been punctured by several broken ribs. They had also repaired a collapsed lung and set many broken bones. Casey had not awakened from the accident, and was in a coma. She was connected to a machine that helped her breathe. She was a very sick girl, and it would take a very long time for her to get well.

The next morning Angela had just finished her breakfast when Casey's dad walked through the door. He looked very tired and worried, but smiled when he saw how well Angela was doing. "Hi, Angela. You look like you're doing pretty good. I'm so glad you weren't hurt any worse."

"Yeah, I'm doing okay. I'm so sorry that Casey was hurt so badly. How is she today?"

"She still hasn't awakened. We're very concerned about that. As far as her injuries, the surgery went well and she will heal. But until she wakes from the coma, she is still in danger," Casey's dad explained.

Angela began to cry again. "I'm praying for her. Mom says that's the best thing I can do. But I feel so helpless. I wish I could make her well."

Casey's dad held out his hand to Angela. As Angela held onto his hand, he spoke softly to her. "Your mom is exactly right. When we can't do anything else, we can pray. God is in control of this situation. He is with Casey, watching her every breath, knowing her every heartbeat. God has a plan for Casey. We pray that His plan involves making her totally well again. But if it doesn't, He knows best. Praying for Casey and trusting God for the results really is the best thing we can do. As a matter of fact, it is the only thing we can do. We hear all our lives that we need to trust God, but until something like this happens many people do not realize how important it is to put that trust into practice."

Angela nodded. It was hard for an eleven-year-old to think of her best friend not ever getting well, but it was even harder to think of her not surviving the accident. Angela's mom, who had been sitting by the window, joined the two at Angela's bedside. "May I pray?" she asked. The three joined their hearts in prayer for Casey.

Many times during the next several weeks, Angela and her parents would pray for Casey to be well. After Angela left the hospital and started physical therapy on her leg, she continued to pray daily for her best friend. Finally, one afternoon after her therapy session at the hospital, Casey's parents met her by the exit door.

"We hoped we would see you today, because we have some good news! Casey is awake! Even though she doesn't remember anything about the accident, she is talking and it looks like she will be able to go home in another week or so! She is being moved from intensive care tomorrow, and you will be able to visit her after that!"

Angela's eyes filled with happy tears as she hugged Casey's mom. "Oh, I'm so glad!" she said. "I can't wait to see her. We have so much to talk about. I think the main thing I want to tell her is that I learned to really trust in God while she was so sick. My mom told me that when bad things happen and we can't do anything about them, we need to exercise our faith in God. I didn't know what that meant before, but I do now!"

Casey's dad smiled and looked at his wife. "You aren't the only one who learned that lesson. Even as adults we must learn to exercise our faith. When our lives are going well and nothing is wrong, we might feel that we don't need to trust the Lord for everything. But when trouble comes, we are suddenly forced to do what we should have been doing all along—trust God in every situation."

"I'm so glad Casey is going to be okay. And I can't wait to see her. May I visit tomorrow?" Angela asked.

"Absolutely!" Casey's mom and dad answered together.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 17:12-37

LESSON

THE GIANT

Do you remember where we left the army of Israel last week? That's right. They were standing on one side of a mountain shaking in their boots while their enemies, the Philistines, were standing on the other side of the mountain laughing at the Israelite cowards.

The Philistines had one man who was a giant. His name was Goliath. Every day, for forty long days, Goliath would go to the battle ground between the two armies and shout a challenge. He'd say, "Send someone to fight with me if you're not too chicken! If you win, then we will all be your servants. But if I win, then you will be our servants."

The Israelite soldiers most likely talked amongst themselves. They may have said something like, "What are we going to do? We'll surely be beaten! I've never seen anyone as tall and large as that terrible giant. And that armor! Even if we had the nerve to fight him with a sword, that armor would protect him. We couldn't make a dent in it. We're in big trouble! Surely we'll end up being slaves to the Philistines!"

Even King Saul was troubled. He should have been the bravest man in the entire army, but he wasn't. Before the Lord departed from Saul he had been a mighty warrior. He often led Israel in battle. God would go before him and the victory was assured. But God was no longer with Saul. Because of Saul's sin, God had departed from him. Now when Saul went to fight, he was a mere weakling like other men.

So the Israelites stood and watched in fear.

REINFORCEMENTS

David had been at the palace with Saul. When Saul would become troubled, David would play on his harp and Saul's spirit would be soothed. David also served as Saul's armorbearer. But the Bible tells us David often returned home to care for his father's sheep. Jesse, David's father, was older and he needed his son's help. When the war began David was home but David's three oldest brothers went to fight.

I Samuel 17:13-15 says, *And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.*

And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

David's father wondered how the battle was going and how his older sons were doing, so he decided to send David on a mission. Jesse gathered food to send along with David. In those days the army must have relied heavily on the men supplying much of their own food. They probably brought food with them when they prepared to leave home. Since the battle was taking place on land that belonged to Israel, they were close enough for family members to occasionally bring supplies.

I Samuel 17: 17-18 says, *And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;*

And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

David obediently went to the battlefield to deliver the food and to check on his brothers. When he reached to battlefield, he saw the giant Goliath come onto the field. He heard Goliath shout out his challenge to the Israelites. David expected the army of Israel to rush forward to fight Goliath, but instead he saw all the men turn and run back to camp in fear.

I Samuel 17:22-24 says, *And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.*

And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

David was puzzled that the men of Israel were so frightened. When he asked his brothers what was going on, they began to tell David of how the giant had been threatening them for forty days. They told him that Saul had promised that the man who could defeat the giant would be given his daughter in marriage as well as be given great riches. All of the men must have wished they had the courage to fight the giant so they could gain the wealth and position Saul was offering, but none of them had the courage. No amount of money and no pretty girl was worth losing their life over.

I Samuel 17: 25 says, *And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.*

DAVID'S RESPONSE

David was amazed to learn that not one man had the courage to fight the giant. He was upset that God's people did not have the faith to believe that God would give victory. David was looking at the giant through different eyes than all the other men who stood beside him. The

men of Israel only saw the impossibility of defeating such a mighty foe. David saw Goliath as an enemy of God. David knew that if Goliath was God's enemy, then God would be the one to defeat Goliath.

David began to ask questions. "Why hasn't anyone gone to fight the giant? Why is everyone so afraid of the enemy of God? Why do all the men of Israel allow that heathen to defy God?"

I Samuel 17: 26 says, *And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*

When David's oldest brother heard David he was angry. He accused David of coming to see the battle because he had a heart full of pride. "Why on earth are you here, David," Eliab said. "You should have stayed with the sheep where you belong. You have just come to see what was going on. You just want us all to look bad because you are so full of pride!"

David's brother's accusations were not true. The Bible tells us David was a man after God's own heart. He was not full of pride. Instead he was upset that the Israelites, God's chosen people, did not have the courage to trust God.

David boldly asked his brother what he had done wrong. He knew that he was not just showing off. David truly had faith that God would give the victory to Israel.

Then David spoke to the other men. Again David asked why the enemy of God was allowed to mock and frighten the people of God. The news quickly spread to Saul that there was a man who spoke with courage. Saul was very interested in any man who was willing to go face the giant. He was anxious to speak with David.

I Samuel 17:28-31 says, *And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

THE KING CALLS

Saul called for David, but when he saw him Saul was disappointed. David was a young man. He spoke with great courage, but he was not a seasoned warrior like the giant Goliath. Even though David spoke bravely about going to fight Goliath, Saul thought it was a foolish idea. Saul began to discourage David from going to fight.

“You are just a young man,” Saul must have said. “You don’t know how to fight. How on earth do you hope to defeat that giant? If I let you go out there, Goliath will kill you for sure!”

David told Saul how God protected him as he cared for his father’s sheep. One time a lion and another time a bear had come against him and his sheep. David explained that he had killed both the lion and the bear. Then he pointed out that he intended to kill the heathen giant who spoke so disrespectfully to God’s people. David had faith that God would give him the victory.

“I can kill that giant because he is the enemy of God. God helped me to kill the lion and the bear and God will certainly help me to kill that mean old giant!” David told Saul.

David had been training all along to stand up to Goliath. He had not known when he faced the lion and the bear that one day he would face the giant, but because David was faithful in the small jobs he was given to do, when the big test came, he was confident and ready to face the challenge. He knew God would be with him. He knew God could help him defeat the giant because he knew nothing was too hard for God.

Apparently Saul was convinced by what David said because he told David to go fight the giant.

I Samuel 17:32-37 says, And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

FACING YOUR GIANTS

Every day you face enemies to your Christian life. Everywhere you turn the enemy is there. He would love to destroy you and your testimony. He would love to frighten you into turning and running away from conflict. But just as David had faith that God would be with him, you can also know that God will be with you as you face your giants.

Can you name some of the giants that you must face in life? (Have children name a few things they face that seem like giants to them.)

Let me mention some giants we face each day: Temptations to lie or cheat at school. Temptations to do sinful things that you see others doing. Bad attitudes about obeying your parents. Bad attitudes about having to do chores at home. Difficult situations at home and school that discourage or frighten you.

We can learn a lot about facing and defeating the giants in our lives by seeing how David faced and defeated his giant.

David started out by being faithful to God in each small job he was given. When his father asked him to go into the fields and care for the sheep, David did not say, "But I'm going to be the next king of Israel. I shouldn't have to do something so unimportant!" Instead, David did what he was asked to do. And while he was caring for the sheep, he was learning valuable lessons. He was learning to be obedient to His father, which was teaching him how to be obedient to his Heavenly Father. He was learning how to fight wild animals which was good training for fighting in battle.

Most importantly, David was learning how to have faith in God. In the years to come, when he would be the king, there were many times when David would need to trust God. When David faced Goliath it was just the first time he would be confronted by a scary situation. But David was learning that he could trust God no matter how scary things looked. He was finding out that God was always with him.

The same is true of your life. God wants you to start out being faithful in the small jobs He gives you to do each day. That may not seem exciting, but while you are faithfully obeying your parents, God is teaching you how to be obedient to Him. When you say, "Yes," to your mom and dad, you are learning how to say, "Yes," to God. When you do things faithfully for others, you are learning to faithfully serve God.

God is also teaching you that you can put your faith in Him. He is teaching you that you don't need to fear any of life's giants because you can always trust Him to do what is best in your life. Things may not always turn out the way you plan, but things will always turn out the way God plans.

So be faithful in the little things. They can teach you valuable lessons that will help you to face and defeat the big giants that come into your life. Learn to be obedient. Learn to serve willingly. Learn to trust God.

Now let me ask you a question. Are you God's servant? David was a servant of God. Even when he was the king, David never forgot that it was really God who was the king. Is God king of your life? Have you ever asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life? You are a sinner and you need to have your sin forgiven. Jesus will forgive you if you just ask Him to. Would you like to do that today? We can show you how to ask Jesus to become the king of your life.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you have some big giants that you are facing in life. There are things that want to take control of you. They want to defeat your testimony as a Christian. By yourself, you are pretty helpless. Those giants are too big for you to face alone. But God wants

to face your giants with you. And when God is with you to face those giants, then you can be sure you will have victory. The giant of sin may face you. God can help you to overcome any sin. The giant of hard times may face you. God can help you through those hard times. The giant of temptation may face you. God can help you to overcome any temptation you face. Just ask Him.

It is hard for you to face and overcome the giants in life, but nothing is too hard for God. No giant is bigger than God.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember that nothing is too hard for God. No giant problem scares God. No giant problem can defeat God. God can do anything. You just need to have faith in God.

In the meantime, God has given you some jobs to do. Just as David was in training to be the king of Israel, you are in training to be the child of the King of kings. As the child of the king, you need to be training every day to learn how to serve your father the King.

1. Be faithful in the little things God asks you to do.

Don't think that just because a job is little that it is unimportant. Faithfully do anything God asks you to do.

2. Learn to be obedient.

Go to God with an open heart. Tell Him you love Him and that you want to obey Him. Ask Him to help you to learn to be obedient to your parents and teachers so you can learn to be obedient to Him.

3. Trust God to give you victory.

You can't trust God if you don't know Him well. You learn to trust God by getting to know Him. The more you know God, the more you can trust Him. How do you get to know God? By reading His Word. The Bible is our way to know God. He tells us all about Himself in the Bible. You are not too young to start taking time each day to read a little of God's Word. Then think about what you have read. Pray and ask the Lord to help you to understand what you have read. That is the way you will get to know God so you can learn to trust Him.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to trust Him to help you face the giants in your life. We all face giants, but no giant is too big for God. No problem is too hard for God.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who came to oppose Israel in battle?
2. Why were the Israelites so afraid to fight?
3. What did Jesse send with David to the battle field?
4. What happened as soon as David got to the battlefield?
5. What did the men tell David that Saul was offering to any man who fought Goliath?
6. What did David ask?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What did David's brother accuse him of?
9. Who wanted to see David when he heard that David was speaking so bravely?
10. What did David tell Saul when he said that David was too young to fight the giant?

Faith in My Big God



For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

I will have faith in God.

There are lots of things that are too hard for you to do, but nothing is too hard for God. Next time you need a hand with a problem, talk to God. He can do anything.



S	R	E	H	T	O	R	B	F	S	U	I	W	F	M
C	E	D	T	C	S	S	O	X	I	M	M	F	J	Q
B	I	N	A	S	O	A	R	M	Y	G	I	A	N	T
F	M	J	I	V	E	U	H	E	R	S	H	I	F	V
Q	N	O	L	T	I	L	R	W	R	A	B	T	O	X
U	I	G	O	U	S	D	R	A	W	O	C	H	O	E
R	L	N	G	N	J	I	E	R	G	F	H	M	D	Q
A	V	K	X	Y	E	L	L	R	J	E	E	A	S	C
D	N	A	J	G	S	Z	T	I	K	A	E	H	W	L
M	A	X	Q	L	S	D	T	O	H	R	S	H	M	F
D	O	M	C	L	E	V	A	R	B	P	E	H	A	T
J	Y	S	Y	V	M	H	B	B	U	N	H	W	D	M
J	T	Y	W	U	A	C	A	A	J	S	W	F	P	K
N	O	T	X	W	F	D	R	L	R	I	T	U	I	R

Armor
Army
Battle
Brave
Bread
Brothers

Cheese
Courage
Cowards
David
Faith
Fear

Fight
Food
Giant
Goliath
Israel

Jesse
Philistines
Saul
Trust
Warrior

LESSON 47

A CHILD OF FAITH
FAITH IN GOD'S WORD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 17:37-40

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have faith in God.

MEMORY VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Lindsey's father would be away for a whole year. That seemed like forever to Lindsey, but he promised it wouldn't be long now before he came home. It would be really hard to have her dad away fighting a war in another country, but Lindsey knew that he was fighting for freedom. She was proud of him.

Before her dad's unit had shipped out, he had taken Lindsey to see the base where he had done his training. It was fascinating to see the huge runway with the planes that zoomed in and out. There was a tank and from a distance she could see men training with guns.

It all looked very big and very different from anything she had ever seen. She couldn't imagine what it would be like to fight in another country. She was very glad her dad had gotten such good training!

The night before her dad left, he had taken her aside to give her a big hug and kiss. He told her that he loved her and would be praying for her.

"Lindsey," Dad said. "I know you'll be praying for me and I'll be praying for you. Did you know that every day we all fight a war? I'll be fighting against a human enemy, but you'll be fighting against your enemy, Satan. Just as I'll go into battle well armed, you make sure you go into your battle well armed too! Remember to arm yourself every day with God's Word!"

Lindsey gave her dad a big kiss and promised she would. She intended to keep that promise. That very day she took her Bible and began to read it.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have faith in God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

LET THERE BE LIGHT

(Teacher: Bring a flashlight to hold up later. For now, hide the flashlight in a bag or somewhere it can't be seen.)

For the next few minutes I want you to use your imaginations. Listen quietly as I tell you what you will need to imagine.

Suppose you are in a contest with a friend. The contest will take place in a large office building. In this building there are three floors full of rooms and hallways and staircases that connect one floor to the next.

This office building is not quite like most buildings in that it does not have a straight hallway with rooms in a straight row on each side of the hall. Instead, the hall twists and turns. Rooms are located here and there. Some are large and some are small. Sometimes you have to go through one room to get to the hallway that connects on the opposite side. There are no elevators, only a stairway that is located at different areas on each floor.

In fact, the building is very much like a maze. We will also imagine that neither you nor your friend have been in this building before. It is completely new and unknown to you both.

The contest is that you will be placed in one room at one side of the top floor and your friend will be placed in another room at the opposite side of the top floor. The first person to find their way through the maze and down to the front door on the first floor is the winner.

So you will each be wandering around in the building looking for the correct room which connects with the hall that will take you to the stairway that will take you down to the second floor. Then you will again wander through that floor until you find the stairs that go down to the first floor and finally to the front door.

The rules are simple. You can use any means to find your way out of the building. To win you must be the first out the door.

A bell will ring to begin the contest. But, before you start, there is one more twist to the contest. The twist is this: there are no windows in the building and there is no electricity in the building. You will be wandering around trying to find your way in complete and absolute darkness. There will not be enough light to help you see anything. Your eyes will not adjust to the dark eventually allowing you to see a tiny bit, instead, it is so dark that you won't be able to see your hand in front of your own face.

That changes things a bit, doesn't it? Before, it didn't sound like such a hard contest. But now, you will have to find a way out of a strange building that twists and turns and you won't be able to see a thing.

When you enter a room, you won't be able to see ahead to see if the room has a door on the other side which leads to another hall or to a stairway. You will have to enter every room and work your way around the walls to feel for openings.

The building isn't empty so you may run into furniture and other objects that are in the building. You won't know if you are in a place which leads to a dead end, or if you are just steps away from falling down the opening to a stairwell.

That's different, isn't it? At first, it sounded like a fun game, but when you take away the light and plunge the building into complete darkness, it begins to sound dangerous and frightening. It sounds like you could spend days wandering around in darkness and yet never find your way to safety. It sounds like you could continually go the wrong way and not even know it. It sounds like you could really hurt yourself.

Not so much fun anymore!

But suppose, while you were stumbling around in a room, just after you had stubbed your toe on a table you hadn't seen, you felt around on top of the table and, low and behold, you felt an object that could help you in your search. You found a flashlight! (Pull out the flashlight. Don't turn it on yet.)

What would you do? Turn it on right? But wait a minute! Would it be fair to the other person playing the game? Well, the rules say, there are no rules except to get out. OK, but should you use it? Wouldn't it be better to just find your way out by yourself? Without any help?

No. If you could find a way that would help you on your way and that would guide you to your goal in safety, then it would be foolish not to simply push the button on the flashlight and use it to find your way to safety. (Turn on flashlight.)

Did you know that we humans are all fumbling through life in darkness? The Bible says we are blinded by sin. We can't see ahead. We don't know what lies in our way on the path of life. We can't see the dangers and pitfalls along the path.

But God offers us a light that will help us find our way safely throughout life. That light is God's Word the Bible. (Hold up Bible.)

Psalm 119:105 says, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

God understands that we do not know what lies ahead in our path in life. He knows we can't see the dangers. We can't see the right way from the wrong way. But God can see everything clearly. And He has made a way that we also can look ahead and see clearly.

The Bible shines the light on our path so we can see where we should go and where we shouldn't go. It shows us the things we should do and the things we should avoid. It tells us how to live and act so we can efficiently move through life, not wasting time and energy trying first this way and that, blindly groping around. Instead we can go straight to where God wants us to be.

The Bible shows us the things in life that can be harmful and dangerous to us. It shows us how to avoid the dangers Satan places in our way so we can completely avoid those dangers and go in the safe path instead.

But a flash light is no help at all if you don't turn it on. You can hold it in your hand and point it ahead of you, but if you don't turn it on, it won't do you one bit of good. (Turn on the flashlight.)

The same is true with God's Word. You can have a Bible in every room of your house. You can place one by your bed at night. You can take one with you to school in the morning, but if you never take the time to read it, think about it, memorize it, and put it into use in your life, then it won't do you one bit of good.

