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A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS A CURRICULUM DEVELOPED FOR EARLY ADOLESCENTS

AT KENTUCKY VILLAGE

A Thesis Presented To the Faculty of the Department of Religious Education Asbury Theological Seminary

> In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Religious Education

> > by Catherine Margaret Stonehouse May 1964

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Approved:

Le 17 2/ Tod-George Q. Jurn

by

Catherine Margaret Stonehouse

May 1964

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I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Paul H. Wood for his guidance; to Dr. George Allem Turner for his helpful suggestions; to my fellow teachers working at Kentucky Village, especially James Kirk for sharing his insights; and to all others who have in so many ways assisted in the preparation of this thesis.

Stonehouse: A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS A CURRICULUM DEVELOPED FOR EARLY ADOLESCENTS AT KENTUCKY VILLAGE

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PART I

THE

OFFENDER AND YOU

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Christian education among juvenile offenders is a task for which few people are prepared. Few of the teachers presenting themselves for service in the Christian education program at Kentucky Village will be likely to have much idea as to the make-up and the approach to be used in dealing with their pupils. Yet, these young people greatly need to be reached with the power of God.

THE PROBLEM

After offering my services to the volunteer Christian education program of Kentucky Village, I learned that there was no material offered to the teacher as a guide. It was felt that regular Sunday School material was not adequate or appropriate and the teacher was left to find something to teach that he felt would be helpful.

It is my opinion that much valuable time is lost while the teacher comes to know the juvenile effender and how to approach him. Since the young people are continually coming and going, many pupils may never be touched by the Gospel, because they were a member of the Sunday School class before the teacher was able to find his bearings. Unfortunately, I am afraid that some teachers may never learn to

contact their students without some help. In this study I have sought to give the Christian educator a guide which will help him become an effective teacher more quickly.

Part one of the study seeks to introduce the teacher to the juvenile offender, his relationship to the youth, and some helps for teaching in a juvenile correctional institution. Part two includes fifty two lessons which could be used by the teacher. The lessons in unit one of part two are written out in full manuscript form to give some ideas of ways to present the truths of the Bible. The other three units of lessons are in outline form.

Two theses have previously been written dealing with the religious life at Kentucky Village. John P. Torp wrote on "Christianity and Delinquent Adolescents." He considered their concept of Diety, prayer, heaven and hell, and the Bible.¹

Marilyn Digweed analyzed the Religious education program at Kentucky Village. From her study she concluded that available Religious education material was inadequate for the following reasons. Sunday School curriculi are written for children who are of average social, mental

¹John Torp, "Christianity and Delinquent Adolescents" (unpublished Bachelor of Divinity thesis, the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, 1962).

emotional and physical development. The young people at Kentucky Village are not average in these areas.² They deal with moral and ethical concepts not familiar to juvenile effenders. The experiences and environments of these children are different from those of the average child.³ Miss Digweed also sighted an objection made by the chaplain of Kentucky Village, Jack Torp. He noted that prepared materials are set up in three year cycles. It is assumed by the publishers that their prior lessons have been studied by the pupils. Since a child is at Kentucky Village for only six to nine months on an average and may not have studied the materials which might be used, a curriculum, serving well a regular Sunday School, would not prove satisfactory at the Village.⁴

These two studies were preparatory steps for the writing of a curriculum which would be effective at Kentucky Village.

Part one of this study has been prepared mainly through a documentary form of research. Information was gained from

²Marilyn G. Digweed, "The Religious Education Frogram at Kentucky Village: An Analysis, with Suggestions for Improvement" (unpublished Bachelor of Divinity thesis, The College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, 1962), pp. 69-70.

³<u>Ibid.</u>, p. 71. ⁴<u>Ibid.</u>, p. 69.

books, Sunday School teachers' meetings, interviews, and observations.

Part two is largely the fruit of nineteen months of Sunday School teaching at Kentucky Village. Methods suggested have been used in an actual teaching situation and have seemed satisfactory. Lessons prepared early in my experience have been revised in the light of later insights.

The findings of this study are prepared as a guide to the Christian educator. Part one is intended to give an initial foundation of understanding. Part two is presented as a Sunday School curriculum for one year.

CHAPTER II

THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

I. BASIC NEEDS

Basically, the delinquent child is a normal human being.¹ He has similar needs to those of his peers. Like anyone else he needs to be loved and appreciated, to have a sense of personal identity, to appreciate himself, to experiment and to judge values.² The difference between the delinquent child and most non-delinquents lies in the fact that these needs are not met in the life of the juvenile offender. His behavior is a normal reaction to his life situation.³

CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

To what then, we may ask, is this child reacting? There is no simple answer to this question. We, as evangelical Christians, believe that the root of the problem is sin

¹Haskell M. Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing</u> Juvenile Delinquency (New York: Abingdon Press, 1958), p. 79. ²Ibid., p. 43. ³Ibid., p. 79.

in the heart, but there are many other factors involved.4

The first thing against which the delinquent child is reacting is our society. Jim Wans mays that "juvenile delinquency is the direct result of the low moral standards of American communities in general."⁵ All around the young person is dishonesty and corruption. Because of the distorted values of our society, the home has disintegrated. The child is given no guidance from his community and in his frustrated estate flails out against it in anti-social behavior.

J. Edgar Hoover in a pamphlet called "Orime Challenges the Churches" says, "The greatest single factor in orime causation among juveniles today is the disintegration of the American home."⁶ The home of the juvenile offender fails to supply him with happiness, security, and the satisfaction of his needs.⁷

The physical conditions of the delinquent's home are

⁴Jim Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u> (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1956), p. 16.

⁶J. Edgar Hoover, <u>Grime Ohallenges the Churches</u>, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Depart. of Justice, (Nov. 29, 1944),

7Maud A. Merrill, Problems of Child Delinquency (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947), pp. 24, 76.

^{5&}lt;u>Ihid.</u>, p. 17.

notably poorer than the non-delinquent's. Although both may be in the same community and from the outside look similar the inner conditions are poorer in the home which produces the offender.⁸ His home has been weighted down with sickness, mental retardation, emotional disturbances, drunkenness and crime to a greater extent than the homes of his law abiding peers.⁹ The delinquent home is less stable than the average. These families move frequently. The individual members of the family may be shifted even more frequently because of foster home placements.¹⁰

Another factor which seems to influence toward delinquency is the broken home. In listing the order of parental causes of juvenile orime, Jim Vaus places the broken home at the top of the list.¹¹ One experiment revealed that half of the delinquent children were from broken homes while only a quarter of the control group were.¹² The cause of the break seems also to influence the child. One author says that homes broken by death are less related to delinquency

⁸Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile</u> <u>Delinguency</u> (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1951), p. 92.

⁹Ibid., p. 107.

¹⁰¹bid., p. 153.

¹¹ Vaus, Teenage Rampage, p. 29.

¹²Merrill, Problems of Child Delinquency, p. 66.

than breaks produced by other causes.¹³

Poor discipline plays a part in producing delinquents. A lack of discipline is the principle cause of crime among the well-to-do.¹⁴ Discipline can also be too firm but inconsistent. correction is the most damaging.¹⁵ The Gluecks found in their study that there was more erratic discipline administered by fathers of delinquent boys than others and that both parents of the offenders lacked consistency and kindness in punishment.¹⁶

The self image one holds influences greatly his behavior. This self image is learned through observing others, how they treat the learner and what is expected of him.¹⁷ The delinquent ohild laoks adequate adult models with whom he can be associated and from whom he can learn.¹⁸ Financial difficulties in the delinquent's home are caused mainly by the unwillingness of the bread winner to accept his

14 yaus, Teenage Rampage, p. 35.

¹⁵Richard V. McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1957), p. 44.

16 Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 133.

17 Miller, Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delinquency, p. 44.

¹⁸McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin7</u> p. 45.

¹³Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delin-</u> guency, p. 28.

responsibilities.¹⁹ This is hardly an adequate example for a child. As stated earlier, drunkenness and crime have found their way to those homes for the young members of the family to observe.²⁰

A child takes on the picture of himself that others seem to hold of him. It is natural, therefore, that a person who has been continually rejected by his parents will think of himself as worthless and unloveable.²¹ In a study done by Dr. Reuben Margolin²² at the Hayden Goodwill Inn, it was found that not one of the boys had anything good or kind to say about himself.

Involved in all causes mentioned thus far is a lack of love. Jim Vaus²³ states that 85 of children born today are rejected by one or both of their parents before they are born. Although most parents learn to love their children, many never come to love with a sacrificdal love. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck found that delinquent adolescents experienced much more indifference and even hostility from their parents. The boys felt that their fathers and mothers were not con-

¹⁹Glueck, <u>Enraveling Juvenile Delinquency</u>, p. 107,
²⁰Ibid., p. 107.
²¹HeCenn, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 56.
²²Ibid., p. 56.
²³Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 36.

cerned about their welfare.²⁴ Understanding and affection were to a great degree lacking in these homes.²⁵ The child's need to be recognized and appreciated was not met in such an environment.²⁶

Many delinquent children have never seen real love. Their parents do not even love each other.²⁷ The deep heart cry to be loved and wanted and an ignorance of what true love is, lies behind many crimes, especially in the case of girls.²⁸

As one looks at these facts, the question comes to mind "Why are there not more delinquents? How can two persons come out of the same environment, one to be an honorable person and the other to be a delinquent?" The difference lies in the two persons. Internal environment influences one toward delinquency or away from it.

On the average, it has been found that delinquents have a slightly lower I.Q. than non-delinquents. This does not mean that all juveniles involved in orime are of low mentality. In this average is included those of superior

²⁴Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinguency</u>, p. 133.
²⁵Toid., p. 282.
²⁶Ibid., p. 275.

27Robert and Muriel Webb, The Church and Juvenile Delinguency (New York: Associate Press, 1957), p. 18.

28 yaus, Teenage Rampage, p. 40.

and very superior intelligence but a greater number of those with a low 1.2.29 Institutionalized delinquents seem to have an intelligence which is somewhat below that of unselected school children.³⁰

The juvenile offender is characterized by restless energy and a thirst for adventure.³¹ He is also more distressed and disturbed by ordinary tensions than is the average child.³² His reactions are impulsive³³ and extreme. In a Sunday School Teachers' meeting at Kentucky Village it was noted that there was often no half way mark in the responses of the children they taught. The child would not become mildly angry, but very angry. He would not be pleasantly happy, but extremely happy.

Present origntation is another characteristic of the delinquent and especially girls. The important thing to them is the satisfaction of an immediate need³⁴ not the effects their actions may have on their future.

²⁹Merrill, <u>Problems of Child Delinquents</u>, pp. 169-170.
 ³⁰Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delinguency</u>, pp. 22-23.
 ³¹Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency</u>, p. 277.
 ³²Herrill, <u>Problems of Child Delinquency</u>, p. 60.
 ³⁵Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency</u>, p. 240.
 ³⁴Merrill, <u>Problems of Child Delinquency</u>, p. 187.

From the preceding discussion, one can see that there is not one simple cause of delinquency.³⁵ A delinquent is produced when the right person and the right circumstances meet.³⁶

Because of his environment, his personality and his unmet needs, the juvenile offender is full of conflicts. Rather than turning these conflicts inward as do the mentally ill, he directs them outward on society in rebellion, hostility and hate. 37

The delinquent is torn with ambivalence.³⁸ Because of his desire to be loved and wanted he is drawn to people and wants their friendship, but the pain of past rejection drives him away and causes him to hate rather than love.

Many of the attitudes which delinquent young people have are understandable in the light of their background. They resent the way they have been treated. Distrust and suspicion are prevalent in most of their relationships.³⁹

> ³⁵Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 16. ³⁶Ibid., p. 43.

37 Sunday School Teachers Meeting, Kentucky Village, January 26, 1964.

38Statement by W. Curry Mavis, at a meeting of Kentucky Village Sunday School Teachers, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, 1963.

39 Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinguency, p. 240.

Acts of crime can often be traced directly to the causes which were mentioned earlier. If a child is not given anything challenging to do by his home or community, his vacant mind will find something to occupy and interest him. Unfortunately this "something" is often destructive.⁴⁰ Some delinquent acts are an attempt on the part of a child who has been deprived of an adequate self image to create an identity for himself.⁴¹ As stated earlier the unfulfilled need for love often drives a young person into criminal acts in a search for satisfaction.⁴²

Much in the assertive blustering actions of the delinquent may be only a screen to protect the self. The real inner person may be very sensitive although the exterior would lead one to believe otherwise.⁴³

III. SPIRITUAL LIFE

Surprising as it may seem, quite a few delinquent children have had contact with the church. Miller found that the juvenile offender has had about an average exposure to

⁴⁰Vaus, <u>Teenage Hampage</u>, p. 23.
⁴¹McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin7</u> p. 100.
⁴²Vaus, <u>Teenage Hampage</u>, p. 40.
⁴³Merrill, <u>Problems of Ohild Delinquency</u>, p. 194.

church influence.⁴⁴ This contact with religion is less regular than that of the non-delinquents but there are few children in either group who completely neglect their religious duties.⁴⁵

In his study of juvenile offenders at Kentucky Village, John Torp found that some of the children were afraid of Ged. This was because they associated God with figures of authority which they knew.⁴⁶ He also presents two reasons for disbelief in God. This child may not believe because he is rebelling against those who do have faith in God, or he may come from a society in which disbelief is the norm.⁴⁷ Belief in God, on the other hand, may not stem from a love for and an understanding of Him, but from a fear that there may be a God in whom one must believe.⁴⁸

As do many other people, the delinquent may consider prayer and the Bible as a good luck charm.

The children of Kentucky Village studied by Forp were aware that they had done wrong and the majority of them

44Miller, Understanding and Preventing Juvenil. guency, p. 26.	e Delin-
45Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p.	165.
46 Torp, "Christianity and Delinquent Adolescen	ts." p. 7
47 <u>1b1d</u> ., p. 9, 12.	
48 _{1b1d} ., p. 15.	

experienced a sense of guilt. 49

The institutionalized juvenile offender may try to use religion to gain desired ends. This is exemplified by the girl who confessed that her interest in spiritual things had been expressed in hopes that it would speed up her release. A boy when asked what he expected to gain from becoming a Christian replied that he hoped to go home sconer.

IV. THE JUVENILE OFFENDER AT KENTUCKY VILLAGE

Kentucky Village, Lexington, Kentucky, is the final step in dealing with juvenile offenders in the state of Kentucky. It houses approximately five hundred young peopleone-fifth of whom are girls.

These juveniles are second or third offenders. Their crimes range from truancy to murder. The main treatment used is group therapy.⁵⁰ On the average they remain at Kentucky Village seven months.⁵¹ They are sent with no definite sentence. When it is felt that they are ready to go back into society they are released.

49 Ibid., pp. 24, 26.

⁵⁰Sunday School Teachers Meeting, Kentucky Village. ⁵¹Statement by Robert McOlure, Superintendent of Kentucky Village, personal interview. The age range of the residents of the Village is from eight to eighteen years of age. The girls are mainly between the ages of fourteen and eighteen with a few as young as twelve.

At Kentucky Village the average intelligence is midborderline to dull normal. Most of the children are retarded two or three years academically.⁵²

These are young people for whom Christ died. If they do not come to know Him and His power to change a life, many of them will spend the rest of their lives in crime.

52 Torp, "Christianity and Delinquent Adolescents," pp. 41-42.

CHAPTER III

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

I. THE ATTITUDE OF THE JUVENILE OFFENDER

How may the Sunday School teacher expect to be thought of by his students? He may be looked to as a source of the love and attention for which the youth craves. However, this is not always the reception he is given.

The student may react to the teacher with hostility. This is quite understandable. Often when one cannot express hostility to the primary object, this hostility is transferred to someone else such as the Sunday School teacher.¹ Hostility which originally was felt toward a parent may be generalized to include all figures of authority.² The Sunday School teacher is involved as a figure of authority.

Suspicion may be a barrier between teacher and pupil. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck found delinquents to be more suspicious than non-delinquents.³ One carriers into a new situation impressions gained from previous experiences. If

¹MeCann, <u>Delinguency-Sickness or Sin?</u> pp. 82+83. ²Ibid. p. 82.

³Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinguency</u>, p. 240.

⁴Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delin-</u> <u>quency</u>, p. 43.

one has been let down by everyone he ever trusted it would be natural to view all people with reserve and suspicion. It is difficult for a boy or girl who has never experienced a successful, satisfying friendship to be part of such a relationship.⁵ This difficulty may hinder the student-teacher relationship.

The juvenile offender has needs for which he may look to the Sunday School teacher to satisfy. He needs understanding, not condemnation.⁶ He is also looking for acceptance and love tempered by discipline and strength.⁷ Encouragement and support is needed especially as the pupil begins the Christian life.⁸

The greatest need the juvenile offender has in regard to the Sunday School teacher is to be able to trust him as a human being. Dr. Philip Sottony, psychiatrist, head of the Guidance clinic, Chattanooga, Tennessee, says that therapy will not begin until the child comes to this point of trust.⁹ The Sunday School class cannot begin spiritual therapy in the lives of the students unless they trust their teacher.

⁵NeCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 131.
⁶Webb, <u>The Church and Juvenile Delinquents</u>, p. 51.
⁷NeCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 9.
⁸Ibid., p. 9.

⁹Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delin-</u> guency, p. 147.

II. THE TEACHER'S ATTITUDE

Howard M. Ham tells us that no single factor is so important in creating a climate favorable to learning as the teacher's feelings toward the students.¹⁰

Within the teacher there must be a genuine love and concern for the pupils. The sensitive feelings of the juvenile offender, developed through many painful experiences will be aware of any lack of genuineness. William E. Hulme¹¹ shows the teacher that in dealing with his pupils he must communicate this concern and caring, but if the teacher does care listening will show this to the youth.

The Sunday School teacher needs to take care that hislove does not cause him to forget that the students are responsible for the wrong they have done.¹² The teacher's heart can be so moved by the circumstances surrounding his students that he does not see that their reactions and deeds were sin.

Dr. Curry Mavis, in a talk to Kentucky Village Sunday School teachers at Asbury Theological Seminary, pointed out

¹⁰Marvin J. Taylor (ed.), Religious Education, <u>A com-</u> <u>prehensive Survey</u> (New York: Abingdon Press, 1960), p. 189.

¹¹<u>Ibid.</u> p. 170.

¹² Seward Hiltmer, <u>Pastoral Counseling</u> (New York: Abingdon Press, 1949), p. 18.

the importance of giving understanding to the juvenile offender. The teacher should approach the pupil without preconceived ideas about him and his delinquency and with a sincere desire to learn his needs and problems. The fact that the teacher does understand why he has acted as he has

must be communicated.

Coupled with an understanding attitude is acceptance. Many delinquents have for many years been rejected by their parents.¹³ Even in the church, many have felt rejected.¹⁴ Maud A. Merrill¹⁵ feels that the most essential thing in a counseling relationship is that the counselee feels that he, himself, is accepted by the counselor. The teacher must transmit to the class as a whole and to individual members that he accepts them as they are. They need to feel that they can come, as they are, to the teacher and not be turned away or condemned. Accept them as teenagers with problems not as oddities or something to be feared.

Closely akin to acceptance is a sense of the value of each person. Many juvenile offenders have felt that their

¹⁵Merrill, Problems of Child Delinquency, p. 23.

¹³HeCann, <u>Delinguency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 93.

¹⁴ID1d., p. 114.

parents had no concern for them.¹⁶ This would tend to lead a child to believe that he was not worth concern. Children need to feel that they are significant and worthwhile.¹⁷ The assertive, sometimes repulsive behavior of the delinquent hides an insecure ego which needs to know that it is of great importance to God and His people, of which the Sunday School teacher is a representative.¹⁸ Through the eyes of faith the teacher must see what God could make of each pupil; the great potential which lies dormat. As one remembers the great value which God places on a soul, one cannot but value each belligerent young person.

Children expect discipline and guidance.¹⁹ They need this discipline.²⁰ Combined with knowledge and understanding it undergirds with strength the acceptance and love which is offered and makes it effective.²¹ Discipline, therefore, is

¹⁶McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 133.
¹⁷Miller, <u>Understanding end Preventing Juvenile Delin-</u>
<u>auency</u>, p. 118.

18_{1b1d}., p. 165.

¹⁹vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 52.

20 McCann, Delinquency-Sickness or Sin? p. 103.

21 Tbid., p. 97.

an essential part of the Sunday School class. This discipline needs to be kind but firm.²² The teacher who has discipline within his class will be more likely respected than the one who does not.

III. THE TEACHER'S ROLE

The first role which the teacher fills is that of a transmitter. He is the transmitter of God, His love and His teachings to the pupil. As the teacher gives of himself to the youth he opens the channel for the reception of God.²³ The juvenile offender needs to know how important he is to God.²⁴ William E. Hulme²⁵ shows us that God's love is communicated through the attitude of the teacher to the pupil. The Sunday School teacher is the middleman through whom God's acceptance is communicated.²⁶ God and goodness are only abstractions unless they are associated with a person.²⁷ The teacher can transmit to his class the attitude of God and goodness as they are embodied in him.

22Vaus, Teenage Rampage, p. 52.

23McCann, Delinquency-Sickness or Sin? p. 112.

²⁴Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvnile Delin-</u> <u>quency</u>, p. 165.

> Taylor, <u>Religious Education</u>, p. 171. ²⁶McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin</u>? p. 125. ²⁷<u>Ibid</u>., p. 124.

Example is one of the best methods of teaching Ohristian standards.²⁸ What an adult does has more effect on a child than what is preached to him or what he reads.²⁹ The life of the Sunday School teacher should be an example of the principles he is teaching.³⁰ Hulme³¹ tells us that often attitudes and over all manner do more for communicating than anything specific which is said.

Many juvenile offenders have never had an adequate adult after whom to pattern their lives.³² Their homes have had little stability or moral fibre.³³ The Sunday School teacher may represent to the child stability, dependability and a moral character which he can use as an example for his own life.

fo give sincere friendship to a child who needs a friend is one of the finest things a Christian can do.³⁴ If the friendship offered is not true and genuine, the

auency	²⁸ Miller, <u>Understanding and Proventing Juvenile Delin-</u> p. 148.
	29 Vaus, Teenage Rampage, p. 17.
	³⁰ Sunday School Teachers Meeting at Kentucky Village.
	31 Webb, The Church and Juvenile Delinguents, p. 166.
	32 McCann, Delinquency-Sickness or Sin? p. 17.
	33 Glueok, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, p. 282.
•	34 _{Hiller, Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delin-} , p. 145.

Christian is being dishonest.³⁵ This relationship must be one in which the youth can trust and place his confidence. It will be necessary for the adult to put forth the effort to discover the juvenile offender's problems.³⁶ From this friendship the youth will need to receive encouragement and support as he works on the problems in his life.³⁷

All three roles mentioned thus far, that of transmitter, example and friend, involve the giving of self. Many children have never known love which included the giving of self.³⁸ This type of love is hard to give. It is often most needed when the child is most unloveable.³⁹ The teacher will find it easier to give himself and his love to the student who is responsive and accepts him and ignore the pupil who ignores the teacher. The one who does not come to the Sunday School teacher is most likely the one who most needs him. If the teacher hopes to reach this child with the redemptive love of Christ it will take sacrificial, crossbearing effort.⁴⁰ It will cost him thought, hard work,

37_{McCann}, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 9.

³⁸Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 36.

39Webb, The Church and Juvenile Delinquents, p. 32.

40 Miller, Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delinquency, p. 185.

^{35&}lt;u>Tbid.</u>, p. 147.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 146.

patience, forgiveness and unselfishness. 41

As noted above, it is not easy to establish a friendship with an isolated, hostile youth.⁴² The teacher must be persästent and patient in his efforts.⁴³ When and how this relationship will be established cannot be predicted.⁴⁴ Even after a satisfactory friendship has been formed, it may take time before insights can be communicated, says William E. Hulme.⁴⁵ Before the youth can trust himself to the God and life of the teacher he must learn to fully trust the teacher himself. The teacher must not be discouraged or reject the pupil because of a relapse of attitude or action. These should be accepted and dealt with as one would in a physical or mental illness.⁴⁶ The stumbling babe in Christ needs someone to help pick him up. The teacher may have to do this several times.

To de an adequate job, the teacher must be a searcher. He must look behind words to find their meaning. This may be

⁴¹ Nebb, The Church and Juvenile Delinquents, p. 58.
⁴²McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 139.
⁴JWebb, <u>The Church and Juvenile Delinquents</u>, p. 58.
⁴⁴McCann, <u>Delinquency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 132.
⁴⁵Taylor, <u>Religious Education</u>, p. 168.
⁴⁶McCann, Delinquency-Sickness or Sin? p. 27.

found in the way the words are spoken.⁴⁷ All conduct has meaning. The teacher's search for understanding the pupil will lead him to thoughtful observation of conduct.⁴⁸ The teacher must know, not only the delinquent's deeds, but also the delinquent.⁴⁹ It is not enough to know that the members of the class have stolen, ran away from home or committed sex effenses. The teacher must also be aware of the rejection, loneliness, frustrations and cruelty which the pupils have experienced. This information can be best gained from personal contact with individuals in the class.

Running through all these roles of the teacher must be the vital element of consistency. It is essential for the teacher to be in his class regularly. His cheerfulness, his giving of love, understanding, and self must be consistent. Several times thus far the importance of trust has been mentioned. This is impossible without consistency.

 ⁴⁷Sunday School Teachers Meeting at Kentucky Village, February 23, 1964.
 ⁴⁸Hiltner, <u>Pastoral Counseling</u>, pp. 57, 71.
 ⁴⁹McCann, <u>Delinguency-Sickness or Sin?</u> p. 11.

