

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 31, No. 1

Jan., Feb., March, 1980

Part 14

Jan. 6

FISHERS OF MEN

Matt. 4:17-25

Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, began to preach. He said, "Repent: for the kingdom of God is here." Many heard Jesus preach. They felt sorry about their sins. They repented. They asked Jesus to forgive them of their sins. They quit sinning. Many loved Jesus. Some of the men who repented were Peter, Andrew, James and John. They were happy because they repented of their sins. They loved Jesus.

One day Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw Peter and Andrew, his brother, fishing. They were casting big nets into the sea. Jesus knew that they had repented of their sins. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They put their nets into the boat and tied it up. They left them and followed Jesus. They were busy men. Jesus wanted them to be busy for Him. Jesus walked on and saw James and his brother John mending their nets. They were in a ship with their father. Jesus called them and they left their ship and followed Jesus.

Memory Verse: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matt. 4:20.

A Trip to the Store

"Jared," said his mother, "I want you to go to the store and get two cans of tomato sauce. I want to make pizza for supper tonight."

"May I buy a soda, too?" asked Jared.

"No," said Mother. "I do not have enough money for that."

Jared counted the money his mother had given him. There was enough for a soda and a candy bar. As he walked down the street, he passed Mrs. Todd's house. Mrs. Todd was a very kind lady. An idea came to his mind. He knocked on Mrs. Todd's door. When she came to the door, he said, "My mother would like to borrow two cans of tomato sauce."

Mrs. Todd smiled. "Jared, tell your mother she may have the cans. There is no need for her to pay me back after all the things she does for me."

Fifteen minutes later Jared finished the last of his soda and candy bar. It really hadn't tasted as good as usual. When he entered the kitchen and put the cans of tomato sauce on the table, he couldn't meet his mother's eyes.

"Jared, you surely took a long time," Mother said. "Are you hungry?"

"Not much," Jared replied.

That night when Mother came into Jared's bedroom to tell him good night, she said, "Jared, the Bible says, 'Be sure your sin will find you out.' Isn't there something you should tell me?"

Jared's face turned red. "I borrowed the tomato sauce from Mrs. Todd and spent the money for a soda and a candy bar. How did you know?"

"You went to Reed's Grocery, but the price tag showed that it came from White's," said Mother. "Jared, even if

you had fooled me, God still knew all about it. Were you happy over what you did?"

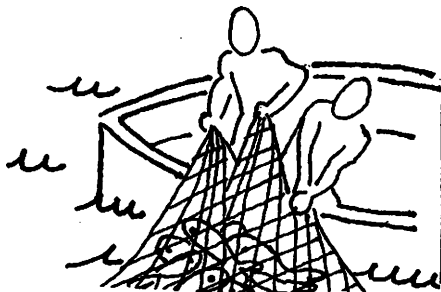
"No, Mother," said Jared. "The candy nearly made me sick. I'll never do that again."

Jared got down on his knees and asked the Lord to forgive him and to help him be better. —S.W.

Tiger Gets Saved

Pastor Ghi was preaching in Shanghai. A big man, Tiger the bandit, told him not to preach against sin or he would beat him up. He preached four nights. On the fourth night they heard a loud cry. Tiger, the bandit, had fallen on his knees and was praying to God to save him from his sins. He turned from sin and trusted in Jesus. —V. Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Of what did Jesus tell people to repent?
2. What were Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus saw them?
3. Did Jesus want them to follow Him?
4. Did they follow Jesus?
5. Who should we follow today?

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Part 15

Jan. 13

JESUS PREACHES TO NICODEMUS

John 3:1-15

The sun was going down and Nicodemus was waiting for it to get dark. Nicodemus slipped off from everyone to see Jesus. He had a question to ask Jesus. Soon Nicodemus was sitting with Jesus, and he said, "We know that you are a teacher from God. We know that no man can do these miracles that you do, except that God be with him." Jesus knew what question that Nicodemus wanted to ask, so He said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"What does it mean to be 'born again'? Can one become tiny again and be born?" Jesus told Nicodemus that He was talking about a different kind of birth. Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth, or a change in the heart.

A boy who had a naughty heart, told lies, and did not obey his mother, needed a new heart. When the boy told Jesus he was sorry, and quit doing bad things, he got a new heart. He was "born again." He was a good boy and did not do bad things. He loved Jesus. Jesus was put upon the cross and died for our sins so we could be "born again."

Memory Verse: Ye must be born again. John 3:7b

Things Money Can't Buy

One day Judy was looking through the new catalog.

"Mother, will you buy me this doll? I never had one with such long hair," Judy said. "And I would like to have this blue bicycle. I think it is small enough that I can ride."

"Judy, you surely want a lot of things, but I'm afraid we don't have enough money to get all the things you want," Mother said.

"I wish we were rich and could buy everything we wanted."

"Judy, you need to think about the things you have that money can't buy," Mother said.

"What do I have that money can't buy?"

"Just a minute and I will get something for you," Mother said. Soon she returned with a scrapbook. She handed the scrapbook to Judy. "Look through this. It is full of pictures of things that money can't buy."

Judy opened the scrapbook. On the first page was a picture of a sunset. On the next page was a picture of a snow-covered mountain. As Judy looked at each page, she could hardly believe there were so many things that could not be bought. There were pictures of hands and feet and eyes. There was a picture of a mother hugging her little girl.

"Mother, did you make this scrapbook?" asked Judy.

"Yes," said Mother. "When I was a little girl, one day I was complaining about not having money to get some things I wanted. My mother gave me the scrapbook and some magazines, and told me to fill the scrapbook with pic-

tures of things that cannot be bought. After that, instead of looking through the catalog so much and wishing for things I couldn't have, I would look through the scrapbook and think about the things that God gives us freely."

"May I keep the scrapbook?" asked Judy.

"Yes," said Mother. "I think you will enjoy looking at it each day."

—Sandra Whitson

"Today, dear Lord, I felt so bad when Johnny said he thought That I stole the pocket knife which he had just bought.

You know I didn't do it, Lord. I wish that Johnny knew."

The Lord said, "It's all right, my child, I was doubted too."

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



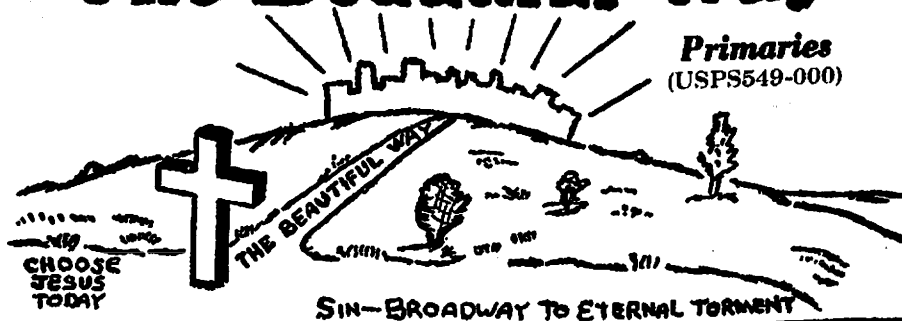
YOU CANNOT SEE
THE KINGDOM
OF GOD

Questions:

1. Who came to Jesus by night?
2. What question did he want to ask Jesus?
3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus to do to be born again?
4. What must we do to be born again?
5. When was Jesus lifted up?

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Part 16

Jan. 20

JESUS SEES ZACCHAEUS

Luke 19:1-10

Many people followed Jesus after He healed a blind man in Jericho. He passed on through the city. Jesus looked up into a sycamore tree. Who do you think was up in the tree? It was Zacchaeus. He was short and could not see over the crowd. He had run ahead and climbed the tree. How happy Zacchaeus was when he saw Jesus! This was the Man who had power to be rich, yet He did not have a place to call His own. He went about helping the needy and healing the sick.

"Zacchaeus, come down; for today I must go to your house." Oh, how happy Zacchaeus was! Jesus was calling him! He slid down from the tree. He led Jesus to his house. The people were unhappy. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Jesus wanted Zacchaeus' soul to be saved. Zacchaeus believed what Jesus told him. Zacchaeus was sorry that he had cheated people and had not helped the poor. He said, "Lord, half of my goods I will give the poor, and what I have taken from anyone I will restore four fold." Salvation came to his house.

MEMORY VERSE: The Son of man is come to seek and to save . . . the lost. Luke 19:10.

House of the Soul

It was a cold snowy day. Everyone was sad as they left behind a fresh mound of dirt in the little country cemetery. Judy started crying.

"I don't to leave Aunt Nancy in that cold ground," sobbed Judy.

Mother reached over and put her arm around Judy.

"Judy, dear, Aunt Nancy is not in the ground. That is just her body, or the house in which her soul lived. Aunt Nancy has gone to heaven to live with Jesus," Mother said.

"What is a soul?" Judy asked.

"The soul is the real person, or the spirit inside one's body."

"Do I have a soul?" asked Judy.

"Yes, dear. Everyone has a soul. When God made you, He gave you a soul," Mother said.

"How do I know I have a soul if I can't see it?" Judy asked.

"Judy, when you buy a package of balloons at the store, they don't look like what you really call a balloon, do they?"

"No."

"You have to blow up the balloon. You don't see the air that goes into the balloon, but the air is what makes it a real balloon. Without the air, it is nothing more than a piece of rubber. Well, that is sort of like our bodies. Without God's breathing the breath of life into us, our body is useless. It's the soul that makes you do the things you do. Your body would not run and jump and laugh without your soul guiding it to do those things. Our bodies will die some day and turn into dirt, but our souls will never die. If we live for Jesus our souls will go to God when our body dies."

"I want to live for Jesus, so I can go to heaven. Aunt Nancy is there waiting for

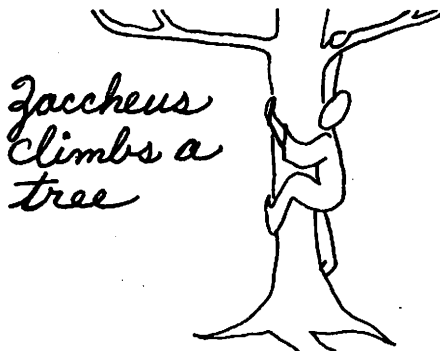
us. I am glad she is not in the cold ground, but is in a warm, happy place with Jesus."

—S.W.

A Prayer for a Horse

"My horse died, and, after traveling through the snow drifts to my appointments to preach God's Word, until I was lame, half sick, and unfit for service—as I had not means to purchase a horse, I thought of quitting the work and going to teaching, and laid the matter before God, in prayer. Soon after, some person at a distance, who heard that I had lost my horse, without my saying a word about it, raised the means by which I procured another."

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Was Zacchaeus a tall man?
2. What did he do so he could see Jesus?
3. Did Jesus see Zacchaeus in the tree?
4. Was Zacchaeus glad to have Jesus go home with him?
5. Did Zacchaeus give his heart to God?

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Part 17

Jan. 27

MATTHEW HEARS A CALL

Matt. 9:9-12; 10:17, 22

"Matthew, follow me," called Jesus as He passed by the table where Matthew was taking the taxes from those who went in and out of the city gate. Matthew got up from his place of business. He loved Jesus and left all to follow Him.