So as you walk the path of life, remember, God knows the path ahead. He wants to guide and direct you each day so you will safely and efficiently reach your goal of an eternal home in Heaven with Him. But to do that, you need God's help along the path. You need to allow God to guide you on the right path by reading and obeying His Word each day.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 17:37-40

LESSON

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Goliath was prepared for battle. He had on a heavy coat of armor to protect his body and his legs. He had a helmet on his head. He had a large sword in his hand. In front of him stood a shield bearer. For forty days he had been going to challenge the army of Israel. He wanted just one man who had the courage to face him to come and fight. But no one in the entire army, including King Saul, had any courage. None of them had the faith to trust God to fight for them. They had all forgotten their God was mightier than any giant.

Everything changed when David came to the battlefield. When he heard the challenge of the giant and he saw that the entire army of Israel refused to fight, he was upset. He wanted to know why they all allowed the giant to defy God.

David's brave words landed him before King Saul. Saul was disappointed when he saw David. But David told the king how God had been preparing him for battle. He told Saul that God had helped him to fight and defeat a lion and a bear while he was tending his father's sheep. David assured Saul that if God helped him to do that, then surely God would help him to defeat this enemy.

I Samuel 17:37 says, *David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.*

SAUL'S OWN ARMOR

So Saul decided to allow David to fight. He wanted David to go into battle with all the protection he could give him, so Saul gave David his own armor. He gave him his body armor which protected his chest and legs. He placed his helmet on David and gave him his own sword.

I Samuel 17:38-39a says, *And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.*

And David girded his sword upon his armour.

David took a step toward the door of the tent, then he stopped. David shook his head. He would not go face the giant with the king's armor.

I Samuel 17:39b says that David *assayed (or refused) to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.*

Many times people say that David could not go to battle with Saul's armor because David was just a little boy and the armor did not fit. I don't believe that was the case. David was not a little boy. He was a young man, probably in his late teens or early twenties. He wasn't a boy, he was just younger than most of the men of battle who had fought for years. David had spent his time tending sheep. He was not a man of war yet.

David was not used to fighting with armor. The armor would have been a burden to him. It would have weighed him down. But more than that, if David had worn the armor, than it would have looked like David was trusting in the armor to protect him. David was wise enough to know that it was God who would protect him.

Saul must have been confused and distressed to hear of David's choice to take off the armor and take a sling and stones instead. What Saul didn't realize was that David was not going into battle unarmed and defenseless. David was going into battle with the full protection of God. No armor could have been a safer defense for David. David knew that God was his shield and defender. Listen to what David said in one of the Psalms he wrote.

Psalm 28:7 *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.*

THE WEAPON OF HIS CHOICE

David didn't just run out to the giant and yell, "Boo!" and expect the giant to turn and run in fear. No, David made the decision to remove the armor and go armed with another weapon. David took the weapon with him that he knew how to use. David took his sling. The sling was a worthy weapon in David's skilled hands. He knew that with God's help and his skills, he could kill the giant who mocked God's people and who mocked God. David was confident of that.

So David went to a brook that was flowing nearby. He stepped into the water and carefully examined the stones that lay on the bottom of the stream. He bent over and picked up stone after stone, weighing each one in his hand. He wanted to select just the right stones that would fit in his sling and would pack a powerful punch. When David was satisfied with a stone, he would place it in the bag he carried around his waist that carried the things he needed.

Eventually David selected five smooth stones. He held his shepherd's staff in one hand and his sling in the other. He was ready now. With confidence he turned and began to stride toward the big, ugly, mean giant.

His brothers must have been murmuring together about how crazy their little brother was acting. The king was wringing his hands in fear because he knew that if David lost, then all of Israel would become the slaves to the Philistines.

And there stood the entire army of Israel. They must have watched with their mouths hanging wide open. They couldn't believe their eyes. They must have watched David march toward that giant in total disbelief.

I Samuel 17:40 says, *And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.*

As we will see next week, everyone clearly saw that God had protected David. David didn't need armor to protect himself. David was safe from the enemy because David trusted in God to protect him. David's faith in God resulted in victory.

Next week, we'll find out what happened. But for a minute, let's look at David as he is ready to go into battle with the giant Goliath. There stands Goliath in full armor with a man before him holding a shield. He is big and tall and mean. On the other hand, there stood David. He was a young man of regular height. He wore the simple clothing of a shepherd. He carried a shepherd's staff and a sling in his hands. Around his waist hung a bag that held five stones. That was it. Somehow, it doesn't sound like a fair fight. It sounds like David was foolish to go face that giant with no protective gear and basically no weapons.

David had no outward weapons to depend on, but he had the most powerful weapon of all on his side. David had God. God was David's secret weapon. Of course, it wasn't such a secret. David openly said that God would be his help, his defence, his shield. And David was no fool to have faith in God. It is foolish to have faith in armor and weapons but it is wise to have faith in God.

David knew that his true help came from God. Listen to what David said in a Psalm he wrote.

Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

YOUR WEAPON

David was a man of true faith. It is one thing to say that you trust God to protect you, but it's entirely another to walk out to face a real danger and still have the faith that God will protect you. David had the faith to believe God would be with him. He had seen God protect and help him in the past, he knew God would continue to be with him.

God is your protection too. Just as David went to face the giant, each day you face giants in your life. You have troubles to face. You have worries and problems. Things can seem very big and very strong against you. You may look at your giants and think that there is nothing you can do to defeat them.

David didn't face his giant alone and neither do you. God has given you a powerful weapon with which to face and defeat your enemies. God has given you His Word. The Bible tells us that God's Word is a powerful weapon. (Hold up your Bible.) This is my weapon in life.

Hebrews 4:12 says, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The Bible might not seem like a powerful weapon, but it is! With God's Word as your weapon, you can't lose.

- God's Word is a shield to protect you.

Proverbs 30:5 says, *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*

- God's Word is a sword to help you fight evil. Sin and Satan want to defeat you, but God's Word can be your sword of protection.

Ephesians 6:17 says, *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

• The Word of God assures victory. When you have God's powerful Word to protect you and guide you, then you will have victory in your Christian life.

I John 2:14b says, *The word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

But God's Word can only be a powerful weapon in your hand if you read it and know what it says. You can't fight sin and Satan with a weapon you never pick up. David could not have used that sling to defeat the giant if he had not spent many hours in the fields using it. If you hope to use the Bible as your weapon, you must read it and know what it says.

Matthew 22:29 says, *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

"But I'm just a kid!" you may say. "I can't understand the Bible."

You may not understand every word you read, but no one does. However, you can pray and ask God to help you to understand it. No matter how young you are, you can spend time reading the Bible. Maybe your mom or dad would read with you and help to explain what it says. You don't have to read whole books, just read a few verses at a time. Then think about what the verses are saying. Think how you can put them into practice in your life. Pick a book in the New Testament to read like John.

You may say, "But I just don't have time to read the Bible."

Make time! You always make time for things that are important to you. You make time to do your homework and the chores you are assigned. You make time to play with friends. You make time to watch TV or listen to music. If God's Word is truly important to you, then you will make time to read it. You will find a few minutes in each day to spend time with God.

ARE YOU ARMED?

How about you? Do you use the powerful weapon God has given to you? Or maybe you didn't even know God's word was a powerful weapon. Maybe you aren't even a child of God.

The Bible says that we are all sinners, but it also says that God loves us so much He sent Jesus Christ to the earth to die for our sins. Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? You can do that today. We can show you from God's Word how you can be saved from your sin.

Maybe you are already a Christian. You have asked Jesus to forgive you sin, but you are not making use of the powerful weapon God has given to help you fight the sin that comes into your life. You are not using His Word to fight off Satan when he puts tempting things before you.

Maybe you need to learn how to use the weapon God has given to you. Here are some tips for using the Word of God.

1. Pick a time each day when you can read the Bible and pray. It doesn't have to be a long period of time. Just find 10 to 15 minutes when you can sit down.

2. Pick a quiet place. It is hard to concentrate on reading and praying when others are around you talking or when the TV is blaring in the background. Find a place where you can think in peace.

3. Begin in prayer. Ask God to help you to understand what you are reading.

4. Pick a book of the Bible. Read a verse or two each day. Don't skip around. Mark your place with a book mark so you know where you were.

5. Think about what the verse is saying. Ask yourself, "Can I put this to work in my life? Is this something God wants me to do? Is this something God wants me not to do? Is this something that teaches me what God is like?"

The more you know God's Word, the more you will be equipped to use it skillfully in your life.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to arm yourself with God's Word. Be like David and learn to use your weapon skillfully so that when enemies come against you, you will be ready to fight them off. God's Word is your weapon. Know how to use it in your life.

1. Pick a time each day when you can read the Bible and pray.

2. Pick a quiet place to be with God.

3. Begin in prayer by asking God to help you understand what you read.

4. Pick a book of the Bible to read.

5. Think about what the verse is saying.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have faith in God's mighty Word.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. How was Goliath prepared for battle?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did King Saul do to prepare David?
4. Why did David take off the armor?
5. What weapon did David take instead?
6. What did David put in his pouch?
7. Besides his sling and stones, what else did David carry?
8. What was David's secret weapon?
9. What weapon does God give to each one of us to defeat our enemies?
10. How can you become more skillful in using the Word of God?

Faith in God's Word



For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

I will have faith in God.



When Satan comes to do battle, God has given you a mighty weapon you can use.

K	X	T	J	Q	H	J	E	K
B	I	K	B	X	K	L	X	E
Q	Q	I	S	J	M	K	X	Y
A	J	X	R	Q	K	M	J	O
K	R	X	K	T	O	J	Q	J
J	Q	P	X	R	X	K	O	Q
X	T	K	E	J	K	J	C	K
Q	J	T	X	X	M	K	X	K
Q	J	J	Q	E	J	Q	Q	X

1. Color all the squares with letters that occur 7 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.

LESSON 48

A CHILD OF FAITH
FAITH TO BE BOLD

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 17:40-52

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will have faith in God.

MEMORY VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that it takes quite a bit of courage to be the kind of Christian that pleases God? It does. It takes courage to stand up for what is right when no one else will stand with you. It takes courage and boldness to tell others about Jesus Christ. It takes courage to say no to things that are wrong. But you can be a child of faith who has the courage and boldness to obey God each day.

True courage and boldness is not the absence of fear. Instead, it is doing the right thing, the hard thing in spite of your fear. It is having the faith that God will help you. If you take the step of trusting God and showing courage, then God will help you.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will have faith in God.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

BEING BOLD AT BASEBALL CAMP

Sherry Downey

Obtain Flash Card

"All right!" was Jimmy's first thought on Saturday morning. He had hardly slept at all the night before thinking about baseball camp. He was both excited and nervous. This was his first time going, but Coach Grey had told him, "Jimmy, one of the best things you can do in order to make the JV team is to go to baseball camp to sharpen your skills." So that's what he was doing.

As he got dressed, he could smell the breakfast his mom had prepared as something special for this exciting day. Dad was seated at the table waiting for him. They both were taking him to camp and wanted to have of time to pack the car.

After Mom put the food on the table Dad prayed, "Dear Lord, We thank you for Your provision of food. Please help Jimmy to be a strong testimony for You during these two weeks at baseball camp. Help him to always do right and to learn new skills that will help him in baseball as well as in life. Amen."

An hour later they were on the road. On the two hour drive Jimmy daydreamed about what camp might be like. He imagined turning into a star - hitting game winning home runs, diving to make amazing catches, earning hero status with his teammates. What a great two weeks it was going to be!

“Jimmy, Jimmy!” he finally heard his mom call. “We’re almost there. What in the world are you thinking about? I’ve called you several times.” Jimmy just smiled.

As they drove into camp Jimmy got a good look at the facilities. He was impressed. The buildings had been freshly painted and the six ball fields had been mowed and marked for play. There were kids everywhere. It didn’t take long for him to get registered, get his cabin assignment, and store his gear.

He met several guys while he unpacked. He also met Jake, his cabin supervisor. He liked him immediately. Before he knew it, it was time for his parents to leave and his first two weeks of baseball camp officially began.

As Jimmy was looking around, Jake announced, “All campers are to meet at the assembly area for instructions. Let’s get going!”

Jimmy was glad he had Jake to follow. He sure didn’t want to get lost or be late the very first afternoon.

The campers were divided into twelve teams. Jimmy was assigned to Coach Wagner’s team. Then they got down to business. Practice began with jogging around the ball field four times. Then they did sit-ups and leg stretches. It was tiring, but fun to do with a group. When the warm-ups were finished they paired up to throw and do fielding drills. (Show Flash Card)

Jimmy did okay, but not as well as he wanted. “Guess I won’t be gaining hero status today,” he thought.

He was one of the youngest players and his arm wasn’t as strong as his older teammates, nor as accurate. He would need to work on his fielding too.

Coach Wagner walked around watching each player. Jimmy knew they were being evaluated. The coach never made a comment, but he wrote down his observations in a notebook. When practice ended, Coach Wagner gathered them all together and told them one by one the skills he expected each player to work on.

“Boy, do I have a lot to improve,” thought Jimmy, but he was determined. Then the coach assigned Kevin to be the team captain. Jimmy could tell Kevin was a good player and the other guys already looked up to him. Everyone wanted to play as good as Kevin did.

Over the next few days, a routine began to emerge. The first week was zipping by. After breakfast, the teams gathered and warmed up their arms with a partner. After fielding drills, they practiced base running and Jimmy’s favorite, sliding techniques. The coach or team captain would then pitch for batting practice. Each player worked out at several different positions in the field so the coach could critique them. Coach Wagner was very intense and expected one hundred percent from every player. Sometimes it was hard and a little embarrassing to listen to what you did wrong while everyone else was there and heard, too. But the point of camp was to learn, so Jimmy took it like the rest. The last thing they did before lunch was run four laps around the ball field.

After lunch there was a free hour. Jimmy made friends with a boy on his team named Paul. Paul was a good kid who liked to have fun, but he wasn't a very good ball player. Paul wanted to do his best to help his team, but he wasn't as serious about winning as some of the older guys. He just seemed more interested in improving his skills. Because of this, Kevin gave Paul a hard time whenever he messed up.

"Come on, Paul," Kevin would shout, "Get serious! We're all counting on you. If we lose it'll be your fault!"

Jimmy had the urge to defend Paul. After all, he was doing his best and Kevin seemed to be riding him awfully hard. Instead he kept his mouth shut, but it began to bother Jimmy. Should he say something? He wasn't sure what he should do.

When break was over, the teams played against each other. During the first week it was mainly a learning experience, but now during the second week, the games were very competitive. Each team wanted to be the champions at the award ceremony held on the last day of camp. Often tempers flared and hurtful things were said. This bothered Jimmy and he prayed every morning that the Lord would help him be a good example, but speaking out to the other guys who said hurtful things was scary to Jimmy. What would they think of him? Jimmy prayed that he would learn to be bold about things that really mattered.

The end of camp arrived much too soon in Jimmy's opinion. He had a great time and felt he had improved a lot. To top it off, his team was in third place. That afternoon the top four teams were playing for first and second place. Those two teams would play the next morning and the winning team members would receive trophies.

During the play-off game all was going well for Jimmy's team, the Sonics. Then Paul booted a grounder, which allowed two runners to score. That put the Sonics behind. Kevin was not happy. He ran over to Paul and began to yell and swear at him.

To settle things down, Coach Wagnor called Kevin off of Paul, but he also took Paul out of the game. The Sonics went on to score four runs in the ninth so they won. They were in the championship game!

But the thrill had been diminished for Jimmy. All he could remember was Kevin's bad language and the hurt look on Paul's face when he had been taken out. When the team gathered in the dugout after the game, Jimmy took a deep breath, prayed and asked God to give him boldness, and then he confronted Kevin.

"What you said to Paul was wrong," Jimmy said. "The reason we're here in the first place is to learn. Paul was trying, and you got him taken out of the game. You owe him an apology."

Kevin gave Jimmy a slight push and started to walk past him.

"Hold on, Kevin," Coach said. "What Jimmy said is true. You were out of line. I want you to apologize to Paul. If you don't, you won't be allowed to play in tomorrow's game."

No one said a word and hardly anyone could even breathe. Then Kevin silently turned and left the dugout. He wasn't going to apologize. Everyone was stunned. What would happen tomorrow? Could the team have any hope of winning without Kevin? One by one the players drifted out. Some were upset.

"Way to go goody, goody. Happy now?" they sneered at Jimmy.

Others were supportive. "You did the right thing, dude," they encouraged. "Don't worry, Jimmy. You're a real friend," others said.

The next day the championship game started with Kevin on the sidelines watching along with all the other campers and parents. It was a close game and everyone on the Sonics were surprised when they played exceptionally well, even without their star player. They lost by two runs, but that didn't lessen their enthusiasm. They had done their best and have given the other team a tough game.

A few of the teammates blamed Jimmy for the loss, but he was still glad he had the boldness to stand up for Paul. It had been hard to confront someone older, but Jimmy knew the Lord was pleased. Winning wasn't everything. Standing up for what was right was the important thing. Jimmy knew God had given him the boldness to do the right thing.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Samuel 17:40-52

LESSON

BOLD INTENTIONS

Remember, we are standing on one side of the mountain with the Israelite army who is gazing with fear across the valley at the Philistine army. The enemy is watching with mocking laughs and shouts. They are calling the Israelites cowards. And they are right. Not one man is willing to have the faith to believe that God would give him the victory.

David was quickly taken to see the king when he started saying that someone should go fight the giant. He was upset that the heathen giant should frighten the men in his army when he knew that God would fight for them. As soon as he saw the king, David boldly tells the king that no man should fear. He also told the king he was willing to go fight.

I Samuel 17:32 says, *32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.*

"I'll go fight the giant!" David boldly told King Saul.

Saul was skeptical. After all, David was a shepherd, not a soldier. But Saul didn't have much of a choice. No one else was willing to go fight, not even with the handsome reward he had offered of his daughter's hand in marriage and great riches. Here was a young shepherd who was willing to go. And he wasn't doing it for the money or the power it would bring him. He was doing it to show the enemy what a great God he served.

David had bold intentions. He intended to get rid of the enemy. He intended to show God's greatness. Whenever we have the faith to stand up boldly for God so that others will see His greatness, then we can know God will be with us. David had no doubt in his mind that God would go with him and help him as he faced that giant. That is true faith. You can also have the faith that God will go with you and help you each day as you face your giants if you do it with the intention of bringing glory to God.

I Samuel 17: 37 says, *David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.*

BOLD DECISIONS

Saul decided that if David was going to go fight the giant, then he needed some armor. After all, the giant wasn't taking any chances and Saul wanted his man to also be protected. But Saul had it all wrong, didn't he? David did not need armor to protect him. David had God. There was no better protection than having the one true God with you. All the armor in the world could never be as effective as having God's presence to protect you. David knew that.

So David made a bold decision. David decided to skip the armor. He decided to go face the giant with the weapon he knew best how to use. David took off the king's armor and said, "Thanks for the thought, but I think I'll pass on the armor. I don't know how to fight with armor so it would only weigh me down. I do know how to use my sling. I know I can't defeat my enemies with my sling. I'll use that. God will be with me. He will help me."

I Samuel 17: 38-39 says, And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

You may think, "I am just a child. What can I do for God? I don't have any way to serve God like an adult has. How can I serve God?"

How about making a bold decision just like David did? How about saying, "I may be just a child, but I will use what I do have to serve God." I don't know what talents and abilities you have, but whatever you have, God can use it. You may just be developing talents. You may not think you have any talents yet. But whatever you have, you should be willing to say to God, "I will use what I have to serve You." God will see your heart. He will know your intentions. He will be pleased to use you just as He was pleased to use David.