OHAPTER IV

TEACHING THE JUVENILE OPPENDER

I. WHY TEACH?

We teach because we believe that the juvenile delinquent is not a hopeless case. He can learn and change as long as he lives.¹

This change must be an internal one. Behavior and character will be affected very little until sanctions become part of the personality.² Motivation to live at one's best comes through a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.³ From this we see that the change needed in the life of the juvenile offender is that wrought by the power of God after Jesus Christ has entered the heart. Only by the grace of God can one live the Christian life at all times. To try in one's own strength only brings frustration says Iris V. Cully.⁴

The task of bringing the juvenile delinquent to the place of accepting Jesus Christ as Savier and Lord is not an impossible one. The Holy Spirit will speak to the delinquent

Miller, <u>Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delin</u>quency, p. 45.

²McCann, <u>Delinguency-Sickness or Sin</u>? pp. 100-101. 3Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 54.

⁴Taylor, <u>Religious Education</u>, p. 115.

just as He does to any other youth. Jesus has promised that if He is lifted up He will draw all men unto Himself (John 12:32). The juvenile offender is included in the "all."

II. WHAT TO TRACH

Saint Paul, when going to preach at Corinth determined to know nothing except Ohrist and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:2). This too should be the theme of the Sunday School teacher. The fact of Ohrist and His redeeming love is that which the Sunday School teacher possesses beyond the resources of secular workers. Social workers and group leaders discuss the problems of the children and try to find the human solutions to these problems. The teacher of religion has the opportunity of effering Christ as the answer. Problems must not be ignored. Christ's power is relevant to these problems and they are to be included in the lessons as aspects of one's life in which Christ is interested and over which He has power.

Christ and His power can be seen in the stories of the Bible. It will therefore be the main text. Events from the lives of twentieth century teenagers as illustrations and supplements will help make the Bible more relevant.

As stated earlier, the juvenile offenders at Kentucky Village studied by Torp knew what they had done wrong. Many of them felt guilty for what they had done.⁵ Therefore, in most cases, the task of the teacher is not to bring the students to realize that they are sinners and are guilty but rather to show them that Christ can and will forgive their sins and remove their sense of guilt. The teacher should emphasize the positive aspects of the gospel and leave the Holy Spirit to deal with the negatives after the heart of the child is His.

III. HOW TO TEACH

The most basic principle in teaching is to be prepared. If a teacher goes before a group of juvenile offenders unprepared he will lose their respect.⁶ Beyond this, he should not offer to God a slipshod lesson.⁷ Preparation begins with the teacher himself as he allows the Holy Spirit to be his teacher.⁸ Ideally the teacher should know the lesson so well that he needs no notes. If a few notes are necessary they should be used in such a way the pupils are not aware of their existence. This thorough knowledge

⁵Torp, "<u>Christianity and Delinquent Adolescents</u>", pp.24,26. ⁶Vaus, <u>Teenage Rampage</u>, p. 71.

⁷Findley B. Edge, <u>Helping the Teacher</u> (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1959), p. 17.

8 701d., p. 20.

of the lesson will give emphasis to the importance of what is being said.

Howard M. Ham⁹ says that the lesson must be relevant. A youth will not put forth the effort to learn unless he thinks that it is worth it. Dr. Curry Mavis at Asbury Seminary, said in a talk with Sunday School teachers for Kentucky Village, that one is really communicating only when he communicates to the world of the hearer. If lessons are to be effective, the students must see themselves, their feelings and their problems in the characters studied.

Mr. Robert McClure, Superintendent of Kentucky Village, Lexington, Kentucky, says that religious concepts must be presented in simplicity. He goes on to say that one point should be made in many ways rather than several ideas being dealt with superficially. One reason for the necessity of simplicity is the somewhat lower intelligence of the delinquent who is institutionalized than the average school child.¹⁰ The teacher should choose one aim and include in the lesson enly thoughts which lead toward that aim.¹¹ Many aspects of the Christian life could be considered in the study of one

⁹Taylor, <u>Religious Education</u>, p. 186.

10xiller, Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Delinguency, pp. 22423.

11 Edge, Helping the Teacher, p. 27.

Bible story. To include all these areas only confuses. From each lesson the teacher must choose the thrust which he feels is most needed and leave the details dealing with other areas for another lesson. An example of this is the use of the story of Mary and Martha more than once in the lessons of part two.

The juvenile offender does not seem to think or express himself in symbols. He uses concretes.¹² He will be able to best understand life situations with which he is acquainted. Lessons containing a great deal of symbolism, therefore, will not reach these young people.

According to D. Campbell Wyckoff,¹³ individualizing the curriculum is one of the teacher's most important tasks. The lesson must be adapted to meet the needs of the specific class. This demands a knowledge of the class members on the part of the teacher.¹⁴ The lessons in the second part of this thesis, as written, in some cases will apply to boys and in others to girls. In some lessons the needs of a class will be covered and in others the points left out would cover those needs. The teacher is responsible for individualizing

¹²Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency</u>, p. 276.
¹³Taylor, <u>Religious Education</u>, p. 109.
¹⁴Edge, <u>Helping the Teacher</u>, p. 21.

these lessons to fit his class.

Sheldon and Eleaner Glueck found that the delinquent child has a thirst for adventure.¹⁵ To many of these children Jesus Christ is nothing more than a dead creed.¹⁶ If they are to be attracted to Him He must come to life before them. To capture the attention of these adventure thirsty young people the lesson must pulsate with life, excitement and drama.

IV. FOLLOW UP

Follow up is essential to the maintainance of life in the juvenile offender who has just accepted Christ. This follow up must be begun at once. Immediately after the youth has received Christ give him a few pointers which will help him in the next few days. Included in this might be the relationship of feeling and faith, the fact that he is but a babe in Christ and that the Holy Spirit is always present with him to give help whenever he calls. This should be followed by a letter of encouragement and clarification in the early part of the week.

The following Sunday the teacher should begin regular

¹⁵Glueck, <u>Unraveling Juvenile Delinguency</u>, p. 277. ¹⁶McCann, <u>Delinguency-Sickness or Sin7</u> p. 109. meetings with the new convert. As more young people become Christians they will form a small group which will gather to share their problems, to pray together and to learn about such things as temptation, prayer, Eible study, quiet time and witnessing. If time is allowed to elapse between conversion and the formation of this group some fervor will be lost and it will be much harder to interest the teenager in this class.

Since most of the residents of Kentucky Village are used to helping one another in group therapy, they could be encouraged to help one another as a Christian group. They could be made to feel their responsibility to each other.

A follow-up class such as recommended above demands more time than the half-hour allotted for Sumday School. It will call for a sacrifice of time and effort on the part of the teacher.

PART II

A

PROPOSED CURRICULUM

CHAPTER V

INTRODUCTION

In part II of this thesis, suggested lessons for one year are developed for the use of Sunday School teachers at Kentucky Village. Unit I is written in full manuscript and units II, III, & IV in outline form.

AIMS

The over all aim of the curriculum is to lead the pupils in Christian growth. This growth is in two main stages: up to the point of accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and from this point to Christian maturity.

The aim of unit I is to help the pupils see how Jesus Christ will react toward them. It is hoped that this will be accomplished as the students see how Christ reacted to the people He met while here on earth.

In unit II the aim is to help the pupils see the power of Christ. This is attempted by considering the miracles of Christ.

Unit III endeavours to help the pupils see what is involved in Christianity through a study of some Old Testament characters. In this unit, more than the others, the challenge of the Christian life is emphasized. Unit IV seeks to guide the pupil into successful Christian living. It would be used mainly with a follow-up group.

ORGANIZATION

Included in each lesson are a memory verse and a suggested song. Classes in which I have worked have responded well to learning a memory verse. If these verses are implanted in the young minds of the class members, even though they may not accept Christ now, the Holy Spirit could work through His word within their hearts in years to come.

The songs suggested for each lesson are taken from the chorus sheet "Let's Sing" which is in use at Kentucky Village at the present time. More appropriate songs or choruses could be taught and used by the teacher.

Each lesson is planned to fit into a half-hour Sunday School period. Five to ten minutes can be spent in collecting the class and singing. Five minutes is allotted to the learning of the memory verse. The lesson is prepared to take ten minutes. Five to ten minutes are left to be used in praying with those who wish to accept the Lord or in getting acquainted with some of the class members. This timing may be arranged to suit the class. If they do not like to sing, more time might be spent in informal visiting. But not more than ten to fifteen minutes should be spent on the lesson. If more time is taken, the teacher will lose many members of the class. Drive home one, simple gospel truth, dramatically, and meaningfully in ten to fifteen minutes. CHAPTER VI

UNIT I

PEOPLE WHO MET CHRIST

LESSON I

The Adulterous Woman-John 8:3-11

Memory Verse: John 6:37b

Aim: To help the pupils see that Christ will accept all who come to Him.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Sing a couple gospel choruses that the class enjoys. End this singing period with "For God So Loved the World."

This chorus may be followed by a prayer in which the leader thanks God for His love for all. <u>Memory Verse</u>: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:370

If New Testaments are available for each pupil have them find the verse and read it together. The teacher can have the verse written out for the pupils if Bibles are not supplied. Discuss the meaning of the verse with the class.

Does anyone know what we mean when we say "John 6:37b?" We call this the reference of the verse. "John" is a book in the New Testament. Our verse is found in the Book of John. The first number, the six, refers to the chapter. Our verse then is found in the sixth chapter of the Book of John. What does the thirty-seven stand for? Yes, it stands for the verse in the chapter. Do you have any idea what the "b" might mean? It means the last half of the verse.

John 6:37b means the last half of the thirty-seventh verse of the sixth chapter of the book of John.

Who do you think said this?

Jesus

- To whom was Jesus referring when He said "him"? Anyone
- What does Jesus say He will do if we come to Him? He will accept us; He will not turn us away. How can someone cast another person out?

Throw them out bodily Give them the cold shoulder

Ignore them

Be mean to them

Which is harder to take, being thrown out or being excluded by the actions and attitudes of others?

Being excluded by the actions and attitudes of others

Introduction: How can we know that this verse is really true; that if we come to Jesus He will accept us and help us with our problems? I know Jesus would help someone that had been preaty good most of the time, someone who goes to church nearly every Sunday and reads his Hible and prays every day. But would He accept someone who was not very good? Let us see how Jesus did act toward one woman who came toHim. Body: The stillness of the peaceful countryside where Jesus was teaching was suddenly shattered by the screams of a woman. "No, don't, please let me go. Don't take me to Him, please." The men who roughly pushed her toward Jesus paid no attention to her pleas.

As she stood before Him her body shook with fear and she sobbed bitterly. She knew she had done wrong. These men had caught her in the very act of adultery. Yes, she knew this was wrong, but what did it matter what she did. Nobedy cared for her. No one had ever loved her and so often those who said they did had turned out to be liars. Now she hardly had a friend in the world. Because of the things she had done, everyone disliked her and would have nothing to do with her. Where were the men who had said they loved her? Where were those who had claimed to be her friends when she had a little money? They were gone. She stood before Jesus all alone. There was no one who would stand with her to plead for mercy and understanding. No one cared what happened to her. Most people felt that the world would be better off without her.

Who were those men who had brought her? Would they try to help her? No. They were only using her. They wanted to put Jesus on the spot and they thought that this woman could help them do so. What happened to the woman was no concern of their's as long as they got what they wanted. There was

no interest on their part to try and understand why she had committed this sin. They did not seem to realize that she was even human. As far as they were concerned she was no more than a tool. They were not going to try and help her change her ways and become a respectable citizen. All they wanted was to use her.

Listen, the leader is beginning to speak. "Jesus, we caught this woman in the act of adultery. You know our law says that she should be killed. What do you say we should do with her?"

Now they had Jesus in their trap, so they thought. They knew He loved people and would not want to kill this poor woman, but if He broke the law they would have him. They waited for His reply, almost forgetting about the poor woman.

She was white with fear as she waited for Jesus to answer.

"All right," He said, "which ever one of you has never sinned, you begin to throw the stones to kill this woman." Things became deathly still. One by one the men who had brought her, quietly slipped away. Soon Jesus and the woman were alone. Jesus had outsmarted them. Jesus had saved her life, but what would He do with her now?

Would He become angry with her and say, "You wicked

woman, I hope you know what a terrible sin you have committed. You should appreciate what I did for you because a sinner like you did not deserve it. Now get going and do not ever let me hear that you are involved in anything like this again." Or would He say, "I would like to help you lady, but you are beyond help, you are too sinful." No, that was not how Jesus treated her. He could see into her heart. He knew that she was sad and lonely. He knew how she longed for someone to love and understand her. He knew how ashamed she was. He knew that she was sorry for her sins and wanted to live right but didn't have the strength.

Jesus wanted to help her. He did not tell her, "Oh, do not worry about your sin; that is all right; I do not really mind it." The woman and Jesus knew that her acts were wrong and they both hated them. Instead Jesus said, "I forgive you. Now, go, and sin no more." As Jesus sent her away He gave her the power to live a life that was good and right.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Did Jesus stick with the promise He made in our memory verse when this woman came to Him? Yes, He did. He accepted her just like she was and helped her. Was she some kind of an especially good woman that we would expect Jesus to care for? No, she had been caught in the act of sinning. <u>Application</u>: Maybe you feel like this woman. It seems that no one cares what happens to you or what you do. You have

longed for love and understanding but all your attempts to find then have been failures. These who have said they loved you only used you, took what they could get and left. You have seen how the things you have done turn people against you but when you have tried to change you have found that you are too weak. There was no one to help you and soon you were back in the same old rut. What is the use of trying? What difference does it make? Who cares? Jesus does. John 6:37b is just as true today as it was when this Woman came to Jesus. Jesus says to you. "Come to me. T love you. I will accept you and help you. if you will just come. You do not have to be good to come. I invite sinners. There is no one who I cannot forgive and help." Maybe you say. "I would like to come to Jesus. but I do not know how." We would be happy to help you understand how if you would like to talk to us after Sunday School.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank you that we can come to you and you have promised not to push us away or ignore us. Help us to be able to trust you and come, so that you can forgive us." Amen.

LESSON II

The Woman at the Well-John 4:4-20: 25-30

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Jesus seeks and loves even these others despise.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Open the class with prayer inviting Jesus Christ to be present and teach each one present.

This could be followed by a time of lively singing. Close the singing with "If You Want Joy."

Memory Verse: "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10.

(If New Testaments are available have the pupils see who can find the verse first. The one to find the verse first could read it if he would care to and would be likely to read fairly well or the class could read it together.)

This verse begins with a very strange phrase. Does anyone know who the "Son of Man is?" Jesus is referring to Himself here. He is saying, "I have come to seek and save those who are lost."

> What does it mean to be lost or to lose? To not know where one is Not to win such as in a basketball game Not to understand-"You've lost me."

One cannot find something

To lose possession of something

Are any of these things pleasant?

No

From what we have said about being lost or lose, what kind of a person do you think Jesus is referring to when He says "the lost."

One who does not know where he is going.

One who just cannot seem to win no matter how hard he tries.

One who is confused.

One who is searching for something he cannot find. One who has lost the things that he really values.

(If the teacher has a blackboard or a large piece of paper and a magic marker he might write down the two lists, side by side, as they are mentioned by the class.)

If we were talking about someone who was lost in the woods and we said someone saved him, what would we mean? (Use the names of class members in this illustration.)

He would find him.

He would bring him out of the woods.

If a person had been lost a long time, he might have to give him food and water so that he would have the strength to move to a safe place. What does it mean to seek?

To look for

Jesus is saying, then, in this verse that He has come to look for people who do not really know where they are going in life; who just do not seem to be able to do what they really want to do; who are confused about what they believe or what they want; who are searching for something that will satisfy them; who have lost the things that they really cared about. Jesus says that He will find these people and bring them out of their confusion, show them the right way to go in life and give them the power to go that "right" way.

Introduction: Jesus did just that one day. _______, and _______ (three members of the class) are going to tell us about it. (In three copies of the Gospel of John underline narrative parts, words Jesus spoke, and words the woman spoke. Use different colors to underline each part and have one pupil read each of the parts.) <u>Body:</u>_______(the first narrator) told us that this woman came to the well all alone. This was very strange because usually all the women came to the well together early in the morning. They would really have a good time together. The sun would be shining brightly making the stones in the road sparkle, and the flewers look so colorful and gay! But the cool morning breezes would still be

tossing the little tufts of grass and keeping the air cool and comfortable. As they would talk and laugh together, the ladies of Sychar would enjoy one of the most pleasant times of their day.

But this woman of Samaria had lost this pleasantness out of her life. She was all alone. The other women would not have anything to de with her. They would not let her come to the well with them. She may not have wanted to go with them because she knew what kind of a life she had lived and she knew what they thought of her. She was ashamed of herself, but she didn't seem to be able to do anything to change it. So she trudged along the hot, dusty road at noon, alone, with no one to care for her enough to even walk with her.

She was a dissatisfied woman. All her life she had been searching; searching for someone to love her; searching for something that would satisfy the aching longing that she had inside her. She had thought that the fellow she dated in high school really cared for her. Oh yes, they knew that they were pretty young to get married, but they needed each other. They needed someone to really love them and to be interested in the little things in life. Maybe together they could satisfy the emptiness inside. But it had not worked. In a few short months their marriage fell apart and she was alone again. Then Abbie came along. He said that he really

cared and that she was the only one for him. but it turned out that he really did not mean it. A little while after they were married she knew that he did not care at all. She began to search again for someone who would love her. Three more times she married. She was searching, she was trying to satisfy her emptiness, but she never seemed to win. She always lost. Now she was living with a man who was not even her husband. She knew it was not right and that no one wanted to have anything to do with a woman like that, but what was the use? Nobody cared about her. She had never gotten any satisfaction out of life that ever lasted. When she tried to straighten out and live right something always happened and she was right back where she started from. So why even try?

Her thoughts were suddenly interrupted by a voice. It was a man. "May I please have a drink?" He said. The woman was astonished. A man had spoken to her. This was almost unheard of. In her day men never spoke to women in public places. And what was more strange, this man was a Jew. Jews hated Samaritans and stayed as far away from them as pessible, but this Jewish man had spoken to her, a Samaritan woman.

Jesus was different from most ordinary Jewish men. He did not care what custom said He should do, He only cared for this woman. He had come looking for her. Because He was God, He knew that she would be coming to the well at noon

that day. He could also see into her life and heart. Jesus knew all about her past. He knew that she had an emptiness inside her that she had been trying all her life to fill. He knew that she was alone and unlowed. He knew that she was ashamed of herself but was too weak to change. He also knew that He had something to give this woman that would satisfy her emptiness and give her the strength to live right. As Jesus talked to her he was saying, "I will give you something that will continually satisfy your emptiness, just like a spring of water inside a person would continually satisfy his thirst."

Something happened inside this woman as she talked to Jesus. She believed that Jesus was the one who had come to save the lost and she accepted Him as her own personal Savier. She forget her water pet. She forget that it was het. She forget that she was ashamed to meet the people of her town. She started off for town as fast as she could go to tell the people of this wonderful Savier she had found. He had satisfied her emptiness.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Almost everyone had rejected this woman, but not Jesus. He cared for her, went looking for her and when He found her He satisfied the emptiness and longing within her. <u>Application</u>: Do you feel like this woman did? Bo you feel that no one cares about you? Does it seem that there is no use trying to do right because you always lose the fight? Are

you confused and searching for something in life that you cannot seem to find? Jesus is saying to you this morning, "No matter what other people think about you or how you feel about yourself, I love you and I am looking for you. If you will just come to me I will satisfy your emptiness and help you straighten out your life."

Will you trust Jesus this morning as did the woman of Samaria and let him change your emptiness to satisfaction? <u>Prayer</u>: Dear Jesus, we thank you that you do care for us all and that you can give satisfaction to all our lives. Help us to trust you as our Savior. Amen.

LESSON III

Nicodemus-John 3:21

Memory Verse: John 3:16

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils understand the new birth. <u>Preliminary Activities</u>: After singing a couple of favorite songs, open with prayer. During this preliminary period, roll call could be taken. This will help the teachers come to know the pupils more quickly.

Close this period by singing "For God So Loved the World."

Ask the class if they know where the words for this song came from. Ask them if they know where it is found in the Bible.

Memory Verse: This is our memory verse for this week. How many of you know it already? Let us say it together. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoseever believeth in Him should not perish but have everiasting life." John 3:16.

What does this verse mean when it says "God so loved the world"..? What did He love?

> All the people on the earth who is God speaking of when He says "whosoever?" Does He mean all men?

No. women too.

Does He mean all those who go to church?

No, He loves those who do not go to church. Does He mean all Americans?

No. He means all the people in the world.

What does this word believe mean?

To accept as true

To have confidence and trust in

Jesus is saying that anyone who will put his trust and confidence in Him. will not what?

Perish

What does that mean?

To destroy

To ruin

To die

What will happen to this person rather than being ruined and dying?

He has everlasting life.

What kind of life is that?

Life that lasts forever.

Life that is wonderful and satisfying now.

Let us all say our verse over again together.

Introduction: May be you say, "But I still do not understand that verse," Let us see if we can understand it better by looking in on a little scene which would take place right here on <u>X-I</u>. (The scene which will be set will be different for boys or girls. The example given would be used with a group of girls. Two teachers could do this skit, or two capable students.)

<u>Body</u>: Jan is sitting in the corner writing a nice long letter to her mother when Betty walks slowly over to her.

Betty: What are you doing, Jan?

- Jan: Oh, I'm just writing to my folks. What is wrong with you, you look like you have lost your last friend.
- Betty: I'm already----I guess. Anyway, you're busy, I could go and write a letter too, I suppose.
- Jan: Did you want something? This letter can wait if you did.
- Betty: No, ----well, ----yes---- I well, -I just wanted to talk to you.
- Jan: Is something bothering you Betty?
- Betty: Oh, it just seems like its no use. I'm such a mess. I just hate myself. I just hate myself!
- Jan: Why do you say that?
- Betty: I've just done so many awful things. The thing that makes me feel so bad today, though, is the way I treated Sue last night. Everything was going along just fine when she came along and started to tease me about my freekles. You know I hate that. I just got so mad that I lest control of myself and I pounced on

her, punching her and pulling her hair. She has a big swollen eye where I hit her. You know I like Sue. I did not want to hurt her, but I just got so mad that I could not help myself. And now all the other kids are mad at me too. Jan, I have tried to be different, you know that day

I beat up on Joan?

- Jan: Yeah.
- Betty: Well, after that I said I would never fight with anybody again. I was really scared that time. I thought I had killed har. But I got mad again just about two days after. Oh, what can I do? I just wish that I could be anybody but me. Can you help me Jan? You have been different since you prayed with the Sunday School teacher.
- Jan: You know what you need?
- Betty: What?
- Jan: You need to be born again.
- Betty: What on earth do you mean? Do not be ridiculous, I'm serious. You know people are only born one time.
- Jan: I was not trying to be funny, Betty. That is what Jesus told a man once.
- Betty: Well, how can this work?
- Jan: I am not talking about your body, your hands, feet, and face being born again. I am talking about the

inside you. We have a body that can be seen but there is more to us than that, is there not?

- Betty: Yes, we have a mind.
- Jan: That is right we have a mind and a personality. These are things that we cannot see, are they not? Betty: Yes.
- Jan: This inside part of us that we cannot see is the real us. These parts make us different from everyone else. This something inside you makes you feel a certain way about things.
- Betty: Do you mean that this something inside me makes me feel angry when someone teases me about my freckles?
- Jan: Uh-huh. And something inside makes you do certain things.
- Betty: Like get mad and hit the girls?
- Jan: That is right. We cannot see this inside part of us but we can see what it does.
- Betty: We sure can -- like I can see Sue's black eye.
- Jan: It is like the wind. We cannot see it but we can feel it, hear it and see what it has done. It is this inside part of us that Jesus says needs to be born again. You see, what happened was, that God made a law a long, long time ags. He said, "There will be no sinning and for anyone that sins that penalty will be death." It was a law just like the

laws our country has such as no stealing. God made people and they did not keep God's law: they sinned. God has nothing to do but to give the penalty that went with the law, when we sin we die. Our body does not die right away, but this inside part of us does. We are separated from God because of our sin and inside we become corrupt, decay, and become hateful. Nothing but rottenness seems to come out and we hate ourselves.

- Betty: That is me alright!
- Jan: But God did not leave us in this state. He loves us too much to want us to be rotten and miserable. God worked out a plan. The penalty for sin was death, but if someone would pay this penalty everyone would not have to die.
- Betty: Do you mean that in the same way that you could pay a fine for me, God said that someone else could pay the penalty of sin for me?
- Jan: Yes, that is the idea. But the one who would pay this penalty for sin for us would have to be one who had never sinned himself, or he would only be paying his own penalty. The only person like this was God's own Son, Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He gave us His only Son to die to pay the penalty for our sins. If we confess our sins to Him. He has promised to

forgive us. If we believe this promise Jesus has made and put our trust in Him, we do not have to be dead inside. We can have new life. We can be born again.

- Betty: Oh, Jan, I want to be born again and be new and good inside.
- Jan: You can be, by confessing your sins to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you, and trusting Him as your savior. Would you like to do it now?
- Betty: Oh yes.
- Jan: Let us bow our heads then, and you pray after me. (turn to the class and say) and if there are any in the class who feel like Betty, that you want to be new inside, you pray with us too. If you really mean what you say, God will hear you and answer your prayer.

Dear God.

- Betty: Dear God.
- Jan: I am sorry for my sin.
- Betty: I am sorry for my sin.
- Jan: Please forgive me.
- Botty: Please forgive me.
- Jan: And become my Savidr.
- Betty: And become my Savior.
- Jan: I believe that you have forgiven me because You

promised me that You would.

