

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 30, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1979

Part 15

July 1

JESUS TAKES OUR SINS

Psa. 14:1,14,16-18; 69:20,21; Mark 15:24-37.

Years and years before Jesus died on the cross, the Psalmist told us about what would happen. Jesus read about it when He was here on earth.

Those who sin have to be punished. Jesus came to this world to take our punishment. Oh, how Jesus loved you and me. We love Him, too, for taking our sins away.

The men took Jesus and laid him on a cross. They nailed spikes into His hands. They nailed them into His feet. They raised up the cross and let it down into the hole. Oh, how Jesus suffered! When He was thirsty, they gave Him vinegar to drink. Oh, how sad! The men took His clothes and divided them among themselves. They made fun of Jesus. Finally, Jesus was dead. They put a spear into His side. Out came blood and water. Why did He die? He died in your place and my place. Now we can go to heaven if we believe Jesus died for our sins. We will not have to be punished. Oh, how we love Him! Tell Him every day that you love Him. Forgive others as Jesus forgave the bad men who put Him on the cross.

Memory Verse: For even Christ pleased not himself. Rom. 15:3.

Pins

A pin is a little thing. Unless we are looking closely we are not likely to see one that is lying before us. When we do see one and try to pick it up, it is so tiny that often it is hard for us to get hold of it.

Yet a pin is a very useful thing. If a button comes off our clothing, a pin can hold our clothing together. If we tear a hole in our coat a pin can hold the two sides together until it can be sewn.

Sometimes boys and girls are like pins. They are so small we hardly see them. But they are very useful. They can help around the house. They can make other people happy by being happy themselves.

They can be like pins in other ways. A dull pin is not worth much. It will not do what we want it to. This is quite true with boys and girls. If they are dull, they cannot do much. They do not do their tasks right. They forget what is said to them. But if they are sharp, they listen to what is said to them and accomplish a lot.

A pin also teaches us to be straight. A crooked pin is of little use. It turns when any strain is put upon it, and just when we want it to hold fast, it slips. It is likewise with boys and girls. Crooked boys and girls tell "fibs," and are "sneaky," and are lazy in their work. Crooked boys and girls are useless. But if they are honest and straightforward, then they are worth a lot.

A pin also teaches us to be clean. We do not like a rusty pin because it will not go through cloth easily. Dirty boys and girls think low thoughts and use unclean words. Their badness destroys their power. Good people do not want them around.

A pin also teaches us that we must keep our heads. Of course our heads are given to us to use. They are to help steady us, to check our impulses, and to keep us from "running away with ourselves." If we lose our heads we become like headless pins. We hold nothing well. We simply fly off.

Every time we pick up a pin let us say to ourselves, "If I am as sharp, straight, and clean as this little pin, I can fill my place in the world and do my work as God would have me do it."
—Sel.

—————o—————
"I want to please God with my life, though I am but a lad.
I'll never lie and never steal, and mind my mom and dad."
—————o—————



Questions:

1. Who took the punishment for our sins?
2. To what was Jesus nailed?
3. What was Jesus given to drink on the cross?
4. Where is Jesus now waiting for us?
5. Should we forgive others as Jesus did?

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Part 16

July 8

CHRIST IS PRECIOUS TO US

Matt. 21:33-46

Jesus told a story about a man who had a vineyard of grapes. He put a hedge around it. He built a tower, and put a winepress in it. He let it out to a farmer and his servants to gather fruit for him. The man went into a far country. It came time to get the fruits from the vineyard. He sent three servants, but the farmers killed them. He sent others, but they killed them, also. So the owner sent his son. He said, "Surely they will be good to him." But they killed him. How sad!

The man who had the vineyard was God. The vineyard was the Israelites. The hedge was God's love and care for them. The tower was the temple. The winepress was the laws of Moses that they were to obey. The farmers, or householders, were the priests. From time to time, God sent His prophets to the Israelites, but they killed them. Finally, God sent His Son, but they killed Him. How sad! Today Jesus is precious to us. We are ready to love Him. We give Him fruits from our lives of love, faith and kindness. The Jews killed Him, but He arose, and we love Him.

Memory Verse: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. I Peter 2:7.

Under His Breath

"I didn't do it," said Clint. And then he added to himself, "At least I didn't mean to do it!"

But say! he told a lie anyway, no matter what he said to himself. Lots of boys and girls think they can tell a lie out loud and then add something to themselves to make it the truth. But that is not so. A lie is a lie no matter what is added under your breath. Remember the verse, "Speak ye every man the truth," and always be careful to tell the truth!

—M. L. N.

Pie-Crust Promises

One day I heard a woman talking to a little girl. The little girl had done some things that were not just right and the woman was correcting the little girl for her wrong-doing. The girl was sorry and said so, just as all nice girls would do. But the woman was displeased with her and continued to scold. The little girl said, "I promise that I will be good. I promise that I will never do those things again." What do you think the woman said? Here is the answer she made: "I do not want any of your 'Pie-Crust Promises.' I have no use for them."

What did she mean by "Pie-Crust Promises"? When a pie crust is baked it becomes so crisp that it breaks easily. "Pie-Crust Promises" are promises that are easily broken. Instead of being kept and carried out, they are forgotten almost as soon as they are made.

How many of your promises are of the "Pie-Crust" kind? When we get a new kitten or puppy, do we promise to feed it every day, and then not do so? When we have been naughty and are

reproved, do we promise to be better, and then forget all about our promise and do even worse things?

It is terrible to break a promise. It is better not to make a promise than to make one and break it. We do not want people to say we make "Pie-Crust Promises." If we do not keep our word, people will have little trust in us.

—Sel.

Saved by Strong Arms

Some time ago there was a shipwreck off the coast of Africa. There was a little child on board, who was a great favorite with everyone, and the special pet of a strong sailor. The ship struck on a rock not far from shore, and was sinking in a fearful storm. The strong sailor rushed into the cabin, took the little child from its weeping mother, wrapped his oilskin coat around it, folded it in his arms and jumped into the raging sea. All on board perished, and the people on shore rushed down to the sea but saw nothing but a man lying with a bundle in his arms. The man was dead but his bundle contained a living child. The child was saved by the strong arms of the sailor, though the sailor lost his own life. Jesus laid down His life to save His children, and He now holds them in strong arms that can keep them out of danger from their enemies.

—Sel.

Questions:

1. What was planted in the vineyard?
2. What did the farmers do to the servants the owner sent?
3. What did the farmers do to the owner's son?
4. If the owner was God, who was His son?
5. Was Jesus killed by the Jews?

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Part 17

July 15

CHRIST AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Psa. 110:1; Acts 1:1-12; Acts 7:54-60.

Jesus and His disciples were talking. Jesus had arisen from the grave and was in His new body. He talked to them many times after He came back to life. But now He was going to say, "good-bye." It was time for Him to go back up into the sky to be with His Father. As they watched Him, He began slowly to rise up from the ground. Higher and higher He went. They looked and looked. Finally, a cloud came by in the sky and they saw Jesus no more. They went back into the city.

Later we read about Stephen. He was preaching a sermon to the people about Jesus. Stephen told them they needed to quit sinning and be saved. They didn't want to believe that Jesus could save them from their sins. They hated Jesus. They took Stephen outside of the city and threw stones at him. How sad for them to hurt one of Jesus' followers! But Stephen loved the ones who stoned him. He knelt down and prayed for them. Jesus was pleased. The heavens opened and Stephen saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God. That was where He was to go when He left the disciples. He is there today.

Mem. Verse: Christ . . . is at the right hand of God. Rom. 8:34.

"Lazy-itis"

"Benny! Sheila!" Mother called. "Let's go to the garden and pick some beans."

Benny ran outside eager to help Mother, but Sheila hid behind the door until Mother and Benny had gone to the garden without her.

Later that day Mother needed someone to help her bring in the clothes that were hanging on the clothes line.

"Sheila, let's go get the clothes in," Mother said to Sheila who was playing with her dolls.

"My stomach hurts," said Sheila as she crawled into a chair.

"I will help you," said Benny.

Every time Sheila was needed to help, she was either sick or could not be found. Mother began to realize that Sheila had a disease called "lazy-itis." This is really a disgraceful disease to have. It can be so bad that no one wants to be around the person who has it.

Mother decided that each time Benny helped her with her work, she would help him with something he wanted to do. One time she helped Benny make a little wooden boat to sail in the stream near their house. Another time she helped Benny make lemonade. Each time Mother helped Benny, Sheila had to stay in bed or hide behind the door, whatever she had done that day to get out of work. Sheila began to hate hiding behind the door or being put to bed. She wanted Mother to help her do things, too. So, when Mother asked someone to carry out the garbage, Sheila ran to do it before Benny. When the yard needed to be cleaned up, Sheila picked up more paper and sticks

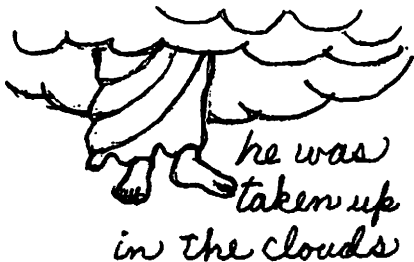
than Mother or Benny. She got rid of her "lazy-itis" and became a very good worker. Mother now helps her make clothes for her doll, and she even helps Sheila make cookies.

If we have "lazy-itis" let's get rid of it by helping others. —Sandra Whitson

Smiling For Jesus

If we smile for Jesus, we are telling others that Jesus is kind to us. We are telling others that He makes us happy. They look at our faces, and watch to see how we act, when they want to find out what kind of Jesus we have.

Our lives should tell others what a dear and loving Saviour we have. When we have a smile, or happiness, in our heart, it will also be on our faces.



Questions:

1. Did Jesus talk with His disciples after arising from the grave?
2. Where did Jesus go when He left the disciples?
3. Where is Jesus now?
4. Whom did the people stone for preaching about Jesus?
5. What did Stephen see when he was dying?

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Part 18

July 22

ELIJAH TAKEN UP

2 Kings 2:6-17

God showed Elisha that Elijah, the prophet would be taken away from him that day. Elisha loved Elijah so he followed him. Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted. Elisha said, "I want your spirit to come upon me in great power." Elijah said, "If you see me taken away it shall be so." They walked on. Finally, they came to the Jordan River. Elijah took his mantle, or outer coat, and struck the waters. The waters parted and they walked across the water on dry ground.