Matthew wanted his friends to meet Jesus. He had a feast at his house. He invited Jesus and His disciples to come, and some sinners. There were a lot of people outside of Matthew's house. They had not been invited to come to the feast. They said to Jesus' disciples when they came out of the house, "Why did your Master eat with sinners and publicans?" Jesus heard them. He said, "Those who are sick need help." Jesus meant that those who needed to be saved from their sins should hear the gospel.

Jesus sent His disciples out to preach to others. Jesus warned them that they would not be treated nicely. He said, "Beware of men, for they will bring you up before their councils." Jesus said that they would be hated for His name's sake, but if they would be faithful they would be saved in the end.

Memory Verse: He that endureth to the end shall be saved. Matt. 10:22.

The Broken Vase

One day Judy got up early, before her mother was out of bed. She wanted to surprise Mother by cleaning the living room. Some friends had been over the night before. Mother had said she would clean up the next day.

Judy picked up the toys and put them in place. She picked up the scattered books and put them in the bookcase. She found a dust rag and began to dust the furniture. The top of the bookcase was above her head, so she had to tiptoe to reach it. Suddenly with one swipe of her hand, she hit a vase. It fell to the floor breaking into many pieces. Her heart beat fast as she looked at the broken pieces. She was afraid Mother would think she had been careless and would be displeased. She decided to hide the pieces, and maybe Mother wouldn't miss the vase.

Judy got a paper bag and hurriedly picked up the pieces. She took the sack to the garbage can and pushed it far down. She sighed with relief. Mother would never know about that broken vase.

All day Judy had a guilty feeling inside. She didn't like to look her mother in the eyes because she was hiding something from Mother.

That night Judy was playing in the living room. She was barefoot as usual. When she walked over near the bookcase something went into her foot and hurt badly. She began to cry. Mother washed the blood from Judy's foot. "You have stepped on some glass," she said. Oh, how the glass hurt her foot! Mother tried to calm Judy, while Daddy used a needle to remove the piece of glass from her foot.

"I don't know how this broken glass got here," Mother said.

Judy remembered the broken vase. She must have missed some of the tiny pieces of glass.

"Mother," said Judy tearfully. "I'm the one who broke the glass. I knocked your vase off this morning while I was dusting. I hid the broken pieces. I guess God saw me do it."

"Judy, I'm glad you told me about this. If you had told me when it first happened, I could have cleaned up the tiny pieces and you would not have been hurt. Even when you hide things from people, God sees." —Sandra Whitson

"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established."

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Follow me



Questions:

1. Who did Jesus call to follow Him?
2. What did Matthew do when he heard the call?
3. Who went to the house where the feast was that Matthew had?
4. Why did Jesus say, "Beware of men?"
5. Who will be saved in the end?

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Part 18

Feb. 3

"COME UNTO ME."

Matt. 11:20-30

Jesus had been preaching in five cities. He healed the lame and the lepers, and raised a girl from the dead. But Jesus was sad. Many did not believe He was the Son of God. Jesus told the people in the cities that they would come to the judgment, and because they didn't believe on Him they would be punished. They knew the city of Sodom had been destroyed by fire because the people had not believed. Jesus held out His arms and said, "Come unto me, all of you. Come and give me your sins. Learn about me. Take my yoke upon you. Repent of your sins. Come and I will give you rest. I will forgive you of your sins. I will give you power over the devil. I will take you to heaven when you die."

Jesus looked up into heaven. He said, "I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and let the humble know about them."

Today we want to believe Jesus and give Him our hearts. Then when we die we will go to heaven to be with Jesus. He loves us more than anyone in this world. When we come to Him He puts happiness in our hearts.

Memory Verse: Come unto me . . . I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

Fidgeting in Church

One cold winter Sunday it seemed that Jared could not sit still in church. He kept thinking of the beautiful new sled with the blue stripes. A big snow had come a couple of days before, and now the snow was perfect for sledding down the hill near his house. As he fidgeted, his mother reached over and tapped him on the shoulder and motioned for him to sit still. Several times during the service she had to tell him to sit still.

After church his dad said, "Jared, you must learn to sit still and be quiet in church."

"But I don't understand what the preacher is talking about all the time. Besides it's hard to sit still and not do anything. I'm just a little boy, you know."

"You should be glad that you were not a little boy at the time your grandfather was a boy. He had it much harder than you do," Dad said.

"What do you mean?" asked Jared.

"Well, when your grandfather was a boy the sermons lasted sometimes four or five hours. There were morning and afternoon services on Sunday. Also, the children sat on benches that had no backs, and they were made to sit up straight without fidgeting. The only heat in the winter was from a pot bellied stove in the center of the room. Of course, everyone wanted to sit close to the heater, so the ones who came first sat in the seats close around it. That meant that the others were not close enough to feel any effects of the heat, and your grandfather said that his feet often were numb throughout the service. It was a German church, so the minister preached in the German language. Your

grandfather only knew a few words of German, as his mother and father both spoke English. Now do you think we're asking too much of you to expect you to sit still and quiet in a nice, well heated chapel for one to two hours?" Dad asked.

"I'm surely glad I wasn't born when grandfather was."

"Well, when you begin to find it hard to sit still in church, just think about your grandfather, and I'm sure you can have better self-control," said Dad. —S. W.

"If anyone tells you to do something wrong, always remember that Jesus is counting on you to turn away from it. He expects you to do the right things."

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

*Come unto
me, all
ye that
labor and
are heavy
laden*



Questions:

1. What did Jesus do in the cities where He preached?
2. Did those who lived in the cities believe on Jesus?
3. What will happen to them in the day of judgment?
4. What did Jesus tell them to do?
5. How can we find rest to our souls?

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Part 19

Feb. 10

PUTTING JESUS FIRST

Luke 10:38-42

Lazarus, Mary and Martha were brother and sisters. They lived in Bethany. Jesus often came to their house to visit. One day Jesus went to their home. Martha was so glad to see Jesus. She invited Him to come in. She began to fix Jesus some food. Mary was glad to see Jesus, also. She had so many questions to ask Him. Jesus was happy that Mary wanted to talk about God. He was glad to answer her questions. Soon she and Jesus were busy talking about many wonderful things. Martha kept trying to get Mary to come and help her. Mary was wanting to hear just a few more things that Jesus said. At last Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Bid her to help me." Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken from her." Jesus knew that Martha should take time to know more how to live to get to heaven. Martha needed greater faith. Boys and girls, we want to put Jesus first in our lives.

Memory Verse: One thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part. Luke 10:42a.

A Sad, But True Story

"Did you see that little new girl?" "Did you see her dress. It must have been her grandmother's!" The girls were very excited as they talked about Janie, the new girl. Rosa, who was older than the others, said, "I'm not going to play with an old-fashioned girl like that. We don't want her on the school ground." All agreed with her.

Little Janie, whose hair was neatly combed, was very shy as she stood off by herself, very unhappy as the others whispered and looked at her.

The next day at school Rosa took some broom weeds and gave them to the girls saying, "Now let's chase that new girl home." It was the noon hour and Janie was just coming back from lunch when those naughty girls took out after Janie and chased her almost to her gate. Poor Janie was so frightened that she ran as fast as she could to her home, crying with a broken heart. She told her father what the girls had done. Of course, he went right over to the school and told the principal. He told the principal that Janie's mother had died and her grandmother was trying to be a mother to her, and she had made her dresses long like the ones she wore when she was a little girl. The principal was greatly surprised and called for Rosa and the other girls to come in. The three or four older girls were questioned first and given their punishment. Then Vera and another little girl were called and they were shaking, not only from fear but because they knew they had done something terribly bad. Now the principal knew that Vera had good Christian parents who taught her to love others and to be kind. She put her arms around the little

girls and talked to them. They told her they were sorry and that they would be nice to Janie the next day.

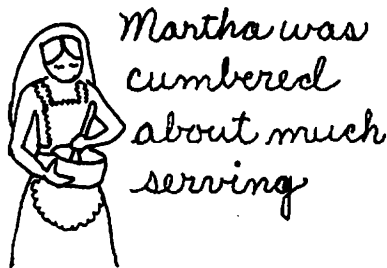
But the next day Janie didn't come and the girls found out that Janie's father had moved far away.

When Vera was ten years old she gave her heart to Jesus, and asked Him to forgive her of all her sins. Then she was happy. Later she thought of Janie and wished she knew where she lived so she could ask her forgiveness. She never saw Janie again, and her heart is always sad when she thinks of what she did.

Children, this is a very sad, but true story, and I hope you learn a lesson from it. Love everyone and always be kind, especially to those who have no friends. If you have done something wrong, go right away and ask forgiveness.

—Vera Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. What home did Jesus often visit?
2. Who sat at the feet of Jesus?
3. Did Martha say anything about Mary?
4. What did Jesus tell Martha?
5. What is the most important thing in life for us today?

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Part 20

Feb. 17

THE TARES AND WHEAT

Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus spoke a parable to the people. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. While the servants slept, an enemy came and sowed tares, or bad seed. When the wheat began to grow, the tares grew also. The servants asked why there were tares growing among the good wheat. "Shall we pull up the tares?" they asked. The man said, "Let them alone until the harvest. At the harvest time the tares will be burned and the wheat put into the barn."

The disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable. Jesus said that He is the sower. The field is the world. The good seed are the Christians, or children of God's kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The one who sowed the tares is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels. The tares are the wicked people who burn in hell. The wheat are the good children of the kingdom that will be taken to be with Jesus in eternity.

We must believe and obey the Word to be good seed.

Memory Verse: We must all appear before the judgment seat of God. 2 Cor. 5:11.

Washington's Love for Little Children

This week, on February 22, is Washington's birthday. George Washington was the first president of our great country. Many stories have been told about this great man. We like the story which shows how much George Washington loved little children.

One winter night, George Washington was to be the guest in the home of a rich man. The table was set with fine china and silver. Many good things were ready to be eaten. The people were waiting for George Washington to come.

A servant came into the dining room. The servant said, "George Washington arrived an hour ago. I took him to his room. He said that he would rest and wash before dinner."

The man of the house excused himself and went upstairs to find George Washington. When he passed by the door of the children's room, he heard singing and laughter. He opened the door and went in.

George Washington had the baby on his foot giving him a ride. He was singing a song. Close beside him stood an older child. This child was laughing with glee.

George Washington saw the father enter the room. He finished the song and arose. He told the children, "Good night!"

Then the father said to his children, "Say, 'Good night, and thank you, General George Washington.'"

The children always remembered the time when General George Washington forgot his dinner to play with them.

Great men love little children. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, loved little

children. When He was here on earth, He said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

—A. M. K.

Your Best Friend

A gang of bad boys wanted Jim to do something wrong. He refused and they threatened to beat him up. They told him, "You are alone and we are all against you." Jim said, "My friend is with me." They laughed, but Jim said, "My Friend is here even though you can't see Him." Then they left him without bothering him. —V. Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who was the man who sowed the good seed?
2. Who are the good seed?
3. Who sowed the tares, or bad seeds?
4. Who are the tares, or bad seeds?
5. What will happen to the good children and the wicked children in the end of the world?

