



**VOLUME 1: THE WAY
JANUARY - APRIL**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

*The apostle Paul writes,
"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8)*

Everybody, especially the kids, loves to receive gifts on different occasions. God, in His loving kindness and perfect love, offers you a gift that we would like you to discover as you go through this resource material called "THE GIFT"—the grace that is free and timeless for everyone, kids and adults alike.

Grace is that gift only God can give, something that He has given to those who do not deserve it. God's grace is not a thing, but a person—Jesus Christ. You can receive THE GIFT of God in and through faith in Jesus Christ leading to joy, peace, and righteousness (Romans 14:17).

THE GIFT is a collection of Bible lessons divided into 3 volumes:

Volume 1 has 17 lessons that speak about the prevenient grace of God.

Volume 2 has 17 lessons that speak about the saving grace of God.

Volume 3 has 18 lessons that speak about the sanctifying grace of God.

Each lesson has 6 parts:

1. The objectives are made general for the children's psychomotor and cognitive development.
2. The Bible stories or biblical references used are all taken from the International Children's Bible. Children are encouraged to read the Bible verses provided.
3. The practical stories are designed as illustrations for the children to understand well the biblical truths taught in every lesson. They can be presented as a "story-telling" or in any way the teacher may want to use them.
4. Please do not forget to have the kids memorize the memory verse for each lesson. This is a good cognitive exercise for the children especially when memorized effectively and lived out personally.
5. The application part of the lesson offers practical applications and post-lesson activities related to Bible truths learned and THE GIFT presented or discovered in and through the lessons.
6. The prayer is the concluding part of the lesson where kids are given the opportunity to talk to God about their thoughts and learnings from each day's lesson. By this, the children will have the opportunity to offer their own thanksgiving for THE GIFT they have received from God.

Teachers are given the opportunity to explore possibilities and practice their creativity in incorporating some songs and activities relevant to the lesson-themes, according to the context and resources available.

It is our fervent prayer that this resource materials will unbox THE GIFT and its expressions in relation to life and faith. We aim to communicate to kids God's amazing grace. May the Lord through His abundance grace, bless you!



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Lesson 1: An Awesome Gift

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will describe the awesome creation of God according to the Bible story.*
2. *The child will realize and love the Lord, our God of Order who perfectly arranged all the things we need out of His loving grace for us.*

BIBLE STORY:

The Creation Story (Genesis 1, The Beginning of the World)

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water.

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good. So he divided the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day. Then God said, "Let there be something to divide the water in two!" So God made the air to divide the water in two. Some of the water was above the air, and some of the water was below it. God named the air "sky." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear." And it happened. God named the dry land "earth." He named the water that was gathered together "seas." God saw that this was good. Then God said, "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." And it happened. The earth produced plants. Some plants had grain for seeds. The trees made fruit with seeds in it. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. God saw that all this was good.

Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day. Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days and years. They will be in the sky to give light to the earth." And it happened. So God made the two large lights. He made the brighter light to rule the day. He made the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth. They are to rule over the day and over the night. He put them there to separate the

light from the darkness. God saw that all these things were good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the water be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth." So God created the large sea animals. He created every living thing that moves in the sea. The sea is filled with these living things. Each one produces more of its own kind. God also made every bird that flies. And each bird produces more of its own kind. God saw that this was good. God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones and grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth."

Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." And it happened. So God made the wild animals, the tame animals and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. God saw that this was good.

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."

So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God said, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. 30 I have given all the green plants to all the an-

imals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal." And it happened. 31 God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.

PRACTICAL STORY : Order in the House

"Leapin' lizards! What is all this mess about?!" Moriah and Teresa's mother exclaimed. "Oh, we're playing with our pony and unicorn toys, Mom," Teresa replied. A few seconds after, Moriah shouted, "Where is my yellow pony?" She began to rummage around the mess searching desperately for her beloved toy.

Their mom then asked the two girls to sit beside her. "Do you remember the Creation Story we read in the Bible last Sunday?" she said. "Yes, Mom. We learned how God made everything that is good," answered Moriah. "You are right, dear. Now, why do you think God always looked at His creation to be good?," continued their mom. Moriah and Teresa stared at each other and looked at their mom. Teresa then realizing what their mom wanted them to learn said, "God placed everything in order so there would be no chaos." Their mom smiled and said, "I think I know what you have learned today.