They walked on as they talked. Suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came between them. Elijah went up in a whirlwind on the fiery chariot to heaven. As Elijah went up in the clouds Elisha cried, "O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and horsemen thereof!" He meant that in losing Elijah the kingdom had lost more than an army of chariots and horsemen. After this he saw Elijah no more. Elisha picked up Elijah's mantle. He struck the waters of Jordan and they parted. Elisha walked on the dry ground to the other side of Jordan.

Memory Verse: Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
2 Kings 2:11b.

Letting the Fire Go Out

Once there were some people traveling in Africa where there are a large number of lions. One lady, along with her husband and grown son, had set up camp for the night. They kept a fire burning brightly all through the night, as that was the only way to keep wild animals away. As dawn came on they felt they were safe and let the fire burn out. They became so relaxed they went sound asleep. The woman heard a strange noise and awakened to find two lions carrying her husband and son away. They could never be found.

Did you know the devil is just like that? So long as we are watchful and prayerful the enemy can have no power over us, but as soon as we become relaxed and at ease, he will come in and devour us. —O. A. D.

Helping Older People

Grandfather came into the room looking around for something. "Do you know where my house slippers are, David?"

His grandson replied, "Naw," and went on playing with his marbles.

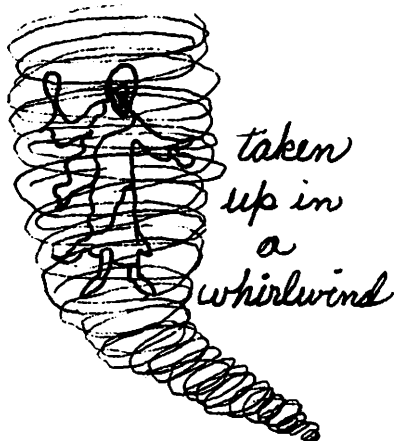
Grandfather was old and had to use a cane, but David did not want to stop his play to help look for the slippers. Grandfather got down on his knees to look under the sofa and could hardly get back on his feet. All this time David continued to play.

Do you think David was a kind boy? Some day he will be old and will want someone to help him. Do you not think it would have been good if David had stopped his play for a few minutes and helped look for the slippers. He could

also have spoken kinder to his grandfather.

When Grandfather asked David if he had seen his slippers, would it not have been better if David had said, "No, sir, but I will help you look for them," and leaving his marbles for a few minutes have gone to look under the sofa for the slippers?

When we are young the Lord wants us to help older people. —S. W.



Questions:

1. What did Elisha tell Elijah he wanted?
2. With what did Elijah strike the river so that the water parted?
3. What came down out of heaven?
4. Did Elijah go up to heaven in the whirlwind?
5. What did Elisha do with Elijah's mantle, or coat?

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WATERS MADE FRESH

2 Kings 2:19-21

Elisha stayed for a while in the wilderness after Elijah was taken up into heaven, but later he went to the city of Jericho. Elisha helped many people by the power that the Lord had given to him. He loved God. He wanted others to love God, too.

The people of Jericho said to Elisha, "This city stands in a pleasant place; but the water is very bitter. It causes death and sickness. The land around it doesn't have green things on it to bear fruit." Elisha said, "Bring me a small bottle, and fill it with salt." They brought it to him, and he poured the salt into the fountain that gave water to the city, and said, "Thus saith the Lord. I have healed these waters; there shall not be from them anymore death or barren land." Isn't that wonderful? Our God is a God of miracles. He can do great things.

And the waters became pure and sweet from that time forward. Many believe that the fountain still flows at the foot of the mountain near the ruins of Jericho. It is called, "The Fountain of Elisha."

Memory Verse: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be feared.
Psalms 145:3.

Obedience

One day a little girl was playing in the field near the farmhouse where she lived. She was sitting on the ground, making a daisy-chain, when she heard her father's voice, saying quietly: "Be perfectly still, and don't move." She was frightened; but she was obedient, and did as her father told her.

The next moment a shot rang out and she learned that a rattlesnake had been coiled up near her, ready to strike. If she had moved an inch, the snake would have struck her before her father could shoot it. Her obedience saved her life.

There were three reasons for that obedience. One, that she was in the habit of obeying; the next, that she loved her father; and lastly, she knew that her father loved her.

Willing obedience is one of the best ways to show our love to Jesus.—Sel.

Making Friends

"May I play with your new airplane?" Myron asked.

"No," said Justin. "It's mine and you might break it."

"I would be careful with it," said Myron.

Justin tucked his airplane under his arm and walked away.

A few days later Justin saw Myron with a group of children at the park. They were all playing a game of tag. Justin wanted to play but no one asked him to join them. He was standing all alone when his mother walked up.

"Why don't you play with the other children?" his mother asked.

"They're not very friendly to me," Justin said.

His mother knew how unkind and unfriendly he had been to Myron and to other boys who would come to play with him.

"Justin, they are treating you no worse than you have treated them. The Bible says that if one wants to have friends he must be friendly. Have you been friendly to the other little boys?" Mother asked.

Justin hung his head in shame.

The next time Myron came to see him, Justin handed him his new airplane and said, "Here, Myron, do you want to play with this?"

Justin started being friendly to all the children. He shared his toys and never acted selfish anymore. Whenever he met children in the park or at church he would say "Hi" and be nice to them. He had lots of friends and they were glad to play with Justin. —Sandra Whitson



Questions:

1. Did Elisha love God?
2. Did he only help himself?
3. What did he put in the water?
4. Did God heal the water and make it sweet?
5. Will God do great things for us today?

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THE POT OF OIL

2 Kings 4:2-7

A widow came to Elisha and said, "Oh, man of God, my husband is dead. He served the Lord while he lived. He was owing some money when he died. Now the man to whom he owed the money has come to see us. He says that he will take my two sons to be his slaves, unless I pay the debt. What shall I do?"

"What do you have in the house?" Elisha asked.

"I have nothing except a pot of oil," the widow answered.

"Go to your neighbors and borrow empty jars, vessels, and bowls. Borrow a great many. You and your sons go into your house and shut the door. Pour the oil out of the pot into each vessel until filled, and set it aside," Elisha told her.

The widow did as Elisha said. One by one she filled the vessels. At last they were all filled. And the oil stopped running. If she had borrowed more vessels there would have been more oil. Elisha said, "Go and sell the oil and pay the debt and live on what is left."

Memory Verse: According to your faith be it unto you.
Matt. 9:29b.

Little Lori

Little Lori's mother was dead, but her father was living. One day when Lori came home from school for lunch, she found a number of neighbors and relatives in the house. She was curious to know why so many people were there. She was told that her father was very, very sick and might not get well. Lori knew he was sick, but she had not thought about his being sick enough to die.

What if Daddy should die? What if he was to be taken away and never come home again? Never come in again and give her a big hug and kiss. Oh, she could not bear the thought of what life would be without her daddy.

Lori could only eat a few bites of her lunch. She slipped down from the table and ran to her room. Her heart was so full of ache that it was ready to burst. What was she going to do without her daddy. Even now he was telling the older boys what to do about caring for the family.

Oh, Daddy must not die; what could she do? Crying she threw herself down on her knees by her bed. She would ask the great God, who saw everything and heard everything, to help her. He would even help a little girl that did not know much about how to pray.

Lori prayed: "Oh, God, make my daddy get well." She could not seem to say much more than this, for this was the thing she wanted right now more than anything else in the world.

After a few minutes her heart felt comforted, and she went downstairs. She was allowed to look into Daddy's room where he was resting quietly. A doctor was there and she heard him say, "Well, I don't know what it was

that changed the course of the disease, but it was not any of my doing." Lori was told she could go back to school as her daddy seemed a little better now. She knew that God had heard her prayer and that was why her daddy was getting well.

Her father got well, and lived many years after this. —Sel.

Something To Do

1. Thank God for your home.
 2. Remember to be helpful at home.
 3. Obey your father and mother.
 4. Forgive those who wrong you.
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Questions:

1. To whom did the widow go when she had no money to pay her debts?
2. What was the only thing the widow had in her house?
3. What did Elisha tell the woman to borrow from her neighbors?
4. Did the woman do what Elisha told her to do?
5. Were all the vessels filled with oil?

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Part 21

Aug. 12

DEATH IN THE POT

2 Kings 4:38-41

Elisha came to Gilgal, which was in the mountains. He brought with him some prophets. It was a time when there wasn't very much food. Elisha said to his servant, "Set the great pot over the fire to cook some food." The servant obeyed. They went out into the field to gather vegetables and green things to be eaten. One man found a wild vine with gourds on it. The man filled his lap full of them. He sliced them up and put them in the pot with the rest of the food.

After it was cooked they poured out the food to be eaten. While they were eating they became sick. They cried out, "Oh, man of God, there is death in the pot! The food is poisoned!" Elisha took some meal, and threw it into the pot with the poisoned food. Then he said, "Now take the food out of the pot, and let the people eat of it." They did so and there was no longer any poison in the food.

Elisha was a man of God. He prayed to God and God heard his prayers. God told him what to do. He obeyed God. God did great things for Elisha.

Mem. Verse: All things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:23b.

The Lesson of the Echo

Switzerland is a little country located high in the mountains with a lot of little hills.

There was once a little boy named Ulrich who lived on the side of one of the steep hills. One morning after he had eaten breakfast, he went out in front of the little cabin where he lived. Across the valley that was before him he thought he could see a boy. He called out, "Hello, little boy." And in just a moment he heard what seemed like a reply, "Hello, little boy."

Ulrich was surprised the little boy answered him so quickly, but he called out again, "What is your name, little boy?" Just as quickly came the answer, "What is your name, little boy?" This made Ulrich angry. He thought the other boy was mocking him by saying just the things he said. Then he called out, "I don't like you, little boy." Then he heard the same words, "I don't like you, little boy."

Now Ulrich was furious, and said, "I'd like to hit you, little boy." Quickly came back to him the words "I'd like to hit you, little boy."

Ulrich would not stay to talk any longer. With tears of rage filling his eyes he ran into the cabin and told his mother all about the little boy. His mother was wise. She patted him on the head and said, "My boy must not be angry. He must go back and ask that other boy to come to see him, and tell him that he will give him a nice apple when he comes."

This did not seem to be the way to treat a mean boy, but Ulrich did what he was told. Out of the house he went and called as pleasantly as he could, "Hello, little boy." The answer was just

as pleasant, "Hello, little boy." He called out even more pleasantly, "I do like, you little boy." The words came back to him, "I do like you, little boy." Now Ulrich was really happy and called out, "I want you to come to see me, little boy." The answer came back, "I want you to come to see me, little boy."

