

The Beautiful Way

Primaries



Vol. 26, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1975

Part 14

July 6

GOD SEES NOAH

Gen. 6:5-8, 12-14; 7:4, 5, 7, 23

God looked down and saw the sin and violence in the earth. He looked and saw one good man. Noah found favor in God's sight. God told Noah to build a great ark. God was going to send a flood. Only those in the ark would be saved.

Noah and his family and some of all the animals entered the ark. God shut the door of the ark. Then it began to rain. It rained forty days and nights. Noah and those in the ark with him were safe.

When the waters went down, Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark. Noah built an altar and thanked God for saving them. God put a rainbow in the sky. God promised never again to destroy things on the earth with a flood.

God's eyes are everywhere in the earth. He sees everything, even in the dark. God knows if you do wrong or right. No one can hide from God. YOU cannot hide from God. God wants you to love Him and do right. Ask God to help you.

Someday God will destroy the whole earth by fire.

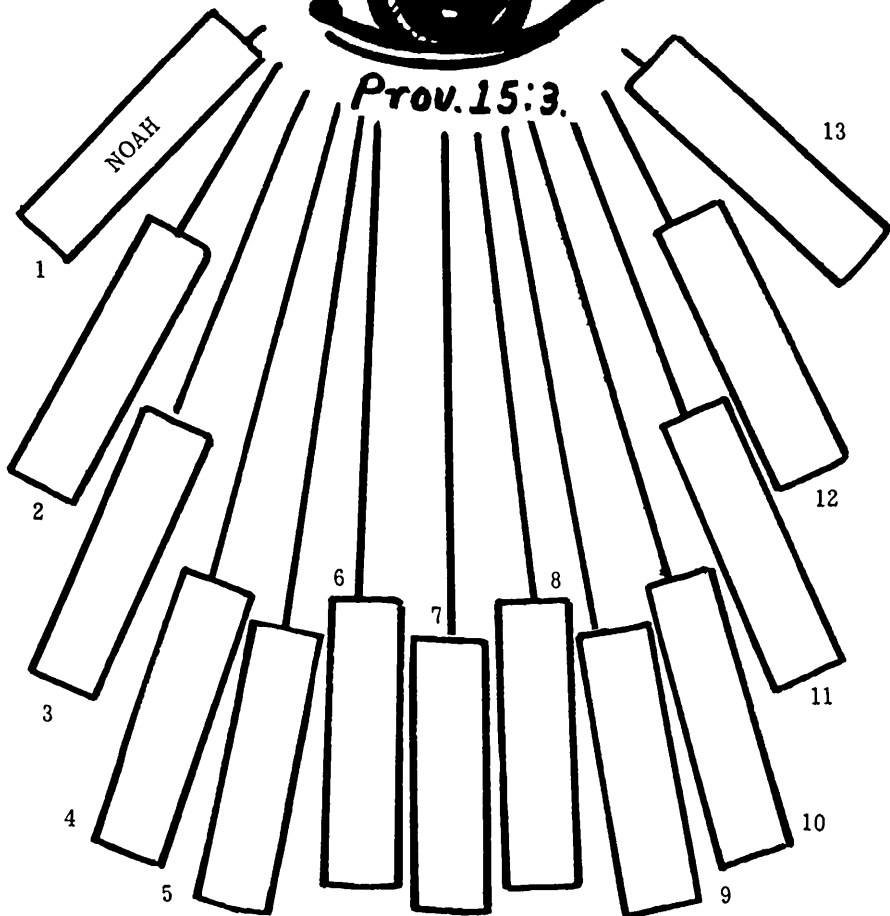
Memory Verse: Thou God seest me. Gen. 16:13b.

THE EYE of GOD

is "in every place."



Prov. 15:3.



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Primaries



Vol. 26, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1975

Part 15

July 18

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Gen. 12:1, 2; Gal. 3:29

God was sorry when men forgot Him and began to serve gods of wood and stone. He wanted a people who would love and serve Him. God chose Abraham and called him out of his country to go into the land of Caanan. He told Abraham that He would give this good land to Abraham's children.

Many, many years after Abraham had died, the children of Israel (Abraham's grandson) went down to Egypt to live with Joseph. About 400 years later, God sent Moses to lead the children of Israel to the promised land. God made a path through the Red Sea, so the people could walk through on dry land. The children of Israel had become a great nation.

For forty years the people had to wander in the wilderness because they did not believe God's promises. After that, those who DID believe, crossed over the river Jordan to the promised land. God promised to bless all nations through Abraham. All people who love God today are called the children of Abraham.

Memory Verse: . . . 'They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Gal. 3:7.

ABRAHAM

The Stolen Candy

Eight year old Carla was playing with her two cousins, Ted and Ron. They built a fort of boxes and fixed it inside with a kitchen and a place to eat. "We have a place to eat but nothing to eat," said Ted.

"Let's go into the house and get something," said Carla as she ran toward the house.

In the house they looked through cupboards, but found nothing they wanted. "I want candy," said Ron, the younger boy, who was six years old. "Let's go to the store and get some."

Carla's mother usually didn't have money to give for candy buying and she was asleep, so they didn't bother her.

Back in their fort, they wished for candy to eat. "I'll make some money," said Ted. "I saw a movie about some men who made a printing machine and printed a lot of ten dollar bills. Then they bought everything they wanted."

Carla thought that was a great idea. "You make the money and I'll buy the candy," she said to Ted. A queer feeling came over Carla, and she knew she had said the wrong thing. She had said she would buy candy and pay for it with play money. That would be stealing . . . While Ted was busy making money, Carla was trying to decide if she was really going to steal candy.

Ted looked up from his work. "Carla you are the bravest girl I've known."

"So he thinks I'm brave," thought Carla. "Then I won't tell him I was just thinking about not stealing the candy after all."

As they walked to the store Ron asked, "Aren't you afraid?"

"Me afraid?" Carla answered. "Of course not!"

"That's a girl," said Ted. "Now be sure not to let Mr. Short, the store owner see that money until he has the candy in a sack and you have the sack in your hand. Then lay the money down and run. We'll wait outside. Do exactly as I say."

Carla took the sack of candy in her hand.

"You thief!" shouted Mr. Short, as she ran out of the store. Before he could get from behind the counter and out the door, the three children had disappeared.

Back in the fort, Carla felt like a real brave soldier. The candy tasted better when she remembered how brave she'd been to steal it.

"Mr. Short looked so funny trying to catch us," laughed Ted. "We sure tricked him." Carla laughed, too.

That night, when everything was dark and quiet, Carla didn't feel so good about what she'd done. The next day, play wasn't so much fun either, and she couldn't keep from thinking about the stolen candy.

Carla knew God had seen her, but she kept hoping He would forget about it like she was trying to.

Three days later, Carla's mother sent her brother to Mr. Short's store to buy some bread . . .

(Read next Sunday's story and find out what happened about the stolen candy.)

— C. Huskey

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did God promise the land of Caanan to?
2. Did God keep His promise to Abraham?
3. Who are the children of Abraham today?

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Part 16

July 20

GOD SEES GOOD AND EVIL

Luke 16:19-26.

There were two men. One man was rich. He had fine clothes to wear. Every day he ate delicious food. He had everything he wanted.

The other man was a beggar. He was sick and covered with sores. He had to beg for crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. The Bible does not tell us if the rich man gave Lazarus, the beggar, any food. It does tell us Lazarus died, and the angels came and carried him to be with Abraham in paradise. The rich man died, too. But he went to a place of torment. The rich man wanted Lazarus to cool his tongue with water. Abraham told the rich man it was impossible for Lazarus to help him, and that he had his good things in his lifetime on earth. The rich man could have used his riches in a good way, but he used them selfishly, and he missed heaven. Lazarus had a hard time here, but he loved God and went to heaven when he died. Children, going to heaven is far more important than having riches in this world.

Memory Verse: The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. Prov. 15:3.

RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

THE STOLEN CANDY

Jim, Carla's brother told Mother that Carla took candy and hadn't paid Mr. Short for it.

"Carla, did you steal some candy from Mr. Short's store?" asked Mother.

Carla did not want her mother to know that she had gotten a sack of candy and paid for it with homemade money, so she said, "No".

Mother asked about it several times but Carla always said, "No". She had never stolen before, neither had her sisters or brothers, therefore Mother believed that Mr. Short was mistaken. She walked to the store. "I'm very sorry that some child has stolen from you. I believe you have mistaken my little girl for another one who lives down the street from us," Mother said. "Maybe you could tell her mother about this."

Mr. Short told the other girl's mother about what had happened. Of course, the other girl was angry. She argued with Carla about it when they were in school. A lot of children found out about the stolen candy. Carla was miserable because the children kept asking her about it and each time she was asked, she would tell another lie.

She also walked a longer way to and from school, so she wouldn't have to pass Mr. Short's store. "Why did I lie to Mother?" Carla asked herself, as she walked home from school. "If I had confessed it at first, I wouldn't be in this mess. How I wish I hadn't stolen that candy. I thought I was brave. I don't feel very brave now."

Every day Carla trudged to school wondering if anything would be said about

the stolen candy. Every evening she walked the long way home to avoid Mr. Short. Time and time again she wished she'd never stolen the candy.

Several months passed. All of this time Carla tried to forget the stolen candy, but so many things she saw reminded her of it. Then a wonderful thing happened.

"I just wanted to tell you children that Mother and I have decided to move," Father said as he sat down to eat supper. "We'll move to another state more than 2,500 miles from here."

It was the first day of April, (April Fool's Day) but this wasn't a joke. They were really going to move. Carla would get away from all the things that reminded her of the stolen candy.

Finally the day came that they were to move. The pickup camper had been packed the night before. They had stayed overnight with friends because all of their furniture was sold. Very early in the morning, on the twelfth day of April, they were to start on their trip. To their surprise, snow covered everything and the roads were icy. The forecast had predicted a blizzard, but little did they expect it to be true. Carla had to wait a few more days, but at last, she was on her way to Oregon, leaving her troubles about the stolen candy far behind.

Carla's new home was far away from Mr. Short's store. The new school was a small country one. She soon knew everyone and had no fear that they would tease her about the stolen candy. Now she enjoyed going to school.