BOLD ACTIONS

David had more than just bold intentions and bold decisions, he backed it all up with bold actions. When the time came for the actual showdown with the giant, David boldly went where no man from the Israelite army had gone before. He went to face the giant. He didn't hide behind a tent trying to work up his courage. He didn't need to be forced out onto the battlefield by a couple of the soldiers. No. David took his sling and the pouch that held his ammunition of five smooth stones and he ran toward the giant!

I Samuel 17:40-41 says, And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

The Philistine could not believe his eyes. Can you imagine what he thought when he saw David. Here was a young man, not a soldier. His complexion was ruddy which meant it was healthy from all the sunshine he got from being in the fields with the sheep. He didn't look anything like a soldier. He was dressed like a shepherd, not covered with armor like a soldier. He didn't carry a sword and shield, instead he carried a sling and a few stones. And here he comes running toward the giant.

Goliath was amazed at first. Then he became extremely angry. He must have thought the Israelite army was making fun of him by sending a boy instead of sending a seasoned soldier to fight him. How dare they make fun of him!

Goliath began to shout, "What do you think I am, a dog? Why, you're just a boy with sticks and stones. Come here little boy and I will kill you and feed you to the birds!"

Then Goliath began to curse David.

I Samuel 17:42-44 says, *And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.*

And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

BOLD WORDS

As the giant's voice boomed out toward David with all sorts of curses and angry words of how he was going to kill him, David stood his ground. He did not quake. He did not consider turning back. He just listened to what Goliath had to say. Then David spoke and bold words came out of David's mouth.

He said, "Goliath, you come to battle with your armor and your sword. You are trusting in your own power, but I come to the battle in the name of the Lord. I am trusting in Him. You have defied God. You have been disobedient to God. Today God will give me victory over you. Today you will be fed to the birds. Then everyone will know that Israel serves the one true God. You don't stand a chance against Him. The battle belongs to God!"

Those were brave words of faith coming from a young shepherd who had never fought in battle. But David was not depending on his own power and skills. David was depending on God.

I Samuel 17:45-47 says, *Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

David's bold words were not a result of his being cocky and smart-mouthed. David did not take any of the credit for what he was about to do. David gave all the credit and honor to God. David wanted everyone standing there, both Philistine and Israelite, to know that what he was about to do was for God and through God's power. It was God who would fight the battle. It was God who would win the battle. It was God who deserved the credit.

When we do things for God, we are not supposed to do them so that others will look at us and think we are great. We are supposed to do all for God's glory. All the credit for our victories in life should go to God.

BOLD FIGHTING

The battle of words was over. The giant stood and shouted his last challenge. He cursed his last curse. He laughed his last laugh at God. Now was the time for action. And David boldly took action. David ran to the battle. As he ran he grabbed a stone from his pouch. He firmly placed it in the sling and he began to hurl the sling over his head with all his might. Around and around the sling went as David drew nearer to the giant.

Then, at just the right moment, David let go of one end of the sling. The rock hurtled through the air and with deadly precision, it found its mark. The rock hit the giant in the forehead and the giant went down like a ton of bricks. David wasted no time in running up, grasping the giant's sword, and cutting off the giant's head.

When the men of Israel saw that the giant was dead, they gave a mighty shout. Their hearts were encouraged. They remembered what a mighty God they served. They became bold also. Up they jumped and headed out at full speed toward the Philistines who were already in full retreat. The Israelites pursued the enemy and won a mighty battle that day. There was not doubt in anyone's mind that the God of Israel was the true and mighty God.

I Samuel 17:48-52 says, *And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

WHY SO BOLD?

Why could David be so bold? Was it because he was better than everyone else? Was it because he was a foolish young man who thought no one could harm him?

David spoke so boldly because he knew that God was with him. The secret of why he was able to speak bold words and have bold actions is found in a couple of things David said when he was speaking to Goliath. David said, "I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts." David also said, "The battle is the LORD'S." Those were David's two secrets of boldness.

1. He did what he did for God.
2. He did what he did by the power of God.

Did you know that God wants you to be bold? God wants you to be bold to serve Him. He wants you to be bold to obey Him. He wants you to be bold to trust Him. He wants you to be bold to tell others about Him. David did all those things. He demonstrated his boldness by serving God, trusting God, obeying God, and telling others about his mighty God.

Just as David was bold for God. You can be bold for God. But you must also be bold in the right way. You must have the same two secrets of boldness.

1. You must be bold in doing what you do for God, not for yourself. Don't do bold things so others will think you are great. Do bold things so others will think God is great.
2. You must be bold in doing what you do by the power of God. You do not serve God with your own power. You are not strong enough. You are not wise enough. Instead, ask God to give you the power to be bold. He will.

The only way you can have boldness in God is to have faith in God. If David had not believed that God would go with him and fight the battle, then David would have been just as frightened as the rest of the men of Israel. David was bold because he trusted God completely. David knew that Goliath was God's enemy. He knew God wanted him to defeat that enemy.

You can only be bold for God if you also have the faith to trust God completely. Everyday you face enemies that want to tempt you into sinning. They want to destroy your testimony and your Christian life. You must have the faith that God is with you. You must trust that God will help you to win over the enemies that want to destroy your Christian life. You must trust that God will give victory.

Then when God does give boldness and victory, be sure to give God the honor and credit He deserves!

Maybe you are not a child of God. You do not know that God will give you boldness like he gave to David because you have never asked Him to come into your life and forgive your sin. Today you can do something about that.

The Bible says we are all born sinners.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Because we are sinners, we are separated from God. God hates sin. But God loves you and He wants to take away your sin.

You can't take away your own sin. There is no way you can ever be good enough to please God on your own. If you don't have your sin forgiven, then you must pay the punishment for your own sin.

The Bible tells us in Romans 6:23, *For the wages (or payment) of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

It would be terrible to have pay the payment of your own sin, but God sent Jesus Christ to earth to pay the payment for you. Jesus Christ died on the cross in your place.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

All you have to do to have your sin taken away and to gain eternal life in Heaven is to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and become a part of your life. Today we can have someone take their Bible and show you exactly how you can do that.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be bold for God. How can you be bold for God? Here are some suggestions.

Read the Bible and see what God has to say to you this week. If you read a command such as, "Honor thy father and mother," then boldly do just that.

If you read a command to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," then don't love the world. Boldly reject things that are worldly and bad.

If you read, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee," then boldly tell others about God and what wonderful things He has done by taking away your sin.

If you read, "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness," then boldly give glory to God for all the great things He has done for you. Boldly offer praise to God in your prayers and in songs to Him.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have the faith to be a bold Christian.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is today's Life Lesson?
2. What did David tell King Saul he would do?
3. Why was Saul skeptical?
4. What bold decision did David make?
5. What did David do when he went to face Goliath that showed he was bold in trusting God?
6. What did the giant say when he saw David coming to fight?
7. What did David say to Goliath?
8. What happened to the men of Israel when they saw the giant was dead?
9. Why was David so bold?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Faith to be Bold



For we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

I will have faith in God.



_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

How many new words can you make from DAVID WAS BOLD FOR GOD?
Then color the picture.

EASTER LESSON

LIFTED UP

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

John 3:14-16, 12:32-36

CHARACTER TRAIT

Jesus Christ was lifted
up on Calvary for me.

MEMORY VERSE

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. John 3:14



OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

For some people Easter is only a time for Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs and candy. All of that is fun. But that is not what Easter is about.

Easter is about the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, made for you on the cross of Calvary. It is about the empty tomb from which Jesus rose. It is about forgiveness from sin.

Easter is a sad time when we think of Jesus' death, but it is also a joyous time when we think about the eternal life that God gives to us because of what Jesus did for us on Calvary.

Today, let's take the time to remember the real meaning of Easter.

Today's Life Lesson is: Jesus Christ was lifted up on Calvary for me.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

THREE TREES

Traditional Story

(Obtain Flashcards.)

Once upon a time, over two thousand years ago in the hills surrounding Jerusalem, there grew three trees in the middle of a forest.

These three trees were fine, strong trees that grew tall and straight. Their trunks were wide around and their limbs stretched out to a great distance providing shade for a weary traveler that might chance to sit below them and rest his body from the heat of the sun.

One day the trees began to carry on a serious conversation with each other. They told each other all of their hopes and dreams. The first tree spoke and this is what he said.

"I am almost grown to my full size now. The day is coming when the men shall come to cut my trunk and take me off to be made into a product of value. I have been thinking about what I would like to be when that time comes. The thing I desire most is to be made into a beautiful, hand-carved cradle fit for a king. Just to hold such an important child would make me most happy."

The second tree reflected on that for a few minutes and then he spoke.

“Yes, I also am soon to be cut. The thing that would make me the happiest would be to be hewn down to be made into a huge shipping vessel, one that is worthy of carrying a king to sea. As I floated in the water, others would look and see the king upon my decks.”

The third tree was quick to add his desires also.

“I do not wish to be cut down. No! My desire is to stay right here in the forest. Every day my branches will stretch upward so that daily, as I point toward Heaven, I will point others to God.”

So the trees continued to grow. Finally the day came when the first tree was cut down and dragged from the woods. In its mind it had pictures of the beautiful cradle that would be lovingly crafted from its wood. It would be so fine that it would be placed in a palace in which a baby king would rest.

But that was not to be. For when the men began to cut the tree into sections, instead of carefully cutting the wood into fine planks that would be smoothly sanded and finished, they made rough cuts. Then large nails were driven into each piece and to the tree's great dismay, when it was finished, it had been made into a feeding trough and placed into a stable where horses and cows came and ate from it.

(Show Flashcard of the manger.)

How sad the first tree was as it sat in the humble stable.

Then the second tree was cut down. How excited it was to finally be headed for the place where it would be fashioned into a glorious sailing vessel, fit for a king.

But when the carpenters began to cut the wood, it was not made into a large, fine vessel for the sea. Instead it was made into a simple fishing craft. Rough fishermen walked its planks and cast nets over its sides. Smelly fish were drawn up and thrown on its decks.

(Show Flashcard of boat.)

How sad the second tree was as it sailed humbly along in the water.

Then came the day when the woodsmen again entered the forest to cut down the third tree.

“Oh, no,” thought the tree who had only wanted to stand straight and point others to God in Heaven. “This can't be! They can't cut me down!”

But they did. And the third tree was taken and cut into rough planks. It was not sanded. It was not made into anything fine or worthy of the tree. Instead it was made into a rugged cross upon which a criminal would one day hang.

(Show Flashcard of cross.)

How sad the third tree was as it waited in misery to carry the weight of a criminal. What a terrible thing to happen!

So the day came when the first tree was sitting in a humble stable. The horses and cows ate hay from him. All of a sudden, he heard the voice of the innkeeper as he led in a young couple. They were simple people and poorly dressed. The man helped the woman to sit, for she was great with child.

As the night wore on, the woman gave birth to a child and she carefully wrapped the child in cloth and then gently laid him in the humble manger. Soon shepherds came to kneel before the manger. A star stood over the stable door and Angels sang. The shepherds knelt to worship the baby, for within the simple manger lay the Son of God.

(Show Flashcard of manger.)

How happy the tree was! For on that day, he cradled the King of kings!

Time passed and the second tree had spent many years upon the sea finding use as a humble fishing boat. But one day, the little boat heard a great multitude of people approach. They had come to hear Jesus preach to them. But the crowd was so large and the Lord's voice did not carry far, so the Lord Jesus stepped into the simple fishing vessel and shoved away from the shore. When he had reached a short distance, He stopped the boat and began to preach. Over the water his voice sounded clearly so that all could hear.

(Show Flashcard of boat.)

How happy the tree was! For on that day, he was a vessel that carried the King of kings!

A couple of years passed and the third tree waited for his miserable fate. Never again would he be able to point others to God, he moaned. One day the tree heard a great crowd as they pressed close into the streets of Jerusalem. A soldier grabbed the rough cross and thrust it upon the back of a man who had been beaten and bloodied. Up the mountain everyone rushed along. Finally at the top of Mount Calvary the cross was laid upon the ground and a man was pushed on top. They nailed the man's hands and feet. Then they raised the cross high and dropped it into a hole.

(Show Flashcard of cross.)

Lifted up to the sky, the third tree held the bruised and beaten body of Jesus Christ, not a criminal, but the Son of God, the King of kings, who died for the sins of mankind. The crowds scorned Him as He hung on the tree, but with eyes of love Jesus looked down and exclaimed, "Father forgive them."

The third tree had gotten his wish. For on that day, and every day thereafter until eternity, the cross will stand and point people to God.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.
John 3:14

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

John 3:14-16, 12:32-36

LESSON

MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT

When the Children of Israel were traveling in the desert, they became very tired of walking around in the wilderness. They were angry and miserable. They complained to Moses about the food God provided for them. They complained to Moses about their living conditions. Soon all they could do was complain, complain, complain.

This angered God. He had provided them with daily food to eat and clothing to wear. He went before them to guide them and protect them from their enemies. He cared for them each step of the way. But still they only complained.

So God punished them. God sent serpents to bite the people. The bites burned like fire and there was no cure. If the people were bitten, they died. It was their fault. They had complained against God and all His blessings to them.

Soon the people who remained alive ran to Moses. They begged Moses to speak to God for them. They said they were sorry for their sin. So Moses spoke to God. He asked God to have mercy.

God told Moses to take some bronze metal and make a serpent. He was to take the bronze serpent and place it on a pole. God told him that if anyone bitten by the snake looked on the serpent on the pole, that person would be saved. He would not die.

So Moses did as God told him. He fashioned the serpent of metal and placed it on the pole. Then he told the people what God had said. If the people refused to believe that looking at the serpent on the pole could help them, then they died. But those who had faith to believe, when they looked, they lived.

JESUS LIFTED UP

When Jesus was ministering on the earth, he spoke about that incident that occurred so long ago in Moses' time. Jesus told the people that He would be lifted up. He was talking about being lifted up on the cross.

John 12:32-33 says, *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.*

Jesus knew that His mission on earth was to be lifted up on a cross where He would die for the sins of all people.

Jesus said that just as the people who were dying from the serpents' bites looked at the serpent on the pole and lived, so would anyone who looked to Him for salvation from sin would live eternally.

John 3:14-16 says, *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Just as the people in Moses' day looked and lived, today it is the same for us. If we look at the cross of Jesus and realize what Jesus did for us there, then we can have eternal life.

WHAT JESUS DID FOR US

So what did Jesus do for us on the cross? First you must understand that we are all sinners and there is nothing we can do to take away our own sin.

God hates sin. So we have a real problem because we are all born sinners.

Only a perfect sacrifice can be offered to take away our sin. Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God came to earth to live and then to die for our sin.

Jesus took our place. He died on the cross in our place. He shed His blood. He died. He was in the tomb for three days.

Then, on Easter morning, He rose again. He was alive because He is God. Now He is in Heaven.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, and because He rose alive from the grave, God is willing to accept Jesus' death in our place. God accepts Jesus' death as a perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin.

But not everyone will benefit from the sacrifice that Jesus made.

Jesus was lifted up on the cross, but those who do not look and believe on Him will not have eternal life. Just as those who did not look at Moses' serpent that was lifted up died.

Does that mean we just need to look at a picture of Jesus on the cross to be saved from our sin? No. What it means is that we need to be sorry in our hearts for our sin. We need to ask Jesus to forgive our sin. We need to ask Jesus to become a part of our life.

That is a true look at the cross of Jesus. It is a long, hard look that believes what Jesus did for us and accepts it with all of our heart.

HE IS RISEN

Easter Sunday is all about what Jesus did on the cross. It is all about the fact that Jesus did not just die on the cross and then He stayed dead like all other people. Instead, because Jesus is God the Son, He was able to come alive again.

On Easter Sunday morning, Jesus did just that. He came back to life. He came out of the tomb. He walked and talked. He told His disciples to go into all the world with the Gospel, telling others about what He had done for the world to take away sin.

Then, while many stood and listened to Jesus speak, He was caught up into Heaven. That is where Jesus is now. He is with God. He is watching over us and praying for us, that we might be bold and faithful witnesses for Him.

IS JESUS LIFTED UP IN YOUR LIFE?

What Jesus did on the cross was for anyone who will believe He is God and repent of their sin. Salvation is a free gift to any who will accept it. Jesus was lifted up on the cross so that you can be saved. Is Jesus lifted up in your life?

Everyone must accept Jesus for themselves. Your parents can't do it for you. Your older brother or sister can't do it for you. Your best friend can't do it for you. You must do it for yourself.

Have you ever looked at what Jesus did for you? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? You can today. We can have someone show you how to do that.

Maybe you are a Christian. You have asked Jesus to be your Savior. Do you lift Jesus up so that others can see Jesus in the way you live and act? Can your friends and family tell that Jesus is lifted up in your life by the words you say, by the attitudes you have, by the things you do?

That should be the case!

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember to lift Jesus up in all that you say and do. Lift Him up so that when others look at you, they will see Jesus in you.

Think carefully about the words that come out of your mouth. Would they please Jesus? Think carefully about the things you do. Would they please Jesus? Think carefully about your attitudes. Would they please Jesus?

When others look at you and your life, are you lifting Jesus up? This week determine that you will lift up Jesus.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to lift up Jesus in your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did the Children of Israel do to cause God to punish them?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. How did God punish them?
4. What did the serpents' bites feel like?
5. What did the Israelites tell Moses?
6. What did Moses do?
7. What did God tell Moses to do?
8. What did the people have to do to live?
9. Who said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me?"
10. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Lifted Up



"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up."

John 3:14

Find the words below. Look forward, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

E	U	Q	Y	O	X	Y	E	H	R	X	C	H	B	M
C	C	E	K	D	L	I	E	L	E	G	N	A	L	G
I	R	W	F	E	R	A	I	E	T	T	D	I	O	T
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	C	S	O	F	G	O	O
I	S	Z	Y	E	L	O	J	R	A	T	D	N	D	M
R	S	D	N	S	T	C	Y	O	E	T	Y	E	O	B
C	W	E	P	S	B	E	U	D	I	T	U	S	H	P
A	L	I	V	E	T	X	O	M	P	C	E	I	S	S
S	P	D	H	R	E	N	H	M	K	S	E	R	E	N
U	Q	A	D	Y	O	D	E	G	X	M	N	S	N	I
S	Q	D	J	Y	R	K	D	M	I	T	H	Z	U	S
E	M	J	B	F	X	B	I	C	Z	K	L	R	U	N
J	M	C	A	P	C	Y	F	U	B	Y	Q	P	R	I

ALIVE	DIED	FORGIVEN	LIFTED	SACRIFICE	TOMB
ANGEL	EASTER	HEAVEN	MOSES	SHED	UP
BLOOD	EMPTY	JESUS	REJOICE	SINS	
CROSS	ETERNAL	LIFE	RISEN	STONE	

PATRIOTIC LESSON

WOUNDED FOR ME

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Ephesians 6:10-17, II Timothy 2:4,
Hebrews 12:2, Romans 5:8, John 15:18

CHARACTER TRAIT

Jesus was
wounded for me.

MEMORY VERSE

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5



OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Today is a special day. It is a day when we remember what men and women who serve in the military have done for us. Ever since our country was founded in 1776, people of the United States have stood up and willingly given their lives to protect our freedom.

There is a price for freedom. Some have paid the price of leaving their homes and jobs to fight far away from loved ones. Some have paid the price of being wounded in combat. Some have paid the price of losing arms or legs in battle. Some have paid the ultimate price of freedom by giving their lives.

It is a good thing for us to take a few minutes to remember these brave folks who have fought and been wounded for our freedom. Today we are going to do that.

Today's Life Lesson is: Jesus was wounded for me.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

THE PURPLE HEART

Obtain Flashcard.

Wendy watched the video of her father. He was at church in Vacation Bible School. The church's theme had been "Heroes" and they had asked several men from the church, who had fought in different wars, to come tell a little about where they had fought and what they had done in the war.

Wendy's Dad, Roy Rudduck, had been in World War II in the 1940's. He had served in the Army in France and Germany.