Ulrich was delighted and shouted, "I have an apple for you, little boy." In an instant the answer came back, "I have an apple for you, little boy."

Do we know the meaning of this story? There was no little boy across the valley, but was only a shadow. What he heard was the echo of his own voice. There was just one boy there, and that was Ulrich.

If we are cross, ugly, crabbed, and hateful, other people will be cross, ugly and hateful to us. If we are kind and gentle and good to those whom we meet, they will be kind and gentle and good to us. What we give we receive in return.

—Sel.

Worker for God

"What are you looking at Sidney?" asked his Mother.

"Bug?" he said pointing at a bee.

"Oh, that's a bee. He is working for God. He makes honey for us to eat."

"I like honey!" Sidney said as he picked up his truck.

—M. M.

"A spitfire always burns himself too."

Questions:

1. Did the servant disobey?
2. What did they put in the pot?
3. Did the food make them sick?
4. After Elisha threw some meal in the pot was the food all right to eat?
5. Does God hear our prayers?

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Part 22

Aug. 19

THE BORROWED AXE

2 Kings 6:1-7

The sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "This place where we live is too small for us. Let us go to Jordan and build a house big enough for us to live in." Elisha told them that they could go. They asked him to go with them and he went.

The sons of the prophets began to cut down trees to build the house. One man was using a borrowed axe. He was trying to be very careful with it. But as he cut down a tree, the head of the axe fell off and dropped into the water. The man cried, "O my master, what shall I do? That was a borrowed axe!"

Elisha asked to be shown just where the axe-head had fallen into the water. He cut off a stick of wood, and threw it into the water at the place. At once the heavy axe-head rose to the top of the water, and floated, as if it were wood. The prophet said, "Reach out and take it," and the man took the axe-head, put it on the handle and went on with his work. By these works of God's power in Elisha, the people knew that he truly was a prophet of God. They listened to him.

Memory Verse: And if a man borrow . . . of his neighbor . . . he shall surely make it good. Ex. 22:14.

The Lost Quarter

Mother laid the children's lunch money on the edge of the kitchen stove, as she always did on school mornings.

"Mother, where is my money?" asked Bert, who was last to leave that morning. "There isn't anymore here." Mother got out some more money for Bert.

After school Mother asked, "Who took that other quarter off the stove this morning?"

"I didn't get it!" said Tom.

Jean said, "I don't have it." She did not look at her mother when she said it.

"I may not know who took that money, but God knows," said Mother. "It is a bad thing to take what does not belong to you. It is bad to lie."

That night Jean could not sleep. In the middle of the night she got up and went to Mother's room. "Mother, I took that quarter," she said. "I didn't lie about it. I lost the quarter before I got to school. Oh, Mother, I don't want to be bad!"

"You know, Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. He wants to change us so we can always want to do right things. Would you like God to make you over right now? It is called being born again."

"Oh yes!" said Jean. "How can I be born again?"

"Tell God that you are sorry for the bad things you have done," said Mother. "Tell Him that you want to belong to Him, and that you want Him to change you, so that you will love the right and hate the bad. Just talk to God as you talk to me."

"Dear God," prayed Jean, "I am sorry I took Mother's quarter. I am

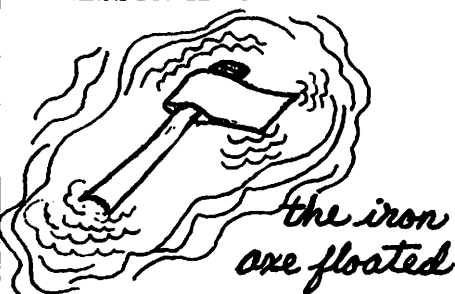
sorry for all the bad things I have done. Please forgive me and make me over so I won't want to do bad things anymore. I want to belong to You forever and ever. Amen."

Then Jean kissed her mother. "I can go to sleep now because I am God's child," she said. —Sel.

A Boy's Prayer

Give me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts. Save me from habits that harm. Teach me to work as hard and play as fairly in Thy sight alone as if the world saw. Forgive me when I am unkind, and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me. Keep me ready to help others at some cost to myself. Send me chances to do a little good every day, and to grow more like Thee.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Was the house too small for the sons of the prophets?
2. Did they start building another house?
3. What fell in the water?
4. When Elisha threw a stick in the water, did the axe float to the top?
5. Was this the power of God?

The Beautiful Way



Vol. 30, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1979

Part 23

Aug. 6

A ROOM FOR ELISHA

2 Kings 4:8-17

Elisha was busy for God. He taught the people to obey God. He often passed through a town called Shunem. A rich woman who lived there sometimes asked him to come in and eat with them. One day the woman said to her husband, "This is a holy man of God who comes to our house. Let us build a little room for him on the side of our house: and let us place in the room a bed, table, stool, and a candlestick."

So they built the room. Elisha and his servant, Gehazi, often stayed there. One time Elisha said to the woman, "You have been very kind to me and to my helper. Now what can I do for you? Shall I ask the king to do something kind for you? Or would you like the chief of the army to do something for you?" The woman said, "I live among my own people, and there is nothing else that I wish." Then Gehazi said to Elisha, "This woman has no son." Elisha said to her, "A year from now God will give you a little boy." The promise made the woman very happy, but she could not believe it to be true until the child came.

Memory Verse: Give and it shall be given unto you. Luke 6:38a.

Larry's Lunch

Larry opened his lunch bag. Then he bowed his head. He hoped Jim was not around to make fun of him, but he was going to thank God for his food anyway.

Before Larry had finished praying, Jim grabbed his lunch bag. He took the lunch out; four slices of bread and butter. Jim held them up for the other boys and girls to see. "Just bread and butter!" he laughed. "Larry is thanking God for just plain bread and butter!"

Some of the children laughed, but some did not. Bob was angry. "You give Larry back his lunch!" he said. He was ready to hit Jim. Jim gave the bread and butter back to Larry.

"Why do you look so happy for just bread and butter, Larry?" asked Jane.

"This is a good lunch for me," said Larry. "My father has been sick and could not work. Mother could not work because she had to stay home and take care of Daddy and the baby. We have not had much to eat. Yesterday I just had a cooked potato for lunch. It did not taste good. Last night I helped our neighbor carry things home from the store. She gave me two loaves of bread and some butter. So I am thankful for bread and butter."

"I have such a good lunch!" said Jane. "But I did not thank God for it. I am going to thank Him right now. I want to thank Him because my father is well and can work, too." She bowed her head right then and prayed. Larry saw that some of the other boys and girls did, too. "I have more lunch than I can eat," John told Larry. "Mother does not like me to waste food. Will you eat this apple for me?"

"Mother put two slices of meat in my sandwich. I don't like two slices. Will

you eat one with some of your bread and butter?" asked Becky.

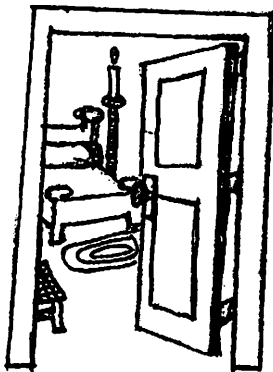
"Please eat some of my cookies," said Billy. "Mother put in too many for me."

"Thank you!" said Larry. "What a good lunch! I'm going to thank God again."

When he had prayed again, he said, "My father is well enough today to take care of the baby, so Mother can look for work. I have lots for which to be thankful."

All the other boys and girls were glad, even Jim. —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Was Elisha busy for God?
2. What did the woman and her husband build for Elisha?
3. Did Elisha and his servant often sleep in the room?
4. What did God give the woman for being kind to Elisha?
5. Does God want us to do good things for people?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 3, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1979

Part 24

Sept. 2

THE LITTLE BOY

2 Kings 4:18-37

"My head! My head!" cried a little boy, who was in the field with his father. One of the men carried the little boy to his mother. He lay in his mother's arms until noon; then he died. The mother rode quickly to tell Elisha about her son. When she was afar off Elisha sent his servant to meet her. He asked her, "Is it well with you, your husband and your child?" But she ran on to Elisha and fell at his feet. The servant did not like for her to do this, but Elisha said to let her alone as she was in deep trouble. When Elisha knew that her son was dead, he sent his servant with his staff to lay on the boy. The woman would not leave unless Elisha went with her. When they arrived, they found the dead boy in Elisha's bed with the staff on him. Elisha shut the door and prayed beside the bed. After his prayer, he lay upon the child and prayed. The child began to get warm. Finally the child sneezed and then he opened his eyes, alive once more. Elisha told his servant to call the mother. When she came he said to her, "Take up your son." The mother fell at his feet. She was so thankful.

Memory Verse: . . . Strong in faith, giving glory to God.
Rom. 4:20.

Judy's Secret

Judy Correy had a secret, but she was not very happy with her secret.

Judy had a special hiding place where she kept her treasures. Far back in the corner of her hiding place was a tiny doll. It was no taller than her hand That was Judy's secret.

Why was Judy so unhappy about such a pretty little doll? Let us see where it came from.

Mary Jane Dennis was Judy's best girl friend. The two girls loved playing together. One day Mary Jane was eating dinner when Judy came to play. Her mother asked Judy to sit down and wait in the playroom. There, tossed in a box with other toys, Judy saw the most beautiful baby doll. She took it and held it.

Then Judy slipped the doll under her coat and ran home!

Now that was stealing, wasn't it? At first Judy did not care. She hurried straight home to her room. She put the doll in the secret hiding place. Every once in awhile, when no one was around, Judy would get the doll and look at it.

Then Judy's Sunday school teacher taught the class a new verse: "Thou shalt not steal." She said that stealing was sin. God does not want us to steal.

Judy went to her room. She took the doll from its hiding place and stared at it. When she thought of being found out, she grew cold all over. Mother did not know, nor did Mary Jane, but Jesus knew she had the doll.

Then Judy thought, "Maybe if I burned the doll everything would be all right again." She threw the doll into the furnace. Soon nothing was left of Judy's secret, but she felt even worse

than before. All at once Judy burst into tears.

"What the matter, Judy?" Mother asked.

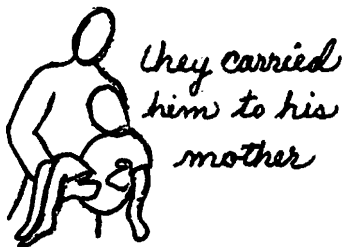
Then Judy told Mother all about her secret. Mother asked, "Have you told Jesus about this?"

"No, Mother. I am sure He does not love me anymore."