(to be continued) — C. Huskey

QUESTIONS:

1. Tell about the two men.
2. What happened to the beggar?
3. Where did the rich man go when He died?

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Part 17

July 27

GOD DELIVERS RIGHTEOUS LOT

Gen. 13:12-13; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Gen. 19:16-17, 24

Lot chose to dwell in a city of great wickedness because it seemed to be a pleasant land. He found it a place of great sin. Every day Lot felt sorry and ashamed, as he saw how sinful the people were. At last God saw that the sins of that city had to be punished. He could not allow them to go on. God also saw Lot was the only righteous man in that whole city. We know God takes care of the righteous. God sent two men, who were really angels, to tell Lot and his family to get out of that wicked place, for God was going to destroy the city. Lot warned his married children, but they laughed at Lot, and didn't believe him. At last, when Lot was slow to move, the angels took Lot, his wife and two daughters, and pulled them out of the city. "Run to the hills, and do not look back," they said. "God is going to rain fire and brimstone on this place." God was merciful to spare Lot's life. His wife was lost because she looked back. God sees everyone. God will reward those who live right. He will destroy the wicked.

Memory Verse: The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation. . . . 2 Peter 2:9a.

LOT

THE STOLEN CANDY

Carla's new home was a large, two-story house with a fireplace. There were two large cherry trees on the west side of the house. In front of it was an enormous oak, and to the east lay a garden with different kinds of flowers. On past that and a little to the south was an apple orchard. Two maple trees spread their branches, forming a natural roof which kept out light rains and hot sun, thus making a place to play outdoors almost year-round. Her father bought some baby chickens and rabbits. They were given a cat and puppy. This new home had everything Carla had wished for. She should have been happy, but she wasn't! While Carla was playing or working, she could forget about the stolen candy, but often, as she climbed the curved stairs which led to her room, she was afraid she might die during the night. Several times she had become so afraid that she had gone during the night to her mother's bed and asked for prayer. She would be all right for a few weeks, then the same fear came over her and she would go for prayer again.

One night after family prayer, she had gone to bed as usual, but she could not sleep. Shadows played across her room as tree branches swayed in the moonlight. She covered her head, and heard the wind howl around the house. "What if I should die," she thought. "I wouldn't go to heaven because of the stolen candy and all those lies."

Trembling, she descended the stairs and knelt beside her mother's bed. They prayed together for a long time, but Carla was still afraid. Finally Mother spoke.

"Carla," she said, "The Bible tells us 'If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' (I John 1:9) When God cleanses us from all sin, He puts love in our hearts and that will take away fear. You are still afraid, so you must not be cleansed or forgiven yet. You must be confessing only part of your sins. What is the sin that you are not confessing?"

Carla began crying. She knew it was the stolen candy. She feared the punishment Mother would give her, when she found out, but she was also glad that Mother had given her a chance to confess and get it forgiven. It had tormented her almost a year, and that was long enough! She told her mother everything.

"Now that you have confessed it, God will forgive you," Mother said. "You must write a letter to Mr. Short and ask his forgiveness and send money to pay for the candy."

They prayed again and Carla found real happiness and forgiveness. God gave her love in place of fear.

The next day, Mother helped Carla write a letter and gave her a job at home to earn the money she needed to put in the letter.

She had no more trouble being too afraid to sleep. If you are afraid, or unhappy, do as Carla did and confess ALL of your sins. Carla found out that God's eyes see everything, and that He is ready to help those who live right before him.

—Charlotte Huskey

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Lot live?
2. Why was God going to destroy the city?
3. How did God save Lot?

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Part 18

Aug. 3

GOD SEES PAUL AND SILAS

Acts 16:25-33.

Paul and Silas were in jail. They had healed a poor girl who had an evil spirit. Her masters were so angry at Paul and Silas that they stirred up the crowd against them. The magistrates came and tore off their clothes, and whipped their backs with a great whip until their backs were hurting and bleeding. Things looked dark. They were suffering because they had done God's will. God had not forgotten Paul and Silas. He heard their songs of praise and heard their prayers at midnight for His care.

It was not hard for God to send an earthquake to loose Paul and Silas. God can do anything! God had more than one purpose in sending the earthquake. God wanted the jailer and his family to get saved, too, and they did! The Bible tells us God's eyes see all those who love and serve Him. He will take care of His children. God sees those who do bad things, too. But He will not help them when they get in trouble. Pray and ask God to help you to love and serve Him.

Memory Verse: For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers. 1 Peter 3:12a

PAUL AND SILAS

The Storm

A tornado struck Neosho, Mo. just before 8 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 1975. It was blowing over pickup campers, semi-trailer trucks, trailer houses by the dozens, roofs, walls of homes, apartments, buildings and motels.

Dora heard the radio announcer tell of the coming tornado. It was sweeping the southwest part of the city of Neosho. It was tearing a huge path through the city and moving eastward, toward the Monark Springs campground, where she lived.

Dora stepped outside and saw the tornado coming. Lightning flashed in every direction and heavy rain was falling only a short distance away. Strong winds dashed against her and almost knocked her to the ground. She braced herself against the house and looked out over the Monark Campground. The place seemed so important for the welfare of the church. Every year, many are saved during the camp meeting. Others are healed and many are blessed. The church in general is helped greatly by being able to meet there.

The tabernacle roof shone against the dark cloud of the oncoming storm. "Oh, Lord," she cried, "These are your campgrounds. This is your work." She glanced toward the rows of cabins, toward the towering trees and pictured the rubbish pile as it might appear if the storm hit.

"Mommy," cried Sandy, tugging at Dora's hand, "Is this storm going to blow us away?"

Dora looked down into the faces of her frightened children, Sandy and her two brothers. "These are yours too, Lord, and so are we," she prayed.

She glanced once more at the storm cloud. It was nearer, still coming toward them. The wind blew harder!

"Let us pray and ask God to take care of us," she said as calmly as possible. "We'll have to put this whole thing in His hand. He controls the storms, too."

While they were on their knees praying, the fierce wind blew outside, great drops of rain fell, and lightning cracked and popped. The storm came nearer and nearer, then suddenly, while they were praying, God changed the storm's course and it went another way. God looked down upon them and protected His children.

Just as God looked down upon Noah, when He sent the flood upon the earth, so He cared for the Doolittle family and the Monark Springs Campground. "What a mighty God we serve!" —C. Huskey

A BIBLE VERSE TO REMEMBER:

"They helped every one his neighbour" (Is. 41:6).

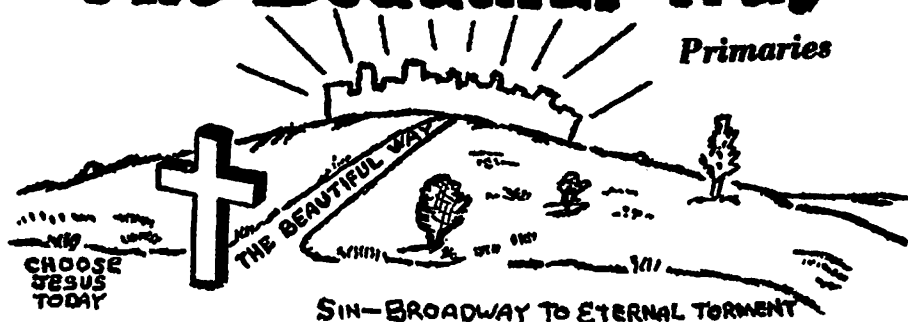


QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in jail?
2. What did they do at midnight?
3. Did God hear them?

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Part 19

Aug. 10

GOD HEARS HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

2 Chron. 31:20, 21; 2 Kings 19:10, 11, 14, 20, 34-36.

King Hezekiah was a good king. He loved God and kept God's laws. One day a messenger brought a letter to King Hezekiah. The letter said a great army was coming to destroy the king's city. That army had been winning many victories over all the other nations. The king of that army said he would win over King Hezekiah, too. Hezekiah took the letter to the House of God and spread it before the Lord. Then he prayed and asked God to protect them. He wanted the army to know how great God was.

God sent an answer to the good king. "I will defend your city and deliver you from the wicked army. Do not be afraid." That night, the death angel visited the camp of the army. In the early morning, the officers awoke and found only dead soldiers. So they went away, and King Hezekiah's city was saved. Our God is a great God. If we love and serve Him with all our heart, as King Hezekiah did, He will help us in time of trouble.

Memory Verse: Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him. **Psa. 33:18a.**

HEZEKIAH

An "If" Story

Mother sat in the big, easy chair beside the open living room window with little Patty Ann in her lap. They had been reading from Patty Ann's big Bible Story Book with the beautiful pictures and stories in it, and now they were just looking out upon the pretty garden where the gathering darkness was beginning to hide with gray shadows all the lovely-colored flowers. A bright evening star twinkled high above the golden spot where the sun had just gone down.

"Before you go to sleep I want to tell you an 'if' story," said Mother. "Then after you have had your good-night prayer you may think about it until you fall asleep."

"If Mother hadn't loved Jesus and tried very hard to please Him, and refused to do many things other girls did, and to go to the places many other girls went in those days, Mother would not be one of Jesus' own children today, and probably Mother would not have known how to tell Patty Ann about Him so that she could love Him, too."

"If Grandmother hadn't loved Jesus and been true to Him for many happy years, probably Mother never would have known about Him or loved Him."

"If Grandma's Sunday School teacher, Miss Betsy Shore, had not loved Jesus and worked hard, and still had time left to teach a Sunday School class, and had not prayed for her girls, and talked to them about being saved and following Jesus, maybe Grandmother would not have loved Him nor lived for Him all of her life."

"Now that is one half of the 'if' story. Here is the other half. If Patty Ann loves Jesus and lives every day so that everyone who knows her will know that she loves Him and belongs to Him, then other little children and grown folks will see how lovely it is to be Jesus' very own child and will want to be His, too."

"If these other people will live for Jesus, and still other people will like them and learn to know Jesus because they know Him. Don't you see what a great chain it makes? Miss Betsy Shore, then Grandmother, then Mother, then you, and your friends, and on and on, besides all of the people who came before Miss Betsy Shore."

"Every single one of us is a link in the chain. But if we break away we leave the chain in two pieces. When you are having your good-night prayers you will ask God to help you to be a strong link in the chain, won't you? And I am sure He will." — Sel.

Hear me, Father, as I say,
"Thank You for this brand new day;
Thank you for its rain or sun;
Thank You for its work, its fun."

Hear me, Father, as I ask
Help to do each little task;
Help to hear a baby's call,
Help to be a friend to all.

Hear me, Father, as I pray
While the twilight slips away,
And while stars shine overhead,
Guard me as I rest in bed.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a good king?
2. What did King Hezekiah do with the letter he received?
3. Did God save the king's city?
4. How?

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Part 20

Aug. 17

GOD SEES THE EUNUCH

Acts 8:26-39.

God sees and knows the thoughts of every man, woman, boy and girl everywhere. No one can hide his thoughts from God. He sees and knows when we think about Him.

