

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 35, No. 3

July, Aug., Sept., 1984

Part 15

July 1

TWO RIGHTEOUS MEN

Gen. 5:22, 23; 6:5, 6, 8, 9

Long ago there were many people on the earth. Almost everyone was sinful. They did not love God so they did not care how they lived. What a sad world!

God was sorry that He had made man. He knew that the people didn't want to live the way He wanted them to. God loved the people, but He did not like them to be wicked.

Although there were wicked people all around, there was one man who loved God and lived to please Him. His name was Enoch. Enoch walked and talked with God. When God spoke to him, he listened and wanted to please God. When Enoch became old, he did not die. God took him to heaven to be with Him.

Because the people were so sinful, God decided to destroy them with a great flood. Water was to cover the whole earth. Then God remembered Noah. Noah loved God and tried to live right. He taught his three sons to live right, too.

Sometimes God spoke to Noah, so He told him, "Because you want to live right, you and your family will be saved."

Memory Verse: Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. Deut. 18:13.

A Child's Prayer



Help me do the things I should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all I do, in work or play,
To be more loving every day.

—Selected

Grandpas and Great-Grandpas



One Sunday afternoon, during lunch time, Mother asked Karla, "What was your Sunday School lesson about, Karla?"

Karla looked up at Mother. "Our lesson was about Enoch and Noah," she replied. "They were two special men a long, long time ago."

"They were two old Grandpas," Kristi, her sister, added. "Did I ever have any Grandpas and Great-Grandpas?"

"Yes, you did," replied Mother. "Your Daddy has only one father, and your Mother has one father. That means you have two Grandpas. Everyone has *two* Grandpas and *four* Great-Grandpas."

"Does Susan have two Grandpas, too?" Kristi asked, now wanting to talk instead of eat.

"Mother said that everyone has two Grandpas," Karla answered for Mother.

"So Susan *does* have two Grandpas," Kristi said of her best friend.

"And she has four Great-Grandpas," Karla added for her.

Mother nodded her head, "Yes. You have four Great-Grandpas because each one of your grandparents had a father. In America, our custom is to keep the last name of your father's father, and his father, and so on down the line. Our

last name is Wilson, so your father's father and *his* father were all Wilsons."

"What was Noah's last name?" Kristi asked.

"Well, the Bible doesn't tell us if they kept last names, but the Bible does tell us the name of each father and his first son, or heir," Mother answered. "Enoch was the Great-Grandpa of Noah. Enoch loved God very much and pleased God with his life. God loved Enoch very much, too. Instead of letting Enoch die, God just took him to heaven one day. Enoch taught his son, Methuselah to love God. God allowed Methuselah to live 969 years. That is the longest anyone has ever lived. Then Methuselah had a son named Lamech and he was the father of Noah. Enoch taught Methuselah about God; Methuselah taught Lamech about God; and Lamech taught Noah about God."

"I'm sure glad that Noah loved God!" exclaimed Karla. "If he hadn't pleased God then he would have drowned in that terrible flood, too!"

"Yes," agreed Mother. "After the flood Noah was ^{the} Grandpa and Great-Grandpa of everybody. We can talk about Noah and the flood later. Right now we had better eat," Mother added. They finished their meal quietly.

—C. S.

Questions:

1. Was God pleased with the way the people lived?
2. How were the people living?
3. Who walked and talked with God?
4. What did God plan to do with the world?
5. Who did God remember that was living right?
6. How many sons did Noah have?

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Part 16

July 8

NOAH BUILDS AN ARK

Gen. 6:12-16; 7:1, 13-17

God, looking down from heaven, saw all the sin and wickedness on the earth. He was sorry He had made man. God decided to destroy everyone and everything; even all the beasts of the field, and all the creeping things.

Among all these sinful people, Noah lived pleasing to God. God told Noah to build an ark, because He was going to send rain to cover the whole earth. An ark is like a large boat.

Noah believed what God told him, so Noah and his three sons began to build the ark. It took a long, long time before it was finished. While they worked, Noah preached to the people and told them to get ready because it was going to flood. The people laughed and made fun of Noah, saying, "How can this be? It has never rained before!"

Finally all the work was done. God caused the animals to go into the ark, two by two. Then Noah and all his family went in, and God shut the door.

We need to be ready, too, when we die.

Memory Verse: They should be ready against that day.
Esther 3:14b.

Let's Build a Boat

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Paul was busy building something with a hammer, nails, and some light-weight cedar wood.

"What are you building?" David asked his brother.

"I'm building a boat," said Paul, who was thinking that the wood might float because it was light.

"Yeah!" agreed Paul. "We can make an ark like Noah did and spray the shower down on it for forty days just like it rained on Noah. Forty days was a long time, wasn't it?"

David smiled. "We could put all the animals in it when we are through and give them a ride on our boat," he said.

"Well, maybe we can let it rain for forty seconds or so, and pretend that it was forty days," David reasoned.

While the boys were talking, they were busy hammering wood together.

"It looks pretty good to me!" Paul said with a cheery voice. He looked over the roughly-built boat with pleasure. "Let's see if it will float first without the animals in it."

"That's not how Noah did it," David said. "He just trusted God that it would float."

"But Noah went by God's instructions and built his boat exactly like God said. We just built this one out of cedar wood."

"Okay," agreed David, "but it won't hurt our animals any if they sink. Let's just put a few in the boat."

The boys put two pigs, two chickens, two horses, and seven sheep into the little boat.

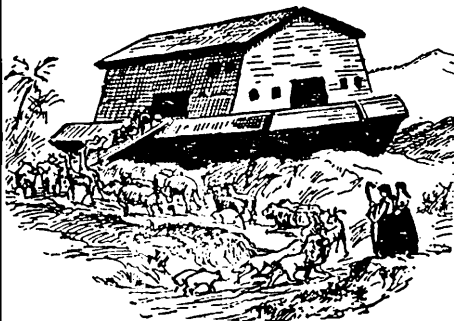
"Now why did Noah put seven sheep in the ark?" Paul asked, with a puzzled look on his face.

"The sheep were counted as clean animals for sacrifices to God. Remember after the flood Noah built an altar and sacrificed a sheep to God for thanksgiving? Noah did that because he was thankful they were all alive and were on dry land again."

The two young brothers plugged up the bath tub and sprayed water in it, and the little boat was soon floating in the water. The two boys were happy. Their little "ark" was floating!

—C. S.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



The Bible says we should serve one another. That means we should always be ready to help others.

Questions:

1. What did God see when He looked on the earth?
2. Was He happy when He saw all the sin?
3. What did He decide to do?
4. Who did He tell to build the ark?
5. Why did He choose Noah?
6. Who was in the ark?
7. Why did they go into the ark?

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Part 17

July 15

GOD'S PROMISE

Gen. 8:15-22; 9:11-15

Noah, his family, and all the living creatures were in the ark. God caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights and the waters covered the whole earth. All that were in the ark were safe, but all that were outside of the ark were destroyed.

Then, after many days, God made a wind to blow and the water began to go down. Finally, Noah sent out a raven. This bird did not come back. Three times Noah sent a dove. First it came right back. Next it had an olive leaf in its mouth. The last time it didn't return at all. By this Noah knew there was dry land again.

God said to Noah, "Open the door and come out." Noah opened the door, and they stepped out on dry ground. Noah built an altar to thank God for taking care of them.

Again God spoke to Noah, "I will never flood the earth again. I will put a rainbow in the sky. Each time you see my rainbow in the sky, you will remember my promise."

Have you seen God's promised rainbow? A rainbow comes in the sky after the rain, and each time we look at it we can remember God's promise to Noah.

Memory Verse: I do set my bow in the cloud. Gen. 9:13a.

NOTE TO TEACHERS

Take a relatively large picture of a rainbow to class and point out the colors as they are mentioned in the story. The children will understand and listen much better.

Fun with Rainbow Colors

Thomas was busy playing with his play dough. He had blue, red and yellow play dough.

"Mother," Thomas said, "why don't you buy me some orange play dough?"

"Let's make some orange play dough," replied Mother. "Take some of the yellow play dough and mix it with the same amount of red. Keep squeezing it together until it comes out orange."

Thomas did as Mother told him. "Hey, Mom!" he called. "What other colors can I make? Can I make green?"

"Sure," said Mother. "Mix together the same amount of yellow play dough with that much blue play dough. That makes green."

Thomas did as Mother told him, and soon he had green play dough, too! His mother told him to mix red and blue equally together and that would make violet.

"How did you know what two colors to mix to make the different colors?" Thomas asked his mother.

Thomas and his mother looked at the picture of a rainbow. At the very bottom there was violet; then came blue; green, yellow, orange, and then red.

Mother told Thomas something she had learned in school. "Thomas," she said, "there are only three main colors that can make every color you see. These are red, blue, and yellow. Now let's look at the rainbow very closely," Mother

continued. "Show me where the yellow is."

Thomas pointed out the yellow stripe right in the middle of the rainbow. "See the two colors right beside it?" Mother asked. Thomas saw that the green was on one side by the blue, and that the orange was on the other side by the red. "I mixed blue and yellow together and made green," he remembered, "and I mixed red and yellow to make orange."

"Yes," Mother said, "and for the violet, we just start over and put the bottom color above the top color. That puts violet right between red and blue."

"And we put red and blue play dough together to make violet play dough," Thomas finished.

"See what we can learn from a rainbow?" Mother said with a smile. "After it rains, God will send the sunlight through the clouds and it shines on tiny rain drops. The rain drops reflect colors of a rainbow! What a beautiful picture to see! Remember the beautiful promise God gave Noah when He put the first rainbow in the sky?"

"Never again will God send a great flood to destroy the earth," they said together.

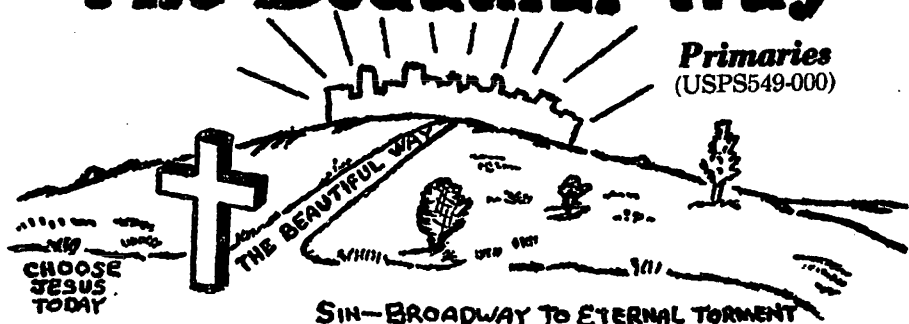
—C. S.