"Jesus still loves you, but He hates your sin. He will forgive you if you ask Him. Would you like to pray now?"

Judy prayed. She felt as though a great weight were lifted from her heart. Then Mother and Judy went to Mary Jane's home. They told the story to Mary Jane and her mother. Judy asked them to forgive her and she paid for the doll. —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who died in our lesson?
2. Did the boy's mother go to Elisha for help?
3. What did Elisha's servant lay on the boy?
4. What happened when Elisha prayed for the boy?
5. Was the mother thankful her son was alive again?

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July, Aug., Sept., 1979

Part 25

Sept. 9

THE LITTLE SLAVE GIRL

2 Kings 5:1-6

A little girl was stolen from her mother in Israel. She was taken by soldiers to Syria. Many others were stolen. This little girl loved God. She knew God loved her. She knew God would take care of her. God let her have a nice home to live in. She had a kind heart even though she had been treated wrong. She learned to love her mistress and master.

This little slave girl's master had leprosy. The little girl was sorry for him. People with leprosy turn very white. Their fingers and toes drop off. One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish that my lord, Naaman, might meet the prophet who lives in my country. He could make him well of leprosy." Someone told Naaman what the little girl had said. Naaman spoke to the king of Syria about what the girl had said. The king loved Naaman very much. He wanted Naaman to be well. He wrote a letter to the king of Israel, asking him about the prophet who could cure leprosy. Naaman rode in his chariot from Syria to Israel with gifts of silver and gold for the king of Israel. When he arrived he gave the letter and the presents to the King.

Mcm. Verse: "Let me not be ashamed, . . . for I have called upon thee."

Carl's Bible

"Hi, Carl!" said Ronnie, as he walked up the street. "Come with me. We have Sunday school in our chapel."

"I can't," Carl said. "I don't have nice clothes. I don't have a book."

"You don't need nice clothes to come to Sunday school," said Ronnie. "And, we study the Bible on Sunday."

"The Bible!" said Carl. "What book is that?"

"It's God's Book," said Ronnie. "It tells you how to get to heaven."

"How much does it cost?" asked Carl.

"I got mine for coming to Sunday school for one year without missing a Sunday," said Ronnie.

Carl turned and ran away. Suddenly he stopped. "I want to go to heaven," he said to himself. "The book tells the way. I must get that book."

He walked back to the chapel. No one was outside. He heard singing. He pushed on the door. It was heavy, but it opened. He stepped in, and looked around. A young man came out. He looked at Carl.

"Your class is over here," he said. He took Carl by the arm and led him to a room. It was a bright room. The teacher smiled at him. She showed him a chair to sit on. Carl was afraid. Then he looked at the boy next to him. He was smiling. It was Ronnie. Carl smiled back.

The children sang songs. Carl had never heard them before. He liked the songs because they were happy songs.

"How many brought your Bibles with you?" asked the teacher. "Let us hold them up as we sing the next song."

Carl wished he had a Bible to hold up. Then the teacher read from the Bible. While she told a story, she held up the

Bible in her hand. Carl was surprised. The Bible had stories in it! He liked those stories.

After Sunday school Carl walked up to the teacher.

"I'll come to Sunday school for one year," he said. "I would like a Bible."

The teacher smiled at him.

"You can use this Bible every Sunday here at Sunday school. When you have come to Sunday school for one year, it will be your very own," she said. Carl was happy!

—Sel.

Let not an ugly nor unclean word
Ever from our lips be heard.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



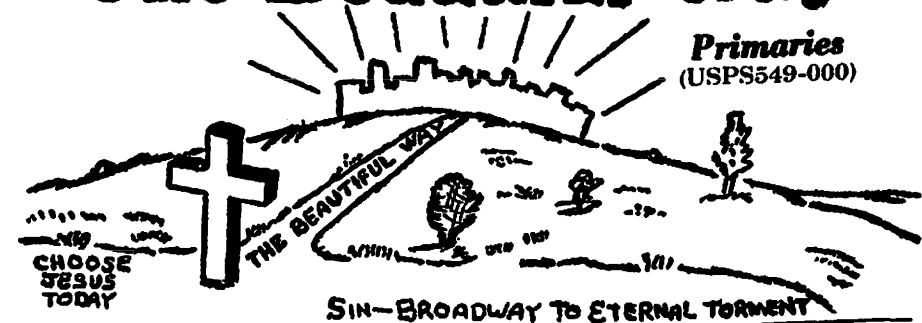
Questions:

1. Did the little slave-girl love God? Did she love her master and mistress?
2. What disease did her master have?
3. Did the little girl tell her mistress about a prophet who could heal leprosy?
4. Did the master believe the slave-girl?

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Part 26

Sept. 16

The Leper Healed

2 Kings 5:7-14

When Naaman arrived in Israel in his chariot, he then gave the king the letter. When the king read the letter asking him to cure Naaman of his leprosy, he was afraid. The king of Israel said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive? Why did the King of Syria send this man to me?" And the King of Israel tore his clothes, as men did when in deep trouble.

When Elisha, the prophet, heard about it, he said, "Why are you afraid? Send him to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet of the Lord in Israel." So Naaman came to Elisha in his chariot. Elisha didn't go out to meet him. He sent his servant, Gehazi, out to say to him, "Go and wash in the river Jordan seven times, and your flesh and your skin shall become pure, and you shall be free from leprosy." Naaman was angry and said, "Why didn't he come out and wave his hand over my leprosy? Are not there waters at home that I could wash in?" He turned and went away in a rage of anger. His servants begged him to obey. So he washed in the river Jordan seven times and his skin was clean again.

Memory Verse: Amend your ways, . . . and obey the voice of the Lord your God. Jer. 26:13.

How To Rub Out Mistakes

Mike hurried off the school bus.

"Mom! Mom!" Mike yelled out, as he ran into the kitchen. Mother was paring some apples for a pie. "Mom, do you know what?"

"Why, no, dear," said Mother, smiling. "What?"

"I learned to 'rub out' today at school. It won't come back," said Mike.

Mother put the apple and knife down. "Now, Mike," said Mother, "come, let's sit down over here. You tell me just what you mean by 'rubbing out'."

"You see, Mom, he said, 'today at school the teacher said, 'Now, children, you will learn to print your name'."

"Did you print yours, Mike?" asked Mother.

"Well, at first I did not know if I could," said Mike, slowly.

"It is always a little hard when you are learning to do things right," said Mother. "I am sure you did your printing right."

"Not until after I tried and tried," said Mike. "Do you know what, Mom? I made many mistakes trying to print my name right. The teacher gave me an eraser. She told me to 'rub out' my mistakes. She showed me how to do it. I rubbed them out, and they did not come back. Look!"

Mike held up the sheet of paper for Mother to see.

Mother took the sheet of paper. "Why Mike," Mother said, hugging her little boy close to her, "you have done very nice work. I know you are happy that the mistakes you made at first are all rubbed out. Do you know something, Mike? That is just the way with our lives. When Jesus forgives us for doing something wrong, He 'rubs out' that wrong thing. It never shows again."

God's Word tells us in Acts 3:19, 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be **BLOTTED** out.' " —Sel.

God's Creatures

God made every living creature, large and small,

Some will hear and come when you call.

Some run wild, some live in a zoo,
And some become pets who will play with you.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Did the king cure Naaman of leprosy?
2. Who told Naaman what to do to be cured?
3. What did he have to do to be healed?
4. Was Naaman happy when he was told to go wash in the river?
5. Did Naaman do as he was told?

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Vol. 30, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1979

Part 27

Sept. 23

GEHAZI IS PUNISHED

2 Kings 5:15-27

Naaman was very happy that he was healed of leprosy. He told Elisha, "I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. Let me give you a present in return for what you have done for me." But Elisha refused. Naaman asked if he could take some dirt back to his home and build an altar to the God of Israel. Elisha said, "Go in peace."

After Naaman and his company left, Gehazi thought about the present that Elisha did not take. He wanted it for himself. Gehazi ran after Naaman. He said that two sons of the prophets had come to Elisha's house. He said that Naaman could give to them a talent of silver and two suits of clothes. Naaman said, "Let me give you two talents of silver." Gehazi took the clothing and silver with him. He hid them in a house and went to Elisha. When Elisha asked where he had been, he told a lie. He said, "No where." Elisha said, "Did not I see you when the chariot stopped? Because you have done this, the leprosy of Naaman will cling to you forever." Gehazi walked out of Elisha's presence with leprosy.

Memory Verse: There is nothing . . . hid, that shall not be known. Matt. 10:26.

Jesus' Little Helper

Sherry ran in the house one day after school. She was all smiles as she walked into the kitchen to see her mother.

"Mother, I was Jesus' helper today," said Jane.

"I'm very glad to hear that," said Mother. "How did you be a helper to Jesus?"

Jane walked close to Mother and said, "I heard a bad story about Sandra, the girl next door, and I didn't tell it to anybody."

"That's a wonderful way to be Jesus' helper. It would be a much better world if people wouldn't tell the bad things they hear about people," said Mother. —Sel.

His Master's Voice

There is an old picture of a black and white dog looking into the horn of an old record player. The head of the little dog is turned a little to one side. One ear is lifted and his eyes are looking directly into the large horn. The words under the picture tell the story—"His Master's Voice." The little dog is hearing a voice that he knows very well, but he can see no one. He doesn't understand machines, but he knows that voice. He is puzzled, because here is the sound perfectly familiar, but he can't find the person who always goes with that voice.

I think that we are often in the same situation as the dog. We hear voices when we cannot see anyone. Sometimes when we are about to do something that is not right we hear a voice say, "Do not do that." Sometimes we hear a voice that says, "My child, give Me thy heart." We have all heard such voices in our hearts.

The voice that we hear that encourages us to do right and discourages us from doing wrong is our Master's voice. God is speaking to us. We do not see Him, we cannot see Him, but we can hear His voice.

When we hear God's voice there are two things we should do: First, we ought to listen. Then, we ought to obey that voice. It is very serious to disobey God. God wants us to do good things, and He doesn't want us to do bad things. We will be happy if we listen to the voice of God and obey it. —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who was healed of leprosy?
2. Who healed Naaman?
3. Did Elisha take the present Naaman offered?
4. Did Gehazi lie to Elisha when he took the gifts from Naaman?
5. What happened to Gehazi?