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Part 21

Feb. 24

PETER WALKS ON WATER

Matt. 14:22-33

Jesus told His disciples to get into the ship and go to the other side of the sea. As the disciples got into the ship, Jesus sent away the people who followed Him. Then Jesus went up into a mountain to pray. While the ship was at sea, a wind came up. The ship began to toss to and fro. The disciples were afraid. They looked over the waves of the sea and saw a person walking on the water. They were afraid. It was Jesus. He said, "Be of good cheer: it is I: be not afraid." Peter said, "Lord, if it be you, ask me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." Peter walked on the water toward Jesus. Then Peter began to look at the waves as they tossed up and down. He became afraid. He took his eyes off Jesus. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. Jesus said, "O, thou of little faith. Why did you doubt?" Peter and Jesus got into the boat. The sea was calmed by the words of Jesus. All in the ship worshipped Him and said, "Of a truth, you are the Son of God!"

Memory Verse: O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matt. 14:31.

POOR KAREN

"Your new blue dress looks very pretty, Michelle," said Mother one Sunday morning. "It's the same color as your eyes."

"I like red better," replied Michelle, wrinkling her nose. "I need new shoes, too."

"Your black ones are fine," said Mother. "Let me comb your hair. It's time to leave for Sunday school."

Michelle was proud of her long blond hair. "I wish I had a blue hair ribbon to match my dress," she said.

In the car, Michelle was still thinking about her new dress. "Mother, I feel sorry for Karen," she said.

"You mean the smiling, brown-haired girl with the pretty green dress?" asked Mother. "Why, dear? She looks very happy."

"But Karen always wears that same green dress," said Michelle.

"She doesn't have a daddy, Michelle," Mother explained. "Her mother works in a grocery store, and they don't have much money."

Michelle thought about Karen who had one nice dress. Poor Karen!

Miss Brown, the Sunday school teacher opened the class with prayer. Then she said, "Now, I want each of you to tell me why you are thankful to God."

Michelle puckered up her forehead in thought, but Karen didn't need much time to think. "Miss Brown," she replied, "I'm thankful for my mother, for my grandma, and for my Aunt Martha, and I'm thankful because Mother and I are never sick."

"Why are you thankful for these things, Karen?"

"Well, my mother has to work. She says she can't afford to be sick, so we

ask Jesus to keep us well," Karen explained. "My grandma takes care of me when Mother works. We couldn't get along without her. And my Aunt Martha sends me a pretty dress every year for my birthday."

"I think those are lovely reasons," said Miss Brown. "The Bible tells us to give thanks always for all things unto God. We must never forget to tell Him thank you. Now, Michelle, why are you thankful?"

Michelle thought about her daddy and mother, her nice home and her closet filled with pretty dresses. She would never complain again! "Oh, Miss Brown," she said, "I have so many reasons to be thankful! I don't know where to begin. —Sel.

What is your memory verse, Betty?" asked Mother. Daddy had been teaching the children their verses while mother got the baby ready to go to Sunday school.

"Be very kind," Betty said. "Be kind to the kittens, to the doggie, to the horsie, and be kind to baby brother. Who else shall I be kind to?"

"Be kind to mother and daddy. You are kind to Mother when you pick up your toys before you go to bed. You are kind to daddy when you do not touch his Bible and lose his place for him. That's a good verse."

Questions:

1. Where did the disciples go when Jesus went to pray?
2. What happened to them on the sea?
3. Who walked on the water to them?
4. Why did Peter begin to sink?
5. Did the storm stop when Jesus got into the boat?

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Part 22

March 2

JESUS TEACHES FORGIVENESS

Matt. 18:21-35; 6:15

Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive a person who does me wrong?" Jesus told him a story. He said, "A king had a servant who owed him a lot of money. (It was a great big stack of dollars.) He told that servant to pay him all that he owed him. The king said that if he didn't he would have him, his wife and children sold and they would be slaves. The servant fell down upon his knees and begged the king to have mercy upon him. He said that he would pay it all. The king was touched and he said, 'I forgive you the whole debt!' Oh, how happy the servant was! As time went on this servant had a fellow servant who owed him just a little money, or a few dollars. That servant who was forgiven, told his fellow servant to pay him the debt. When the servant couldn't, he had him put in prison. When the king heard this he called the servant to him. He said, 'Because you did not have mercy upon your fellow servant, you will be put into prison until you pay me all you owe.' " Jesus has forgiven us of our sins, so we must forgive others of their sinning against us.

Memory Verse: Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Eph. 4:32

JENNIFER MAKES UP

Mrs. Morton came home from the store to find the house unusually quiet. "Stephen! Jennifer! I'm home."

Stephen poked his curly brown head around the door of the playroom.

"Here I am, Mother. I'm working a jigsaw puzzle."

"I'm in the bedroom, Mother," called Jennifer. She came into the kitchen and perched on a stool.

"Did you have a good day at school?" Mother asked.

"It was OK," she said. "But I'm angry at Stephen. He ruined my new ball."

"Oh, what happened?" asked Mother.

"He took it outside without my permission, and he and Timmy kicked it back and forth and kicked a hole in it. I do wish that Stephen would leave my things alone."

"I said I was sorry," said Stephen, who had been standing at the door.

"He's always sorry after it happens," said Jennifer. "Little brothers are a pest."

"Hush, Jennifer. Stephen, your sister bought that ball with her own money, so you will have to buy her another one with your allowance money," Mother said.

"I didn't mean to break her silly old ball," said Stephen.

"I'm sure you didn't," Mother replied. "But you must learn to respect other people's property. Don't play with your sister's toys again unless you ask her first."

"All right, Mother. Do you want to play now, Jennifer?" Stephen asked.

"No," Jennifer said. "I don't even want to talk to you."

"That wasn't very kind," Mother said when Stephen had gone.

"I don't care. He thinks that he can say he's sorry and make everything all right," said Jennifer. "Well, this time I'm not going to make up so fast."

"Honey, Jesus wants us to forgive others as He has forgiven us," said Mother. "The Bible tells us not to let the sun go down upon our wrath."

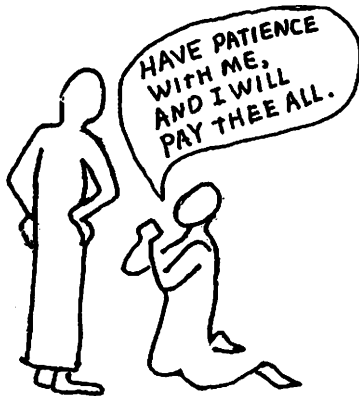
"What does that mean?"

"That means that you shouldn't keep anger in your heart," Mother replied.

"I'm sorry, Mother. I guess I'm as bad as Stephen. I'll help him with his puzzle now. That will be a good way to make up."

—Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Did the king forgive the servant of his big debt?
2. What did the servant do to his fellowservant?
3. What did the king do when he heard what the servant did?
4. Are we to forgive others?
5. If we do not forgive others, will God forgive us?

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March 9

JESUS HEALS

Matt. 8:1-13

Jesus came down from the mountain. A leper came running to Him and fell down at His feet. Jesus looked down upon the leper. Jesus saw the terrible sores that the leper had on his body. Jesus was sorry for the man. The leper said, "Lord, if you will you can make me clean from these sores." Jesus said, "I will. Be clean." The leprosy went away right then. How wonderful!

Another man came to Jesus. He was a Roman officer. His servant was sick and needed to be healed. He begged Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus saw the officer's faith. He said, "I will come and heal him." The officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you come under my roof. If you will speak the word, my servant shall be healed. I have soldiers under me. I say to them go, and they go, and come, and they come. Jesus was surprised to see such great faith. He said, "I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel." The officer knew that the disease would go away if Jesus would speak. Jesus said, "Go thy way. As you have believed so be it unto you." His servant was healed that very hour.

Memory Verse: But without faith it is impossible to please him. Hebrews 11:6

A BAG OF CANDY



Darin whistled as he headed for the store, with the crisp dollar bill clutched tightly in his fist. "Buy anything you want," his grandmother had told him. Well, there was nothing he liked better than candy bars, and for once he was going to have all he could eat.

The corner grocery store had a special on candy bars—ten for one dollar. The man at the counter smiled as he counted out ten candy bars and dropped them into the sack. "Are you going to have a party?" he asked.

"No. This candy is all mine," replied Darin.

"Well, don't eat it all at once or you'll have a stomach ache."

Darin walked out of the store, tightly clutching the paper bag. Just outside, he ran into his best friend, Richard. "Hi, Darin. What's in your bag?"

"Candy bars!" Darin replied. Reaching into the bag he got a candy bar and handed it to Richard. "Here. Have one."

"Thanks," said Richard.

The boys walked down the street each munching a candy bar.

"Hi, Darin," Lori called as the boys passed her yard.

"What are you doing, Lori?" asked Darin.

"Oh, I'm taking care of my little sister while Mother cleans the house," Lori replied. "And is she cranky?"

"Here. Give her a candy bar," said Darin, reaching into his bag. "And here's one for you, too."

"Thanks a lot," said Lori.

By the time Darin arrived home, he had only five candy bars left because he had also shared one with another friend.

"Well, did you spend your money?" asked Grandma.

"Yes. I bought candy bars," Darin replied. He opened the bag and gave a candy bar to Grandma, one to his mother, one to his brother, one to his sister, and he took another for himself.

Darin looked into his empty bag. "I don't know why I feel so good," he said. "I gave most of my candy away."

"I know why," his mother said. "The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and it really works that way, doesn't it, Darin?" —Sel.

If they be truth, the things you hear;
Then heed them every day.
When you get to the Judgment,
"Well done," Jesus will say.

—E. R.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who came to Jesus to be healed?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. What man had a servant that was sick?
4. Did Jesus go and heal him?
5. Did the officer find the servant healed?

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March 16

THE LITTLE CHILD

Matt. 18:1-10

One time Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child to Him. The little child was glad to come to Jesus. Jesus is so kind and loving. Jesus took the little child and set him in the middle of the disciples. Jesus said to them, as he pointed to the child, "You must be converted and be humble like this little child to be great in the kingdom of heaven." I am sure the disciples looked at each other, and back to the little child. Some big boys and girls, also men and women, do not want to be humble and little. They want to be big and have others look up to them. But Jesus said to be humble and not proud.

Jesus told the disciples to never offend or hurt a person who loves and serves Him. He said, "It's better that a millstone be hanged around your neck and you be cast into the sea than offend or hurt one of my little ones." Jesus told them that the little ones have a guardian angel and that angel watches the face of the Father up in heaven.

Memory Verse: The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. Psa. 34:7

Coming to Jesus

"Please, sir, will you give me a clean piece of paper like this one?" asked Armando. "My father wants to frame it."

The missionary looked down into the pleading face of the little Spanish boy and then at the dirty, well-worn sheet of paper which he held in his dark little hand. He took the paper, smoothed it out, and saw that the words of a hymn had been written on it. " 'Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me,' " he read. "Where did you get this, son?"

"We found it in my sister's pocket," Armando replied. "She died; but while she was sick, she used to sing it a lot. Now my father says he wants to hang it on our wall. Please, sir, may we have a clean one?"

"I will be glad to make you a new copy," the missionary replied. "Are you going to meet your sister in heaven someday?"

"I don't think so," Armando replied. "I'm not good like she was."

"You don't have to be good before you come to Jesus," the missionary told him. "Remember the words of the hymn? 'Just as I am.' You come just as you are, and He will change your life."

"Just as I am," Armando repeated softly.