Once there was an Ethiopian eunuch riding in a chariot on his way home from Jerusalem. He had been at the temple to worship God. He didn't know God, but he wanted to know God. As he rode along he read in the book of Isaiah. God had spoken to Philip, a preacher, and sent him to the desert to help this man. As Philip drew near the chariot, he heard the man reading. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I understand except someone help me?" answered the man. Then Philip explained the scriptures about Jesus and how He died to save us from our sins. "Here is water; may I be baptized now?" asked the man. "If you believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, you may," answered Philip. He said, "I do believe," and Philip baptized the eunuch, and he went on his way rejoicing.

Memory Verse: God . . . is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12c.

PHILIP AND EUNUCH

TRULY HAPPY

Jill glanced around the living room as if she were seeing it for the first time. "Mommy, I wish we had some pretty new furniture," she said.

"What's wrong with what we have?" asked Mother.

"Oh, Mommy, the sofa is old, the chairs are scratched, and the rug has a big spot on it," complained Jill.

"You spilled a glass of grape juice. Remember?" Mother reminded her.

Jill remembered. Mother never could get the stain out of the green rug.

"You always liked our house before," said Mother. "What happened?"

"It's just that Debby Emerson's house is so much nicer than ours," replied Jill.

"But Debby just moved here. You haven't seen her house," said Mother.

"Well, she told me all about it. It's new, and it has a swimming pool and rugs all over the house, even in Debby's bedroom, and there's a big basement —" Jill had to pause and catch her breath.

"Those things aren't really important," said Mother. "The Bible says that a man's life doesn't consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses (see Luke 12:15). Just having things isn't true happiness."

"I think it would make me happy," declared Jill.

"No, dear, the reason we have a happy home is because Jesus is the Head of our house," said Mother, glancing at a motto hanging on their wall. "But you have reminded me that I haven't met Debby's mother yet. We'll go there this afternoon and let her know that we want to be friends."

That very afternoon, Jill and her mother drove to Mrs. Emerson's house. It was even bigger and lovelier than Jill had dreamed. Everything was so new, from the velvety lawn to the shine on the heavy oak entrance door. Mother rang the bell, and in a moment it was opened by a lady who seemed pleased to see them. "I've heard a lot about you from Debby," she told Jill as she invited them inside.

Jill scarcely heard. She stepped inside, and her eyes got bigger and bigger upon seeing all the rich splendor. "Oh my! I'm sure Jesus is happy to live in a beautiful place like this!" she breathed.

Mrs. Emerson smiled sadly as she replied, "Jesus left our home years ago, dear."

"But He can come back," Jill's mother told her softly.

Jill never forgot that afternoon. Before they left, Mrs. Emerson had asked Jesus to forgive her sins and to come back into her life. Her face shone as she finally told them good-by at the door. "Now I am truly happy," she said.

—Sel.

In Jesus' day, people washed their hands after each meal as well as before. Perhaps this was because they used their fingers for eating instead of using knives and forks, as we do, and their hands became greasy. They did not put their hands into a bowl to wash them, but each person held out his hands while another person poured water over them.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was riding in a chariot?
2. What was he doing?
3. Did he understand what he was reading?
4. Who helped him understand?
5. Who knows all of your thoughts?

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Part 21

Aug. 24

GOD SEES JESUS

Matt. 3:16, 17; 4:1-11.

Jesus went to John, who was baptizing in the Jordan River. "I want you to baptize me," said Jesus. As Jesus came up out of the water, a wonderful thing happened. God's Spirit in the form of a dove came down from heaven and lighted upon Jesus. God spoke from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God saw that Jesus set the example for us to follow. God spoke aloud so all would know He was pleased.

Then Jesus went away alone to pray. The devil tried to get Jesus to disobey God. Each time Jesus answered the devil with a scripture. The devil had to leave because Jesus defeated him. Then angels came and strengthened Jesus.

God's eyes are always watching you to see if you will remember His commandments. He wants you to obey them, for they are right. You will be blessed if you obey them. Pray and ask Him to help you to do right, so you can please Him as Jesus did. If you desire to obey God's commandments, He will help you.

Memory Verse: For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth. 2 Chron. 16:9(a).

JESUS

Jesus Never Sleeps

One Sunday morning, a Sunday School teacher passed around a picture, all in lovely colors, showing a boat with the disciples in it. The angry waves of the sea were leaping high, threshing around with so much force that the boat was about to be covered with the waves. Jesus was asleep in it.

The disciples, fearing for their lives, rushed to Jesus and said: "Master, save us, or we perish."

A manly, little fellow, with solemn blue eyes, who had been away from Sunday School for a long, long, time, was in the class once more. As the teacher read about Jesus sleeping, she noticed the fine, little boy shaking his head from side to side. The teacher stopped suddenly and asked, "What is the matter, dear boy?"

He quickly replied, "That's wrong, that just is not right, for Jesus NEVER sleeps."

That is quite true, isn't it? In these days, Jesus NEVER sleeps. Now that He is with our heavenly Father, God, He is awake all of the time, but when Jesus was on earth, He walked the shores of Galilee, ate and slept just as all persons did and still do. He became sleepy then, but now He never does.

Although this little boy had been absent from his friends for a long time, he had not forgotten the things that he had learned when just a tiny boy. He had learned that "JESUS NEVER SLEEPS."

—Sel.

If you want to be a good man, be a good boy.

A Sunday School Story

One incident a Sunday School teacher enjoys recalling, is about a curly, brown-headed, blue-eyed girl who was only three years old.

One particular Sunday morning, when the Sunday School Superintendent asked if there were any prayer requests, the beautiful child was several seats away from her Sunday School teacher. They were all on the front pew, but there were other young ladies between the girl and her teacher. When the Sunday School Superintendent asked for prayer requests, the curly-headed girl reached way over and touched the teacher's lap, none too gently. She was in a hurry and didn't want to lose out with her prayer request. She called her sister by name and said, "She's sick!"

Yes, dear children, early in life we can learn how wonderful Jesus is, and how much He loves every little girl and boy. Jesus is glad to help us when we are sick and when we have any need.

Remember, Jesus is always just as near as your hands and feet are. There is never anything too little for Him to be interested in. If we want something that will be good for us, or we have a problem that is too big for us to handle, we can take it to Jesus in prayer, and believe He will help us.

Mark 9:23: "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

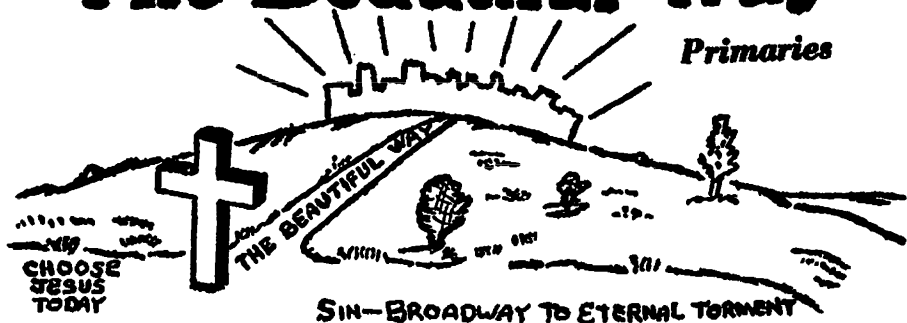
—Sel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who baptized Jesus in the river Jordan?
2. What was the dove that lighted on Jesus?
3. What did God say for all to hear?
4. Who is always watching you?
5. What does God want you to do?

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Part 22

Aug. 31

GOD SEES DORCAS

Acts 9:36-42.

Dorcas loved people. She wanted to help them because she was a Christian. What could she do? She saw the poor widows and their children who were ragged and had no coats. "I can make them some clothing and coats," said Dorcas. So she was busy every day making clothes for those who had none.

One day Dorcas got very sick. Soon she died. Oh, how the people cried! Who would help them now? The Christians said, "Let us send for Peter; he will know what to do." Peter came at once. They led him to the room where Dorcas was lying. The widows showed Peter the clothes Dorcas had made for them. They cried with grief and sorrow. Peter told everyone to leave the room. Then he knelt down and asked God to make Dorcas alive again. "Arise, Dorcas," Peter said, and she did. Peter called the people to see her. Many people got saved when they saw what God could do.

Memory Verse: For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. 2 Chron. 16:9.

God Helps Brown Eyes

A little girl, with beautiful brown eyes and long brown hair was quite serious one Sunday morning and turned her head toward the Sunday School teacher to say, "I want you to pray that my Mommie and Daddy will get a home for us."

The teacher had always told the children that nothing was beyond the reach of prayer, if it was something good, so on this morning, the teacher had to face her own words. The teacher explained that they would have prayer about it, but that if the little girl wanted prayer answered, she would have to believe.

"I know," answered the little girl that they all called Brown Eyes.

After prayer, Brown Eyes was as relaxed as could be. The cry of her heart had been placed at Jesus' feet, and instead of taking her problems home with her, Brown Eyes left them for Jesus to handle.

Mommie, Daddy, her little sister and herself were living with their grandparents, in their big house. This was real nice and there were many good things to remember about it, yet Brown Eyes wanted a home of her very own. She had taken the problem to her Sunday School teacher, and had told no one else.

Within 5 days, a great big "For Sale" sign appeared on a beautiful little house. It was in the very neighborhood Brown Eyes wanted to live in. It was close to her Grandmother's house. She could almost see it if she stood on the porch where the big sign was.

The next Sunday morning, the teacher shared the prayer request with the congregation. Brown Eyes' Mother and

Father were there. When they learned of their little girl's desire to have a home of her own, they quickly sought out the real estate man who also loved Jesus, and he helped in every way he could, and reduced the price. He wanted a Christian family to have the little house and make it a "home."

One day, when the Sunday School teacher was busy typing, someone said to her: "Go call Brown Eyes' mother and tell her to offer \$500.00 less." The Sunday School teacher obeyed, because she felt like it was God that had spoken to her.

Boys and girls, when Jesus takes over, He works everything out just right. The Sunday School teacher made it known how the message came to her, and Brown Eyes' Mother quickly called and within a few minutes she found she could buy the house for \$500 less.

God never fails to get His messages through to us if we keep our ears tuned to His call. He will answer our prayers if we live for Him and keep Him first in our hearts.

— A True Account

People of Jesus' day believed in being very polite and kind to strangers. If a stranger came to your door, you were supposed to ask him in to eat and sleep. You gave him the best food in the house and the best bed. If you had servants, one of the servants washed his feet, which were dusty from the road. If there were no servants, a member of the family washed his feet.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who loved and helped people?
2. What happened to Dorcas?
3. Who prayed for Dorcas?
4. Did God make Dorcas live again?