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Part 28

Sept. 30

GOD TELLS KINGS SECRETS

2 Kings 6:8-13

The people of Israel loved God. Elisha was a prophet who lived among them. One day the king of Syria made war against them. He told his army where to set up camp. He wanted to fight against Israel. Elisha told the king of Israel where Syria's soldiers would be camping. The king of Israel sent his soldiers down to that place, and sure enough, they were there.

The king of Syria then picked out another place. He told the soldiers where to go. Elisha, the prophet of Israel, told the king of Israel just where the Syrians had camped again. Sure enough they were there. This happened a third time. Now the king of Syria was sad. He called his servants and asked them which one had told his secret. He asked, "Which one of you is for the king of Israel?" One of his servants said, "None of us told the secret, O King. There is a prophet in Israel named Elisha who tells the king of Israel what you say in secret." The king of Syria said, "Go and bring him to me." It pays to serve God. He will help us the same as He helped Elisha.

Memory Verse: All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him [God]. Heb. 4:13.

Darin's Beans

It was springtime, and was warm and sunny. Little seven-year-old Darin's mother had given him a pail holding about a pint of speckled beans. Mother told him to go down past the cornfield and plant three rows of beans.

Now Darin did not want to plant beans because he wanted to sail his new boat in the stream behind the house. Mother gave him a cookie and an apple, and told him to hurry along and it would not take very much time to plant all the beans.

Darin ate the cookie and the apple on his way to the field. He made two little holes in the ground with a sharp stick, put in two beans; then two more holes and two more beans. Before long his back began to ache. By the time he had planted two rows across the field he was just too tired to walk any more.

He sat down in the shade and looked at the beans. He felt he could never plant all those beans. Suddenly he knew what he would do. He would plant all the beans in one hole. He quickly poured out all the beans into the hole and covered them up. "Nobody will ever know I planted them all in a heap," he thought.

About two weeks later Darin's mother went down to the field to see how the beans were coming up. Two rows were doing nicely, but nothing was coming up in the third row. As she was leaving the field she noticed a heap of earth where little bean plants were crowding up throught the soil in the cornfield. Darin's beans had come up and told on him.

Be sure your sin will find you out.

—Sel.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Heb. 13:8.

Two Brave Boys

Timmy came running home one day in great joy, and called his brother. "Richard, I found out how we can earn the money to buy our bicycles. There's a man up at Brown's Store who says he'll pay us ten cents for every quart of berries we'll pick. There are lots of berries around here."

"Hurrah!" and Richard threw his cap into the air. "We'll do it!"

"Come on up to Brown's with me and we'll ask where to take them."

Away the two boys went, and were soon talking with the man from the city. Timmy stopped for a last question: "What'll you do with all those berries?"

"Make wine of them; wines and other liquors. I belong to a wholesale liquor firm," answered the man.

"Yes, sir, we just wanted to know." The boys looked at each other.

"Richard," said Timmy, "we can't do it. We don't want to help make drunkards." They told the man they could not sell their berries for that purpose. He was angry, and called them names, but the boys stood firm.

—Sel.

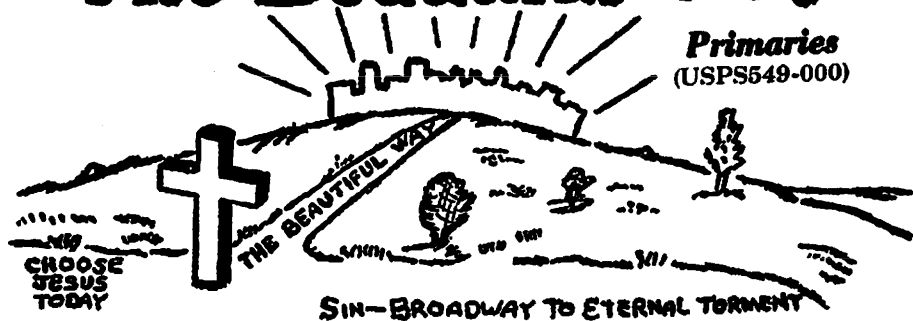


Questions:

1. Did the people of Israel love God?
2. Who told the king of Israel where the Syrians were camping?
3. Did the king of Syria think one of his men had told his secret?
4. How did Elisha know where the Syrians were camped?
5. Does God know all things?

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1979

Part 15

Oct. 14

SYRIANS MADE BLIND

2 Kings 6:18-23

The king of Syria sent an army to take Elisha. They came to Dothan at night and circled the city. In the morning they came down to Elisha. Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness." And God smote them with blindness. Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, neither is this the city. Follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek. Elisha took them to Samaria. When they came into Samaria Elisha prayed to the Lord. Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see." The Lord opened their eyes and they were in the midst of the Samaritans. The king of Israel said to Elisha when he saw them, "My father, shall I kill them?" Elisha said, "You shall not kill them. You did not capture them with the sword and bow. Set bread and water before them that they may eat and drink, and then let them go home to their master." The king prepared a feast for them, and after they ate and drank, Elisha sent them away. The Syrians did not bother Israel for a long time.

Memory Verse: Love your enemies, . . . do good to them that hate you. Matt. 5:44

Jared Goes to School

Jared and Judy were brother and sister. Judy was five years old and Jared was six. It was the first day of school for Jared and he was very happy. He had wanted to go to school for a long time, and at last the big day arrived. It was not hard for his mother to get him out of bed this morning.

Jared put on a new pair of blue jeans and a blue checkered shirt. He had cleaned his tennis shoes the night before, so that now they looked nearly new. He was so excited that he could hardly eat breakfast.

He didn't notice that Judy was not saying much and that now and then a big tear came into her eyes. She and Jared had always played together all day long, but now he was to go to school and she would have to stay home.

Jared was going to get to ride the big, yellow school bus that he and Judy used to stand and wave at when it went past their house. He skipped out the door singing a little tune he had learned at Sunday school. As he went down the porch steps two at a time he turned to wave to his mother standing at the door. He saw Judy standing beside her with tears trickling down her cheeks.

Suddenly he knew that Judy was sad because she couldn't go to school, too. He ran back up the steps and to the door.

"Judy," he said, "you must watch our tree house while I am at school, and not let anyone go to it. When I get home we will take some cookies to the tree house and I will tell you all about what happens at school."

Judy felt a little better and smiled at Jared. She waved good-bye to him as he got on the yellow school bus. Then she went to the tree house and began to clean it up and think about what fun they would have when Jared got home.

Wasn't it nice of Jared to try to help his sister not feel badly about not going to school? We should be like Jared and think of others. Sandra Whitson

"A good son obeys his father. A good son does what his father tells him to do. God is our heavenly Father. Oh, how God loves us, every one! Oh, how we should love God! And if we love Him, we will want to obey Him. We will want to do only what pleases Him and makes Him happy."

Hide and Seek

Sometimes Satan tries to play
Hide and seek with me;
But he's always "it," because
Me he cannot see.

It's because I hide myself
Right behind the One
Who is bigger than the world—
Satan then must run.

If he hunts me day and night,
Me he cannot find;
For I'm safe behind my Lord,
Who to me's so kind. —Sel.

Questions:

1. Did the Syrian army want to capture Elisha?
2. What happened to the army?
3. Did Elisha lead them to Samaria?
4. Did the Israelites kill the Syrians?
5. How does God want us to treat our enemies?

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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1979

Part 16

Oct. 21

GOD FIGHTS FOR ISRAEL

2 Kings 6:24, 25; 7:1-17

The king of Syria again took an army of soldiers and went up to Samaria. They circled the city and the people inside could not get out to get food. The people were hungry. Many died. Elisha said, "The Lord has said that tomorrow flour and barley will be sold cheaply in the gate of this city." One of the king's servants said, "If the Lord would make windows in heaven, this cannot be." Elisha said to the servant. "You will see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat because you do not believe."

Four men who had leprosy sat in the gate of the city. They said, "A famine is in the city and we will die if we go there. Let us go to the army of the Syrians. If they save us alive we shall live." They went into the camp of the Syrians. How surprised they were to find that the Syrian soldiers had gone. God had caused the Syrian army to hear the sound of a great army of horses and chariots coming against them. The people had lots of food but the king's servant was killed.

Memory Verse: The battle is not yours, but God's.
2 Chron. 20:15b

Jared Befriends Nathan

Jared was really happy as he entered the classroom. He was in the first grade. There were many boys and girls in the classroom already sitting at their desks. He wondered where he should sit. There were several boys there that he knew. The desks were made for two children to sit at. He started to sit down with Billy, then he saw a little boy sitting by himself in the back of the room. No one was even sitting near him. His clothes were ragged and Jared noticed that his toes stuck out of his tennis shoes.

Jared went over to the boy. "Hey, is anyone sitting with you?" Jared asked.

"No," the boy said shyly.

"Is it okay if I sit with you?" he asked.

"It's fine," the boy said as his face lit up.

"My name's Jared. What's yours?" "Nathan."

Some of the other boys snickered when Jared sat down beside Nathan. One boy even whispered, "You'll get fleas." Jared paid no attention to what the other boys said. He talked with Nathan until the bell rang for class to begin.

Jared learned that Nathan's dad was dead and that his mother took in washings and did baby-sitting to support her five children. Nathan was very glad to have a friend. He could not help it because he came from a poor family.

At lunch Jared sat beside Nathan, which made Nathan very happy. Soon, some of the other boys came over and sat beside them, too. Since Jared was being a friend to Nathan, some of the

other boys thought they would be, too.

We should always be friendly with people and not make fun of them. Children cannot help being born into a family without much money. Often they are better friends because they are not usually selfish S.W.

"Long ago Jesus sat on a hillside and told His disciples how those who love God should act. He wants us to be humble and not to think that we are better than we are. God likes people to be fair and kind. He wants us to have pure hearts — hearts full of love, not hate. And God is glad when a person likes peace more than he likes to fight."

"Mother, look!" Billy excitedly said, as he walked into the room with a pretty potted plant. "This is your birthday present."

"Oh, my dear boy!" exclaimed Mother. "That is so pretty! You have made me so happy."

"I saved my money a long time and then Daddy added some and we got this for you."

"Oh, this just makes me glad that I can get your breakfast for you, wash your clothes, and love you today," Mother said as she hugged her boy. —M. Miles

Questions:

1. Why could the people of Samaria not get food?
2. Did God send them food?
3. What happened to the servant who did not believe God?
4. Does God want us to believe His promises?
5. What did the army hear that made them leave?

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Part 17

Oct. 28

GOD HELPS A WOMAN

2 Kings 8:1-6

You remember the woman whose son had died and Elisha prayed for him and God brought him back to life? Elisha had told this woman that there would be seven years of famine and for her to take her family and leave the country. She obeyed him and went to the land of the Philistines. When she came back after the seven years, her house and land had been taken from her. She tried to get it back. She cried, but even tears would not get it back for her. She decided to go to the king and ask him to get it for her.