The missionary then told Armando about the day that will come when this old world will be on fire and burn up. All the boys and girls, men and women, in all the world, will stand before Jesus to be judged. Jesus will separate them.

"Look at the men over on the mountain with their sheep and goats," the missionary said as he pointed. "When they bring them in for the winter, they will separate the goats from the sheep. Now

Jesus will do the same. He will say to the sheep, who are those that love Him, 'Come, thou blessed.' They will go to a wonderful place of peace and rest. But the goats, or those who do not love and obey Him, will have to be put into a place of fire. Jesus wanted us to know that all who love Him are sheep and all who don't are goats, or sinners. Now which do you want to be — a goat or a sheep, Armando?"

"I want to be a sheep!" he said.

"Then you must be sorry that you have done wrong and ask Jesus to forgive you."

They both knelt and Armando cried. He was sorry about being bad. Jesus came into his heart and made him glad. —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. What question did the disciples ask Jesus?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. What does it mean to be humble like a little child?
4. Does each boy or girl who loves Jesus have an angel watching over them?
5. What does Jesus say about hurting another person?

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March 23

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

John 16:7-13; Acts 2:1-6

The disciples were sad because Jesus was going away. He said, "I will send you the Holy Spirit. He will live in your hearts. He will help you to remember what I have told you. He will be your Guide. He will make you know what is right and what is wrong. He will judge the prince of this world." "

One day Jesus went back up in the sky to His Father. The disciples and others did what Jesus told them to do. While they waited in the upper room God sent the Holy Spirit down upon them. It came like a sound of a mighty rushing wind. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. As they looked at each other they saw cloven tongues of fire. These tongues of fire sat upon each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

In the city that day there were people from every country. God wanted the world to know that the Holy Spirit had come. The ones who received the Holy Spirit began to speak in other languages so everyone could hear about Jesus. Wasn't that wonderful!

Memory Verse: Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. Acts 1:8a

A Talk With Boys

"Remember, my son," said Robert J. Burdette, "you have to work. Whether you handle a pick or pen, a wheelbarrow or a set of books, dig ditches or edit a paper, ring an auction bell or write funny things, you must work. If you look around you, you will see the men who are most able to live the rest of their lives without work are the men who work the hardest. Don't be afraid of killing yourself with overwork. It is beyond your power to do that on the sunny side of thirty. They die sometimes, but it is because they quit work at 6 p.m. and don't get home until 2 a.m. It is the interval that kills, my son. The work gives you an appetite for your meals; it lends solidity to your slumbers; it gives you a perfect and grateful appreciation of a holiday.

"There are young men who do not work, but the world is not proud of them. It does not even know their names; it simply speaks of them as 'old So-an-So's boys'. Nobody likes them. The great, busy world does not know that they are there. Find what you want to be and do, and take off your coat and do it. The busier you are, the less harm you will be apt to get into, the sweeter will be your sleep, the brighter and happier your holidays, and the better satisfied will all the world be with you."

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." I Thess. 4:11,12.

—Sel.

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction."

A Guide To Live By

A boy saw his father using a "spirit level" to see if the board was "true" and "straight."

"What's the use of being so careful?" the boy asked. "It's pretty good, I guess. It looks so."

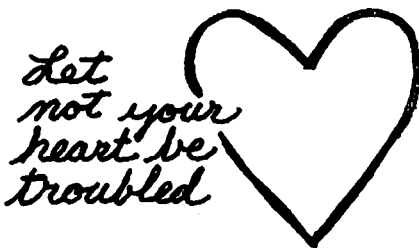
"Guessing won't do in carpenter work," said his father, "sighting" along the edge of the board, and shaving it the least bit. "You have to be just right. Folk guess at too many things. God doesn't like that way of living."

"Guess there aren't any spirit levels to live by!" laughed the boy.

"Oh, yes, there are," said the father. "You'll find them in the Bible. Try all your actions by that. Make them straight and true with no guess work about them."

—Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who did Jesus say He would send after He went to heaven?
2. What would the Holy Spirit do?
3. Who was in the upper room waiting for the Holy Spirit to come?
4. What sat upon each of them?
5. Who heard about the Holy Spirit's coming?

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Part 26

March 30

THE TEN VIRGINS

Matt. 25:1-13

Ten virgins took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five of them were wise. The five wise took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The five foolish took their lamps but no extra oil. They went to sleep while they waited for the bridegroom to come. Suddenly at midnight the cry went out, "The bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him." All ten of the virgins arose. The five foolish started out but their lamps had gone out. They cried, "Give us of your oil." The five wise virgins did not have enough to give them. So the five foolish went to buy more oil. While they were gone the bridegroom came and went into the marriage, and the door was shut. Soon the five foolish came back. They knocked on the door and cried, "Lord, open up and let us in." But the Lord answered, "I do not know you." Jesus said, "Watch, for you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh."

Jesus is coming in the clouds some day. Boys and girls, be ready to meet Him. Love Jesus with all your hearts.

Memory Verse: Watch . . . for you know not what hour your Lord doth come. Matt. 24:42

A GLASS OF MILK



"UGH! I hate milk!" Matt declared at breakfast, making a face as his mother placed the glass in front of him.

"It's good for you," said Mother. "It helps to build strong bones and teeth."

"How does it do that?" asked Matt.

"Well, milk contains something called calcium; it builds strong bones and teeth. All of us need milk in our diet," said Mother. "You like to admire Daddy's muscles, Matt; and milk contains protein, too, which builds muscles."

"Protein," Matt repeated. "What else is there in my glass of milk?"

"Oh, there are sugar, fat, potassium, and lots of other minerals and vitamins," Mother replied. "That's a lot of big words for one glass of milk, isn't it?"

Matt tasted his milk and wrinkled his nose. "Well, I wish I were an Eskimo. They don't have to drink milk."

Mother laughed. "That's where you're wrong. They drink the richest milk of all—reindeer's milk. It helps to keep them warm. People in parts of South America drink llama's milk, and in hot desert countries they drink camel's milk. Goat's milk is good, too."

"I learned a verse in Sunday school," Matt said. "'Desire the sincere milk of the word.' What does that mean?"

"That means that we must read and study the Bible, for it is our perfect spiritual food," Mother explained. "It teaches us how to grow into strong, healthy Christians. A child who won't drink milk will have a weak body, and a weak Christian is someone who doesn't drink much, or study, God's Word."

Matt picked up his glass again and drank every drop. "Now I'm going to have big muscles, just like Daddy," he said.

"I hope you'll be a strong Christian like Daddy, too," replied Mother.

—Sel.

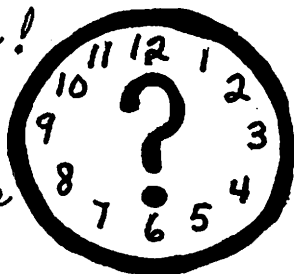
God Will Help

One day a man's hunting dog drove a deer fawn out of the woods to the house. The fawn fell at the man's feet all hot and out of breath. His tongue was hanging out. Its frightened eyes looked to the man for help. The man kept the dogs away from the fawn.

God never fails those who go pleading and crying to Him. —V. Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

*Watch!
for we
know
not the
hour*

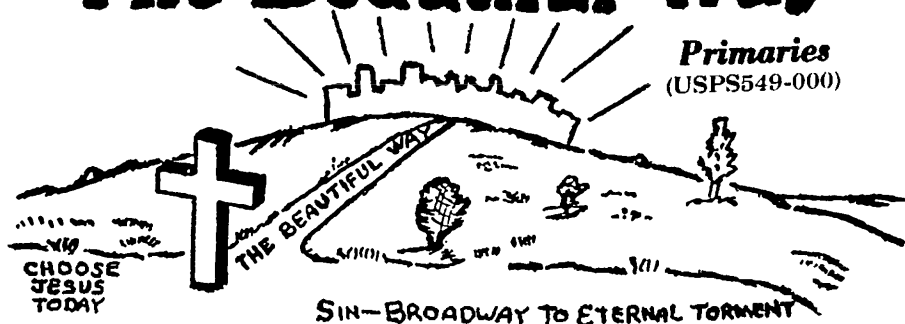


Questions:

1. For whom were the ten virgins waiting?
2. Did the five foolish virgins have enough oil in their lamps?
3. Who went in when the bridegroom came?
4. Did the five foolish virgins go in?
5. If we are foolish will we be ready to meet Jesus when He comes?

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April, May, June, 1980

Part 15

April 13

HANNAH'S FAITH

1 Sam. 1:1-10, 20-28

Hannah did not have a baby. She longed for God to give her a son. She went with her husband, El'ka-nah, up to Shi'loh to worship the Lord. After Hannah had eaten she went over by a post of the temple. Eli, the high priest sat close by. Hannah knelt down and prayed. She could not say words as she was weeping, but in her heart she prayed: "O Lord, if you will look upon me, and give me a son, he shall be given to the Lord as long as he lives." Eli looked at her and thought she had drunk too much wine. He told her to put away her wine. She told him that she had drunk neither wine nor strong drink. She had poured out her soul unto the Lord. Eli said, "Go in peace and the Lord God of Israel give to you your desire." Hannah was very happy. She knew that God would give her a son.

God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. She named him Samuel, which means, "asked of the Lord." When he was older, she took him to Shiloh. She gave him to Eli because she had promised him to the Lord. Samuel loved God. Samuel also loved Eli and helped him in the temple. Samuel enjoyed working for God.

Memory Verse: Ask and it shall be given you. Matt. 7:7a

The Spelling Test

Jared was thinking really hard as he bent over his spelling paper. He didn't want to misspell any words. He was sure he had them all right except for the word *winter*. He couldn't remember if it was "w-e" or "w-i." He thought hard for a moment and then wrote "wenter." He handed in his paper. Then he looked in his spelling book. He had written it wrong.

"Now it is time for writing," Mrs. Smith, the teacher, said. "Jared, work on your e's. The only way I know if you have written an 'e' or an 'i' is to see whether you have a dot over it."

At the end of the school day the spelling papers were handed out to the children. Jared's paper was marked "100" at the top. He looked at the word *winter*. There was a tiny dot over the second letter. He looked closely and the dot was really a flaw in the paper. The teacher had thought it was where he had dotted his "i."

"I never had '100' in spelling before, so I won't say anything about it," thought Jared. "I didn't cheat."

He took the paper home and showed mother and daddy. "That is very good," said Mother. "I will make a chocolate cake tonight to celebrate!"

When Jared was eating the cake he felt bad inside because he knew he had not really spelled all his words correctly. God knew it, too. He decided to tell his mother and daddy what had happened.

"Well," said Daddy, "I am glad you told us the truth. Being honest is much more important than spelling words correctly."

"Why don't we have some ice cream to go with the cake to celebrate having an honest boy," Mother said.

The next day Jared told Mrs. Smith what had happened. "I am glad you told me," she said. "I am glad to have such a truthful boy in my class."

—Sel.

Jesus Gave All

One time an Indian asked the bishop to give him two one-dollar bills for a two-dollar bill. The bishop asked, "Why?" He said that was all the money he had and he wanted to give one to his wife so they could each give to Jesus. They wanted to give their all because Jesus had given His all.

"Give of your best to the Master."