God wants us to enjoy His beautiful creation. He wouldn't want His children to live in a place where everything is a mess. He was already thinking of us when He created the light, the sky, the land and all that is good around us. He placed them all in their right order so that everything will be good for us.

Can you picture in your mind what can happen if He created everything in disorder? Just like your yellow pony, we will miss out God's love." The girls hugged their mom. Moriah said, "We are sorry Mom. Thank you for loving us. "



MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 1:31 (ICB)

God looked at everything He had made
and it was very good.

APPLICATION:

God's grace was widespread in all of His creation. When God looked at everything He had made, it was all good. Everything was in its perfect place and character. This is the awesome gift that He wants us all to enjoy.

As a child of God, make a list of what you are going to do to keep God's creation (and that's including you!) good and awesome in His sight.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for your beautiful creation. Help me to take care of them so that I can see even more the beauty of your awesome work. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 2: A Gift of Grace

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will distinguish the difference between obeying and disobeying by the actions of Adam and Eve in the story and he or she will recognize that disobedience to God's commands would lead to sin and destroy His GIFT.*
2. *The child will choose to obey God and His commands, and come back to Him even when he sins.*

PRACTICAL STORY :

Ava and Ethan's Christmas Gift (A story about disobedience)

"Are you sure they're gonna give it anyway?" Ava asked her brother. "I'm so sure they will. It's Christmas! Who wouldn't be so stingy, especially our parents?" said Ava's friend, Layla, trying to convince her and her brother Ethan.

"Okay, okay. I'll just open it and wrap it again," sighed Ava. "Yes, that's a good idea. I don't think Mom and Dad will notice it." Unfortunately, Dad was just at the other room who overheard the kids' conversation.

Ava carefully removed the adhesive tape from the gift wrapper and continued all the way until the box was exposed. Ethan and Layla were both watching intensely but with excitement that they did not notice Ethan and Ava's dad peeping through the door. 1-2-3 Ava opened the box and was shocked to see what's inside. "What's inside?" Ethan asked his sister. He then grabbed the box from Ava and was shocked as well to see...that NOTHING WAS INSIDE THE BOX. Layla was laughing hard at them. Ava and Ethan's dad finally entered the room and asked, "Why did you open the gift when your Mom and I told you to wait until Christmas Eve?"

Ethan and Ava were completely embarrassed over what they have done. "I am so sorry Dad. Ethan and Layla pushed me to do it."

"I did not!" said Ethan. "I just supported your idea!" he added. After a quick thought, Ethan said, "Oh, I am so sorry, too. We disobeyed you and Mom. Now we feel so guilty." Layla, who was listening quietly slipped out of the room, embarrassed as well.

"Come here, you two," their dad said affectionately. "Your mom and I want to teach you about obedience and why doing it will earn blessings from God. Didn't we tell you that if you wait until Christmas, that gift will

be multiplied? Because you disobeyed, I'm sorry but both of you will not get those gifts. However, we love you, that's why we still are going to give you something. Now can you wait for it 'till Christmas Eve?" asked their Dad. "Oh yes, Dad! We will now obey! We're so sorry again. Jesus, please forgive us, too," said Ethan and Ava in chorus.

BIBLE STORY: The Fall of Man (Genesis 3, The Beginning of Sin, ICB)

Now the snake was the most clever of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day the snake spoke to the woman. He said, "Did God really say that you must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" The woman answered the snake, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch it, or you will die.'"

But the snake said to the woman, "You will not die. God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree, you will learn about good and evil. Then you will be like God!"

The woman saw that the tree was beautiful. She saw that its fruit was good to eat and that it would make her wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

Then, it was as if the man's and the woman's eyes were opened. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made something to cover themselves.

Then they heard the Lord God walking in the garden. This was during the cool part of the day. And the man and his wife hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man. The Lord said, "Where are you?"

The man answered, "I heard you walking in the gar-

den. I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid." God said to the man, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from that tree? I commanded you not to eat from that tree." The man said, "You gave this woman to me. She gave me fruit from the tree. So I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" She answered, "The snake tricked me. So I ate the fruit." The Lord God said to the snake, "Because you did this, a curse will be put on you. You will be cursed more than any tame animal or wild animal. You will crawl on your stomach, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. Her child will crush your head. And you will bite his heel." Then God said to the woman, "I will cause you to have much trouble when you are pregnant. And when you give birth to children, you will have great pain. You will greatly desire your husband, but he will rule over you."