One day Elisha's servant was talking to the king. He was telling the king how Elisha had brought a boy back to life through the power of God. Just then the woman whose son had been brought back to life walked in. She told the king that while she was gone her house and land had been taken away from her. Elisha's servant said to the king, "My Lord, O king: this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha brought back to life." The woman told the king all about it. The king told an officer to restore all that had belonged to the woman.

Memory Verse: God is . . . a very present help in trouble.
Psalms 46:1

An Accident On the Bus

The school bell rang. As soon as Jared got outside, the school door he ran for the school bus. He found a seat and sat down. Pretty soon the bus began to fill up with children.

One big boy in the fifth grade came over to Jared. "Hey, you've got my seat, Tid-bit," he said with a jeer.

"I got here first," Jared said. "There are some more seats in the back."

"I know, and you can sit in one of them, or on the floor whichever you like," the boy said as he grabbed Jared by the arm and jerked him to his feet.

"Oh, that hurts," Jared cried out when the boy pulled his arm.

The big boy sat down in Jared's seat and Jared found himself standing, rubbing his arm. Some of the boys around laughed and said, "That's the way to treat little folk." Some of the others said, "What a shame to treat a little boy so."

Jared felt like crying, but he did not want the big boy to see his tears. He went to the back of the bus and sat down. He continued to rub his arm and fight back his tears. He knew that he was too little to take his part against the big boy, and besides his mother had told him not to fight. He knew that Jesus understood how he felt, but he couldn't understand why Jesus had let the boy be so mean to him.

As the bus jolted over the roads, two boys got into a scuffle and one threw a book at the other. The boy dodged, and the book hit the boy in the head who had taken Jared's seat. The boy cried out in pain.

Jared felt sorry for the boy. In his heart he asked the Lord to stop the boy's

pain. Then he realized that had the big boy not made him get out of his seat, he would have been the one hit in the head. Sometimes God allows unpleasant things to happen to us to prevent us from being hurt worse. S.W.

As Dana and Cathy were walking beside a pond, they heard a splash just ahead of them.

"It was just the frogs," said Dana. "They think we will hurt them. They jump off the bank and hide in the water when they hear us coming."

It would be good if more boys and girls were like these frogs. When they are in danger of sin that is near them, they should jump away from it.

Sel.

Dishonest, Lord? No, nevermore
Shall heart of mine yet hold in store
The evil seed that grows and bears
Such evil fruit. For now the tares
Are rooted out and never can
Spring forth to cheat, defraud a man,
Myself, or God, as long as I
Do yield myself and always try,
By grace divine, to do His will,
That He my soul may ever fill
With Holy Spirit. Thus the three
In one shall e'er abide with me.

—Jennie C. Rutty

Questions:

1. Who told the woman to leave her home for seven years?
2. What happened to her house and land while she was gone?
3. To whom did she go to get her land back?
4. Did the king give her land back?
5. Who will help us when we have problems?

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Part 18

Nov. 4

JONAH DISOBEYS GOD

Jonah 1:1-17

"Jonah, I want you to go to Nineveh and tell them to repent of their sins," God said. Jonah did not want to go, so he fled down to the sea. He took a ship, paid his fare and went down into the bottom of the ship. He ran from the presence of the Lord. The Lord knew where Jonah was. He sent a great wind into the sea and it seemed that the ship would be broken. The men unloaded the ship of its cargo. The men were afraid. The captain found Jonah in the bottom of the ship fast asleep. He said, "Arise, oh, sleeper, call upon thy God to save us or we perish." The wind continued to blow. Finally, the men cast lots to see who had brought this evil upon them. The lot fell on Jonah. They asked him where he came from and where he was going. Jonah said, "I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which made the sea and the dry land." The men on the ship were greatly afraid when Jonah told them that he fled from God's presence. "What shall we do?" they asked. Jonah said, "Cast me into the sea. I know this storm came because of me." So they cast Jonah into the sea, and the waves calmed. God prepared a big fish to swallow him.

Memory Verse: One sinner destroyeth much good. Eccl. 9:18

The Beauty of Age

One day Judy and Jared were walking in the woods with their dad. They noticed that the trees were now beautiful colors of yellow, red, and orange.

"Daddy," Judy asked, "are these the same trees that have been here all summer?"

"Yes," said Daddy.

"How did they change colors?" she asked. "They used to be green."

Daddy stopped and pulled a beautiful golden leaf from a low limb.

"God put colors in the leaves that we call pigment. In the summertime the leaves make a green pigment, but in the autumn they quit making the green color. The yellow pigment is there all the time, but in summer we can't see it because of so much green."

"Why do the leaves fall off the trees in winter?" Jared asked.

"When the leaves are changing colors, a thin layer forms at the end of the stem. This keeps food from going to the leaf from the tree. Soon the leaf is no longer a living part of the tree. It gets dry and weak and falls to the ground," Dad explained.

"Why does God let the leaves die when they are such pretty colors?" asked Judy.

"Sometimes God takes things when they are the most beautiful. As Christian men and women get older they seem to have a beauty about them that they did not have when they were younger. Just as the leaves change colors, as one gets older often their hair begins to change colors, too. The Bible says, 'The beauty of old men is the gray head,' " Daddy told them.

"Mrs. Talbert is old and doesn't have gray hair," Jared said.

"Well, look over here at this tree, Jared. It's leaves are already beginning to fall off and they haven't turned colors very much," Daddy said. "It's the same way with people."

"When I look at the beautiful colored leaves from now on, I will think of how the Lord makes us beautiful as we get older and live for Him," Judy said.

—S. W.

"Some people forget that food is a gift from God. Most of us go to the store for food. But it is God who sends the sunshine and rain so that there is food to buy. We need to thank God for the food we eat."

...and I've had a terrible case of indigestion for the last 3 days—but this morning I threw up and now I feel a lot better.



Questions:

1. Who disobeyed the Lord?
2. Where did Jonah go trying to get away from God?
3. What happened while at sea?
4. Were the men afraid?
5. What did they do with Jonah?

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Part 19

Nov. 11

JONAH OBEYS GOD

Jonah 2:7, 10; 3:1-10

Jonah was in the bottom of the sea in the belly of the whale. There he prayed. God heard his cry. He was sorry he had disobeyed God. The Lord told the fish to vomit out Jonah upon dry land. The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time. "Arise and go to Nineveh and preach what I tell you." Jonah obeyed the Lord. He went to Nineveh and said, "In forty days Nineveh will be overthrown." The people believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth. The king arose from his throne and put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. The King said, "Let neither man nor beast taste anything nor drink water. Let every man cry mightily unto the Lord. Maybe this evil will be turned away from us if we repent." They were sorry for their sins. They cried to God. God heard their prayer. God always hears prayers that are humble. God said, "I will not punish this great city. I will spare it." The people of Nineveh were very glad. They were happy that they had called upon God. When we pray to God and obey His Word He always hears and answers prayer.

Memory Verse: "They repented at the preaching of Jonah."
Luke 11:32

What Is Eternity?

One Sunday morning while Jared was tying his shoelaces, he was thinking about something the preacher had said the week before. The preacher had said that the Christians will live with God in eternity. He couldn't understand what the preacher meant. Just then his Dad came into the room and sat down to read his Bible.

"Daddy," Jared said as he walked over to his Dad, "what is eternity?"

"Eternity means forever and ever, Son." Dad said.

"But how can something be forever and ever? Won't there ever be an end?"

"No, there is no end to eternity."

"You mean that when we go to heaven we'll live on and on and on?"

"Jared," his Dad said, "you have just learned to count. How high can you count?"

"I don't know. Real high, I guess."

"If you counted to one thousand, is that the highest number?" Dad asked.

"No."

"What if you counted to ten thousand or even a million, couldn't you always count a number higher?"

"Yes," said Jared, "if I counted to a million, I could then count one million and one, one million and two."

"That's right," said Dad, "there is always a larger number. Here we count our lives in years. We may live 40 years and then die, or we may live 80 years. But in eternity we won't count in years because there would always be another year of our life there. It's sometimes hard to imagine something that will never end, because in this life everything has an end. But eternity means without an end."

"Now I think I know what the song means that we sing that says, 'long eternity.' It would be terrible to be away from God forever and ever. But if I live for God I will be happy with Him forever and ever in eternity."

— Sandra Whitson

Time to Pray

Begin each day with prayer.

Ask for God's love and care.

God will watch over you.

He'll keep you the whole day through.

End each day with prayer.

Thank God for His love and care.

Don't be afraid of the night.

God will keep you in His sight.

— Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. What swallowed Jonah when he was in the sea?
2. When Jonah was back on land, did God speak to him again?
3. Where did God tell him to go?
4. Did the people repent?
5. Will God forgive us when we are sorry for doing wrong?

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Part 20

Nov. 18

JONAH LEARNS A LESSON

Jonah 4:1-11

Jonah was unhappy because God did not destroy Nineveh. He thought they would make fun of him now. He prayed to God, "O Lord, before I came to Nineveh I knew that you were a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and of great kindness. Now please take my life from me. It is better that I die and not live." Jonah went outside the city and sat down under a booth. God prepared a large gourd to grow up over Jonah to make a shade for him. Jonah was glad for the gourd vine. Then God prepared a worm. The next day the worm ate on the vine and the gourd died. Then God sent a hot east wind to beat upon the head of Jonah when the sun came up. Jonah wished that he could die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." He was so upset because the worm ate the gourd vine and it died. The Lord said to him, "You had pity on the gourd which you did not even cause to grow. It came up in a night and died in a night. Should not I spare Nineveh, that great city that has one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left?"

Memory Verse: Behold the goodness and severity of God.
Romans 11:22a

A Change In Thanksgiving Plans

It was Thanksgiving day and Judy and Jared were happy because they were going to their grandparents' house in the country. Their grandmother would have turkey and dressing and pumpkin pie. Their grandfather would take them out to see the cows and chickens. They would have so much fun.

After they had driven far into the country, their car broke down. There was a service station down the road a few miles but it was closed on Thanksgiving. They would have to wait till tomorrow to get the car repaired. The children were very disappointed.

