

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 3, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1980

Part 14

July 6

SAMUEL TALKS TO THE PEOPLE

1 Sam. 12:1-25

Samuel called the people together. He was old and gray-headed. He told them that he had given them a king. Now his life was about gone. He said, "I have been among you since I was a child. You watched me grow up. You know my life. Have I ever done anything wrong? Did I ever steal a cow from any of you? Did I ever steal a horse? Did I love one person more than another? Did I take money from someone to do you wrong? If I have done anything wrong I will restore it to you. You have seen how I loved God and obeyed Him. Now let me know how you feel about me." The people said that Samuel had done right.

Samuel said, "If you will obey the Lord and keep His commandments, He will bless you. If you do wrong God will punish you. So you will know that God is speaking through me, I will pray and ask God to send thunder and rain this day. By this you will know that God has seen your evil in asking for a king." Samuel prayed, and it did thunder and rain. The people were afraid. Samuel said that he would pray for the people.

Memory Verse: Fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart. 1 Sam. 12:23a.

Fireworks!

"Fourth of July isn't any fun any more," complained Clint. "I wish I had lived in the old days."

"What do you know about the old days?" asked Daddy with a laugh.

"Not much," admitted Clint. "But Uncle Charles was telling about all the fun you both used to have. You could shoot off great big firecrackers. It's against the law now."

"And it's a good thing, too! A lot of children used to lose fingers and even their eyesight when the firecrackers exploded in their faces," said Daddy. "Laws are made for our protection."

"Why do we celebrate the Fourth of July, Daddy?" asked Susanne.

"Because on July 4, 1776, after the Revolutionary War, the Americans adopted the Declaration of Independence," Daddy replied. "That was a written paper declaring our freedom from England."

"What did you do on the Fourth of July when you were a boy?" asked Clint.

"We usually had a picnic; and since we lived on a farm, we often drove to the city and ate in the park," Daddy replied. "Then when we got back home in the evening, we'd have our own private fireworks." He paused and chuckled to himself. "I remember one holiday that did not turn out quite as we had planned."

"Tell us about it, Daddy," begged Susanne.

"Well, that year my father had bought a large rocket. When lighted, it would zoom toward the sky and then explode into beautiful rainbow colors. We had orders not to touch it, but I thought I was old enough to light it myself."

Clint grinned. "Like you tell us, Daddy,

'Children, obey your parents,' " Clint quoted.

"Yes, but I thought I knew more than my parents," said Daddy. "So when my father wasn't looking, I lighted the string, or fuse, but I didn't point it straight up into the air. Instead, it shot sideways across our barnyard and then exploded, right in my father's haystack. The hay was all of the winter's food for our ten milk cows! Well, when the rocket exploded, the hay caught on fire! We had fireworks for hours, and you can imagine what I got!"

"A spanking," guessed Susanne.

"Yes. It always pays to obey our parents, our country's laws, and God's laws," Daddy told them. —Sel.

The Two Charlottes

Charlotte was always doing something nice for her friends and neighbors. Around her own home she was different. She would grumble and complain when her mother asked her to run an errand or do the dishes. She quarreled with her brothers and sisters, and always made things unpleasant for them. Charlotte's actions did not please God. He wanted her to be Christlike in the home as well as around friends. Let's ask Jesus to help us to always be like Him.

—MBM

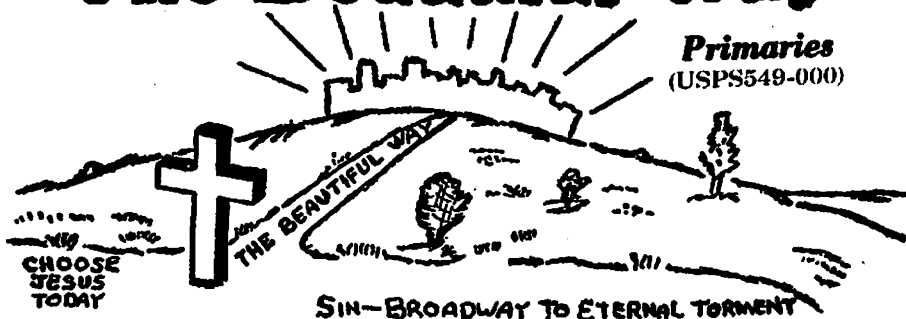
Questions:

1. Did Samuel ask the people if he had stolen from them?
2. Did he ask them if he had done anything wrong?
3. What did the people say?
4. How did the people know that they had done wrong by choosing a king?
5. Should we do right before others?

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Part 15

July 13

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

1 Sam. 1:1-14

Some soldiers of the bad nation of the Philistines were not good to the Israelites, whose king was Saul. Samuel, the prophet, told Saul when he was made king that he should obey God's rules. But when Saul heard that the bad soldiers were going to fight the Israelites he did a wrong thing. Samuel was supposed to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. But when Samuel did not come, Saul became afraid. The soldiers of his army were leaving as they waited for Samuel. Saul took the lamb and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord. Just as the smoke was about gone, Samuel came. Saul went out to meet Samuel. Samuel asked, "What have you done?" Saul said, "I was afraid the bad soldiers would come, so I forced myself to offer an offering to the Lord." Samuel told Saul, "You have done foolishly. Because you disobeyed the Lord, the kingdom will be taken away from you and given to a man after God's own heart.

Boys and girls, Saul was punished because he disobeyed the Lord. Only Samuel was to offer the sacrifices. So God took away from Saul the kingship that would have been in his family.

Memory Verse: Samuel said to Saul, "Thou hast done foolishly." 1 Sam. 13:13.

The Picnic

As Mother was backing the car out of the driveway, Jason ran over to her. "May I go over to see Bobby?" he asked. "He is sick and wasn't at school today. He didn't hear about the picnic we will have the last day of school."

"No!" said his mother. "Stay here."

After Mother had left, Jason tried to think of something to do. He decided to go over and tell Bobby about the picnic and get back before Mother got home.

"God will know!" a little voice inside him seemed to say. "God wants you to obey your mother!"

But Jason wanted to go to Bobby's house. He told Bobby all about the planned picnic and then hurried home before Mother returned. What a picnic they were going to have the last day of school! There would be all kinds of games and contests. The mothers were going to bring fried chicken and cake and cookies and lots of other goodies to eat. It made Jason hungry, just thinking about it. Bobby had the measles, but he would be over them in time for the picnic.

Every day after school the boys practiced for the contests. Jason put his feet in an old potato sack and hopped across the back yard again and again. Maybe he would win the sack race!

At last the two weeks were over. Today was the last day of school. Today was the picnic! But Jason was not happy about it when he woke up. His head hurt. He felt hot all over.

"I would think you had the measles, if you had been around anyone who had them," said Mother.

"I went to see Bobby the day you told me not to go," said Jason.

"I am sorry that you disobeyed me, Jason," Mother said. "Now you will have to miss the picnic."

Jason was sorry he had not obeyed his mother. —Sel.

The Light Left Behind

John was a small boy from a non-Christian home. His mother was afraid of death. John went to Sunday school and learned the beautiful story of the risen Christ. John with his face shining told his mother, "You don't need to be afraid of death anymore. Jesus went through the grave and left a light behind Him." She became interested. She went to Sunday school and began to read the Bible. John prayed one night for God to please make his mother a Christian. His prayers were answered, and she gave her heart and life to Jesus. —V. Forbes

"How many fish did you catch?" asked Louise.

"I think there are ten on the string now," answered Daddy.

"Poor fish," sighed Louise.

"We should be thankful that God made fish for us to eat because they are good eating," Daddy said as he stood up and patted his little girl on the head.

Questions:

1. Did some bad soldiers want to fight against God's people?
2. Who was the king of God's people?
3. Only the priest, Samuel, was to offer sacrifices to God. Who offered them?
4. What did Samuel tell Saul when he saw that he had done wrong?
5. Will we be punished if we disobey God's laws?

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Part 16

July 20

SAUL DOES WRONG

1 Sam. 15:1-28

"God wants you to punish the bad nation of Amalek," Samuel told King Saul. "You are to kill **all** the people and **all** the animals, because they came out against God's people when they came up from Egypt." Saul said he would do what God told him to do.

Later Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the Lord's commandments." Samuel said, "Why do I hear the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle?" Saul said that the people wanted to spare them to offer as a sacrifice to the Lord. "Why did you bring King Agag back alive? When you were first made king you felt little and humble in your own sight. Why have you disobeyed the Lord? Does God have delight in sacrifices of animals that He said for you to destroy? It is better to obey than to make a sacrifice. Rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as iniquity and idolatry." Saul replied, "I have sinned because I feared the people." Samuel said that Saul's kingdom would be taken away from him and given to someone better than he had been.

God wants us to obey Him. He also wants us to obey our mothers and fathers.

Memory Verse: Rebellion is . . . sin. 1 Sam. 15:23.

Fruit of Deceit

It was time for children's meeting on the campground. Daryl was walking to the dining hall for the meeting when Kevin saw him and said, "Why don't we go up to the tent and play a game?"

"Oh, no," said Daryl. "I would be in trouble with Mother if she found out."

"But she won't find out," pleaded Kevin. "We'll play for a little while and then come back before the meeting is over."

Daryl decided to go with Kevin. They played quietly inside the tent. One of the cars Daryl was playing with rolled under the bed. He crawled under the bed to get it just as Kevin sat down hard on the bed. One of the springs broke and went into the side of Daryl's face, barely missing his eye. He began to scream with pain. Kevin ran to get Daryl's dad. When his dad got there, he picked up Daryl and laid him on the bed and washed the blood from his face. He prayed to God to stop the bleeding and He did.

After the bleeding had stopped and Daryl had quit crying, his dad said, "I hope this will be a lesson to you boys, never to miss children's meeting when your mother and dad have told you to go to it. This would not have happened had you been where we thought you were."

—Sandra Whitson

Some People Will Not Listen

"Did Jesus make everybody good?" Brian asked.

"I don't think that everyone who met Jesus became good. Jesus wanted people to be really good. He wanted people to think of others as well as of themselves."

He wanted them to love God more than having their own way," Mother said.

"Is that why Jesus could not make them all good? Because they wanted to have their own way?"

"That is one of the reasons. You see, when a person is thinking so hard of what he wants to do, he just does not want to listen to Jesus," Mother said. "There was a young man who came to see Jesus one day. He came to talk about being good. 'What shall I do?' he asked. Jesus looked at the young man. He knew he did not cheat or lie, and he went to church. Jesus wanted to be friends with him.

"The young man had lots of money. He thought about his money more than he thought about people. It made him selfish. So Jesus said, 'There is just one thing that is keeping you from being good. You think too much about your money. Give it to the people who need it. Then come with me to help people.'

"But the young man did not want to give his money to others. He wanted to keep it for himself. So he went away and did not listen to Jesus anymore."

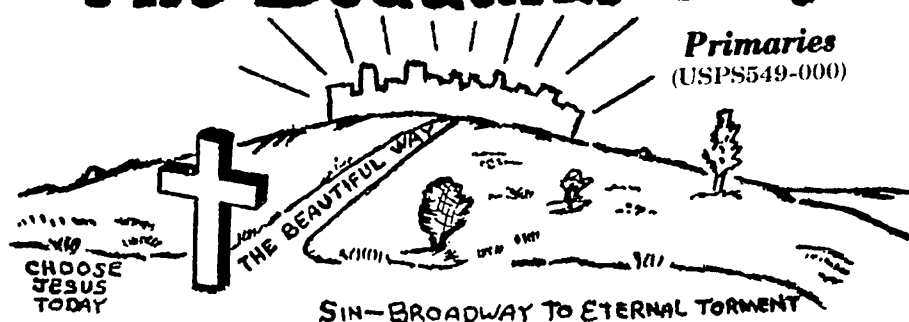
"Sometimes I want my own way too," said Brian. "I want to be friends with Jesus so I will try to help others and not be selfish." —Sel.