Questions:

1. Who was in the ark? Why?
2. How many days and nights did it rain?
3. What happened to those who were not in the ark?
4. What birds did Noah send out?
5. What did Noah build when he came out of the ark?
6. What did God promise never to do again?
7. What did He put in the sky to remind us of His promise?

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Part 18

July 22

GOD CALLS ABRAM

Gen. 12:1-9

All around Abram the people bowed down to worship the things that God made—the sun, moon, and stars. Yet Abram believed in the true God and worshiped Him only.

One day God called to Abram. "Leave your father's house and go to a land that I will show you. There I will bless you." Although Abram didn't know where the land would be, God had promised him and he wanted to obey Him and be led by the true God.

Taking his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, Abram left his brother, Nahor, and his family in Haran. Abram took with him his many servants and all his flocks and herds. They traveled on crossing rivers, over hills, and through mountains. Each day they were closer to the land God had promised to give Abram.

When they came to the plain of Moreh, at Sichem, God once again spoke to Abram. "This is the land I will give you and your children." Abram built an altar there and worshiped God. As yet Abram and Sarai had no children, but they believed God.

Memory Verse: If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Isa. 1:19.

Following Jesus

"Mother, do you have an old dish pan, or something that I can have?" Kathy asked, walking into the kitchen where Mother was busy putting clean dishes away.

"What do you want it for?" Mother asked Kathy.

"Well, the girls and I want to have feet washing—like we do at church," replied Kathy, slightly bashful about it.

"That sounds like a good idea!" agreed Mother. "Let me get you a pan and a towel. It is a good practice for you girls if you do it in a sincere way. Jesus washed the disciples' feet at the last supper. He had a humble, loving nature and He wanted the disciples to know and feel this love. Now we have feet washing at church to show our humble love to each other. We want to have just the same love about us that Jesus had." While Mother was talking, she had been collecting together the dish pan and towel.

"Come and be with us," Kathy invited. "You could help us sing the songs they sang that time we washed feet at church."

"Perhaps I will check in on you girls in a little while," Mother replied.

Kathy went outside with the things and soon the four girls were lined up in a row on the porch, washing one another's feet. They were trying to sing songs from the church song book but none of them seemed to remember all the words. Mother brought a book out to the girls and she helped them sing. They sang, "We'll follow the Lord all the way."

After the girls were finished washing each other's feet, they felt such a love and gentleness toward each other.

"Let's do this again sometime!" they all said, hugging each other in happiness.

"There certainly is joy in the fold of the Lord!" Kathy said. "Jesus shows us such a humble, loving way to live! I want to live this way all of my life!"

"Me, too! Me, too!" exclaimed all of the others.

Mother picked up the dish pan and towel. "If you girls have a strong determination to live for Jesus, He will always keep leading you in the right way. Stay in the footsteps He has laid out for you."

Again they sang the chorus to their song: "We will follow, ever follow in the footsteps of the Saviour; We will follow, ever follow in His pathway bright and clear!"

—C. S.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION



Questions:

1. Who called to Abram?
2. What did God tell Abram to do?
3. Would Abram be blessed if he obeyed God?
4. Who did Abram take with him?
5. Where did God speak to Abram again?
6. What did God tell him about children?
7. Did Abram and Sarai have children yet?

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July 29

LOT LEAVES ABRAM

Gen. 13:2, 5-12

Abram was a very rich man. He had much cattle, silver, and gold. Lot also had many flocks and herds.

Abram and Lot had so many cows and sheep that it was hard for their servants to find enough grass and water. The servants of Abram and Lot began to quarrel as to who was to have the best for their masters' flocks and herds.

Abram heard of the trouble. He looked over the land and could tell how hard it must be for them. He felt sorry for them.

Abram said to Lot, "Choose which way you will go. If you choose east, I will go west. If you go west, I will go east." God had promised all the land to Abram so he could have chosen the best for himself, but he let Lot choose first instead.

Lot looked towards the Jordan River and thought, "There will always be green grass and plenty of water over there. I will be rich if I move there!" He moved towards the river.

God told Abram, "Look as far as you can see: to the south, west, east, and north. I will give all of this land to you and to your children." Abram believed that someday he would have a son.

Memory Verse: And be ye kind one to another. Eph. 4:32a.

A Fun Game

There was terrible trouble at the children's table where Greg and Susan were coloring. The trouble was that both children wanted all the colors and they both wanted the same book to color, too!

"Now what a silly thing to fuss about!" exclaimed Mother, as she came into the room. "There you both are with two sets of colors between you and two or three books to color in, and you still can't get along! Let's solve this problem with a fun game."

Greg stopped counting colors long enough to look at Mother. "What game is that?" he asked.

"It's called 'compromise,'" Mother replied. "When I was a little girl at home, I used to play it with my brothers and sister. Now I sometimes play 'compromise' with Daddy. It's a fun game that everybody needs to know how to play."

"Who wins when you and Daddy play 'compromise'?" asked Susan.

"That's what's so much fun about it!" said Mother. "Everybody can win if everybody keeps the right attitude and plays fair. Sometimes I play 'compromise' with Daddy when he wants the window rolled down in the car when we are traveling down the road. I don't like the wind blowing my hair all around but I know Daddy likes the breeze, so I say, 'Daddy, please roll up the window half-way.' That way he can have the breeze and my hair won't be blown so badly. That is one way we play 'compromise.'"

"Well, make Susan play 'compromise' so she won't take all the colors," said Greg, looking down at the colors he had been counting.

"Now, I said you must have a good attitude," Mother said to correct Greg. "You will have to compromise, too," she told him. "Let's divide the colors so that you will both have the same amount."

Mother divided the colors so that Greg had one of each color. Susan also had one of each color.

Then came the coloring book. Greg decided he liked another coloring book just as well as the one Susan wanted. Greg colored in one book and Susan colored in another and they were both happy.

—C. S.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

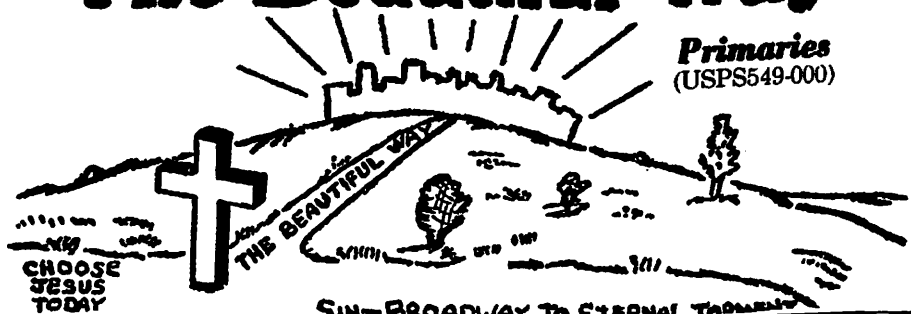


Questions:

1. Were Abram and Lot rich men?
2. What were some things they had?
3. Why did their servants quarrel?
4. What did Abram tell Lot to do?
5. Why did he choose to go by the Jordan River?

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Part 20

Aug. 5

STRANGE VISITORS

Gen. 17:5, 15; 18:1-5, 9-15

When Abram was almost one hundred years old, God spoke to him again. "Your name will now be called Abraham, and Sarai's name will be Sarah." Once again God promised Abraham that a son would be born to him and Sarah.

One day when Abraham was sitting at his tent door, he saw three strange men coming to him. Abraham ran to meet them, and, bowing down, he invited them to rest while he had something fixed for them to eat. The three visitors agreed to stop.

Abraham ran to Sarah. "Please bake some cakes for our visitors and tell the servants to choose the best young calf and cook it." When it was ready he brought the food to the visitors.

While the three ate and visited, one man said, "When I come again Sarah will have a son." When Sarah heard that she laughed. "How can I have a baby when I am so old?" she wondered. Abraham was old, too.

The visitor then said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? You shall surely have a son."

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



Jesus, Your Best Friend

Do you have a father and mother who love you very much? I do. Do you have brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, Grandpas and Grandmas who all love you very much? I do, too! But let me tell you about someone who loves me more than anyone I know. I have a special Friend who loved me so much that He died for me! This Friend is Jesus.

Guess how close Jesus is to me? Why, He is so close that He hears everything I even *think*! He knows everything that I think, do, say—even what I eat! Jesus knows *everything* about me. I try to be careful so that I don't make my Friend unhappy with my life.

Now guess how often I talk with Jesus? I talk with Him every few minutes of every day. I talk with Jesus about the clothes I wear, the songs I sing, the books I read, the words I say, and everything that I do. We are very good friends. We won't stop loving each other for anybody or anything. Jesus is my best Friend.

Would you like to have Jesus as your best Friend? He will gladly be your

Friend, too, if you will let Him. Remember how He died on the cruel cross and how He suffered so much pain? Jesus did all that because He was my Friend and your Friend. He wanted our sins to be washed away with His blood. He wants you and me to live in heaven some day with Him.

When Jesus died on the cross, He knew about us. Jesus said, "I will let these big soldiers beat me, laugh at me, and spit on me. I will let them pierce my side. I will die on this cross because I see children, men, and women who are my friends. They need a way to heaven. I will let these soldiers pour out my blood for my friends so that they will believe I love them. Then each one of my friends can live in heaven with me some day." Jesus died on that cross for you and me. He wants to wash our sins away. Then we will be His friends forever and ever.

Jesus is a very good Friend to have, you know. He will give you peace and happiness in your heart. Just believe that He loves you and listen when He talks to you. Jesus will tell you what to do and what is right or wrong. Obey His voice and peace and happiness will stay in your heart. It is so wonderful to have Jesus for a very close Friend!

—C. S.

Questions:

1. What did Abraham name the baby God gave them? Why?
2. What did God tell Abraham to do with Isaac?
3. Why did He want him to do this?
4. How did Abraham feel about this?
5. Tell what happened on the mountain.
6. What did Abraham sacrifice?

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Part 21

Aug. 12

ABRAHAM'S LOVE FOR ISAAC

Gen. 12:1-3; 22:1-13

When Abraham and Sarah were old, God gave them a son. Abraham named the baby Isaac, as God had told him.

Abraham and Sarah loved Isaac. They taught him to do right and trust in God.

God wanted to know which one Abraham loved more; Him or Isaac. He called to him, "Abraham, Abraham." Abraham answered, "Here am I." God said, "Take Isaac, and offer him up to me." Abraham did not understand why, but he wanted to please God.