That was about all Wendy knew about the war her dad had fought in. Dad never spoke too much about those times. He was a quiet man, and that subject didn't come up too often.

Wendy wasn't even born till years after the war had ended. During the war, her mom had lived in Michigan near her parents and had gotten a job to make ends meet for her and Jerry, Wendy's older brother. Jerry was just a little guy during World War II.

Now, as Wendy watched the video, many years had passed. Her dad was in his seventies. And there he was, telling stories of the war that she had never heard.

In 1944 Roy was shipped out for England and spent most of the ocean voyage hanging over the rail or laying in bed, green with sea sickness. When they finally got to England, he was very glad to hit the firm soil. But it wasn't long before they crossed the English Channel into France and on into the war. The men were loaded into box cars and for three days and nights rode the rails toward Germany.

There were piles of clothes and equipment and ammunition from which the men could select what they wanted as they prepared to march out. It was cold and snowing in Europe at that time of year and the men loaded up.

Off they marched and Roy said as they marched along in single file that first morning in Germany, the sun came out. The men began to get warm from carrying all the clothing, blankets, and other necessary equipment they had loaded onto their backs and into their duffle bags.

Here and there Roy would see a blanket dropped along the path and later a coat and later another blanket. The men were tossing stuff off their backs and out of their duffle bags as they marched to lighten their load.

Roy hung on to his blanket. And he was glad he did when the sun set and the night wore on. That night they slept in fox holes that had been dug by German soldiers and it got very cold. Many of the men spent most of their nights in fox holes, but Roy's unit was lucky and most nights they slept in empty houses that had been evacuated by the residents of towns who had fled when Hitler's army swept through.

Sometimes the men in Roy's division would engage in enemy fire. Roy was good at aiming the hand held bazooka so that it would shoot directly into an enemy held post. So often Roy was called up to fire shots in advance of his unit.

Roy was not a fighting type of man. He was a quiet, peaceful, happy guy. This wasn't something he enjoyed at all. On the afternoon of January 23, 1945, Roy's unit was split into two sections. His section was ordered to cross a ravine and head up a steep ridge toward a German occupied town. The orders were to take the town before sunset. So off the men went through the cold snow and up the ridge.

As Roy was trudging through about six inches of snow, he prayed to God. "Lord, I know this is selfish, but please help me get out of this mess." It was a simple, but heartfelt prayer.

About one hour later, just as Roy neared the top of the ridge, his unit came under enemy fire. The shells that screamed past made such a high, shrill sound that it made the hairs on Roy's neck stand up. Roy's sergeant was hit and Roy helped him to the side where two other men were able to take him to a safer place. Then Roy rushed to rejoin his unit.

The next thing Roy knew, he was laying in the snow. He could feel that he had been hit. A shell had exploded into a million pieces as it zoomed past him. One piece had lodged into his hip. He couldn't move except to try to get down the hill to where he would have a bit more protection.

So there Roy lay. It was a cold day and there was thick snow on the ground. It was around 4:00 PM and the sun was setting quickly. Soon it would be dark. After awhile, a medic came past. He stopped to look at Roy, but his own hands were almost frozen. He held them out stiffly and showed Roy that he could barely move his fingers.

“Sorry soldier, I can’t help you. I’m in pretty bad shape myself. But I’ll send someone back to get you,” said the medic.

Then he turned and kept marching back toward a US Army unit.

Roy lay and waited. He wondered if they would ever come, if they would ever find him. It was pitch black. But eventually, help came. He was taken to the medical unit and eventually sent back to England. By the time he had healed sufficiently and was heading back to join his unit, the war had ended.

God had answered his prayer. He was one of the fortunate ones who would be going home alive. Many thousands of others had given their lives there in Europe.

Wendy watched her quiet, gentle Dad talk about laying in the snow and helplessly waiting for someone to come get him.

She pictured the Purple Heart she had seen so many times. It was a medal given only to those men and women who were wounded in the line of duty to the United States.

(Show Flashcard.)

She remembered seeing the shell fragment from the bomb that had hit her dad. He still had it. You could even see a tiny fragment of bone still attached to the metal.

Her dad had gone to Germany to fight. Not because he enjoyed fighting. He didn’t enjoy it at all. He went to fight for the freedom of other countries and for the freedom of the United States.

He had been wounded to protect his country. He had been wounded to protect his family. And, she realized, “He was wounded for me!”

Jesus Christ went to the cross of Calvary for us. He did not die on the cross because of any sin he had committed. He was the perfect Son of God. He died for your sins and for my sins. He was wounded for me. He was wounded for you!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Ephesians 6:10-17, II Timothy 2:4, Hebrews 12:2, Romans 5:8, John 15:18

LESSON

A GOOD SOLDIER

Freedom comes with a price. Men and women must be willing to fight and to die for that freedom. They must be willing to pay the price.

But not just anyone can walk into battle and expect to fight and defeat the enemy. No, a good soldier must meet several requirements. Let's talk about those requirements.

1. A good soldier must be willing to answer the call. Not everyone wants to serve in the Army or any other branch of the service. In times of war or conflict, the country needs men and women who are willing to go and fight.

At times the United States has had what is called the draft. That is when young men are automatically called into service when they turn 18. Back in the 1960's there was a draft. Young men had no choice but to enlist and go serve in Vietnam. However, there were those who were not willing to serve. To avoid the draft, they fled the United States and went to live in Canada. They were call "draft dodgers." They were not willing to pay the price of freedom.

2. A good soldier must be equipped and trained to do the job. Each young recruit is put through a time of intensive training so they will know how to do their job. They are trained to listen to and obey their commander.

The soldier must also know how to use the equipment they will be given. Can you imagine a soldier being put in a tank and told to go into battle without being told how to operate the tank or any of the weapons on that tank? No. Training is very important to success in battle.

3. A good soldier must know the enemy. It seems like it would be easy to identify the enemy, but that is not the case in every war. In many wars soldiers wear uniforms. When you see the uniform, then you know instantly which side the soldier fights for.

However, in some types of warfare, not all soldiers wear a uniform. The enemy doesn't always play fair. In the Vietnam war, the US soldiers often had a difficult time identifying the enemy because they did not always wear uniforms. They didn't look like soldiers.

4. A good soldier is willing to pay the price. Freedom is not free. Often the price of freedom must be paid by the soldier. They must give of their time away from their family and friends to go fight in a foreign country. They have to give up the comforts of home to fight without shelter and protection. They may have to pay the price of being wounded in battle. Some soldiers pay the highest price by giving their life in battle.

A good soldier thinks of the reason they are fighting, not the price they are paying.

JESUS - THE GOOD SOLDIER

Jesus Christ is the prime example of a good soldier.

1. Jesus was willing to answer the call. Mankind is lost in sin. They cannot save themselves, and only a perfect sacrifice could take away their sin. Jesus came to earth as a willing sacrifice.

The Bible tells us in Philippians that even though Jesus was God the Son, He willingly left Heaven and came to earth to be offered as a sacrifice for our sins.

If we follow the example of Jesus to be good soldiers of God, then we must also willingly answer the call to serve God.

II Timothy 2:4 says, *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

When we become soldiers of God, we willingly leave all behind and follow God.

2. Jesus was equipped and trained to do the job.

John 10:30 says, *I and my Father are one.*

Jesus was God. He was perfect. He was equipped to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. He was trained for the job. He knew His mission on earth and He fulfilled His mission successfully.

If we follow the example of Jesus to be a good soldier of God, then we must also be trained and equipped to do whatever job God asks us to do. We are not God, so we must carefully look to God to help us with our mission on earth.

Ephesians 6:10 says, *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

When we battle against the devil, God gives us the armor we need.

The Christian's Equipment is supplied by God:

Have your loins girt about with truth.

Have on the breastplate of righteousness.

Have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Take the shield of faith.

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

We train for battle by reading God's Word, the Bible. In it God tells us what to do and what not to do. The Bible contains our battle plan. Daily we need to study our battle plan.

3. Jesus knew the enemy.

From the foundations of the earth, Satan hated God and purposed to destroy everything that He created. When God created man, Satan quickly went to Adam and Eve and tempted them to sin. How happy Satan was when they listened to Him.

Since that time, Satan has plotted and planned to destroy all that God has loved and created. So Jesus Christ knew that when He came to earth, the battle he fought would be against Satan.

In Matthew chapter four we read where Satan actually came to tempt Jesus as He fasted and prayed in the wilderness. But Jesus was triumphant. He sent Satan on his way. Satan lost that battle.

On the cross, Jesus had the final victory over Satan. He had won the victory. But today, Satan still tries to keep as many people from accepting salvation as he possibly can. He also works hard to destroy the testimonies of Christians so that they will not be effective soldiers of Christ.

If we are to be good soldiers of God, we must know the enemy. And Satan is tricky. He tries to hide himself so we don't recognize him as the enemy. He tries to use things that look like fun to cause us to fall into sin so he can destroy us. But if we stay close to God, we will recognize the tricks of our enemy.

Ephesians 6:12 says, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

As good soldiers of God, we must never let Satan have the victory over us. We must guard our hearts and minds so that we will be victorious Christians. We must carefully guard our testimonies and our lives for God.

4. Jesus was willing to pay the price.

Before Jesus came to earth, He knew that the price of salvation for sinners would be His death on the cross. He knew it would be a terrible death on the cross. But Jesus was willing to pay that price.

Hebrews 12:2 says, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.*

How much Jesus Christ must love us for Him to be willing to die for us!

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus did not die for us because we were such wonderful people that we deserved it. He did not die for us because we loved Him first. No, Jesus died for us when we were still dirty, rotten, miserable sinners who deserved death. He did it because He loved us first. He loved us while we were still unlovable.

If we are to be good soldiers of God, we must also be willing to pay the price. We may never be required to die for God, but some Christians have had to die for believing in Christ.

One price we must pay is to live for God. We may not have to die for God, but daily we must live for Him. That can be a hard thing to do. It is not always easy to do the right thing. It is not always easy to obey God's commands. It is not always easy to avoid sin, but it is the price we must pay to be a good soldier of Christ.

Another price to be paid for serving God is that if you love God, the world will hate you. They may make fun of you and what you believe and how you dress and how you act. But that is OK. God knows. He sees the price you pay. He is proud of you when you love Him more than you love the world.

John 15:18 says, *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*

Yes, there may be a price to be paid for being a good soldier of God. But because we love God for all He has done for us, we should willingly pay the price.

II Timothy 2:4 says, *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

SOLDIER OR DRAFT DODGER?

Are you a good soldier of Christ? Or are you a draft dodger?

If you have never asked Jesus to forgive your sin, then you are not a soldier of Christ. But you can be. Jesus died for your sin. He wants you to ask for forgiveness and ask Him to come into your life. Would you like to do that today?

Maybe you are a Christian, but you've been a draft dodger. When God chose you to answer the call to serve Him, you ran away. You didn't want to serve God.

Maybe you aren't willing to equip yourself to serve as a good soldier by reading God's Word and praying every day.

Maybe you don't recognize the enemy or aren't willing to pay the price. When you are around the world you want to be like all your friends. You want others to like you so you go along with the crowd. You aren't willing to pay the price for serving God.

Today you can make a new commitment to God to be the kind of good soldier who faithfully serves.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be a good soldier of God. Do that by following Christ's example.

1. Be willing to answer the call.
2. Be equipped and trained to do the job.
3. Know the enemy.
4. Be willing to pay the price.

Today, spend some time in prayer. Tell God that you want to be a good soldier. That's answering the call. Then read your Bible. That's training. Know your enemy by avoiding sin when you are tempted. And daily live for God. That is paying the price.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be a good soldier of Christ.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Recite today's memory verse.
2. Name something a good soldier must do.
3. Name something else a good soldier must do.
4. Name something else a good soldier must do.
5. Name something else a good soldier must do.
6. What does God say we must put on to be a good soldier?
7. Name at least three pieces of armor we need as soldiers.
8. Who is our enemy?
9. What price did Jesus pay for us?
10. What is a person called who runs away from battle?

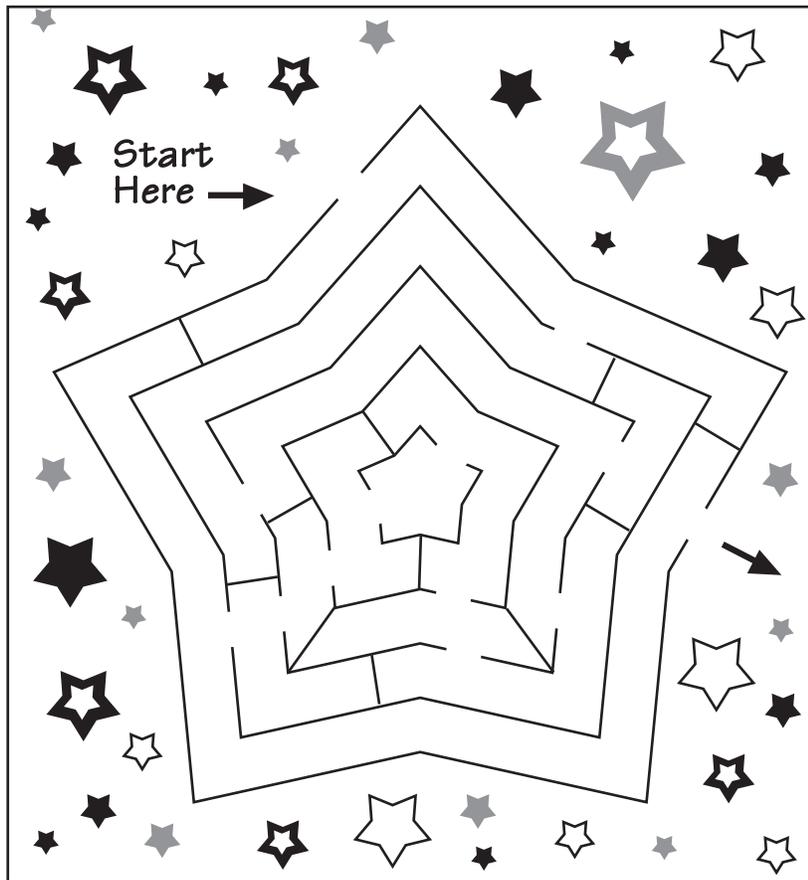
Wounded for Me

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5



Jesus was wounded for me.



THANKSGIVING LESSON

THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Psalm 57:1, Matthew 23:37, Romans
5:8, I Thessalonians 5:18

CHARACTER TRAIT

I will rejoice in the
shadow of God's wings.

MEMORY VERSE

*Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice.*

Psalm 63:7

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

It is so easy to give thanks to God for all the good things he has done for us. It is easy to be thankful when things are going our way.

But it's not very easy to be thankful for the hard times. When things don't go the way we plan, we aren't so thankful. When we don't have good health, we aren't so thankful. When others treat us wrongly, we aren't so thankful.

But the Bible says in I Thessalonians 5:18, *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

That verse does not say "Give thanks only for the good things." It says we are to give thanks for "everything." Today we will be talking about giving thanks in the hard times.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will rejoice in the shadow of God's wings.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

Bo's Blessings Book

(To the teacher: This is a true "Wendy" story. Bo was married to Wendy's daughter, Rynda, for one week short of six years. Bo had cancer and was a shining testimony for his Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has since blessed Rynda with another Christian husband.)

Bo hadn't been feeling well. He thought he only had a cold that wouldn't go away. He kept going to work even though he didn't feel well. He figured he'd get better sooner or later.

The local blood center brought a mobile unit to his work and he decided to donate blood since his mother-in-law, Wendy, had suggested he do so sometime. Here was the perfect time to donate. He wouldn't even have to drive downtown.

But something was wrong with the blood test they did there in the mobile unit. Instead of taking Bo's blood, they suggested to him that he go see his doctor right away.

So, Bo went. About three hours later, Bo, his wife, Rynda, and all the family were gathered at the hospital. The doctor had some shocking news for them. Bo had leukemia.

No one could quite believe it. He didn't look sick. He certainly didn't feel that sick! And he wasn't old enough to have Chronic Leukemia. But the doctor was certain. As everyone stood around the hallway in shock, they admitted Bo to the hospital.

That night, Rynda and her parents went home to her apartment. She gathered her things and took the dog for a walk. Then she leaned against the wall and said, "Last night, everything was so normal. I don't think I can do this."

"Yes you can. God will give you the strength," Wendy and Gary encouraged her.

Then they headed back to the hospital. That would be the first of many hundreds of nights Rynda would spend sleeping in the chair next to Bo's bed in the hospital over the next four years.

It is a scary thing to face having cancer. Everyone says encouraging things, but it is still very hard. About all you can do is pray and ask the Lord to give the doctors wisdom. So everyone prayed.

The next day, Bo and Rynda decided to start a "Blessings Book." Every time something good happened, they would write it down so that they could remember what God was doing for them. Every time someone helped them, in the book it would be recorded. Every time God answered a prayer, it would be written in the book. Every time someone called to offer a word of encouragement, it would go in the book.

Bo and Rynda knew that times would be hard from then on. There would be days they would get discouraged. There would be days nothing would seem to go right. There would be days when they would wonder if God remembered about them.

On those days, they would pull out the "Blessings Book." They would read how God had blessed them, provided for them, and answered their prayers.

That book would be an important source of strength for them. It would remind them that they had a God who loved them and cared for them, even in the hard times.

They also decided that they would make the effort to say "thank you" to everyone who did anything for them in the hospital. So many people in hospitals complain about the bland food, about how slowly the nurses respond, about having to give blood every few hours. Bo and Rynda decided not to be complainers.

Instead, when the housekeeper mopped the floor, they said "thank you." When the guy from food services brought the food tray, even if Bo couldn't eat, they said "thank you." When the nurses' aides came to change the bedding, they would say "thank you." When the nurse came to draw blood or give him his medicine, they would say "thank you." When the technicians did bone marrow biopsies, they said "thank you."

Nothing was too small or insignificant for a word of thanks. And soon, Bo was a favorite on the cancer floor. Everyone knew Bo and his smiling face and kind words.

Over the next four years, as they went in and out of the hospital, they kept their Blessings Book. Over the next four years, they said “thank you.” Over the next four years, they made an impact on everyone they met as having a sweet testimony for God.

The day before Bo went home to Heaven, his pastor and a friend said a word of prayer by his bed. When they had finished, Bo slowly removed his oxygen mask and said, “Thank you for praying for me.”

Medical personnel on the cancer floor don’t often attend funerals. It would be too depressing. But at Bo’s funeral there were four rows filled with doctors and nurses, along with people who mopped the floors and all the technicians from the diagnostic center. They came as a tribute to a man whose kind words and thankful heart had touched their lives.

After several years of fighting leukemia, Bo once said, “If I could have the choice of having leukemia or not having it, I wouldn’t change a thing.” He also said, “It would be real nice if someone gave me \$50,000.00, but when I need \$50.00, God gives me \$50.00!”

It can be hard to be thankful when times are hard or things aren’t going our way. We wonder why this is happening to us. But oh, what an impact a life can make for Christ when others see a kind and thankful spirit demonstrated, especially in the hard times!

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psalm 63:7

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Psalm 57:1, Matthew 23:37, Romans 5:8, I Thessalonians 5:18

Obtain Flashcard.

LESSON

WHAT'S IN THE SHADOWS?

Have you ever been in a dark place late at night? There was no light. You didn't know the area. The wind was howling. You were all alone.

How did you feel? Probably afraid, at least a little bit.

Most of us aren't too eager to be in the shadows. Who knows what's out there? We fear the shadows because there is no light. We fear the shadows because of the unknown. We can't see ahead or around us. The last place we want to be is in a place filled with shadows.

Life has shadow times. Times when we don't know what is out there. Times when we don't know what is going to happen. Times when we can only imagine what we can't see. Times of trials and troubles and sadness.

We fear the dark times. We fear the unknown. We don't like the shadow times in life.

THE SHADOW OF GOD'S WINGS

But there can be comfort and safety in the shadows. The shadows can be a place of rejoicing. That is, if the shadow is the shadow of God's wings.