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Part 23

Sept. 7

GOD SEES JONAH AND NINEVAH

Jonah 1:1-12; 3:4-10.

The story of Jonah teaches us many things. It teaches us we had better obey God. If we do not, we may find ourselves in a terrible fix, like Jonah did. It teaches us we cannot hide from God. He can see us anywhere, day or night. If we are doing right, this is a comfort. If we are sinning, that is a terrible thing.

Just think how God can make the wind blow, and cause great stormy waves on the water! God had His way in this storm! He put Jonah in a place where he repented of his sin. Then Jonah became willing to preach to Ninevah. Jonah went a day's journey into the city preaching, "In forty days, God will destroy this great city because you have been so wicked." The king and rulers heard what Jonah was saying. Oh, they were afraid, and sorry for their sins! They told all the people not to eat or drink. They hoped God would forgive them. God saw they were sorry. He changed His mind and spared the city. God is ready to forgive those who are sorry for their sins.

Memory Verse: For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord. Prov. 5:21(a).

JONAH

God Speaks to Linda

When Linda was a little girl, her mother told her stories about Jesus. She went to church with her mother, and sisters and brothers. Linda listened to the messages and the Sunday school teachers. She heard about salvation. She knew that someday, the last trumpet would sound, and the end of the world would come. No doubt she thought about it many times.

Near Linda's house there was a railroad. At this time, steam engines were mainly used. One day, a diesel engine came roaring up the track by Linda's house. As the whistle blew with its strange new sound, Linda did not know it was a train. How scared she was!!

"It is the last trumpet, and the end of the world has come," she thought. She felt like falling upon her knees and begging God to save her so she could go to heaven, too. (You know, if we aren't saved when Jesus comes, it will be too late to pray for God to save us then. We must already be saved and living to please Jesus, if we want to go to heaven when the last trumpet sounds.)

Linda loved the clean feeling she had when she was all bathed and had her hair washed. Usually she got all cleaned up before she went to bed. Then, as she was lying there, on a clean bed, how she enjoyed the clean feeling.

One night, Linda was stretching, and resting and thinking. "How nice and clean I am," she thought. Just then, God spoke to Linda, "But what about your heart?" Linda knew her heart was not clean, even though she was clean on the outside. It would take more than soap and water to

make her heart clean. It would take the blood of Jesus. I am glad to say that one day, Jesus did cleanse Linda's heart.

HAVE YOU HEARD GOD SPEAK TO YOUR HEART?
— T. Sprague

Do Not Wait!

Gary was a little boy about 9 years old. He went to Sunday school and church with his mother. One day when they came home, Gary said, "Mother, when I get out of school, I want to be a Christian."

Mother should have said, "Now is the time to be saved. Do not wait. Get saved while God is talking to your heart. The Bible says, 'Today is the day of salvation, Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart.' The devil does not care if you want to be a Christian someday. If he can get you to wait, he is sure you will not get saved." No, Mother did not realize she should help her little son get saved right then.

Time went on. Gary lost the desire to be saved. When he got older, he went deeper and deeper into sin. He wanted to have a good time. The devil fooled him and caused him to make a serious mistake that has almost ruined his life. Gary still is not saved. He is in his thirties. His heart is tender towards God, but the devil makes him believe he cannot give up sin. Oh, boys and girls, give your heart to Jesus NOW, before sin gets a strong hold on you. It is dangerous to wait.
— T. Sprague

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the story of Jonah teach us?
2. What did the people of Ninevah do?
3. Did God spare the city?
4. Will God forgive you if you are sorry for your sins?

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Part 24

Sept. 14

GOD'S EYES SEE ALL

Exodus 14:8, 13-15, 21-23, 27, 28.

God's eyes have been watching everyone since the world began. There is nothing hidden from His eyes. God especially watches over His children and cares for them. God saw His people in Egypt. He saw how cruel the king was to them. He saw how the king had made slaves of the Israelite people. God sent Moses to lead His children out of Egypt. Pharaoh, the king, would not let the people go. God sent many plagues, and at last He sent the death-angel into every Egyptian home. Then the king let the people go. After they had gone, the king decided to bring them back as slaves again. The children of Israel had come to the Red Sea. They could not go forward, and the king's army was behind them. They cried unto the Lord. God spoke to Moses and he told the people to stand still and see the deliverance of God. God put great darkness between the Israelites and Pharaoh's army. A strong wind made a path through the sea. The people walked through on dry land, but the Egyptians were drowned in the sea.

Memory Verse: . . . Yet his eyes are upon their ways. Job 24:23(b).

A Free Little Girl

"My verse is about free people," Ruth said. "That is what 'liberty' means. I know the whole verse. 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free'."

"You aren't free," said her brother Dick.

"Why, yes, I am!" said Ruth.

"No, you aren't; you can't do what you like. If you wanted to go down to Aunt Kate's you would have to ask mother, and if she said 'No' you couldn't stir one step."

Ruth thought about this for a few minutes, then ran to her mother. "Mother," she said, "I am Jesus' little girl. Why didn't He make me free?"

"He did, dear," she said.

"Why, Mother! How? I can't do what I want to. I can't even go to Aunt Kate's without asking you."

"That is not the kind of freedom that the verse means, little girl. If we belong to Jesus we are not slaves to Satan; if we do not wish to do wrong he cannot make us. Jesus has made us free from his power."

"But you are freer than I am, Mother. You could go to Aunt Kate's if you wanted to without asking anybody."

"No," said her mother, "I am free in the same way that you are. I do what my conscience tells me I ought, and so do you if you please Jesus. While people are young He gives them fathers and mothers to help them, but when they grow old enough to judge for themselves they can go on without that help. Do you understand? Suppose, after being told that you were not to go to Aunt Kate's, you would

slip out and run over there? That would show that you were Satan's child and obeying him. But suppose, instead, you should say to yourself: 'I could go to Aunt Kate's but I will not; I am free and I choose to do right.' That would be the liberty that Jesus Christ gives. It is the same with me. I would like a visit with Aunt Kate, but I know I have work at home that ought to be done; so, because I am free and choose to do right, I stay and do it."

— Sel.

GOD KNOWS YOUR LANGUAGE

A little Chinese girl lived in a school where missionaries taught. When praying one night she said to the missionary, "Do you think God understands Chinese?"

"Oh, yes," replied the missionary. "Why do you ask?"

"Because," said the girl, "sometimes when I feel bad I like to pray to God in Chinese, and I wonder if He understands that just the same as English."

"Of course," said the missionary, "God knows every language. It is not the words we say as much as the feeling down deep in our hearts that makes us want to speak of Him. He says in the Bible: 'Before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear.' So speak in any language and He will hear."

— Sel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Whose eyes watch everyone?
2. Does God watch over His children?
3. How did God save the people from the Egyptians?
4. Do you remember that God always sees you?
5. What must we do to have God care for us?

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Part 25

Sept. 21

GOD'S EYES ON THE RIGHTEOUS

Acts 12:4-17.

Our memory verse tells that God's eyes are on the righteous (the saved people), and his ears are open to their cries (prayers). The lesson tells us how God answered the prayers of the church for Peter who was in prison, chained to soldiers so he could not escape. The wicked king meant to have Peter killed very soon. The church prayed for Peter day and night. They asked God to spare Peter's life and to deliver him from the wicked king. As Peter slept, an angel came in the prison and woke him up. Peter's chains fell off, and the angel led him safely past the sleeping soldiers and out the prison doors into the street. Peter thought he was seeing a vision, or having a dream. Safe in the street, Peter then realized God had sent His angel to set him free. Peter went to the house where the saints were praying. Peter knocked, but they didn't think it was Peter. Finally they did let him in. He told them how God had sent an angel to free him. God will always help His people when they obey Him.

Memory Verse: The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open unto their cries. Psalms 34:15.

PETER

The Busy, Busy Bees

Bees are the most useful of all insects. They produce honey. They make wax. They carry pollen from flower to flower, and from tree to tree. Without bees, there would be fewer flowers and less fruit.

Bees live together in great colonies. Many thousands of them live in one hive.

There are three kinds of bees in every hive. The queen bee is the largest bee in the hive. She lays the eggs. The worker bees are the smallest. They have many duties. They gather nectar from the flowers to make honey. They produce food for the queen. They make the wax to form the honeycomb. They keep the hive clean. They cool it by fanning with their wings. They feed the young bees. If the bee colony is attacked by an enemy, the worker bees fight to defend it. Whatever the duty of a worker bee may be, she does it with all her might. She never thinks of herself. She will starve herself to feed the queen. She fights fearlessly. She will work bringing in nectar until her frayed wings can no longer carry her. Then she will fall by the wayside to die.

The drone bees are a little larger than the worker bees. They live a life of idleness. They spend their time flying around in the sunshine. When the food supply runs low, the drones are killed by the worker bees.

God wants us all to be busy workers. In God's Word we read, "Study to be quiet and to work with your own hands quiet and to work with your own hands..." I Thess. 4:11.

Lazy boys and girls will not go to heaven. If you are sick and can't work, that is different. Doing good to others is working for God. —Sel.



A HIVE OF BIBLE BE'S

1. "Be ye doers of the Word" (James: 1:22).
2. "Be ye kind one to another" (Eph. 4:32).
3. "Be careful to maintain (do) good works" (Titus 3:8).
4. "Be courteous" (I Peter 3:8).
5. "Be ye also ready" (Matt. 24:44).

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Peter?
2. What was the king going to do to Peter?
3. What did the church do?
4. Who helped Peter out of prison?
5. Does God answer prayer?

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Part 26

Sept. 28

GOD SEES SAMUEL

I Sam. 3:1, 3, 8-14, 17, 18; I Sam. 4:10, 11, 18.

Samuel was a special little boy. His mother had asked God for him before he was born. His mother promised to give him to the Lord to work for Him. When Samuel was old enough, his mother took him to the temple to help Eli, the priest.

Eli had two sons who helped him also. But they were wicked, and God was not pleased with them, nor Eli either, because he did not correct his sons. One night after Samuel was in bed, he heard someone call his name. He ran to Eli, but Eli had not called him. God was calling Samuel. God told Samuel what awful things were going to happen to Eli and his sons. In the morning, Samuel told Eli all that God had said. Later Eli's sons were killed in a great battle. The ark of God was taken by the enemies of Israel. When Eli heard the bad news, he fell backward and broke his neck. Sin always brings trouble and sorrow. It is best to be a Christian and serve the Lord. Samuel became a great man because he loved God and obeyed Him.

Memory Verse: Even a child is known by his doings. Prov. 20:11(a).