- Betty: I believe that You have forgiven me, because You promised me that You would.
- Jan: Thank You for becoming my Savior.
- Betty: Thank You for becoming my Savior.
- Jan: Amen.
- Betty: Amen.

If any of you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, we would appreciate it if you would come and tell us.

You are dismissed.

LESSON IV

Paul-Aots 7:59-8:1 & 9:1-6,20

Memory Verse: II Cor. 5:17

Aim: To help the pupils see that Christ can change their life.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: During the singing period, the class might sing a few of their favorite hymns, if hymn books are available. After the opening prayer, teach the memory verse. Before the lesson is given, sing "Things Are Different Now."

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Have written on a blackboard II Cer. 5:17, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." Have the class read the verse over a couple of times together.

This verse tells us that when we have accepted Christ as our Savier-er are in Christ, we are like new people, old things pass away. What are some of the things that you think should disappear out of the life of a person who becomes a Christian?

Stealing

Lying

Cheating

A Christian wants to be good, honest, and kind and God helps him to have these characteristics. These are the kind of things that make one happy.

How can all things become new?

They become new because the Christian's attitude toward them is new.

Let us see how well you know this verse now. I will erase some of the words from the blackboard and see if you can say it. (Repeat this process until the verse is completely erased.)

Introduction: We have been singing about things being different after we give curselves to Christ. Our memory verse talked about being new people. Is this really possible? Did the people who wrote this song or this verse know what they were talking about?

Who wrote our verse? (Have the pupils turn to the opening of II Cor. or show it to one pupil in your Bible.) Yes, Paul wrote it. What title do we usually give to Paul? Is it Mr. or Rev.? No, Saint Paul. Well, that answers our question then, someone may may. If the person who wrote this memory verse was a Saint, he did not know what he was talking about when he spoke of a new life. Why, he would never have done anything wrong that needed to be changed. Maybe if we look at Paul's life we can see what kind of a person he used to be.

<u>Body</u>: There was a terrible commotion just outside the city wall. A large crowd had gathered. In the group were a few Women who were crying, but most of the people were screaming curses and jeers at some poor victim. As we moved closer we could see that that was not the worst. Strong men with their jaws set and hate glaring from their eyes were hurling large stones at a slouching figure in the center of the group. His body was cut and bleeding. He could hardly lift himself up but with his last strength he rose and began talking about God. His face glowed and not an unkind word did he utter. Suddenly another shower of boulders hit the kneely man and he fell to the ground, dead. Oh, how brutal, how cruel. "Good, the end of another Christian." In shock we turned to see who had made this heartless remark. Beside us stood a young man with a look of satisfaction on his face and hate in his eyes. He had not thrown the stones, but had held the coats of those who did. Saul was his name.

The next time we see Saul he is standing before the officials of his state. "I want permission to go to Damascus and capture all those who call themselves Christians," said Saul. "Request granted," boomed the white haired official.

Saul happily clutched the warrant for arrest as he quickly left the building. He would have no mercy. Men and women alike would be roughly brought back to Jerusalem and thrown into prison.

Soon there would be no more Christians. He hated them and would do everything in his power to get ride of everyone.

As Saul mounted his sleek black horse that morning and galloped out of town with his small band of soldiers he had no idea of the strange event that waited just down the road.

Saul explained the details of the capture to the soldiers as they rode along. Suddenly a light flashed from heaven and Saul was knocked from his horse to the ground. The soldiers shock with fear for there was a voice, but they could see no one but themselves and Saul. The voice was speaking to Saul. It was the voice of Christ.

Saul had been fighting against Christ and those who loved and served Min, but when he re-mounted his horse that afternoon he was a changed man.

He went on to Damascus as he had planned, not as an enemy but as a friend of Christians.

This was the beginning of a radically changed life. Even his name was changed. He was now called Paul, rather than Saul.

Instead of trying to kill Christians, He began to tell others about Christ.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Did Paul know what he was talking about? Yes, he knew what it was like to be changed.

But does Christ make new creatures today? Listen to

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the story of a teen-age gang leader.

<u>Application</u>: Are you tired of the life you have been living? Do you want to change your life? Will you let Him? <u>Prayer</u>: Dear Jesus, we are thankful that you have the power to change lives. May each of us allow You to change our life. Amen.

[†]Don Kinipschield, "Don't Come Home Again", Youth For Christ XXI (December, 1963), 19.

LESSON V

Zacchaeus-Luke 19:1-10

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Jesus is interested in the disliked.

Memory Verse: John 1:12

Preliminary Activities: Open the class with prayer.

As the class chooses their favorite choruses, discuss and make clear the meaning of the various songs. "My Sins Are Gone," might be used to close the time of singing. <u>Memory Verse</u>: This morning we are going to see who is the most speedy. When I tell you where our memory verse is found you find it as fast as you can and then hold up your Bible. Are you ready? The verse is John 1:12. (Recognize the child who found it first and then read it together.) "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Do you remember what we said that believe really meant. when we discussed it a few weeks ago?

> To put one's faith and confidence in In this verse to whom does the "Him" refer? Jesus

What do we mean when we say we receive something Something is given to us.

We accept something.

We take something.

What do we call the sons or children of God today?

Christians

Our memory verse is telling us that Jesus is offering to us Himself-His forgiveness and His strength-and if we will accept Him He will give us the power to become Christians and live in a way that would please God. We receive Christ by trusting Him or, as the verse says "believing on Him."

And who is this promise for? Anyone who wants to accept it-"as many as."

<u>Introduction</u>: Tell me, what are some of the things that make you dislike a person?

<u>Body</u>: Eacchaeus was a man who was very hard to like. To make his living he went around collecting taxes. The people of his land hated anyone who had this job. The Romans had come into the little land of Palestine and captured it. They ruled the people and made them pay taxes to the Roman government. Collecting these taxes paid well and many people who wanted to earn an easy dollar made it their work. The people of Palestine looked on them as traitors. They were working for the Romans against their own country men and government.

As well as being traitons to their land, tax collectors were cheats. If the government said, "The tax is five dollars" they would collect ten, give five to the Romans and keep five for themselves. Zacchaeus was a traitor and a cheat.

Zacohaeus was rich. He had all the money he needed but it did not satisfy him. There must be something more in life than money. At one time he thought that it would bring him happiness. He would make all the money he could and then he would be happy. Tax collecting was not honest, he knew that, but other people made easy money that way. Why should he not? His riches piled up and his friends dwindled away. Now he could walk down the streets with coins jingling merrily in his pocket but no one would give him a friendly look or good morning. As he passed through the town he saw all around him the people he had hurt and he felt their cold stares. The only people who appeared friendly were those who wanted to get out of him what they could. How could he be happy? He knew now that money would not satisfy, but what would?

One day as this sad, lonely man was searching for satisfaction, he heard of a man who changed lives; who forgave sins and gave peace. This was what Zacchaeus wanted. He wanted his life changed. He wanted his sins forgiven. He wanted peace. He must see this man.

A few days later Zacohaeus learned that this man, Jesus, would be coming through his town. This was his chance. He must see Jesus. Maybe at last he would find something that would satisfy him.

Finally the day arrived when Jesus was to come by. No one came to Zacchaeus' house to go with him to see Jasus; he had to go alone. As he hurried down the road toward Jesus his heart beat wildly. Maybe this would be the day when he would find something that would satisfy. He could hear the voices of the crowd coming closer and closer. With great excitement and anticipation he rounded the last bend expecting to see this wonderful Jesus about whom he had heard. His heart sank. He could not see Jesus, all he could see was a prowd. A prowd who hated him. But he must ses Jesus. He was a little man and he knew he could never see over the crowd. The people would never let him work his way in to see Jesus. He knew that as soon as they saw who it was they would refuse to let him through. What could he do? Suddenly he had an idea. Quickly he turned and ran toward town. A few yards down the road he clined into a tree which hung over the read and there he waited.

The crowd came closer. Zacchasus strained his eyes to get the first glimpse of Jesus. Now he could see Jesus plainly. He looked so kind and understanding. Zacchasus felt that if he could just talk to Him he would be sure to find satisfaction. But how could he get a chance to talk? Jesus was almost under the tree now and soon He would be gone. Just then, to Zacchasus' surprise, Jesus looked up and calling him by name said, "Zacchasus, come down out of that tree because

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I am going to your house for supper."

The erowd was astonished. Did Jesus know what kind of a man this was? Would He go to eat. with such a sinner? How could He stoop so low?

Yes, Jesus knew what kind of a man Zacchaeus was. He knew that Zacchaeus was disliked, but He was interested in him. Jesus had come to seek and to save those who were lost and searching for satisfaction that they could not find.

The Bible does not tell us about the conversation Zacchaeus and Jesus had but I think it may have gone something like this:

"Jesus, I am so thankful that you are coming to my house. I have been longing to talk to you. For a long time I have been searching for something that would satisfy. I thought that money was the answer, but I have plenty of it and I am still unhappy. I have made my money dishonestly and I am really sorry. Can you help me?"

"Yes, Zaochaeus, I do have the answer to your problem. I will forgive your sins and I will give you the power and the strength to be a Christian, if you will put your trust in Me."

"But why should you care about me. I am no good. No one likes me or cares about me," said Zacchaeus.

"But I care about you," said Jesus, "it does not matter to me what you think about yourself, or what others

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think of you, I still care for you and want to forgive your sin. Will you let me?"

"Oh, yes," replied Zacchaeus, "I will trust you to forgive me and give me power to live as I should because you have promised that you will. Thank you, Jesus, thank you so much."

<u>Conclusion</u>: Zacchaeus was a new person. Rather than taking money from people, he began to pay back what he had stolen. He had found his satisfaction in Jesus and he no longer grasped at money to fill his emptiness.

<u>Application</u>: It does not matter to Jesus if people dislike us, He does not feel like we do when we hate ourselves for what we have done. He sees the longing inside our hearts to be different and He wants to forgive our sins and give us the power to be good Christians. He cares for you and wants to help you. Will you let Him?

<u>Prayer</u>: Dear Jesus, we thank you that you care for us even when others do not. May we accept the power you offer. Amen.

LESSON VI

Blind Bartimaeus-Mark 10:46-52

Memory Verse: II Cor. 12:9

Aim: To help the pupils see that Christ cares enough to meet their basic need.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Open the class with prayer. Take roll call. After singing a few of the class' favorite hymns or choruses sing "He Cannot Fail."

Who do you think "He" 18?

God or Jesus

What does the song mean when it says "He pledged His word?

He has given us His word, or He has promised.

What is the writer of the song saying in the line "He'll see you through?"

He will help us solve problems.

He will help us come out on top when we become discouraged.

He will help us through hard circumstances. <u>Memory Verse</u>: The Apostle Paul had a problem that he prayed about and this was the answer that God gave him. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." This is our memory verse for today and it is found in II Oor, 12:9. See if you can find it in your Bible.

The word grace is one that we do not use very often. It means mercy, loving kindness and goodness accompanied by a power from God which enables us to do what is right.²

If this is an answer to Paul's prayer, who is speaking these words?

God or Jesus

Who can tell me what the word sufficient means? Enough. All one needs.

Now, remembering what I told you grace meant, and the definition you have given of sufficient, can you put the first half of our memory verse in your own words?

Jesus is saying that His mercy, loving kindness and power are all that Paul needs.

What do you think the last half of the verse means? Christ's strength works the best at points where we are weakest.

Was this the answer to just this one prayer that Paul prayed?

No, it would be the answer to other problems that he would take to God.

Jesus offers us all the mercy, love, kindness and power we need to deal with our problems. God wants to help

²J.D. Douglas (ed.) The New Bible Dictionary (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Berdmans Publishing Company, 1962), pp. 491-492.

us most at the points where we are weakest; where our problems are largest.

What are some of these problems?

Temper

Impatience

Being too easily led

Introduction: Did you know that we have one basic problem that is the cause of many of our other problems? The man in our story for today had one basic problem that caused many more in his life too. His name was Bartimaeus and he was blind.

Body: Because he was blind he was unable to work. The only way he could earn his living was by begging. Bartimaeus hated this. For many hours as he sat by the road with his little jar he may have dreamed of what he would do if he could only see. Maybe he would be a doctor and go around the village caring for the sick. He would put ointment on the cuts and bruises of the children and bandage them up so that they would heal well. He would bathe feverish babies until he could return them to their worried mothers well again.

Or maybe he would write books full of exciting stories for the children who were so kind to him.

Then on other days he may have pictured himself as captain of a large ship, guiding it and its precious cargo safely through the stormy waters of the seas. But these were only dreams. He could do nothing to make them real (pause) because he was blind.

He knew that he was repulsive to many people. The best place to beg was beside the main highway, but it was so dirty there. The dust from the road would cover his face and hands, and his clothes. As the morning passed away into afternoon the scorching sun caused the perspiration to run down his face making streaks of mud. He did not want to look like this, but he had to sit there in the dirt (pause) because he was blind.

His clothes were old and ragged because he was so poor. If he could only see he would change all this. More than anything else in the world, he wanted to be able to see.

As Bartimaeus sat in the dirt by the side of the road he would amuse himself by listening to the conversations of those who passed by. Sometimes they were funny, sometimes sad, but as time went on they began to get exciting. What was everyone talking about? A group of ladies had been talking about a little girl who had been raised from the dead. Two men that passed by were discussing a friend who had been healed of the terrible disease leprosy. Another man told how he had been lame and now could walk. Who was doing all these miracles? Bartimaeus listened intently trying to discover the name of this wonderful person. Jesus of Mazareth, Jesus of Nazareth; everyone seemed to be talking

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about this man. He was the one who could heal the sick and raise the dead.

"I must see this man," thought Bartimaeus, "but how? I cannot go to find Him because I am blind. But I must go to Him."

His thoughts were interrupted by the realization that there was a commotion down the road. It sounded like a large growd coming.

"What is coming down the road," asked Bartimaeus. "Jesus of Nazareth," answered a man near by.

Jesus of Nazareth! Jesus of Mazareth was going to pass by him. He must talk to Him; he must!

"Jesus, Jesus, have pity on me," Bartimaeus began to call wildly. "Be quiet," said a disgusted voice beside him, "do not bother Jesus." But he would not be stopped. He called all the louder, "Jesus, Jesus, have pity on me."

The crowd grew quiet. The shuffle of feet ceased. The crowd had stopped. What would Jesus do? When He saw the dirty beggar, would He go on? Would He tell him to be quiet? No. "Call him," said Jesus. Jesus cared enough for this poor blind beggar to stop when he called.

Bartimacus' heart beat wildly with excitement as he hurriedly stumbled toward Jesus. Now that he was going to meet this wonderful man, for what would he ask? Would it be a new set of clothes, or maybe enough money so that he would not have to beg? Listen, Jasus is asking him what he wants. "Ob Jesus,I want my sight back," was the reply.

"Go," said Jesus, "your trust and confidence in me has cured you."

Immediately Bartimacus could see. He drank in the beauty of the trees, the flowers and the rolling hills, but the most lovely picture his new found sight saw was the kind face of the wonderful man who had cared enough for a dirty beggar to stop and meet his need.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Bartimaeus knew what his greatest need was. He knew that if he could only see he could solve his other problems. If his basic problem was not solved; no matter what anyone did for him or gave him, his life would still be full of difficulties.

After Bartinacus had met Jesus he was still dirty and ragged, but he could see. Within a few minutes he would be able to be clean because he could see to go and wash. He could get a job now and earn money. In a few weeks he would have new clothes.

Now that his basic need was met he could take care of the others.

<u>Application</u>: At the beginning of the lesson I said that we have one basic problem which causes many of the other problems. That problem is sin. This sin within us makes us do wrong. Jesus wants to take care of our basic problem, just as he did for Bartimaeus. The Bible tells us that if we will confess our sins Jesus will forgive us and wash these sins from our life. Then life will become different. We will have a desire to do good and the power that Jesus gives within us and with this equipment our lesser problems can be solved.

We could ask Jesus to get us out of Kentucky Village but that would be like Bartimaeus asking for new clothes. After our basic problem is solved, the others will be taken care of, not all immediately, but in time, as we work at them.

This morning will you ask Jesus to solve your basic problem, as Bartimacus did?

<u>Prayer</u>: We thank You that Your grace is all we need and that You have strength to help us where we are weak. May we allow You to meet our basic need so that we can have Your strength to help us with our other problems. Amen.

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LESSON VII

Pilate-Matthew 27:11-26

Memory Verse: II Cor. 6:2b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that they must make a decision about Christ.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: If possible comment on something in which the pupils are interested, i.e., as basketball game they won, or the singing of the choir members who are in the class. Use the chorus "Christ For Me" to close the time of singing.

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Our memory verse for today is found in II Cor. 6:2b. Do you remember what the "b" means in the reference? Yes, it means the last part of the verse. Who would like to read it for us? "Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."

Behold is a word that we do not use anymore. It is used to draw people's attention to what is to be said. We might say. "pay attention to this." or "listen."

What did Paul mean when he said the accepted time?

The right time

Are there right times for doing certain things?

Yes

Name some of the things that are done at certain times.

We get up at 7 a.m.

We go to school at 9 a.m.

We go to bed at 9 p.m.

Appointments are set up for certain times.

What is the day of salvation?

It is the day when one becomes a Christian.

What time is the right time for becoming a Christian, according to our verse?

It is not necessarily Sunday morning in church or Sunday School, but anytime we read this verse. It is now. <u>Praver</u>: Thank God that we can become Christians now and ask His blessing on the class.

Introduction: How many of you have had to make decisions? What are some of the important decisions you have had to make?

Will I stop school?

Who will be my friends?

Will I continue dating my boyfriend (or girlfriend)? Often a great deal depends on the decision one makes. In war the lives of hundreds of men depend on whether the commander makes the right decision or not. Whether Kentucky Village loses or wins a basketball game may depend on the center forward making the right decision, whether to try a long shot at the basket or pass it to someone else. If he were to just stand and de nothing with the ball would he have made a right decision? No, there are some times when we must decide or else we do wrong. When we make a right decision we feel good do we not? But a wrong decision can bring us much unhappiness.

<u>Body</u>: Pilate had a very important decision to make one day. It was hard. Pilate could hear the shouts of the angry, emotional crewd as they came closer to his palace. He hoped the people would not rict during this trial. The criminal must be very wicked to stir everyone up so. Suddenly the doors burst open and the soldiers roughly pushed the prisoner toward him. The mob prowded noisily around the door. Pilate was shocked. Was this man the criminal? How could he be? At a glance Pilate could see the kindness and compassion in His eyes. Surely this was all a big mistake. This man could never have done anything to arouse the hatred of the people.

Pilate stood before the people. Finally there was silence. "What accusations do you bring against this man?"

"He is trying to ruin our country," shouted one rough looking old man.

"He claims to be a king and is trying to overthrow our government."

"His teachings are making the people dissatisfied and disloyal."

"Do you think we would have brought him to you if He was not a criminal?" sneared a slight young man.

Pilate turned, shut the door on the noise and began to talk to Jesus. "Are you a King?" he asked. "Hot a king in this world. My kingdom is of a different kind," replied Jesus. Pilate continued questioning Him. This man had done nothing wrong. Of this Pilate was sure.

Returning to the crowd he said, "I find nothing wrong with this man. take Him and try Him yourselves."

"We cannot," shouted an official, "we want Him killed and we do not have this power."

"Crucify Him, crucify Him," shouted the crowd.

What could be do? As Pilate thought, he could see the kindness and compassion in Jesus' eyes. He did not want to see this man killed, but what could be do with the crowd?

"A message from your wife, sir," said a servant, as he handed him a small piece of paper.

Opening it he read, "Have absolutely nothing to do with this man. He is innocent. I have had a terrible dream about Him." This is very strange. This must not be an ordinary trial. "I must try again to release this man, but how?" thought Pilate.

Suddenly an idea flashed to his mind. Quickly he stepped to the door and held up his hands for silence. "As you know," said Pilate, "each year at this time it is my custom to release to you a prisoner. This year you have your choice. Who will I release - Barabbas the murderer, or Jesus, the King of the Jews?" To his great surprise the crowd shouted back, "Barabbas, give us Barabbas."

Pilate was torn within. Jesus did not deserve to die. He wanted to set Him free, but the crowd.... "There must be some way to set Him free," pondered Pilate. "Maybe if I have Him beaten and put a crown of thorns on His head this will satisfy the people. "Soldiers," boomed Pilate, "take this man, beat Him, put a crown of thorns on His head and bring Him back to me."

In a short time Jesus stood before him again. Down His forehead ran many streams of blood. His face was drawn from the pain of his back and thorn pierced head. He was pale and weak. Surely when they saw Him their hearts would be moved and they would let Him go.

The soldiers pushed Jesus roughly onto the step before the crowd. "Again I repeat," cried Pilate, "I find nothing wrong with this man. Look at Him." Would they have compassion on Him? No. With greater fervor and hate they screamed, "Crucify Him, crucify Him. He says that He is the Son of God and our law says He must die."

Pilate was stunned. With whom was he dealing? Turning to Jesus he demanded, "Who are you? Where did You come from?" Jesus never opened His mouth. "What, will You not answer me? Do you not know that I have the power to release You or have You crucified?" said Pilate. "You only

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have this power as I give it to you," replied Jesus.

Feverishly Pilate continued trying to persuade the people to let Jesus go, but they would not change their minds. "You are no friend of Gaesar's if you let this man go," they taunted.

It was no use. He could not change their minds. What would he do? Leaving the people he paced up and down the hall. What would he do? Jesus was innocent, he knew that. He had the authority to set Him free, but the mob was about to riot. What would they do to him if he did not grant their wishes? And then there was Caesar. Would Caesar take away his job if he let Jesus go? He knew that the right thing to do was to release Jesus, but he was afraid of the people and of Gaesar. "I know what I will do," said Pilate, "I will be neutral. Servant, carry a basim of water to the step."

Before the crowd Pilate washed his hands. "I am washing my hands of this whole case," he announced. "Take Jesus and do with Him as you will. I am no longer responsible." <u>Conclusion</u>: Pilate had made his decision. What was it? To be neutral; to do nothing. Do you know what happened to Jesus? Yes, He was crucified. Do you think Pilate knew that would happen? Yes. Even though he thought he could be neutral, what decision did he really make? To crucify Jesus.

Pilate knew which decision was the right one, but

because of other people he tried to do nothing and made the wrong decision.

<u>Application</u>: We too have to decide what we will do with Jesus. Will we accept His love and let Him forgive our sins, or will we turn our back on Him and reject Him? If we decide to be neutral and make no decision, like Pilate, we are rejecting Him. Will we let people influence our decision as Pilate did, or will we do as we know we should.

> Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all: Hearken! what meaneth the sudden call! What will you do with Jesus?

Jesus is standing on trial still, You can be false to Him if you will, You can be faithful through good or ill: What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be; Some day your heart will be asking, "What will He do with me?" M.L. Stocks

What will you do with Jesus? If you will accept Him this morning, stay and we will pray together after class. Remember, "Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."

<u>Prayer</u>: We pray dear Lord Jesus that each of us will make the right decision today. Amen.

LESSON VIII

Peter-Matt. 26:69-75 John 21:3-17

Memory Verse: John 3:17

Aim: To help the pupils see Christ's love for one who has failed.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: When taking the roll, if any pupils have gone home, notice it. This may encourage the class by helping them realize that some are going home.

Open with prayer.

Close the singing period with "For God So Loval the World."

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Who can tell me where the words of that song are found in the Bible? Yes, John 3:16. Our memory verse for today is found in the verse right after this one, in John 3:17, "For ded sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17. We will read it again a couple of times and then see if we can say it with our Bibles closed (or without looking at the paper on which it is written). Would anyone like to say it by himself?

What does "condemn" mean?

To pronounce guilty

Our verse tells us that Jesus did not come just to tell everyone that he was guilty but to do something about his guilt. Jesus came to save us; to forgive our sins and take away our guilt.

- Introduction: What is one of the hardest things to forgive? To forgive a friend who has deserted you just when you needed him most.
 - Do you think even Jesus would forgive such a thing? Let us see.

<u>Body</u>: It was hard to explain. The room seemed to be filled with an atmosphere of uneasiness, of sadness of fear. This was very strange. Usually being near Jesus brought a feeling of confort, happiness, and safety, but this night Peter did not feel it. Jesus had hardly smiled all evening. Something must be bothering Him.

Nith sadness written over His kind face, Jesus began to talk. "You know, one of you is going to turn traitor on me tonight." The disciples were astonished. Surely one of His twelve closest friends would not turn traitor. But there was no one other than the twelve there. Could it be true that one of them would do such a thing? Yes, Jesus Was pointing out the one, it was Judas. "How could he," thought Peter. "How could anyone turn traitor on Jesus?"

As the evening went on the atmosphere of sadness became heavier. Something terrible must be going to happen. Jesus kept talking about dying. Peter could not understand it. "Tonight you will all desert me," said Jesus. Peter could stand it no longer. "I will never desert You, never. Everyone else may but if I have to die for you I will never turn traitor."

"Peter," said Jesus kindly with sadness in His voice, "before tomorrow morning comes three times you will have said you do not know me." This could not be true.

By now Jesus and the disciples had left the supper table and were walking across a little brook toward a garden where Jesus liked to go to pray. The night was dark and the air cool. Even in the lovely garden things seemed eeric. Something was going to happen. One could feel it in the air.

"Surely Jesus is wrong," thought Peter as he sat on the cold ground, leaning against a big old tree. "Especially now that He warned us I will not desert Him." It was getting late. The strain of the day had been hard. Peter was tired. His eyes became heavy and he fell asleep.

Suddenly he was wakened by shouting and the clanging of armour. The garden blazed with light from torches held by a band of soldiers. And there was Judas with them.