—V. Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



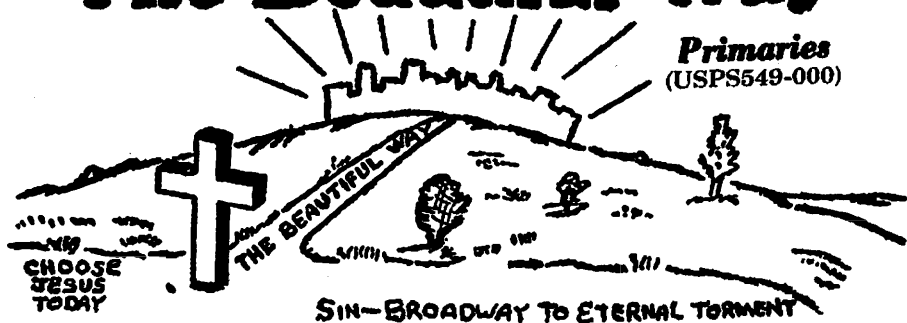
Questions:

1. What did Hannah ask of the Lord?
2. Did God give her what she asked?
3. What did she name her son?
4. Where did she take him when he was bigger?
5. What is our memory verse?

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Part 16

April 20

THE LITTLE BOY IN A LINEN COAT

1 Sam. 2:1-10, 18-21

While Samuel was at Shiloh, his mother, Hannah, worshipped the Lord. She was very happy because the Lord had heard her prayer and had given her a son. She prayed and said, "My heart is happy. I rejoice. There is no one as holy as my Lord. There is none like Him. He knows all things. He weighs my actions. He helps me when I fall. He helps the hungry. He helps the poor. He helps the poor inherit the throne of glory. The pillars of the earth are the Lord's. He has set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of the saints. He will judge the earth."

Elkanah and Hannah came to see Samuel every year. She brought Samuel a new little linen coat every year. He helped Eli in the temple. He lit the lamps, opened the doors, and prepared the incense. He waited on Eli, who was now growing old and was almost blind. He ministered before the Lord. God was pleased with the boy Samuel.

God blessed Elkanah and Hannah. God gave them three sons and two daughters. God was pleased because Hannah loaned her son to work for Him.

Memory Verse: The blessing of the Lord maketh rich. Prov. 10:22

Why Must We Work?

It was a beautiful spring day. Judy and Jared were helping Daddy plant beans and corn. Daddy made the furrows and let the children drop the seed. They dropped them just as Daddy told them to do. For a while the children enjoyed working in the garden, but later Jared tired of it and wanted to play with his cars in the sand pile.

"May we stop now, Daddy? I want to play," said Jared.

"We only have four more rows to plant, Jared. You may play when we are finished," replied Daddy.

"Why do we have to plant things to eat anyway? Why didn't God just make them to grow like grass and trees?" asked Jared.

"God knew we needed some work to do," said Daddy. "When he put Adam in the garden of Eden, God told him to dress the garden, which meant that he was to prune the trees and till the earth. God knew that Adam would be happier if he had some work to do."

"I didn't know that Adam had to work until he was put out of the garden," said Jared.

"Oh, yes," said Dad, "God wanted him to work from the beginning. When he was put out of the garden his work was increased because God said that weeds and briars would grow up. He would have to work harder in getting rid of those things."

"Why does God think we need to work. I had rather play," said Jared looking toward the sand pile.

"When people do not work they get lazy. Lazy people usually are unhealthy because their bodies need exercise. Also, when people don't work, their minds are idle and that gives the devil a chance to

put thoughts into their minds. Work keeps both our bodies and our minds healthy," said Daddy.

—Sandra Whitson

Better to Obey

A little girl was told not to go down by the seashore alone. One day she disobeyed and went down. She picked up shells and took them home with her. Her father threw them away when she gave them to him. It's better to obey than to give a gift.

"When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way. While we do His good will, He abides with us still and with all who will trust and obey." V. Forbes

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



She made him a little coat

Questions:

1. Was Hannah happy because God gave her a son?
2. What did she pray in her praise to the Lord?
3. What did she bring Samuel every year?
4. What did Samuel do around the temple?
5. Did God give Hannah more children?

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Part 17

April 27

ELI'S SONS DO WRONG

1 Sam. 2:15-17, 23-35

Eli's sons were priests and took care of the offering of the sacrifices under Moses' law. Men brought animals to be burned on the altar before God. The priests were to have part of the animal after it was offered. Many times Eli's sons took their part raw. Sometimes they took more than they were suppose to have. They did other sins. God was displeased with them. Eli talked to his sons. He said, "Why do you make the Lord's people to transgress?" His sons did not listen, but continued to sin.

A "man of God" talked to Eli. He asked, "Why do you honor your sons above God. Those who honor me, I will honor them. Those who despise me shall not be honored. Behold, I will cut off your house. For a sign that this will come to pass, both of your sons will die in one day. I will raise up a faithful priest. He will do what I tell him. He will do what I put in his mind and heart. I will build him a sure house and he will walk before me forever." Eli was sad because his sons did wrong. He was punished because he did not teach them right. His sons were punished because they did not listen to their father.

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

The Big Banana

It was a beautiful spring day, and Judy and Jared were going on a picnic with some other children. Mother was packing their lunches.

"My, what a big banana!" said Jared.

"It is too big to go in your lunch box," Mother told him. "You had better take a smaller one."

Jared wanted the big banana. "I think I can get it in," he said reaching for the banana. It was hard to put in his lunch box. He had to bend it over to make it go in.

All morning Jared thought about his big banana and how good it would taste. When lunch time came Jared opened his lunch box. The big banana did not look very good now. The end that had been bent over was all mushy and black.

Judy and Jared sat at a table with Randy and Susan. Jared was not as hungry as he had thought he would be. When he had eaten his sandwiches he hardly felt hungry at all.

Judy borrowed a knife from one of the ladies who was with them and cut her banana in two. "Here, Susan," she said, "you may have half of my banana." Judy gave Susan the bigger piece.

"God does not want me to be selfish either," thought Jared. He took the knife and cut his banana in two.

"Here, Randy," he said, "I want you to have part of my banana. There is more than I can eat." He gave Randy the good end of the banana.

Randy looked at the piece of banana in his hand and at the piece Jared had left. "That is not right, Jared!" he said. "You do not have much good banana left. You should keep this piece."

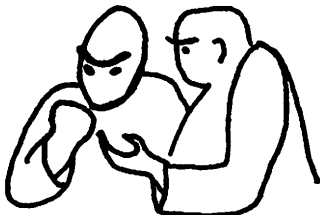
"No," said Jared. "I want you to have that piece. I would have had a good

banana like Judy's if I had not been so selfish." —Sel.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Little Jane was to have an operation in a hospital. Before they gave her the ether, she said she always prayed before going to sleep. She asked if she might pray. The surgeon and nurse let her. She asked God to bless the surgeon and nurse, then she said the "Now I lay me down to sleep" prayer. She said she was ready to go to sleep. That night the surgeon prayed for the first time in thirty years. —V. Forbes

Give it to us



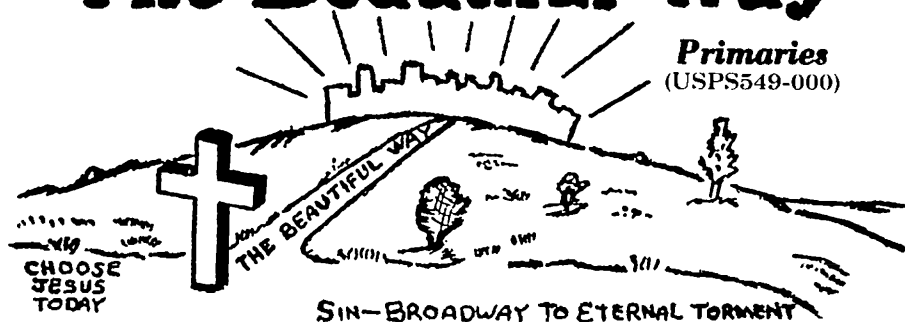
or we will take it by force

Questions:

1. Did Eli's sons take more of the sacrifices than they were supposed to?
2. Did Eli talk to his sons?
3. Did God punish Eli's sons for doing wrong.
4. Did God punish Eli for not putting them out of the priesthood for their sins?
5. Did God raise up another priest from another family?

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Part 18

May 4

THE CALL OF SAMUEL

1 Sam. 3:1-14, 16-20

Samuel was a busy boy. He obeyed his mother and father. When he went to live with Eli, the High Priest, Samuel obeyed him. Samuel loved God and he obeyed Him. Samuel knew to come when he was called.

One morning very early, before Samuel had gotten out of his bed, he heard someone calling, "Samuel." He ran to Eli saying, "Here am I." Eli said that he had not called him. After the third time he was called, Eli said, "Go, lie down and if you are called again say, 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.'" This is what Samuel said when the Lord called him again.

God told Samuel that he was going to do something in Israel that would make people surprised. Eli had not punished his wicked sons. God was very displeased. God told Samuel that Eli's family could not work for Him anymore.

When morning came, Eli asked Samuel what God had said and Samuel told him all. God blessed Samuel and for many years he was a prophet among Israel. The Lord was with him.

Memory Verse: Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Ephesians 6:1.

Candyland Express

Judy was playing in the park with lots of other children. She had enjoyed the swings for a while, but she decided to go to the slide. She stopped to watch the little train that wound around and through the park. "Oh," she thought, "how I wish I had a dime so I could ride the train."

She watched for a while and walked on over toward the slide. Just then she saw something shiny near her foot. It was a dime! This was wonderful. Now she could ride the train.

She hurried over to the gate with the dime in her hand. She saw two girls standing at the gate—a big one and a little one. The little one was crying. "I want to ride the train, too," she cried.

"Well, you lost your dime," said the bigger girl. "You will just have to play on something else while I ride."

Judy's fingers felt the dime in her hand. Maybe it belonged to the little girl. But Judy wanted to ride the train too, and she had found the dime. She started to the ticket booth when she thought about Jesus and what He would do.

Judy went to the little girl. "Here's a dime I found. Maybe it was yours."

The little girl smiled. "Thank you," she said as she took the dime and hurried to buy a ticket.

Judy was sad because she couldn't ride the train, but she knew she had done what Jesus wanted her to. Just then she noticed something yellow beside a rock. She picked it up. It was a ticket! She went to the conductor and showed him the ticket. "I found this laying on the ground. Is it any good?" she asked.

"Someone must have lost it," he said, "but we do not know who. So you can use it. Come on and ride."

Judy and the little girl both enjoyed the train ride. —S.W.

Mercy is being kind and feeling sorry for people. The merciful are people who refuse to get even with someone for a wrong doing. Instead, they always try to love everyone and show their love with kind deeds. This is just what Jesus told us to do: "Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you." —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

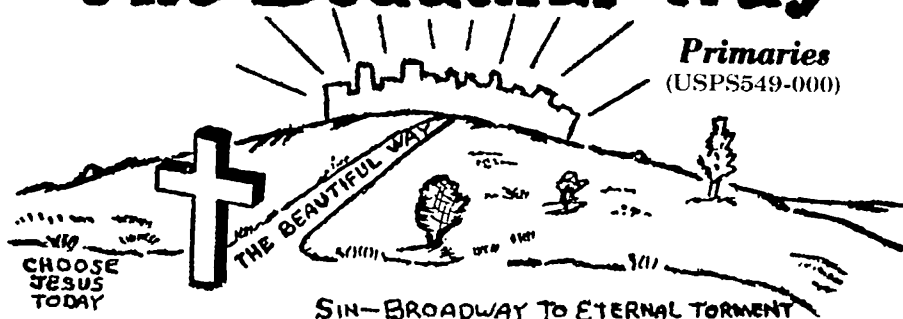


Questions:

1. Who did Samuel think had called him?
2. Who did call Samuel?
3. Did Samuel quickly answer?
4. What did God tell Samuel?
5. Will parents be punished when they do not punish their children?