SAMUEL

God Sees Sally Lou

One night—and it was very cold—Mamma suddenly awakened the little girls who slept in one large room. “Come quickly, the house is on fire!” Sally Lou and her four sisters barely escaped the flames that were quickly eating their way through the bedroom walls. As they make their way through the kitchen to the outdoors, a box of shells—gun shells that their father had in a kitchen cupboard—suddenly exploded with the heat. Truly God was good to allow them to escape this further danger!

The family stood outside and watched all they had burn to a heap of ashes. No more toys, no food, no clothing, nothing! Papa and Mama could not save one thing from the burning house.

Some few days later, a lady handed Sally Lou two dollars, and told her to have her mama buy her something with it. Sally Lou ran to her mother with the two dollars. “What shall we get for you first, Sally, shoes or a dress? You need both, for all of your clothing was burned.”

“What can we get for a dollar, Mamma?”

“Why, you have two dollars, dear.”

“Yes, but don’t you think one dollar belongs to Jesus as a thank-offering because none of us died in the fire, Mother?”

Sally Lou could not understand why her mother sat down suddenly and cried as if her heart would break. Here she was complaining because all was lost in the flames, they had no home, now, and she had failed to thank God that her children had all been spared.

When we think about this little girl, and how willing she was to really sacrifice one half of what she had for the Lord, how our hearts burn with shame! Boys and girls, let us ask ourselves the question, “How much are we willing to give to the Lord Jesus Christ out of gratitude for what He has done for us?” Are we willing to share our money, our clothes, our time, our toys with others, that we may win them for Jesus?

God gave the very best He had for us when He gave us His Son to die on Calvary’s Cross for our sins. And that is not all that God gave. He is preparing a Home for us in Heaven. Think of it! If we put our faith and trust in Him, He will take us to be with Himself some day. Read John 14:1-6. God is sharing everything He has with us. What shall we give Him?

— Selected

Daddy loves for you to run to meet him when he comes home after working hard all day. It brightens his day for love to be shown to him.

A PRAYER

Keep me, Lord, from doing wrong,
May I please Thee all day long;
May I never from Thee stray,
May I ever Thee obey;
All my love I give to Thee,
For I know Thou lovest me.

QUESTIONS:

1. What was special about Samuel?
2. What kind of sons did Eli have?
3. Who called Samuel in the night?
4. Does sin bring trouble and sorrow?
5. Do you want to be a special child, too?

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Part 14

Oct. 5

UPON THIS ROCK

Matthew 16:15-18

Have you seen a great rock? A rock will stand through winds, storms and all kinds of weather. It cannot be easily moved. There is one Rock that will never be shaken nor broken. Do you know who that Rock is? Yes, that Rock is Christ Jesus.

When men want to build a house or building that will stand firm, they build upon a rock. Remember the story in the Bible about the two houses, one built upon the sand, the other upon the rock? One building will always stand because it is built upon Christ Jesus. It is a spiritual building; it is the Church of God, which includes all the saved people.

In order to get into the Church of God, you must be "born again," or saved. Every saved person in the world belongs to the Church of God. Jesus said the "gates of hell" would not triumph over the Church He is building. There is only one thing that can take you out of God's Church, and that is SIN. Remember, the Church of God is built upon the Rock, Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: . . . For other foundation can no man lay, . . . which is Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 3:11.

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Part 15

Oct. 12

THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22

Two men were builders. One used the sand for the foundation of his house. The other used a rock to build his house upon. Do you know what happened to the house built upon the sand? Yes, it fell and was ruined. All the work the man had done to make his house beautiful was wasted. The house that was built on the rock stood. It was not washed away and ruined.

A life lived in sin is like the house built on the sand. You can live without obeying God's Word, but when you come down to die, your doom will be eternal punishment. If you get saved and live by the Word of God, obeying it in all things, your life will be worthwhile. You will go to be with Jesus when you die.

Remember, it isn't enough to HEAR what the Bible says. Even if you memorize it, it will not help you unless you OBEY it. If you do not DO what it says, you will be lost when you come down to die. Those who really LOVE God will obey His Word, and they will be building their lives on a good foundation.

Memory Verse: If ye love me, keep my commandments.
John 14:15.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Word of God

Linda's Bus Ride

Linda had thought it would be so much fun to ride to Grandmother's on the big bus. She and Mother and little Tommy would stay a week and then Father would come after them in the car. But now Linda was tired. Mother was tired, too. So was Tommy.

Another family got on. There was a mother, a little girl about as big as Linda, and a little sister. They sat behind Linda.

Soon Linda looked back. The girl was playing with the baby. "Hello!" she said. "My name is Debbie. What is yours?"

"My name is Linda," said Linda. "I am tired of riding on this old bus. We have been on here all day."

"We have been riding since yesterday morning," said Debbie, "but I think it is fun."

Linda looked at Debbie's mother. She did not look tired as her own mother did. The baby girl was happy. Debbie was making her happy.

"You are having a better time than I am," said Linda. "I wonder why."

"Maybe it is because I love Jesus," said Debbie.

"I love Him, too!" said Linda. "But I guess you love Him more than I do. You try to act like Him!"

Linda turned around. Tommy was crying again, and Mother looked so tired. Linda picked up Tommy's teddy bear. She made it walk all over Tommy. She made it walk all over herself. Then she made up a little song. She sang,—

"A teddy bear went walking, went walking, went walking. A teddy bear went walking. Just look where he is now!"

Tommy looked. His teddy bear was on the back of the seat. He laughed and clapped his hands.

"Will you put Tommy down beside me?" asked Linda. "Maybe you could sleep a little."

So Mother put Tommy on the seat beside Linda. Then she put her head on the back of the seat and went to sleep. Linda made funny faces. She played hand-clapping games with Tommy. After a while Mother woke up. She did not look tired any more.

"We are almost there," she said.

"I have been having a good time," said Linda.

"That is because you have been helping someone else to be happy," said Mother. "You have helped Tommy and me and made yourself happy, too. Jesus is glad. He is glad that you love Him enough to try to act like Him." —Sel.

-----o-----

Every boy and girl who has received Jesus into his or her heart is a child of God. All the daddies and mothers who believe on Jesus are children of God. A child of God is a Christian. God is the heavenly Father of every Christian. They are like brothers and sisters.

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"And we are Christ's; and Christ is God's." I Cor. 3:23.

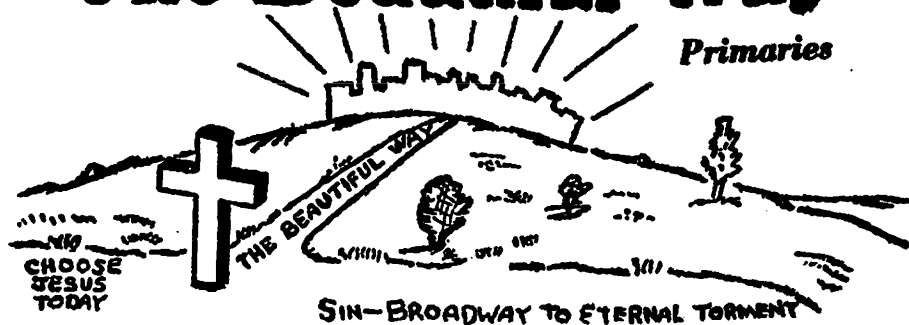
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QUESTIONS:

1. Which house did not fall?
2. What kind of life is like a house built on sand?
3. If we love God, what must we do?
4. Will anyone be saved who does not keep God's commandments?

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Part 16

Oct. 19

THE DOOR

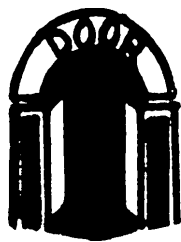
John 10:7-10:11 John 1:9

Once there was a beautiful building. No one knew what was in the building, but most everyone knew it was most important to get into it. There was only ONE door. Many people went up to the door and tried to open it, but they could not. Some people kicked and pounded on the door. Some tried the keys they had, but none would work. Some tried to climb up over the walls and get inside, but none could enter except through the door.

A few people DID enter the door. They went humbly to the door and pleaded for entrance. Many of them cried and asked forgiveness. Most of them knelt down before the door and it opened. What joy they had as they entered the door!

The Church of God has only one door. Jesus said, "I am the door." No one can force his way into the church. No one can "join" it. If you confess your sins, God is faithful to forgive your sins. God will clean you up so you can enter the door. Jesus died for your sins. Jesus is the door to His Church..

Memory Verse: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. John 10:9a.



The Secret Cap

"Why not wear your ear muffs?" Mother asked, as Calvin started out the door.

Calvin clasped his hands tightly over the cap.

"It's a secret cap," Calvin said, smiling at her. "Because there's a secret under it."

Calvin walked outdoors. A boy came around the corner of a white house. He was carrying roller skates. He had a heavy cap on, with the strap fastened under his chin!

Calvin leaned against a tree. He stared down at his shoes. The boy stopped in front of Calvin. "Are you the new boy?" he asked.

"Yep."

"What's your name?"

"Calvin Marple. What's yours?"

"Buddy Palmer. You have a cap just like mine, don't you?"

"I have to wear it all the time," Calvin said, "It's a secret cap."

"Mine is too," Buddy said. "Say, let's each put on one of my skates, and have some fun."

Down Pine Street Calvin flew on one skate. He skated toward the big curve at the corner. Buddy was alongside him now, trying to pass him. "Watch the curve!" Buddy shouted. Calvin tried to

slow down, but the skate had greased wheels.

"Help!" He threw his arms out and grabbed Buddy's shoulder. Together they fell down on the grass. Calvin felt the strap under his chin—snap! His cap flew off and fell on the ground.

"Are you hurt?" Buddy asked.

Calvin did not answer. He was staring at Buddy's hair. Buddy's cap had been knocked off too.

Buddy stared back, then burst out laughing. "You've got red hair too!" he said. "Is that your secret?"

"Uh-huh," Calvin laughed. He pointed at Buddy's red hair. "I didn't want anybody to know. I was afraid you'd laugh."

"I was afraid you'd call me 'Red' like some of the boys do."

"Let's stick together," Calvin said. "They can't call both of us 'Red'. They'd get mixed up. Say, do you go to Sunday School?"

"Sure, don't you?"

"Yes," Calvin sat up and hugged his knees. "I was afraid to tell about that too. Are you a Christian?"

"You mean saved? I sure am. I asked the Lord Jesus to come and live in my heart, and make it clean inside. And He did. The Bible says so."

Calvin felt warm and happy inside. "You know what? Let's stick together. Let's tell the other boys that too! Let's not have secrets anymore!" —Sel.

QUESTIONS:

1. How many doors does the Church of God have?
2. Who is the door to the Church of God?
3. How can you get into the Church of God?
4. Will Jesus forgive you if you ask Him?