How could Jesus be so calm? There He stood, quietly before them. "For whom are you looking," He asked. "Jesus of Nazareth," replied the captain of the guard. "I am He," said Jesus. "Take me and let these other men go."

What was Judas doing? He walked toward Jesus and

greeted Him. With that the soldiers stepped forward, grabbed Jesus and tied His hands. That greeting was the traitor's sign. Peter was furious. He would fight for Jesus. He whipped his sword from its sheath and sliced violently at one of the men cutting off his ear.

"Peter, put your sword away, we do not need to fight," said Jesus.

Feter could not understand this. As he looked around he realized that the other disciples had run. Fear gripped his heart and he too ran off into the darkness.

The soldiers led Jesus away toward the city. Peter watched them leave. After they were a safe distance away he began to follow them. From tree to tree he ran, trying to keep out of sight. Running and hiding, running and hiding; from a tree to a doorway to the corner of a wall.

Jesus had been taken into the court. Peter crept up to the yard outside and quietly ansaked through the gate. He leaned against the fence panting for breath and shaking with fear. What would they do with Jesus? What would they do with Him if they found him and knew that he was a friend of Jesus?

The night air was cold. Finally Peter mustered enough courage to join a small group of people around a fire. As he was enjoying the warmth of the fire his moment of peace was shattered by the little maid before him. "Are you not one of that man's disciples?" she asked. Peter's heart was struck with fear. What would happen if he admitted that he was? "No, no, I do not know the man," stammered Peter nervously and walked away from the fire.

It was getting colder and as he walked back and forth to keep warm he suddenly found himself face to face with another girl who was saying, "Why, you are one of that man's friends." Again Peter denied that he had ever known Jesue. "I am sure you are," chimed in a man, "your accent gives you away." Peter's heart was seized with fear. Cursing he again denied that he had ever known Jesus.

He had no sooner finished his oath than a rooster crowed. Suddenly he remembered what Jesus had said, "Before merning you will deny three times that you have ever known Me." He had denied his Lord. As he was about to flee from the yard Jesus turned and looked at him with those sad eyes.

Peter could hardly bear it. He had failed the one he most dearly loved. He was a strong man but he sobbed as if his heart would break. He had failed; he had failed.

Jeaus was crucified. The days passed and He arose from the dead again.

One night Peter and some of the other disciples decided to go fishing. All night they fished, but caught nothing.

"Oh, let us go in," said Thomas, "there is no use

staying out here."

"Who is that on the shore?" asked James.

"It is Jesus," exclaimed Peter, and with that he jumpbed into the lake and began to swim to shore. He must see Jesus. He must talk to Him. He could not wait for the others.

After eating breakfast together, Jesus turned to Peter. What would He say? Would He be angry and tell Peter how low and weak he was for deserting Him? Would He say, "See I told you so. You thought you were so strong, but you are oh so weak." Would He even speak to Peter after what he had done?

Jesus knew that Peter was sorry, ashamed, and wanted to be forgiven. "Do you love me?" Peter asked Jesus.

"You know that I do love you," replied Peter.

Three times Peter confessed his love for Christ. Jesus knew that he was sincere and that he could be trusted now. Immediately He gave Peter a job. He did not say, "Now Peter if you will prove for three months that you love me, I will trust you."

<u>Conclusion</u>: Peter had failed sadly but Jesus still cared for him and was willing to take him as a friend when He came back.

Application: Maybe some of you have tried to be Christians before or have tried to go straight, but have failed. You say, "Jesus would not have anything to do with me now."

Ah, but He will accept you. He still loves you and wants to forgive you as He did Peter and give you the power to live the Christian life.

He has not come to condemn those who have failed, but to save them. Will you come to Him as Peter did? <u>Prayer</u>: Dear Jesus, we thank You that You love us even when we fail and will forgive us. May we come to You for forgiveness. Amen.

LESSON IX

Judas-Matt. 26:14-15, 48-50; 27:3-5

Memory Verse: I John 1:9

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see the folly of not coming to Christ for forgiveness.

Preliminary Activities: Begin the class by singing a few choruses. If the students are slow to gather this may help speed them up. Sing "Whisper 4 Prayer."

This morning during our prayer time we are going to take a few moments for silent prayer. If there is something for which you are thankful, or something that is bothering you, talk to God about it and ask Him for His help. After the period of silence, thank God, aloud, for the privilege of bringing all our problems to Him.

<u>Memory Verse</u>: There is one problem that only God can really help us solve. That problem is our sin. We carry around inside us a feeling of guilt for what we have done. Sometimes when we are out and having a good time we can forget it, but when we are alone and all is quiet it is there to torture us. God wants to forgive us and take away our guilt.

Our memory verse tells us that, "If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It is found in I John 1:9.

Today the verse is on the blackboard. Let us read it together.

What does it mean to confess?

To tell someone what one has done

To admit that one has done wrong

When we go to someone and make a confession, why do we do it?

To tell then that we are sorry

To ask them to forgive us

After we have told the person that we are sorry, what might we say?

"I will never do it again."

What is this verse asking us to confess?

Our sins

All the wrong that we have ever done.

To whom do you think I John 1:9 is asking us to confess? Open your Bibles to I John 1 and look at the end of verse 7. This will give you the answer. Yes, Jesus Christ.

Forgive us: what does that mean?

To not demand punishment

To treat as if nothing wrong was done

In our little skit a few weeks ago when Jan and Betty talked together, do you remember what Jan said the penalty or

punishment for sin was?

Death

When God forgives us He cancels out our punishment of death and gives us what? What does John 3:16 say? Yes, eternal life.

Another wonderful thing that God does is to treat us as if we had never done wrong. Some people say they forgive us, but they never forget what we did. They keep holding it over our heads. But not God; once He has forgiven us, all is forgetten.

If someone sends you a bag of apples and one is rotten, what will happen if you leave it in the bag?

> The others around it will spoil. What should you do with that apple?

Take it out and throw it away.

If God just said He would forgive our sins and forget about them without changing us inside, our sins would be like the rotten apple and would soon make more sins. But God does not just forget our sins. What does the last part of our verse say?

> It says, "and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God washes away our sins, or removes them.

Let us say our verse together again.

God only does this for us when we want Him to: when we are willing to do our part. Introduction: Have you ever had a friend turn traitor on you? Someone you thought you could trust? Jesus had a friend turn traitor on Him too.

<u>Body</u>: Judas and Jesus had been friends for three years. They were together almost all the time. Jesus trusted Judas and made him treasurer of their group.

As time went on Judas became more and more fond of money. Travelling with Jesus did not make one rich. He would have to make a little on the side. One day as he was thinking of ways to make extra money an idea hit him. Не knew that men in the country hated Jesus and were trying to find a way to capture Him. "Those wen would pay a good price if someone were to help them capture Jesus, would they not?" thought Judas. "I could get their money from them. lead them to Jesus and then let Jesus take care of things from there. He would not get hurt. He could perform a miracle and just disappear. He did it once before when people were trying to kill Mim. Jesus would be safe and I would have my money. This sounds like a great plan. Oh. I know I would be using Jesus. but no one will get hurt."

Judas was excited about his plan. At his first opportunity he went straight to the High Priests. "I understand that you are trying to capture Jesus of Mazareth," said Judas.

"Yes, we are," replied a dignified white haired man.

"Can you help us?"

"I believe I can. You see I know Him when He is away from the crowd," said Judas. "Wonderful, here is your money," exclaimed the men. "When the opportunity arises, come and take us to Him."

Judas quickly left the office with his little sack of money. The weight of those silver pieces felt good, but for some reason he was not as happy as he thought he would be. He had an uncasy feeling. But this was ridiculous. Everything would be alright.

Jesus seemed to be especially kind in the days that followed. This made Judas all the more uncomfortable. "Judas, how can you do such a thing?" his conscience asked. "I am not going to hurt Jesus," he told himself, "I am just going to use Him a little. I may even help Him. If He fights to free Himself, many more people may follow Him." But still he was uneasy.

As Jesus and the disciples are together one night, Jesus startled them all by saying that one of them would turn traitor on Him. Judas turned hot and cold at the same time. Then Jesus told the others that it was Judas. What should he do? He could say that he was sorry and stop this whole plan. Jesus was so kind, why He was even showing his friendship by handing Judas a piece of bread. Judas' head was spinning. Jesus had made it easy to ask forgiveness and stop now, but would he have to take the money back? What would the Chief Priests do to him if he did not betray Jesus? He would go through with it! Jesus could take care of Himself.

Judas jumped from his chair and left the room. Quickly he walked along the dark streets toward the offices of the Chief Priests.

"Tonight is the time," he informed them. "In an hour or two He will be going to a garden just outside the city. He will only have a few close friends with Him. We can easily capture Him."

"Good," replied the men, with satisfaction written all over their faces. At last they would be able to capture this man who had exposed their sins and turned the people against them.

"But, how will we know which one He is?" they asked.

"The man I walk up to and great will be the one," replied Judas.

Soon they were making their way through the cold night to the garden.

There was Jesus, just as Judas had planned. "Hello master," said Judas as he walked up to Him. With that the soldiers moved in to capture Jesus.

Judas stopped back to watch the fun. These men would be surprised when Jesus just disappeared. But nothing strange happened. The soldiers tied the hands of Jesus and marched Him down the road. What was wrong with Jesus? Why did He not set Himself free? As the night wore on and still Jesus did nothing, Judas became frantic. He had been sure that Jesus would not get hurt. But now they were leading Him away to be crucified.

Judas followed. The cruel soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and then roughly dropped it into a hole in the ground. There hung God's Son and Judas had put Him there.

With terror in his bread Judas raced into town and to the offices where a few short days ago he had first mentioned this terrible scheme. "Take your money," he screamed, "I have betrayed an innocent person." As he threw the money on the floor the men only laughed.

Judas went out into the still, eerie afternoon, not knowing where he was going. What had he done? What had he done? He hated himself. How could he have been so low as to be cruel to a person who had been so kind to him? Even though Jesus knew his plans He had still been loving and even called him friend. Oh, he was so low. The only answer was to kill himself. In great sorrow, despair and self hate Judas hung himself.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Was this the only answer for Judas? Had Peter not turned traitor too? What did he do? He went to Jesus and found forgiveness.

Judas and Peter both sinned and they were sorry for

their sins. Judas was never forgiven but Peter was. What made the difference? Peter went to Jesus for forgiveness but Judas tried to take care of his own guilt himself. <u>Application</u>: I am sure all of us wish we had never done the wrong things that lie in our past. We are so sorry that we have sinned. What will you do about it? Judas tried to take care of his sorrow and guilt himself, and only made things worse. Will you try to deal with your guilt in your own way too? You can come to Jesus and be forgiven as Peter did. "If you will confess your sins, Jesus is faithful and just and will forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness."

<u>Prayer</u>: "Dear Jesus help us to make the right decision, we pray. Amen.

While our heads are still bowed I am going to ask those to leave who say, "No, I am not ready to come to Jesus today." Those who would like to receive forgiveness, you stay and we will pray together.

LESSON X

The Thief on the Cross-Luke 23:35-43

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that there are choices before them in regard to Jesus Christ.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: In front of the class have a picture of the three crosses on Golgotha. The teacher could draw on white paper three black crosses on a hill. Make the center one the largest, the one on the right next in size and the one on the left the smallest.

During the singing period use songs which focus on the cross such as "At Calvary" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

In the opening prayer, thank Jesus for loving us enough to die for us on the cross.

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Here is our memory verse. (Lift up for the class to see the black board or paper on which you have written the verse.)

Where is it found in the Bible?

Romans 6:23

What is "Romans"?

A book of the Bible What does the six stand for? The chapter What does the twenty-three stand for?

The verse

What does Romans 6:23 say?

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23 What are wages?

Something for which one works.

Something one earns.

If you were to begin working in a Woolworth store, would you know what your wages would be at the end of the month?

Yes

Most places where we work there is a rule that if certain jobs are done a person will earn a certain wage.

God made a rule something like that. He said if a person sins, the wages he will earn are death. Or we might say that God made a law which said, "There will be no sinning." Along with a law there is a penalty for one who breaks it. In some cities one is fined two dellars for every mile an hour over the speed limit he is travelling. The penalty for God's law is death.

This death is not the kind of death that a murderer experiences in the electric chair. It is a death of the inner person. It is caused by a separation from God brought about by sin. What is a gift?

Something that is given to us.

Do we have to work for 1t?

Mo

If we work for it, what does it become? Mages

What is the gift God is offering us in this verse? Eternal life

God wants to give us a new and wonderful life which begins now and goes on even after our bodies die.

How does our memory verse tell us we can receive this gift?

By going to church every Sunday?

No

By trying to be good and kind?

No

All these things we mentioned are good, but we cannot earn eternal life by doing them.

How does our verse say we can receive God's gift of eternal life?

"Through Jesus Christ"

Here is a quarter. The first one to come and get it can have it. (Before class check with the officials about giving away the quarter.)

Did I give (Joan) (the name of the person who took the

quarter) a gift? Yes Did she earn it? No What did she do? She took it.

What did she have to do before she would take it?

She had to believe that the teacher meant what she said.

She had to trust the teacher to give her the quarter.

We receive the gift of sternal life from Jesus in the same way that (Joan) received the quarter. We believe that Jesus meant what He said in I John 1:9-if you will confess your sins I will forgive them. We trust Him to give us the gift when we come to Him for it.

Why did you not get the quarter Mary?

"Because I did not go and get it."

This is why many people never have eternal life; because they do not take it from Jesus.

Jesus offers His gift. Some people take it, others do not.

Introduction: One Friday afternoon, on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem stood three crosses (Point to the picture of the crosses). On these crosses hung three men dying the most agonizing death. Nails had been driven through their hands and feet and there they would hang in excruciating pain for many hours as they slowly died.

<u>Body</u>: Back from the crosses quite a distance a group of women stood crying. They seemed to be the only ones at all upset over the horrible scene. All attention seemed to be focused on the center cross (point to this cross in the **pisture**). This man seemed to have been more brutally treated than were the others. Around His head had been jammed a crown of long sharp thorns. From the puncture wound flowed little streams of blood. On His face and head were welts where He had been struck with a cane. This should have been enough cruelty but as He hung there helpless and suffering, the crowd fired insults at Him.

"He saved others, now let Him save Himself, if He is God's Son," shouled the bypassers as they sneered and went on their way.

Not an unkind word did He speak. "Father forgive them, because they really do not know what they are doing," was His only reply.

"If You are the King of the Jews come down off the cross." mocked the soldiers.

"Yes," taunted the one criminal, "If you are the Savier God sent, take yourself off the cross and us too." "How can you say such a thing," answered the other criminal sharply. "Do you have no fear for God? We are suffering for evil that we did. We deserve this punishment, but this man does not. He has only done good." Turning to Jesus, in real sincerity he said, "Remember me Jesus when you come to your throne." He had admitted his sin and now he was asking Jesus for mercy and forgiveness.

Would Jesus grant him forgiveness? He was a criminal who was so wicked that he deserved death. "This day you will be with me in paradise." What was Jesus saying? He was saying, "I give you my gift of eternal life."

In a few minutes the brightness of the noon time began to fade. Soon everything was dark. The earth began to quake. Jesus cried out...and died.

Later the two criminals died. One was forever separated from God, the other was enjoying eternal life with Christ.

They had both been so wicked that they had been given the death penalty. Both of them had hung by Jesus Christ to die. What had made the difference?

The one criminal had believed on Jesus. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. He believed that Jesus could forgive His sins. He believed that Jesus would forgive his sins, if he would wonfess them. He told Jesus that he was a sinner and asked for mercy. Jesus gave him the gift of eternal life. The other criminal could have had this gift also, but he decided not to do anything about accepting it. <u>Conclusion</u>: For the past few weeks we have been talking about people who have had to make decisions. The first man was Pilate. Do you remember what decision he made about Jesus? Yes, he decided to be neutral. But was he able to be neutral? No. In trying to be neutral he decided against Jesus. He decided to let Him be crucified. Was he any less guilty for Jesus' death than the people who had cried out, "Orucify Him, Orucify Him?" No. He was as much involved as they were.

Peter had failed his Lord very badly. Did he decide that he could never face Jesus again and would have nothing to do with Him? No, he decided to go to Jesus for forgiveness. Did Jesus give him forgiveness? Yes, He did.

Do you remember the traitor of whom we spoke last week? Judas. What did he decide to do with his guilt and sorrow for his sins? He decided to take care of things himself. What were the results? He killed himself. His efforts ended in disaster, did they not?

Today we can see in our story three decisions which can be made in regard to Jesus Christ. We can fight against Him as the one criminal did. We can tease and mock Christians and tell how we hate God, or do not believe that there is a God. This same criminal shows us another decision which can be ours. After he was reprimanded by his fellow criminal he decided not to be against Jesus but also he decided not to ask Mim for forgiveness. He was somewhat like Pilate; trying to be neutral. Or we can be like the penitent thief and ask Christ for mercy and eternal life.

Application: "But why should I ask for sternal life?" you might say. That is a good question. Mhy should you?

Jesus loves you. We have seen that He loves all people no matter who they are. He loved the sinful adulteress woman. He loved the despised woman of Samaria and the hated cheat, Zacchaeus. And He loves you.

One who loves us will give what is good for us and what we will enjoy. Because Jesus loves us His gift will be a thrilling, enjoyable new life.

This new life will change and make us new creatures. We will have the power to live as we know we should and as we really want to.

The gift Christ offers us meets our basic need. Jesus is offering to forgive our sins and take them out of our lives.

What will you decision be? Are you going to fight against Christ? Will you try to be neutral and make no decision? Or will you ask Jesus Christ for His gift of eternal life; new life in which your sins are forgiven, you have power to live right, and you have a new friend, Jesus, who will help you with every problem and share every sorrow?

As we pray, tell Jesus what your decision will be. If you decide to fight Him or to ignore Him, you are dismissed after prayer. If you decide to ask Him for His gift meet us here at the front after prayer.

<u>Prayer</u>: Have a few minutes of silence. You know, Dear Lord, the decision each one has made. Be with us all until we meet in Sunday School again next week. Amen.

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LESSON XI

Mary and Martha-Luke 10:38-42 John 11

Memory Verse: I Peter 5:7

Aim: To show the pupils that they can have someone to whom they can turn in time of trouble.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: After singing a chorus or two ask the students if they have ever had God answer one of their prayers. Have them share any such experience. Tell the class of an interesting answer to prayer you have had.

We are going to pray in just a few minutes. I was wondering if any of you would have something about which you would like to have us pray. (Give the class a few minutes to mention their prayer requests.) Maybe you would like us to pray for some interest of yours, but you do not want to talk about it in public. If that is the case, you could indicate it by raising your hand. Pray mentioning the spoken and unspoken requests.

Teach the memory verse and then close the first part of the class period by singing "Keeping In Touch With Jesus." <u>Memory Verse</u>: What is a care?

> Something about which we worry Something about which we are anxious Something for which a person is responsible Something about which we are interested and

concerned

What are some of the cares we have? Our future Our families Our friends Our health Not enough money

Getting a job

There is a verse in I Peter 5:7 that talks about cares. Who can find out first what it says about cares? Cares are to be cast on Him. Yes, now let us read it together. "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

Quite a few words in the English language have more than one meaning. What are some of the meanings that you can think of for "cast"?

To quickly throw on or onto

To give a role for a play

To pour into molds

To toss a line to catch a fish

(These definitions could be written on a blackboard or scratch pad.)

Which one of these definitions do you think fits into this verse? The first one; to quickly throw down or onto. Upon whom does I Peter 5:7 tell us to cast our cares? Look in I Peter 5:6 for the answer.

God

Our verse is telling us to quickly throw all our worries or anxieties on God.

If someone were to hand me a fragile §1,000 wase and tell me to take care of it I would be worred for fear I would break it and have to pay for it. If I quickly turned and handed it to Joan (use the name of a student) what would I expect her to do, drop it on the floor?

No, I would expect her to take care of it.

What then can we expect God to do when we hand our worries and anxieties over to Him?

We can expect Him to take care of them and work them out.

What definition would you give to the word "cares" in the last half of the verse?

To be interested in.

To love

Can you put the whole verse in your own words?

Quickly put all your anxieties, worries and problems in God's hands because He is interested in you and loves you.

Can we say the verse without looking at our Bibles? Let us try.

Introduction: Have you ever dreamed of becoming friends with

some great person such as the President of the United States or your favorite T.V. star? The girls in our story today were personal friends of the most wonderful person who ever lived, Jesus Christ.

<u>Body</u>: Mary and Martha lived in the sleepy little town of Bathany. Jesus often passed through this quiet town and would spend time in their home. It was a place where Jesus liked to be; where He could relax and feel at home.

Martha liked to cook and was really good in the kitchen. When Jesus would visit she would make Him the most delicious meal He had had since He last visited them. She enjoyed doing it for Jesus, even though it was a lot of work. Oh, sometimes it bothered her that Mary did not help her, but she would work alone, for Jesus.

When Jesus came Mary liked to sit and talk with Him. He had so many wonderful things to tell her and teach her. It seemed that those visits always ended too soon.

Month after month Jesus would visit their home. As the sisters came to know Him better they came to appreciate Him more and more. He always had time to listen to their smallest problems or joy. He was so good at helping them understand the things in life that were perplexing. The more they associated with Jesus the more loving and kind they became. After seeing how patient He was with them, they were able to be patient with others. Somehow after talking with Jesus it was so much easier to tackle those snarly problems in life and conquer them. With great anchicipation the sisters would look forward to His visits. Life was wonderful with such a friend as He.

But one day things suddenly changed. After supper, Lazarus, their brother complained of not feeling very well. By morning he was deathly sick. The doctor did all he could. Unless help could be found Lazarus would die. Mary and Martha could not bear this. They loved their brother dearly. What could they do?

"We must call for Jesus," said Mary. He could heal Lazarus. Immediately a message was sent for Jesus asking Him to come quickly.

Mary and Martha knew they could trust Jesus. He had never let then down. He had had the answer for every problem they ever took to Him. This problem was much larger than the others, but they were sure He could cope with it. He had never let them down. He would not let them down now.

They waited and waited. Lazarus became weaker and weaker. Jesus did not come. Still they waited. Lazarus was about to die and Jesus still had not arrived. That night the brother they so dearly loved died. Had Jesus let them down? He never had before. They could not understand why He had not come, but they still loved and trusted Him. They knew Jesus loved them and would never do anything to hurt them. Although they could not understand, they still trusted Jesus in spite of the circumstances.

The funeral was over and the sisters had spent four days in the house which seemed so empty without the cheerful whistle of Lazarus. Into this loneliness came the news that Jesus was just outside town. Quickly Hary and Martha went to meet Him. Finally Jesus was here, but was He not too late? No, Jesus was not too late. In a few short hours the cheerful whistle of Lazarus was heard around the house again. Jesus had raised him from the dead.

Although for awhile Martha and Mary could not see or understand it, Jesus had a plan; a wonderful plan. As they had continued to trust Him, He had revealed this plan to them. He did not let them down.

<u>Conclusion</u>: When trouble came, Mary and Martha knew to whom they could turn. They knew that they could trust Jesus with this big problem because they had learned through constant practice to trust Him with the small ones. Through spending much time talking to Jesus, they learned to trust Him completely. Because of this complete trust they were able to rely on Him when everything seemed to be going wrong and Jesus did not let them down.

<u>Application</u>: Just as these sisters learned to trust Jesus by taking every small problem to Him and spending time talking with Him, so we too can learn complete trusp. When a big problem arises in our life we will be able to trust it to Jesus only if we have learned to trust Him in the little things.

This week, let us cast every small care and every large care, on Him. And remember, He cares for you. <u>Prayer</u>: Dear Jesus, we thank you that you do care for us. Teach us to trust you. Amen.

LESSON XII

Matthew-Luke 5:27-29

Memory Verse: Luke 5:28

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see what is to be given up and what is to be gained by following Christ.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: After singing a few favorite songs engage the class in a discussion on the cost of the things they desire.

What is the one thing that you want most of all in life?

To be a basketball star To be a champion wrestler To be a teacher To be doctor To be a mother

Can you have any of those things without paying for

them?

No

In what ways do we pay for things? With time With practice With a disciplined life

With study

With money

Can you think of anything in life that is truly valuable and costs nothing?

No

Sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."

In prayer, ask Christ to teach.

Introduction: When we buy something we want to be sure we get our money's worth, don't we?

Before we decide to go after something in life, we consider whether or not what is gained is worth the cost.

It costs to be a Christian. Is it worth it? <u>Body</u>: Matthew sat at his desk, aimlessly playing with the coins before him. He was bored and dissatisfied. Life seemed so meaningless. Each morning he would get up, go to work, come home in the evening, maybe go out for a few hours, go to bed, and get up in the morning to begin the cycle again.

It seemed that the only purposes to his life were to make money and amuse himself. This became tiresome and dissatisfying.

For months he had been pushing these thoughts from his mind and trying to tell himself he was happy. But he could not deny it. His life was lacking.

What contribution did he make to the world? Day in and day out he sat and collected taxes. The only thing this accomplished was to make enemies for him. He did have some friends but they were the greedy cheating tax collectors in the community. But no one else cared to be his friend.

There must be something more to life than this meaninglessness. As Matthew sat idly thinking many people passed through his mind. Were their lives any more worthwhile or meaningful than his? He did not think so.

Then he remembered a group of men he had met a few weeks before. They were different from most people. They were not rich. As a matter of fact they appeared to be rather poor. But making money seemed of no importance to them. From town to town they travelled, healing the sick, teaching and helping people change their lives. This was a strange profession but it seemed to be satisfying. Their lives were dedicated to their leader and to other people. They were so contented. He must learn more about them.