God knows that we face problems and trials. He loves us and He wants to be there for us during the hard times so that He can spread His wings over us and protect us.

In the shadow of God's wings there is protection from the enemy, there is the comfort of God's presence, there is security in knowing we are not alone in our troubles. It is the safest place we can be.

How thankful we can be that even in the hard times in life, we can hide beneath the shadow of God's wings. There He will keep us safe. That's something to be thankful for.

But can we also be thankful for the hard times themselves? It sure is hard to be thankful for the hard times. But the Bible says we should.

Although no one enjoys troubles and problems, we can know that God allows troubles and problems in our lives for our own good. God only allows what is best for us.

But why would God allow hard times into our lives? Why doesn't He always make life go smoothly for us if He loves us? That's a difficult question to answer. There are many different reasons that God will allow us to go through hard times.

God can use hard times to strengthen us. He can use them to build our faith. He can use them as an example to others. When others see that we trust God in our hard times, they can also see what a wonderful God we love and serve.

I Thessalonians 5:18 says, *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

When we are under the shadow of God's wings, we can give thanks for everything God allows in our lives. Even the hard times.

THE MOTHER HEN

The story is told of a farmer who had many acres of land. On his land he not only raised corn and wheat, he also had cows, horses, and chickens.

One spring a mother hen had a whole brood of baby chicks. Wherever she went, right behind her the little chicks would bob along in a straight line. They walked as fast as their little legs would carry them as they struggled to keep up with their mother so she wouldn't get too far ahead. (Show Flashcard.)

Whenever the mother hen became alarmed because of approaching danger, such as a nosy dog snooping around or a cow walking too close, she would call to her chicks and up would raise her wings. All the chicks would gather under and then the mother hen would lower her wings over the entire brood of chicks. She would squat down low and cover her babies till the danger had passed. Then up she would stand and up would go her wings and all the chicks would scatter when they saw the daylight.

One day, a great fire began on the farm. As hard as the farmer tried to put out the fire, he could not. Like the wind in a raging storm, the fire swept over the farm land burning everything in its path.

The mother hen sensed the danger and quickly called to her brood to gather close. Up went her wings and under ran all the chicks. Then the mother hen squatted down as close to the ground as she could.

Hours later, when the farmer was walking over his charred land, surveying the damage, he came upon the remains of the poor mother hen. With a sad heart the farmer reached down to lift the hen up.

To his surprise, out ran the little hen's entire brood of chicks. They had survived the fire because their mother had given her life to keep her chicks close and safe under her wings.

JESUS' WINGS

One day Jesus was speaking to his disciples and to all the people who followed Him. They were waiting to hear what He would say. Jesus knew that it wouldn't be very long before they would take Him and crucify Him on the cross. He looked out over the city of Jerusalem and spoke of how He longed to gather and protect His people, just as a mother hen protects her brood, but they didn't want anything to do with Him.

Instead of running to Him for safety to hide under the shadow of His wings, they ran the other way.

In Matthew 23:37 Jesus said, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

The people of Jesus' day rejected Him. They nailed Him to a cross. They spit on Him and beat Him. They made fun of Him. Yet, He loved them still.

You see, the whole reason Jesus came to earth was to die for their sins. He knew people would reject Him, but He wanted to give them an opportunity to accept His gift of salvation. He died for those people in spite of all they did to Him.

The same is true today. So many people reject Jesus. They don't want anything to do with Him. They don't care that He died on the cross for their sins. But yet, Jesus still loves them. He still longs to gather them to Himself as a hen gathers her chicks.

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Even in our sinful condition, if we are willing to flee to the shadow of God's wings, He will save us and take us in. Jesus died on the cross so that we all would have an opportunity to have our sin forgiven.

That is something to rejoice about, no matter how hard life may become. Whatever problems you may face in life, you can still be thankful to God because He loves you and He will shelter you under the shadow of His wings in times of need!

So remember, even in the hard times, you can run under the shadow of His wings. You can talk to God and tell Him your needs. You can read your Bible and draw strength from His Word. How thankful we all can be that God loves us that much.

But let me ask you a question. Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart? Maybe you haven't done that yet. If you haven't, you can do that today. We can have someone show you how.

God loves you so much, that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for your sin. Today you can accept what He has done for you.

Maybe you are already a Christian, but you have been having a hard time at school or at home or with a friend. You have wondered if God knew or cared about your problems. He does! Even in your hard times, He wants you to determine to be thankful for His love and for His presence. He wants you to seek shelter in the shadow of His wings.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be thankful, even in the hard times. Remember to rejoice in the shadow of God's wings. Be thankful that God is with you. Be thankful that God goes with you through hard times. Be thankful that God is teaching you lessons in life. Be thankful that all things work together for good.

Be a thankful person, not a complainer. Be a thankful person, even in life's hard times. When you go through troubles in your life, and you will, remember to flee under the shadow of God's wings. He will protect you there.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to thank Him even in the hard times of your life.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Name something that frightens people about the shadows.
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What shadow don't we have to fear?
4. What example did Jesus use when He cried over the city of Jerusalem?
5. What can we be thankful for during hard times?
6. How many things does the Bible say we should give thanks for?
7. Why did Jesus come to earth?
8. Where is the safest place you can be in times of trouble?
9. What will a mother chicken do when trouble is near?
10. Name something you can thank God for in your life.



The Shadow of His Wings

I will rejoice in the shadow of God's wings.

"Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice."

Psalm 63:7

Write all the letters with the number 1 under them, in order, on the lines below. Then write all the letters with the number 2, in order, under them. Then the 3 letters and so on until you get a hidden message.

I	C	D	O	W	E	O	D	I	I	W	I	L	N	S	S	L	T	F	W
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
R	H	O	I	E	E	R	T	J	S	M	H	O	H	Y	M	I	A	G	E
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

I _____

_____.

CHRISTMAS LESSON

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction
Song Time
Supporting Story
Memory Verse Time
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation
Challenge / Quiet Time
Bible Quiz



BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 1:18-23

CHARACTER TRAIT

God is with me every day.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46:7a

OPEN IN PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever thought what it would be like to see God face to face? Some people in the Old Testament had that experience. But not too many. But then, in New Testament times, God came to earth to live. Many saw God on earth.

If we accept Jesus as our Savior, we will someday see God face to face in Heaven. But did you know that every single day, God is with you? He is.

Today we will be talking about God being with us.

Today's Life Lesson is: God is with me every day.

SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY

A VISIT FROM GOD

Obtain Flashcard.

Long ago, in a far away land, there lived a man by the name of Martin. Martin was a shoe cobbler. He repaired shoes for the people of his village. (Show Flashcard.)

Martin was a lonely old man whose crankiness kept others away from him unless they had business with him.

One cold winter morning Martin was going about his business of repairing a worn out shoe when he had a visit from an old friend. As the door opened, a rush of cold air swooshed into the shop.

"Martin, old friend, how are you?" called Mikhail.

"Come in, Mikhail! It has been a long time since you have visited. I am surprised to see you. Come and sit." Martin was truly happy to see his old friend. "What has kept you away so long?"

"The work of the Lord keeps me very busy. The preaching takes me away. But I think of you and pray for you often," Mikhail said as he eyed Martin closely.

“Martin, I have come for a reason. As I was praying for you, a great heaviness came upon my heart. I believe the Lord impressed me that I should come to you. . . that you were in need of me. Tell me, Martin, how I can help you?”

“No one can help me. My needs are within my heart” Martin said. He tossed the shoe he had been working on into the pile of shoes at his feet and reached for another shoe. “I have not lived for God for many years now. You know that it has been years since Martha died, and daily I grow more and more lonely and bitter. I am ashamed to admit it to you, but my bitterness has caused me to turn from everyone.

“Dear friend, have you prayed to the Lord for comfort?” Mikhail asked with concern in his voice.

“At times it seems I can no longer bear my life. I keep my hands busy, yet my mind has time to dwell on the past. My past was wonderful and full, and it only makes my present seem emptier. So I bury myself in my work even more. Look around you. Everywhere there are shoes. All I do is work.”

“You have no time for God? I remember that once you served Him,” Mikhail said. “God always has time for you. You must turn to Him.”

“No. It seems to me that God has left me,” Martin lamented sadly.

“God will not leave you. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If anyone has left this relationship, it is not God.”

“But what am I to do?” Martin asked. “It has been a long time since I have spoken to the Lord. It seems that my sorrow and loneliness have taken away my faith in God. I have no hope.”

“There is always hope. Read God’s Word. Let Him speak to you. He can take away your loneliness and show you how to live. He can help you to dwell less on your own sadness and more on the needs of others.”

Martin looked closely at his old friend and considered what he was saying. He remembered when he had been close to God. Certainly it was he who had departed, not God.

“Yes, I will try that,” Martin said. “Thank you for coming to me this day. I do believe God sent you. I feel I have more hope already.”

All the rest of that day Martin thought about his conversation with his old friend. Later that night when he laid aside the last shoe that needed repair, he picked up his old, worn Bible. He dusted it off.

“Oh, old friend. It has been a long time since I have held you and opened your pages. There was a time when I read you daily.

“Now where shall I begin? Ah, here we are. Let me read here in Matthew.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

“Oh, Lord, forgive me, for years now I have acted like an old goat. When Martha was alive I lived for you, but now I have allowed my bitterness to destroy my faith.

“If you should come to me now, would I be one of your own? It’s been so long since I have thought about my promises to serve you. The only thing I have thought about is myself. Can I hope that you would still care about me?”

With that Martin slowly lowered his head onto the table before him as his eyes closed in sleep. All at once, it seemed to Martin that he heard a voice calling to him.

“What is it? Who is there?” Martin answered.

“Look into the street tomorrow, Martin. Tomorrow I shall come visit you,” the voice said.

“Is that you Lord? Why would you want to visit me? I have neglected you for so long. I have treated everyone around me wrong. I have been so selfish.”

“Tomorrow, Martin. Look for my visit.” And the voice was gone.

The next morning Martin remembered the voice clearly. Would the Lord visit him today? He was sure of it. How happy he felt. As he looked out his front window, Martin saw his neighbor shoveling the snow from in front of his store. Normally he would have huffed and ignored him, but today he went to the door.

“Stephen, what are you doing out there on such a bitter morning?”

“I don’t mean to bother you, but I know how busy you are and you have many customers. The snow is hard to walk in, so I have cleared your walk and mine,” Stephen said cautiously.

“You are kind to an old man, Stephen. Please, come in and warm yourself for a while,” Martin offered. Stephen was not sure he should go into the shop. It had been a very long time since Martin had even talked to him.

“Here, sit and I will get you some tea,” Martin poured him a cup of steaming tea.

“Why thank you, Martin. I appreciate your kindness. You seem to be in a very good mood. . . Are you waiting for someone? You are staring at the door as if you are expecting a visitor.”

“Well, yes,” Martin smiled happily. “Actually I do expect a very important visitor. Last night I was reading in my Bible about the sheep and the goats. It made me very sad for I realized that I have not lived very much like a Christian! I must have fallen to sleep then, for suddenly I was

awakened by a voice. It told me that the Lord would visit me. I want to watch carefully for Him, so I will not miss the chance to welcome Him!”

“Truly you have been blessed by such a wonderful promise,” Stephen said. “I must go now, Martin. I can see that you have changed greatly! Thank you for the warmth you have brought to me both in body and in soul! “

Martin smiled as he closed the shop door behind Stephen.

In a short while Martin glanced out his window. There stood a woman before his door. He could see that in her arms she held a small baby. She was stamping her feet to try to keep them warm. Martin rushed to the door and flung it open.

“Madam, please come into my shop and warm yourself. It is too cold to stand out there.”

“Thank you, sir,” the woman said. “We won’t stay long, but the warmth is greatly welcomed.”

Martin took a close look at the woman. She only wore a thin shawl like one would wear on a warm summer evening. The child also was only wrapped in a thin covering.

“But where is your coat? You are not dressed to be outside. Surely you and the child will freeze in such weather!” Martin exclaimed.

The woman explained that her husband had gone to war and for months there had been no word from him. She could not find a job, so she sold her coat to buy food for the child.

Martin hurried to seat the woman and bring her a bowl of the steaming stew he had simmering on his stove. He also brought some milk for the child. The woman looked at Martin with eyes of gratitude as she eagerly ate the hot food.

Then Martin went to a chest he kept in the back of his shop. He dug around until he found what he sought.

“Here, see if this fits,” Martin said as he held up a long, warm coat. It looked like it would fit the woman perfectly. He also handed her a warm wrap for the child.

“I want you to have this. It belonged to my wife. I know she would want you to have it. And this will keep the child warm.”

“God bless you,” the woman exclaimed with tears in her eyes.

“Oh, I know He will, for last night in a dream a voice told me the Lord would come to visit me today,” Martin told the woman.

“Really? I am sure He will! All things are possible. I believe that now because He has answered my prayer!” And with that, the woman went on her way with hope renewed in her heart.

Martin hummed as the time passed. Then he heard the sound of shouting from outside. He rushed to the door to see what was happening. There stood the old lady who sold fruit from her basket. She had a young boy clutched by the back of his coat.

“Hey, you thief,” Granny cried. “Give that back!”

“Okay, okay, let me go!” the boy called out. “I’ll give the apple back.”

Martin quickly brought the two into the shop and out of the cold. Granny kept a tight grip on the boy’s coat.

“Look Martin, I have caught a thief!” Granny was indignant.

“Please mister,” the boy cried. “Make her let me go! I only took the apple because I haven’t had anything to eat all day.”

Martin urged Granny to release the boy but she was not anxious to let him get away.

“Granny, let the boy go. Forgive him,” Martin urged.

“Forgive him?” Granny scoffed. “He will just run away. What’s gotten into you?”

“I am sorry, Missus,” the boy said sincerely. “Truly I am! I won’t do it again.”

“Granny, how will God ever forgive us for all of our sins, if we can’t forgive each other?” Martin asked. “Here Granny, let me buy an apple for the boy.”

Martin got a coin to give to Granny and handed the apple back to the boy who gobbled it down in nothing flat.

“Well. . . I suppose no harm has been done. I suppose I can forgive him. . . But this is how I make my living, you know. It’s hard for an old woman to carry around a heavy basket all day. Pests like him don’t make things any easier.”

“I’ll carry the basket for you,” the boy offered. “I am young and strong. I can help you!”

“Well, all right. It would be a big help. And if you do a good job, when we get to my house I will invite you to eat supper with me,” Granny told the boy.

“By the way, Martin. What’s gotten into you? You haven’t had two kind words to rub together in years. Are you feeling all right?”

“I’m feeling better than I have in years. I’m expecting a visit from the Lord today.” With that, Granny and the boy departed.

Finally it was late and the sun had set. Martin realized that the day was done and the Lord had not visited him. He lit a lamp and sat at his table. How discouraged he felt.

“Lord, why didn’t you come today as you said you would? I guess I am not worthy to serve you any longer,” and with that, Martin put his head onto his table and drifted into a deep sleep.

“Martin,” the voice said.

“Lord, have you finally come?” asked Martin.

“Martin, today you were visited by the Lord.”

“No, no,” cried Martin. “You are wrong. I anxiously kept watch all day, but the Lord never came.”

“You are wrong, Martin,” the voice said.

“Wrong? When did the Lord visit me? When did I see Him?” Martin asked.

“Look, Martin, look by the door. Who do you see?”

There, by the door Martin could see Stephen, then the woman and her baby, and lastly he saw Granny and the boy.

“But Lord, that is just my neighbor, and a needy woman with her child, and an old woman with a wayward boy.” Martin was very confused.

“Yes, Martin. For many years you have ignored my voice. People all around you have needed your help. Many times each day you have the chance to serve me. You see, I have chosen to use your hands to show my love.

“For I was hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in. . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Then Martin understood. God is with us each day. He has many jobs he wants us to do. We just need to keep our eyes open for ways to serve Him. And when we are serving others, we are actually serving Him.

“Truly, the Lord has visited me today!” Martin exclaimed with joy.

BIBLE MEMORY TIME

SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

VERSE

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Psalm 46:7a

BIBLE LESSON

TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Matthew 1:18-23

LESSON

GOD SPEAKS TO MAN

Did you know that if God had not decided to reveal Himself to us, we would never have known that there was a God? We know that God exists because He has chosen to let us know that He exists.

First, God created Adam and Eve. He would come down to the garden of Eden and walk and talk with them. He was their friend. But when they chose to disobey God, then God no longer had close fellowship with them. From that point on, God was more distant.

The children and grandchildren of Adam knew about God because they taught them about God. God did have some contact with them. He spoke to them to tell them how to offer sacrifices for their sins, but they were not as close as Adam and Eve had been back in the beginning.

As time went on, God only spoke to special people whom He felt would listen to Him. Sometimes he sent an Angel, sometimes He would give them a dream to tell them what He wanted them to know.

Men like Abraham and Moses spoke with Angels or with God. But they could not speak to God face to face. God told Moses that no man could look on God and live.

God is holy and man is sinful. There was no way to bridge that gap. All the people were able to do was offer animal sacrifices to cover their sins. They could not have their sins completely forgiven.

As time went on, God would pick one man to be a prophet. God spoke to that one man and that man would tell the people what God had said. But often the people would ignore the man of God. They would ignore what God said to them.

The problem was that they were sinners and there was no way to have their sin forgiven. But despite the fact that they sinned and ignored God, God still loved them.

God still desired to speak to man. That was why He created man in the first place. God wanted to have close fellowship with man. But sin put an end to that.

GOD WITH US

So God came up with a plan to come to man and take care of the sin problem. God decided to come directly to earth. Can you imagine God coming to earth? He is so pure and holy that man cannot look on God. How could He come to earth?

God came to earth in human form. Jesus Christ was God. He was in Heaven with God the Father. He was present at the creation of the world. He was totally God. But He was willing to come to earth in human form.

Can you imagine what it must have been like for God to be a baby? Totally helpless to move or feed Himself or care for any of His own needs? How limiting it must have been.

Then that baby began to crawl. God had to learn to walk and talk in the body of that toddler. He had to learn to obey the earthly parents He was born to. He had to do everything a human would do.

But Jesus Christ was willing to do that in order to make contact with us. He did that to live among us.

The Bible says that one name of Jesus was Emmanuel. Names have meanings often times. The name Emmanuel means "God with us." Jesus was God come down to earth to live with us.

How amazing!

Before Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that he should take Mary as his wife. He told Joseph that Mary would give birth to the Son of God. He told Joseph that Jesus' name would be Emmanuel, "God with us." Joseph realized that he would be the earthly father to God here on earth. What a responsibility.

Matthew 1:20-23 says, *While he (Joseph) thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

God's plan was for Jesus to come directly to earth. He would live with us. He would teach us. Then He would die on the cross in our place to take away our sins. He would be the perfect sacrifice that would not just cover our sin, but His blood would completely take away our sin.

In John 10:10b Jesus said, *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

God loves us so much. He didn't have to come to earth to die for us. But that is exactly what He did because of His great love for us.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

GOD SPEAKS TODAY

God still speaks to us today. Jesus is no longer on earth, He is in Heaven now. But that does not mean that God does not still speak to us. He does. First, God speaks to us through the Bible. God told men to write down what He wanted us to know. The Bible we hold is what God wanted us to know about creation, about sin, about salvation through Jesus, and about living for Him.

If we take the time to read God's Word, He can tell us how to live and how to please Him. That's why it is so important to spend time reading God's Word.

God also speaks to our hearts through prayer and through the Holy Spirit. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, He sends us the Holy Spirit to live within us. The Holy Spirit guides us and counsels our hearts and minds, and convicts us of sin.

It is wonderful to know that God loves us so much that He still finds ways to be with us and speak to us.

SHOWING GOD TO OTHERS

Just as God came to be with us so that He could take away our sin, He expects us to tell others about what He did for us. If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life, then you need to be God's representative here on earth.