Early one morning he took Isaac and two servants to the place where God would show him. On the third day Abraham told the servants to wait and he and Isaac went to the mountain that God had chosen. Abraham built an altar, put the wood in place, tied Isaac and laid him on the altar. As Abraham was about to kill Isaac, an angel called, "Abraham. Abraham! Do not hurt the boy. Now I know that you love God more than Isaac."

Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram in a bush. He offered the ram in place of Isaac. They went home very happy.

Memory Verse: Trust in him at all times. Psa. 62:8a.

Angels Protect

One dark, stormy night the Johnson family was traveling home from a trip. The wind was blowing, thunder was grumbling, and the lightning was flashing all around them. The rain poured in torrents on the pavement and their car, while they felt warm and cramped inside.

"At the next town, perhaps we ought to stop and wait until the storm ends before we go on," Mother said to Daddy who was driving.

"Well, my dear," said Daddy, "I believe the Lord will protect us just as well here on the road as He would if we parked on the side of the road."

"Let's pray together once again," said Daddy. "The Lord can stop this storm so I can see better."

The father, mother, son, and daughter all prayed together once again for God's protection on the road home.

Soon they all noticed a soft light around their car. The rain didn't sound so loud, nor did it beat so hard on the car. They seemed to be traveling in their own cloud of protection. Each one had a feeling of security come over him.

Janet was the first one to speak about it. "It seems like God's presence is here with us traveling in our car," she said. "Maybe He sent a guardian angel to see us home safely."

After a while Charles spoke. "What is an angel, anyway?"

"It is a messenger from God," Mother replied. "The Bible tells us about angels and how God uses them to do something He wants done on earth. You can't always see an angel when it is present but there are many times when people do see one. God first used angels to keep Adam and Eve from the tree of

life after they sinned. Then God sent angels to tell Abram about his son, Isaac. Later, Jacob wrestled with an angel for a blessing. There are other stories about angels in the Old Testament, but every time we read of an angel, it is bringing a message from God or doing something for God."

"An angel told Mary and then Joseph about the birth of Jesus before He was born. Then angels told the shepherds and wise men that He was born. After Jesus became a man, angels ministered to Him one time. Angels do as God tells them to do. They are messengers for the throne of God," said Daddy.

While the family was talking, they were traveling smoothly through the storm. As the night progressed, they left the storm behind and early that morning, Daddy pulled the car safely into their own driveway.

Later they told others how the Lord sent an angel to protect them in that terrible storm. They never *saw* the angel, but they all had felt its presence, seen the soft light around them, and knew the security it had brought to each one.

—C. S.

Questions:

1. What were Abram and Sarai's new names?
2. Where was Abraham when he saw the visitors?
3. What did Abraham want them to do?
4. What did Abraham have fixed for them to eat?
5. What did the visitor have to say about Sarah?
6. Did she believe them, and what did she do?
7. Do you think there is anything too hard for the Lord?

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Part 22

Aug. 19

HANNAH PRAYS FOR A SON

1 Sam. 1:5, 8, 15-17, 26-28

Every year Elkanah and Hannah went to Shiloh to worship God. Hannah was very unhappy because she had no children. More than anything she wanted a little baby.

This year when they went to the house of worship, Hannah was especially sad. She cried and would not eat. Hannah went to the temple and prayed, "Oh, Lord, please give me a little baby boy. I will teach him to love you. Then I will give him back to you."

Eli, the High Priest, didn't know why Hannah was so sad and that she was praying to God. He scolded her.

Hannah said to him, "I am so unhappy. I have prayed to the Lord." Eli said, "Go in peace. God will answer your prayers."

The time came that Hannah had a little baby boy. She named him Samuel which means "asked of God."

Hannah took good care of Samuel and taught him about God. When he was old enough Hannah took him to the temple and told Eli, "Here is the boy God gave me in answer to my prayers. I am giving him back to God all the days of his life."

Memory Verse: For God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7b.



A Little New Something

John hurried over to his friend's house one Friday afternoon. "Come and see what I have at my house!" he told Terry. "I have something little and new."

"What is it?" asked Terry, as he hurried along behind John.

"Well, you'll just have to see. You sure will be surprised!" The two boys rushed over to John's house and then John stopped his running. "We must be quiet," he told Terry. "Mother and the something new are in the bedroom resting."

"Oh, you have a new baby!" exclaimed

Terry. "Is it a boy or girl?" he asked.

"Just guess what it is!"

"It's a boy," guessed Terry.

"Hurrah! You guessed right!" John told his friend. "Come and look at him. He has a fat face with a little bitty nose. He really is cute!"

The two boys walked as quietly as they could into the bedroom where the baby was sleeping in a bassinet. John was all smiles while Terry looked over his new baby brother.

"Look at his little hands and fingers," Terry said. "He won't be able to hold a ball for a long time!"

"Oh, yes, he will," John said. "Mother said by this time next year he will be walking and getting into my toys. Babies can grow really fast! I used to be

that little, and now look how big and tall I am. It won't take long, and little David will be playing with us!"

"Babies really are tiny," Terry said as the boys quietly slipped back out the door.

"Yeah, but they can really cry loud when they want something," John replied.

Later on baby David did wake up and the boys could hear him crying as they played on the front porch.

"He surely can make a lot of noise," Terry commented.

"I told you he could," agreed John. "Some day, though, he'll start talking instead of crying so much. Then he will be a lot of fun to play with."

"I suppose so," Terry said, with a small sigh. "I wish I had a baby brother at my house."

"Well, pray and ask the Lord for one," replied John. "Mother said the Lord gave us baby David. The Lord gave me to Mother and Daddy also. Mother says she prays that David and I will grow up to always love God. I'm going to, too!"

"I am, too," agreed John. Then the two boys went ahead with their playing while baby David went back to sleep in his snug bassinet.

—C. S.

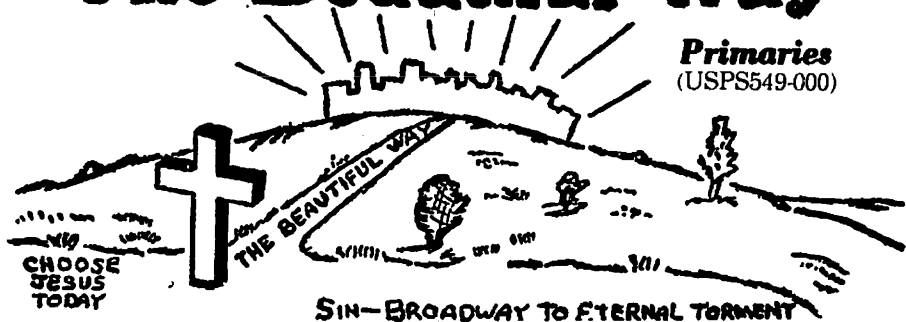
Questions:

1. Where did Elkanah and Hannah go each year?
2. Why was Hannah so sad?
3. Did Eli know she was praying?
4. What did Hannah pray for?
5. Did God answer her prayer?
6. What did Hannah name her baby?
7. When he grew older, where did she take Samuel? Why?

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Part 23

Aug. 26

GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL

1 Sam. 3:1-10, 12, 13

Hophni and Phineas were sons of Eli. They served in the temple, but they did not love God and displeased Him. Samuel helped Eli. He loved God and wanted to serve Him.

One night as Samuel lay sleeping, he heard someone call his name. "Samuel."

Quickly he got up and ran to Eli, saying, "Here am I. You called me."

"I did not call you. Lay back down," answered Eli. Samuel went back to bed.

Soon he heard his name called again. "Samuel." Again he went to Eli. "Here am I. You called me."

"I did not call. Lie down again," Eli told Samuel.

Samuel went and lay down, and once again he heard, "Samuel." When he went to Eli this time, Eli knew that God was calling Samuel. He said, "Go back to bed. When you hear your name, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant listens.'"

God said that Eli and his sons were to be punished.

Memory Verse: O God, thou hast taught me from my youth.
Psa. 71:17a.

Called of God



It was the first day of school. The class room had the faint smell of Pine-sol and the chalkboards were a fresh, dark green. Everything seemed clean and new.

All of the children were finding the chair and desk that had their name on it. After everyone was settled, the teacher said, "Now let's get acquainted. I want each of you to get up and tell us your name and something about you. Maybe you want to tell us what you want to be when you grow up."

Each one of the children took turns saying their names and what they hoped to be some day. Some of the boys mentioned being a fireman, policeman, lawyer, and banker. Some of the girls said they wanted to be a secretary, store clerk, nurse, and several said that they wanted to be mothers.

Last of all they came to Daniel, who was a quiet boy with big, brown eyes. "My name is Daniel Walker," he said. "Some day I will be a carpenter, but I really want to be a minister like my dad. Dad said that some day I may be a minister but I will have to wait until the Lord calls me. You know, not everyone can be a minister. First you have to be saved and live for God every day. You have to study the Bible and know exactly what God expects of you. Then you must have a burden or desire to help others. My dad is a good man who does things for others all the time and he never asks for money or complains. He likes to help people and tell them about God's love."

"That is a very noble desire," said the teacher. "You must have a wonderful dad for him to be called of God. Not

everyone can be a minister, but only those God has chosen. If you carry out the plan that you have just told us, I am sure that one day God will call you also." With these closing remarks, the teacher started the children with their school work.

Time passed swiftly, as time always does. Soon that school year ended, and another one began. Year after year, Daniel never forgot his desire. At last came graduation day. Daniel and his fellow class mates were saying farewell to school days. They were now "grown up" and ready to begin their dreams for the future.

Daniel had the honor of speaking to his class mates as salutatorian at the graduation. As he talked, he conveyed God's goodness and mercy to him as a child. He told of God's love and desire to direct each one of them in their future goals. At the end of his speech, everyone stood up and clapped loudly. They could tell Daniel really cared for others.

Daniel's old school teacher came up to him and said, "Today you are a fine young man. You have heard the high calling of God. May the Lord bless you as a minister for Him."

Yes, Daniel was called by God to be a minister.

—C. S.

Questions:

1. What were Eli's sons' names?
2. Did they love and serve God?
3. Who did Samuel help in the temple?
4. What did he hear in the night?
5. Was it Eli who had called him?
6. How many times did God call Samuel?
7. What did God tell Samuel about Eli and his sons?

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Part 24

Sept. 2

SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL

1 Sam. 8:1-5; 9:15-17, 26, 27; 10:1, 6, 9

Samuel was judge over the children of Israel. He loved God and was a good judge. When he grew old, his sons judged the people with Samuel. They did not love God, and so were not fair in judging God's people.

The elders came to Samuel, saying that because Samuel was old and his sons were not fair in their judgments, they wanted a king to rule over them. Samuel felt sad when he heard them. He told God about it, and God said to do as the people asked. God would show Samuel who to anoint.