Every time he had a chance Matthew would go to hear Jesus speak. His teaching was different from anyone else he had ever heard. He spoke of loving one's enemies. According to Jesus, there was no need to worry about food or clothing. A person who would make of first importance God's kingdom and righteousness would have all these things supplied. The most important thing he learned was that he needed to admit that he had sinned, ask forgiveness for his sins and have nothing to do with them anymore. The more Matthew thought about this life and the more he saw of Jesus and His disciples, the more he became convinced that this was the kind of life He wanted.

As his interest in the life of Ohrist and his followers grew, he became more and more dissatisfied with his own life. One day Jesus came by the spot where Matthew was working. "Pollow Me," said Jesus. That was all he needed. Immediately Matthew left everything and followed Jesus. That evening he invited all his old friends to a dinner at which Jesus was the guest of honor. After this he left his friends behind. He left his job. He left the possibility of being rich. It cost him everything to become a Christian.

Conclusion: Was it worth it? What did he gain?

As the days passed and Natthew came to know Jesus better, he realized that He was the Son of God and that He could forgive sins. Forgiveness of his sins was one thing that Matthew gained.

To Matthew money and fun had meant everything, but he had been continually disappointed because they failed to bring happiness. Now he found the true source of joy; loving and serving Jesus, and his fellowmen. This was the purpose life was meant to have.

A whole new group of friends opened up to him. These friends were different from his old ones. They did not try to use him or get all they could out of him, they were really interested in him and wanted to do all they could to help. Oh, now and then there would be a bad one in the group, but on the whole they could be trusted.

Although he never had a lot of money he never lacked for food or clothing. Jesus took care of all his needs.

Before meeting Christ, Matthew was an obscure man known only by the people of his own town and a few others. After he became a Christian he was widely known. Today everyone who has read the Bible knows of Matthew because he wrote the first book in the New Testament.

Everything he paid to become a Christian was more than made up to him.

<u>Application</u>: What are some of the things that we may have to give up to become Christians?

Some friends Some pleasures

Selfishness

But what God asks us to give up He will replace with something better.

Let us sing, "I Surrender All."

As you pray, tell Jesus if you really meant the words of that song.

<u>Prayer</u>: Take the gift of ourself that we give you, dear Lord. May we live for you: this week. Amen.

LESSON XIII

Andrew-John 1:40-42

Memory Verse: Matthew 4:19

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that they are to bring others to Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Open with prayer

Have the class sing "Thank You, Lord."

If some of the pupils have, by this time, accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior have them share what Christ has done for them with the class. They could tell how God spoke to them and brought them to the place of acceptance and how receiving Christ has made a difference in their lives. It might be best before class begins, to ask those involved if they would be willing to participate.

After a few have testified, sing "Everybody Ought to Know."

Why ought everybody know about Jesus? He will forgive sins. He really loves everyone. He gives a wonderful new life. He can help solve problems. He can give them power to live right.

Memory Verse: What is a fisherman?

A person who catches fish

What must a man do if he wants to catch fish?

He must go where the fish are.

He must wait patiently.

Do fisherman over have a fishing trip that is a

failure? Yes

Sometimes the fish gets away and they catch nothing. Does this make a fisherman give up?

No, he will go back and try again.

One day as Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, He saw two brothers fishing. He stopped and said the strangest thing to them. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

What could Jesus mean?

He was saying, "Come with Me and I will help you find men who need Me. Rather than taking fish to market, you will bring men to Me.

But these poor fishermen had never done anything like this before. How would they know how? Matthew 4:19 will tell you. How would they know how to be fishers of men? Jesus said He would make them fishers of men. He was saying that He would take the responsibility of teaching and making them successful.

Today Jesus says to us, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

This is our memory verse. Can we say it together?

What is Jesus going to help us do?

He will help us bring others to Him.

Introduction: Who does Jesus want to help bring others to Christ? Does He want just ministers and missionaries? No, all Christians.

But we are pretty ordinary people. Could God really use us? Yes.

<u>Body</u>: Andrew was a very ordinary fellow. He was just a quiet fisherman. I am sure he was very likeable, but if you were to ask any of his friends about him they would likely have said, "Andrew is a real nice fellow. He is a dependable person, but not very exciting. He will be a good fisherman, but he will never do anything great."

Andrew did plan to stay in the little town where he had been brought up and make his living by fishing. But one day his plans were drastically changed. He met Jesus and followed Him.

Being with Jesus was a thrilling experience. Jesus was able to forgive his sins and give him peace of mind. Whenever he would take a problem to Jesus, He was always able to help Andrew solve it.

As he enjoyed the great contentment and satisfaction of being with Jesus, he began to think of his brother Peter who had never met Jesus. He must share this wonderful new friend with his brother. At his first opportunity Andrew found Peter. "Peter," he said, "I have found the most wonderful friend. He is God's Son. Just to be near Him is a wonderful experience. You must come and meet Him."

Peter did and he found that Andrew had told the truth. To be near Jesus and to talk with Him was wonderful. Peter became one of Jesus' closest friends. Jesus changed him from a weak-spined chicken to a man of almost unbelievable courage.

But what happened to Andrew? The Bible does not tell us much about Andrew. There is no record of any wonderful sermons that he preached or any great acts of heroism which he performed. Then his friend was right, was he not, when he said Andrew would never do anything very great?

At first glance it might appear that way. On the surface, bringing his brother to Christ was not of great importance, but what did Jesus make of Peter? He became the leader of the Christian Church. He preached to thousands of people one day. Every moment his life was in danger but fearlessly he preached and about three thousand accepted Jesus Christ as their Savier. On another occasion Peter brought a dead woman back to life. It was a wonderful thing that Peter was a Christian.

And who had brought Peter to Christ? Andrew. Then what Andrew did was great.

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He was an ordinary man and what he did seemed quite ordinary but it was really great.

We may be ordinary too, but God can use us to do great things.

John and Sue were ordinary teen-agers. Summer vacation had ended and they were on their way back to school. It had been a wonderful summer full of excitement and fun. But the most wonderful event had been the night when they had accepted Christ as their Savior. Ever since life had been thrilling. Almost every day they learned something new about Christ. They had enjoyed being together before they became Christians, but none of their experiences then could touch the enjoyment they had now as they shared together the things that Christ taught them.

Sue was a special girl, John thought. He would not carry just any girl's books, but as they walked along that September morning he carried two sets of books under his arm.

About half-way to school Whitney, the school bully, turned the corner and began following them. Seeing that John was carrying Sue's books he decided to have some fun. "John is a sissy----John is a sissy," he taunted. John was not a sissy. He was one of the school's football stars and he could match most anyone in a fist fight. "John is a sissy," Whitney called again. John's jaw set. His fists tightened. He was ready for a fight.

Sue saw his knuckles turn white as he clenched his fists. His eyes glared. "Do you know what the Bible says we should do to our enemies? she asked. "It says that we are to heap cools of fire on their head."

"I wish I had some now," replied John.

"Oh, it does not mean that. It means to be kind to them." laughed Sue. "That will just burn them up."

"Yea, I think I will try it," said John as he turned and smiled pleasantly at Whitney.

This made whitney mad. With one swift movement he picked up a hand full of mud and threw it squarely in John's face.

Again John's jaw set and his fists clenched.

"Burn him up," instructed Sus. He relaxed, calmly wiped the mud from his face and smiled at Whitney.

"Are you not going to fight?" he asked.

"No," replied John, "I am not going to fight because I am not mad at you. You see, I am a Christian and I forgive."

"Ah, you are a sissy; a Sunday School boy. You are a coward. You are afraid to fight," taunted whitney as he embarrassedly left the crowd that had gathered to watch the fight. John had make a fool of him. He hated him for it. Somehow he would get back at him.

The next morning Whitney was not at school. Everyone

was talking about it. He was fortunate to be alive after the accident, but would have to be in bed with his broken ankle for several weeks. He could not afford this time from school. He might even lose his year over it.

"I can not help but think of 'Whitney'," said Sue as they slowly walked home from school.

"He has been on my mind all day too," said John. "I keep thinking of that verse 'Love your enemies: do good to those who use you badly'."

"Yes, is there something we could do to be kind to him?" asked Suc.

"Do you think we could take his school work to him and help him keep up with the class?" inquired John.

"A good idea."

Night after night Sue and John went to give Whitney his lessons. It was so discouraging. He never thanked them. He was so hateful. Every night they seemed to leave to the sound of Whitney yelling, "Scram, get out."

What was the use? For weeks they had taken him his work. Each night after supper they would spend a few minutes praying for him. They wanted so badly to see him become a Christian, but it seemed that no matter how kind they were, or how much they prayed, Whitney was always the same hard, hateful person. They were about to give up and call it quits. The men in the Bible had not been quitters. though. They would try a little longer.

It seemed that things were getting worse until one day when Sue and John arrived with the lessons they found Whitney sitting on the porch looking very seriously.

"I want you to know I appreciate what you have done," he said. One could have knocked John and Sue with a feather. "You know, I have been thinking a great deal lately. I know you are not a sissy, John. You are stronger than I am. You have something that I do not have," he continued.

"Not something but someone," replied John. "You see, it is Jesus Christ in my life that has changed me and given me new courage."

"I want to be like you John," said Whitney sincerely.

"You can be by asking Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and to become your Savior," said John.

Together the three friends prayed and Whitney became a new person.

Sue and John were ordinary teen-agers, but God had helped them bring someone to Christ. (Adapted from "Coals of Fire" by J.C. Brumfield.)

<u>application</u>: God wants us to be "Fishers of Men." It may take time and patience. We may be teased, but God will give us the power and the courage to stand firm and be loving and persistent.

Who would you bring to Jesus?

We are going to sing "Lord Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart." Make this your prayer and ask God who you can bring to Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, make us fishers of men. Help us to be strong and patient in kindness and prayer. Amen. CHAPTER VII

UNIT II

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

LESSON I

The Widow of Nain-Luke 7:11-15

Memory Verse: Matt. 19:26b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the students see Christ's compassion and power.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Matt. 19:26b. "With God all things are possible."

Introduction: Name some things that you think are impossible to do:

To give life to the dead

Did you know that Jesus did give life to a dead man when He was here on earth?

One bright sunny afternoon, Jesus and His disciples were walking along a little country road, having a good time together. As they came to the top of a little hill and looked down into the valley, the chattering suddenly ceased. Coming toward them was a funeral procession. By the coffin trudged a heart-broken mother. As Jesus looked at her, His heart was filled with compassion.

Body; I. The mother of the boy who had died

A. Everything was gone.

1. Her husband was dead.

- 2. Now her son was dead.
- 3. She was all alone.
- B. There was no one to really care for her.
- C. She had tried to save her son.
 - 1. She called the doctors.
 - 2. She did all she could.
 - 3. All her efforts had failed.
- D. The future looked hopeless.
- II. Have you felt like this mother?
 - A. Do you sometimes feel like there is no reason for living?
 - B. Do you think that no one really cares for you?
 - C. Have you tried your best to make things to go right without succeeding?
 - D. Do you feel like giving up?
- III. Jesus met the heart-broken mother.
 - A. He cared for her.
 - B. He helped her.
 - 1. He gave her back her son.
 - 2. He gave her a new life.
 - IV. Jesus sees you.
 - A. He sees your heartache and discouragement.
 - B. He cares about you.
 - C. He wants to help you.
 - 1. He wants to forgive your sins.

2. He wants to give you the power to live a new life.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Jesus is here this morning and is wanting to help you now. Will you stop, as the widow did, and give Him a chance to change your life? Remember, He can do this because He has the power to do all things. He will do this because He cares for you.

Prayer:

LESSON II

The Leper Healed-Mark 1:40-42

Memory Verse: Mark 1:41

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Christ can cure sin. <u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "Rolled away"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Mark 1:41. "And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth His hand and touched him and said unto him, I will be thou clean."

Introduction: The teacher might show the class some pictures of people who have leprosy. Do you know what disease those people have? It is called leprosy. We do not have it in our country but in such countries as Africa hundreds of people suffer from it.

It begins as a little white spot on the skin. Gradually the spot grows larger and larger. As soon as the disease is discovered, the poor victim becomes an outcast. No one can go near him. He must leave his home and live in a dirty camp with other legers.

As time passes the spots spread. Soon the disease begins to affect his hands and feet. Toes and fingers shrivel up. Walking becomes extremely difficult and it is almost impossible to use hands which are so badly deformed. Skin which is diseased has no feeling. Because of this the leper bumps and burns himself without knowing it. Often large, ugly sores develop.

In Mark 1:40-42 we are told of a man with this terrible disease who came to Jesus. Let us read the story.

Body: I. The Man had Leprosy.

A. The leper came to Jesus.

- 1. He must have been desperate.
- 2. He broke the rule of staying away from people.
- B. He trusted Jesus' power.
 - 1. He trusted Jesus or he would not have come.
 - 2. He trusted Jesus or he would not have broken the rule.
 - 3. He knew that Jesus could heal him.
- C. He wondered if Jesus would heal him.
- D. Jesus would heal him.
 - 1. He loved him.
 - 2. He healed him.
- II. Sin is like leprosy.
 - A. It begins small.
 - B. It spreads.
 - 0. It often makes us outcasts.
 - D. We cannot do the right we want to do.

E. It causes spiritual death.

P. Jesus can cure it.

G. Jesus will cure it.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Just as Jesus was the only one who could heal this leper and cleanse his spots of disease, He is the only one who can forgive our sins and cleanse or remove them.

Jesus loves us as He did the leper. He wants us to come to Him and trust Him as did the leper. <u>Application</u>: Will you come to Jesus and let Him say, "I will, be thou clean?"

LESSON III

Demoniae Healed-Mark 5:1-16

Memory Verse: Rom. 10:13

<u>Aim</u>: To show the pupils that Christ can free from Satan's power.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "At Calvary."

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: "For whosever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Introduction: What is a slave?

One who is owned by someone.

One who must do what someone else says.

One who is controlled by something.

Can you think of somethings to which we could say people are slaves? Things that control people and make them do certain things?

Habits:

Smoking

Drinking

Swearing

Bad Temper

Sin in general

The Gang

The man we want to talk about today was a slave to Satan.

- Body: I. Jesus meets the demoniac.
 - A. Jesus stepped out of his ship.
 - B. The demoniac came screaming toward Him.
 - 1. He came from the tombs.
 - 2. He was screaming loudly.
 - 3. He was wearing only a few rags.
 - 4. He was dirty.
 - C. He knew that Jesus was God's Son.

II. The man was a slave to Satan.

- A. He was an outcast.
 - 1. Everyone was afraid of him.
 - 2. He revolted against society.
 - a. He would not live with others.
 - b. He lived in the grave yard.
- B. He was uncontrollable.
- C. He was restless.
- D. He was hurting himself.
- III. He came to Jesus.
 - A. Jesus did not turn him away.
 - B. Jesus set him free.
 - IV. How we are like this man.
 - A. We are not mad, as he was.
 - B. We do have some similarities.

- 1. Satan makes us a slave.
 - a. He has us form habits that control us.
 - b. He makes us do things we do not really want to do.
 - c. He gets us into gangs which control us.
- Our actions often make us an outcast from society.
 - a. People do not trust us.
 - b. People want to have nothing to do with us.
- 3. We are uncontrollable.
 - a. We cannot control our own actions and reactions.
 - b. We revolt against help.
- 4. We are restless.
 - a. We are dissatisfied with what life is giving us.
 - b. We are searching for something more.
- 5. Ne hurt ourselves.
 - a. We hurt ourselves physically.
 - b. We hurt ourselves mentally.
 - c. We hurt ourselves emotionally.
- 6. We can come to Jesus.

a. He will not turn us away.

b. He will set us free.

<u>Conclusion</u>: When the man in our story came to Jesus and called His name, Jesus set him free from the power of Satan and saved him from his terrible life.

<u>Application</u>: Jesus loves us too and wants to set us free from the things that control us and drive us to do wrong: from Satan's power.

Jesus promises that if we call on Him for help He will set us free.

LESSON IV

The Lame Man Healed-John 5:2-9

Memory Verse: Matt. 11:28

Aim: To help pupils see that Jesus wants to help.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "At Calvary

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28 <u>Introduction</u>: How long would you say was a long time to be sick?

A month

A year

Two years

Jesus once met a man who had been sick for thirtyeight years.

Body: I. What do we know about this man?

- A. He could not walk.
- B. He lay on a mat by a pool.
 - 1. The pool was a miraculous one.
 - 2. At certain times the first one into the pool was healed.
 - 3. The lame man was continually hoping to be healed.

4. His life was never changed.

- C. No one cared about him.
 - 1. He had no friends.
 - 2. No one would help him into the pool to change his life.
- D. He could not help himself.
 - 1. Many times he had tried.
 - 2. He never quite made it.
- E. His life was meaningless.
 - 1. He was bored.
 - 2. He was dissatisfied.
 - 3. He felt useless.
 - 4. He had no aim.
- II. One day he met Jesus.
 - A. Jesus was walking by the pool,
 - B. Jesus noticed the lame man.
 - C. Jesus knew all about him.
 - D. Jesus cared enough to want to help him.
 - 1. No one else cared enough to help him.
 - 2. He could not help himself.
 - 3. Jesus asked him if He could help. "Wilt thou be made whole?"
 - E. Jesus healed him.
- III. He was a changed man.
 - A. He could walk.

- B. Now life could be meaningful.
 - 1. He would do something worthwhile.
 - 2. He was now worth something.
- C. Jesus had met his basic need.
 - 1. His many needs had been created by his lameness.
 - 2. He could take care of his problems with the new power Jesus gave him.

<u>Conclusion</u>: This man had a new lease on life because Jesus wanted to help him. Jesus wanted to help because He cared for the man.

<u>Application</u>: None of us are lane, but many of our lives are meaningless, just like this lame man's was.

We are often bored, and dissatisfied. We feel useless and life seems to have no meaning or aim.

In the past we have tried to change things, but we never seem to be quite able to make it. When we would try to get help, it seemed that no one cared enough about us to want to help. They did not seem to care enough to try and understand what we were saying when our actions were crying out for help.

But today, right here in this room, there is one who really cares about you: who really understands you: who really wants to help you. It is Jesus. We cannot see Him, but we can feel His presence. Will you come to Him with those burdens you have been carrying? Will you come, tired from trying and let Him give you rest. He wants to meet your basic need which is to have your sins forgiven. You may meet Him here at the front after class.

LESSON V

The Woman With the Issue of Blood-Lake 8:43-48

Memory Verse: Eph. 2:8

Aim: To help the pupils see that help comes through trust in Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Faith of Our Fathers"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Tph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." <u>Introduction</u>: In the discussion of our memory verse, what did we decide faith was? Trusting one's whole self to something. We are continually having faith. Right now each one of you is proving that you have faith in those chairs. If you did not, you would be standing. I had faith in a car or I would not be here. If this morning I had said to the other Sunday School teachers, "I am not getting into that car. I have faith in it that it will get out to Kentucky Vaillage, but I am going to walk. I really do trust it not to fail apart or have a flat tire, but I am not getting in." They would have thought that I really was afraid that it would fall apart. I would prove by my actions that I really did not have faith, would I not?

The Bible tells us about a Noman who had faith in

Jesus and proved it by her actions.

Body: I. She was not well.

- A. She had been sick for twelve years.
 - 1. She was weak.
 - 2. Her life was restricted.
- B. She had tried everything.
 - 1. The doctors could not help her.
 - 2. She had spent all her money.
 - 3. She was at the point of despair.

II. She heard about Jesus.

- A. She heard He had healed the lame.
- B. She heard He had healed the blind.
- 0. She knew He had raised the dead.
- D. She became sure He could heal her.
- III. She would go to see Jesus.
 - A. There was a large crowd.
 - B. She picked out Jesus.
 - 1. He looked so kind.
 - 2. He looked so understanding.
 - 3. He was healing.
 - C. She made her way to Jesus.
 - 1. She pushed through the crowd.
 - 2. She know that if she could just touch Him she would be cured.
 - 3. She was about to Him.

4. She touched Him.

IV. She was healed.

A. She knew 1t.

B. She was thrilled.

C. She was thankful.

V. She was found out.

A. Jesus knew someone had been healed.

B. She was frightened.

C. She admitted it had been her.

D. Jesus was kind.

Conclusion: Did this woman beg Jesus to make her well? No.

Did she work for Jesus so that He would make her well? No.

Did Jesus tell her she was well because she had tried so hard to get to Him? No

Why had Jesus healed her? Because she had trusted completely in Jesus. She had faith that He could and would heal her.

Application: We cannot buy forgiveness of sins by working for Jesus.

Trying to change our lives will not make us Christians.

Forgiveness from sin is a gift that God gives us when we trust Him for it.

We become Christians -- are saved -- when we say, "I am sorry for my sins. I do believe that You died for ME and that You want to forgive MY sins and become MY Savior. I am trusting You to forgive MY sins and become MY Savior. I am trusting YOU to do this now. Thank you Jesus for forgiving me and coming into my life."

Will you make this your prayer today? Prayer:

LESSON VI

The Demoniac Son Healed-Mark 9:14-27

Memory Verse: Mark 9:24b

Aim: To help the pupils see that Jesus will help us believe.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Got any Rivers"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Mark 9:24b "Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief."

Introduction: If I was afraid to trust that chair, what might you do?

You might laugh at me. You might tease me. You might help me trust it.

If you really cared for me what would you do? You might laugh and tease a little but you would mainly help me.

You might sit in the chair to show me it was safe. You might hit it to show that it was strong. Then you would encourage me to sit in it.

(Demonstrate as you talk)

Body: I. A man came to Jesus with His problem.

A. His son was very sick.

1. He could not hear.

- 2. He had terrible seizures.
- He had often been almost killed in these seizures.
- B. The father was desperate.
 - 1. He feared for his son's life.
 - 2. He had tried to find help for him.
 - a. He had brought him to the disciples.
 - b. They had failed to heal him.
 - 3. The father begged Jesus for help.
- II. There was a condition to be met if help was to be obtained.
 - A. The father must believe that Jesus can and will heal his son.
 - B. The father wants to believe but he is afraid.
 - 1. The case seemed so difficult.
 - 2. Everyone else had failed.
 - a. He had been disappointed before.
 - b. He was almost afraid to trust now.
 - C. Jesus helped him to believe.
 - 1. The father asked for Jesus' help.
 - 2. Since the son was healed the conditions must have been met.

Conclusion: Jesus knew that the father sincerely wanted to trust Him. He was willing to help him.

Application: Often we are like this father. We want help,

but our case seems so difficult. So many times we have tried to help ourselves or trusted others to help us, but we have been disappointed. We are afraid to trust someone else for fear we will be let down again. But we do want to have faith in Christ.

If we sincerely ask Him to help us overcome our doubts and fears He will, just as He did for the father in our story.

LESSON VII

Lazarus Raised-John 11

Memory Verse: Psalms 71:1a

Aim: To help the pupils decide to trust Jesus.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Psalms 71:1a "In Thee oh Lord do I put my trust."

Introduction: Is it easy to trust people?

No

Why is it hard for us to trust?

Because we feel we have been let down.

What is it about some people that makes it possible for us to trust them?

They are dependable.

They are considerate.

They care about us.

Is it easy to learn to trust someone again after our faith in them has been shaken?

No

Martha had to learn to trust Jesus.

Body: I. It seemed as if Martha had been let down.

A. Lazarus had become very ill (her brother).

- 1. One night he did not feel well.
- 2. By morning he was very ill.
- 3. The doctor could do nothing for him.
- B. Martha sent a message to Jesus for help.
- C. Jesus did not come.
 - 1. Martha waited and waited.
 - 2. Lazarus became worse.
 - 3. Lazarus died.
 - 4. Lazarus was buried.
- D. Did not Jesus care about Martha and Lazarus? II. Jesus did care about Martha.
 - A. The Bible tells us that He loved Martha.
 - B. He was willing to risk His life for her.
 - 1. Men around Martha's town were trying to kill Jesus.
 - 2. Jesus knew that they would capture Him 11 He went back.
 - C. He wept.
 - D. He wanted to do something wonderful for Martha.
 - 1. For this reason He waited to come.
 - 2. He really did care.
- III. Martha learned to trust.
 - A. Martha knew He could heal.
 - 1. He had healed many people.
 - 2. Could He help Lazarus?

- B. She knew He could give life.
 - 1. He could give sternal life.
 - 2. He had given life to the widow's son.
 - 3. Mould He give life to Lazarus?
- C. Nould she trust Him or would she not?
 - 1. If she trusted Him, would He let her down and make a fool of her?
 - 2. If she did not trust Him, Lazarus would not be raised.
- D. She made her decision.
 - 1. She hesitated.
 - 2. She decided to trust.
 - With courage she commanded that the stone be removed.
- E. Lazarus was raised.
 - 1. Jesus called him.
 - 2. He walked out.

<u>Conclusion:</u> Martha had a hard decision to make. Could she trust Jesus or could she not? She decided she could. She acted on her decision and she was never sorry.

<u>Application</u>: What will our decision be? Are we afraid to trust Jesus because we may be embarrassed? These things passed through Martha's mind too. But she decided that she could trust Jesus because she knew He cared for her.

We can know that Jesus cares for us for some of the

same reasons as Martha did. The Bible tells us in John 3: 16 that God loves us. Not only was Christ willing to risk His life for us; He died to forgive us. He wants to do something great for us. He wants to change our lives. Can you trust Him today? Will you act on your decision? You will never be sorry.

LESSON VIII

The Blind Man Healed-John 9:6-25

Memory Verse: John 9:25b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that great knowledge is not needed before Ohrist will help one.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "Things Are Different Now" Prayer

Memory Verse: John 9:25b "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

Introduction: What do you think would be the most horrible thing about being blind?

One could not see the flowers.

One could not see people.

It would be so hard to get around.

It would be hard to find a job.

There are so many interesting things that one could not see.