You see, God gives His love to us and we let His love flow through us to others. That is one reason we give gifts at Christmas time. It is a picture of the great gift of love that God gave to us when He sent His Son. Just as God gave a gift to us, we give gifts to others.

It is nice to give gifts at Christmas, but the greatest gift we could give to someone we love is the gift of telling them about God and His love.

God wants us to tell others that God came to be with us because He loves us. He wants us to tell them that God loves them. That is one way to show God's love. We can also show God's love by how we treat others. If we are kind and forgiving, we show God's love. If we are helpful, we show God's love. If we obey our parents, we show God's love.

There are many ways to show God's love. This Christmas, let's remember to show God's love to everyone we meet in every way we can.

My first question to you is this: Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? Would you like to do that today? We can show you how.

My second question is: If you are saved, Do you let God speak to your heart? Do you let Him guide and counsel you? When you sin, do you listen to Him as He convicts you of sin? Do you listen to God? You should. Today you can pray and tell the Lord that you are glad He is with you. Tell Him that from now on you want to listen when He speaks.

INVITATION

CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember that God is with you every day. Remember that if you are willing to listen, then God will speak to you. Not out loud or through an angel, but through the Bible and through the Holy Spirit.

Every day this week, give God a chance to speak to you. Spend time reading the Bible and spend time praying. God will speak to your heart.

QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to allow Him to speak to your heart.

BIBLE QUIZ

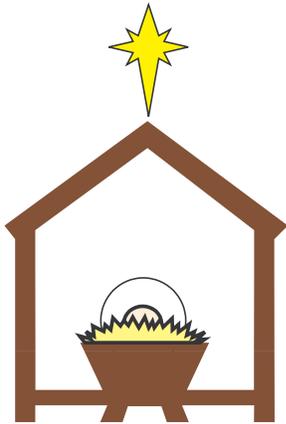
1. Who was the first person that God spoke to?
2. Why did God stop talking face to face with Adam and Eve?
3. Name a way God often spoke to people in Old Testament times.
4. Name another way God often spoke to people in Old Testament times.
5. Who did God tell that no man could look on God and live?
6. Why did God create man?
7. What does the name Emmanuel mean?
8. What is a way that God speaks to us today?
9. How can we show God's love to others?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

Emmanuel: God with us

"The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge."
Psalm 46:7a



God has a plan for me.



Emmanuel: God with us

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How many new words can you make from the words:
Emmanuel: God with us?

MEMORY VERSE
GAMES

MIXED UP MEMORY VERSE

Supplies

One- 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of Card Stock for each word in the verse.

A 30 inch length of yarn or string piece for each card.

Set up.

Punch 2 holes in long side of each card about 10 inches apart. Place one end of the string or yarn through one hole and tie. Place the other end of the yarn through the other hole and tie. The card can now be hung over a child's head and worn like a necklace.

Write one word from the verse on each card. Write large enough to be easily seen.

Select one child for each card. The 8-12 age range is best.

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select the needed children to come to the platform. Place the card over each child's head. Have the children stand in a row.

Explain to the children on the platform that on the count of three you want them to quietly and quickly mix themselves up to get the verse out of order. Have them return to a straight row.

Choose 1 or 2 children to come up and place everyone back into the correct order. Give them 30 seconds.

Then have the children in the audience tell you if it is correct. Place the children back in the correct order and say the verse together.

Select new children to help mix up the verse and repeat this several times.

One variation on this is to have the audience turn around and you mix up the children on the platform.

WHICH WORD?

Supplies

None

Setup

Have your list of questions ready.

Game

Present the verse. Review it several times. Have them say it along with you.

Explain that you are going to give them a clue and then they will try to guess which word is the answer to the clue.

Make it boys against the girls. Have them raise their hand if they know the answer. Select a different boy or girl each time.

If you ask a boy for clue #1 and he is incorrect, then a girl will have a chance at clue #2, etc. Keep score.

Give 5 points if they can answer clue #1 and 3 points for clue #2. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

Have the children repeat the verse between each set of clues.

SCRAMBLED SCRIPTURE

Supplies

2 poster boards (11 x 14)

Marker

Music or stop watch.

Set up

Divide the verse into 3 or 4 phrases.

Cut poster board in half.

Write each phrase on a half of the poster board. Write large so everyone in the auditorium can see.

Select 3 or 4 children to stand in front and hold out their arms like “human easels.” Music stands also work.

Have the piano player play or record 30 seconds of music. Somewhat like the Jeopardy music during the final question. If you wish, you can use a stop watch instead of music to time the 30 seconds.

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Scramble the verse cards. Select a child to come to the platform. Tell them they have 30 seconds to look at the verse and decide the correct order. Before time is up, have them place the boards on the “easels” in the correct order.

Encourage the children in the audience to call out to help them as they place the boards on the easels, especially if they have placed the boards in an incorrect manner. When time is up, review the way the verse is placed and let the audience decide if the verse is correct. If not have them tell you the correct order. Say the verse together.

Select another child and repeat for the remaining time you have left.

THE VANISHING VERSE

Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

Eraser

Set up

Write the verse on the board in large block letters. Write large so everyone can see.

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select a child to come to the platform. Give them the eraser and tell them they should erase one word in just a moment.

First everyone in the audience must stand and turn around to face the rear of the auditorium. No peeking.

When the child has erased the word, they can return to their seat.

You will tell the audience to turn back around. Now everyone must say the verse and try to remember the missing word.

Again another child is selected to come. The audience turns around and the child quickly erases a word. Keep this moving along at a good pace.

As everyone turns around say things like, "Oh no, that was a hard one. I'm not sure you can say it this time."

As more words are erased, it becomes more difficult but the children are getting plenty of practice at saying the verse. After the verse has been said, encourage and compliment everyone on their memory.

Repeat until the entire verse is erased. Can everyone say the verse with no helps?

BOYS VS. GIRLS

Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board, or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

Set up

None

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Split the group into boys and girls or split the group in halves for a Red Team and Blue Team.

First pick a girl to say the verse. If she can say the verse, their team gets a point.. Then pick a boy. Continue on girl, boy, girl.

You can give one help if you wish. Let the children know if you will give a help. It is not fair to give a help to one team and not the other. If no helps are allowed, let the children know ahead of time. More than one help should not be necessary.

If both teams are having trouble with the verse, you should go back and review the verse several more times and then try the game again.

Use the board or overhead to keep score. The team to get the most points wins. You can give a small prize or piece of candy, but that is not necessary. The children will play just to win. If you don't start giving prizes, they will not expect them.

GUESS THE WORD

Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board

Chalk or Marker

Set up

Have the verse written on board.

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select one child to come and stand facing away from the verse so they cannot see what word you are about to point at.

The teacher points to one word and instructs the children to say the verse but when they get to the selected word they must clap instead of saying the word.

Have the children say the verse and clap at the missing word.

Have the selected child try to guess the missing word.

Select another child and play the game again.

GIVE ME THE WORD

Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board, or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

Set up

Write the first letter of each word of the verse leaving room to fill in the rest of the word.

Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select one child at a time to give you a word for one of the letters. It can be any of the letters. It doesn't have to be in order.

Each child gives just one word at a time. Write in the word beside the letter as they tell it to you.

If it gets to a point where the children are stumped and cannot give you any more words, say the verse together again a couple more times. Then resume the game until all the words are completed.

Andy Puppet

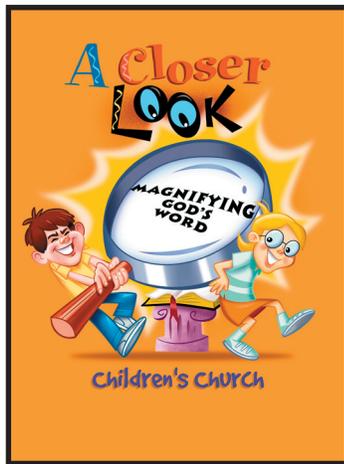
Andy is a versatile puppet that is used for the puppet skits in “Children of Character.” Andy can also be used in many other ways in your children’s ministry.

Andy is a full sized, professional puppet.

Only 39.95 plus S&H



PPT 02 Andy



A Closer Look

Another great Children’s Church series from Quality Speech Materials is “A Closer Look.”

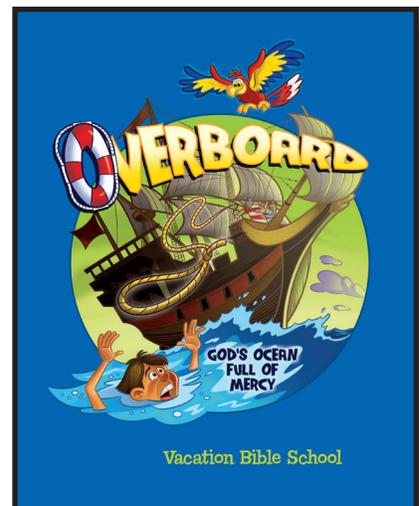
This series starts in Genesis 1 and works through the Bible to Revelations. There are seven years in this series. Years One thru Five are Old Testament. Years Six and Seven are New Testament.

Be sure to check out “A Closer Look.” Download a sample lesson on our website.

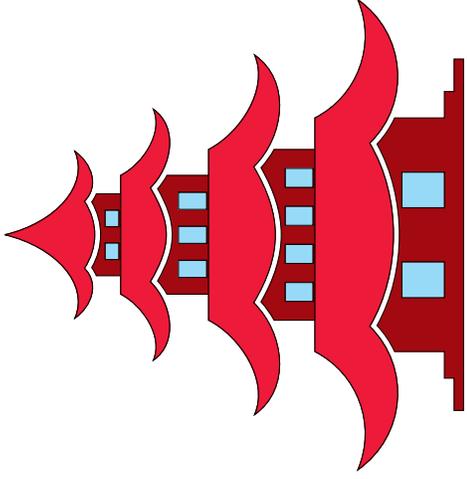
VBS

Quality Speech Materials also has great VBS materials. We offer a wide variety of themes so you can select the VBS program that is perfect for you!

Be sure to check our website to download a sample lesson.