Questions:

1. What did God tell Saul to do?
2. What did Samuel hear when he came to see Saul later?
3. Did Saul commit sin by disobeying God?
4. What was Saul's excuse for disobeying?
5. What did Samuel tell Saul that God was going to do?

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Part 17

July 27

DAVID IS ANOINTED KING

1 Sam. 16:1-23

"Arise, Samuel," said the Lord, "and go to Bethlehem and ask Jesse and his sons to a feast. The son whom I will name to you is the one to be the next king." Samuel arose and did as God bid him. He called the elders of Bethlehem to the feast and also Jesse and his sons.

When Samuel saw Jesse's sons he saw Eliab. Eliab was a tall handsome man. Samuel thought that surely the Lord would choose him. But the Lord said to Samuel, "I have refused him. I look into the heart and not on the outside." Finally, all the sons of Jesse passed by Samuel and God did not choose any of them. "Do you have any more sons?" asked Samuel. "I have one son who is the youngest. He is a shepherd and is out in the field caring for the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him to come to the feast." Finally, David came. He was a ruddy young boy and had a beautiful face. The Lord said to Samuel, "Arise and anoint him." Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David as his brothers looked on. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon David.

Memory Verse: For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. 1 Sam. 16:7b.b

Where Is God?

One day Jared read a book about some men who went to the moon in a rocket. That night he asked his dad a question that was on his mind.

"Daddy, when the men went to the moon, did they see God?"

Daddy smiled slightly, but he knew that Jared was not trying to be funny. "No, Son, the men did not see God on the moon anymore than we can see Him on earth," replied Dad. "God does not live on the moon nor up above the moon. He lives very near us, although we cannot see Him."

"Where does He live then? If He lives close, why can't we see Him?"

"Jared, if you closed your mouth and held your nose, what would happen?"

"I couldn't breathe. I might even faint."

"That's right," Dad said, "because you need to let air into your lungs in order to breathe. The air is all around us and it is what helps us to live. But can you see the air?"

"No."

"That's like God. He is all around us and we need Him in order to live, but we cannot actually see Him."

"Do you mean that when I pray, my prayer doesn't go hundreds of miles in the air to heaven to get to God?" Jared asked.

"No, Son, God is very near. Our prayer need not have to travel far to reach God. He can see into our hearts."

"But didn't Jesus go up in the sky when He went to heaven?"

"Yes, he did, Jared. But the Lord no longer is in an earthly body like yours or mine. He is a Spirit. He is so great that He can be many places at one time. He

can be here with you and hear your prayer and at the same time be with a little boy in China and hear his prayer. God's Spirit is greater than we can imagine. When you pray, always remember that God is very near."

— Sandra Whitson

There was a boy who was walking through the fields with his sister. They found a nest of rabbits. The sister thought the nest was so lovely, being lined with down, and snug and warm for the tiny occupants. But the boy grabbed the baby rabbits, mimicking their squeaks and their struggles. In vain his sister wept and begged him to put them down. The boy flung them into the air, and shouted as each fell dead on the stones. Ten years later, that sister sat weeping again by her brother's side. He was in chains, sentenced to be hung for shooting a farmer while trespassing on another man's property. "Sister," he said, "do you remember the nest of rabbits ten years ago, how you prayed and I ridiculed. I believe that from that day God forsook me and left me to follow my own ways. If I had yielded to your tears and pleas, you and I would not be weeping these bitter tears now."

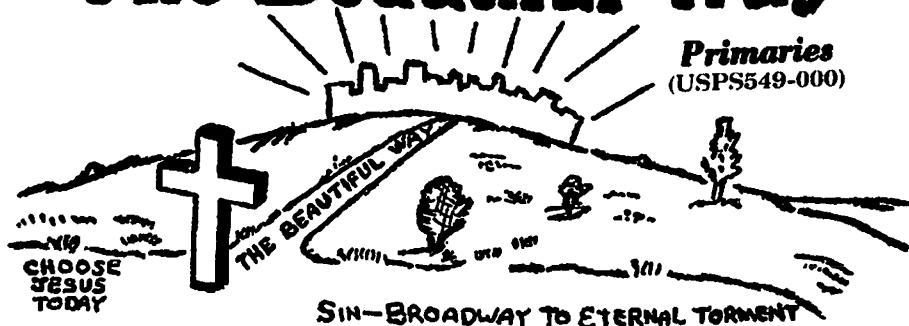
—Sel.

Questions:

1. Where did God send Samuel?
2. Did Samuel want to anoint the tall, handsome son of Jesse?
3. What did God tell Samuel about where he looked?
4. Where was David while all of his brothers were at the feast?
5. Did Samuel anoint David as the future king?

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Part 18

Aug. 3

DAVID AND THE GIANT

1 Sam. 17:1-54

Every day a big giant came out and called out across the little valley, "Choose a man to fight me. If I kill him you will be our slaves. If he kills me we will be your slaves." The men of Israel were afraid.

One day David came to the camp. He heard the giant calling. David said, "Who is this man that speaks against the armies of the living God?" David's brother was angry with him, but David said, "If no one else will go, I will go and fight with this enemy of the Lord's people." Word got to King Saul about David. He called David to him. David had grown now to be a man. Saul did not know him, but said, "You are only a youth, and this giant is a man of war." David said, "I am only a shepherd boy, but I have fought with lions and bears when they tried to steal my sheep. The Lord helped me. He will help me fight this giant and save the people of Israel." David did not want the armour Saul offered.

David put a stone in his sling and took aim at the giant's forehead. The stone hit the giant and he fell. David had killed the giant.

Memory Verse: "They that know thy name will put their trust in thee." Psalm 9:10.

When Daddy Was a Boy

Marty was spending the weekend at Grandma's. He picked up a picture album and began to look at some old pictures. Grandma sat down beside him on the sofa.

"Do you know who this is?" she asked as she pointed to a picture of a small curly haired boy.

"No," replied Marty.

"That is your daddy," she said.

"But Grandma, that baby has light hair and Daddy's is dark!" he exclaimed.

"Yes, my boys were all towheads, and they were full of mischief," laughed Grandma.

"Was my daddy naughty sometimes?" asked Marty.

"Dear me, yes," said Grandma. "I remember once he made himself a sling-shot. His father told him never to aim toward the buildings, but one day he tried to hit a bird perched on top of the roof. The rock hit our bedroom window instead and broke the glass."

"Did Grandpa spank him?" asked Marty.

"Not that time," Grandma replied. "First, he ran into the house to get his piggy bank, and then he went to look for his father. 'I'll pay for it, Papa,' he cried, even before he had confessed what he'd done."

"Did he have to pay for the window?" asked Marty.

"Yes, we thought it would teach him a lesson," said Grandma. "Poor boy. He had been saving the money for a red wagon."

"Those were wonderful days," sighed Grandma. "We taught our boys to love the Lord and to hate evil. We corrected them and loved them, and they grew to

be fine Christians."

"Daddy says that he corrects me so that I'll learn right from wrong," said Marty.

"Yes, the Bible says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it,'" quoted Grandma.

"I'm glad that Daddy knows what it's like to be a little boy," Marty said. "I want to be just like him when I'm big."

—Sel.

Be Good

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

"Be good," says Mother, too;

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

And when you've work to do."

"Be good," I tell my naughty self,

That's what I'd like to be—

But "being good" seems like a job

That's much too hard for me.

But since, one day, I met the Lord—

Yes, boys can meet Him, too—

My life has been completely changed,

My old heart's been made new.

No longer must I try alone

To do the things I should:

Now Jesus keeps me all the while,

In Him I can "be good."

—Sel.

Questions:

1. Who called to the Israelites every day?
2. Were the soldiers afraid of the giant?
3. What man said that he was not afraid of the giant?
4. Did David believe God would help him kill the giant?
5. What did David use to kill the giant?

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Part 19

Aug. 10

DAVID'S FRIEND

1 Sam. 18:1-4; John 15:13-16

After David killed the giant he was called to see King Saul. Saul was glad that David was so brave. He told David that he wanted him to live in the palace and not go back to his father's home. While King Saul talked to David, his son, Jonathan, was standing by. Jonathan loved David and wanted to be his friend. David loved Jonathan. Jonathan gave David his robe, sword, bow, girdle, and his garments. David was thankful for them. No doubt Jonathan told David a lot about life in the palace. They were true friends.

Boys and girls, we have a Friend that is greater than all the friends here in this world. Do you know who that Friend is? Yes, it is Jesus. Jesus talked to his disciples one day. He said, "There is no love so great as a man who will lay down his life for his friend. You are my friends if you will do what I have asked you to do. You are not servants because the servants do not know what the master does. You are my friends. I have told you all the things that my Father (God) has told me."

Memory Verse: There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24b.

When Delores Prayed

Delores pressed her nose against the living room window that overlooked the driveway and sighed.

"Your nose is going to be smashed flat," said Mother. "You've hardly left that window all afternoon!"

"Oh, Mommy, when do you think that Daddy will get home?" asked Delores.

"Don't worry, dear. It's a long way from Denver to our home," Mother replied. "I never expect Daddy until he gets here."

"Well, I expected him hours and hours ago," declared Delores. "Do you think something terrible has happened?"

"We can trust God to take care of him," Mother replied. "The Bible says, 'The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him'."

"I know, Mommy, but I'd feel better if we prayed an extra special prayer just for him," said Delores.

"That's an excellent idea," Mother agreed. So she and Delores knelt and asked God to take care of Daddy. Delores felt better after she had prayed. She got her dishes down and played with them for a long time. It was nearly bedtime before a car turned into the driveway. She ran outside and threw her arms around Daddy's neck.

"Well, this is a warm welcome, and I'm surely glad to be home," said Daddy.

"Did you have a good trip?" his wife asked.

As he sat down in a chair, he said, "I just missed being in a terrible accident. A couple of hours ago I was driving down the highway when a strange feeling came over me. Something seemed to tell me to drive off the highway and park. I obeyed the impulse, found a

place to turn off and stopped."

"Did you have a flat tire, Daddy?" asked Delores.

"No, just as I stopped, a car came speeding by me on the wrong side of the highway, passing where I had been only a moment before. Then it left the highway and turned over," Daddy replied. "Fortunately, the man wasn't badly hurt, but I had to go for help. That's why I was late."

"Mommy and I prayed for you," said Delores. "And God did take care of you, didn't He, Daddy?" —Sel.

My Day

All day I play, I romp and run.

I always have a lot of fun.

But when the sun tells day good-bye
And goes to bed, then so do I.

But 'fore I reach the land of Nod
I always say good night to God!

—Selected

My Mother

I thank Thee, Father in heaven,

For my dear home so warm and bright;

I thank Thee, for my mother's love
Which helps and point me to the right.

I thank Thee, for my mother's arms,
Which are so soft to hold me near;

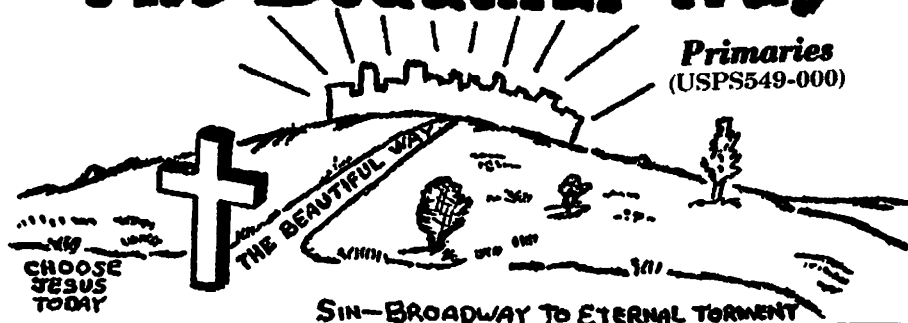
Help me to prove a blessing, Lord,
Unto my mother dear! —Sel.