Which would be worse, to be born blind or to become blind when one was sixteen?

John, (or the man in our story) had never seen anything. He had been born blind.

Body: I. He was of little value.

A. It was not completely his fault.

- 1. He was blind.
- 2. There was nothing he could do to change this.
- 3. Society gave him nothing to do but beg.
- B. He was a burden on society.
 - 1. The many people of the community had to support him.
 - 2. Many people likely thought he was in the way.
- II. One day Jesus passed his way.
 - A. Jesus did not scold him because he was in such a condition.
 - B. Jesus was interested in him.
 - C. Jesus knew he needed help.
 - 1. He knew the man could not help himself,
 - 2. He knew He could help the man.
 - D. Jesus healed the man.
 - 1. Jesus told him what to do.
 - 2. The man did what Jesus told him to do.
 - 3. He was healed.
 - a. He did not understand how it had happened.
 - b. But he did know that he could see.
 - c. He was thrilled.

III. People made things difficult for him after Jesus

healed him.

A. He was questioned and questioned.

B. He did not have the answers.

C. He stood up for Jesus,

D. He was thrown out.

B. Jesus came to his aid.

1. He wanted to learn more about Jesus.

2. Jesus taught him.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Do we ever use things that we do not completely understand? Yes.

What are some of these things?

T.V.

Radio Hair dryer Electric tools What do we need to know to use the T.V? To plug it in To turn the switch on

To change the channels

That it will work if we do these things

This is not very much knowledge compared to what there is to know, but it is enough. It would be foolish to not use the T.V. because one did not understand how the tubes worked, would it not?

Application: We do not need to understand how God forgives

our sins, before we ask Him. All we need to know is that we are sinners who cannot help ourselves, but that Jesus can help us. We know that if we confess our sins He will forgive us and become our Savior. Even though we do not understand it, we can enjoy the Christian life.

As time goes on Jesus will teach us what we need to know.

If we stand up for Him, no matter how hard it is, He will not let us down.

LESSON IX

The Sea Calmed-John 6:16-21

Memory Verse: Phil. 4:13

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Christ can take them through the storms of life.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "God Leads Us Along"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

<u>Introduction</u>: Everything was black. Not a star shone in the dark sky. The wind howled fiercely across the little lake. In a small boat twelve frightened men were desperately battling the storm.

Body: I. They were alone in the storm.

- A. Jesus had stayed behind to pray.
- B. The disciples had started on without Him.
- II. Their lives were in danger.
 - A. The waves tossed the boat as if it were a match box.
 - B. The water lashed in faster than they could bail it out.
 - C. Peter pulled on the cars with all his strength but they made no headway.

- D. It seemed as if the waves were going to pull them down and drown them.
- III. When Christ came things changed.
 - A. Christ came walking on the water.
 - 1. At first they thought He was a ghost and were frightened.
 - 2. He called to them and they knew 1t was Jesus.
 - 3. When they knew it was Jesus they welcomed Him gladly.
 - B. They were immediately at shore.

<u>Conclusion</u>: There were two things which the disciples could have done in the storm. One is hard, the other easy. It would have been easier just to give up, stop trying and drown. But since they valued their lives they took the hard course and fought. Their fighting was barely keeping them above water. I do not know how long they would have lasted, but Jesus came, just in time.

Application: Life can become very rough for us. Sometimes it seems that everything is against us. People will not trust us. The gang will not leave us alone. Circumstances seem to be trying to pull us down and ruin us. It seems that no matter how hard we try, we make no progress toward the goal that we have set for ourselves.

We can take the easy way out and give up. We can let

others make us do what we know is wrong. We can forget the picture of the person we want to be. We can go down.

Or we can take the way of real courage and strength. We can refuse to do what is wrong. We can continue to strive toward our goal. But this way is hard. If we try in our own strength in time we may become too tired and exhausted to fight, and go down. Maybe you have tried before and failed. We need power beyond our own. What changed things for the disciples when they were nearly ready to go down? They took Jesus into the boat, and they reached their goal.

If we will take Christ into our lives, He will give us the power to stand when everything would try to pull us down. Even as Christians life can get stormy, but Christ will always give us the help we need, just in time.

We can do all things through Christ. In our own strength we fall; with His strength we will stand.

Will you take Christ into your life today so that He can give you the strength to be the person you really want to be: the person He wants you to be?

Prever:

LESSON X

Peter Walking on the Water-Matt. 14:28-31

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:26

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see the importance of continual trust in Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Turn Your Ryes Upon Jesus" Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Prov. 3:26 "For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." <u>Introduction</u>: Talk with the class about water skiing.

What happens when the boat stops?

The skiler sinks.

Would one go water skiing on a stormy day?

No

Do you remember that one day a man did walk on water?

Peter did not have a seventy horse power motor or a tow line, but he walked on top of the water. It was a miracle.

Body: I. Peter trusted.

A. Peter trusted his faith.

- 1. The storm was raging.
- 2. The disciples were getting nowhere.
- 3. They were about to drown.

4. Jesus appeared walking on the water.

- B. Why Peter trusted.
 - Did Peter not know he could not walk on water?
 - 2. He trusted Jesus.
 - a. He trusted Jesus because he knew He could perform miracles.
 - b. He trusted Jesus because he knew Jesus always gave the power to do what He asked.
 - c. He trusted Jesus because he knew Jesus never let anyone down.
- C. The results when Peter trusted.
 - 1. The wind was still blowing.
 - 2. The waves were still lashing.
 - 3. Peter walked on the water.
- II. Peter doubted.
 - A. Why Peter doubted.
 - 1. He looked at the waves.
 - 2. He looked at himself.
 - 3. He became frightened.
 - 4. He began to sink.
 - B. Peter turned back to Christ.
 - 1. He cried for help.
 - 2. Jesus gave him the help he needed.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Only as Peter focused his attention and trust on Jesus was he able to walk over the waves.

<u>Application</u>: Some of you have accepted Christ and He has helped you to conquer many things.

It is very easy for us to begin to look at ourselves. As we do this we remember how we have failed before. We see all the problems and circumstances around us and we think, "I am foolish to think I can be a Christian." We become discouraged and begin to doubt and sink. If we will immediately turn to Christ and call for help as Peter did, Christ will help us and we will not go down. Our source of power is in Him not in ourselves.

Some of you have not come to Christ as yet. This morning He is calling you to come to Him. He is able to work a miracle in your life. He wants to give you the power to walk above the circumstances of life. He will not let you down.

Will you trust Him and come, as Peter did? Prayer:

LESSON XI

Water Changed to Wine-John 2:1-11

Memory Verse: Rom. 8:28a

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Jesus is interested in every area of life.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "If You Want Joy"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Rom. 8:28a "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

Introduction: In what areas of life is Jesus interested?

He is interested in our spiritual lives. We know this because He died on the cross to forgive our sins.

Jesus is interested in our physical wellbeing. Jesus spent much of His time while He was on earth healing the sick. He must, therefore, have been very interested in health.

Jesus healed those who were mentally disturbed such as the man who lived in the grave yard. This showed His interest in mental health.

He was even interested in social life. One day He and His disciples went to a wedding.

Body: I. The cook was in trouble.

A. The wine (grape juice) ran out.

1. He thought he had planned well.

2. Something had gone wrong with his plans.

- B. Apparently more could not easily be gotten.
- C. What would he do?
- II. Mary knew what to do.
 - A. She went to Jesus.
 - 1. She knew Jesus well.
 - a. She knew where to turn in time of need.
 - b. She had complete confidence in Him and did not worry.
 - 2. The cook did not know Jesus well.
 - a. He did not know that he could turn to Jesus for help.
 - b. He was worried.
 - B. She told the servants to do as Jesus commanded them.
 - 1. Jesus had not started to work things out.
 - 2. He had not even said that He would help.
 - 3. Mary had such confidence in Him that she could trust Him to act, even before circumstances began to change.
- III. Jesus took action.
 - A. He told the servants what to do.
 - 1. They were to fill the water pots with water.

- 2. They were to take a sample of "water" to the host.
 - a. They may have been afraid to do it for fear it would just be water and they would be embarrassed.
 - b. Mary had such strong confidence that they were encouraged to obey.
 - c. They took the "water" to the host.
- B. The water changed to better wine than they had before.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Jesus did not do a half hearted job. He gave the best, even for a wedding.

<u>Application</u>: Jesus is interested in every area of our lives. No matter what our need, we can take it to Him. He will give us instructions that will bring the best result.

There are two conditions which must be met if we are to claim the promise in our memory verse. First, we must know Jesus as Mary did. The cook did not know Him and he became worried and upset. Mary was completely at rest because she had been trusting Jesus for many things in the past. If we are going to be able to trust Jesus when some difficult problem arises, we must know Him as our own Savior and have proven His trust worthiness on all our smaller problems.

The second condition is obedience. As Jesus tells us

what we should do, through the Bible, prayer, the church, or a Christian friend, we need to follow His instructions. Just as one cannot make a model car from the instructions for a model airplane, so one cannot enjoy the best life that Jesus offers if one follows instructions other than His.

If we meet these two conditions, Christ will make everything in our lives work for good.

LESSON XII

Feeding the 5,000-John 6:1-14

Memory Verse: Rom. 12:1

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that as they give themselves to Christ He can use them.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "I Surrender All"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Rom. 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Introduction: Do we sometimes feel that we are of no use? Do we wonder why God ever bothers with such ordinary people as us?

Do we think that we have nothing of value to offer to Christ?

The boy in our story today may have felt that way, because he really did not have much.

Body: I. He was just an ordinary boy.

A. We do not even know his name.

B. He was just one of the crowd.

0. He was young.

D. He did not have much.

- 1. He had an ordinary lunch.
- 2. It was not very large.
- II. He gave what he had to Jesus.
 - A. Jesus needed what he had.
 - 1. Many people were hungry.
 - 2. Jesus had nothing but the boy's lunch with which to feed them.
 - B. He gave all his lunch.
 - 1. He kept none back for himself.
 - 2. He made Jesus make no bargains with him.
 - 0. He gave his lunch willingly.
 - 1. He might go hungry for all he knew.
 - 2. He would rather give it to Jesus than keep it for himself.
- III. Jesus performed a miracle.
 - A. With the little lunch, Jesus fed the whole crowd.
 - 1. Everyone, including the boy, had all he could sat.
 - 2. There was more left over than what they had in the beginning.
 - B. Jesus and the boy both had a part in the miracle.
 - 1. The boy gave his all.
 - a. He received more than he would have if

he had kept his lunch.

- b. He was able to feed all the other people.
- 2. Jesus made the small lunch enough to meet the need.

<u>Conclusion</u>: As the boy went home that night, I am sure he must have been extremely happy. He had been able to work with Jesus to meet the needs of 5,000 people.

Application: As we look around us we see so many people who need to find Christ as Savior. We have found what they need, but we do not feel at all adequate to help them. But if we do not, who will?

If the boy in our story had looked at his lunch, he would have never tried to feed the people, because it was not adequate. Jesus asked for the lunch and with it was able to feed all the people.

Jesus is asking us to give our whole selves to Him this morning, so that He can do with us as He pleases. If we will give ourselves to Him, He will be able to perform a miracle through us to meet the needs of our friends. We will then be working with Jesus.

Jesus cannot use us when we are holding anything back. Have you been holding somethings back for yourself? Why not give them to Jesus this morning?

Prayer:

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LESSON XIII

The Palsied Man Healed-Luke 5:18-26

Memory Verse: Prov. 11:30b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see their responsibility to bring others to Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Saved to Tell Others"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Prov. 11:30b, "He that winneth souls is wise." <u>Introduction</u>: What are some of the things Jesus Christ has done for you since you became a Christian?

> He has forgiven my sins. He has taken away my guilt. He has given me peace. He has given me joy.

He has helped with my problems.

Are all people wanting these things? Yes

Why do they not come to Jesus for these things? They may not know Jesus gives them.

They may need someone to help them come.

The Bible tells us of a man who wanted and needed what Jesus offered, but could not go to Him for help.

Body: I. The paralyzed man was helpless.

- A. He could not walk.
- B. He could not co-ordinate his hands.
- 0. He wanted to be like his friends.
 - 1. They could walk.
 - 2. They could work.
 - 3. They could enjoy life.
- D. But he could do nothing to make himself like his friends.
- II. His friends could do something to help him.
 - A. They could take him to Jesus.
 - 1. They knew of Jesus.
 - 2. They knew Jesus could make him like them.
 - B. It was not easy.
 - 1. Their first plan did not work.
 - a. They excitedly brought their friend to where Jesus was.
 - b. They were filled with disappointment because people blocked their way to Jesus.
 - 2. They did not give up.
 - a. They carried their friend to the flat roof.
 - b. They removed some of the tiles which made the roof.
 - c. They lowered their friend in front of

Jesus.

3. It took time and effort.

III. Jesus did the rest.

A. He forgave the sick man's sins.

B. He made him well.

<u>Conclusion</u>: The friends of this paralyzed man knew that he needed what Jesus could give him. They also knew that he would never find Jesus himself. It was their responsibility to take him to Christ. They worked until they got him to the feet of Jesus. Imagine their joy when he walked home with them that afternoon.

Apllication: We have many friends who need to be brought to Jesus so that He can forgive their sins. Who will bring them if we do not?

Some of our efforts may be disappointing, but if we will continue to be kind to them, talk to them about Jesus and pray for them, someday they will meet Jesus, know the joy of having their sins forgiven and our hearts will be thrilled. Prayer:

OHAPTER VIII

UNIT III

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

LESSON I

Hagar-Gen: 21:9-19

Memory Verse: Deut. 31:8b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that God loves those who are unwanted.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "God Leads Us Along"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Dout. 31:8b "He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither formake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

Introduction: Boes it seem that no one really cares for you? How would you tell if someone cared for you? They would be there when I needed them? They would be interested in my troubles. They would try to help me with my problems. Does God really care for us?

Is He interested in people that nobody else cares about?

It seemed that no one cared for Hagar.

Body: I. She was poor.

A. She was only a maid.

B. The only thing she had of any value was her son.

- II. She was thrown out of the home where she worked.
 - A. It was the only home she had.
 - B. Her mistress was jealous of her and her son.
 - C. She had no place to go.
 - D. All she had as she started out was some bread and water and her son.
 - E. She had no choice but to wander around.
 - F. No one seemed to care what happened to her,
- III. The situation grew worse.
 - A. Her water supply ran out.
 - 1. She was in a desert place and could get no more.
 - 2. Her child could not live without water.
 - B. Her son was about to die.
 - 1. She left him to die.
 - 2. He was the only thing she had.
 - 3. She was heart broken.
 - 4. She cried bitterly.
 - IV. God came to her rescue.
 - A. He heard her son cry.
 - B. God began to work.
 - 1. He told her to take her son back.
 - 2. He promised her that he would live.
 - 3. God showed her a well of water.
 - C. Her son lived.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Did God care for Hagar? He was there when she needed Him, was He not? He was interested in her troubles, was He not? He helped her solve her problem, did He not?

No one else seemed to care for Hagar, but God did. <u>Application</u>: The Bible tells us that all people are of the same importance to God. If God cared for Hagar, He cares for us.

God did not make everything easy for Hagar but He was there to help her through her hard times.

The circumstances in our lives may be hard. It may seem that no one cares about us. But God cares and if we will let Him, He will help us through our whole life, no matter how hard it may be.

LESSON II

God's Law Broken-Gen. 3:1-13

Memory Verse: Rom. 3:23

Aim: To help the pupils understand God's law in regard to sin.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Thank You Lord"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Introduction: What is a law?

Something that is always true.

What does the law of gravity say?

If something is dropped it will always fall down. If I were to go to the top of this building and jump off. would I break the law of gravity?

No. I would only prove it.

If a town has a law that says it will cost \$10.00 to go five miles over the speed limit and I travel thirty-five miles per hour rather than thirty, get caught and have to pay \$10.00, did I really break the law?

No. I would actually be proving it.

What is the only condition under which one can really break a law of the land?

If one does not get caught, otherwise one only proves it.

But laws of nature, such as gravity, are not like the laws of the land. If I were all alone on the roof, would it be any easier to break the law of gravity when I jumped than if you were all watching me?

No. When one tries to break a natural law one always proves it.

God's law is like the laws of nature, we cannot break it, we can only prove it. God has said anyone who sins will die. He announced this law to the first man He created. Body: I. God created a perfect world.

- A. The Garden of Eden was perfect.
 - 1. Flowers were always blooping.
 - 2. There were no droughts.
 - 3. The apples had no worms.
 - 4. There were no thorns or weeds.
 - 5. There were no rainy days.
- B. The animals were perfect.
 - 1. None of them were sick.
 - 2. They all lived happily together.
 - 3. They would not hurt people.
- C. The people were perfect.
 - 1. Adam and Eve were very happy together.
 - 2. They were never sick.

- 3. They were never sad.
- 4. They did not have to work hard.
- 5. They knew God very well.
 - a. They were not afraid of Him.
 - b. They walked with Jod.
- 6. They had never sinned.
- 7. They had a free will.
 - a. God wanted a man who would serve Him,
 by choice, not by force.
 - b. There was the risk that man might choose to sin.
- II. Sin entered the world.
 - A. God gave their wills a choice.
 - 1. God said, "Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."
 - 2. The penalty for breaking God's law was death.
 - B. Satan visited the garden.
 - 1. He told Eve she could break God's law without getting hurt.
 - 2. He made breaking God's law look very interesting.
 - 3. Eve believed Satan.
 - C. Eve sinned.
 - 1. She disobayed God.

- 2. She persuaded Adam to disobey God.
- III. Adam and Eve proved God's law.
 - A. They did not die physically immediately.
 - B. Their spiritual life and joys died.
 - 1. They became ashamed of themselves.
 - a. They realized they were naked.
 - b. They immediately made clothes.
 (points a & b are included mainly for the teacher's understanding of point i)
 - 2. They were afraid of God.
 - a. He came to walk with them.
 - b. They hid from Him.
 - c. They could no longer know the joy of His presence.
 - 3. Life became hard.
 - a. Nature seemed to turn against them.
 - b. They had to work hard.

IV. Since then all men have sinned.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Was it because of God's cruelty that Adam and Eve lost all the things that had meant so much to them? No. They died spiritually because they disobeyed God and His law said that anyone who sinned--disobeyed God--would die. God was very sad. He had wanted them to love and obey Him. He loved Adam and Eve and hated to see them in their misery. Immediately He announced a new plan. He would send to earth Jesus, to pay the penalty for sin, death, for men. Then anyone who would, could be forgiven and receive the gift of new life.

<u>Application</u>: If we have not accepted Ohrist's forgiveness, we are proving God's law. Much of the real us inside, the spiritual part of us, is dead because we have all sinned. But God loves us and wants to give us new life. This new life will make it possible for us to enjoy life to the full. We can only experience this when we have asked Jesus to forgive our sins and have accepted Him as our Savior.

LESSON III

Abraham-Gen. 17:1-4, 22:1-13

Memory Verge: I John 5:3b

Aim: To help the pupils see that God keeps His promises which are good.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse:</u> I John 5:30 "His commandments are not grievous." <u>Introduction</u>: Do you remember what we learned about God's law last week?

> God's law cannot be broken, it can only be proven. Does God only promise us evil if we do wrong?

No

Do God's laws only say "you cannot do this or you cannot do that?"

No

God also promises good when we do right.

His laws all have a purpose and that purpose is for our good and happiness and God's glory.

Just as God kept the promise to Adam that if he disobeyed he would die, so He will keep promises of good to us. Body: I. For many years Abraham had wanted a son.

A. God knew how badly Abraham wanted a son.

- B. God brought Abraham a promise.
 - 1. God would give him a son.
 - 2. The condition of the promise was that Abraham walk before God and do what would please Him.
- C. God kept His promise.
 - 1. Abraham and Sarah were old.
 - 2. Isaac was a gift from God.
- II. God tested Abraham's side of the promise.
 - A. God told Abraham to kill Iseac.
 - 1. Abraham loved Isaac very much.
 - 2. But God had told him to give Isaac to Him in a sacrifice.
 - B. Abraham obeyed God.
 - 1. Abraham could not understand God's command.
 - a. God had promised him his son.
 - b. Isaac was his only son.
 - c. He trusted God.
 - 1. He believed God did not lie.
 - 2. He believed God would give him
 - back his son or supply an offering.
 - 2. Abraham went where God told him to go.
 - a. He left early in the morning.
 - b. He took Isaac with him.
 - c. He took all he needed for a sacrifice.

- d. Issue could not understand why they did not have an animal for the sacrifice.
- C. Abraham followed God's orders.
 - 1. He and Isaac went up on the mountain alone.
 - 2. He built an altar.
 - 3. He tied Isaac and put him on it.
 - 4. He raised his knife to kill him.
- D. fie supplied an offering.

E. He gave Abraham his son for the second time. <u>Conclusion</u>: God had made a promise to Abraham. For awhile it looked as if He would break it, but He did not. As long as Abraham fulfilled his part of being obedient to God, God kept His part of the promise.

<u>Application</u>: God makes many wonderful promises to us. He tells us that if we will tell Him we are sorry for our sins and want nothing more to do with them He will forgive us. He tells us that everything will work for good if we love Him. He tells us that He will never turn away when we come to Him. He tells us that He will take care of all our worries if we will let Him. He tells us that He will never leave or forsake us. He tells us that He will give us the power we need to be a Christian. And the most wonderful thing about these promises is that God will keep them.

LESSON IV

Jacob-Gen. 25:29-34; 27:1-24-41-45; 28:10-15, 32:6,24-26

Memory Verse: Jer. 31:34b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that God cares enough to change a cheat.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Things Are Different Now" Prayer

Memory Verse: Jer. 31:34b, "For I will forgive their

iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Introduction: How many of you like a cheat? No one?

Why do you not like a cheat?

They are "low."

They take advantage of others, especially those who are weak.

We hate to be cheated.

One never knows when the cheat will turn on them, therefore they cannot be trusted.

They take what they do not deserve.

Jacob was a cheat.

Body: I. Jacob obtained what he wanted by trickery.

A. He swindled the inheritance from his brother.

1. Esau was very hungry.

- a. He was tired from working hard.
- b. He was so hungry he thought he would starve.
- 2. Jacob had some food.
 - a. Would he share it with his hungry brother?
 - b. He would get what he could for it.
- 3. Jacob persuaded Esau to sell his inheritance.
 - a. He attacked when Esau was weak and desperate.
 - b. He took advantage of Esau's condition.
- B. He swindled his brother's blessing from his father.
 - 1. Fathers gave their oldest sons a special blessing before they died.
 - a. Boys valued this.
 - b. Jacob wanted 1t.
 - c. It belonged to Esau.
 - 2. The time came for Isaac to bless Esau.
 - a. Isaac was old.
 - b. Isaac was blind.
 - c. Isaac asked Esau to fix him a special roast of wild meat.
 - 3. Jacob was easily led.

- a. It was his mother's idea to swindle the blessing.
- b. Jacob gladly went along with the scheme.
- 4. Jacob swindled the blessing.
 - a. He took advantage of his old blind father.
 - 1. He pretended he was his brother.
 - 2. He gave his father a substitute meat.
 - 3. He lied.
 - b. He took advantage of Esau's obedience.
 - 1. He did his dirty work while Esau was out hunting.
 - 2. He used Esau's clothes.
 - 3. When Esau returned the blessing was gone.
 - 4. Esau was heart broken.
- C. Jacob had to run for his life.
 - 1. Esau had been tricked twice.
 - 2. He was furious.
 - 3. He would kill Jacob.
- II. Jacob desperately needed God.
 - A. He was alone in the world.
 - 1. He was young.

- 2. He had not been away from home before.
- 3. Suddenly he had to run to strangers for protection.
- B. God went with him.
- C. The time came when he would meet Esau again.
 - 1. Esau was coming to neet him with an army.
 - 2. He was afraid.
 - 3. He oried to God for help.
- D. God did help him.
 - 1. God changed him.
 - 2. God protected him from Esau.

<u>Conclusion</u>: God did not love the things Jacob did but He did love Jacob. God was willing to change him and help him even though he had been so low.

<u>Application</u>: God does not love many of the things we do, but He does love us. He wants to forgive our sins and remember them no more as He did for Jacob.

LESSON V

Naaman-II Kings 5:1-16

Memory Verse: John 14:6

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that there is but one way of salvation; through Jesus Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "If You Want Joy"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Introduction: With breathless expectation Naaman stood before the king of Israel. He had been waiting for this moment ever since his little maid had told him that his leprosy could be cured in her country. Now the king of Israel was reading the letter from the king of Syria asking him to heal Naaman.

<u>Body</u>: I. Naaman was an important man.

A. He was General of the Syrian army.

1. He was a successful warrior.

2. The king considered him very great.

B. He was a sick man.

1. He had leprosy.

a. This is a disease which was very common in his country.

b. It was a dreaded disease.

- c. There was no cure for it.
- d. People who had it had to stay away from everyone but other lepers.
- 2. He would soon have to give up his position.
- 3. He would soon have to leave his family.
- II. Naaman went in search of help.
 - A. His little maid had told him that the prophet in Israel could heal him.
 - B. The king of Syria had promptly sent him to Israel for help.
 - 1. He had sent with him a letter to the king of Israel.
 - 2. He had sent with him silver, gold, and clothes to pay for the healing.
 - C. Now Maaman waited for the king's reply.
 - 1. The king tore his clothes in rage.
 - 2. The king should, "Am I a god who can heal people?"
 - 3. He accused the Syrians of trying to start a war.
 - D. Naaman was heart broken.
 - 1. He had been so built up on being healed.
 - 2. Now he was terribly disappointed.
 - 3. With slow, discouraged steps he left the palace.