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Part 17

Oct. 26

HEAD OF THE CORNER

1 Peter 2:4-8; Isaiah 28:16; Matt. 21:42

Every great and important building has a corner-stone. A corner-stone is the base, or foundation, or beginning of the building. It is very important. Without a good foundation, the building could not stand.

Jesus is the Corner-stone of the Church of God. He became the corner-stone when He died on the cross to save us from our sins, and was made alive again. If Jesus had not died for us, and been raised from the dead, there could not have been a Church of God.

Did you ever see someone stumble over a rock or stone? Sometimes they fall and are badly hurt. Some people stumble over Jesus. They do not believe He is the Son of God. They will not believe God's Word, the Bible. They will be badly hurt because they can never be saved and go to heaven.

Jesus is precious to all who believe in Him who is the Head of the Church, the chief Corner-stone. Let us love and obey Him.

Memory Verse: . . . and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Eph. 1:22b.



What's Luck?

"Don't you step on a crack. You'll break your mother's back!" said Linda.

"That's silly!" Jane told her.

Then Linda saw a black cat ahead of them. "Oh, I hope it doesn't cross our path!" she said.

"Why?" asked Jane.

"Don't you know? If a black cat crosses your path, it will bring you bad luck," Linda told her. "And you will have bad luck if you spill salt or open an umbrella in the house."

"I never heard such things," said Jane. "I open an umbrella in the house every time I use one. I put it down to get it in the door, and then put it up again and set it in the bathtub to dry."

Jane went home wondering about the things Linda had told her. At the supper table she asked, "Will you really have bad luck if you open an umbrella in the house, or if a black cat crosses your path?"

Daddy laughed. "Of course not," he said. "Those are just silly ideas. The things that happen to us happen because of what we do or because of what other people do. If we are careful and use our heads, we can keep many bad things from happening. And if we pray and trust God, He will take care of us when we cannot take care of ourselves."

The next day Jane told Linda, "I don't believe what you told me about bad luck.

I try to be careful so bad things will not happen to me. And I pray every day and ask God to take care of me."

Just then a black cat ran across the sidewalk ahead of them. Jane kept right on walking. But Linda tried to run around in front of the cat. She fell down and the cat walked all around her.

Jane laughed. "Oh, Linda!" she said, "I am sorry you fell down. I'm not laughing about that. But it was so funny! You tried to keep that cat from crossing your path, and then he walked all around you! You have to cross his path now, or just stay there."

Linda laughed, too. "I think you are right," she said. "You were not afraid of the cat, and you didn't get hurt. I think I had better pray and use my head, too, after this."

— Selected

One day a sister came into the office and as I was talking to her I knew that she was in need of some groceries. When I offered her a five dollar bill, she was so thankful and then told me that she did need some things. That very day when the mail came, another dear sister had sent me five dollars and said that the Lord had impressed her to send it. Tears came to my eyes because of how mindful the Lord is of those who love Him. — Sis. Marie Miles

The love of money is the root of all evil, the Bible tells us. Money is all right but we must use it wisely for it to be a blessing to others and to ourselves.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does every building have to have?
2. Who is the cornerstone in the Church of God?
3. Do some people stumble over Jesus?
4. What must we do to get to heaven?

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Primaries



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Part 18

Nov. 2

CHRIST IS LIGHT

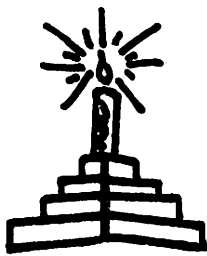
John 8:12; John 12:32-36a; John 1:4

Have you ever thought how awful it would be if it were dark all the time? What if there were no light? It would be a terrible experience if we always had to stay in the dark.

Do you know who came to give us light? Yes, God made the light, day and night, in the beginning. But there is a much better kind of light that Jesus came to give us. He came to let us know about God. Knowing about God is true light. When you know God, you are not in darkness. However, when some people know about being saved, they do not like it because they would have to give up their sins to be saved. So they go away from the light.

Jesus came to give His life for us on the cross, so we could be saved. When we are saved, God gives us more light or understanding. We know heaven is waiting for all who love and serve God. Jesus becomes the Light of our lives. He gave us the truth, and we are happy in obeying it.

Memory Verse: . . . Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Eph. 5:14.



The Big Question

Tommy lived in Africa. Tommy was a serious boy. Often he climbed on the top of a big rock to be alone and think. There was a big question in his mind. No one seemed to know the answer.

The question was this: "Who made me?" The small hoe and ax that Father used were made by a blacksmith. The baskets which were carried to market were made by old granny. Everything that Tommy had seen or used was made by someone. But no one knew the answer to the question, "Who made me?"

One day Tommy climbed up on the big rock. He lay in the warm sunshine. He looked up at the sun shining in the blue sky. He thought, "Maybe the sun made me. We worship the sun. It is big and powerful. The sun helps Father's grain to grow. But, no, it could not have made me, because sometimes it shrivels up our grain, and the grain dies!"

As Tommy lay on the rock, he looked across the hills and valleys. Then he saw the bright tin roof of a new home in the nearby village. This home belonged to a white man and his wife. They had come to live in the village. They told the people strange stories about a new God. Tommy had been told never to go near the white man. But now Tommy thought,

"Perhaps the white man can answer my question."

Tommy slipped off the big rock. He followed the path which led to the village. When he came near the white man's house, he saw a group of people near it. The white lady was bending over a mother with a sick baby. She put some food in the sick baby's mouth. He wondered what it was. As Tommy watched, he noticed that the white man and lady looked like they loved the people.

Often, after that day, Tommy followed the path to the missionary's home. There he watched and waited. One day he heard some singing. He went close. When the singing was finished the people closed their eyes. Then the white man talked to Someone whom he called, "the Creator of the sun!"

After awhile, a young man began to talk. It was a young man whom Tommy knew. He talked about God, the Creator of the sun. He talked about Someone else called Jesus, whom he loved very much.

Then Tommy heard something which made him stand very straight. The young man said, "We used to worship the sun. But there is Someone greater than the sun. That is God, who made the sun. He made not only the sun, but He made the moon, the stars, and He made us!"

Tommy's big question was answered! After that, Tommy went back to the mission station many times. One day Tommy gave himself to Jesus. —Sel.

-----o-----

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to give us light?
2. Who gave His life so we could be saved?
3. Who said "I am the light of the world?"

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Primaries



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Part 19

Nov. 9

THE BOOK OF LIFE

Exodus 32:3-6, 19, 30-33; Rev. 20:12, 15

Moses went up into the mountain to receive the commandments from God. He was gone a long time. The people grew tired of waiting for Moses. They forgot the great things God had done for them. They forgot how God made a path through the Red Sea and saved them from Pharoah's army. So they gave all their gold to Aaron and told him to make an idol to be their god.

Moses heard the sound of the singing and dancing in the camp. He knew the people had sinned. He dropped the tables of stone on which God had written His law. The tablets broke in pieces just as the people had broken God's law. Moses prayed, "Oh, blot my name out of your book, if you will not forgive." God told Moses He would only blot out the names of those who had sinned. At the final Judgment each one whose name is not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire. When you get saved God writes your name in the Book of Life. If you sin, He will blot it out. Don't you want your name in that book?

Memory Verse: . . . Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. Exodus 32:33.



A Changed Man

Africaner was a very bad man. He was a chief who lived in the southern part of Africa about 161 years ago. Everyone was afraid of him.

Robert Moffat came to South Africa to tell the people about Jesus. He began to hear what a bad man Africaner was. "He will set you up for his boys to shoot at," said one. "He will make a drinking cup of your skull," said another.

Africaner had heard about Jesus from the missionaries. Sometimes he thought he wanted to follow Jesus. But sometimes he would rather live as he had always done. One time he became angry at the missionaries, and said he was coming to fight against them. Afraid, they left their homes, and Africaner and his men came and burned them.

After Robert Moffat came, Africaner began coming to listen to the Bible teaching. He learned to read, and he spent much time reading the New Testament.

Soon Africaner found that he did not want to do the bad things he used to do. Instead of wanting to fight, he tried to keep other people from fighting.

Africaner had been so bad that the rulers of the country had promised a big reward to the man who would catch him and bring him to them. Robert Moffat wanted the rulers to see that Africaner was not a bad man now. So he took Africaner and some other men and set out for Cape Town, where the rulers lived.

It was not safe for Africaner to travel through the country. Many men hated him for the bad things he had done. So he dressed in some of Robert Moffat's clothes. The people they met did not know that he was Africaner. They thought he was some other black man dressed in white man's clothes.

The rulers at Cape Town were surprised. They could tell that Africaner was a different man. So instead of putting him in jail, they gave him a good wagon to take home.

Africaner spent the rest of his life helping people to please God. How glad he was that Jesus had come to earth and died to save him from his sins! —Sel.

Tammy stood looking out of the window. She was watching the birds eat the food she had scattered on top of the snow. She called, "Oh, Mommy, see that pretty bird. I never saw a bird like that before."

Mommy said, "That is a winter bird. Some birds go South during the winter. But that bird will stay here all winter. Our winter is not too cold for that bird."

Tammy asked, "How do birds know they should fly away South?"

Mommy answered, "God knows and tells them. The Bible tells us that He knows even when one sparrow falls to the ground. God watches over little children and He takes care of little birds. He takes care of all of the world. He takes care of you, too, Tammy." —Sel.

QUESTIONS:

1. What awful sin did the children of Israel commit?
2. What did Moses pray?
3. What book must our names be written in to go to heaven?
4. When will God write your name in the book of life?

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Part 20

Nov. 16

MANY MEMBERS, ONE BODY

I Cor 12:12-14, 26

God has made us with a wonderful body. King David said in one of the Psalms, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." How wise God was to make us as we are. We have eyes to see, ears to hear, a head to guide us, arms and hands to work with, and feet and legs to walk and climb and move about with. In between all these are the organs that function to keep us living and growing. See how important all the members of our body are? We need every one. Even our little fingers and toes are helpful, and we wouldn't want to be without them.

God's Church is a wonderful body, too. Each saved person is one of the members. The members are gifted to preach, sing, pray, work miracles, and heal the sick. Some have the gifts of wisdom and knowledge; some can recognize false spirits, some can speak with other languages and some can interpret other languages. God has only ONE body—the Church—with many members. Every saved person is a member of the body of Christ.

Memory Verse: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house. . . . 1 Peter 2:5a.

GOD SETS MEMBERS IN THE BODY

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John Eliot and the Indians

Long ago, when the "Pilgrim Fathers" came to our country, Indians lived all around them. Some of the white people became good friends with the Indians. John Eliot was one of these people.