Questions:

1. Did David live in the palace after he killed the giant?
2. Who was his friend in the palace?
3. What did Jonathan give to David?
4. Did Jesus tell the disciples that He was their Friend?
5. Who is our very best Friend today?

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Part 20

Aug. 17

SAUL DISLIKES DAVID

1 Sam. 18:1-16

One day Saul and David came back from fighting their enemies. That day they had a great victory. The women came running out and were happy. They sang songs and played musical instruments. They said, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul became angry. They honored David above Saul. He wanted them to honor him more than David. He said, "What more can David do but take my kingdom?" From that day Saul hated David.

Later Saul was very unhappy. David brought his harp and played it for him. Saul had a long, sharp spear in his hand. Saul looked at David. An evil spirit in him caused Saul to throw the spear at David. He jumped out of the way. David began to play his harp again. Saul threw the spear at him again. David jumped out of the way again. Saul knew that the Lord was with David. He didn't want to see him anymore. David was made captain over one thousand men.

David prayed to God to help him to love Saul even though he knew Saul hated him. Saul was still God's chosen king.

Mem. Verse: Jealousy is cruel as the grave. Song of Sol. 8:6.

The Best Flashlight

"Mother, it's dark outside," said Melodie, "I can't see, and I want to go to the garage." She had left her library book in the car.

"Take this flashlight, Honey," said her mother. "It will show you the way."

So Melodie took the flashlight, and then it was easy to see the way. She could also see where not to go. Wherever she pointed the flashlight, the light would shine. It helped her get to the garage and safely back to the house.

"What do you think is the best flashlight in the world?" Melodie's father asked when she came back. She was swinging her light around the kitchen. "I'll give you a hint," he said. It's called a lamp instead of a flashlight."

"I know," said Melodie. "'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.' King David said that; He meant the Bible."

"That's right," said Melodie's daddy. "In the days when King David lived, people didn't have flashlights. They had little lamps which they carried when they went somewhere in the dark. In what way is God's Word like a lamp or a flashlight?"

Melodie thought a while. "Well," she said, "the flashlight helped me to see the way in the dark. The light also kept me from falling over something and getting hurt."

"Right again," said her dad. He was very happy to see that his girl was doing some thinking. "And the Bible shows us the way to get to heaven and keeps us from getting lost or hurting ourselves."

Sel.

Be Kind to Each Other

Be kind to each other; the sunbeams
that fall

Are teaching this beautiful lesson to all;
Be thankful to God for the pleasures
they give,

And love one another as long as you
live.

Be kind to each other; how little we
know

The joy that a look or a word may
bestow.

And though you have nothing but kind-
ness to give,

Oh, love one another as long as you
live!

—Sel.

Me Prayers

Do you pray "me" prayers? Bless me,
help me, give me, or keep me are all "me
prayers." We should pray for ourselves,
for we really need the Lord's help. But
others need the Lord, too. Samuel, said,
"As for me, God forbid that I should sin
against the Lord in ceasing to pray for
you." Let us be faithful in praying for
others. God loves to hear unselfish
prayers, prayers for others.

Questions:

1. What did the women say when Saul and David came back from war?
2. Did Saul like it because the women said that David had killed more of their enemies than he had?
Do we call that jealousy?
3. What did Saul try to do to David?
4. Did David forgive Saul?
5. How should we feel when others are honored or liked better than we are?

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Aug. 24

DAVID SEEKS GOD

1 Sam. 30:1-26

David and his men came close to their home town. "What has happened?" they asked each other. The smoke was rising from their town. Soon they saw that their wives and children were gone. A great cry went up from all of the men. David was very sad. He sat down. Soon he thought how God had helped him in the past. He prayed to God. He asked God what to do. God told him to start out to find his wives and children. Soon the men were on their way. Some men were tired and stayed. The rest went with David. They saw a man in a field. He was nearly dead. He had not eaten for three days. David gave him water and food. The man felt better. David asked him where the bad men had gone. He said he would tell if David would not kill him, or give him to his master. The man took them to the bad men who had taken the wives and children of David and his men. These bad men were drinking, eating, and dancing. David and his men fought them. David won the battle. David and his men took their wives and children home. They also took other things with them.

Memory Verse: Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2.

Finders Keepers!

Rod looked at Richard's new pen. It wrote in four different colors—red, blue, black, and green. How he would love to have one like it!

Chad and Rod walked home together after Sunday school. All at once Rod saw something on the grass beside the sidewalk. He picked it up. "Look, Chad!" he said. "Here is a pen like Richard's. Now I have one, too!"

"Maybe that is Richard's," Chad told him. "He walks home this way, too, you know."

"I don't think so," Rod said. "Anyway, finders keepers. It's mine now." Rod put the pen into his pocket. As Rod went into the house he was happy to have found the pen. He went to his bedroom and took it out to look at it. He drew some pictures with the pen.

That afternoon Rod heard his dad talking with Mr. Brown about a missing pig. "That's right," said Mr. Brown. "It's pretty certain that the new pig Mr. Jones has is the one that Mr. Timmons lost. Of course, Timmons can't prove that it's his. It probably just wandered to the Jones place, so he doesn't consider it stealing, but it's the same thing when he knows that Timmons is missing one like that."

After Mr. Brown left, Rod asked his dad, "Does the Bible say 'finders keepers'?"

"No, it does not!" Dad said. "It says 'whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' (Matt. 7:12) That means we should treat other people the way we want them to treat us. If you lost something, would you want the person who found it to give it back to you?"

"Of course I would!" said Rod. He decided to walk over to Richard's house.

"Hi, Richard," said Rod. "Where's the pen you showed me this morning?"

"I don't know," Richard said. "After I got home from church I couldn't find it. I even went back to the Sunday school room to see if I had left it there, but it wasn't there."

"Here," said Rod pulling the pen from his pocket. "I found this beside the sidewalk and thought maybe it was yours."

"Thanks a lot," said Richard reaching for the pen. "I'm glad you found it. I bought that pen with money I got for helping Dad clean the yard."

Rod was glad he had done what God wanted him to do. —Sandra Whitson

Little Mother

I take care of my dolly,
And keep her fed and clean.
I never scold her crossly,
Nor say anything that's mean.
I always teach her what is right,
And tell her what is wrong.
I read her Bible stories,
And sing a bedtime song.
Why do I love my dolly,
And treat her tenderly?
Because my own dear mother
Does all these things for me.

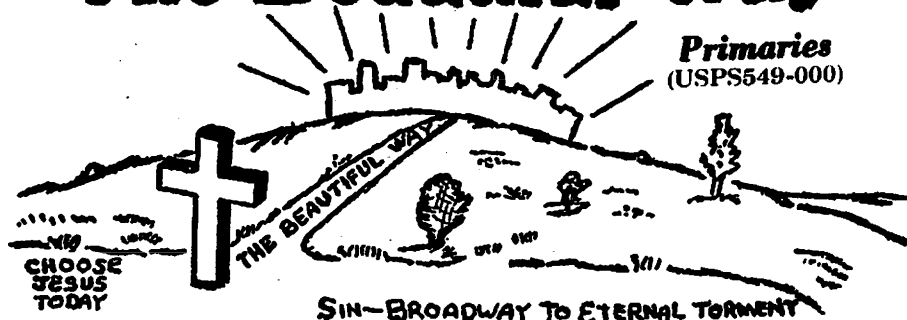
—Sel.

Questions:

1. What did David see as he and his men were coming home?
2. What did David do when his wives and children were gone?
3. What did God tell David to do?
4. Who helped them find the bad men?
5. What did David bring back home with him?

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Part 22

Aug. 31

DOING GOOD FOR EVIL

1 Sam. 24:1-17

How sad for King Saul to hate David! Hate caused him to try to kill David. One day Saul took lots of men to go with him to find David. There were many hills and caves, and King Saul got very tired. He went into a cave to rest while the men hunted for David. King Saul didn't know that David and his men were back farther in the same cave. David's men wanted him to kill Saul. David walked over and cut off a piece of Saul's robe. Right away David felt badly. He said, "God forbid that I do any harm to the Lord's anointed or chosen one." David would not kill Saul.

Finally Saul arose and went out of the cave. David and his men followed him. David cried after Saul and said, "The Lord put you in my hands today. Some wanted me to kill you, but I refused. I cut off a piece of your robe. The Lord has pled my case and will not let you kill me. Why do you want to do me harm?"

Saul said, "Is this the voice of my son, David? You are better than I am. You have rewarded me good when I wanted to do you evil. The Lord reward you." Saul then wept.

Memory Verse: If you forgive men . . . your heavenly Father will forgive you. Matt. 6:14.

Talk Is Cheap

"I love you, Mother," said little Beth; "I love you more than my tongue can tell." Soon after that Beth went out to play and left her mother alone with the dishes—dishes Beth could have done for her mother.

"I love my dad," said Dwayne. But when he heard his dad cutting the lawn, he hid in the basement until the job was done. He was afraid he might have to help.

"I love Jesus," some people say. But then they aren't willing to be like Him. He gave His life for people and wants us to love one another as He loved us.

You may say, "I love all other people." But if you have something someone else needs and you refuse to give it to him, do you really love that person? Or if you can help a person who needs help and you don't, are you loving the way God loves?

It's easy to say, "I love you," isn't it? It's easy to say, "I love Jesus." But the one who really loves, shows his love not only by what he says but also by what he does. St. John said, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." Words aren't true unless they are proved by deeds.

—Sel.

There is a way in which boys and girls can get clean the first time. When they let their mothers wash them, they usually get clean.

But even mothers can't wash away the bad things that their children think and say and do. They can't wash their children's sins away. Only God can do that. When He forgives a person's sins, He washes them all away. That is why King David said, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Mothers like to have their clothes real white when they hang on a line. White clothes with black marks on them are not clean and beautiful. Black marks on white clothes make most mothers unhappy.

Sin is like a black spot on a clean white sheet. God wants His children to be clean on the inside. And we want to be clean and white for God inside. We want to be clean from sin even when our hands and clothes get dirty. Only a clean person can be a child of God.

David said, "If God will wash me, then I will be perfectly clean from sin, whiter than snow." Sometimes snow is dirty, but when God washes us, we are whiter than snow. Not one speck of sin is left when God forgives us. Isn't that wonderful?

—Sel.

Questions:

1. Did Saul hate David?
2. What did the hate make him try to do?
3. Where did King Saul lie down to sleep?
4. What did David do?
5. What did Saul tell David when he knew he did good to him when he had done David evil?

How to Get Clean Inside

"Did you wash your hands, Philip?" his mother asked. "Yes, I did," said Philip. But when he showed his hands to his mother, she said, "You didn't use soap, did you? And you didn't wash here and here and here." So Philip had to go wash again.

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Part 23

Sept. 7

DAVID BECOMES KING

2 Sam. 5:1-10

All the elders of Israel came to David and said, "We want you to be our king. The Lord said that you would be captain over Israel." So David said he would be their king. David was thirty years old when he began to reign as king.

David wanted Zion to be the city where he put his throne. He went to that city, but the people would not let him have it. The city had big walls around it and high hills around the walls. The people were so sure that David could not take the city that they put lame and blind men on the walls to make fun of David.

Under one wall was a deep water hole. David said that the man who would swim through that water hole under the city walls would be made chief. Joab swam under the wall and opened the gates of the city. Later Joab was made chief captain. David and his men took the city.

The Church of God is called Zion. We want to get into Zion, or the Church of God. Like David and his men, we will have to work at it.

Memory Verse: For the Lord hath chosen Zion. Psalm 132:13a.

One Brick at a Time

Johnny couldn't do it. He knew he couldn't do it. He stood in the middle of the room and looked around. Toy animals crouched behind the bars of cages he had made by turning over chairs. Cars and trucks were parked in the make-believe garage under the table. Blocks, balls, and toys were scattered about everywhere.