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Part 19

May 11

THE ARK TAKEN BY ENEMIES

1 Sam. 4:1-4, 10-22

A huge army came to fight the Israelites. Many were killed. The elders said, "Let us take the Ark of God with us out to battle. Maybe it will save us from our enemies." The two wicked sons of Eli brought the Ark of God up to the battle. The enemy fought the Israelites. Thousands were killed. The wicked sons of Eli were killed. The enemies took the Ark of God with them.

A man ran from the army. He came to Shiloh. He tore his clothes from grief. Eli sat by the wayside watching. His heart trembled for the Ark of God. When the man came into the city and told about the Ark of God being taken, the people cried. When Eli heard it, he was very, very sad. He fell over backwards by the side of the gate. He was a heavy man. The fall killed him. Eli's son's wife heard the sad news about her husband and father-in-law dying. She also heard that the Ark of God had been taken. She gave birth to a son, and said, "The glory is departed from Israel." Then she died. It was a sad day in Israel because of the sins of the people. It is sad when people do not please God.

Memory Verse: The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life. Romans 6:23.

The Rainbow

It had rained all morning. Judy and Jared had stayed inside and looked at books and played quiet games. They had wanted so much to play outside since it was Saturday and Jared did not go to school.

In the afternoon Jared looked out the window and saw that the rain had stopped.

"Mother, may we go outside to play? It is not raining now," said Jared.

"Yes, you may go outside if you stay on the sidewalk. Do not get in the water," Mother said.

The children were happy to be outside.

"Look," said Judy pointing into the sky. "I see a rainbow. It is beautiful."

"I wonder what makes a rainbow," mused Jared.

Mother stepped to the door as she overheard the children talking. "God made the rainbow," Mother said. "It is the reflection of the sunlight on the raindrops. Do you know when God put the first rainbow in the sky?"

"No."

"After Noah and his family had been in the ark during the flood, the waters finally went down and dry land appeared. Noah made a sacrifice to God. God told Noah that he would put the rainbow in the clouds as a sign that He would never again destroy the whole earth with a flood."

"Then the rainbow is a promise of God to us?"

"Yes," said Mother. "When you look at a rainbow remember what God has promised and that He will keep His promise."

—Sandra Whitson

"Bein' Good"

"Be good," said Daddy oft' to me,

"Be good," said Mother, too;

"Be good," said Granny, "when you play,

And when you've work to do."

"Be good," I told my naughty self—
How well I know I **should**!

But "bein' good" seemed like a job
A lot too hard for me.

And then one day I met the Lord—

Yes, boys CAN know Him, too,

And say, I was completely changed,

With even a heart made new!

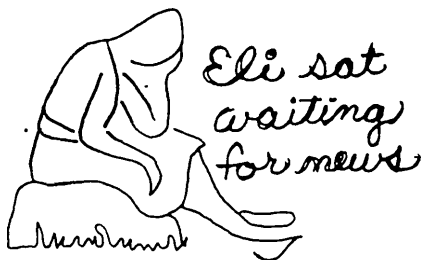
No longer do I try alone

To do the things I should;

With Jesus helping all the while,

I want-a be real good! —C.S.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

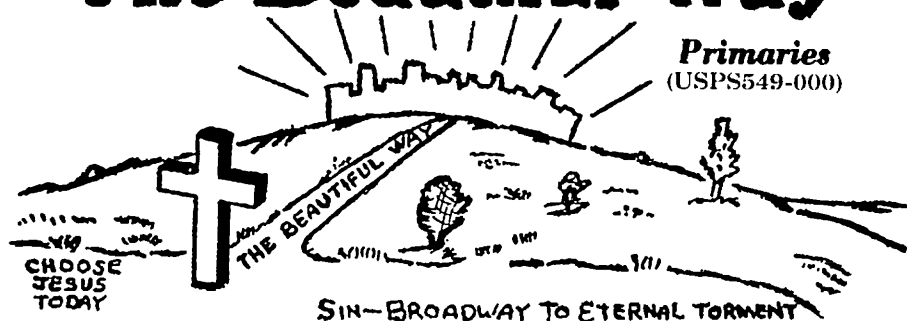


Questions:

1. Did God bless the wicked men when they carried the ark of God to battle?
2. What happened to the Ark of God?
3. What happened when Eli heard about the Ark of God being taken by the enemies?
4. What did Eli's son's wife say when she gave birth to her baby?
5. When people sin, does God's glory leave them?

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Part 20

May 18

GOD BREAKS DAGON

1 Sam. 5:1-12

The Israelites were very sad that night when they went to bed. The Ark of God, in which God's Spirit dwelt, had been taken by the enemy. The enemy put the Ark of God in their gods' temple. Their god, Dagon, was an image with a head and upper body like a man, and the lower body like a fish. They had made it out of the stone which our God had created.

The enemies, which were the Philistines, came to Dagon's temple early the next morning. Dagon had fallen upon his face before the Ark of the Lord. They set Dagon up again. The next morning he had fallen again and his head and both hands were broken off. God was greatly displeased because the Philistines had taken the ark of the Lord. He caused them to be very sick. Many of them died in Ashdod. The men of Ashdod sent the Ark of the Lord to Gath. Many in Gath got sick and died. The men of Gath sent the Ark of the Lord to Ekron. When the Ekronites saw it coming, a great cry went up. They said, "They have brought the Ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people."

Memory Verse: The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Psa. 14:1.

The Biggest Prayer

"I prayed the biggest prayer in our Sunday School class!" Jared told Daddy and Mother.

Daddy looked up from his Sunday dinner. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well," said Jared, "the teacher said the older children should learn to pray bigger prayers. She said we should think about other people and pray for them. She asked us all to pray out loud, and I prayed the longest of all!"

"What did you pray about?" Mother asked.

"I told God I was sorry for Mrs. Simpson who has a hard time getting around, and can't take care of her yard very well. I asked Him to make Terry well, and I prayed for many other people."

"How did the others pray?" asked Daddy.

Jared giggled. "Tommy just prayed, 'Dear Lord, please help me to help everyone I can. Amen.'"

"Maybe yours was the longest prayer," Mother said, "but it wasn't the biggest unless you really meant it all. I went to see Mrs. Simpson yesterday. She told me that Tommy comes over every day or so after school and picks up trash in her yard, sweeps the walk, carries out garbage, or does anything she needs to have done."

"When I was coming home from work one day last week," said Daddy, "I saw a little boy fall down in front of Tommy's house. Tommy ran out and picked him up. He brushed the dirt off him and took him to his mother."

"I heard Tommy's grandmother say that Tommy had sent his favorite airplane to Terry while he is sick," said Mother. "Terry is having lots of fun with it while he has to stay in bed."

"I laughed at Tommy because his prayer was so short," said Jared, "but Tommy prayed a bigger prayer than I did. He really meant his prayer. I was just saying words to show off. I will try to really pray from now on." S.W.

David Repents

If any one had told David he would be a murderer within a few days, no doubt he would have scoffed at the idea. But he failed to check the sight of his eye when it fell on a forbidden object. The next step was a lustful look, then a lustful desire, then adultery in his heart, then adultery in the very act, then murder to cover it all. Sin moves on rapidly when it gets started.

David realized his great sin and repented to God. His words are recorded in Psalms 51. "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. . . Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. . . Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. . . The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

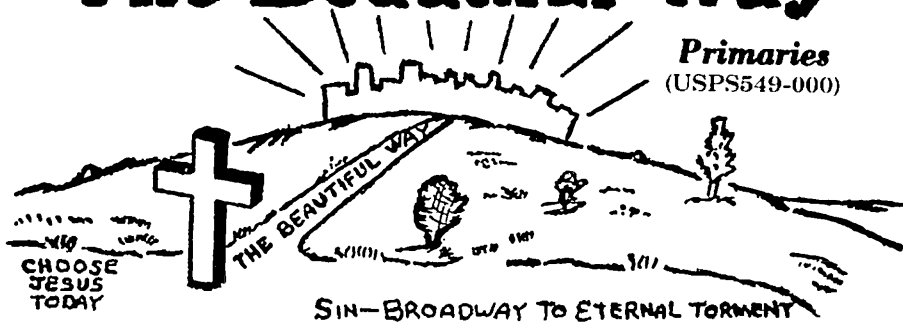
—Sin, *The Tell-Tale*

Questions:

1. Where did the Philistines put the ark of the Lord?
2. What did God cause Dagon to do?
3. What happened to Dagon the next morning?
4. Is there any God like the true and only living God?
5. What happened to the Philistines in other cities?

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Part 21

May 25

THE ARK GOES HOME

1 Sam. 6:1-21

The Philistines asked the wise men what to do with the Ark of God. They said: "Make a new cart. Take two milk cows that have never had yokes on them. Tie the cows to the cart and bring their calves home. Put a trespass offering in a box on the cart beside the Ark of God. Send the cows away. If they go straight to Israel, then you will know that the hand of Israel's God was against you. But if the cows do not take the Ark of God home, then you will know it was just chance that happened to you." The men of Philistia did as they were told. They put the Ark of God on the new cart and put the offering of gold and jewels in the box beside the Ark of the Lord.

They turned the cows loose. Instead of going to their calves, they started out for Israel. They took the straightest way to Israel and did not turn to the left nor to the right.

The people of Israel were happy to see the Ark of the Lord. They broke up the cart and used it to build an altar to the Lord. They offered the cows upon the altar.

Memory Verse: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
Psalm 33:12.

The Cat and the Piano

Judy's cat Tinkerbelle had been hurt. Mother let her keep it in the house so the other cats would not hurt it worse.

One night Judy awoke when everyone else was asleep. It was dark, but she heard someone playing the piano. *Plink, plank, plunk. Plunk, plank, plink.* Judy was afraid. She jumped out of her bed and ran to get into bed with Mother and Daddy.

"Judy! What is wrong?"

"I was afraid!"

"Afraid of what?" Daddy asked.

"I heard someone playing the piano."

"We're all in bed, Judy. Maybe you had a dream that someone was playing the piano," Daddy said.

Judy went to sleep in her parents' bed. After she had gone to sleep they carried her to her own room.

The next night Judy again awoke in the dark. She was sure she heard someone playing the piano. She went and got into bed with Mother and Daddy.

"Why are you out of bed?" Mother asked.

"I'm sure I heard someone playing the piano," said Judy.

"Judy, whenever you wake up scared at night, remember that the Lord is with you. He loves you very much. He will take care of you."

The next night Judy heard someone playing the piano again. At first she was scared, but then she thought about Jesus and knew that He was near her and would take care of her. She went to Mother and Daddy's room.

"Wake up," she said. "Do you hear someone playing the piano?"