When Samuel saw Saul, he knew this was the man God wanted to be king. He told Saul, "You are the one all Israel is looking for." He took Saul to the special feast.

Samuel walked with Saul and his servant as they were going home. Samuel told Saul to have his servant go ahead because he wanted to talk to Saul alone. When the servant left, Samuel anointed Saul and kissed him, saying, "God has chosen you to be the king over His people."

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



Crown Him King

Terry and Linda were sitting at the table making things out of paper. They made circles, squares, diamonds, and hearts. Then they drew pictures and cut them out with scissors.

"Look," Terry said to Linda. "I made a crown! I'm pretending this is a golden crown so I colored it yellow. See these three diamonds I put on the front of my crown? Now when I cut this crown out and circle it around, I can wear it."

Terry carefully cut his crown out and made a circle with it. Then he put a slit in the back which held the crown on his head.

"Your crown looks neat!" cried Linda. "Make me one, too!" So Terry made Linda a crown, too. They went to show their crowns to Mother.

"Please tell us a story about kings and queens," Terry said. "Tell us about a rich, rich king who lives in a big palace and rules over a lot of people."

"Well, said Mother, "I can't really think who that king could be. Let me tell you about a certain King I know who has had a kingdom for hundreds of years. This King will rule forever. All around the world you will find people who belong to this King's kingdom. He rules over tall, skinny people, and over short, fat people. He rules over tan, white, black, yellow, and red people. Anyone who wants to be in His kingdom can be. He is a King who rules with love."

Terry and Linda had been quietly listening. "I know who that King is," said Linda. "It is God, isn't it?"

"Yes, God and His Son, Jesus," agreed Mother. "When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He set up a kingdom. This kingdom is in the hearts of men and women who believe on the Lord. When someone prays to the Lord, asking for the blood of Jesus to wash away their sins, then Jesus takes that person into His kingdom. Inside that person's heart a change is made. No longer does that person want to do wicked things, but he wants to do good things that will make the King happy. The King will whisper encouraging words to this person. The King will say, 'Children, obey Mother and Daddy, because that will keep you out of trouble.' Then when children do obey Mother and Daddy, the King puts such happiness in their hearts! Anyone who belongs in this King's kingdom has peace and happiness in their hearts. It is the best kingdom to be in!"

Terry and Linda liked Mother's story about Jesus, the King of kings. They knew they belonged in His kingdom because they were obeying His voice when He spoke to their hearts. —C. S.

Questions:

1. Was Samuel a good judge?
2. Did Samuel love God and live right?
3. How many sons did Samuel have?
4. Did they judge the people right?
5. What did the elders tell Samuel they wanted?
6. Was Samuel sad about this?
7. What did God tell him to do?
8. Who did Samuel anoint to be king?

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Part 25

Sept. 9

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

1 Sam. 13:1-14

Saul had been king for two years when he chose thirty thousand men of Israel to go to battle against the Philistines. The Philistines had a great army: three thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen.

Saul was to wait seven days for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices and pray for them. God would show Samuel what to do.

When Saul's men saw all the chariots, horsemen, and large army of the Philistines, they became afraid and hid. Each day that Saul waited for Samuel, more of his men became afraid. He thought that he had to do something to bring courage to his men.

Although Saul knew that only the priests and Levites were to offer sacrifices, he said, "Bring the animals to me. Since Samuel has not come, I will offer them."

Samuel came and he said, "Why have you done this?" Saul told him that his men were afraid.

"You have been foolish," Samuel said. "Your kingdom can't last forever now because God is looking for a man who will obey Him."

Memory Verse: Obey my voice. Jer. 11:7b.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Eph. 6:1.

Janet Does the Ironing

"Come, children, and let's all take a nap," Mother said, as she washed their hands and faces. That day Bobbie and Teresa didn't mind taking a nap because they were tired. Johnny was just a baby and he always took a nap. But Janet was the oldest and she did not like naps at all.

"Why do I have to take a nap?" Janet pouted. "I don't like naps!"

"Take a nap now and you won't be tired later," Mother told her.

"Naps are just a waste of time!" Janet kept pouting, but Mother had her lie down anyway. Soon Bobbie and Teresa were breathing heavily with sleep. The baby, Johnny, was sound asleep, too, but not Janet. Janet was wide awake. As soon as she knew everyone was asleep, including Mother, Janet got up. She went into the kitchen and ate two cookies. She drank some milk.

Janet started feeling bad because she wasn't minding Mother, but, "Naps are just a waste of time, anyway," she told herself.

"I know what I will do," thought Janet. "I will help Mother out and then she won't be upset at me for not taking a nap. I will do her ironing!" She turned the iron on as far as it would go, not realizing that would make the iron very hot.

"I will iron one of my dresses," she thought, as she found hers among the other clothes. "I want Mother to know that I can take care of myself."

Janet started ironing her dress, but the iron kept sticking to it. She was doing a terrible job! Janet was just

about to give up ironing when something terrible happened. The iron just stuck to her dress! The iron would not let go! It burned a big, brown spot right on the skirt of her dress. Then it started smoking! Now Janet was scared.

"Mama! Mama! Help! Come quick!" Janet called, racing into the bedroom where Mother was resting. Mother got up and hurried into the kitchen with Janet. She turned the iron off and then pulled the dress away from the iron but there was nothing she could do about the big, brown burn which the iron had left on the dress. Mother and Janet were both sad because it was one of Janet's best dresses.

"Janet," Mother said, "I will have to punish you because you did not take a nap. You did not mind me."

"But Mother, I tried to help you," Janet cried.

"Janet, you must learn one thing," Mother said. "You must learn to mind what I say and not try to reason it out your way. Remember this Scripture, 'Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.' Those are the words Samuel spoke to Saul when Saul had disobeyed the Lord in 1 Sam. 15:22." —C. S.

Questions:

1. Did Saul have a big army?
2. How many men were there?
3. How many chariots, horsemen, and men did the Philistines have?
4. How many days was Saul to wait for Samuel?
5. Did he wait for Samuel?
6. What did he do? Why?
7. What did Samuel say would become of his kingdom?
8. What kind of man was God looking for?

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Sept. 16

SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID

1 Sam. 16:1-13

Saul had disobeyed God and Samuel was still unhappy. God said, "Don't weep. I have chosen a man who will serve me. Go to Bethlehem and anoint him."

Samuel was to bring an offering and prepare a feast. Jesse and his sons were invited. At the feast God was to show Samuel which of Jesse's sons was to be Israel's next king. Eliab, Jesse's oldest son went before Samuel, but he was not God's man. Abinadab, another of Jesse's sons, went before Samuel; again this was not to be the next king of Israel. Seven more sons of Jesse went before Samuel, but none were chosen.

Samuel asked, "Have you another son? God hasn't chosen any of these."

"I have one younger son, David, who is caring for the sheep," said Jesse.

"Send for him. We won't eat until he comes," Samuel said.

When David came, God told Samuel to anoint him. Samuel poured oil on David's head. David now knew he was to be king.

Memory Verse: For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes. . . . Deut. 18:5a.

The Lion and the Bear

It was night time at the little town of Bethlehem. No one was awake except a shepherd boy who was sitting on a big rock, playing music with his harp. The sheep were soft, white balls of wool lying quietly all around his feet.

The shepherd boy's name was David. He was a strong boy who was very brave. Think of how it would be to stay out all night in the darkness with only sheep to keep you company! Wouldn't you get rather lonesome and want someone to come and be with you? David got lonesome, too. That is why he played on his harp and made pretty music. The Lord God up in heaven would listen to David's pretty music, and when David played songs of praise on his harp, the Lord's presence would come down and be with him. Then David wouldn't be all alone, anymore. He felt comforted in his heart because the Lord was with him.

The sheep liked the music, too, and probably felt very safe when they heard it. They would lay down to sleep with their feet tucked underneath them. The mamas and babies would all stay together while the two or three daddy sheep would stay out on the edge and help David watch for danger.

This night, while David was playing on his harp, some of the sheep became restless. One of the rams (daddy sheep) stood up and gave David warning that something was not right. David stood up and then he saw what it was, too. There in the shadows of some bushes was a lion! A big lion was crouched close to the ground with his tail slowly swaying back and forth. He was checking to see which little lamb would be the easiest to take away and eat! The

lion was fierce and hungry. He may not have seen David until he was very close, but he still did not run away. He tried to get a little lamb anyway!

David took up a big club and as the lion pounced on a lamb, David hit his head over and over again with the club, causing the lion to die. For one man to kill a lion with just a club is very unusual indeed! The Lord gave David the strength to kill this lion. David knew that God had helped him to save the lamb from the fierce lion. He thanked the Lord for helping him.

Later, a bear came out of the forest nearby. The bear tried to take one of the lambs to eat, too. David was a good shepherd who cared very well for his father's sheep. He took a club and killed the bear just as he did the lion. Then he thanked the Lord for helping him kill the bear, also.

The Lord loved David because he trusted in God and played praises to Him on his harp. The Lord gave David extra courage and wisdom, and David always thanked the Lord for it. —C. S.

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

Questions:

1. Why was Samuel unhappy?
2. What did God tell him to do?
3. Where did He tell him to go?
4. Who was to be invited to the feast?
5. How many sons did Jesse have?
6. Did they all come to the feast?
7. What was the youngest son doing? What was his name?
8. Was this God's chosen man?
9. What did Samuel do when David came?

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Sept. 23

DAVID KILLS GOLIATH

1 Sam. 17:3, 4-49

The Philistines were in a battle. For forty days they sent a giant named Goliath to fight against the Israelites.

Jesse sent David to the Israelite camp with food for his brothers. While David was there, Goliath came out, saying, "Choose you a man to fight me." The Israelite army was afraid.

David said, "Who is this to defy the army of God? I will go out and kill him in the name of the Lord." King Saul said, "You cannot fight against Goliath; you are just a boy."

David answered, "When I cared for my father's sheep, God helped me kill a bear and a lion. He will help me now." Saul said, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

David picked five smooth stones from the water and put them in his bag. When the giant came, David put a stone in his sling, and ran towards him.

"You come with sword and spear, but I come in the name of the Lord," David said. When he let the stone go from his sling, it hit Goliath in the forehead and killed him.

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord, and do good. . . . Psalms 37:3a.

Who Killed the Giant



Daddy and Mother stood at the window and watched their two sons playing on the front lawn. Tony stood under a tree with a sling in his hand. Greg was walking toward him with apple juice cans tied to his feet for stilts.

"I believe that they are playing 'David and Goliath,'" Daddy said.

About that time, Tony pretended to throw a rock with his sling and Greg fell down.