Mother was right. What a mess it made! He could never, never get it all cleaned up. Surely God didn't expect that of one small boy even if He did say, "Obey your parents." Mother had told him to clean up his toys. But how could she expect one small boy to do all that work? He tried to forget that one small boy had put everything there. He tried to forget that God says, "Children, obey your parents."

"I can't! I can't!" he whispered, as he turned and ran out the front door to see how the builders were getting along with their work on the new house next door.

"Hi," said Johnny. "Oh, you are beginning to lay the bricks!"

"That's right," said the man. "One brick, then another . . . and another." Johnny watched for a while then he looked at the great stack of bricks still on the ground. "That's sure a big pile of bricks!" he said.

"Oh, yes," the man agreed. "But I lay one brick at a time. The pile keeps getting smaller, while the wall grows taller. First thing you know, the little jobs done well become a big job finished."

"I have to go now," Johnny said. "I have some work to do."

"Remember," the man called. "Just one brick at a time."

Johnny ran home and went to work. First he put the cars and animals back on the shelves. Then he carefully laid the other things in the toy boxes.

"Johnny," Mother called. "Are you putting your things away?"

"Yes, ma'am," Johnny said. "One brick at a time."

"One brick?" Mother came to the door. She must have expected to see the room full of bricks! "Why, Johnny," she exclaimed. "What a good job you have done!"

Now he knew the Lord would help him obey if he did it just "one brick at a time."

—Sel.

How Clean?

"My, Kevin, but you are giving your neck and ears a good scrubbing this morning. You must be planning to be the cleanest boy in school today."

"Sure thing, Mom; I don't like dirty boys, and I don't intend to be one if I can help it."

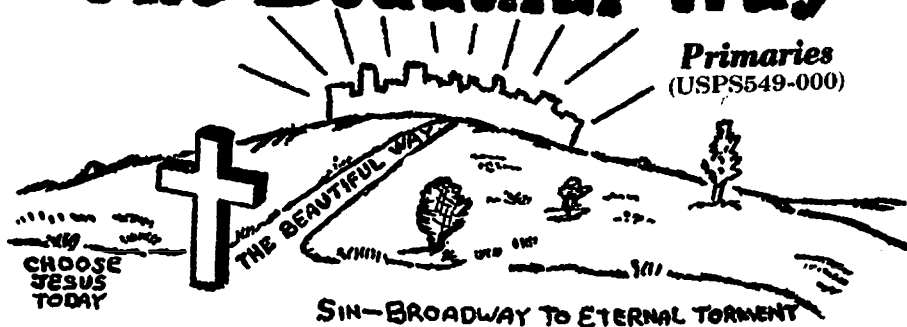
"I'm glad to hear that. I hope you are always just as careful to see that your soul is kept clean. The way to keep it clean is to read your Bible every day, then you won't leave any room for dirt and filth to enter your heart." —JFB

Questions:

1. Who was made king of Israel?
2. What city did David want for his throne?
3. Why could David not get the city at first?
4. Who swam under the walls and opened the gates to the city?
5. What do we have to do to get into Zion, the Church of God?

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Part 24

Sept. 14

UZZA TOUCHES THE ARK

1 Chron. 13:1-14

David was king. He wanted the Ark of God to be brought to Jerusalem. David asked many leaders about bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. Everyone thought it was the right thing to do. The people gathered together. They went to the house of Uzza and Ahio's father. David asked Uzza and Ahio to help bring the ark from the house to Jerusalem. Uzza and Ahio had helped care for it many years, while it was in their home.

The carpenters built a new cart. The Ark of God was placed on the new cart by the Levites. The oxen were hooked up to the cart. It was time to take the Ark of God to Jerusalem. David and many people played on their harps. They sang and played with all their might. They went before the cart. The Ark of God was on it, pulled by oxen. Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. They came to the threshing floor of Chidon. The oxen stumbled. The cart began to tremble. Uzza reached out his hand to keep it from falling. God was displeased with it all. Uzza fell dead. David would take the Ark no farther. He knew God was not pleased.

Memory Verse: The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Psa. 37:23.

No True Friend

Jerry had a new ball. It bounced higher than any ball Brent ever had seen.

"Do you want a ball like mine?" asked Jerry. Brent Nodded. "Do you have a dime?"

"Yes," said Brent.

"Well, Saturday you can go with me to the store and I'll help you get one," Jerry said. Brent knew those balls cost much more than a dime, but he went with Jerry.

"First buy a sack of popcorn," said Jerry. Brent bought the popcorn, and they walked on, eating it.

"Now we'll walk around in the store and look at things," said Jerry. They walked around, still eating popcorn. They came to some balls like Jerry's. "No one is looking," whispered Jerry. "Get one, and put it into your popcorn sack."

"No!" Brent gasped. "That would be stealing!"

Jerry laughed. "The storekeeper won't miss one ball!" he said. "See how many of them he has!" Brent shook his head and started to walk away.

"Wait!" said Jerry. "I'll show you how easy it is. I'll get another one."

"You won't put a stolen ball into my popcorn sack!" said Brent.

Jerry took a ball and stuffed it into his pocket. It made a big lump. Just as he got it into his pocket, a big hand came down onto his shoulder. "I've been watching you for a long time," the storekeeper said. "I thought you were the one who was taking things out of my store, but I didn't see you do it until just now. I'll take you with me to the telephone while I call the police." The man looked

at Brent. "You come, too, young man!" he said. "I want to talk to you."

"I saw what you boys were doing," the storekeeper said to Brent. "I watched you in that big mirror. I know that your friend tried to get you to steal a ball and you would not do it. I am glad you would not steal, but I think you had better find a different friend."

Brent nodded. "I wondered how Jerry always got so many new toys, but I didn't know he stole them," he said. "A boy who steals is no true friend for a Christian to have." —Sel.

What Should Ricky Do?

"One, two, three. You can't catch me!" the children shouted. Ricky had to try to tag one of his friends. The fun part of the game was that Ricky had to wear a blindfold, but the others could see where they were going.

When Ricky began to chase the other children, the blindfold slipped down just a little. It was just enough to help Ricky see. Now it would be easy to tag someone; or should Ricky stop the game and tell them what had happened? What do you think Ricky should do? What would you do?

Ricky's real choice is between playing fair and cheating. Always play fair and have fun. —Sel.

Questions:

1. What did David want to do after he became king?
2. Did the people think it was a good idea to bring the ark to Jerusalem?
3. At whose house was the ark staying?
4. What did Uzza do?
5. Did David know that God was displeased the way they were bringing the ark?

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Part 25

Sept. 21

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1-6

David was a shepherd boy one time. He was a good shepherd. He took good care of his sheep. As he watched the sheep he thought about God. He said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." God took gave David everything he needed. David led his sheep down by the waters to drink. He took them up to the green pastures so they could eat. David thought about how God gave him food and water. David was glad that God forgave all of his sins. David followed the Lord in good paths and the Lord helped him to do right. David knew that God would walk with him in the dark paths. David said, "Because God is with me, I will fear no evil." He was glad that God could make him feel good.

David saw a big table of good things that God had prepared for him. On that table were big dishes of love, joy, kindness, forgiveness, peace, and faith. Right in the middle of a bad group of people, David could have a big helping of all those good dishes. David was filled with joy. He said that goodness and mercy would be with him all of his life.

Memory Verse: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
Psalm 23:1.

Whose Puzzle?

"That's my puzzle!" exclaimed Darin.
"No, it's mine!" declared Angie. "I found it on the desk."

"That's where I left mine," said Darin, trying to snatch it out of his sister's hand.

"Mother!" cried Angie, running into the kitchen where Mother was baking cookies. "Darin is trying to take my puzzle."

"It isn't her puzzle. It's mine!" exclaimed Darin.

Mother looked at the two angry children. "What difference does it make?" she asked. "Your puzzles are exactly alike. What would your teacher say if she could hear you quarreling over the Sunday school awards? And more important, how would Jesus feel?"

Angie looked ashamed. "Well, if this is Darin's, where is mine?" she asked.

"I don't know, but I'll keep this until you find the other one," said Mother, placing the little puzzle on the table. Both of the children had been awarded the puzzles for correctly repeating the books of the Bible.

"Both of you have memorized the books of the Bible, but neither of you has learned to obey what is written there," Mother said.

"What do you mean, Mother?" asked Darin.

"Well, Christ tells us to live at peace with others. He isn't pleased when Christians fuss and quarrel," Mother told them. "Now, Darin, you may take out the trash. And, Angie, have you made your bed today?"

"No, Mother, I forgot," Angie replied. She went into her bedroom. She looked at her untidy bed, and began to straight-

en out the sheets. She pulled up the blankets and started to smooth the bedspread when something fell to the floor at her feet. There on the rug lay a puzzle. Now she remembered that she had tossed it on the bed that morning. The other puzzle really was Darin's.

Angie ran into the kitchen. "Mother, look!" she cried. "I found my puzzle on my bed. Now may Darin have his puzzle?"

"You may give it to him," said her mother. "And next time, don't be so quick to judge. It's nice to repeat the books of the Bible, but it's even better to obey what God has written in them."

—Sel.

Johnny Got Lost

Johnny was just starting to school. His mama gave him his lunch and told him to go across the bridge and right on to school. At the bridge he saw a fish. He then saw a butterfly and ran to catch it. He was soon lost. He began to cry, "Oh, God, help me!" His father came and said that he wanted to walk with him to school, and how happy Johnny was! Take Jesus and He'll show you the way.

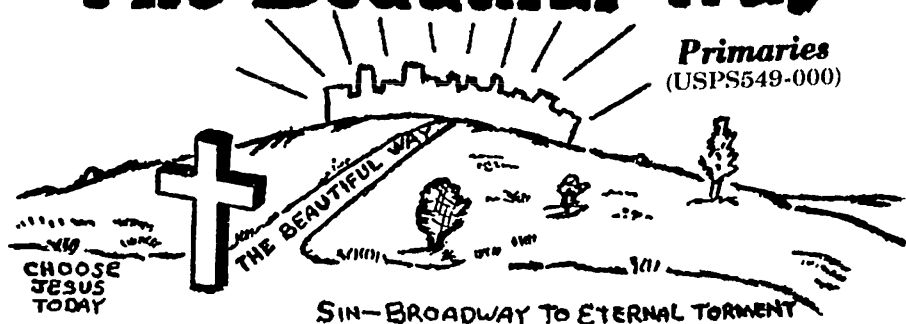
—V. Forbes

Questions:

1. What did David take care of when he was a boy?
2. Did David think of God being like a shepherd?
3. How did David care for his sheep?
4. Did David think that the Lord would take care of him?
5. What did God put on the table that David saw?
6. Where was David going to dwell all the days of his life?

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Part 26

Sept. 28

DAVID DOES WRONG

2 Sam. 12:1-10, 13, 14

The prophet Nathan came to David. He told David about two men in a city. One man was rich and one was poor. The rich man had many sheep. The poor man had only one little lamb. He had taken care of it from a baby lamb. His children loved this little lamb. He petted it and cared for it each day.

One day a traveller came to the rich man's house. The rich man did not take a lamb from his flocks to feed the traveller. The rich man came over and took the poor man's lamb. The rich man killed it and fed it to the traveller. When David heard about this he said, "That rich man will be put to death. He will give to the poor man four-fold because he did not have pity on him." Nathan said to David, "You are the man."

God had blessed David and made him king. God had given him riches. David had a man killed by putting him in the front of the battle. Then David took the man's wife as his own. David thought no one knew what he had done. But God sees all. David said, "I have sinned." He asked God to forgive him of his sins.

Memory Verse: For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life. Rom. 6:23a.