Mother and Daddy heard the notes coming from the piano. "The cat!" Daddy said.

They all went downstairs and turned on the living room light. There on the piano keys was Tinkerbelle, walking up and down.

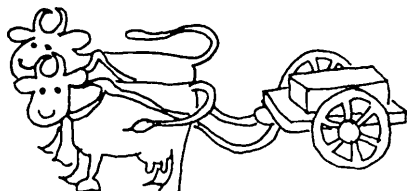
"I think the cat is well enough to stay outside from now on," said Mother. "We don't need music in the middle of the night."

After that, when Judy awoke at night, she always remembered the cat and the piano. She also remembered that the Lord was with her and that He loved her. —Sel.

Love Johnny

"Don't hit Johnny with that big stick. You will hurt him," said Mother as she took the stick away from Billy. "Jesus wants us to love Johnny. If you love him, you won't hit him."

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



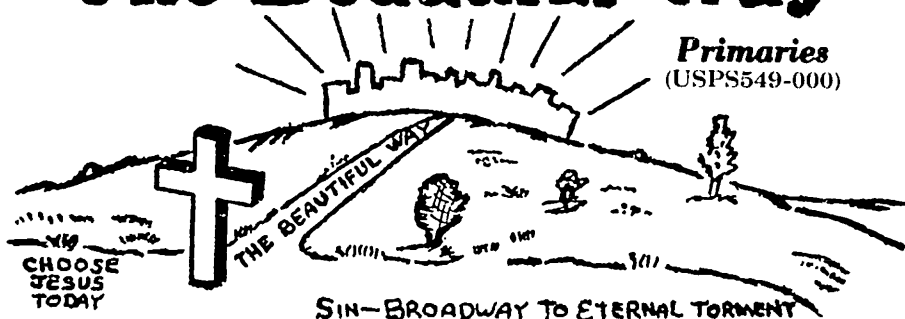
*the cows pulled
the Cart*

Questions:

1. What did the men put on the new cart that they made?
2. Who pulled the new cart?
3. Where did the cows take the Ark of God?
4. Were the men of Israel glad to see the Ark of God come home?
5. What did they do?

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Part 22

June 1

GOD HELPS ISRAEL

1 Sam. 7:1-17

Samuel said to the Israelites, "Return to the Lord. Serve Him with all of your hearts. Put away your idols, then the Lord will help you. You can have peace. Your enemies will not hurt you. Gather together and I will pray for you." The Israelites gathered together at one place. They said, "We have sinned against the Lord. "They repented of their sins. Samuel prayed for them.

Their enemies, the Philistines, heard that they had gathered together. They came up with their armies to fight them. The Israelites said to Samuel, "Cry unto the Lord our God to save us out of the hand of the Philistines." Samuel offered a lamb to the Lord and cried unto God. The Lord heard Samuel. The Philistines came closer to fight. Samuel kept praying. God helped them. God sent a great thunder and thundered against the Philistines. They were afraid and ran. The Israelites won the battle. Samuel took a stone and set it up. He called it *Eben-ezer*, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Memory Verse: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
Psalm 95:6b.

The Runaway Raft

One weekend Jared went with his father on a fishing trip. They made a raft from some logs they found. That evening before they went to the cabin, they tied the raft to the bank of the creek with a rope.

The next morning while his dad was doing some work around the cabin, Jared went down to the creek. When Daddy got there, they were to go for a ride on the raft. Jared climbed on the raft to wait for his daddy.

After a while Jared picked up the long stick his dad had used the day before in pushing the raft away from the bank. He stuck it in the water and touched the bottom. He pushed as hard as he could. The raft started off across the creek as far as the rope would go. When the raft stopped, Jared pushed back to shore. Jared did this again and again while waiting for Daddy to come. The fourth time Jared pushed away from the bank the rope broke and the raft started down the creek toward the river.

Jared put the stick into the water but he could not reach the bottom. Once he came near the shore where a tree hung out over the water and he tried to catch hold of a limb, but he could not reach it. Jared was afraid. He prayed to God. "Dear God, please help me get back to the shore."

Just as the raft headed into the river, Jared saw a motor boat. He yelled and yelled to the man. He waved his arms. The man saw Jared and came and got him. He took Jared back up the creek in his boat. The man walked with him to the cabin. Dad was just getting into the car when they got there.

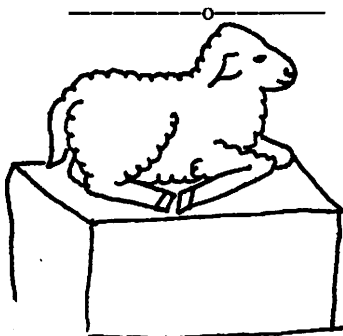
"What happened to you?" asked Dad. "I went down to the creek to look for you

and I saw the raft was gone. I looked up and down the creek and called you. I was just going to a phone to call the police."

"Well," said Jared as he hung his head, "while I was waiting for you, I thought I'd just push the raft as far as the rope would go. Then the rope broke. I could not get back to shore. The raft floated into the river. I was afraid, but I prayed to the Lord and he sent this man to help me."

Daddy thanked the man for rescuing Jared. He told Jared not to play on rafts or boats unless an adult was around.

S. W.



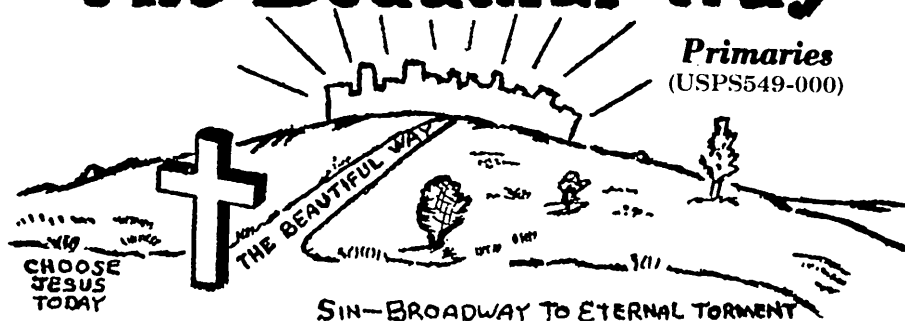
*Samuel offered up
a lamb as sacrifice*

Questions:

1. What did Samuel tell the Israelites to do to have peace?
2. Did they repent and put away their idols?
3. What did the Philistines think when the Israelites had gathered together?
4. What did God do to help them win the battle?
5. What did Samuel set up to help them remember their victory?

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Part 23

June 8

ISRAEL WANTS A KING

1 Sam. 8:1-22

Samuel was getting old. His two sons did not do right. The elders of Israel said to Samuel, "Give us a king to rule over us like other nations." This displeased Samuel. Samuel prayed to the Lord. God told Samuel to give them a king. God said the people had turned away from Him, and that was the reason they wanted a king.

Samuel told the people that if they had a king he would take their sons and daughters to work for him. Their sons would make things to use in war. The king would take their best animals. The people said, "We will have a king to rule over us. We want to be like other nations and have a king to go out to battle with us." When Samuel told the Lord what the people said, God told him to give them a king.

Boys and girls, it never pays to want to be like others. We want to be what the Bible tells us to be. We want to tell the truth even if others tell lies. We want to dress right even if others do not. God will be pleased with us and bless us.

Memory Verse: Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God. Psalm. 143:10a

Jonah and the Whale

"Jared," called Mr. Knox from his back yard. "Do you really believe that Jonah swallowed a whale?"

"Of course not," said Jared, laughing. "The whale swallowed Jonah!"

"Don't you know that a whale can't swallow a man?" asked Mr. Knox. "A whale has a very small throat. It can hardly swallow anything as big as an orange."

"You surely know a lot about whales," Jared said.

That night Jared talked with his dad. He told him what Mr. Knox had said.

"Mr. Knox does not really know so much about whales," said Daddy. "Some whales do have little throats. But there is a kind called the sperm whale that lives on a fish that is very large—about six feet long. A whale that could swallow a fish that large could swallow a man easily."

"Could a man live inside a whale for three days?" asked Jared.

"The Bible says that 'God prepared a great fish,'" Daddy said. "That meant it was a large creature that lived in the water. God got this fish ready to swallow Jonah and keep him alive. God can do anything. He could have made a new kind of fish if He wanted to, or He could have changed a whale or fish so there would be a place inside for Jonah."

"I see," said Jared. "Even if all the whales had little throats, God could have made one with a big throat just so it could swallow Jonah! But why did Mr. Knox want me to think that it wasn't true?"

"Mr. Knox does not want you to believe the Bible is true because he does not want to do what it says," said Daddy. "He does not want to live to

please God, so He doesn't want others to believe the Bible either."

"Well, I believe the Bible anyway," said Jared, "and I want to live to please God." —Sel.

—————o—————
The following sad incident shows how one may toy with danger until it is too late to escape:

"Curiosity about the vibration of the rails on which a train was approaching was responsible for the killing on the Boston and Maine tracks at the foot of Laconia, Ct., this afternoon of Peter Lorongos, ten-year-old son of Charles Lorongos of 7 Tremont St., and his friend, Frederick Jordan, seven-year-old son of George Jordan of 3 Tremont St."

"The boys were struck by a locomotive attached to a Boston-bound Saugus branch train. When they were hit they were in the act of rising from the ground, on which they had been stretched, with their ears resting on the rails. Their bodies were thrown some distance and their deaths were instantaneous."

"From friends of the boys, the police learned that the two victims were trying to see how long they could keep their ears on the rails before being compelled to get out of the path of the train."

"The fruit of the wicked [tendeth] to sin." Proverbs 10:16b

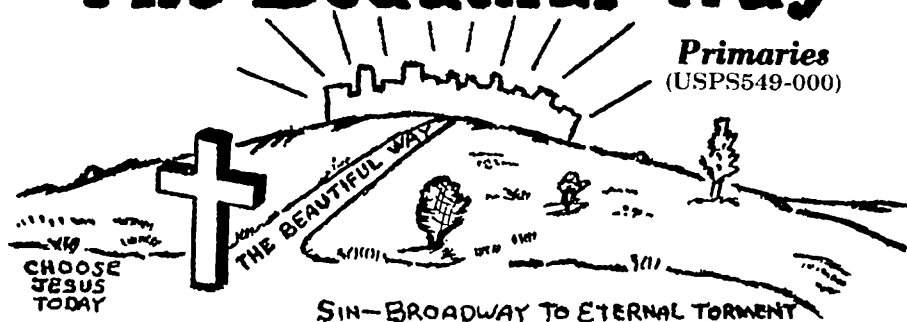
—————o—————
—Sin, The Tell-Tale

Questions:

1. When Samuel got old what did the people want?
2. Why did they want a king?
3. What did Samuel tell them a king would do to their children?
4. Did they still want a king?
5. Does it pay for us to want to be like others?

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Part 24

June 15

SAUL ANOINTED KING

1 Sam. 9:1-27;10:1

Saul was a good young man. He was tall and nice looking. He loved his father. His father told him to take a servant and look for his lost asses. Saul obeyed. They looked and looked. They could not find them. The servant said, "There is a man of God in this city. He knows things that will come to pass. Let us ask Him where the asses are."