Nearby was an old farmhouse. They walked over to it to see if there was a telephone. An old lady came to the door. She was bundled up with a shawl and scarf. She was quite old. The house felt chilly because she had little wood in the house. Dad found an old saw in the woodshed, and he and Jared went out to cut some wood for the fireplace. While they were in the woods, they saw a rabbit that had been caught under a fallen tree. They decided that Mother could dress and cook the rabbit for dinner.

Mother and Judy tidied up the house and set about to cook. They found some turnips and apples in the cellar. Mother baked an apple pie.

After an hour or so, a bright fire was in the fireplace and the whole house was getting warm. There was also a stack of firewood on the back porch. The delicious smell of food floated throughout the house.

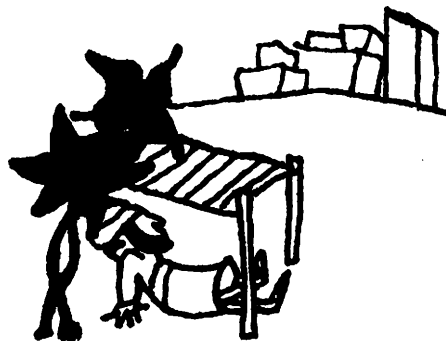
When they all gathered around the table for the Thanksgiving dinner, it really looked like a feast, especially to

the old lady. When she asked the Lord's blessings on the food, she said, "And, Lord, we thank you kindly for sending these angels of mercy our way. Lowly as we are, You were mindful to send us some kind friends to help and comfort our lonely life. May you send others to help them in time of need, as you sent them to help me. With thankful hearts we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."

Judy and Jared no longer felt badly about not getting to their grandparents' house, but were glad that they could share Thanksgiving day with this kind lady who loved God and who appreciated their being with her. S.W.

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.
Psalm 122:1.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Was Jonah unhappy that God did not destroy Nineveh?
2. What did God cause to grow up to shade Jonah?
3. What ate the gourd?
4. Did God show mercy to Nineveh?
5. Does God show mercy to us?

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Part 21

Nov. 25

JOSHUA CHANGES CLOTHES

Zech. 3:1-11

Joshua, the high priest, was standing before the angel of the Lord. Satan stood there also to resist Joshua. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan. Is not Joshua a brand pulled out of the fire?" Joshua was clothed with filthy clothes and stood before the angel of the Lord. Joshua wanted a change of clothes. The Lord said, "Take away the filthy garments from him. I have caused his sin to pass from him. I will clothe him with white robes of righteousness. I will put a fair mitre on his head." The angel of the Lord stood by so Satan could not keep Joshua from having his sins taken away and clean clothes put on him. The angel said to Joshua, "If you will walk in my ways and keep my laws, you will help others to love me and walk in good ways. From the fellows that sit with you, will I bring forth Christ. I will remove sin from the land in one day."

Isn't it wonderful that God let Joshua, the high priest, know that Jesus Christ was to come to take away our sins. We are living in that day and we love Jesus, don't we?

Memory Verse: I will give you power . . . over all the power of the enemy. Luke 10:19

Getting Lost

It was Saturday and Judy and Jared went with their mother to the city. They enjoyed going into all the stores with so many pretty things to look at. They really enjoyed riding the escalators, or rolling stairs, as they called them. Mother told the children to keep up with her because she had many things to shop for and couldn't keep her eyes on them all the time. Judy was careful to keep an eye on mother and when she got too far away she would run to catch up with her. Jared did not pay close attention to his mother, and once when she went down the escalators to the fourth floor he went up the escalators to the sixth floor. He hurried back down trying to catch up with her, but he could not find her. He looked and looked. He went to all seven floors of the store, but he could not find his mother or Judy.

Jared didn't know what to do. He felt like crying, but he knew that wouldn't help him find his mother. A lady who worked at the store noticed the sad looking boy standing looking about. She went over to him and asked if he was looking for his mother. "Yes," he said. The lady asked his name and then went over to a speaker that broadcast throughout the store and said, "A little boy named Jared has lost his mother. Will she please come to the shoe department on the first floor."

Very soon Mother came and Jared was happy to see her. "I'm sorry I didn't keep my eyes on you, Mother," Jared said, "I wouldn't have gotten lost if I had."

"That is right. That is also what happens to many people, as I was telling you the other day, Jared, that get their

eyes off Jesus. They lose their way and don't know which way is right. Just as you would not have gotten lost if you had kept your eyes on me, people will not be lost who keep their eyes on Jesus.

— S.W.

Jesus obeyed Joseph and His mother. He loved them and wanted to please them. I am sure He helped His mother at home. He might have gone with her to the well to get water. He could help her carry wood for the fire.

Jesus helped Joseph at work, too. He handed Joseph some nails and a hammer. Maybe Jesus picked up the small pieces of wood from the floor.

Do you always obey your father and mother? When you are asked to do something, do you do it right away?

Sel.

"Mother!" cried Dorcas as she came into the house from School. "What is it, Dorcas?" Mother asked. "John got a whipping at school today. He had a fight with Nathan," gloated Dorcas.

John," asked mother turning to him, "is this true?" "Yes," replied John. "What else could I do when he hit first?"

Taking down the Bible, Mother read to John, "but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Sel.

Questions:

1. When Joshua stood before the angel, who tried to resist him?
2. How was Joshua dressed?
3. Did God put new clothes on him?
4. What robe does God put on us when we get saved?
5. Who wants us to do right?

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Part 22

Dec. 2

THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

Matt. 26:14-16, 47-50; 27:1-8

One day Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I will deliver Jesus to you?' They said they would give him thirty pieces of silver. So Judas watched from that day to find a time when he could tell the chief priests to bring their soldiers to take Jesus.

Jesus went forth from the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas met Him and gave Him a kiss. He had with him a lot of soldiers with swords and staves. They took Jesus. The next day they took counsel to put Jesus to death. Poor Judas was so sorry that he had led them to Jesus. When he saw that Jesus was to be put to death, he brought the thirty pieces of silver to give back to the chief priests and elders saying, 'I have sinned because Jesus was innocent.' They said, 'What is that to us?' Judas threw the thirty pieces of silver down and went out and hanged himself. The chief priests and elders didn't know what to do with the thirty pieces of silver. That was the price of blood. They decided to buy a potter's field in which to bury strangers.

Memory Verse: The eyes of the Lord . . . beholding the evil and the good. Prov. 15:3

A Soldier for the Lord

On the way home from church one Sunday Jared was puzzled. "Daddy, in Sunday school the teacher said that we should be soldiers for Christ. How can we be soldiers when God says to be peacemakers and not fight?"

"Well, Son, the army of the United States does not just go out and make war with other countries for no reason. We have soldiers to protect our country, or in other words to keep someone else from coming in and taking over," his dad said. "Now can you think how we might help protect Christ and His Word?"

"I guess if someone said that the Bible is a lie, we could say that they are wrong; that the Bible is truly the Word of God," Jared replied.

"That's right, Jared," Daddy said. "We can also fight the devil who wants to take over our hearts. Whenever the devil brings bad things to our mind, he is trying to win us over to his army. Sometimes our heart and mind are like a battleground. We are on the Lord's side, but the devil often tries to get in and take over. We must fight back or he could get us in his army."

Jared thought a moment. "One day in the grocery store Jimmy and Danny took a candy bar when no one was looking. I wanted a candy bar, too, but I didn't dare take one. I told them that was stealing and the Bible said 'Thou shalt not steal,'" Jared said. "Was I being a good soldier for the Lord?"

"Yes, Jared," Daddy said. "You were protecting the Truth. Another thing, in the army soldiers are not lazy and must obey all commands. How are we to know God's commands?"

"By reading the Bible," Jared replied. "That's right, Jared. We must read the Bible so we may know what the Lord wants us to do."

"Now that I'm learning to read, I want a Bible of my own so I can read it and be a good soldier for God."

—Sandra Whitson

All For Jesus

Christ has no hands but ours,
To do His work today;
He has no feet, but ours,
To lead men in His way;
He has no lips, but ours,
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.

Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who betrayed Jesus?
2. How much money was Judas given?
3. Was Judas sorry for what he did?
4. What did he do with the thirty pieces of silver?
5. What did Judas do to himself?

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Part 23

Dec.9

JESUS DIED FOR US

Matt. 27:27-35; 28:1-6,16

Jesus was willing to die on the cross and take our punishment. So He let wicked men take Him. He could have called for angels to help Him, but He loved you and me. The wicked men put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and mocked Him. They spit upon Him and made Him carry His cross. They put Jesus on a wooden cross and nailed His hands and feet to it. Oh, how He suffered! Finally, He died. He died for you and for me.

A rich man asked for the body of Jesus. He put it in his tomb. They put soldiers around the tomb to keep anyone from taking His body. But suddenly the ground began to shake and the grave opened up. Jesus came forth from the grave. He was alive! The grave could not hold Him. He was seen by many of those who loved Him. Then one day He and His disciples walked outside the city. They talked for a while. As they watched, Jesus rose from the ground and went up into the clouds into heaven. Today He is sitting at the right hand of God. He loves us and will help us if we pray to Him.

Memory Verse: Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . . is set down at the right hand of God. Heb. 12:2.

Whom to Fear

"Jared," said Daddy one day. "Now that you have learned to read, I think it would be good for you to read a verse from the Bible every morning when you get up. You might read it in your room, and then tell us about it when we have morning worship." (Jared's family always read the Bible and had prayer together before going to school.)

The next morning when Jared went downstairs for worship, his dad asked him to tell about the verse he had read that morning.

He read from his Bible, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

"And what does that mean, Jared?"

"I think it means that we're not supposed to be afraid of people who want to kill us."

"In a way that's right," Daddy said. "People can only kill our bodies, but they cannot touch our souls. God can kill our bodies and also send our souls to hell. When someone wants us to do something wrong, we should not be afraid of displeasing them. They can only hurt our bodies. We should be afraid to do something wrong because it would displease God. If we do not live to please God, He will not take us to heaven when we die."

"Is that like when Billy wanted me to tell a lie to get him out of trouble? He said he would hit me if I didn't tell the lie. But I wouldn't tell a lie, because I knew God said not to," Jared said.

"That is a good example of what this verse means," Dad said. "Billy could only hurt your body when you didn't do

as he wanted you to. But God has power to hurt the soul. We must always remember that God sees everything we do and He even knows what we think about. And we surely want to please Him." S.W.

Lord, Give Me

Lord, give me a heart

That's free from all sin,
So others will know, Lord,
I've let You come in.