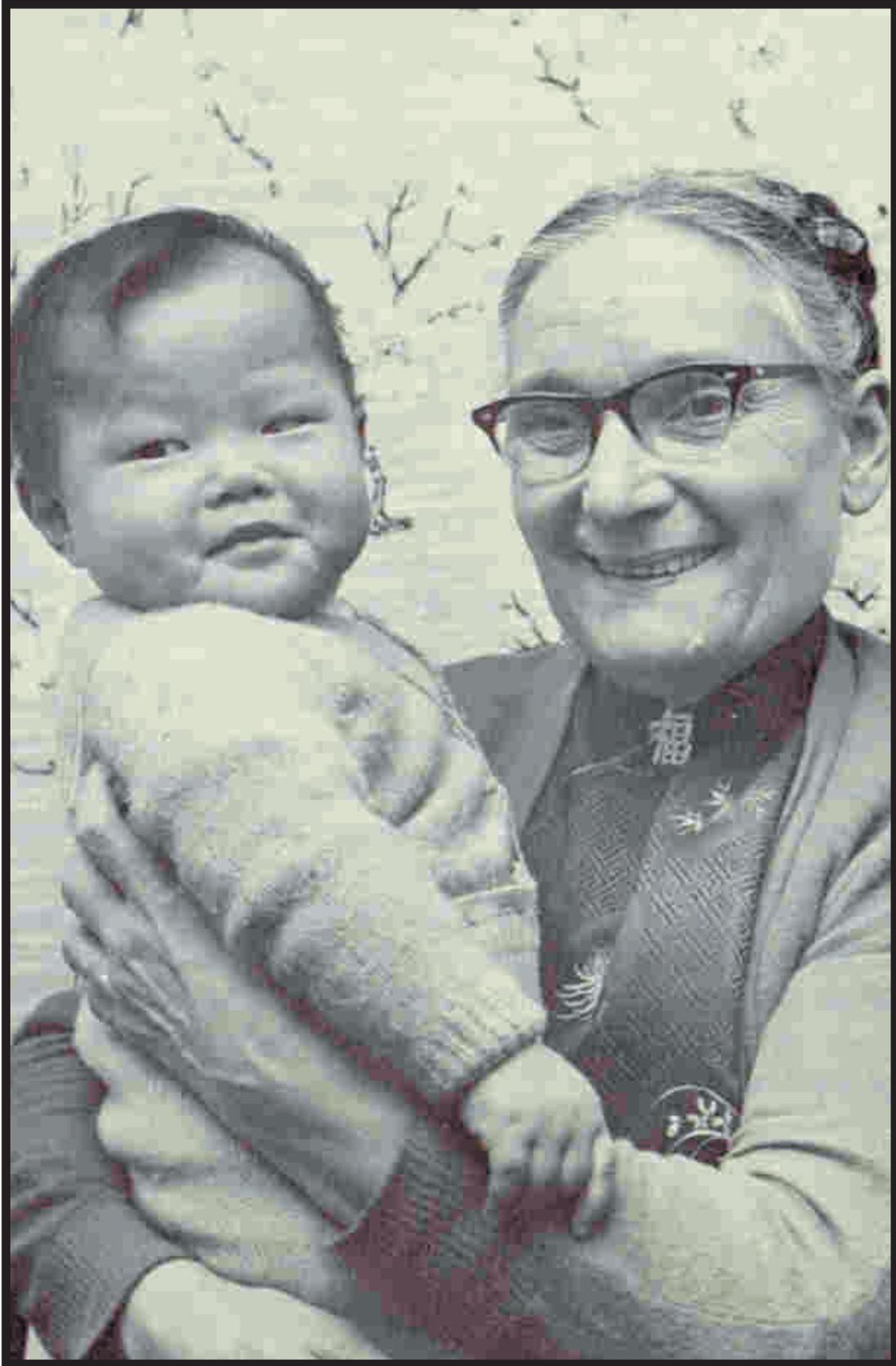


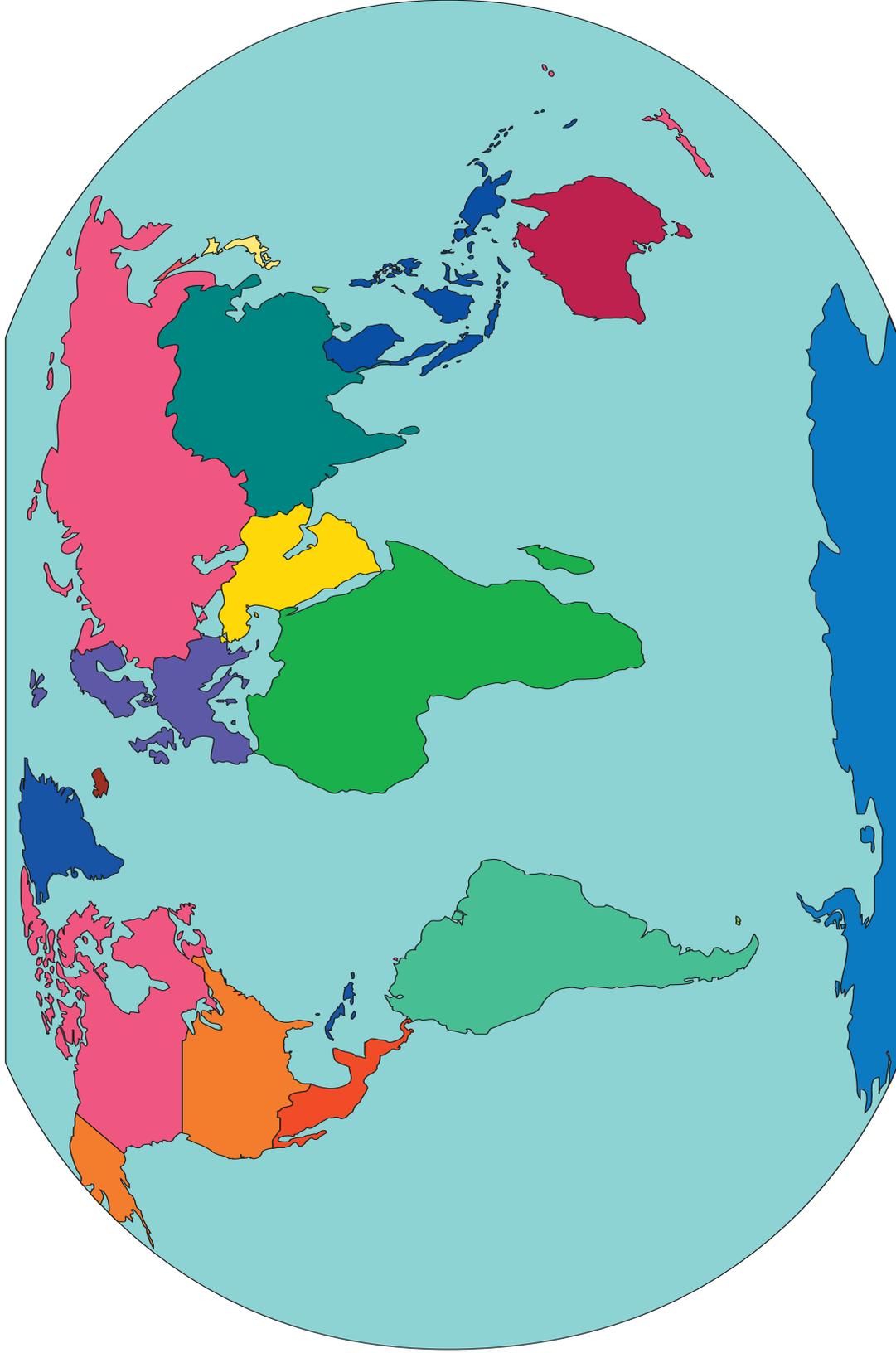














Mary Slessor

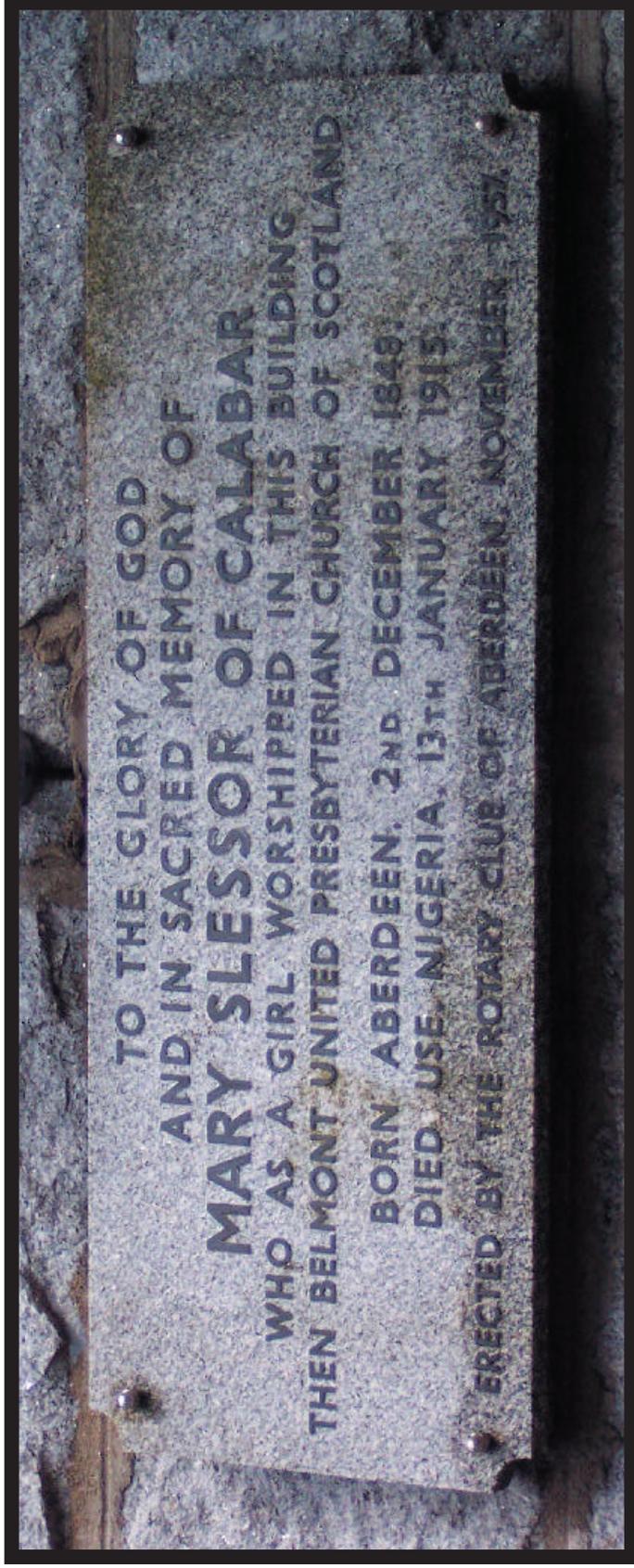




Calabar, Africa



Mary Slessor and Villagers

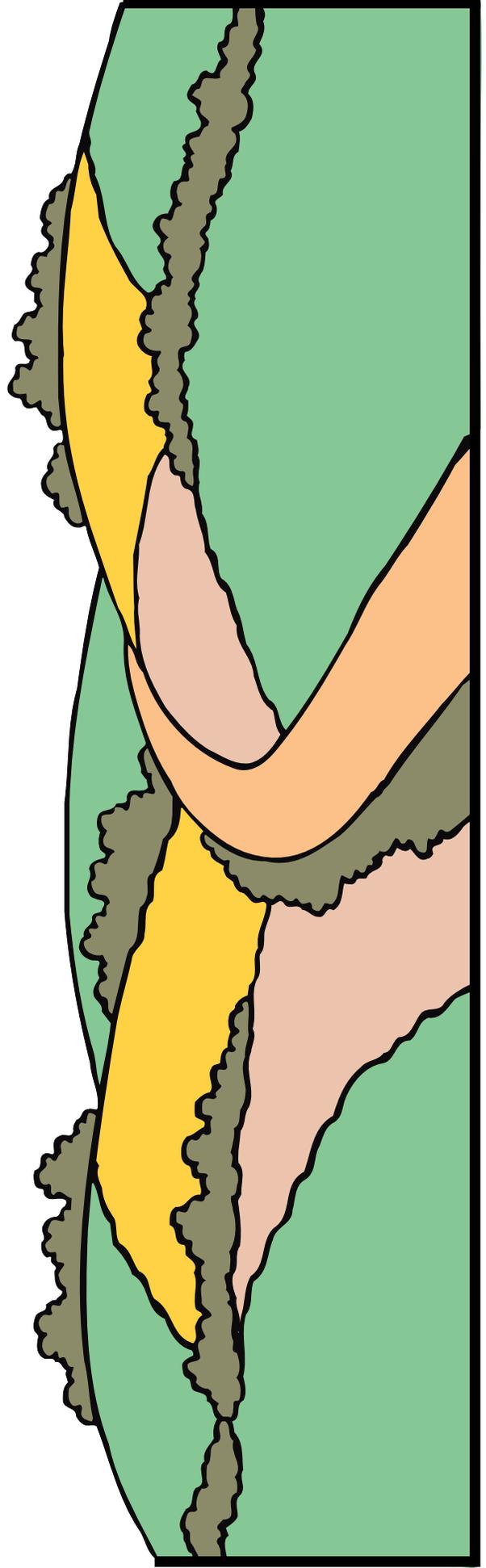


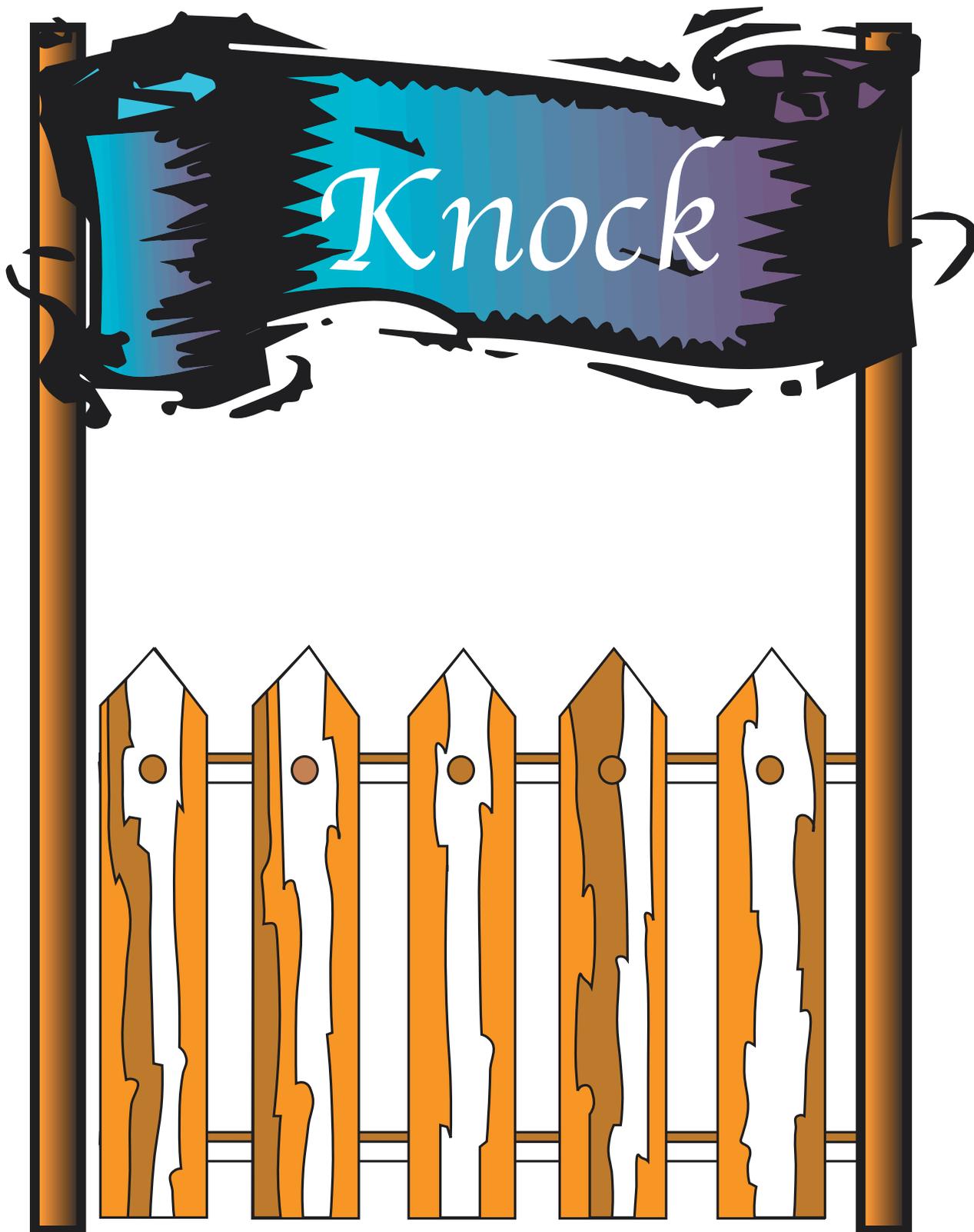
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN SACRED MEMORY OF
MARY SLESSOR OF CALABAR
WHO AS A GIRL WORSHIPPED IN THIS BUILDING
THEN BELMONT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
BORN ABERDEEN, 2ND DECEMBER 1849.
DIED USE, NIGERIA, 13TH JANUARY 1915.
ERECTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ABERDEEN, NOVEMBER 1957

Mary Slessor's grave marker

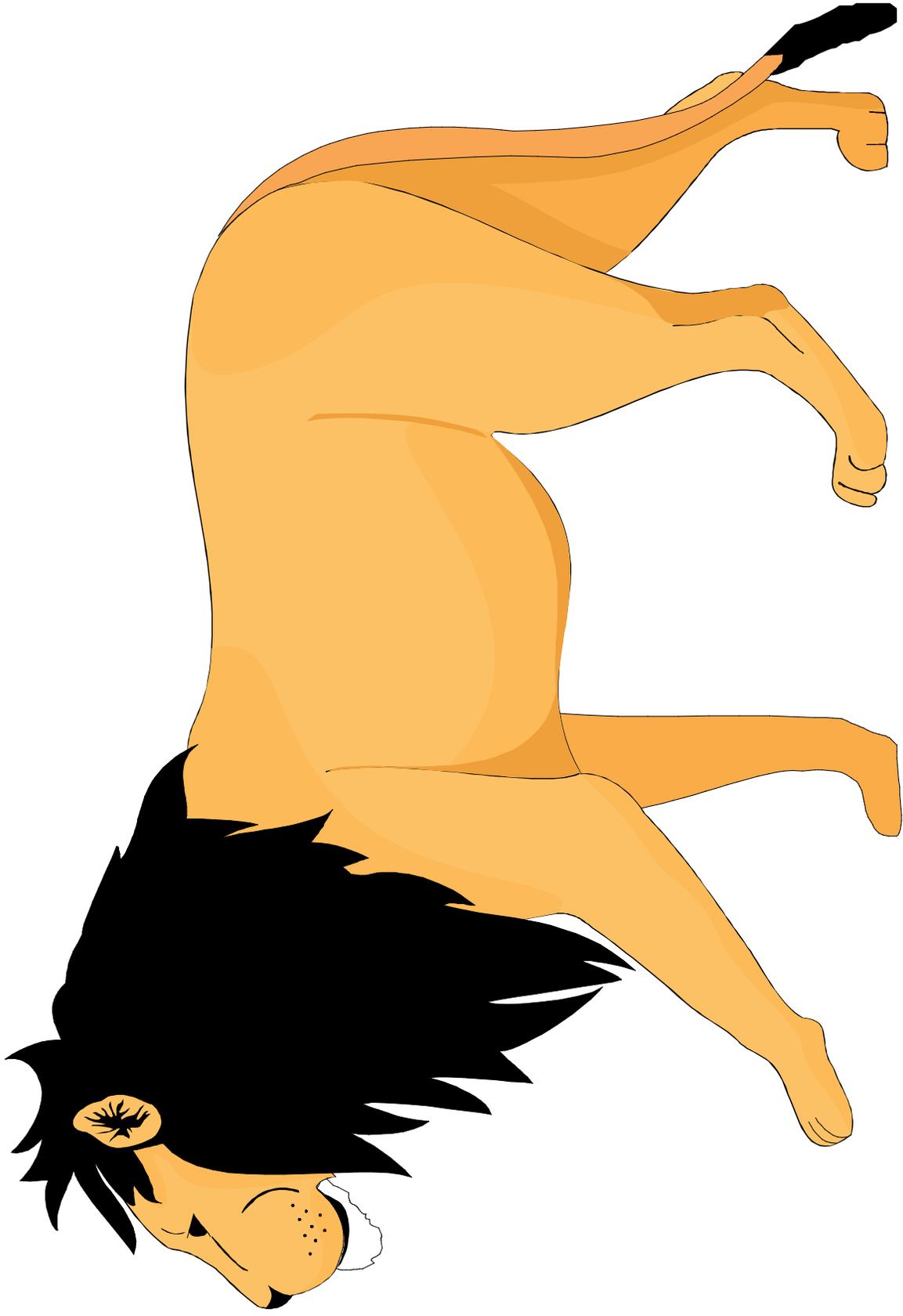








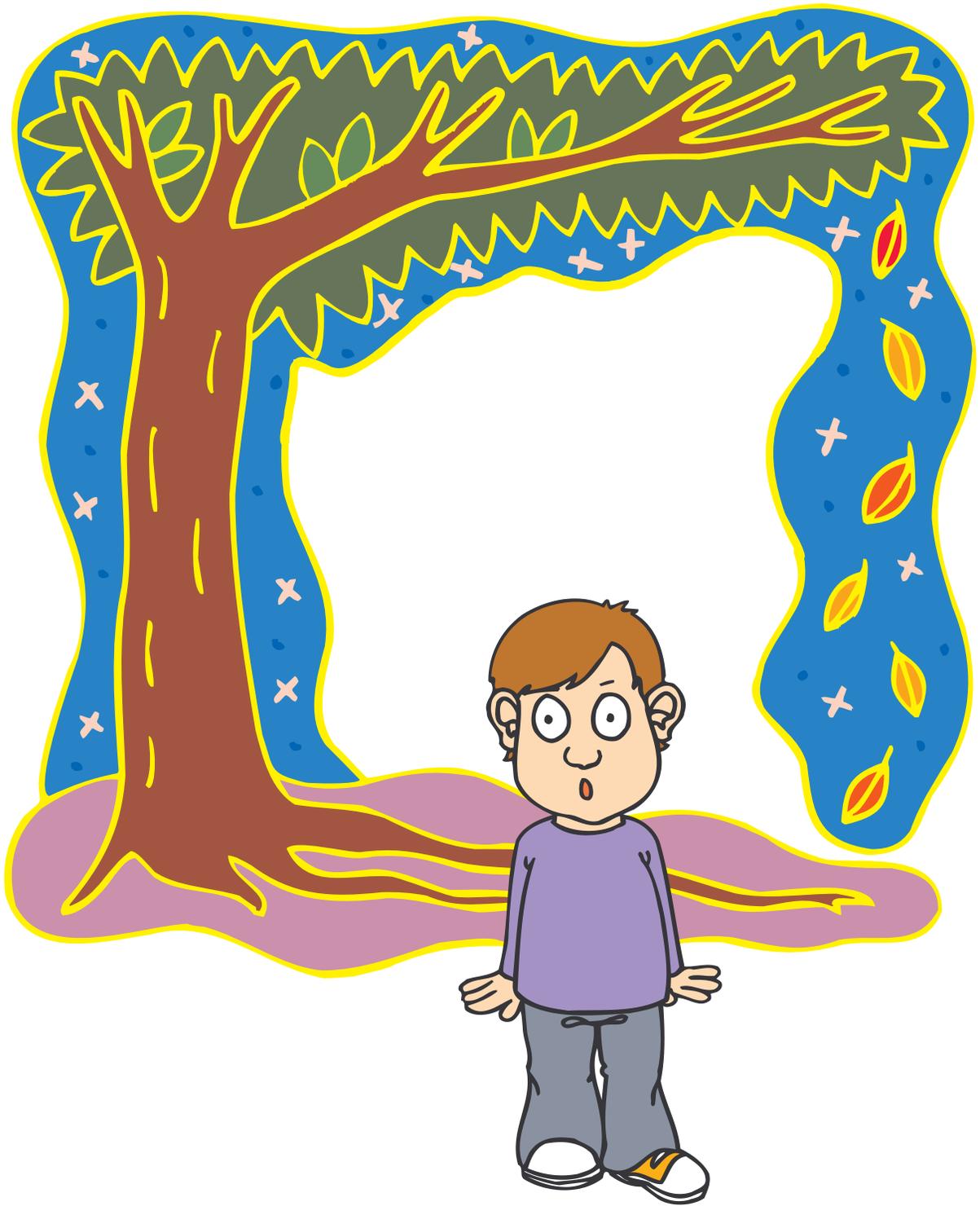










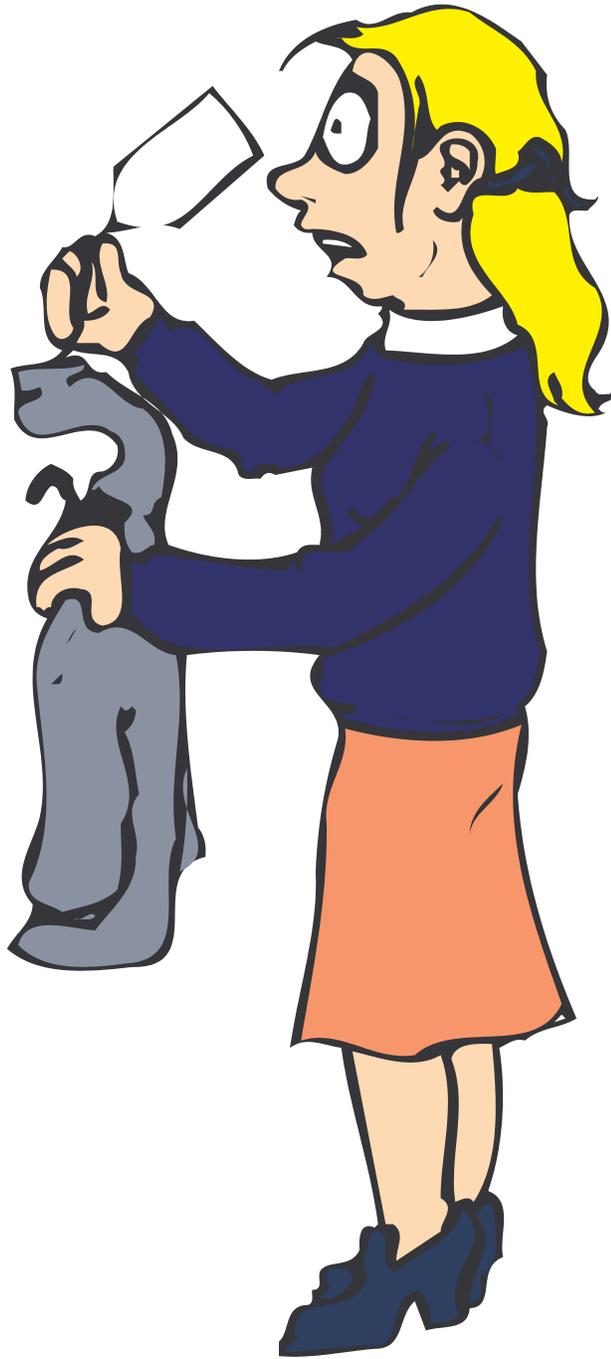




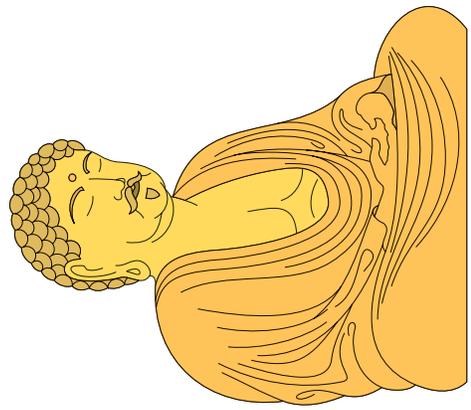
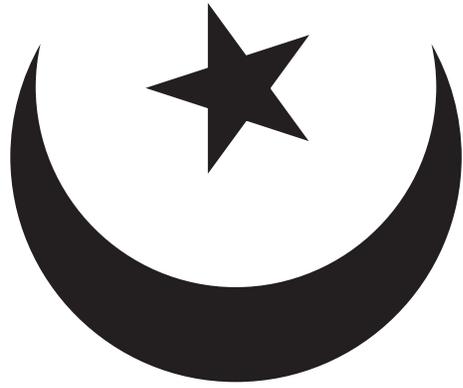
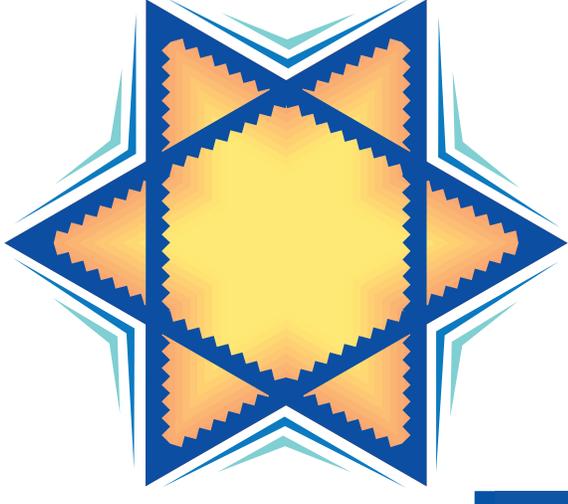