Learning to Play Together

Hollie had just moved in next door to Stephanie. The little girls had met, but didn't play together. Hollie was blind and Stephanie did not know how to play with a blind child.

One day Stephanie heard a bird singing in the apple tree. She went to look for the bird, but there was no bird. It was Hollie sitting in the tree singing like one.

"How can you whistle like that?" asked Stephanie.

"I just listen to the birds, and then I whistle over and over until it sounds like their singing," replied Hollie.

"That sounds like fun," said Stephanie. "Do you think I could learn to do it?"

Stephanie climbed up into the tree beside Hollie and together the girls sat for an hour imitating bird songs.

Hollie and Stephanie became good playmates. Sometimes they would make animals out of clay, and although Hollie could not see with her eyes, she could feel with her fingers. Her clay animals were often better than Stephanie's. Sometimes they sat in the cool grass and played with Hollie's puppy. They enjoyed being together.

Sometimes we think certain children aren't fun to play with, but if we try, we can have fun together. —S. W.

Stick To It

How many times the bird building its nest flies to and fro with twigs and bits of straw! Day by day it keeps on until the nest is finished.

The spider also spins up and down, this way and that, making a web. If someone sweeps it away when she is

finished, she patiently spins again until the web is once more complete.

If the bird or spider stopped working when problems came up, there would be no nest for young birds and no spider webs.

Boys and girls, what lesson can we learn from these little workers? Do you find it hard to be neat, truthful, or obedient? Do not give up, but when you fail, begin again. No good thing is done without effort. —Sel.

Do You Pray?

Little children, do you pray?

Do you thank the Lord each day?

That He's kept you from all harm
By His strong and mighty arm?

For your home and parents dear,
For your friends both far and near?

For the blessings He doth give
That His children dear may live?

Do you ask Him guard to keep
When awake and when asleep?

Child, the Lord is ever near
Every little prayer to hear.

—Sel.

Questions:

1. What did the rich man take from the poor man?
2. What did the rich man do with the little lamb?
3. What did David say should be done to the rich man?
4. Was David sorry when he knew he had done wrong like the rich man?
5. Did David repent of his sins?

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Part 14

Oct. 5

DAVID REAPS WHAT HE SOWS

2 Sam. 12:15-24

David had sinned. David had to be punished. David sowed sin. He would reap punishment. How sad David was when his little boy took very sick. David wept. He would not eat. He lay upon the ground. The elders tried to get him to get up, but he would not. David prayed and begged God to heal his little boy. On the seventh day the boy died. The servants were afraid to tell David. David heard them whispering. He asked, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." David got up and washed. He put on clean clothes. He went into the house of the Lord. David worshipped God. Then he went to his house and asked for food.

The men asked David why he would not eat while the child lived, but now he eats. David said, "While the child was yet alive I thought God might be gracious to me. Maybe God would heal the child. Now my child is dead. Why should I fast? I cannot bring him back. He will never return to me. I shall go to him."

David comforted Bathsheba, his wife. Later, God gave David another little boy. He named him Solomon.

Memory Verse: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7b.

A Change in Timmy

"The Grants will come this Saturday to pick apples," said Mr. Brown.

"I wish Timmy would not come with them," Amy told her dad. "He pulls the cats' tails, chases the chickens, and throws apples at me!"

"It is too bad he does not act better. You should ask God to help you be nice to him," said her father.

On Saturday, Amy took the three kittens and hid in the barn. She heard the Grants' car drive up. "I will hide until they leave," she thought. But she did not feel happy about it.

"Amy! Where are you?" Timmy was looking for her.

Amy shut the kittens in the barn. She didn't mind having Timmy throw apples at her. She could dodge. But she didn't want him hurting the kittens!

"Will you play with me?" he asked. "I could push you in the swing."

Amy was surprised that he didn't try to push her out. But they took turns in the swing for a while and had fun. Then Amy saw one of the kittens coming. The other two were following behind. She had forgotten about that big crack by the barn door!

Timmy picked up the first kitten. He held it carefully and patted it. He didn't even try to hurt it.

"Daddy got me a pony for my birthday," said Amy. "Would you like to ride him?"

All too soon Timmy's father and mother had their apples picked and were ready to go home.

"I'm glad you came," said Amy. "I've had fun today. You don't act like you used to act."

"No," said Timmy. "I gave my heart

to Jesus in Vacation Bible School this summer. Now I'm trying to please Him, and He's helped me." —Sel.

A VERY LITTLE SERMON

"Look not everyone on his own things," like this: "It's my hat; I can't find it!" "It's my ball; I will not lend it!" "It's my ribbon; you mustn't wear it!" "It's my knife; don't you touch it!" "Let my doll alone!"

"But everyone also on the things of others," like this: "It's his hat; hang it up for him." "He is such a little chap, let him have the ball." "She likes blue; lend her the ribbon." "I am sorry you can't go out; don't you want to whittle with my knife?" "You may kiss the dolly, if you want to." This is Jesus' way.



Questions:

1. Will sin be punished?
2. Why did David's boy get sick?
3. Did David beg God to heal his boy?
4. When the boy died, what did David do?
5. What did David say about seeing his boy again?
6. Did God give David another little boy?

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Part 15

Oct. 12

ABSALOM WANTS TO BE KING

2 Sam. 15:1-6

Early every morning Absalom rode in his chariot to the gate of the city. In front of him ran fifty men waving flags. Absalom was King David's son. Absalom felt big and great. He wanted others to think that he was great. He stood at the gate. When a man came by who was going up to see his father, he called to the man. Absalom asked, "What city do you come from?" The man said, "I am one of the tribes of Israel." Absalom then said to the man, "You are a good man. You are right, but there is no man sent by the king to talk to you. Now if I were made judge in the land, and every man could come to me, I would see that he was treated justly." Every day Absalom stood at the gate and talked to the people this way. Absalom wanted to be king. He wanted people to like him better than his father, the king. This was very, very wrong. Sometimes a man would come close to Absalom to bow before him. Absalom would reach out his hand. He would draw the man to himself and kiss him. By so doing, Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Memory Verse: Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Sam. 15:6b.

Accusing Others

"That's my pencil you're using," said Bobby.

"It isn't. It's mine!" Michael replied in a loud whisper.

"I brought a red one to school this morning," Bobby insisted. "Give it to me!"

"Boys! Be quiet!" ordered Miss Todd.

The two boys went back to their reading, but as soon as school was over for the day, they began to quarrel again. "You're always taking my stuff," Bobby complained.

"Prove it! Just prove it!" cried Michael.

"I brought a new pencil to school this morning, and you're using it. That's proof enough!" declared Bobby.

"Bobby, I couldn't help but overhear what you said," Miss Todd said. "Do you think you should accuse someone of taking something unless you're sure?"

"Well, maybe not," Bobby admitted.

"Let me tell you a story," said Miss Todd. "Long ago, two knights met in the woods. A shield was hanging between them on a tree, and they both wondered to whom it belonged. One remarked, 'I wonder who owns this white shield.'"

"That's not white. It's black," the other declared.

"They began to quarrel, one claiming that the shield was white, the other insisting that it was black. Just then a stranger came by. 'Why don't you both change places?'"

"They did this, and then they discovered that both had been right! One side of the shield was white; the other side was black! So you see, Bobby, we must not be so quick to accuse others."

Bobby hung his head. "I'm sorry, Michael," he said. "I don't really know

that you took my red pencil."

"Oh, is it a red pencil that you lost?" asked the teacher. "One of the girls found one this morning and turned it in. I have it in my desk." She showed it to Bobby.

"Yes, that's mine. I guess I dropped it. I'm sorry, Michael," Bobby said again.

"That's O.K.," said Michael. As they walked away together, he added, "I shouldn't have been angry either. I'm a Christian, and I should have known better."

"I'm a Christian, too, but I haven't acted like it," Bobby said. —Sel.

"The Bible tells us to honor our father and our mother. It is one of God's commandments that we want to obey because we love our parents.

"It is not enough to say, 'I love you,' to Dad or Mom. Do your actions show that you love them?"

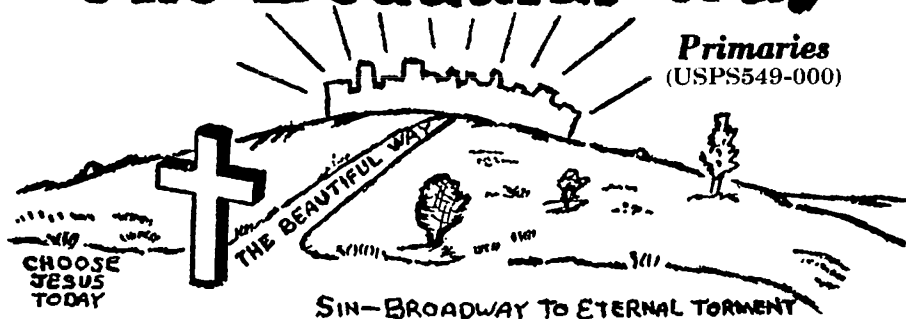


Questions:

1. Where did Absalom go everyday?
2. How did he go?
3. What did he do at the gate of the city?
4. Did he want to be king instead of David, his father?
5. What did he do to steal the hearts of the people?

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Part 16

Oct. 19

DAVID FLEES FROM HIS HOME

2 Sam. 16:5-13

"King David, your son, Absalom, has been made king today," the servant told him. "Oh, my son! How could you do it?" David said, as he wept. "We must leave the city or Absalom will come to kill us." So, King David went out of the city barefooted, weeping, and with his head covered. His servants and friends went with him. When they crossed over the brook and were near Mount Olivet, Shimei met them. This man began to curse David. He called David a man of the devil. He said that David had done wrong, and that all his trouble had come upon him because he was evil. One of David's friends said, "Why should this bad man curse you? Let me take off his head." David said, "No, let him alone. Maybe God will see all of my trouble and help me today. Maybe God will give me good for all of this evil." The man kept cursing, and throwing dirt and stones at David. David just kept walking, weeping, and praying to God.

Later, Shimei asked David to forgive him for the evil things he had said and done to him. (2 Sam. 19:16-23.)

Memory Verse: ". . . Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit . . . their souls to him." 1 Pet. 4:19.

Taking Turns

"It's my turn!" cried Steven, grabbing the handle of the new blue bicycle.

"It is not!" exclaimed Benny, trying to jerk away and almost falling off.

"You rode around the block," declared Steven. "Now get off before I push you off!"

"You wouldn't dare. Mommy!" Benny called. "Steven is pushing me."

Mother came to the front door. "If you boys don't quit fighting, I'm going to put the bike away for a whole week," she threatened.

"Well, Steven wants it all of the time," said Benny, beginning to cry.

"What a baby!" exclaimed Steven, who couldn't stand tears. "Why didn't you buy two bikes, Mom?"

"We couldn't afford it," their mother replied. "We thought you boys would be willing to share."

"Benny doesn't want to share. He thinks it belongs to him," Steven said.

Mother lifted Benny off the bike and rolled it into the garage. "We'll leave it there until we can work out a system," she said.

Both boys had a story to tell Daddy when he came home. "I'm afraid you boys don't love God enough," said Daddy, picking up his Bible and turning to First John, chapter four.

"What has that to do with sharing our bicycle?" asked Steven.

"Listen to this," said Daddy, "'Let us love one another: for love is of God' (1 John 4:7). Then John asks us how we can love God, whom we haven't seen, when we do not love our own brother. He said, 'He who loves God must love his brother too' " (Verse 21).

"Then if we love each other, we'll try

to get along together," said Steven.

"Yes, the Bible says, 'Love suffers long and is kind' " (see 1 Cor. 13:4), Daddy replied. "And remember, it takes two to quarrel."

"I'll let Steven have the longest rides, because he's the oldest," said Benny.

"No, we'll take even turns," Steven said. "We'll let Mommy time us. O.K.?"

—Sel.