- E. A message came from Elisha the prophet saying that God through him, could heal Naaman.
- F. With hope renewed Naaman went to the home of the prophet.
- G. Elisha's actions seemed very strange to Naaman.
 - 1. The prophet did not come out to see Naaman, but rather, sent a servant.
 - 2. He commanded Naaman to dip seven times in the Jordan River.
 - 3. Naaman was angry.
- H. Maaman refused to follow Elisha's orders.
 - 1. The Jordan was muddy.
 - 2. He could swim in his own rivers.
 - 3. He would not lower himself to that.
 - 4. He would go home.
- I. Naaman decided to accept.
 - 1. His servants talked to him.
 - a. He would have done any difficult task.
 - b. This was so simple.
 - c. It was worth a try.
 - 2. Naaman decided to follow Elisha's command.
 - a. He went to the Jordan.
 - b. He dipped seven times.
 - c. Not until after the seventh dip was he

cured.

III. Maaman tried to pay for his healing.

A. He offered Elisha large gifts.

- B. He refused them.
 - 1. Healing was a gift from God.
 - 2. It could not be bought.
 - 3. It could be obtained only through faith and obedience.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Naaman went home a new man because He had followed Elisha's plan. If he had gone to a river in Syria to dip, he would never have been healed. If he had dipped only six times he would not have been healed.

<u>Application</u>: Just as there was but one way for Naaman to be healed, there is but one way for us to receive forgiveness of our sins. We must come to Jesus Christ. We must tell Him that we are sorry for our sins and want to have nothing more to do with them. We must ask Him to forgive our sins and to become our Savior. We then believe that He has forgiven us and become our Savior, because He has promised that He will.

Naaman could not buy his healing. We cannot buy our salvation by doing good or going to church. We can only receive forgiveness as we come to Jesus Christ and trust Him to forgive us as we ask Him to.

LESSON VI

Hosea-Hosea 1-3

Memory Verse: I John 4:10

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Christ loves the sinful, even the immoral.

<u>Preliminary Activities:</u> Singing "For God So Loved the World" Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: I John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Introduction: How can we explain to people what we mean?

We can tell them.

We can show them.

We can have someone who understands show them.

For hundreds of years God has been wanting to explain to people how much He loves them. He has told us in the Bible. In Christ He showed us. He also had a man who understand God's love show us.

Body: I. Hosea married Gomer.

A. Gomer was not the type of woman one would expect a minister to marry.

1. She was a prostitute.

2. Hosea knew this.

- B. God wanted Hosea to show us something.
 - 1. He wanted Hosea to marry and love a prostitute.
 - 2. He wanted Hosea to show us that He loved the prostitutes.
- C. They had a nice little family of two boys and a girl.
- II. Gomer became unfaithful.
 - A. She went back to her old life.
 - 1. She decided to go back to her old lovers.
 - 2. She wanted what they gave her.
 - B. She found that she was dissatisfied with the old life.
 - 1. Things were rough and hard. (Hosea 2:6)
 - 2. She never quite got what she wanted.
 - 3. She decided she was better off to go back to her husband.
 - C. All through her unfaithfulness Hosea had been supplying her needs, even though she did not know it.
- III. Hosea took her back.
 - A. She decided to return to him.
 - 1. She realized that her life was dissatisfying.
 - 2. She knew she had been happy with her

husband.

- B. Hosea treated her very kindly.
- C. Hosea was even willing to pay a price to get his unfaithful wife back.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Gomer was unworthy of Hosea's love, but although he did not like what she had done, he loved her. He was willing to take her back when she was ready to come to him.

<u>Application</u>: Through this, God is trying to show us how much He loves us. He hates the things we do, but He loves us. Even when we are doing wrong, God still gives us much in life. He gives us our life, our health, our soundness of mind. He speaks to us and tries to make us see how futile and aimless our life is. We can see from this that He loves us.

God does not care what sin we have committed but He is concerned whether or not we will bring that sin to Him.

Are you ready to come to Him with your sins and let Him forgive you? He is waiting to accept you and be loving and kind to you.

LESSON VII

David's Sin-II Sam. 11, 12; Ps. 51

Memory Verse: Is. 44:22a

Aim: To help the pupils see that God will forgive any sin. Preliminary Activities: Singing "Jesus Saves"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Is. 44:22a, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins." <u>Introduction</u>: Do all sins affect us in the same way after we have committed them?

> No. Some are easier to forgive than others. For some sins we feel more guilty than we do for others.

We have been saying that God will forgive sin. Will He forgive all sins? Will He forgive sexual immorality? Will He forgive murder?

Body: I. David committed sexual immorality.

A. He saw Bathsheba.

1. She was a beautiful woman.

2. He wanted her.

3. She was Uriah's wife.

4. Uriah was at war.

B. David had her brought to his house.

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- C. In a little while he received the news that she was pregnant.
- II. David committed murder,
 - A. At first he tried to cover his sin.
 - 1. He had Urish brought back from battle.
 - a. He had a little business talk with Uriah.
 - b. He told Uriah to go home for the night.
 - e. Uriah would not go.
 - 1. He was loyal to the army.
 - 2. If the other soldiers had to sleep in tents, he would not sleep at home.
 - 2. David made Uriah drunk.
 - a. He hoped now that he would go home.
 - b. He did not.
 - B. David would get rid of Urish.
 - 1. He sent the general of the army an order to put Uriah in the front lines.
 - 2. Uriah was killed.
 - C. David took Bathaheba for his wife.
- III. God hated what he had done.
 - A. God sent Nathan with a message.
 - B. David was very sorry for his sins.

- 1. He realized how wicked he was.
- 2. He realized that he had sinned against God.
- 3. He knew God did not want gifts.
- 4. He knew God wanted him to be really sorry for his sin.
- 5. He begged God to take away his sin.
- 6. He begged God to make him a new man.
- IV. God did forgive him.
 - A. God put away David's sin.
 - 1. He would not remember it.
 - 2. David would not have to pay the penalty of death.
 - B. In some ways David still paid.
 - 1. His baby died and this brought sorrow.
 - 2. His oldest son rebelled against him and gave him a great deal of trouble.

<u>Conclusion</u>: From David's experience we see that God was willing to forgive even sexual immorality and murder. <u>Application</u>: God will forgive any sin we commit, when we sincerely ask Him to forgive us. God marks our sins off our record: covers them so that he sees and remembers them no more. As far as God is concerned we are free from the penalty of our sins.

"But," you say, "people will not forget." No, they do not. We may suffer from people, because of our sins, just as David did, but God can give us the strength to bear it and peace of mind while we endure it.

Many people may not forgive us, but God will. Will you allow Him to today? <u>Prayer</u>:

LESSON VIII

Saul-I Sam. 9:2; 10; 13; 16; 18; 31

Memory Verse: Mark 2:17b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see the disaster of not sincerely asking God for forgiveness.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "At Calvary"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Mark 2:17b "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Introduction: What are some of the things that you think

would make you and make your life a success?

Good looks Money A good job Popularity Fame Adventure

Saul had all these things, and yet his life ended in a mess.

Body: I. As a young man he had everything.

A. He was handsome.

B. He had self-control.

C. He was king of a nation.

- 1. This gave him money.
- 2. This gave him popularity.
- 3. This gave him fame.
- D. He was God's choice.
- E. He knew the joy of fellowship with God.
 - (I Sam. 10:9-10)
 - 1. God gave him a new heart.
 - 2. He spoke words God gave him.
- II. Saul began to sin.
 - A. He became disobedient.
 - 1. He disobeyed before the battle of Michmash. (I Sam. 13:9)
 - a. He was to wait for Samuel to come and make an offering to God.
 - b. He became impatient.
 - c. He did it himself.
 - d. He made excuses for himself.
 - e. God was displeased.
 - f. Saul did not repent.
 - 2. Saul disobeyed in a battle in Amalek (I Sam. 15)
 - a. He was to keep no loot.
 - b. He kept the best sheep, oxen, and lambs.
 - c. He lied about it.

- d. He made excuses.
- e. He blamed others.
- f. God was displeased.
 - 1. God did not want what Saul Would give.
 - 2. God wanted obedience.
- B. Saul became hateful and jealous. (I Sam. 18, 19).
 - 1. David became popular.
 - 2. Saul was jealous and hated him.
- III. Saul becaue a different man.
 - A. He had no contact with God. (I Sam. 16:14)
 - 1. Once he had spoken words God gave him.
 - 2. Now he looked for a witch to tell him the future. (I Sam. 28:7)
 - B. He became mentally disturbed. (I Sam. 16:12)
 - C. He tried to kill David. (I Sam. 18:11)
 - 1. He had once been a big man with self control.
 - 2. Now he tried to kill the person who was trying to help him.
 - D. He lost his popularity. (I Sam. 18:7)
 - E. He ended his life in suicide. (I Sam. 31:4)
 - 1. Once he had been victorious in battle.
 - 2. Now he had lost.

3. He fell on his sword and killed himself. <u>Conclusion</u>: Why did Saul never find forgiveness for his sins? Were his sine worse than those David committed? No. Why then was David forgiven but not Saul?

David was sincerely sorry for his sins. From the bottom of his heart he asked God to forgive him. Saul never did. Whenever his sins were found out, he either made excuses or blamed someone else. He never sincerely asked God to forgive him. As he went his own way ignoring God, he lost all that he valued: his fellowship with God, his popularity, his mind, his kingdom, his son, his life. <u>Application</u>: We can see that we have sinned. What will we do about it? Will we be like Saul and make excuses for ourselves, blame others and try and work things out ourselves? Or will we be like David and sincerely tell God we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness?

LESSON IX

Joseph-Gen. 37; 39:1-41:40

Memory Verse: Gen. 28:15a

Aim: To help the pupils see that God will go with them through life.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Got Any Rivers"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Gen. 28:15a "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places wither thou goest."

Introduction: It just seemed that nothing went right for Joseph. He had just gotten on top of things and proven himself and now, here he sat in jail.

Body: I. His troubles had started with his brothers.

- A. They were jealous of him.
 - 1. His father was very fond of him.
 - 2. He used to give him little extra things.
- B. They decided to get rid of him.
 - 1. At first they planned to kill him.
 - 2. They decided to sell him as a slave.
 - 3. He was taken to Egypt.
- II. He had been sold to Potiphar.
 - A. God was with Joseph.
 - 1. He helped him work well.

- 2. His employer noticed his work.
- 3. He was promoted to the head servant.
- B. Potiphar's wife made trouble for him.
 - 1. She tried to make Joseph sin.
 - a. He knew it was wrong.
 - b. He knew his employer trusted him.
 - c. He refused,
 - 1. He did not want to do wrong.
 - 2. He did not want to betrey his employer's trust.
 - d. She was angry.
 - 2. She lied to her husband.
 - a. She created a big fuss.
 - b. She said Joseph had molested her.
 - c. Potiphar believed her.
- C. Now Joseph sat in jail.
- III. God was with him in jail.
 - A. He was placed in charge of the other prisoners.
 - 1. The jailor saw that he was different.
 - 2. The jailor trusted him.
 - B. God provided a way for him to get out of jail.
 - 1. The king of Egypt had a disturbing dream.
 - 2. One of the king's servants remembered that Joseph had explained one of his dreams while he had been in prison with him and

told the king.

3. The king called for Joseph.

IV. God took Joseph to the top.

- A. He gave Joseph the explanation of the king's dream.
- B. The king was thrilled.
- C. Joseph was made vice president of the country; only the king was above him.

<u>Conclusion</u>: The circumstances of Joseph's life were bad enough to ruin anyone, but God was with him. God gave him the power to do right. God encouraged him when things were black. God took him to the top.

<u>Application</u>: The circumstances in our lives may be bad enough to ruin anyone, but God can make the difference for us as He did for Joseph.

If we will ask Him to become our Savior, He will give us the power to do right; He will encourage us when things are black; He will bring us out on top of our circumstances.

Will you take Christ into your life today? Prayer:

LESSON X

Samson-Judges 13-16

Memory Verse: Matt. 16:24b

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that Christianity is not just for sissies.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Faith of Our Fathers"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Matt. 16:24b "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." <u>Introduction</u>: Often we hear Christians referred to as sissies. The picture many people have of a Christian is a little, thin, weak book worm who wears glasses an inch thick. This is not the picture God gives us of the men He used. <u>Body</u>: I. Samson was strong.

- A. One day Samson met a lion. (Jud. 14)
 - 1. He was on his way to see his girl.
 - 2. Suddenly in front of him stood a rearing lion.
 - 3. He did not run.
 - 4. He took hold of the lion's mouth with His bare hands and ripped his jaws apart.
- B. Samson caught 300 foxes. (Jud. 13)

1. He tied their tails together.

- 2. He set their tails on fire.
- 3. He sent them running through the enemy's fields.
- C. Samson killed 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. (Jud. 15)
 - 1. His enemies were enraged when they found their fields on fire.
 - 2. 3000 of them went out after Samson.
 - His own country-men tied him up and took him to the enemies.
 - 4. He tightened his muscles and in one quick movement snapped the strong ropes that bound him.
 - 5. He grabbed the jawbone of a donkey which lay baside him on the ground.
 - 6. With great strength and speed he swing it.
 - 7. 1000 men lay dead.
 - 8. He calmly tossed the jawbone over his shoulder.
- D. God needed a strong man.
 - 1. The work He had to be done was hard.
 - 2. He was using Samson.
- II. Samson ruined his life.
 - A. He belonged to God.
 - 1. God had given him to his parents.

- 2. He had been given to God.
 - a. He never cut his hair as a sign that he was God's.
 - b. This was a sign like some gangs and tribes have.
- 3. God gave him strength.
- B. But he began to keep bad company.
 - 1. He took his wife from the enemies of God's people.
 - 2. He was always with her friends.
- C. He betrayed his secret.
 - 1. God had said that if He ever cut his hair, his strength would leave.
 - His wife and her friends tried to persuade him to reveal the source of his strength.
 - 3. For awhile he held out.
 - a. He said, "tie me with strong new ropes and my strength will be gone," but he broke the ropes like threads.
 - b. He said, "if you fasten my hair firmly to a beam I will be weak," but he walked away with the beam.
 - 4. Finally he told his secret.
 - a. His wife cut his hair.
 - b. The enemy captured him.

5. His life ended in disaster.

- a. The enemy poked his eyes out.
- b. While people made fun of him at a big party, he asked God to give him strength once more.
- c. God did and he pulled out two large pillars; the building collapsed and he and many others died.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Samson was no sissy. God wanted him strong and gave him strength. It was when he disobeyed God and broke his vow to keep his hair long that he became weak. <u>Application</u>: God needs strong men and women to serve Him now. He has big, hard tasks to be done. Being a Christian is not always easy. Your friends may tease and taunt you. Are you man enough (or woman enough) to admit that you have sinned and come to Christ for forgiveness? Are you man enough to deny selfishness and the easy way? Are you man enough to stand firm when you are teased and falsely accused? God is looking for men like that to serve Him. Will you be one?

LESSON XI

David and Goliath-I Sam. 17

Memory Verse: Is. 41:10a

Aim: To help the pupils see that God gives courage.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Is. 41:10a "Fear theu not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee."

Introduction: What do we mean when we say someone has a great deal of courage?

They do not run when danger suddenly appears. They are not afraid to go into situations which might be dangerous.

Do you want others to think that you have a great deal of courage?

Yes.

Have you ever done daring things to prove that you have courage?

David proved that he had courage.

Body: I. The war was on.

A. The armies were face to face.

1. On one hill the army of Philistia camped.

2. Across the valley on another hill the army

of Israel camped.

- B. The army of Philistia presented a challenge.
 - 1. They would settle to let two men fight it out for the whole army.
 - 2. If the Philistine won, the Philistines would win the war and make Israel their slaves; but if the Israelite won, the Israelites would win the war and the Philistines would be their servants.
- C. Things were stalemated.
 - 1. The warrior of the Philistines was a giant.
 - Every morning Goliath would step into the valley and roar, "who will come and fight me?"
 - 3. When the Israelite soldiers saw him, they fled in fear.
- II. David visited the battle front.
 - A. He was shocked by the lack of courage among the soldiers.
 - 1. This was a disgrace to their nation.
 - 2. Israel was a nation which God had helped and blessed.
 - a. The soldiers seemed to have forgotten that God could give courage and victory.

b. David knew that God could give courage and victory.

1. He had killed a lion barehanded.

11. He had killed a bear barehanded.

- B. David took the challenge.
 - 1. He told the king he would fight Goliath.
 - 2. He tried on the king's armor.

a. It was too big.

b. He did not wear it.

- 3. He would go with only his sling shot and God.
- C. David went out to meet Goliath.
 - 1. He picked up five smooth stones.
 - 2. He walked fearlessly toward the giant.
 - 3. Goliath was furious.
 - a. David was so young.
 - b. Goliath's pride was hurt.
 - c. He screamed insults at David.
 - David began to swing his slingshot, took aim, and fired.
 - 5. The stone hit Goliath on the forehead and he fell over.
 - Quickly David took Goliath's own sword and killed him.
 - 7. David knew that God had given him the

victory.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Because David knew God and His power, he was able to face Goliath with courage.

Application: We face giants in our lives; the giant of temptation; the giant of fear; the giant of mistrust; the giant of not being easily accepted; the giant of being too easily led. All our problems are like giants. Often we run from them. We are afraid of them. God offers us the courage to face them and the power to overcome them. Will you let Him come into your life and give you the courage and power to overcome?

LESSON XII

Daniel-Daniel 6

Memory Verse: Deut. 31:23

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see how God can give courage and deliver from danger.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Safe Am I"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Deut. 31:23a "Be strong and of good courage." <u>Introduction</u>: Sometimes we get the idea that once we become a Christian there will be no more problems; life will be smooth and easy.

Daniel found out that this was not true. The life of one who served God was no bed of roses. Body: I. God had brought Daniel to the top.

A. He had been taken as a prisoner of war.

- 1. He had stood up for what he felt was right in spite of opposition.
- 2. God had honoured him and made him an exceptional young man.

a. He was good looking.

b. He was smart.

B. He had become head ruler over all rulers under the king. C. The other rulers became jealous of his success.

1. They may have been jealous of his goodness.

- 2. They were jealous of his position.
- II. His enemies began work on a plan to get rid of Daniel.
 - A. It was hard to attack Daniel.
 - They could find nothing in his life that would anger the king.
 - 2. The only point they could find to attack was his religion.
 - B. They decided on a plan of attack.
 - 1. They know that Daniel prayed three times every day to to his God.
 - 2. They had the king make a new law.
 - a. They pretended that they were trying to flatter the king.
 - b. They asked him to make a law that no one would pray to any person or god except the king for thirty days.
 - c. Anyone who broke this law was to be thrown into a den of hungry lions.
 - d. The king passed the law.
 - C. Immediately they went to check on Daniel.
 - 1. Daniel had heard the new law.

- a. He knew that to pray would endanger his life.
- But he felt that he must be faithful to his God at all cost.
- c. He prayed as usual.
- 2. The men caught him in the act.
- D. Daniel's enemies promptly returned to the king with their news.
 - 1. The king was heartbroken because he was very fond of Daniel.
 - 2. No exception could be made to the law.
 - Daniel must be thrown into the den of hungry lions.
- III. God delivered Daniel.
 - A. God had not kept Daniel from trouble.
 - 1. Those who could have been his friends turned against him.
 - 2. He faced almost certain death.
 - B. God was with him in trouble.
 - 1. Daniel tumbled into the den and landed at the feet of the starved lions.
 - 2. God was with him.
 - 3. The lions never touched him.
 - c. God delivered him.
 - 1. Worried and anxious, the king hurried to the

den first thing in the morning.

- 2. He found Daniel feeling fine.
- D. The king made a new law saying that everyone must worship Daniel's God.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Life was not easy but God was with Daniel and gave him courage and delivered him.

<u>Application</u>: Life may have in it many dangers and difficulties but if we are Christians, God will be with us and give us courage and deliverance. We need fear nothing. As long as we are trusting in Jesus we can be men and women of great courage.

LESSON XIII

The Three Hebrew Children-Daniel 3:1-30

Memory Verse: Matt. 10:28

<u>Aim</u>: To show the pupils that a true Christian is not "chicken."

Preliminary Activities: Singing "If You Want Joy"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Matt. 10:28, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." <u>Introduction</u>: What is the taunt that is usually thrown at the person who does not want to do what the gang is doing?

"Chicken"

What is a "chicken?"

A person who is afraid.

A person who is not daring.

The one who gives in first in the face of danger. When you know something is wrong and you really do not want to do it, which is easier: to give in and go along with the gang, or to continue to refuse?

To give in is easier.

which then really takes the more courage?

To continue to refuse to give in.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego refused to go along with the gang, but they were no chickens.

Body: I. They were commanded to do wrong.

- A. The King made an idol of gold.
 - 1. The rulers from all over the land were called to the dedication.
 - 2. When the trumpet blew, everyone was to bow to the image.
 - 3. Anyone who refused to bow would be thrown into a furnace.
- B. Three of the rulers, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego, knew that this was wrong.
 - 1. They worshiped the true God who we worship.
 - 2. Their God had commanded them to worship nothing but Him.
 - 3. They would not be disobedient to their God.
- II. They refused to bow.
 - A. They refused once.
 - 1. The trumpets blew.
 - 2. The whole crowd went down on their faces.
 - 3. Except for three brave young men who stayed standing.
 - 4. The king was told.

5. The king was in a rage.

- B. They refused a second time.
 - 1. The king explained again what they were to do.
 - a. When the trumpets blew, they were to bow down.
 - b. If they refused, they would be burned.
 - c. In that situation, how could their God help them?
 - 2. They told the king there was no use giving them another change.
 - a. They would not bow.
 - b. If they died, they died.
- C. The king was furious.
- III. The penalty was carried out.
 - A. The furnace was heated.
 - 1. It was heated seven times as hot as usual.
 - 2. It was so hot that the soldiers who came close died from the heat.
 - B. The three boys were tied up.
 - c. They were thrown into the fire.
 - D. The king looked in to see them shrivel up and die.
 - 1. But they did not die.
 - 2. The only thing that burned was the ropes

that bound them.

- 3. God was with them.
- E. They were called from the furnace.
 - A law was made which declared that no one could say anything against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abendego's God.
 - 2. The three young mon were given a promotion.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Shadrach, Meshach and Abendego knew that their lives were in danger. They also knew that it was wrong to bow down to the idol. In the face of death, they had the courage to stand firm and refuse to do wrong. They were no "chickens."

<u>Application</u>: To stand for what is right will take real courage. If we serve Christ faithfully the time may come when even our lives are in danger. A Christian cannot be a chicken.

Are you looking for a life that demands courage and strength? Jesus Christ offers you such a life today. If you accept Him you may often stand alone against the gang. The things God asks of you may be hard. He demands total commitment. But He will give your life direction and purpose. He will be with you, giving you courage in every situation and making you useful.

This morning will you accept Christ and His challenge

to a life of courage?

CHAPTER IX

UNIT IV

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

LESSON I

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Memory Verse: I John 5:12

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils understand what took place when they became Christians.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Sharing how Christ has helped them since they became Christians Singing "Thank You Lord"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: I John 5:12, "He that hath the Son, hath life." <u>Introduction</u>: Do you remember the story about the man who had never seen until one day Jesus healed him? Do you remember how the people questioned him and he could not answer them? He did not know much about what Jesus had done or how He had done it, but he did know that whereas once he had been blind, now he could see.

Maybe people have been asking you what happened and you have had to say, "I really do not know what happened, but I do know I am different."

Let us think back and see if we can come to a better understanding of what happened.

Body: I. What you did.

A. You realized that you were a sinner who needed salvation.

- 1. You knew you had done wrong.
- 2. You knew you could not change yourself.
- B. You believed that Jesus was God's son.
 - 1. You realized that He loved you.
 - 2. You believed that He died for your sins.
 - 3. You believed that He could forgive your sins.
- C. You confessed your sins to Jesus with all sincerity.
 - 1. You told Him that you were sorry for what you had done.
 - 2. You told Him that you wanted nothing more to do with your sins.
- D. You received Jesus Christ into your heart and life.
- E. You did all this because you believed that God was telling the truth when He wrote His promises in the Bible.
- II. What God did.
 - A. He forgave your sins.
 - 1. We often wish that we had never committed the sin we did.
 - When God looks at us now, He sees us as if we had never sized.
 - B. Christ has made you a child of God.

- 1. Your Father loves you.
- 2. Your Father listens to every little thing you want to tell Him.
- 3. Your Father owns everything.
- C. He has made you a new person.

D. He has given you eternal life.¹

- III. You are now a baby Christian.
 - A. When a baby is learning to walk, he often stumbles and falls.
 - 1. He does not give up trying to walk.
 - 2. He gets up and tries again.
 - 3. His parents help him.
 - B. As a new Christian you may stumble and fall.
 - 1. Do not give up.
 - 2. Immediately ask God to forgive you and go on.
 - 3. God will help you.
 - 4. As time goes on you will become stronger and stumble less.

Conclusion: We may not be all that we would like to be, yet, but we have started on a wonderful new life. As we walk day after day with God, He will help us to grow strong and more

¹<u>When You Believed</u>, A Pamphlet Prepared by the General Missionary Board and the Light and Life Men's Fellowship of the Free Methodist Church (Winona Lake, Indiana: Light and Life Press).

like Him.

<u>ADDlication</u>: If you become discouraged with yourself this week, instead of thinking about your failure, think about the things that God has already done for you and ask Him to also take care of the area in which you are failing.

Next week we will be discussing any problems and questions you have. Maybe this week as questions come up, you could write them down and bring them to class.

LESSON II

Problems in My Christian Life

Memory Verse: Gal. 6:2

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils learn to share their problems with one another.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Heavenly Sunshine"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Introduction: If I were to want that couch brought over here, would it be easier for one or two people to carry it?