Lord, give me a smile

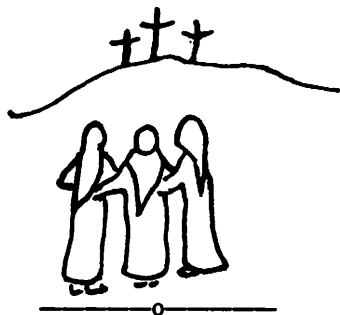
That's friendly and true,
So others will know, Lord,
I want to be like You.

Lord, give me kind words

To say to those I meet,
So others will come, Lord,
To worship at Thy feet.

Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who took our punishment for sin?
2. On what did wicked men hang Jesus?
3. Could Jesus have come down from the cross if He had wanted?
4. What happened three days after Jesus was buried?
5. Where is Jesus now?

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Part 24

Dec.16

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matt. 3:1-13

God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus Christ to come. He was a cousin of Jesus. John went out into the wilderness, close to the city of Jerusalem, and preached. He said, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Many went out to see him and to hear him preach. John wore clothes of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. Many confessed their sins and repented after hearing John preach. They were baptized by John.

When John saw the Pharisees and Sadducees, who thought they were right, he said to them, "I warn you to flee from the wrath of God that is to come. Bring forth fruits unto repentance. The axe is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down. There is One who is coming who is greater than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire. He has a fan in His hand and will gather the good wheat into the barn, but will burn the chaff." He was speaking of Jesus.

Memory Verse: Behold, I will send my messenger before my face. Matt. 11:10

Being Led to do Wrong

Kevin and Jeremy were the best of friends. They often played games together in their backyards, or rode their bikes on the sidewalk.

The summer that Kevin was six years old, his mother had a bad illness, so he was sent to stay with his grandmother for a while. At first Jeremy felt lost without his friend, but a new boy, Eddie, moved into the neighborhood. The new boy was from a family that never went to church and did not live for God. At first Jeremy would not do the bad things that Eddie did, but in time he took up with some of the bad ways of the new friend.

In a few weeks Kevin returned home, as his mother was much better. He and Jeremy were happy to see each other. But now Eddie was included in most of the things they did together.

One day while riding their bikes along the sidewalk, the boys stopped to look through the fence at Mrs. Brown's new collie puppies. "Why don't we let the puppies out?" Eddie asked. "They could follow us on our bicycles."

At first Jeremy didn't want to do it, but Eddie talked him into it. Kevin would have no part in the act and was surprised that Jeremy would agree to such a deed. Eddie and Jeremy opened the gate and called to the puppies. The puppies scrambled out the gate. When the boys left, the puppies followed them down the sidewalk for a little way and then wandered into the street. A car was coming down the street and could not keep from hitting the puppies. Two of them were killed. The boys rode quickly home, because they knew they were to blame for the puppies' deaths.

Kevin felt badly about the happening, but he didn't want to be a "tattle-tale," as children are often called who report such things.

"Dad, if a person knows of something bad that someone has done, should he tell on them?" Kevin asked his dad that night.

"Well," said Dad, "If he did something to hurt someone else, you should always let the wrong be known."

Kevin told his Dad all about the boys' letting the puppies out. His Dad had a talk with Jeremy's dad and Eddie's dad. The boys were punished for their deed. Eddie was very angry with Kevin for telling on them, but Jeremy knew that Kevin had not wanted to get them into trouble, but that he had to do what was right. After this, Eddie was not included in many things that the boys did together because they knew he would lead them into trouble. S.W.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

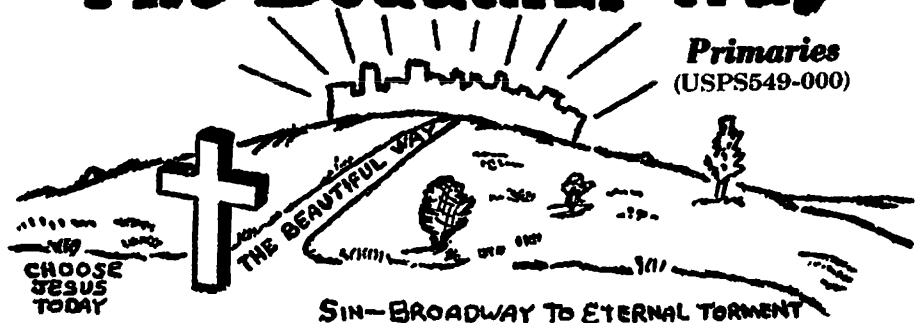
*Five
from the
wrath
to come*

Questions:

1. What man was sent to prepare the way for Jesus?
2. Did he tell the people to repent?
3. What kind of food did John eat?
4. What kind of fruit does a bad tree bear?
5. Does God want us to bear good fruit?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
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Part 25

Dec. 23

THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:1-13

In a far away land some wise men saw a star. They had read in the Scriptures that a star would shine when the king was born. They followed the star. They came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is born the King of the Jews, for we have come to see him? We saw his star in the East." Now Herod, the king, was troubled. He called the chief priests and the scribes to him and asked them where Christ should be born. They read in Micah and said it was to be in Bethlehem. Herod told the wise men to go and find the Christ and come back and tell him, so he could worship him also. The wise men left Jerusalem and the star moved and stood over Bethlehem. The wise men rejoiced when they saw the star. Soon they came to the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother. They opened their treasure boxes and gave Jesus some wonderful gifts. Then they fell down and worshipped Him. But God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where the child was, so they went home another way. When they left, God told Joseph to take the child and flee to Egypt.

Memory Verse: Christ cometh . . . out of the town of Bethlehem. John 7:42.

Learning About Humility

It was near Christmas and Daddy had just read from the Bible about the birth of Jesus.

"Daddy, if Jesus was a king, why was he born in a barn?" asked Judy.

"Jesus wanted to show people that they need to be humble even if they have a lot of riches," Dad answered.

"What is humble?" she asked.

"Humble means not thinking so much of yourself that you think you are better than others. Jesus could have been born in a mansion, but then people might have thought they had to be rich to come to Jesus. He wanted people to know that the riches of this world mean very little to God. He chose to be born into a family that was not rich."

"Did rich people ever come to see Jesus?" Jared asked.

"Yes," said Dad, "but sometimes they turned and walked away because they loved their money better than they loved Jesus."

"Do rich people not love God?" Judy asked.

"Some rich people love God and some do not," answered Dad. "If they live holy lives and spend their money to help people learn about God, they are pleasing the Lord. But many rich people forget about God and about other people. They only want to get more and more riches."

"I'm glad we do not have to be rich for God to love us," said Jared. "Some people would never get to heaven if we had to be rich."

"Jesus wants everyone to go to heaven — rich and poor, black and

white, the educated and the uneducated. The only thing we must do is to believe in Jesus and live to please Him," said Daddy.
— Sandra Whitson

When We Go to Church

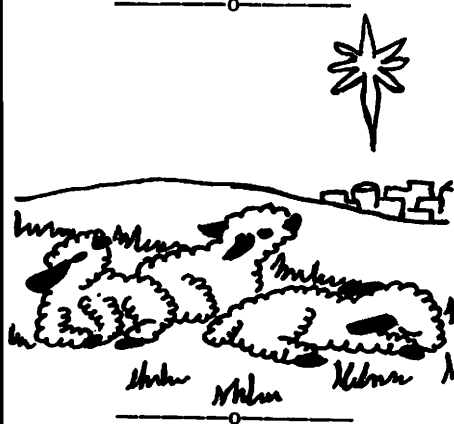
When we go to church, this is what we do,

On bended knees we bow our head, and close our eyes, too.

We whisper a prayer to God above, We thank Him for Jesus, His wonderful love.

We listen to what the pastor will say, Don't wiggle, don't talk, be glad today! Others are watching, and they will see, Are your church manners what they should be?

Sel.



Questions:

1. What did the wise men see?
2. Above what baby did the star shine?
3. What did the wise men give Jesus?
4. Did Herod want to kill Jesus?
5. Did Joseph take Jesus out of the country so He would not be killed?

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JESUS GROWS

Luke 2:40-52

Jesus was a little boy just like all other boys. He liked to help Joseph in his carpenter shop. Sometimes He played with the scraps of boards. He was filled with wisdom and favor from God.

One day when he was twelve years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem. They went to a feast. After being there for a few days, they started home. But Jesus did not go with them. His mother did not know He stayed, but thought that He was with the other travelers. They traveled a day. When she could not find Him with the kinfolk and friends, she and Joseph went back to Jerusalem. After hunting for Him three days they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of doctors. He was listening to them and asking questions. People were amazed at how well He answered many questions. Mary said, "Son, why have you done us this way? We have sought you sorrowing." Jesus said, "Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about my father's business?" They did not understand what He meant. He went home with them and was subject to them.

Mem. Verse: And Jesus increased in wisdom . . . and in favour with God . . . Luke 2:52

Bad Luck

One day Judy was playing dolls with her friend Cindy. Judy was holding a little mirror in front of her doll's face, pretending the doll was seeing how she looked. Judy dropped the mirror and it fell against a rock, breaking into many pieces.

"Oh, no!" Cindy said, "you will have seven years of bad luck."

"What do you mean?" asked Judy.

"If someone breaks a mirror they will have bad luck for seven years," Cindy explained. "It's also bad luck to walk under a ladder or if a black cat walks in front of you."

Judy had never heard of such things and this bothered her to think that she would have bad luck for seven years.

That night she asked her father, "Is there anything I can do to keep from having bad luck for seven years?"

"What makes you think you are going to have bad luck for seven years?" Dad asked.

"I broke a mirror today and Cindy said I would have bad luck."

Daddy laughed, "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."

The next day Judy told Cindy that she did not believe in 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."

While the girls were outside playing, the mailman brought a large package for Judy. When she opened it, she found

a beautiful China doll dressed in a purple dress. Her aunt who was visiting in France had sent it to her.

"See," said Judy, "if the broken mirror had brought me bad luck, this would not have been sent to me."

"I guess you are right," said Cindy.
—S. W.

My Neighbor

He is not only my neighbor
Who lives along my street,
For I should be a neighbor
To all whom I may meet.

And I should help my neighbor,
Whoever he may be,
If he is ever needing
Anything from me.

Sel.

When I Go To Bed

Just before I go to bed
I kneel down and pray;
To my Heavenly Father dear
My good night I say.

Then He watches over me
While I am asleep.
And until the morning light
He my soul will keep.

Questions:

1. What kind of work did Jesus' father Joseph, do?
2. When He was twelve years old, where did He and His parents go?
3. When His parents left Jerusalem, did Jesus go with them?
4. With whom was Jesus talking?
5. Who was the real Father of Jesus?