ALMA IS CHECKED

Alma liked to tell "tall" stories. One day in prayer Jesus spoke to her heart. He told her that exaggerating was the same as lying. She asked Jesus to forgive her and to deliver her from this habit. He did, and often when tempted to "color" her stories, the Spirit checked her and she was obedient. It wasn't long until others discovered that they could trust Alma to tell the truth, and they became more interested in listening to her.



*Shimei threw
stones at
David*

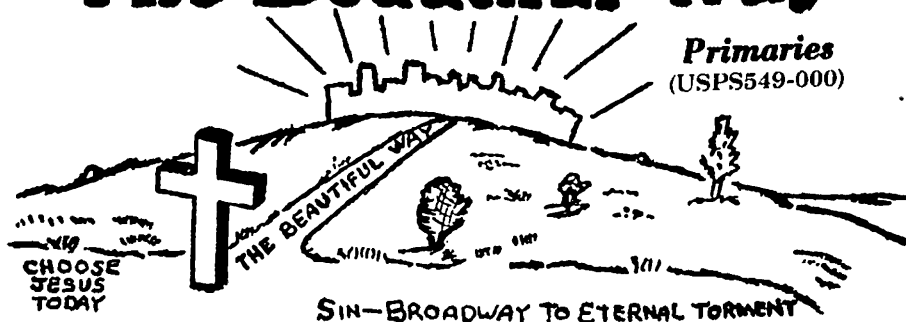
Questions:

1. What did Absalom do to his father?
2. How did King David and his friends leave the city?
3. What happened to David as he went away from his home?
4. Did David forgive the man?
5. Did the man become sorry later?

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Part 17

Oct. 26

ABSALOM IS PUNISHED

2 Sam. 18:6-108 21, 31-33; 19:5-8

David crossed over the Jordan River. Friends met him. They brought him food. Many came to help him. Soon he had an army. When Absalom came near with his army, David sent out his army. He begged his captains to deal gently with Absalom.

The battle was great. Many were killed. Absalom and his men fled. Absalom got on a mule. The mule ran under a great oak tree. Absalom's head caught in the branches of the oak. The mule ran off and left him hanging in the tree. How sad! He had no friends to help him. Poor rebellious Absalom! Maybe now he wished he had been a good son. Maybe he was sorry he had turned the people against his father. It never pays to do wrong.

A man ran to tell David that Absalom was hanging in a tree. David bowed his head and wept. He was sorry that Absalom was dead. David loved him although Absalom had done wrong. He cried, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son. Would God I had died for thee." The captain, Joab, came to David. He said, "You are making the people sad." David dried his tears and sat in the gate.

Memory Verse: If ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword. Isa. 1:20.

When Shelly Prayed

"Oh, Christy and Shelly, what pretty new dresses you have on this morning!" The girls had come to Sunday school early this morning. Their teacher, Sis. Simmons, had just come, too, and they stopped to talk.

"Thank you!" said Shelly.

Kevin had ridden his bicycle to Sunday school, and Christy ran to get on it.

"Christy!" said Sis. Simmons. "You must not ride Kevin's bike without asking him! Come here before you spoil your dress!"

But Christy had already caught the dress on the pedal. She started away and tore a big hole in the dress. She laughed, but Shelly looked ready to cry.

"What is the matter, Shelly?" asked Sis. Simmons. "Why do you feel so badly about Christy's dress?"

"It will be mine next week!" Shelly told her. "My daddy is dead, and my mother cannot work and take care of me. So I stay with Aunt Margaret, Christy's mother. Mother buys clothes just alike for Christy and me, but Christy tears hers. Then she says they are mine. Her mother does not remember, so I always have to wear the dresses with the patches and the shoes that do not shine any more."

"That is not fair," said Sis. Simmons. "Let us pray about it." So Sis. Simmons and Shelly prayed. At first nothing happened. Shelly still wore the dresses with the patches on them.

Then one Sunday Shelly had a new dress and new shoes and socks. Christy did not have clothes like them. "Guess what!" Shelly said to Sis. Simmons. "Not long after we began to pray about my clothes, I started growing very fast.

Now I cannot even get into the clothes that Christy wears. Aunt Margaret took me to town yesterday and bought me a whole set of everything new. I will have to wear a bigger size from now on."

"Will Christy have to wear the dresses with the patches now?" asked Sis. Simmons.

"Yes," Shelly told her. "But do you know what? She is learning to take good care of her clothes now. God helped both of us when you and I prayed." —Sel.

IF

If Jesus made the stars above,
And keeps each in its place,
Can He not save me by His love,
And keep me by His grace?

If He can keep the little birds,
High on a treetop limb,
Can I not trust Him with my life
And yield it all to Him?

—Sel.



Questions:

1. Did David find some friends who helped him?
2. What did Absalom do when his father left the city?
3. Did David's army win the battle?
4. What happened to Absalom?
5. Does it pay to do wrong?

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Part 18

Nov. 2

DAVID IS KIND

2 Sam. 9:1-13

One day David was thinking about his old friend, Jonathan. Jonathan was King Saul's son. Jonathan had been kind to David when they were young. Even when David was older and was in King Saul's house, Jonathan helped him out of trouble many times. Now David asked, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" The servant, Ziba, said, "Yes, Jonathan has a son that is living. He is lame on his feet." King David said, "Bring him to me." Trembling, Mephibosheth came before King David. He fell upon his face and begged for mercy. David said to him, "Fear not. I will show you kindness for your father Jonathan's sake. All the land that was your grandfather Saul's will be restored to you. You will also eat at my table continually." Jonathan's son bowed himself, and said, "What am I that you should look kindly upon me?" King David then called Ziba and told him that he and his sons and servants should work the ground for Jonathan's son. They should bring in the fruits, that his master would have food to eat.

Memory Verse: Put on . . . bowels of mercies, kindness.
Col. 3:12.

Giving to God

Rene put her pennies on the table. "I'm sure I have more money than you do," she bragged.

"Oh, no, you don't!" replied Brent, emptying his piggy bank. "Daddy always gives us the same amount."

"But I found a dime on the sidewalk," said Rene, "so I have ten cents more than you do."

"That's not fair," Brent objected. He began to count his money. "I have fifteen pennies," he said.

"I have fifteen pennies and one dime, so I have twenty-five cents," Rene stated.

"Well, I'm going to ask Daddy for a dime, so we can give the same in the missionary offering," declared Brent.

"But the teacher said we shouldn't ask our parents for the money," Rene said.

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked Mother from the kitchen doorway.

"Next Sunday is Missionary Day, and Brent is angry because I have more money than he has to give."

"She found a dime," Brent complained. She should give me half of it."

"But I want to give the most," Rene insisted. "The Bible says that it's more blessed to give than to receive."

"But the Bible also says that God loves a cheerful giver," reminded Mother, "and neither of you sound as if you were giving cheerfully."

"Doesn't Jesus want us to give to Him?" asked Rene.

"Certainly, but your attitude is all wrong," Mother replied.

"What's attitude?" asked Brent.

"That's your reason for giving. Giving isn't a contest to see whether one can give more than the other. We are to give from our hearts because we love Jesus."

"Then Jesus doesn't mind if my offering is smaller?" asked Brent.

"No, dear. The amount isn't important," said Mother. "Jesus just wants us to give cheerfully and willingly. He can see our hearts."

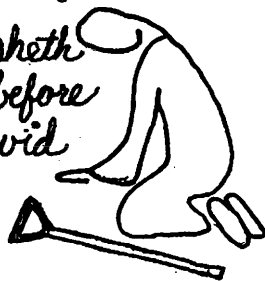
"I'm sorry I quarreled," said Rene. "But I like to give to Jesus."

"So do I," said Brent. "I'm glad I have fifteen pennies to give." —Sel.

JOHNNY JUMPS THE FENCE

When Johnny found out that he was not supposed to be on the other side of the fence, he jumped over the fence. He jumped over the fence almost as quick as a wink. That is how quickly we should get away from the places where Satan is doing his wicked work. We should not want to be where Satan's people are, unless we want to tell them about the Lord Jesus, and help them.

*Mephibosheth
bowed before
King David*



Questions:

1. Who did David think about one day?
2. What did Jonathan's son think when he was called to David?
3. What was wrong with Jonathan's son's feet?
4. Should we make fun of people who are crippled?
5. What did David do for Jonathan's son?

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Part 19

Nov. 9

DAVID REPAYS KINDNESS

2 Sam. 17:27-29; 19:31-39; 1 Kings 2:1

David and his men were hungry, thirsty, and weary. How happy they were when Bar-zil-la-i came bringing them beds, pans, beans, sheep, cheese, and many other good things. David did not forget their kindness. Time passed and David started back home after the battle. Who went with him? Barzillai. David looked at this aged good man. He said, "Come and live with me, and I will feed you in Jerusalem." Barzillai said, "I am old and can't hear well, nor taste good things. Why should I be a burden to you, my king? I will go a little way with you, and then return to my home. I pray thee, let me be buried in a grave by my mother and father. But my son, Chimham, let him go with you and you can do what you think good to him." The king said, "Your son will go with me, but if you ever need anything just let me know." King David kissed Barzillai and blessed him. Then Barzillai returned to his home. All the people went over Jordan.

Before David died, he told his son, Solomon, to show kindness to Barzillai's sons and to let them eat at his table.

Memory Verse: And to godliness [add] brotherly kindness: and to brotherly kindness, charity. 1 Peter 1:7.

Living With Others

"Daryl, what do you want to be when you grow up?" asked Uncle Lance.

"I think I'll be a hermit," Daryl replied.

Uncle Lance looked surprised. "Now why would you want to be a hermit?"

"Well, hermits live alone, and nobody bothers them, and they don't have to take a bath or eat all of their vegetables," Daryl replied.

"Now I think that would be a selfish way to live," said Uncle Lance. "The Bible says that none of us lives to himself. How are you going to live for Jesus if you never see anybody except yourself? Actually, we can't live without the help of others. Why, even the birds, animals, and fish need one another."

"Why do they?" asked Daryl.

"Sit down here beside me, and I'll tell you about some of them," said his uncle. "There are few of God's creatures that care to live entirely alone," he said. "Scientists have found out that even a little mouse will grow faster when it's with other mice than when it is left by itself."

"I've watched mother birds feeding their babies. They would die without a mother to feed them," said Daryl. "But I don't intend to be a hermit until I'm big enough to take care of myself."

"Suppose you get sick or hurt?" asked Uncle Lance. "Animals stay together for their own protection."

"I've watched birds chase a cat away from a nest," said Daryl. "They swooped down and tried to peck the cat."

"Some of God's creatures find it easier to hunt food in groups, too," said Uncle Lance. "They hunt in herds or packs."

"Mommy says that Christians should tell others about Jesus. I couldn't do that if I lived alone, could I?" remarked Daryl. "I guess I won't be a hermit after all."

—Sel.

SWEETNESS OF LIFE

A little girl sat at the table, alternately stirring and sipping her drink. Presently, with tears of disappointment in her eyes, she exclaimed, "Mother, it won't come sweet!" Then the mother realized that she had forgotten to put in the sugar. This done, the sugar itself did the rest.

No amount of stirring or trying can make our lives sweet; but when we let the Lord Jesus enter and take possession of our hearts, He makes them pure and lovely. Sweetness of life is only possible as He who is the sweetness dwells within.

*Barzillai had
a kind*


Questions:

1. What was brought to King David when he was hungry and weary?
2. When David later was returning to his palace, who went part of the way with him?
3. What did Barzillai say when King David asked him to go home with him?
4. Did Barzillai's son go with him?
5. Before he died, what did David tell his son Solomon to do?

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Part 20

Nov. 16

THE MIGHTY MEN

2 Sam. 23:1,5; Rev. 5:4,5,7; 2 Sam. 23:13-17

David was getting old. The Spirit of God was upon him. He spoke of Jesus who was to come many, many years later. Jesus was to come from David's family.