Saul and his servant saw some young maidens going to get water. They asked them, "Is the Prophet here?" The maidens replied, "Hurry. He is to offer a sacrifice today and those who are bidden will eat." They hurried into the city.

God said, "Samuel, tomorrow about this time you will see a man from the tribe of Benjamin. He shall be captain over my people." When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "Behold the man of whom I spake! This man shall reign over my people." Samuel took Saul with him to the sacrifice. He told Saul that his asses were found and that his father was troubled about him. Samuel anointed Saul king. Saul did not feel worthy of this honor.

Memory Verse: When thou wast little in thine own sight . . . the Lord anointed thee king. 1 Sam. 15:17.

Baiting a Hook

One warm sunny day Jared and his dad took their fishing poles and went to a creek out in the country. They took along a can of worms and a box of crickets. They walked along the creek until they came to a spot where trees overshadowed much of the water. Dad said he thought this would be a good place to fish.

They sat down on the creek bank and Dad began to bait a hook. Jared unwrapped his line from around his pole and dropped the hook into the water as far out as he could swing it. After Dad had put a worm on his hook, he said, "Jared, pull your line out and I will bait your hook."

Jared did so. As his dad was putting the worm on the hook, Jared asked, "Dad, why won't the fish bite the hook without putting a worm on it?"

"Well, Jared, the fish knows that a metal hook would not be good to eat, but when the hook is inside the worm he cannot see it and the worm looks good to him."

"Then we're really just tricking the fish into thinking it's just a worm and not a fishing hook, aren't we?" Jared asked.

"Yes," said Dad, "we are deceiving the fish. Jared, did you know that is what the devil tries to do to us? He hides his hooks in bait. He makes things that are bad and sinful look appealing so we can't always see how much harm they will do to us. He knows we would not do something that was terribly bad and that we knew would hurt us, so he disguises it."

"How can he make something bad look good?" asked Jared.

"Do you remember Buck, the boy who used to live beside us? He seemed like a very nice boy, and we invited him into the house many times, but he began to tell you bad stories that made stealing seem like a lot of fun. He seemed to be a nice boy, but he was really bad inside and started leading you into doing bad things."

"I remember," said Jared. "His good ways were only like bait, weren't they? His bad ways were like the hook."

"That is right," said Dad. "We must be careful to recognize the devil's bait, and not let something that seems good but is really evil trick us into doing wrong."

—Sandra Whitson

Much Begins With Little

He stole the apple from the store,
The play toy from the child next door,
The pencil from the schoolmate's seat,
He won the game by only cheat.

A man now grown, his doom is sealed,
The evil of his crime revealed.
Behind the prison walls for life
He pays the price for stealing strife.

The first will lead to many more,
And little will be much in store,
So shun, my lad, sin's slightest taunt;
Thy Lord shall fill thy ev'ry want.

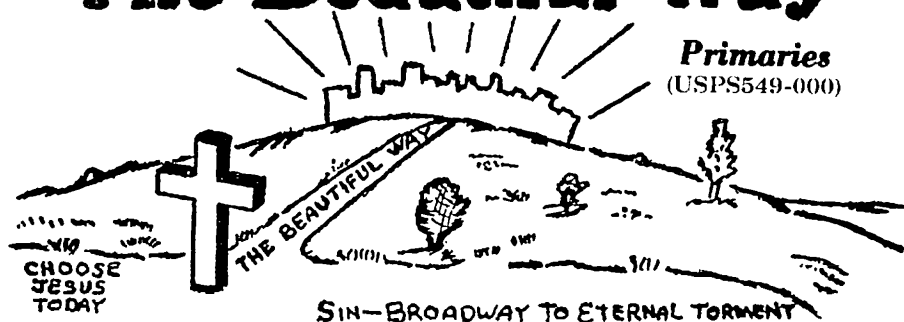
—Leslie Busbee

Questions:

1. Was Saul obedient to his father?
2. Did he meet Samuel?
3. What had God told Samuel to do when he saw Saul?
4. Did Saul think he was worthy to be king?
5. How did Samuel anoint Saul to be king?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 31, No. 2

April, May, June, 1980

Part 25

June 22

SAUL BECOMES KING

1 Sam. 10:1-27

Samuel told Saul after he anointed him king to go toward the plain of Tabor. On his way he would meet two men who would tell him that his father's asses were found. Then he would meet three men, and later a group of prophets. Samuel told Saul that he would prophesy. The Spirit of God would come upon him and he would be another man. Samuel said, "God is with thee." He told Saul to wait for him in Gilgal.

Saul did as Samuel told him, and it all came to pass. The people were surprised that Saul was among the prophets. They said, "Is Saul, the son of Kish, among the prophets?"

Samuel called all the people together. The people wanted a king. He caused the tribes to pass before him. At last the smallest tribe passed and Saul's family was chosen. When they asked for Saul he could not be found. He was hiding among the stuff. He was humble. But God had chosen him to be king. When the people saw him they were happy and shouted, "God save the king!" A few people hated Saul.

Memory Verse: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psa. 51:10.

The White of an Egg

One day Judy and Jared were eating their lunch. They had ham sandwiches and boiled eggs. Judy ate only the yoke of her egg and left the white on her plate.

"Judy," said Mother, "you should eat the white of the egg, too. It is very good for you."

"I don't like it. It is just soft and slippery and has no taste," Judy said as she reached for a piece of candy.

"No, Judy," Mother said as she moved the candy away from Judy. "You cannot have any candy until you finish your egg and sandwich. If you eat them together you will not find the egg so tasteless."

Mother thought a moment as she watched Judy finish her meal.

"Children, you have found that the white of an egg is tasteless, yet it is one of the most perfect foods we have. That is sometimes the way it is in living for the Lord. We do not always feel like taking time to pray because maybe there is a book we want to read or a game we want to play, but it's good for us to pray. Sometimes I may tell you to clean up your room when you had much rather go outside and play. The work does not appeal to you and you may be tempted to disobey me, but the Bible says to obey your parents, because we know what is really best for you. Sin is like candy—it is really appealing to you but is not good for you. Too much candy can make a person sickly and more apt to catch diseases.

"Jared, do you remember when some of the boys threw mud upon the side of Mr. Jeffrey's house? That looked like fun to you because the other boys were laughing and trying to get you to throw

some, too. For a while you all had fun throwing that mud, but when you were caught and all of you got whippings and had to clean the side of the house, you realized it wasn't much fun after all. It brought punishment. Always remember that although bad things may appeal to you they are not good for you to do."

"I remember when Daryl got sick and had to stay in bed for a few days because he had not eaten good foods but had eaten too many sugars," said Jared.

"Yes," said Mother. "Just as sugar can make our bodies weak, sin makes our characters weak. But reading the Bible, praying and obeying our parents makes us strong." —Sandra Whitson

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Oh, won't you be a Christian
While you're young?
Don't think it will be better
To delay it until later,
But remember your Creator
While you're young.

Oh, won't you love the Saviour
While you're young?
For you He left His glory
And embraced a Cross so gory;
Won't you heed the melting story
While you're young? —Henry Wilson

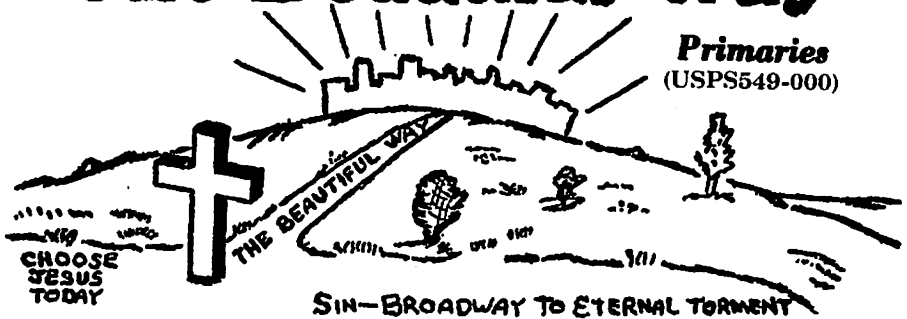
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Questions:

1. Did Samuel tell Saul he would meet a company of prophets?
2. What did Samuel tell Saul he would do?
3. Were the people surprised that Saul prophesied?
4. When Samuel wanted to tell the people who the king was, what did Saul do?
5. What did the people do when they saw Saul?

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Part 26

June 29

SAUL'S GREAT VICTORY

1 Sam. 11:1-15

The enemy came against God's people who lived on the border of Israel. They were helpless. The king wanted them to serve him. He wanted to put their right eyes out. They called for help. Saul heard about the trouble and went to help. He gathered all the strong men of Israel. They divided into three groups. They fought the enemies and won the battle.

The people rejoiced in the great victory. The people asked, "Who are the men who did not want Saul to be our king. Bring them and we will put them to death." Saul said, "There shall not a man be put to death this day, for today the Lord has helped us." Saul forgave the men who had said bad things about him. We also want to forgive those who do us wrong. We want to treat them right.

Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and start the kingdom there." All the people went to Gilgal and Saul was made king over them. They offered sacrifices to the Lord and all the men of Israel rejoiced.

Memory Verse: Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7b.

Is the Bible True?

One night after Dad had read a chapter from the Bible for family worship, Jared asked, "Daddy, how do we know the Bible is true? Lamar said it was just written by men and that they might have made it up anyway."

"Son, the Old Testament was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. It told that Jesus would be born and that he would die on a cross for our sins. The Old Testament tells a lot about the things that happened in the New Testament. That is one reason we know it is true. Another is because there are predictions in the Bible that are still coming true today. There have been other books written telling things that would come to pass, but some of the things they said would happen did not."

"Another way we know the Bible is true is because if we live according to what it says we find that it really helps us. The Bible says we can be healed in the name of Jesus. Do you remember when Bro. Lyles had a heart attack and all the congregation prayed for God to spare his life? God did heal him and made him well."

"I remember when we were on a trip and Mother lost her purse. She prayed for God to help her get it back. A man found it and looked inside for her address and mailed it to her. God answered her prayer, didn't He, Daddy?" asked Judy.

"Yes, God heard her prayer as He said He would," said Daddy. "The Bible is all true and it says there will be people who will say it's just made up. But we are to believe God rather than man."

—Sandra Whitson

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"A faithful witness will not lie."

Rock of Ages

Once a young black man was on board a steamer that caught fire. He put life-preservers on his wife and himself, but in the confusion that followed, someone took his wife's life jacket from her. She found herself helpless amid the waters, but she clung to her husband. After a little while, her strength was exhausted. "I can hold on no longer," was her cry. "Try a little longer," was her husband's entreaty; then he added, "Let us sing *Rock of Ages*." Immediately they both began faintly to sing, and their words fell upon the ears of many around them. One after another of the feeble and nearly exhausted swimmers was noticed raising his head above the waves and joining in the prayer, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee."

Strength seemed to come with the song; and they were able to hold out a little longer, still faintly singing. They were able to keep themselves afloat until a lifeboat picked them up.

If you yourself are finding a haven in "the Rock of Ages, cleft for you," your joy will be seen by others around you and will help them; just as the singing of that hymn drew the attention of so many others ready to sink and perish.

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Questions:

1. Did bad people try to fight some helpless people?
2. What did they do?
3. Did Saul bring an army and help them?
4. Will God help us when we are in trouble and call Him?
5. Did Saul forgive those who were against his being king?