"Hurray!" shouted Tony. "I killed the giant! I killed the giant!" Tony chanted.

"Greg sat up. "No, you're supposed to say, 'Thank you, Lord, for helping me slay the giant.'"

"Be quiet, Giant; you're supposed to be dead," Tony replied.

"Well, why don't you be the giant, and I'll be David," Greg said. "I'll make a really good David."

"Okay, but don't cut my head off."

The two boys changed places and after Greg killed the giant, he had a different chant than Tony had had.

"Praise the God of Israel! Praise the God of Israel!" Greg chanted. "The giant is dead today! Praise the God of Israel!"

After a minute or two, Tony sat up. "Just think how big and tall I would be if I really was Goliath," he said. "Let's ask Daddy how big he really was." The two boys came into the house where Mother and Daddy were still standing at the window.

"Were you playing 'David and Goliath?'" Daddy asked, and the two boys nodded their heads.

"I liked being the giant even though I did have to die," Tony said. "Daddy, just how big was Goliath?"

"The Bible tells us that he was six cubits and a span. That would be nine feet and nine inches tall. That means he would have to duck his head to walk through any door in our house and then keep his head bent all the time until he sat down somewhere," Daddy said.

"He would smash any of our chairs," Tony giggled.

"He might at that," Daddy agreed. "The weight of his armour alone was over 200 pounds—more than I weigh! A man easily carrying that much weight had to weigh 500 to 600 pounds himself. That is a H-U-G-E man!"

"Wow!" Tony exclaimed. "I'm glad there aren't any giants like that today! I would be afraid of them!"

"God was in it," Daddy told both of them. "God allowed that stone to hit the giant's head and kill him. It was the Lord who won that victory over the giant. David was very brave to trust the Lord against such a man, but he knew also that God had helped him. Always remember that." —C. S.

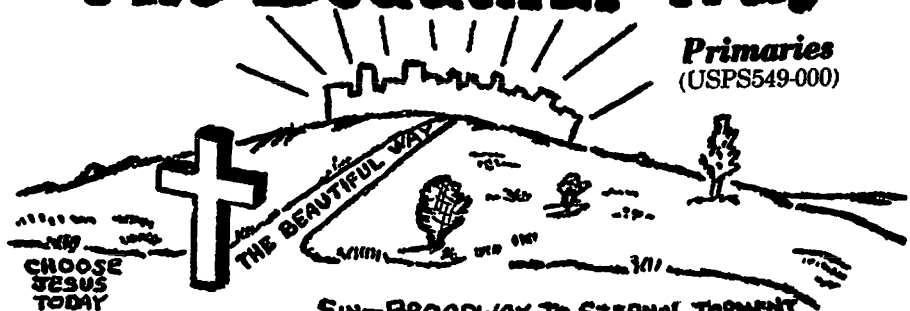
"Ability is nearly always accompanied by humility."

Questions:

1. What was the giant's name?
2. How many days had he come out to frighten the Israelites?
3. Why was David with the Israelite army?
4. Did David think he could kill the giant?
5. Who was going to help him?
6. What was he going to use?
7. Was David afraid of the giant?
8. Where did the stone hit the giant?
9. Does God help us when we need Him?

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Part 28

Sept. 30

JOB LOVES GOD

Job 1; 2:1-7

Job lived in the country of Uz. He loved God and lived right before Him. God blessed Job with much sheep, cattle, oxen, and many servants. He also had seven sons and three lovely daughters.

One day, the devil came before God, saying, "Job serves you because you have blessed him so much." God knew this was not true, but He let the devil take all of Job's animals away. Job's sons and daughters were killed. Job still loved God and would not stop serving Him.

The devil wanted Job to suffer more. He told God, "Job would surely quit loving you if his body was in pain." God knew Job would be faithful and keep loving Him. God said to the devil, "You can hurt his body, but you must not kill my servant, Job." Great and painful sores were all over Job's body, but he still would not sin. He kept right on loving God.

Because Job was faithful through all of these troubles, we are encouraged to be faithful, too, when we read about him in the Bible.

Memory Verse: Be thou faithful unto death. . . . Rev. 2:10.

The Chicken Pox

Andrea jumped out of bed and ran to the mirror. The small round scabs of the chicken pox were still there all over her face. When would they ever go away?

Andrea went into the kitchen where Mother was making breakfast. "Mama," she said, "How long do the chicken pox last?"

"They last a week and a half to two weeks," replied Mother. "It depends upon the person. Yours should be going away very soon. I know how troublesome it has been for you to stay home all the time. We will pray to the Lord to take them away soon and not leave any scars."

"We have prayed," Andrea said impatiently. "I have prayed and prayed and prayed. I think God just puts His fingers in His ears and looks the other way."

Mother smiled. "Now Andrea," she said. "God's hears your prayers but He is testing your patience and endurance. He doesn't answer our prayers right away but He wants us to trust in His Word and have faith that He will take care of us, anyway."

Andrea thought this all over for a minute. "I know God takes care of us when we trust in Him," she said, "but couldn't He be quicker about this?"

"The Lord has a special reason for letting you have the chicken pox," replied Mother. "Did you ever hear the story of Job and how he suffered with boils all over his body? They were very itchy and he scratched them with broken pottery. He cried to God every day for help."

"How long did he cry to God?" asked Andrea.

"The Bible doesn't tell us the entire time he suffered, but for one week alone he just sat in the ashes with his three friends and never said a word. Boils can last a long time—up to a year or better. Although Job suffered and suffered, he never lost his faith in God. His wife wanted him to curse God and die. Job's friends said nothing to encourage him but he still stayed true to God."

Andrea was thinking while Mother was talking. She knew that the chicken pox were not fun but she wasn't as bad as Job had been! "I want to stay true to God, too," she said. "I don't want to say bad things about God because I know He can heal me soon."

"Yes," agreed Mother. "People say, 'Remember the patience of Job.' " Then Mother gave Andrea a kiss on the top of her head.

In a day or two Andrea's chicken pox started clearing up. Within a week's time, they were all gone and the next Monday morning Andrea went back to school, so happy that God had taken them all away!

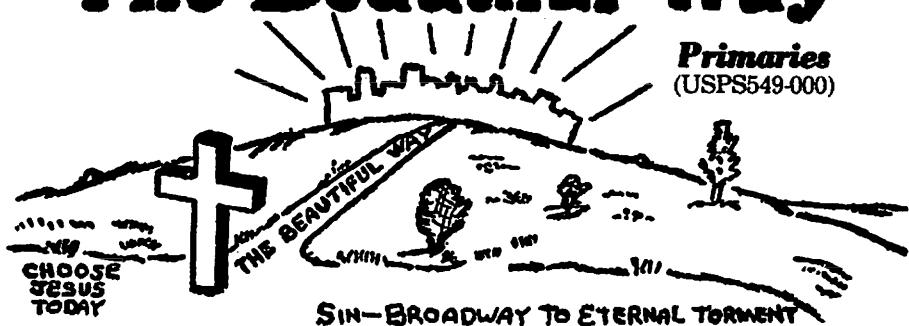
—C. S.

Questions:

1. What country did Job live in?
2. Did Job love and serve God?
3. What were some things that Job had?
4. How many sons and daughters did he have?
5. Who talked to God about Job?
6. What did God let the devil do?
7. What did the devil do next?
8. Did Job keep loving God when he went through all these troubles?
9. Should we keep loving God even if we have troubles?

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Part 18

Nov. 4

LOT AND JOB'S WIVES

Gen. 19:12-17, 24, 26; Job 2:9, 10

Two men came into Sodom and Lot invited them to spend the night with him. Lot treated them kindly. Before they went to sleep, however, some wicked men came to hurt the guests. God caused blindness to come on the bad men.

The two visitors told Lot, "Sodom is to be destroyed. Get out of the city and do not look back." Lot told his sons-in-law but they didn't listen.

The two men took Lot's hand and the hand of his wife and two daughters to help them hurry out from Sodom. Lot's wife still loved the things back there and she looked back. God made her into a pillar of salt.

Job's wife, too, was remembering her family and riches that were taken from them. Now her husband, Job, was suffering from many sores. She said, "Will you still serve God? Curse God and die." Job said, "You speak like a foolish woman. I will love God in the good days and in the bad."

Let's make sure that we're not like Job's or Lot's wife. Let's not love anything better than we love God.

Memory Verse: Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17:32.

Looking Back

There was a revival meeting being held in the little chapel across the road. Bros. Reed and Forest were holding the revival—they had come all the way from America to India because they felt that God had wanted them to come and be missionaries for Him.

Little Sophy came running over to her mother and asked her if she could go to the meeting tonight as she had finished fanning the rice.

"Well, I suppose so. But why do you want to go?" asked her mother.

"They say that these white preachers are not hypocrites like the 'magic man' is," said Sophy. "You know how he always does. He's always saying he's so good, but he lies and cheats all the time. And he does *not* talk to God, like he says he does. I know, because I tried to listen one time—and he was swearing instead."

That night Sophy listened to Bro. Reed tell about Jesus and how He died for our sins. When the invitation came for those who were sorry for their sins to come to the altar, she went to pray, too.

The next day she went back to the meeting house and stopped Bro. Reed to ask him a question.

"Why am I not happy like you said I would be?" she asked. "And *how* can I be happy when I can't even do any thing like I used to? I mean, I can't say bad words, I can't lie anymore, I can't do *anything*! I'm about to give up this 'salvation' that you were talking so much about."

"Oh, no, don't do that!" said Bro. Reed. "The reason you're not happy is because you keep looking back. Instead of doing what you *can* do, you're feel-

ing bad about what you can't do. Why don't you start helping someone? That will make you feel good. Perhaps you can be a friend to someone who doesn't have friends. That always makes you feel better, because the Lord blesses His children for doing things like that. Stop looking back with a frown, and look forward with a smile, instead!"

"Oh, now I understand!" said Sophy. "I must do just as much good as I used to do bad. Then the Lord will bless me and make me happy inside." —Sel.

CHILD'S PRAYER

Savior, bless a little child;
Teach my heart the way to thee;
Make it gentle, good and mild;
Loving Savior, care for me.

I would never go astray,
Never turn aside from Thee;
Keep me in the heavenly way;
Loving Savior, care for me.