We read that John had a vision about Jesus. John saw a book. That book needed to be opened. John wept because no one could open the book. An elder told him not to weep. John looked up. He saw Jesus, who was of the family of David. Jesus took the book and opened it. Today we have salvation through Christ.

David thought about a lot of things when he was old. He thought about his thirty mighty men. He remembered the chief three, and what they had done for him. One day he longed for a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem. The army of the Philistines surrounded that place. David's three chief mighty men loved him. They broke through the army of Philistines. They got a cup of water from the well. They risked their lives to do this. They brought it to David. David was deeply touched and could not drink the water. He poured it out as an offering to the Lord.

Memory Verse: I can do all things through Christ.
Phil 4:13a

Working for Jesus

"This week I want each of you to see what you can do for Jesus."

Sheila was thinking of her teacher's words as she helped Mother set the table for the Sunday dinner. She would like to work for Jesus, but what could she do? She was too little to preach or teach.

"Fill the glasses with water and then you may call Daddy for dinner," said Mother. "Thank you for setting the table. You do it so nicely."

After dinner, Sheila helped to carry the dishes into the kitchen. "May I run across the street and see Tommy?" asked Sheila. "He's sick, and I brought him the Sunday school paper to read."

"That's nice," Mother replied. "You may stay for half an hour. Be careful when you cross the street."

Tommy was glad to see his friend. His mother was glad to see her, too. "I'm tired from trying to entertain him," his mother said. "The baby has a cold, too, and has been fussy all morning."

"Oh, please, let me hold the baby," begged Sheila. "I'll be very careful."

"You certainly may," Tommy's mother replied. "I haven't had a chance to make beds today."

Sheila held the baby while she told Tommy the lesson story.

When Sheila got home, Daddy was resting on the sofa. "Shall I get you a pillow?" she asked.

"That would be nice," Daddy replied with a smile. "What would I do without a little girl to wait upon me?"

Sheila brought the pillow and then snuggled up beside her mother in the lounge chair. "Mommy, how can I work for Jesus?" she asked. "I'm so little."

"Why, honey, you're doing that when-

ever you help Daddy and Mother, or when you entertain Tommy," Mother replied. "The Bible says that if we just give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name, we will not lose our reward."

"I'm so glad," said Sheila. "I was worried, Mommy. I wouldn't want to wait until I'm big to begin working for Jesus."
—Sel.

THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK

A man in Africa bought a clock. It ran good for awhile. Then it stopped. The hands didn't move.

The man decided that something was wrong with the hands of the clock. He took them off and carried them to a man who fixed clocks. The repairman said, "There is nothing wrong with the hands of the clock. The trouble is inside the clock. Bring me the clock and I will look inside and see what the trouble is."

When people do wrong, the trouble is inside. Sin comes from the heart. The Bible says, "The heart is . . . desperately wicked."

Jesus can fix our hearts. He can take away the sin.

"Little seeds of mercy,
Sown by youthful hands,
Grow to bless the nations,
Far in heathen lands."

Questions:

1. Who did David speak of when he was old?
2. Did Jesus take the book and open it?
3. Of what family was Jesus?
4. How many mighty men did we talk about in our lesson?
5. What did three of them do?

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Part 21

Nov. 23

A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

2 Sam. 22:2,3, 18-22, 29,50

Our forefathers set a day that we were to give thanks to the Lord for all He does for us. When the pilgrims first came to America, they did not have much food. God caused their crops to do good, and they were thankful. We should always be thankful for all God does for us. What is something you are thankful for?

Our lesson today is about David. David was thankful. King Saul had tried to kill him. God did not let King Saul kill him. God helped David. David was so happy that he wrote a song. He said that God was like a great big rock. A rock is solid. A big rock is hard to move. Some great big rocks are never moved. God is like that. David loved God. He said that God was like a horn. A horn of an animal is helpful in fighting. David knew that God would fight for him. David had some enemies that were stronger than he was, but God helped him. David said that God was like a lamp. When it was dark, God was there. David knew God would always be there with him. He praised God for all He had done for him.

Memory Verse: I will give thanks unto thee O Lord. 2 Sam. 22:50a.

The Meaning of Thansgiving

Jenny had just come home from school. She sat on the steps with her chin in her hands. From the look on her face, she was very near tears. Jenny's mother came up the sidewalk. She had been visiting one of their neighbors.

"Why, Jenny dear! what is the matter?" Mother asked, as she sat down on the step just below Jenny.

A tear slipped from Jenny's eyes. "Mother, why can't we have a turkey for Thansgiving?" Jenny asked, raising her head out of her hands. "I am the only child in my class who is not having turkey. Bill said it wouldn't be Thansgiving without a turkey."

Mother put her arm around Jenny. "Jenny, I would like to have a turkey for Thansgiving, but your daddy has just started back to work. He was away from work for six weeks after his accident. We just don't have enough money for a turkey right now."

"Dear, Thansgiving Day was not set aside as a day to especially eat turkey," Mother said. "Do you know how this special day got started?"

"No," replied Jenny looking questioningly at her mother.

"In the fall of 1620, a group of people called *pilgrims* came to America. They brought some food with them, but it was not enough to last through the winter. Many people died from starvation. The winter was very cold and snowy. A lot of the pilgrims died because of the cold. There were graves of all sizes on the hillside. When spring came, the people who had lived through the winter, planted gardens and fields. The summer brought both sunshine and rain. In the

fall the pilgrims had lots of crops to harvest. The pilgrims were glad that God had been so good to cause their crops to grow so well. They said, 'We will set aside a special day each year to thank God for all His blessings.' They called the day Thansgiving Day."

"Then we should think of how good God has been to us, shouldn't we?" Jenny said.

"Yes," said Mother. "Do you think God has given us many blessings?"

"He helped Daddy get well, didn't He?" replied Jenny. "I am thankful that God has taken care of my family," Jenny said, as she hugged her mother.

—Sandra Whitson

ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

"Mother, why isn't David good?" asked Lou. "He prays for the Lord to make him good, but he is always doing unkind things."

"We can find many answers to our prayers in the Bible," Mother said. "David doesn't try to find out how to be good and obey God. He expects God to do it for him. Only as we obey God's Word can He help us to be good. After we give God our hearts and love and serve Him, then He will make us good."

Questions:

1. What day did our forefathers set aside?
2. What did they do on that day?
3. Can you name something that you are thankful for?
4. Did David write a psalm of thanks-giving?
5. What did he say he was thankful for?

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Part 22

Nov. 30

DAVID'S PLEA FOR MERCY

1 Chron. 21:1-3, 7,8, 13-18, 24,27

David wanted to know how many people were in Israel. He told Joab and the rulers to go and number them. Joab said, "The Lord can make His people a hundred times so many more than they are. Why does my lord, the King, want them numbered?" But King David said for them to be numbered. This displeased God. He sent the prophet Gad to tell David that God was very displeased. David was sorry. He said, "I have been very foolish to do this." God said that Israel would be punished. He told David to choose what punishment he wanted. He said, "You can have three years of famine, or three months of being destroyed by your enemies, or three days of pestilence." David said, "Let me fall into the hands of God and not man." David chose the three days of pestilence. Many people died, and David was very sorry. The Lord did not let the pestilence last three full days. The angel of the Lord stopped at the threshingfloor of Ornan. David saw the angel. He and the elders clothed themselves in sackcloth and fell upon their faces. David offered a sacrifice to the Lord at the threshingfloor. Later the temple was built at this place.

Memory Verse: We will remember the name of the Lord. Psa. 20:7b

Kathy and Karen

Kathy and Karen were six-year-old twins. They looked as much alike as two peas! But they didn't always act alike.

One day Father said, "I'm going on a business trip next week."

"Take us with you," the twins cried.

"I could only take one of you," said Father, "And that wouldn't be fair."

"You could take one this time and one next time," said Mother.

Both girls begged to be the one taken.

Father whispered in Mother's ear, and Mother whispered back. "We know a way to decide which one goes," they said. "But we're going to keep it a secret. We'll let you know on Monday."

How were Mother and Father going to decide? The twins guessed and guessed, but neither Father nor Mother would tell. In between wondering, they were kept busy, for Mother was papering the bedroom. "Kathy, please set the table." "Karen, please answer the phone."

"I'm busy," Karen said finally, when Mother asked her to answer the telephone. So Kathy did it.

The next day Mother asked them to play inside while she went to the grocery store. But Karen got tired of staying inside. "I'm going out," she said.

Kathy wanted to go out, too. Mother wouldn't know if she went for just a little while and then came in. Kathy got as far as the door. "God will know if I go out," she thought. "And I'll be disobeying Him and Mother, too."

Just then the phone rang. It was Mother. "I forgot the grocery purse," she said. "Will you bring it to the corner so I won't have to come all the way back? Let me talk to Karen."

"She's outside," Kathy had to say.

That night Mother said, "Father and I already know which girl is going on the plane trip. We think it should be a girl who obeys whether we are with her or not—a girl who tries to please God as well as us."

—Sel.

Heart Cleaning

If you could really see a picture of your heart and life, would you be happy about the picture? Our actions each day should show the good things in our hearts. Don't leave any room for sin to come in and clutter up your heart. Jesus can clean our hearts.

—Sel.

Jesus loves you more than your own parents are able to love you.



Questions:

1. What did David do that was wrong?
2. Did Joab try to get him not to number Israel?
3. What did God do because David did wrong?
4. Did David offer a sacrifice to God and tell Him he was sorry?
5. Did pride make David do wrong?

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Part 23

Dec. 7

BUILDING THE TEMPLE

1 Chron. 22:1-19

In the day of David, God's Spirit lived in a tent. King David wanted to build a big nice temple for God to live in. David wanted it to be the most beautiful house in the world. He asked God to let him build it. God said that Solomon, David's son, would build the temple. God would cause the days of Solomon to be peaceful days. There would be no wars, so he could build the Temple.

David called his son, Solomon, to him. He said, "I have boxes and boxes of nails to be used in building the Temple. I have brass, cedar wood, gold, and silver to be used in the building of the Temple. Now, my son, the Lord be with you and help you to build the house of the Lord thy God. You will be blessed if you will keep the laws of Moses. The Lord will give you wisdom and understanding. Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid. There are workmen who know how to build the temple and make it beautiful. Set your heart and soul to seek the Lord. Arise and build the Temple. Bring the vessels and the Ark of the Covenant into the house that you build.

Memory Verse: Lord, I have loved the Habitation of thy house. Psalm 26:8a

Is Jesus Real?

One night Daddy was asking Judy and Jared some questions about the Bible story he had just read to them. It was about the birth of Jesus.

"Daddy," said Jared, "Andy said that we don't know that Jesus really lived on earth because we didn't see Him. We just believe what men have told us."

"Jared, you've never been to England, but you believe there is such a place, don't you?"

"Yes," said Jared. "I've read all about England."

"And you never saw George Washington, so do you think there really was such a man?" asked Daddy.

"Yes," said Jared. "My teacher told me all about him because he was the first president of the United States."

"If you believe England is a place and yet you've never seen it, and you believe George Washington was really a man and yet he died over a hundred years before you were born, why should you not believe Jesus really lived? The Bible has never been found to be false, and it tells much about the birth and life of Jesus. Just as we know about George Washington because men who knew him wrote about him, we know about Jesus because the men who knew Him wrote about Him."

"I wish I could have seen Jesus with my own eyes," said Jared.

"Jared, Jesus said, 'blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.' Jesus wants us to believe in Him even though we've never seen Him with our eyes. Don't you believe Jesus hears you when you pray to Him?" asked Dad.

"Yes," said Jared.

"The Bible says that 'God is a spirit

and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth.' We must never let other people make us doubt that Jesus is real." —S.W.