"We know about God," thought John Eliot. "We have the Bible to read. We can go to church and hear sermons. We know that God listens when we pray. But the Indians do not know about the one true God. Someone should go and tell them."

After a while John Eliot decided to go himself. First he had to learn the Indian language. Then, about 26 years after the Pilgrims came to this country John Eliot stood in the wigwam of an Indian chief. He preached the first sermon in an Indian language.

The Indians wanted to learn more about God. Many of them came to learn about Him. They were sorry for the bad things they had done. They asked God to forgive them.

John Eliot kept on preaching. After a while there were almost four thousand Indians who had given their hearts to God.

But John Eliot knew that after a while he would die. Without someone to preach to them, some of the Indians would stop living for God. He knew that some of these Indians must become preachers too. But how could they preach without a Bible? How would they know what God wanted them to do? John Eliot must write the Bible in their language. But they could

not read. He would have to teach them to read, too!

So John Eliot set to work. He wrote the Bible in the language of these Indians. He taught them to read. And he trained 24 Indian men so that they could preach to the other Indians.

John Eliot had copies of this Bible, called the "Moheecan Bible," printed for the Indians. It was the first Bible ever printed in America. That was about three hundred years ago. Now no one can read these Bibles, because no one speaks that language any more.

Many people thought it was foolish for John Eliot to preach to the Indians. They tried to get him to stop. But John Eliot knew that God wanted the Indians to be saved, so he went right on preaching to them.

John Eliot did what he knew God wanted him to do. How many more people would be saved if every Christian man and woman and boy and girl would do that! — Selected

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God loves boys and girls who live in faraway countries. He loves boys and girls in cities, on farms, or in houseboats. Christians are part of God's big family.

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God wants the Christians to do things together. On the Lord's Day, or Sunday, God wants His children to be in His house. They should come together to worship Him.

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QUESTIONS:

1. How many bodies does God have?
2. What is God's body?
3. Who is the head of God's body?
4. Who are the members of the Church of God?

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Primaries



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Part 21

Nov. 23

WALLS OF SALVATION

Isaiah 26:13; Psalm 18:2

A long time ago, in the land of Judea, cities had great walls built around them. The walls were a protection to keep out their enemies. When armies came against the cities, the walls shut them out, and the people were safe.

Our lesson is about the walls of salvation. Each saved person has a wall about him that he cannot see. This wall protects him from the attacks of the devil who is our enemy. He is always trying a sneak attack, but the wall of salvation holds him back. The devil can roar, stomp and threaten, but he cannot crash the wall. God has that wall around each member of the Church of God. As each one stays true to God, he is safe.

Our scripture says, "We have a strong city." A strong city cannot be taken. We are glad we have salvation to protect us from the sins of this world. Give your heart to Jesus, and He will put a wall around you to protect you from the powers of sin. The devil can't touch you as long as you love and serve God.

Memory Verse: . . . whosoever is born of God sinneth not.
1 John 5:18a.

So Thankful

Christine woke up and listened to the rapping of the snow on the window by her bed. It had a lonesome sound. She knew it was Thanksgiving Day, but she did not want to get up. There was nothing to see but the bare little cabin, nothing to eat but beans and corn bread.

She tried to go back to sleep. But her father and mother were talking, and she could not help hearing what they said.

"Let's let her sleep as long as she wants to," said Mother.

"Yes," said her father, "I'm thankful she is well and strong."

"We have so much for which to be thankful," said Mother. "We are all healthy. We have a house that will keep out the storm, and enough fuel to keep us warm. We have all the clothes we need, and enough to eat. God has been good to us."

"We have our homestead," said Father. "I am so glad that we can have this land after we live on it two more years. And we have our cows and horse and chickens."

"There is just one thing more that I need to make me happy," said Mother. "That is a happy little child. I do wish Christine could be happy with what we have."

"Let us pray about it," said Christine's father.

Christine listened to them pray. She knew how hard Father and Mother had worked since they moved from the city and came out west to live. Here Christine did not have all the nice things she had in

the city. But Father and Mother did not have nice things here either. Two big tears rolled down her cheeks. Her father and mother had been so good to her! And she had kept them from being really happy! She asked God to help her not to be fussy again.

Soon Christine wiped the tears away and hopped out of bed. She threw her arms around her father and mother.

"Good morning, Merry Sunshine!" said her father.

"It's Thanksgiving Day!" said her mother. "I've saved some meat to cook with our beans today, and we have some molasses to put on our corn bread!"

"I like meat and molasses," said Christine. "And I'm so thankful for my nice father and mother and all the good things God has given me."

Outside the snow still tapped at the window. But it had a happy sound now.

-----o----- —Sel.

I thank Thee, Father in the skies,
For this dear home so warm and bright;
I thank Thee for the sunny day,
And for the sleepy, starry night.
I thank Thee for my father's arms,
So big and strong to hold me near;
I thank Thee for my mother's face;
I thank Thee for my dolly dear.

O Father, up there in the skies,
Hear me on this Thanksgiving Day,
And please read in my little heart
The "Thank You's" I forget to say.

-----o-----

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a wall for?
2. What kind of wall does a Christian have?
3. Who puts this wall about the saved people?
4. Do you have the wall of Salvation about you?

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Part 22

Nov. 30

BANNERS OF LOVE

John 3:16; Rev. 1:5; 1 John 3:11, 12, 14, 15

We know the scripture that tells us how much God loved the world of mankind. God showed His love by what He gave, didn't He? We know when someone loves us by the actions of that person. We also show love by our actions. If you love your mother and daddy, you obey them, and want to please them. If you love your brother and sister, you are kind to them. Love is like a banner flying in the breeze.

The Bible tells us about Cain who hated his brother. Why did Cain hate Abel? Abel and Cain brought offerings to the Lord. Abel brought his best and God was pleased with it. Cain did not offer the best he had to God. Cain saw that God was pleased with Abel's offering, and Cain hated Abel. Wasn't that an awful thing to do? That is how the devil works today, causing those who do wrong to hate those who do good. When we are truly saved, we love everyone, even those who do us wrong. It takes a real Christian to love his enemies.

Memory Verse: We love Him because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19.

Banners of Love



Susie's Ironing

Mother was ironing when Susie came home from school. "Come and iron the handkerchiefs now, while I get supper," she said to Susie.

Susie knew how to iron the handkerchiefs. Mother had shown her how the right way. Susie put a handkerchief on the ironing board. She made it nice and smooth, then she pushed the iron across it. She folded it and put the corners together very carefully. Then she put the iron on it again. She folded and ironed until the handkerchief was the right size. But it took a long time to do it just right.

Susie looked at the pile of handkerchiefs. It would take her a long time to iron them all. And she wanted to go to play with Mary Lisa.

"I know what I will do," thought Susie. "I will fold the handkerchiefs first, and then just iron the part that shows. Then I can go to play sooner."

"They are all done, Mother," said Susie in a little while. "Now may I go to play with Mary Lisa?"

"Yes," said Mother, "but I cannot see how you ironed all those handkerchiefs so fast." But Mother was busy and did not look at the handkerchiefs.

At the supper table Daddy pulled his handkerchief from his pocket. He looked at Susie. "I am glad I have a little girl who can iron my handkerchiefs so nicely," he said.

"I am glad that was not one of the handkerchiefs I ironed today," thought Susie. The more she thought about those handkerchiefs, the more unhappy she was. What would Daddy think when he used one that was not ironed nice and smooth? But Susie did not say anything about it. She helped her mother with the dishes, read a book for a while and went to bed.

But Susie could not go to sleep. "Mother does not know about those handkerchiefs," she thought. "Daddy does not know. But I know, and God knows." After a while she put on her slippers and went downstairs to find her mother. She told her all about it. "May I iron them right tomorrow?" she asked.

"You cannot make them nice and smooth now," said Mother. "I will have to wash them again. Then you may iron them as they should be ironed. But do you know who made you think of folding them and just ironing the outside?"

"It was Satan," said Susie. "I will try not to listen to him again." — Sel.

See what you can do for others, not what they can do for you.

Obeys your teacher. She has a lot of problems each day to work out and is often very tired. So don't make another problem for her.

QUESTIONS:

1. How do we know God loved the world?
2. How do you know someone loves you?
3. How do you show love to Mother and Father?
4. Why do we love God?

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Part 23

Dec. 7

BABYLON HAS FALLEN

Rev. 18:1, 2, 4, 5, 23a; 1 John 4:1

The book of Revelation is a book of signs and symbols. A symbol stands for, or represents, some spiritual truth. Some truths must have symbols to represent them so we can understand them.

Revelation gives us a word picture of the great city of spiritual Babylon. Babylon means spiritual confusion, and it is great because it is found in all the world. In the past there was some light in Babylon because it did obey part of the Bible. Some members in it were truly saved from sin. Now there is no light in Babylon. Our lesson tells us Babylon has fallen. It has become the dwelling place of devils and very wicked spirits. Babylon is fallen because it was never built on the whole truth (the Bible). In some places there are still a few real saints, but God is calling these Christians to "come out" of Babylon. God wants all His people to be one in Christ. He wants us all to believe and obey ALL the Bible. God warns us not to believe every spirit that is in the world, because many false spirits are out to deceive souls.

Memory Verse: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 7:21a.



The Tricky Word

"I never will learn to spell 'done'!" grumbled Larry.

"It is a tricky word," said Mother. "The way it is spelled, it should rhyme with 'bone,' but it doesn't. Maybe you could remember how to spell it this way. Print 'bone' on your paper. Then erase the straight line on the 'b' and put it at the other side of the round part. Then the word will be 'done'."

Larry tried it. "It works!" he said. "I don't think that word will bother me any more. Thank you a lot, Mom!"

There was a spelling test the next day. The first word was "done". Larry wrote "bone". "I will change it before I hand it in," he thought.

George was sitting by Larry. He looked at Larry's paper. Then he wrote "bone" on his paper. He did not see when Larry changed the "b" to a "d."

When the papers were given back, Larry had 100. George had missed the first word. "How could I have missed it?" he said to Larry. "You got it right, and I copied from you."

"You should not copy!" said Larry. "You should learn the words yourself!"

At the supper table Larry told his father and mother about it. "I think I will just write some words wrong every time, and let him copy them," he said. "I can change them after he has copied them, and it will serve him right for copying."

"It would serve him right," said Daddy, "but do you think that is what Jesus would do?"

Larry thought about it. No, he could not think that Jesus would play a trick like that.

"That was only a practice test," he said. "The real test is on Friday. I can show George what Mother showed me, so he will know how to spell 'done' right next time."