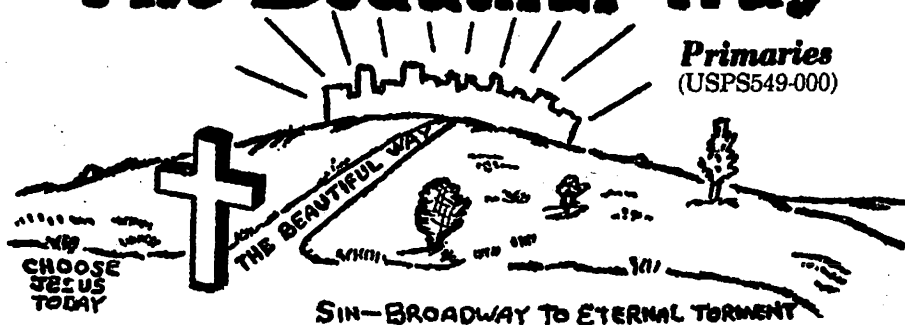
I am young, but Thou hast said—
All who will may come to Thee;
Feed my soul with living Bread;
Loving Savior, care for me.

Questions:

1. How many men came into Sodom?
2. Who tried to harm the men?
3. What happened to the wicked men?
4. What did the two visitors say would happen to Sodom?
5. Did Lot's sons-in-law listen?
6. How many people left the city? Who were they?
7. What did Satan do to Job?
8. What did Job's wife tell him to do?
9. What did Job tell his wife?

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Part 19

Nov. 11

ABIGAIL, THE PEACEMAKER

1 Sam. 25:1-35

David was hiding in the woods because King Saul was trying to kill him. There was a rich man named Nabal who had many sheep. David and his men helped care for them. David sent ten young men to Nabal to say, "We have helped care for your sheep and have taken nothing. Please give us some food."

When Nabal heard this, he was very angry. He said, "Who is this David? I will not give him anything!" David and his four hundred men put on their swords and were ready to do battle against Nabal.

Nabal's servant told Nabal's wife, Abigail, about what had happened. Abigail was a beautiful and understanding woman and she knew that David would fight Nabal.

She said, "Hurry, let us take much food to David and his men. I will go with you." When they came to David, she quickly bowed herself and gave the food to him and his men. David accepted the offer and didn't fight.

Don't you think that Abigail was a peacemaker?

Memory Verse: Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matt. 5:9.

I'll Get Even!

"I'll get even with Bill for not choosing me on his ball team!" said Stevie when he came into the house.

"Be careful!" said Daddy. "When we try to get even with someone else, we find that we have more trouble than we had in the beginning."

But Stevie did not listen. "What can I do?" he thought. "I know! I will let his rabbit out. I hope it will run away and get lost!"

Stevie went through the alley and walked slowly into Bill's back yard. Bill was playing ball at the park, so no one was in sight. Stevie opened the gate of the rabbit pen. Then he shut it again. Did he really want to let that rabbit out? It might get killed! But, no, Bill should have asked Stevie to play on his ball team! Stevie wanted Bill to be sorry. He pulled the gate open and left it that way.

"That looks like Bill's rabbit on our lawn!" said Mother after a while. "Look! He is running into the street, and there's a car coming!"

Stevie looked just in time to see the rabbit run into the street. Stevie's dog, Tippy, was running after the rabbit. A car was coming very fast! The rabbit got across the street safely, but Tippy did not run fast enough. The car hit Tippy, and he lay still.

"Oh, Mother! Did Tippy get run over? Is he dead?" asked Stevie.

"I'm afraid so, Son," said Mother.

"I killed him!" said Stevie. "I said I was going to get even with Bill, and Daddy told me I should not, but I let Bill's rabbit out, anyway. Now the rabbit is still all right, but my dog is dead. I wish I had listened to Daddy!"

"There is only one good way to get even when someone does something you

do not like," said Mother. "That is to do something nice for that person. You do not have any more trouble when you get even that way. That is the way God says we should get even."

"Mother, please give me a carrot," said Stevie. "I must catch that rabbit and put him back in his pen before something bad happens to him. After this, I am going to use God's way of getting even." —Sel.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

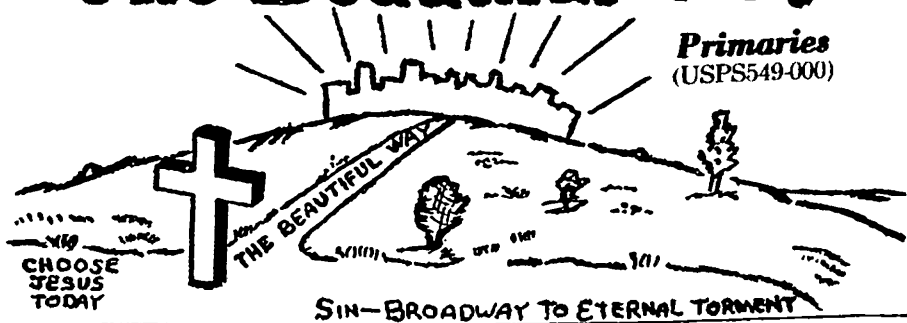


Questions:

1. Why was David hiding in the woods?
2. What was the rich man's name?
3. How did David and his men help Nabal?
4. What were the men to ask of Nabal?
5. Did Nabal give David any food?
6. What were David and his men ready to do?
7. When Abigail heard what happened, what did she do?
8. Did David accept her offer?
9. Do you think that Abigail was a peacemaker?

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Part 20

Nov. 18

RAHAB HIDES THE SPIES

Joshua 2

The children of Israel had been in the wilderness for forty years. Joshua was the leader of the people of God since Moses had died.

God told Joshua, "Go across the Jordan River and possess the land there. Be of good courage; I will go with you."

Jericho was a big city, so Joshua sent spies to spy out the land. They came to the house of Rahab and she took them in. She hid the spies when the king's soldiers came. Rahab believed that the Lord was going to give the land to the Israelites.

Rahab made the spies promise that when they came to Jericho they would save her and all her family. The spies then promised that all that were in her house would be spared. Rahab let the spies down over the wall of the city and they escaped. Then she tied a strong red cord from her window to show where her family would be when the men came back to fight.

When the men came back to take over the land, Rahab and her family were spared because of their kindness to the spies.

Memory Verse: . . . Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. Prov. 29:25b.

The White Elephant

The day was very hot. The huge Indian crowd was pressing close to Jerry and his father, as Jerry's father stood preaching the gospel near an idol temple.

Jerry almost wished he hadn't come. Everything was so dazzlingly bright in the sunlight—so smelly and hot.

But what was that? The people were starting to run away in a panic. Jerry looked up.

"Daddy!" he cried. "The priest's white elephant—look, it's coming this way! It'll kill us!"

Sure enough, the white elephant that the people of India thought was sacred, had been let loose by the priest at the temple door. The priest must have been jealous of the missionary's crowd. The elephant was heading straight for the two Americans.

The crowd moved farther away. They were screaming and shouting as the elephant came on. He broke a branch from a tree and carried it with him as he ran. Jerry didn't dare to look. He only held tightly to his father.

Then his dad said softly, "Jerry, the elephant has gone back to the priest. And he's left us this branch to stand on!"

The priest was terribly angry. The elephant had not tried to hurt the missionary at all. He had even given him a better platform from which to preach! The priest tried to send the elephant back, hitting him and shouting loudly at him.

The people were becoming angry at the priest for hitting the elephant they thought was sacred, but they were too afraid to do anything. Suddenly they heard a roar. The elephant swung a-

round the pushed the priest down. The people gave one look and then again crowded around to hear Jerry's dad tell of the God who could protect His messenger.

That night Jerry said, "I never knew before that God took care of His people like that!" —Sel.

PRAY TO JESUS

"Now how often did our memory verse from the Bible tell us to pray to the Lord?" asked Sis. Brown who was the Sunday School teacher.

"Evening, morning and at noon," the class recited together. (Psa. 55:17).

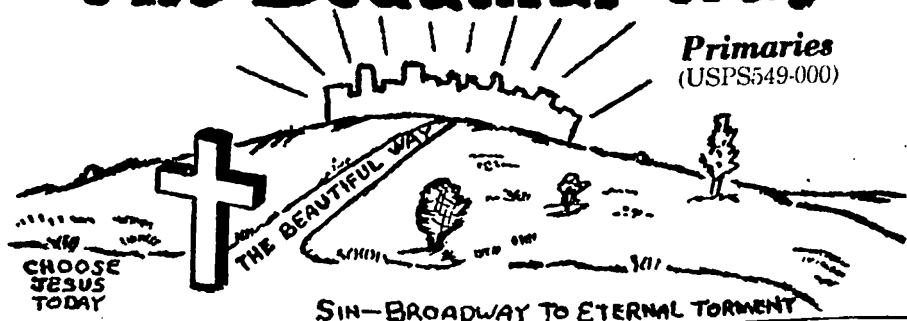
"That is right," said Sis. Brown with pleasure. "I hope that all of you will remember that. We must never forget to pray. We need to ask Jesus in the evening to take care of us through the night. Then the next morning we need to ask Jesus to take care of us all morning. And at noon we need to ask Jesus to take care of us all afternoon. The devil would try to get us to do wrong if we do not ask Jesus to help us."

Questions:

1. How long had the children of Israel been in the wilderness?
2. Who had been their leader?
3. Who was their leader now?
4. What did God tell Joshua to do?
5. Did God say that He would go with him?
6. What big city were they to go to first?
7. What house did they go into?
8. What did Rahab do with the spies?
9. What did she have the spies promise?

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Nov. 2

A WIDOW FEEDS ELIJAH

1 Kings 17:3-16

Elijah had told King Ahab that it would not rain until he would pray for it to rain again. God told Elijah to go to the brook Cherith. There was water there and the ravens fed him every day.

Now the water was gone, so God told Elijah to go to Zarephath. As Elijah came to the city, he saw a widow woman picking up sticks. Elijah said, "Please get me some water and some bread."

The woman replied, "I have only a little meal and oil to make my son and myself a cake. After that, we will die because we have no more food."

"Fear not," said Elijah. "Make me a cake first. God has said that neither the meal nor the oil would run out until it rains again on the earth."

The widow believed Elijah and baked him a cake first. Like God said, there was always meal and oil in her house after that. God is always faithful to supply the needs of His people who obey Him.

Memory Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord . . . who giveth food to all flesh. . . . Psa. 136:1a, 25a.

Mary Jane's Promise



"Has your father found a job yet, Mary Jane?" Sharry asked.

"No, not yet," Mary Jane sighed. "He has tried for a long time, hut—I guess nobody needs him."

"Is that why you look so sad?"

Mary Jane nodded. "Mother's birthday is tomorrow and Daddy and I both don't have a present for her."

"Why don't you pray and trust the Lord for it?" asked Sharry.

"Oh, I have!" said Mary Jane.

"Then why are you still worrying?" asked Sharry.

"They were at the end of the walk that led to Sharry's house. "See you in the morning!" she called.