Finding The Way

Edith wanted to ask her mother if she could go next door to play, but a lady was talking to her mother. She knew better than to talk while grown-ups were talking, so she listened.

This is what the lady said: "When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a Christian; but no one ever told me what I must do to be one. Then one day an old man told in meeting that you must ask God to forgive all your naughty doings and to make you God's own child. I asked God to forgive me for all the bad things I had done and to make me His own little girl, and He did."

Edith thought that this was what she wanted to know about—how to find God. She went to her room, got on her knees and asked God to please forgive her for all the naughty things she had done and make her His own little girl. God heard her prayer and came into her heart. Now she wanted to be good to please Him. —Sel.

Questions:

1. What did King David want to build?
2. Did God let King David build the Temple?
3. Was God going to give Solomon peace with his enemies, so he could build the Temple?
4. What was the Temple going to be built of?
5. What were they to put inside the Temple when it was finished?

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Part 24

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DAVID'S LAST PRAYER

1 Chron. 29:1-28

David called all the people together. David was old and would soon die. His son, Solomon, was made king. Solomon now sat on the throne. David prayed to the Lord before the people. David prayed, "Oh, Lord, you are great. All that is in the earth and in the heavens is yours. You are high, above all others. All the riches and honour is yours. You give help to the small and to the great. We thank you and praise your Name. But Lord, who am I and what is my people that we should be able to offer so much gold, silver, cedar wood, nails, and time as we have given? All things come from you. We are here in this life for only a little while. Our days on the earth are like a shadow. The earth stays here, but we leave it. All of this store, that we have prepared, comes from You. I know, my God, you have pleasure in those who do right. I have given my all to be used to build a temple, and these people have also willingly given. Help these your people to forever remember to give willingly. Now help my son, Solomon, to build the house." The people all bowed down and worshipped the Lord.

Memory Verse: With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. Ephesians 6:7.

Learning About Prayer

"I wonder where Mommy is now," Karen said.

"She's probably visiting with Grandma Jones right now," Aunt Betty said. "Isn't it nice that I could take care of you so that Mother could have a vacation?"

"I guess so," Karen replied with a sigh. She loved Aunt Betty, but she missed Mother, who had been gone for five long days. Karen had just slipped into her pajamas when the telephone rang. Aunt Betty lifted the receiver.

"Hello," said Aunt Betty. "Oh, how are you, Sarah? Yes, she's here." She turned to Karen. "It's your mother. She wants to talk to you."

Karen put the receiver to her ear. She had so many things to say that Mother hardly had a chance to speak a word. "Hello, Mommy. When are you coming home? Please, may I have some new shoes? And Mommy, guess what! The cat jumped on the table and smashed the lamp. And I had a fight with Sandy, but it was her fault and—"

Aunt Betty put her hand over the mouthpiece. "Karen! Your mother did not call to hear all about your troubles. She just wants to know that you are well and that you love her."

"O-o-o-h!" Once again Karen spoke into the phone. "I miss you very much, Mommy, but we're getting along fine."

"I miss you, too, Karen," said Mother. "Be a good girl. Now may I speak to Aunt Betty again?"

"Hello, Sarah," said Aunt Betty. "Now don't worry about a thing. We can get another lamp. No, Karen isn't fighting with the neighbor girl any more. They made up. Everything is fine. Goodby."

"You talked to your mother just like some people talk to God," Aunt Betty said after she had hung up the phone. "When they pray, they talk about their troubles and tell God what they want, but they forget to thank Him or to tell God that they love Him."

"Do you think that God likes to hear us say 'thank You,' Aunt Betty?" asked Karen.

"I'm sure He does," Aunt Betty replied. "Don't forget to say your prayers before you go to bed."

"I won't," promised Karen. "And tonight I'm not going to ask for a thing. I'm just going to tell Jesus that I love Him." —Sel.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF?

A teacher once asked his class of forty children, to write on a sheet of paper the word *Christmas*. "Now," said the teacher, "write after the word *Christmas*, the first thing you think of." When the papers were returned to him, the teacher read the answers. Not one person had written "Jesus." How sad it is that so few think about the Lord Jesus on His birthday, Christmas!

Never forget that Jesus is your best Friend.

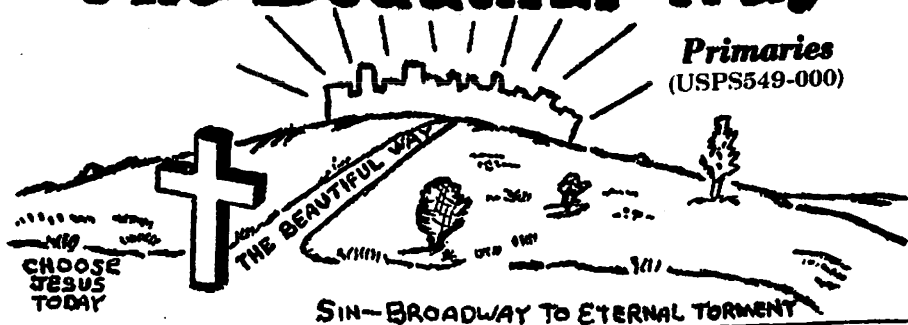
Questions:

1. Was David old and near the end of his life?
2. Who did he call before him?
3. What did he say in his prayer to the Lord?
4. Is our life like a shadow?
5. Did the people first willingly give their hearts to the Lord and then their gifts?

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Part 25

Dec. 21

CHRIST IS BORN

In the days of Caesar, all the people went to be taxed. Mary and Joseph went up to Bethlehem. They were of the family of King David, and that was the place they had to go. Many other people went to Bethlehem, also. When Mary and Joseph came to the city, there was no room for them to stay in the inn. It was time for Jesus to be born, so Mary and Joseph went into a stable. That night Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.

At the time Jesus was born, the angels in heaven were so happy that they came out of the sky. Some shepherds were watching their sheep on the hillside. Suddenly a bright light shone around the shepherds. An angel appeared. The shepherds were afraid. The angel said, "Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Today a baby is born in the city of David. So that you will know the baby that is Christ, you will find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." How happy the shepherds were when they saw the baby Jesus.

Memory Verse: For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour.
Luke 2:11.

"The Least of One of These"

Jody's eyes twinkled as he walked along looking in the shop windows. Next week would be Christmas. Right now he was trying to decide on the things to buy. He would need gifts for Daddy, Mother, Christie, and baby Lori.

Now and then Jody reached into his pocket to feel the eight dollars he had saved. On Saturday he would have two more dollars. That meant he could spend ten dollars on the gifts.

After looking in all the shops, Jody decided on the gifts he would buy. He was happy. It would take exactly the ten dollars. He would come back Saturday and buy the gifts.

As Jody was walking home, he saw his friend Jerry, who was delivering newspapers. Jerry's daddy was dead, so money from the paper route helped to buy food for Jerry's mother and sister.

Jerry's hands looked very cold and he was shivering.

"Jerry, why don't you wear gloves?" Jody asked.

Jerry looked a little embarrassed. "I don't have any," he said. "But I don't get so very cold."

That night Jody told his mother about Jerry's not having any gloves.

"I wish someone would give Jerry a pair of gloves for Christmas," Jody said.

"That would be nice," Mother replied. "I've bought a turkey and some groceries to take to Jerry's family."

Jody was quiet for a while. He was thinking. He really had his heart set on the gifts he had picked out. Gloves would cost about three dollars. He would have only seven dollars left. No, he *couldn't* buy the gloves!

In family worship, Jody's dad read from Matthew 26. The words of Jesus, "I

was naked and ye clothed me not" struck a chord in Jody's heart. In the Bible the people said to Jesus, "When did we see you needing clothes?" Jesus had replied, "When you did it not to the least of one of these, you did it not to me."

"Daddy, who is 'the least of one of these?'" Jody asked.

"That means any person that is in need," replied Daddy.

For a few moments Jody was silent as he thought of the words of Jesus.

"Mother and Daddy," said Jody. "I want to buy Jerry a pair of gloves because he is 'the least of one of these.' I won't have as much money to spend on your gifts though," he said with a sad look.

Daddy reached over and patted him on the knee. "I'm glad you want to help those who are in need, Jody. I had much rather you give Jerry the gloves, than to buy a gift for me, anyway."

Jody felt good inside. He knew he was pleasing God.

—Sandra Whitson



Questions:

1. Where did Mary and Joseph go to be taxed?
2. What happened while they were in Bethlehem?
3. Who told the shepherds about the baby Jesus being born?
4. What did the angels say?
5. Did the shepherds go and see the baby Jesus?

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Part 26

Dec. 28

SOLOMON CHOOSES TO BE WISE

1 Kings 3:1, 3-15

Solomon was made king after his father David died. Solomon was young. He loved God and wanted to please God. One day he went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. He offered one thousand sacrifices. God was pleased with him. In a dream, God asked, "Ask what I shall give to you." Solomon said, "You have loved my father, David, as he walked in the right ways. You showed mercy to him. Now you have made his son king to sit on the throne. I am but a little child. I don't know how to go out or to come in. I am your servant over a great many people. They are more than can be counted in number. Give your servant an understanding heart to judge thy people. Help me to know right from wrong. For who is able to judge so many people?" This request pleased the Lord. God said, "Because you did not ask long life for yourself, nor for riches, or the life of your enemies, I will give you an understanding heart. You will know right from wrong. You will be very wise. I will also give you riches and honour and a long life, if you will walk in the commandments of your father.

Memory Verse: Happy is the man that findeth wisdom.
Prov. 3:13.

King Solomon's Prayer

Have you children ever asked Jesus something? What if Jesus would tell you that you could ask for anything you wanted and He would give it to you? What would you ask for? You might think about that new toy you saw in the store last week—or maybe you have been wanting some new clothes. It is good to have toys to play with and good clothes to wear, but children, there is something that is more important. Do you know what that is? You need to know how to make Jesus happy more than anything else. You can kneel down beside your bed every morning and ask Jesus to help you be good all day long. You can ask Jesus to help you be kind to your little friends and to obey Mamma and Daddy. Jesus will be happy to hear a prayer like that. Jesus will also see that you have toys to play with, food to eat, and clothes to wear.

In the Bible we have a story about King Solomon. One night God talked to him. He asked King Solomon what he would like to have. King Solomon didn't ask for a lot of money, he didn't ask for the people to think that he was nice, nor did he ask to live for a long time; but he asked God to help him be a good king to the people.

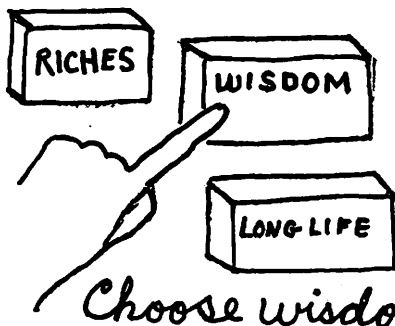
God was happy because King Solomon wanted to be a good king. God also gave Solomon a lot of things he didn't ask for because he asked God to help him. God gave him a lot of money. He had many horses and chariots. The people would often come to Solomon with their troubles and questions and God would help Solomon answer them. The people loved Solomon. God blessed King Solomon so very much that he was the

best king there ever was because he had asked God to help him. —E. E.

A NEW BODY

One time I watched some eggs as they hatched out. They were in a big glass box where it was kept warm by lamps. The eggs began to crack and then would roll some. Soon one broke open and out came a little baby chick. It is wonderful how an egg can turn into a baby chicken, isn't it? Only God can do that. Boys and girls, some day God is going to give us a new body. In that new body we will never be sick. We will be with God in heaven. Because Jesus arose from the grave, we will arise with a new body some day.

—A. M. Miles



Questions:

1. Who became king after King David?
2. Did King Solomon offer sacrifices to the Lord?
3. What did God ask Solomon in a dream?
4. What did Solomon ask God to give him?
5. What did God give to Solomon?

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