On Friday Larry and George both got 100.

"Here is another tricky word," said Larry on Monday. "'Gone' is just as hard as 'done.'"

George looked at the word. "I know what we can do," he said. "Write 'done' and then erase the top part of the 'd' and write it below the round part. Make a 'g' out of your 'd.'"

"That's right," said Larry. "Now that word will be easy for both of us. I know God would rather have us help each other than to cheat or play tricks on each other."

— Selected

Paul wanted the people to live good lives. The people should live a good life like Jesus lived. Paul said, "Love others. Do not do bad things."

God wants you to live a good life, too. And God wants you to behave in church. If you love God, you should be good. You should obey your father and mother. You should love others, and not start fights.

"Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." Luke 6:27.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is Babylon a wicked city?
2. Why did Babylon fall?
3. What must we do to be truly saved?
4. What is the rock that the church is built upon?

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Part 24

Dec. 14

MARY RECEIVES A VISIT

Luke 1:26-31, 35

Mary was a pure, young maiden who lived in the city of Nazareth. One day a visitor came, not an ordinary visitor, but an angel. God had sent the angel, Gabriel, to Mary with a message. "Mary, I greet you because you have found favour in the sight of God. You are blessed above all women." Mary could not understand what the angel meant. She loved God, and lived a pure, holy life, but how was she blessed above all women? She did not know that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Saviour of the world. The angel explained to her that the power of God would touch her, and she would have a baby son and His name would be Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God because He had no earthly father. The baby would be holy and without the nature of sin that all of us are born with. Therefore, Jesus could be the Saviour of all who believe in Him. What a mighty God we have, who was able to send Jesus in such a pure and holy way. How glad Mary was to have the angel visit her!

Memory Verse: Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son . . . Matthew 1:23a.

The New Sled

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It was Saturday morning. Joe had helped his mother wash the breakfast dishes. He had cleaned his room.

"May I go and slide on my new sled now?" he asked his mother.

"Yes, if you do not slide where the cars go."

"I will slide on the little hill in the park," said Joe. He got his sled and started for the park.

Far down the street Joe met Mrs. Brown who lived next door. Her arms were full of packages. She could hardly carry them.

"Put your packages on my sled," Joe said. "I will take them home for you."

After he had taken the packages to Mrs. Brown's house, Joe met Sally and her little brother. The little boy was crying. "Carry me!" he said. "Carry me to Grandmother's house."

"I cannot carry you," said Sally. "You are too big."

"Get on my sled," said Joe. "I will give you a ride to your grandmother's house."

Joe left Sally and her little brother at their grandmother's house and started for the park again. On the way he met Bob's little twin sisters.

"Please give us a ride, Joe," they called. Joe stopped and gave them rides. It was time for lunch then, so he had to go home.

"Did you have a good time riding on your sled?" asked Mother.

"I had a good time," Joe told her, but I did not ride on my sled at all." Then he told his mother and father what he had been doing all morning.

"I do not have to work this afternoon," his father said. "Mother, can we all go out in the country? I know a long hill that is good for sliding. There are no cars there. We can take Joe's new sled in the car. We can take his old sled, too." So Joe and his father and mother went to a long hill in the country. They all took turns sliding down on the two sleds.

"What fun this is!" said Joe. "I can play in the park with the other boys and girls just any time. But Father and Mother cannot always play with me."

"We are having a good time, too," said Father. "God was pleased this morning because you were willing to help other people. Now He is helping you to have a good time." —Sel.

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The snow is beautiful. Every snowflake is different, yet every snowflake has six points. Only God could plan beautiful snowflakes. How does the snow help things to grow? It gives plants moisture, during the winter when there is little rain.

See the pretty snowflakes

Falling from the sky;

On the walk and housetop

Soft and thick they lie.

On the window ledges,

On the branches bare;

Now how fast they gather,

Filling all the air.

Now the bare black bushes

All look soft and white,

Every twig is laden—

What a pretty sight!

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QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the visitor who came to Mary?
2. What did the angel tell Mary?
3. Who was the father of Jesus?
4. Can you say the Memory Verse?

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Part 25

Dec. 21

THE GREATEST GIFT

Luke 2:4-16

Children love Christmas because it is a time to receive gifts. Mother and father and loved ones enjoy giving gifts to you because they love you. It is easy to give gifts to those you love and who love you. Sometimes the gifts you receive do not last very long. Sometimes they are not really what you need or want.

Do you ever think about the gift that God gave for the whole world? God gave the best gift of all, and He gave it for people who didn't love Him or even care about Him. God sent His beloved Son to this world to live, and die on the cross, and be raised again so anyone who believed on Him could be saved from sin.

Jesus came to the world as a tiny baby. His mother wrapped Him in long strips of cloth because that is all she had. He was born in a stable because there was no room for Him anywhere else. His bed was made of straw placed in a manger where the cattle were fed. Jesus came to earth as the poorest of men. God loved the poor people, and the rich did not get to hear the angels.

Memory Verse: Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 Cor. 9:15.

The Lost Christmas Card

Tim woke up early on Christmas morning. He hurried to look at his Christmas presents.

He received toys and clothes from his father and mother, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents. After a while he came to a heavy package. "A Book!" he said as he opened it. There on the front was the title, "Holy Bible."

"You are reading so well now," said Mother, "that we thought you would like a Bible of your very own."

"Thank you!" said Tim. "I will read it every day." Then he laid the Bible aside and looked at his other presents. Last of all he opened a Christmas card. There was a note in it, and something green. The note said, "Dear Tim, I don't know what you would like for Christmas. So I am sending you five dollars to get your own present. Love, Aunt Nellie."

"Yippee!" yelled Tim. Then he put the Christmas card up with the other presents and went to eat his breakfast. After that he played with his toys the rest of the day.

At supper time Mother asked, "What did you do with the five-dollar bill Aunt Nellie sent you?"

"I don't remember, but I'll go and find it after supper," said Tim. After supper he looked and looked, but he could not find the Christmas card from Aunt Nellie. Father and Mother looked, but they could not find it either.

"It is time to go to bed, Tim" said Mother after a while. "Perhaps you will find your card and money in the morning."

"I hope it didn't get burned up with the paper and string," said Father.

"I had better take my Bible to my room," said Tim. He was thinking, "I am

too tired to read it tonight, but I will read it in the morning." But he knew he should read his Bible. He opened the cover. There was his Christmas card from Aunt Nellie. The five-dollar bill was inside.

"Mother!" Tim called to her. "I found my Christmas card and money!"

"I will read the Christmas story before I go to sleep," Tim said to himself. "This has been such a nice day, and my Bible is the nicest present of all."

— Sel.

A Big Christmas Word

This morning we were singing Christmas carols. I like most of those songs, but some of them have such hard words. Like that one word in "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The word is "in-car-nate." I asked Daddy what it means. He said it's even hard for grownups to understand really well.

He tried to explain it to me though. It's just that Jesus, who's actually God, came as a very special baby. Then He grew up. Seems the song could just say that without using such a big word. But that's the way grownups are.

Anyway, it made me feel better when Daddy couldn't tell how Jesus could be a baby if He is God, because I surely would not know how either. But he was very sure that it actually happened, and of course, I'm sure too. Daddy says it makes all the difference in the world that Jesus came.

— Story Friends

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you like Christmas?
2. What was God's gift for the whole world?
3. How did God's gift come to the world?
4. Does God love everyone?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries



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JESUS ESCAPES BEING KILLED

Matthew 2:7-9, 11-20

After the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, wise men came from afar seeking Jesus. These men had seen a great star in the east, and knew it meant that Jesus had been born. They did not know the exact place of Jesus' birth, so they asked King Herod, "Where is He that is born 'king of the Jews'?" The wicked king questioned them about the time the star appeared, then told them to go find the baby and come again. He pretended he wanted to worship the baby, too. The wise men saw the star again and were led to the baby Jesus. They worshipped Him and gave Him rich gifts. As the wise men slept, God warned them in a dream to go home another way. "Arise, Joseph, take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. The wicked king is going to try to kill Jesus." Joseph arose immediately and took Mary and the baby and left in haste. God knew the wicked king's intention. King Herod soon had all boys in Bethlehem killed under two years. Joseph, Mary and the baby stayed in Egypt until the king died.

Memory Verse: If God be for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31b.

A Gift for Jesus

It was the Sunday after Christmas. Darlene had heard the story of the Wise Men.

"They brought presents to Jesus," she said to her mother. "I gave presents to everyone at Christmas, but I didn't give any to Jesus. I wish I had given something to Him, too!"

"We can give gifts to Jesus all the year," said Mother. "When we do something to help someone else, because we love Jesus, we are doing it for Him."

The next Sunday after church Darlene said, "Mother, I told you about the new girl who came to our class the Sunday before Christmas. She wasn't there today. Our teacher told us she got hurt, and will have to be in bed for a long time. She liked Sunday School so well! She said she had never heard about Jesus before."

"Maybe you can take a Sunday School paper to her every Sunday, and tell her the Bible story," said Mother. "That will help some."

"I know!" said Darlene. "You and Daddy gave me that nice record player for Christmas and all those records. Some are Bible stories. Some are the songs we sing in Sunday School. I have listened to them until I almost know them by heart. Should I lend my record player and records to Carla until she can come back to Sunday School?"

"That is a good idea," said Mother. "I can take you over there this afternoon."

Carla was so glad for the record player and the records. Her mother said she would take good care of them. Carla's brothers and sisters wanted to listen, too.

Five Sundays later Carla was back in Sunday-School class. She said to Darlene, "I can come to Sunday School now, so you can have your record player back. Everyone in our family listened to the records. And they all came to Sunday School this morning. They want to know more about Jesus."

"I'm so glad!" said Darlene.

At home, Darlene told her mother about it. "I'm so glad I let her use them," she said.

"We have seven new people in our Sunday School because you wanted to help someone," said Mother. "That is a lovely gift for Jesus!" — Sel.

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When we do our work, we should do it well. When you carry a package for Mother, try to be careful not to drop it. When putting away your toys, put them away neatly. We should try to please Daddy and Mother. This is pleasing to Jesus.

Mike was painting a window sill. He was careful to cover every spot with paint. He was careful not to get any paint on the window, and he did not tip over the can of paint. When Mike finished painting, he cleaned the brush. He also put the lid on the can of paint. Then Mike took the can of paint to the basement, and put it in Daddy's cupboard.

Do you think Mike was doing his work well? Yes, and he was making Daddy and Mother happy. He was pleasing Jesus. -----0-----

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came seeking Jesus?
2. What led the wise men to Jesus?
3. Who told the wise men to go home another way?
4. How did God save baby Jesus from the wicked king?