Mary Jane thought deeply for a while as she continued walking. Then she bowed her head. "Dear Lord," she whispered. "I'm sorry I haven't trusted you fully. From now on, though, I'm really going to trust you to work out all of these problems. Amen."

Suddenly Mary Jane stopped. Lying right in her path was a square piece of leather.

"Why, some man has lost his bill-fold!" she cried out. "I wonder who—?"

She picked it up slowly and opened it. Inside were many smooth green bills. Immediately the thought came to her that she could just keep the money—that it was hers, because she had found it.

Mary Jane's eyes glanced about, and suddenly she remembered her promise to the Saviour. She had promised to just let Him work it all out, and He would never do it this way!

She began searching for a card with the name and address of the owner.

When she found it, she took it right away to its owner.

"Thank you," he told her. "I would certainly have hated to lose this money," he said smiling, as he pressed a dollar in her hand. He insisted on her taking the money, even though she protested.

On the way home, she bought her mother a small present and thanked the Lord for working out part of her problem.

When she got home, her mother was working in the kitchen, and she told Mary Jane that her father had found a job. "God has given us a miracle, Mary Jane!"

Mary Jane smiled. Her mother had a present, and her father had a job. How glad she was that she had made that promise to God! No more doubting for her! —Sel.

-----o-----
The bad habits one forms and the bad character one acquires while young will remain with him when he is grown unless he comes to Jesus to get deliverance from it.
-----o-----

Questions:

1. Who did Elijah speak to about the Lord's words concerning the rain?
2. What did Elijah tell King Ahab?
3. Where did God tell Elijah to go first?
4. Who, did He say, would feed him there?
5. When the water dried up, where was he to go?
6. Who would feed him at Zarephath?
7. How much meal and oil did she have?
8. What did Elijah tell her to do?
9. When she obeyed Elijah, was there more meal and oil?

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Dec. 2

A Woman Helps Elisha

2 Kings 4:8-17

Elisha was a prophet of God. He went from city to city, talking to the people about God. Sometimes a prophet would tell the people what was going to happen in the future.

Elisha often stopped at a God-fearing woman's house in Shunem. She liked to give Elisha things to eat.

One day she told her husband, "Let's make a room for Elisha. We can put a candlestick, bed, table, and a chair in it." When Elisha saw the room they had built for him, he was thankful.

Elisha wanted to do something in return for the woman's kindness. He asked his servant, Gehazi, what he could do for her. Gehazi answered that they had no child. They called the woman to them and said, "Because you have been so good to us, God is going to give you a little son." It wasn't very long until she had a little baby boy, just as Elisha had said.

Whenever we do things for the Lord, just like this woman did for God's man, Elisha, He will always reward us with something good.

Memory Verse: So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous. . . . Psa. 58:11a.

Giving Back

Jim had been a very little boy when his father and mother both died. When Aunt Francelia arrived to take him to her big home, his little heart was so sad because he didn't want to go.

He went with his aunt, however, to a big house that had no other children in it. Aunt Francelia was strict and she did not seem to understand little boys.

As he sat on the porch the first day, fighting back tears of loneliness, the door of the house next door opened and out came a pretty, little lady with white hair and big blue eyes.

"You are Jim, aren't you?" she asked kindly. Jim nodded. "I wonder if you aren't a bit homesick?" she asked with a friendly smile. "Won't you see if you can come over to visit me today? And let's be friends every day, okay? I like little boys."

Little Jim got up quickly and ran to ask his aunt if he could go next door. After receiving permission, he went over there and he and "Aunt Rosa" (as he called her) became good friends which lasted up until the time he grew up and moved away.

He moved away to a big city where he went to college. The year he moved away, his Aunt Francelia died and left him her fortune. After that he did not come home in vacation time.

One day, however, he suddenly decided to go and see how Aunt Rosa was doing.

On the way to her house, after he had gotten off the train in the village, he met old Captain Summers and asked him how Aunt Rosa was doing.

"Oh, you haven't heard?" said the captain. "She's to go to the poorhouse this week. She hasn't any children and

she lost her house because she couldn't pay."

"She'll not go to the poorhouse while I can do something about it," said Jim purposefully.

He went to Aunt Rosa's house and they visited for a while. After a little time, Aunt Rosa let him know that she was to go to the poorhouse.

"Aunt Rosa," said Jim softly, "a long time ago, a little boy was very lonesome in a big house. After a while, a pretty lady came out and became his friend. And now," he added, "Don't you think that it is time that he should start giving back to her for her kindness? Does not the Bible say, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you'? Oh, Aunt Rosa, you cannot go to the poorhouse while I'm here. You are going to stay right here in your own little house, and every once in a while I am going to come and visit you. Is that all right?"

Aunt Rosa was rocking softly back and forth, her face hidden behind her hands, trying to keep back the happy tears. —Sel.

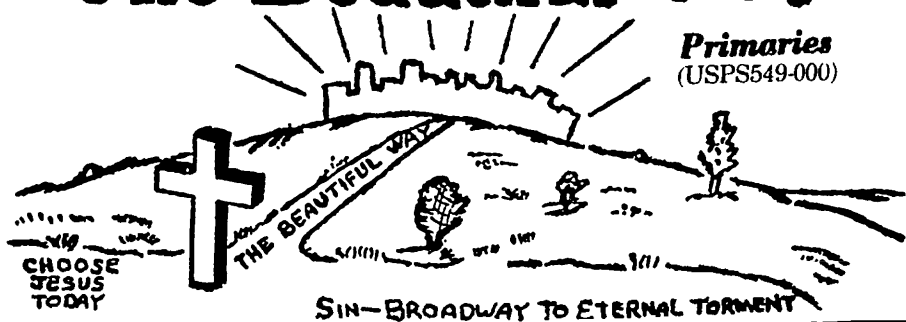
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"God is love. . . ."
—o—

Questions:

1. What is the name of the prophet in our lesson?
2. What does a prophet do?
3. Where did Elisha stop? Why?
4. Did the woman in Shunem love the Lord?
5. What did she have built for Elisha?
6. What are some things she put in the room?
7. Was Elisha thankful for this kindness?
8. What was Elisha's servant's name?
9. How did God reward the Shunemite woman?

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Dec. 9

Jesus Heals a Woman

Mark 5:25-34

Jesus loved all the people when He was on earth. He went about telling them that God loved them and that He wanted them to live for Him. As he went, many people followed after Him to hear His teachings. Many times along the way He healed the sick people.

One day, there was a certain woman who believed that Jesus could heal her body. She had been sick for twelve long years. She had spent her money on doctors, but they made her worse. She thought, "If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed."

There were many people around Jesus, so she had to press her way to Him. As soon as she touched His clothes, she was made perfectly whole. Jesus turned around and said, "Who has touched me?" The woman fell at Jesus' feet and told Him all about what she had done.

Then Jesus said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole." The woman went on her way rejoicing in the Lord.

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

Roger's Victory

Roger had just been converted, and he had trusted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. Then he began to think of his family and friends. Alone he prayed that the Lord would save and bless them as He had himself. He also asked the Lord God to give him strength and courage to read the Bible with his family and pray. It was going to take a great deal of courage, but after a long struggle he decided to start that very evening.

That very night one of his friends, an unbeliever and man of the world, paid him a visit. Roger was terribly embarrassed, but the Lord gave him courage not to wait until the next day to witness to his family.

After supper he opened his Bible. The family and company were astounded as he read a few verses and then knelt down to pray. Poor Roger trembled and he felt a great lump in his throat, so that all he could do was stammer out a few words: "Lord—Lord—Lord. . ." with long pauses between. Then confused and ashamed he got up. His friend did not say anything, but bade him farewell.

Some time afterwards, much to Roger's joy and shame, he received a letter from this same friend full of thanksgiving and praise, telling him that he had felt the Lord speaking that night at the supper table, and that He was present in the room. There it was that he began to read the Bible and now he, too, could say that he was rejoicing in the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

The Lord can bless the feeblest witness and overcome the adversary in a way that a well polished sermon could not do.

Don't you think that Roger was glad that he showed faith in His Lord after he read that letter from his friend? It always pays to trust in the Lord regardless of what may happen because we do. —Sel.

Who Showed Them?

Who showed the little ant the way
Her narrow hole to bore,
And spend the pleasant summer day
Laying up her store?

The sparrow builds her clever nest
Of wool and hay and moss.
Who told her how to weave it best,
And lay the twigs across?

Who taught the busy bee to fly
Among the sweetest flowers,
And lay his feast of honey by,
To eat in winter hours?

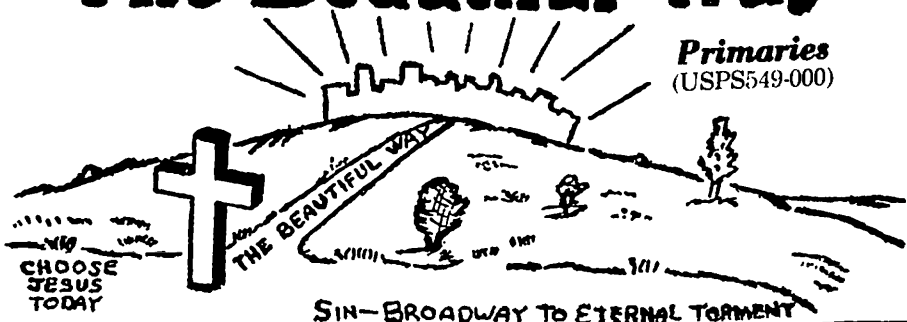
Our loving Father up above
Has helped each one to know
Just how to live and trust His love
Through heat or ice and snow.

Questions:

1. Did Jesus love the people when He was on earth?
2. How did He show the people that He loved them?
3. What did He teach the people?
4. Who came to be healed?
5. How many years had she been sick?
6. Did the doctors help her?
7. Did she have faith that Jesus would heal her?
8. When she touched Jesus' clothes, was she healed?
9. What did Jesus tell her?

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Dec. 16

Dorcas Does Many Good Deeds

Acts 9:36-42

In the city of Joppa, there were some believers in Jesus. Among them was a good woman named Dorcas. She loved Jesus and His people. She always did many good deeds for the people. Dorcas gave of her money, cared for the sick, and made clothes for the poor widows and the children.

One day Dorcas became sick, and soon died. Peter was at Lydda, close to the city of Joppa. The people sent for him to come and pray for Dorcas. Peter could see how sorry they were because their friend had died. The widows showed him the clothes she had made for them, and they told of many things she had done for them.

Peter told everyone to leave the room, and then he knelt and prayed for Dorcas. Turning to her, he said, "Dorcas, get up." She opened her eyes and sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her. How happy everyone was to have their friend alive and well again!