Why, two of course.

It is easier for more than one person to carry anything big and cumbersome.

Did you know that it is often easier for two people to deal with a problem too? I have found this true in my Christian life. When I share my problems with a Christian friend, it is easier to find the solutions.

This morning we want to share some of our problems and see if, together, we can find some solutions. <u>Body</u>: Discuss the problems brought up by the class. Together try to find some practical solutions.

Impress upon the class the importance of committing the

problem to the Lord and asking for His help as well as sharing it with the Christian friend.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Have you been surprised by how many of your problems your friends have? Now that you know they have similar problems, it should be easier to share. <u>Application</u>: This week practice sharing your problems and blessings, with at least one of your friends.

Next Sunday we are going to choose prayer partners: someone with whom you will meet regularly to share and pray together. Eo thinking about who you would like as a prayer partner.

LESSON III

Trust-John 15

Memory Verse: Ps. 121:2

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see that the power needed to live the Christian life comes through trust and faith in Jesus Christ.

Preliminary Activities: Choose prayer partners

Singing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Prayer

Memory Verse: Ps. 121:2 "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

Introduction: Show the class a small branch. Will this branch ever grow?

No.

Why?

Because it has been broken off the tree.

Would it have grown if I had left it on the tree? Probably.

what is it that keeps the branch alive?

The sap flowing from the tree through it keeps it alive.

One day Jesus was talking to His disciples and told them that they were like branches. Body: I. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

- A. Jesus is the vine.
 - i. He is the source of our power.
 - 2. He is so much greater than we are.
- B. We are branches.
 - 1. The branch merely rests in the vine.
 - a. The Spirit of Christ lives through us as the sap of the tree works through the branches.
 - b. It is the Spirit of Christ who makes us grow and bear fruit.
 - 2. The communications with the vine must be clear.
 - a. There must be no sin in our lives.
 - b. We must take time to commune with God in prayer and Bible study.
 - c. We must be obedient to what God shows us.
- II. We can learn from a branch.
 - A. The branch trusts the tree.
 - 1. It is not afraid of falling.
 - 2. A branch on an apple tree is not afraid of not being like an apple tree branch.
 - B. We can trust God.
 - 1. We can trust Him to hold us while we are

willing to be held.

2. We can trust Him to make our life a Christian life.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Jesus intended the Christian life to be one of peace and rest of mind. He does not want us to always be trying to be good, but rather He wants us to trust Him to make us good Christians.

<u>Application</u>: If through the week you begin to worry for fear you will fail Christ and not live as you think a Christian should, remember, it is the Spirit of Christ within you that enables you to live as you should. He takes this as His responsibility. Turn the problem over to Him, tell Him that you are trusting Him to take care of it and thank Him for what He is doing.

LESSON IV

Temptation-Dan. 3:1-30; Gen. 39:7-20;

II Sam. 11, 12

Memory Verse: I Cor. 10:13

Aim: To help the pupils meet temptation victoriously.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: I Cor. 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to beer it."

Introduction: (Have two pupils give the following skit.)

Dan: Hey, Bill, come here.

Bill: What do you want?

Dan: Sh-h-h-h, Come over here.

You're pretty poor these days, aren't you, old fellow?

- B111: Yea.
- Dan: Well, I've got the greatest plan. You know old lady Jones that lives in that white house at the end of our street?

Bill: Unuh.

Dan: Yesterday I heard she collects fifty-cent pieces. I

heard my mom talking and she said that Old Lady Jones has two hundred fifty-cent pieces. And I have a plan to get them.

- Bill: Oh no, count me out.
- Dan: Ah, come on. There is nothing to it. They say she keeps them in an antique pot in her kitchen. She'll be out at church tonight and you can slip through the window and get them while I stand guard. We can have a real bang up weekend.
- Bill: That's not for me.
- Dan: You could get gas for Liz. If you don't get some money she'll have to sit in the garage all weekend.
- Bill: Dan, it isn't right and I'm not going to do it.
- Dan: Come on. You could take Sue out for a nice date. That would sure help you with her.
- Bill: Look, I'm not interested and that is it. (Bill walks away).

What was Dan doing to Bill? He was tempting him.

What is temptation? Something drawing one toward what he knows is wrong.

Quite a few of the characters we have discussed in Sunday School have been tempted.

- Body: I. People who were tempted.
 - A. The three Hebrew children were tempted by one who ruled over them. (Dan. 3:1-30)

- 1. They were told to do what they knew was wrong.
- 2. They refused.
- 3. God took care of them.
- We may be told to do what we know is wrong by someone in authority over us such as an employer.
- B. Joseph was tempted by a person with whom he worked. (Gen. 39:7-20)
 - 1. Had Joseph sinned by being tempted?
 - 2. He refused to yield.
 - 3. Potiphar's wife made it hard for him.
 - 4. God took care of him.
 - 5. People with whom we work may tempt us.
- C. David was tempted by his own desires. (II Sam. 11, 12)
 - 1. He yielded.
 - 2. He suffered for his sin.
 - 3. God forgave him.
 - 4. Our desires may tempt us.
 - 5. We do not sin until we yield.
- D. How we may be tempted.
 - 1. We may be tempted by friends.
 - 2. We may be tempted by other people.
 - 3. We may be tempted by our thoughts.

- 4. We may be tempted by our desires.
- II. How we can meet temptation.
 - A. Our memory verse gives us encouragement.
 - 1. Other people have temptations like ours.
 - 2. God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can take.
 - 3. God will give to us a way to escape without sinning.
 - B. What are some ways of escape?
 - We need to be healthy Christians.
 a. We need a regular quiet time.
 b. We need to go to church.
 c. We need to have healthy, rested bodies.
 - 2. We can pray for strength.
 - 3. We can stay away from things that we know are our weakness.
 - 4. We can choose our close friends from those who are Christians.
 - 5. When we realize that we are being tempted, we can quickly take our mind away from temptation.

Conclusion: All of us are tempted. This is not sin; it is yielding to temptation that is sin. God gives us ways of escape and power so that we need not sin.

LESSON V

Quiet Time-Luke 10:38-42

Memory Verse: Is. 40:31a

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils see the importance of spending time with God each day.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "Keeping in Touch With Jesus" Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Is. 40:31a, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

Introduction: Could you be strong and healthy if you only ate once a week?

No.

Could you really get to know a friend well if you were together only once a week for about an hour?

No. If we really want to get to know a person we want to spend a lot of time together.

This is why as Christians we want to spend time with God every day. We call this our quiet time.

Body: I. Jesus thought quiet times were important.

A. Martha was working for Jesus.

1. She was too busy for her quiet time.

2. She was worried about every little thing.

3. She was complaining.

- B. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to Him.
 - 1. She loved to be with Jesus.
 - 2. He taught her many things.
 - 3. When she would have to leave Jesus she would be prepared to meet life's problems.
- C. Josus said that what Mary was doing was necessary.
 - 1. If we do not spend time with Jesus, like Martha, every little thing will get us down.
 - If we spend time with Jesus, like Mary, we will be prepared to meet life.
- II. What should we do in the quiet time?
 - A. We talk to God.
 - 1. We can tell Him everything.
 - 2. This week make a special point of thanking God when you talk to Him.
 - B. We let God talk to us.
 - 1. We ask Him to teach us.
 - 2. He teaches us as we meditate.
 - a. When we meditate we think about God.
 - b. When we meditate we think of what God has done for us.
 - 3. He teaches us as we read the Bible.

- III. Where and when should we have our quiet time?
 - A. Have the pupils discuss this.
 - B. Have them consider their situation.
 - C. It will take a sacrifice of time.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Our time of quiet is one of the most, if not the most, important thing in our Christian life. It may be hard to find time to meet with God, but you will be glad you made the sacrifice.

<u>Application:</u> Earlier I asked you to thank God for things this week. Write down some of the things for which you are thankful, and we will share them the next time we meet. <u>Frayer</u>:

LESSON VI

BIBLE STUDY

Memory Verse: II Tim. 2:15a

<u>Aim</u>: To teach the pupils how to make their Bible reading meaningful and worthwhile.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Sharing

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: II Tim. 2:15a "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." <u>Introduction</u>: How many of you have trouble understanding the Bible?

Today we are going to see if we can discover some tools that will help us get more out of our Bible reading.

Body: I. Begin by asking God to speak to you through the Bible.

A. Ask Him to help you understand what you read. B. Ask Him to teach you some lesson or truth.

- C. Ask Him to keep your mind from wandering.
- II. Read a few verses from the Bible.
 - A. Focus your whole attention on what you are reading.
 - B. Try and understand what you are reading.

- 1. If your mind wanders, stop and re-read.
- If you get lost in the words go back over them more carefully and see if you can see what is being said.
- C. Do not be discouraged if there are some things you do not understand.
- III. Think about what you have read.
 - A. Have a pencil and paper to write down your thoughts.
 - B. Ask yourself the following questions.
 - 1. What have I read about God the Father, the Son. Jesus Christ. or the Hely Spirit?
 - 2. Is there a command here that I should obey?
 - 3. Is there a promise I can believe?
 - 4. Is there a good example for me to follow?
 - 5. Is there a wrong for me to avoid?
 - 6. What have I learned from this scripture reading today?
 - IV. Talk to God about the things you have discovered.
 - A. Thank Him for His promises and lessons.
 - B. Ask Him for strength to follow the example and avoid the wrong you have seen in the scripture.

(The above steps are those suggested by the Scripture Union in their materials, Scripture Union, 2136 Darby Road, Havertown, Pennsylvania.) <u>Conclusion</u>: The main way in which God speaks to us is through the Bible. If we are to hear God's voice and be taught by Him we must understand what He is saying in the Bible.

<u>Application</u>: This week, use these tools each day. Write down the things you discover and we will share them together next week.

LESSON VII

Bible Study (Cont.) -Mark 9:14-27

Memory Verse: Ps. 119:18

Aim: To lead the pupils into effective Bible Study.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "God Leads Us Along"

Prayer using the memory verse

Memory Verse: Ps. 119:18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Introduction: (Have the pupils share some of the things they found in their Bible reading through the week.)

Let us use our Bible study tools together on some verses in Mark chapter 9. (Have the pupils themselves find the answers to the questions.)

Body: I. Read Mark 9:14-27.

II. What do we learn about Jesus?

- A. People were attracted to Jesus (v.15)
- B. The father had at least some confidence in Jesus (v. 17)
- C. Jesus reprimanded His disciples (v.19)
- D. Jesus was interested in the case (v.21)
- E. Jesus told the father what he must do (v.23)

F. Jesus had the power to heal the boy (v.25,27) III. Is there a command for us to obey?

- A. "Bring Him unto me." (v.19)
- B. Christ wants us to bring all our problems to Him.
- IV. Is there a promise for us to believe?
 - A. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (v.23)
 - B. This is our promise too.
 - V. Is there a good example for us to follow?
 - A. This man brought his problem to Jesus (v. 17)
 - B. He told Jesus all about it (v. 17-18,22)
 - C. He asked for help (v.22)
 - D. He trusted Jesus and asked for more faith (v.24)
- VI. Is there a wrong thing to avoid?

VII. Have the pupils summarize what they have learned. <u>Conclusion</u>: Did you enjoy studying like this? You can do this everyday. You will not find an answer for all of the questions in every passage you read, but you can find some. <u>Application</u>: This week may be some of you could decide to read the same verses. You could begin to read the Gospel of Mark. Share with each other the things you find. If there are some things you cannot understand, bring them to class next week and we will discuss them.

LESSON VIII

Prayer

Memory Verse: Phil. 4:6

Aim: To help the pupils better understand prayer.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Whisper a Prayer"

Prayer

Memory Verse: Phil. 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

<u>Introduction</u>: (Take to the class a picture of Praying Hands by Durer)

While Albert was a boy he had to work in his father's goldsmith shop to help support his large family, but always his great ambition was to be able to draw and paint. Finally, the wonderful day came when he could leave home and begin to study to be an artist. But he was poor and life was very hard. He and a friend were trying to work and at the same time study. One day they made a decision. One of them would work while the other studied. When they began to make money, on pictures, the one who had been working would then study.

"You must study, Albert," said his friend, "because I have a job."

Years passed. Albert studied and his friend worked

hard washing dishes and scrubbing floors. Finally the day came for the friend to study. But it was too late. Hard work had ruined his hands so that he could never be an artist.

When Albert realized this, he was heartbroken. His friend had given up his most treasured dream for him.

One day Albert found his friend in prayer. As he looked at the gnarled hands, folded in reverence, he had an idea. "I cannot give him his dream, but I will show the world my love and gratitude by painting those hands."²

This is the picture he painted. It has become a symbol of prayer.

Today we want to talk about prayer.

Body: I. Why do we pray?

A. We want to thank God.

- 1. We want to thank Him for forgiving our sins.
- 2. We want to thank Him for helping us with hard things.
- 3. We want to thank Him for working things out.

B. We want to share with God.

²Cynthia Pearl Maus, <u>Christ and the Fine Arts</u> (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1959), pp. 706-707.

- 1. We want to share our joys.
- 2. We want to share our sorrows.
- 3. We want to tell Him things that we can tell no one else.
- 4. We want to feel His presence.
- C. We want to ask for things for ourselves.
 - 1. We need to ask God to teach us.
 - 2. We need to ask for strength.
 - 3. We need to ask for guidance.
 - 4. We can ask about the smallest things.
- D. We want to ask for things for others.
 - 1. We are to bear one another's burdens.
 - 2. We can pray with a friend about a problem.
 - 3. We can pray for a friend whom we see needs help.
- II. Prayer is a privilege.
 - A. God is so great.
 - 1. God made the world.
 - 2. God made us.
 - 3. God keeps the universe in order.
 - B. We are so small.
 - 1. We cannot create anything.
 - 2. We cannot even control our own lives.
 - C. And yet God wants us to talk to Him.

III. Prayer is effective.

- A. We do not pray to an idol.
 - 1. An idol which cannot see.
 - 2. An idol which cannot hear.
 - 3. An idel which cannot do.
- B. We pray to a living God.
 - 1. A God who can heal the sick.
 - 2. A God who can raise the dead.
 - 3. A God who can calm a storm.
- C. We pray to a God who can and does answer prayer.

<u>Conclusion:</u> Prayer is not a good luck charm. Prayer is talking to someone who has the power to do what we ask. <u>Application</u>: This week when you pray, stop and realize that you are not just going through some useless ritual, but you are rather talking to someone who loves you and is dearly interested in everything that touches your life. This person, Jesus Christ as well as being interested, has the power to help.

LESSON IX

Prayer (Cont.)

Memory Verse: I John 5:14-15

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils understand God's answers to prayer. <u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "He Cannot Fail"

Prayer

Sharing

Memory Verse: I John 5:14-15, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desire of Him."

Introduction: If I were to ask you to give me a dollar which you had, what answers might you give me?

> Yes No

Wait until later

If you had said no, what might have been a reason? You might have thought I did not need it. You might have known what I would use it for and did not want me to use it that way. You might have felt that I would use it for something that would hurt me. You might have been going to use the dollar to get something you knew I would like better than the money.

Does God always give us what we want?

No

- Well then, does He always answer our prayers? Yes
- Can God give more than one answer to our prayers? Yes

What answers might He give.

Yes

No

Walt

- Body: I. God answers some of our prayers by saying, "Yes."
 - A. Have the class share experiences in which God answered their prayers by saying, "yes."
 - B. Share an interesting experience in which God answered your prayer by saying, "yes."
 - C. God has the power to give us anything that He thinks is good for us.
 - II. God answers some of our prayers by saying, "No."
 - A. God always has a reason for saying, "no."
 - 1. He may see that the thing for which we are asking would hurt us.
 - 2. He may know that there is something else

that we would rather have.

- B. What are some of the things to which God would say no?
 - 1. He would say no if we asked Him to help us steal.
 - 2. He would say no if we asked Him for something that would just make us proud.
 - 3. He might say no if we asked Him to make a certain boy (or girl) love us.
 - 4. Have the class mention such things as come to their minds.
- III. God answers some of our prayers by saying "Wait awhile."
 - A. God always has a reason for saying "Wait awhile."
 - 1. He may see that we need to learn more before He can grant our request.
 - 2. It may take awhile for God to work out circumstances to grant our request.
 - 3. He may see that we are not old enough to have the thing for which we have asked.

Conclusion: God always answers our prayers. The answer He gives is always for our best.

Application: God's answers are sometimes hard to take, but remember you can always trust Him to give the best. <u>Prayer</u>:

LESSON X

Witnessing

Memory Verse: Mark 5:19b

Aim: To help the pupils see their privilege and responsibility to witness.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "Saved to Tell Others"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Mark 5:19b, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee." <u>Introduction</u>: Why are you glad that you are a Christian? (Have the class give their reasons.)

Do you think your friends would be happy if they found Christ as their Savior?

What do the other boys and girls here at K.V. think when we as Sunday School teachers tell them that Christ will forgive their sins and help them solve their problems?

> They think that the Sunday School teacher has never experienced what they have, and therefore does not really know what he is talking about.

If they cannot believe this from someone who has not had experiences similar to theirs, who could they believe? They could believe someone who has had experiences similar to their own and who has become a Christian. That is why we are having this lesson today. You have had experiences similar to theirs and you have found that Christ has forgiven your sins and is helping you with your problems. Many of your friends will believe you before they will believe me.

"But," you may say, "I do not know how to tell someone about Christ."

Body: I. Your life tells others about Christ.

A. You have a great responsibility.

- 1. When we become Christians, people expect to see a difference.
- From what people see in our lives, they may decide whether the Bible tells the truth or not.
- People may decide whether they want to be Christians or not from looking at our lives.
- 4. If you do not tell your friends about Christ, they may never come to know Him.
- B. You have a privilege.
 - 1. You possess what your friends are really looking for, if they only knew it.
 - 2. You can work for and with God.
 - 3. To bring a person to Christ is one of the greatest thrills in life.

- II. Your words tell others about Christ.
 - A. You can share what Christ has done for you.
 - As you discover new joys and victories, tell some of your friends.
 - As your friends comment on your changed life, tell them why you are different.
 - B. You can lead a friend to Christ.
 - 1. Ask God to open the way for you to do this.
 - Here are some verses which will help you point your friends to Ohrist. (Have the pupils copy the references.)
 - a. God loves you (John 3:16).
 - b. You have sinned (Rom. 3:23).
 - c. Sin's wages and God's gift (Rom. 6:23).
 - d. God will forgive your sins (I John 1:9).
 - e. God will give the power to live a Christian life if you will receive Him as Savior (John 1:12).
 - f. Many more of your memory verses will help you.
 - 3. You could have them pray like this: "Dear Jesus, I am sorry for my sins and want nothing more to do with them. Please forgive me and become my Savior. I believe

that you have, because you have promised that you would. Thank you Jesus. Amen.

III. The teacher could demonstrate the soul winning conversation.

<u>Conclusion</u>: You have a great responsibility and a great privilege, but you do not have to face it alons. God works through you, and gives you the power that you need. <u>Application</u>: As we close in prayer, ask God to give you the opportunity to talk to someone about Him this week.

LESSON XI

Service

Memory Verse: Rocl. 9:10a

<u>Aim:</u> To help the pupils see that God has work for them now and in the future.

Preliminary Activities: Singing "The Beauty of Jesus"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Eccl. 9:10a, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

Introduction: When Jesus was here on earth, what did He do? He taught.

He preached.

He healed.

Jesus did not just talk. He also helped people. As Christians, we need to do what we can to help people, as well as tell them about Christ.

Body: I. God has a job for all of us.

A. Our job may be small.

- 1. It may only be saying a kind word to someone who is discouraged.
- 2. It may only be listening to someone who wants to talk.
- 3. It may only be helping someone who has a

great deal to do.

- B. Our job may be big.
 - 1. Some of us may be ministers or missionaries.
 - 2. Some of us may become important Christian businessmen.
 - 3. Some of us may bring many people to Christ.
- C. God needs us to work for Him.
- II. We are truly happy when we are doing God's job.
 - A. We were made to have fellowship with God.
 - When we are doing God's job we are working with Him.
 - 2. When we are working with God we have fellowship with Him.
 - E. God knows all about us.
 - 1. He knows what we are capable of doing.
 - 2. He knows how we are made up.
 - 3. He knows what we would most enjoy doing.
 - C. God places us where He knows we will be happy.
 - D. To do God's job is thrilling.
- III. We can work for God now.
 - A. We are working for Him as we prepare for the future.

1. He wants us to work out our problems.

2. He wants us to become educated.

3. We owe God the best life we can give Him.
 B. There are many little jobs we can do now.

- We can be thoughtful, patient and kind to the boys and girls with whom we live.
- 2. We can be thoughtful and helpful to the house parents.
- 3. We can do all jobs that are given us cheerfully and thoroughly as if we are doing them for God.

<u>Conclusion</u>: God has a job for you now and in the future. You will be happiest when you are doing what He wants you to do.

<u>Application</u>: Ask God to show you the job He has for you this week and what He wants you to do with your life.

LESSON XII

Church Attendance

Memory Verse: Ps. 92:13

<u>Aim</u>: To help the pupils understand the importance of church attendance.

<u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Ps. 92:13, "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." <u>Introduction</u>: Does it make any difference what church we attend, or if we go at all? This morning let us think about church attendance and see if we can find the answer to this question.

Body: I. Why do we go to church?

- A. We go to church to have fellowship with God.
 - In church our attention is turned to God.
 The hymns help us realize how wonderful God is.
- B. We go to church to learn about God and our relationship to Him.
 - 1. Through the sermon we learn about God.
 - 2. The hymns can teach us about God and our relationship to Him.

- C. We belong to a church to have fellowship with other Christians.
 - 1. We can find friends in the church who will help us go straight.
 - Our close friends, to be really satisfying, should believe as we do.
 - To be of help to us they need to understand how we feel about God and about our life.
- II. What should we consider when choosing a church?
 - A. What type of church service draws you closer to God?
 - 1. Do you enjoy a reverent, formal service?
 - 2. Do you receive more from a free, relaxed service?
 - B. Will you be able to have real close fellowship with the people of the church?
 - 1. Do they believe as you do about God?
 - 2. Do they understand how you feel about God and His relationship to your life?

C. Can you believe what the church teaches?

Conclusion: Belonging to a church will not make us Christians, but as Christians we need this special time of fellowship with God and the fellowship and help other Christians can give us. Application: When you leave K.V. find a church which meets the qualifications that we have discussed and attend regularly.

LESSON XIII

Complete Surrender

Memory Verse: Rom. 6:16a

<u>Aim</u>: To bring the pupils to the place of complete surrender. <u>Preliminary Activities</u>: Singing "I Surrender All"

Prayer

<u>Memory Verse</u>: Rom.6:16a, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?"

Introduction: (Pass out to each member of the class a paper heart and a pencil. Place a cross on a small table at the front of the class.) I want you all to think for a few moments. What are the five things that are most precious to you? (Pause) Have you decided? Now write those things on your heart. Do not let anyone see. Just hang onto it for a few minutes.

Body: I. Mary loved Jesus very much.

- A. He had done great things for her (John 11)
 - 1. Her brother had been dead.
 - 2. Jesus raised him from the dead.
- B. She loved to be with him (Luke 10:39).
 - 1. Mary would sit for hours at Jesus' feet.
 - 2. He would teach her many wonderful things.

- II. Mary wanted to express her love to Jesus.
 - A. She had something that was very precious to her.
 - 1. It was not very large.
 - 2. It might not have been valued by some people.
 - 3. Mary valued it greatly.
 - B. She gave it to Jesus.
 - 1. She broke it at His feet.
 - 2. This was an expression of her love.
 - 0. She gave herself in humble service.
 - 1. She bowed at His feet,
 - 2. She wiped His feet.
- III. What will we give Jesus?
 - A. He has done much for us.
 - 1. He has forgiven our sins.
 - 2. He has helped us over many problems.
 - 3. He has been with us in sweet fellowship.
 - B. Are you satisfied with what you have given to Jesus?
 - 1. Have you been trying to give Him a good life?
 - 2. Have you been trying to give Him good deeds?
 - 3. Have you found that you have failed in trying to do for and give to Jesus what you

think He would want?

- C. Jesus is asking for you.
 - 1. He wants you totally, to do with you what He wishes.
 - 2. He wants you to give to Him all the things that are precious to you.
 - a. Some He may take from you, saying, "You are better off without this."
 - Some things He will give back to you with His blessing.
 - 3. When you give yourself to Him, He will fill you with the Hely Spirit, Who will give you the power to do God's will.

<u>Conclusion</u>: What will you give to Jesus? Will you give Him your Whole heart? Or are there some things that you are not willing to give to Him.

Application: Can you give to Jesus that heart which you hold in your hand? Can you say, "I give you all these things that are precious to me: I give you myself completely to do with me as you will."?

In just a moment we are going to bow our heads quietly. One by one I will tap you on the shoulder and you will take your heart to the foot of the cross. If you feel that you want to give your whole self to Jesus, tell Him so and place your whole heart at the foot of the cross. If there is anything on the heart that you cannot give, tear it off. If you cannot give God any of yourself, do not put your heart there. God can see if you are sincere. You must be honest.

Let us all bow our heads.

(Have someone sing softly, "What Shall I Give Thee Master?" as you tap the pupils one by one on the shoulder.) <u>Praver</u>:

CHAPTER X

Conclusion

Ohrist has said, "If I am lifted up I will draw all men unto myself." (John 12:32) In the preceding pages we have attempted to lift Christ up, believing that this is what will draw the juvenile offender to Him and believing also that Christ is adequate for the needs of the youth in trouble.

Further experimentation needs to be done with the suggested lessons, especially in classes of boys, since the author's experience has been totally among the girls.

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