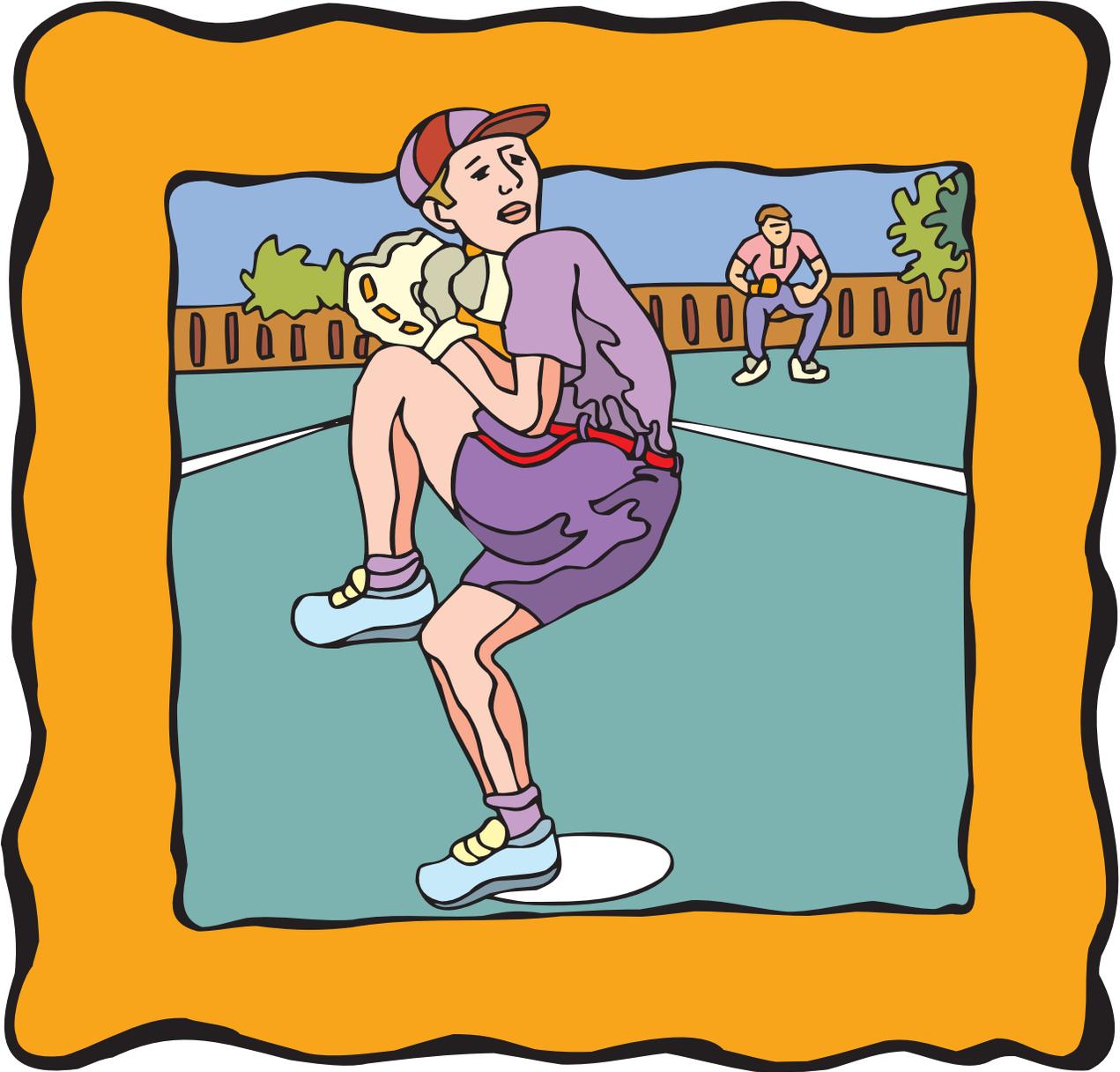












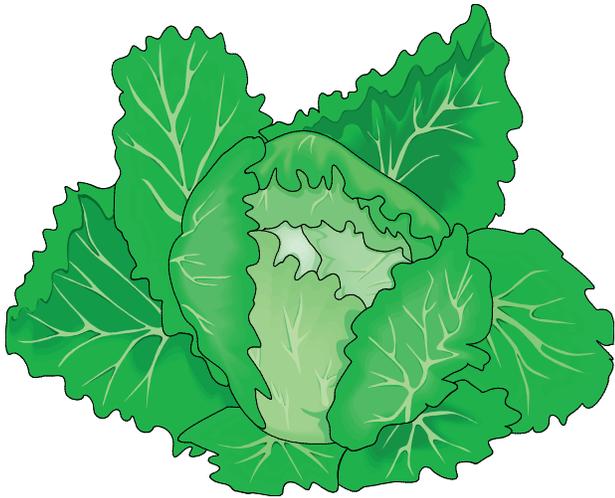






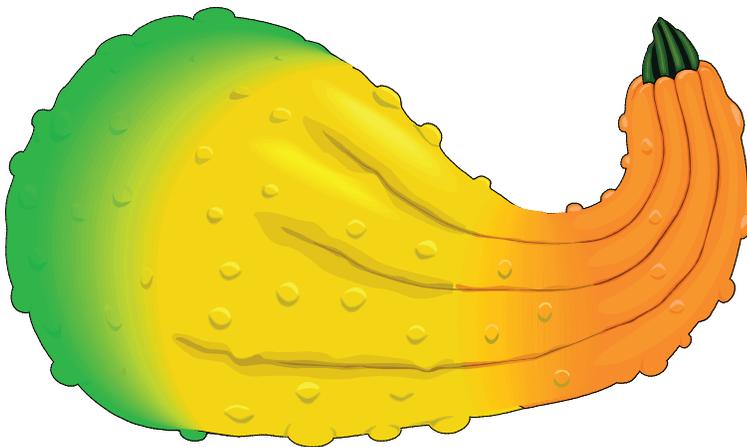
Only one life
It will soon be past,
Only what's done
for Christ
will last.





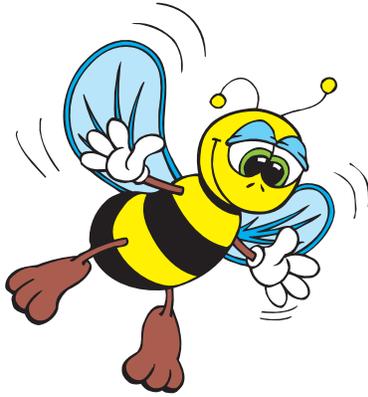
Let us love God

Turn up at church



Squash sinful actions

Faithful



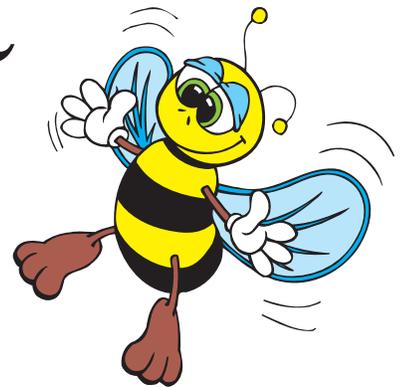
Kind

Forgiving

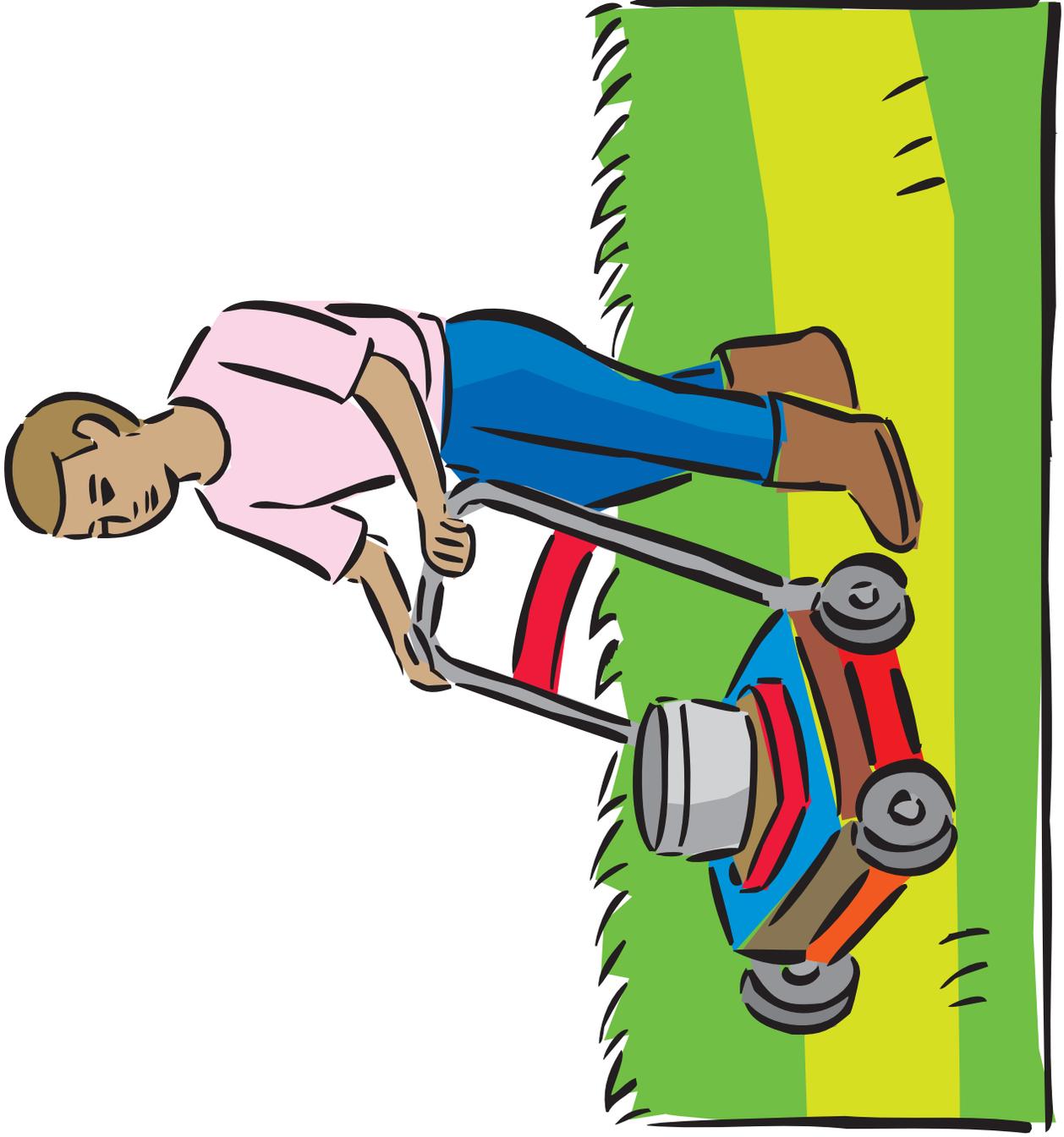
Patient

Obedient

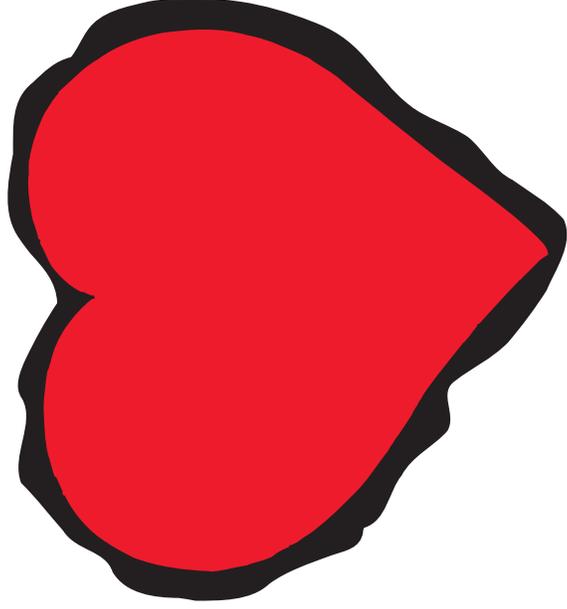
Cheerful







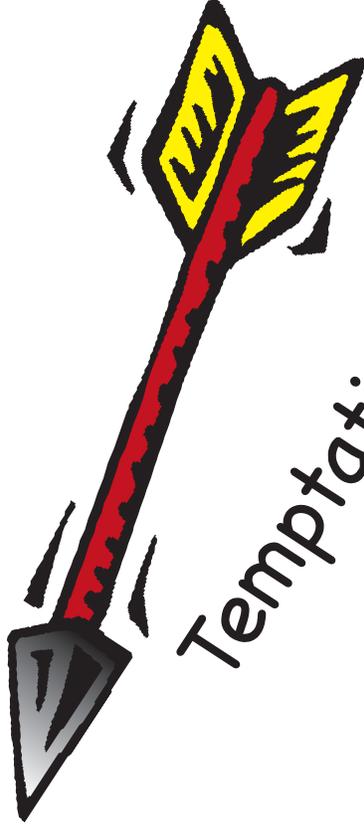
A Servant's Heart





Satan's Weapons

Life's
Situation

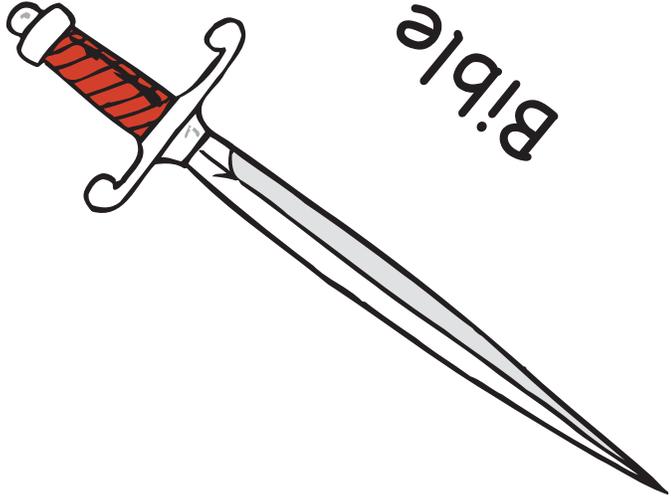


Temptation



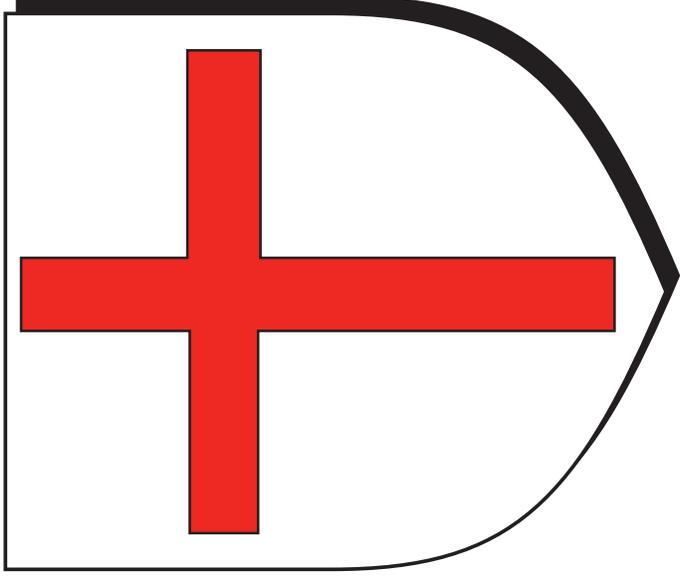
Trickery

God's Weapons



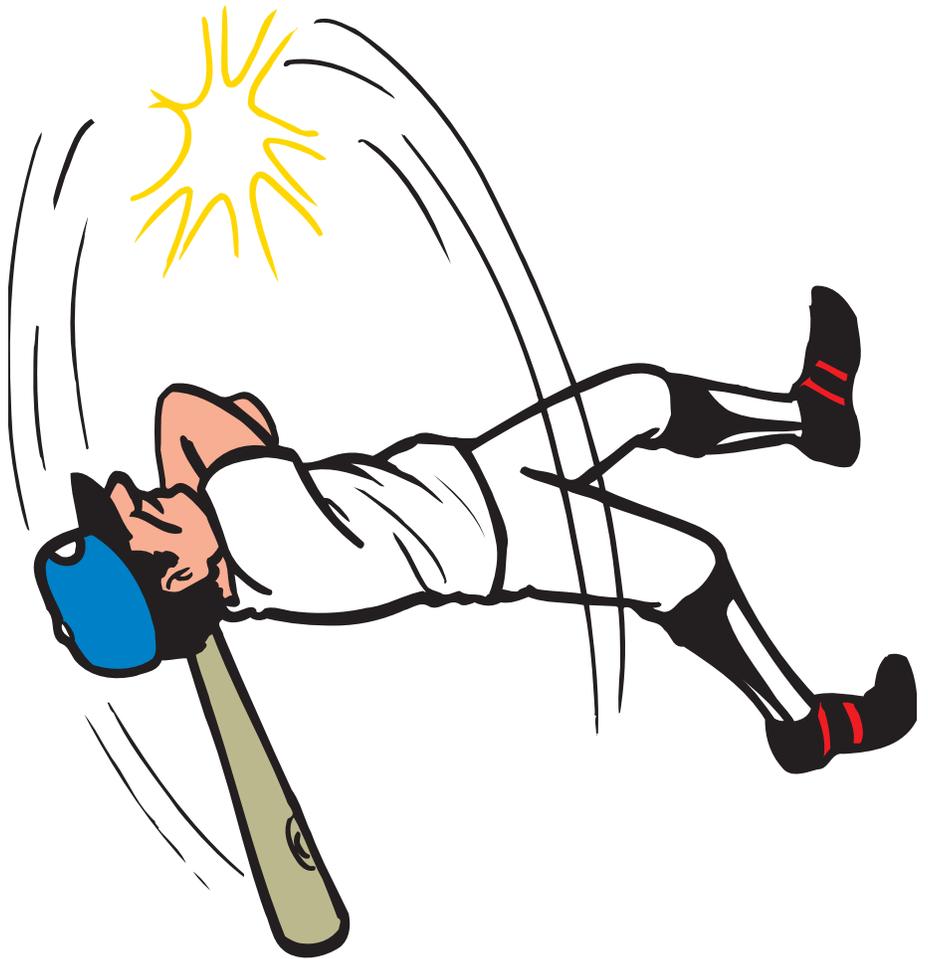
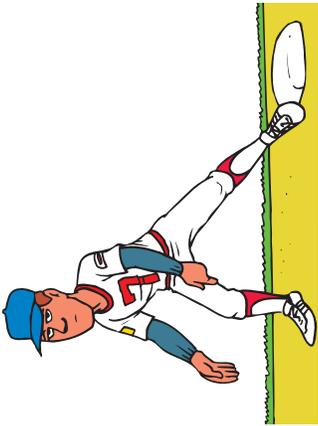
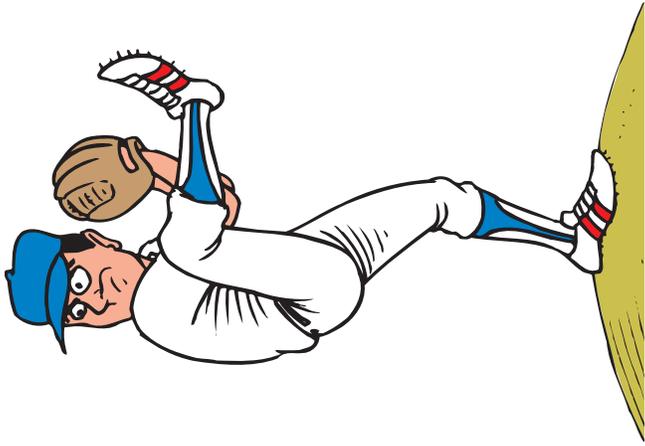
Bible

Prayer



The Holy Spirit











The Purple Heart Medal





Thanksgiving