Let's be like Dorcas and help everyone that we can.

Memory Verse: It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Acts 20:35b.

The Forgotten Birthday

"No party, no presents, and Mother in the hospital! What a birthday! And no one even remembers what day it is! Well, I'm not going to tell them," Lisa thought as she sat on the front steps, feeling very sorry for herself.

"But you should be glad that your mother is so much better and that you have a nice grandmother to take care of you while your mother is sick," a voice inside her seemed to say.

"Yes," Lisa thought, "That is right. God wants me to be happy for the good things I have. I should try to make someone else happy, too, I suppose."

Lisa ran to Grandmother. "Grandmother, today is Angela's birthday. She is a little girl who is five years old, and she has to stay in a wheel chair. They don't have much money. Maybe she isn't even getting a birthday present. May I take her some of my toys that I don't play with anymore? Mother has been wanting me to give them away."

"Yes," said Grandmother, "That will be a good thing to do. I will give you some money, and you may get a little cake for her at the bakery. Go to the store first, though, and buy her some candles, too. Maybe Angela would like to put the candles on the cake herself. Oh, and by the way, you may stay and play with her for an hour if it is all right with her mother."

Lisa ran to her room and found a doll and some books and games which she did not use anymore. She wrapped her toys up in pretty birthday paper and put them in a sack. Then she took the money Grandmother had given her, and went to the store and bakery with it and did as she had been told to do. By the time she finished at the store

and bakery, her arms were full, and she had all she could carry to Angela's house.

Angela liked the doll best of all. She liked the books and games, too. Lisa stayed for an hour and read to her and played games with her. She was having so much fun that she was surprised when it was time to go home.

"I have had a happy birthday even if no one remembered," Lisa thought as she walked home. "I am glad Angela's birthday is on the same day as mine so I can remember it easily."

When she got into the house, there was Mother home from the hospital! And there were presents and a birthday cake for her, too! They hadn't forgotten; they had wanted to surprise her!

"This is the best birthday ever!" Lisa said happily. —Sel.

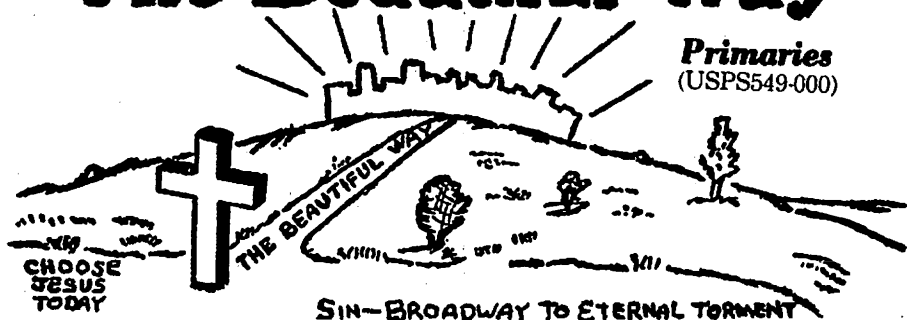
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"When we pray, we are talking to God and He is listening. He is there in that very spot with us. We are in the presence of a King." —Sel.

Questions:

- o-----
1. What city did Dorcas live in?
 2. Were there believers living there, too?
 3. Did Dorcas love Jesus? Did she love His people?
 4. How did she show the people that she loved them?
 5. When Dorcas died, who did they send for to come to them?
 6. When Peter came, what were the people doing?
 7. Did they tell of the good deeds she had done for them?
 8. What did Peter tell the people to do?
 9. When they left the room, what did he do?

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Part 25

Dec. 23

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Luke 2:4-20

Caesar Augustus had sent word that all the world should be taxed. Joseph and Mary were of the family of King David from Bethlehem, so they had to go there. When they reached Bethlehem, it was very crowded and there was no room for them at the inn. They could only find one place to rest: a stable. That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped her baby in soft clothes and laid Him in a manger.

There were shepherds in the field watching their sheep that night. Suddenly an angel of the Lord came and said, "Fear not, I have good news. Jesus, your Saviour, has been born! You shall find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

What wonderful news! The shepherds said, "Let us go and see this that has been told to us."

They found Jesus lying in the manger as the angels had told them. As they went their way, they rejoiced and told others of this wonderful news.

Memory Verse: And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Luke 1:31b.

A Child of the King

In a beautiful old mansion lived a wealthy man and his wife and three small children. Their cook was a Christian lady and often when the children would visit the kitchen, she would tell them what she knew about the Lord Jesus.

One day when she was busy preparing lunch, the little girl came running into the kitchen. "Mary," she exclaimed, "I have just made a wonderful discovery!"

"Dear me," said the old cook, "what ever have you found now?"

"That you are a princess," replied the little girl all smiles.

"Come now," returned Mary laughing. "Don't I look like a princess standing here among the pots and pans? If I were a princess, my dear, I'd be away enjoying myself!"

"No, you wouldn't," said her little visitor, "for you *are* a princess. You told me that you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Don't you see then, that you were born into God's family? Now you are a child of the King. And so am I."

The cook knew that her sins had been forgiven, but she had never realized that she belonged to God's royal family and that she was a child of the King.

Boys and girls, don't you want to have this wonderful Saviour as your own? You can. When we have Him as our Saviour, we belong to the family of God, and we are then God's sons and daughters.

Because Jesus was God's Son and came to be born on this earth, when we believe on Him and get saved, we can be princes and princesses because we are then God's children, too! Don't you

want to be a prince or princess? I do!
—Sel.

Lola's Broken Doll

Lola saw some dolls on a table in a store. She took one into her hands. Someone bumped Lola's arm hard. This knocked the doll from her hand, and it broke near another girl's feet.

A clerk looked around. "So you broke a doll. You will have to pay for it," the clerk told the girl.

"But I did not break the doll," the girl answered.

"I broke the doll," Lola told the clerk. Then she told just how it happened and paid for the broken doll.

Lola went to her mother. Her face beamed with happiness. "What makes you so happy?" her mother asked.

"I did not let someone else suffer for my mistake," Lola explained. Then she told her mother all about the doll.

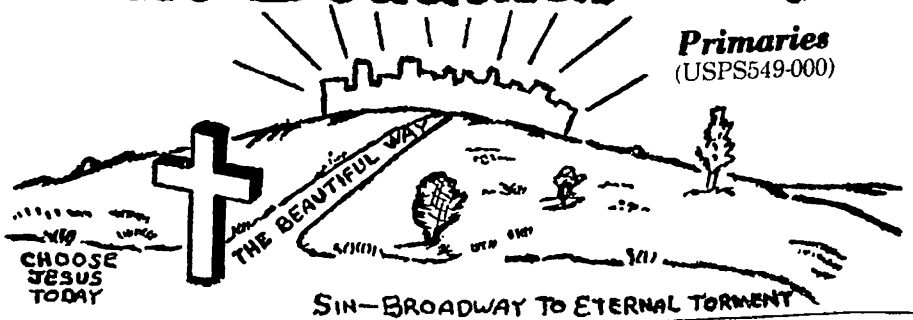
"Jesus loves honest children," Lola's mother told her.

Questions:

1. What did Caesar Augustus tell the people they had to do?
2. Where did Joseph and Mary have to go? Why?
3. Why could they find no room at the inn?
4. Where did they have to sleep?
5. What happened that night?
6. What did Mary wrap around Jesus and where did she lay Him?
7. Who did the angels tell about Jesus' birth?
8. Were the shepherds happy to see and know about Jesus?
9. Did they tell others about Jesus?

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Part 26

Dec. 30

MARY AND MARTHA

Luke 10:38-42

While Jesus went around from place to place, telling the many people that followed Him about God's love for them, He healed the sick. Jesus would get weary and desire to rest.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, where Jesus was, so Martha invited Him to visit them. She liked to do special things for Jesus. He had raised Lazarus, her brother, from the dead (John 11:43, 44). Jesus liked to be in their home because it was always so restful and peaceful.

Mary, Martha's sister, was there, too. She enjoyed sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him tell about the good things of God.

Martha was very busy getting everything ready. She always thought she had so many things to be done. By and by, she went to Jesus and said, "Lord, don't you care that I have to do everything alone? Tell Mary to come and help me."

"Martha, Martha," Jesus answered. "You are troubled about so many things. Mary has chosen to learn more of God. These things will never be taken from her."

Memory Verse: Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7.

Our Father's Care

It was a beautiful fall day. James stared out his bedroom window and wished with all his might that he could be in school. Instead, he was shut up at home with a bad cold. He watched the birds alight in the trees outside his windows. It was one of the things he particularly liked about Florida, for the trees were always alive with birds.

A feeder had been fastened to the tree, and now James began to notice the different kinds of birds that gathered there. Most of them were sparrows, but at that moment a bluejay settled down on the feeder, scolding and scattering the little sparrows. He was busily cracking sunflower seeds when a noisy black grackle lit on the feeder and gave the bluejay a peck. The two chattered angrily, neither one wishing to share, but the grackle finally won the argument.

A turtledove settled on the ground with the sparrows and began to peck at the seeds that had dropped from the feeder. Then James saw a flash of red, and a cardinal settled on a branch. James knew it was the male bird because males have the brightest feathers. Mother birds are usually a dull color so that they can hide better when they are sitting in their nests. It's God's way of protecting them.

"How are you feeling?" asked Mother from the doorway.

"O.K., Mother. I'm watching all the birds. I didn't know there were so many kinds eating out of our feeder," said James. "They never seem to get filled up."

"They spend most of their time looking for food," said Mother. "These are all seedeaters. Their bills are wide and strong so they can crack the seeds."

"The sparrows aren't very pretty," said James.

"I like them because they make me think of the Heavenly Father," said Mother. "The Bible says that He knows and cares for each tiny sparrow, and He'll surely take care of us because we are of more value than the sparrows."

"The birds don't worry and fret and work all day long, do they, Mother?" asked James.

"No, and we should learn lessons from them about the Father's love and care for us," said Mother. —Sel.

SHARING

Dear Lord, I thank you for the friends
That I see every day;
I share my wagon and my sled
When we go out to play.

I thank you for the friends who help,
With cleanup when we're through;
For play and work are fun for me
When shared by one or two!

—N. K. Duffy

Questions:

1. Name some things Jesus did for the people.
2. Did He tell them that God loved them?
3. In what town did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live?
4. Did Jesus like to stay at their house?
5. What wonderful miracle had happened to Lazarus?
6. Who did all the work to get the meal ready?
7. What did Mary like to do?
8. Who did Martha go to, and what did she say?
9. How did Jesus answer her?