Then God said to the man, "You listened to what your wife said. And you ate fruit from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from. "So I will put a curse on the ground.

You will have to work very hard for food. In pain you will eat its food all the days of your life. The ground will produce thorns and weeds for you. And you will eat the plants of the field. You will sweat and work hard for your food. Later you will return to the ground. This is because you were taken from the ground. You are dust. And when you die, you will return to the dust." The man named his wife Eve. This is because she is the mother of everyone who ever lived. The Lord God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife. And so the Lord dressed them. Then the Lord God said, "Look, the man has become like one of us. He knows good and evil. And now we must keep him from eating some of the fruit from the tree of life. If he does, he will live forever." So the Lord God forced the man out of the garden of Eden. He had to work the ground he was taken from. 24 God forced the man out of the garden. Then God put angels on the east side of the garden. He also put a sword of fire there. It flashed around in every direction. This kept people from getting to the tree of life.



MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 6:23 (ICB)

The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

APPLICATION:

God has given us this beautiful gift of abundant life with Him. But when sin entered our world, that gift was snatched from us. Yet, God has given us grace so we can be free from the power of sin and enjoy His blessings again.

You can ask the Lord for forgiveness and pray this prayer to thank the Lord for this gift of grace that only He can give

PRAYER:

Dear God, Your grace is so wonderful! Thank You for still loving me even when I sin. Help me to obey You always. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name, Amen!



Lesson 3: A Gift of Love

OBJECTIVES

1. The child will tell the story of Moses' life as a baby.
2. The child will express love towards God for parents who are given to them out of His loving grace.

PRACTICAL STORY : A Gift for McKenzie

McKenzie was just a little girl when she was adopted by the Brummond Family. To be adopted means to be welcomed into a new family because the child's birthparents were unable to be parents to him/her (The teacher may have to extend the explanation in a positive and loving way.) "Growing up, bedtime at the Brummond house was quite an extensive ritual. After we took a bath, my mom would let my brother and I pick out three books each that she would read to us before tucking us in. One such book that sticks out in my memory is Happy Adoption Day, a short children's book based on a song. The lyrics to the chorus were something like this:

*So here's to you, three cheers to you
Let's shout it, "Hip, hip, hip, hooray!"
For, out of a world so tattered and torn,
You came to our house on that wonderful morn
And all of a sudden this family was born
Oh, happy Adoption Day!*

As I was growing up, my parents always portrayed my birth-mother as a brave young lady who made the sacrifice of giving me up in order to give me a better life." Amy, the name of McKenzie's birth-mom had to give her up to a new family. When she was in college, she had a beautiful chance of meeting her mother. "I was grateful that I had the chance to meet the woman who played such an important role in giving me life. And that maybe I could stop blaming her for the little child's voice inside me that constantly pleads, "Don't leave me." Because not only was she pretty cool, but this visit and our e-mails since have shown me that she still wants to be a part of my life, which has been such an incredible blessing."

McKenzie's adoptive mom taught her about grace by being a model of God's unconditional love. "She always says that being adopted just means that my parents will never take me for granted, that I am a gift,

and that she and my dad will always love me. After reading six bedtime stories, my mom would send us to our beds and come in to say goodnight. We would sing three songs together. And every night, as I drifted off to sleep, my mom would whisper in my little ear, "Mommy loves you. Daddy loves you. Cameron loves you. And Jesus loves you and we thank Him for you every day."¹

BIBLE STORY:

A Gift of Love

(Story of Baby Moses, Exodus 2: 1-10, ICB)

There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman who was also from the family of Levi. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw how wonderful the baby was, and she hid him for three months. But after three months, she was not able to hide the baby any longer. So she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. The baby's sister stood a short distance away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

Then the daughter of the king of Egypt came to the river. She was going to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her slave girl to get it. The king's daughter opened the basket and saw the baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies."

Then the baby's sister asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

¹ A story from McKenzie Brummond's post, "Stories of Grace: Finding Grace Through Adoption" in <https://mcgrathblog.nd.edu/stories-of-grace-finding-grace-through-adoption-1>. Jan 24, 2020. Certain parts of the story were paraphrased while all under quotations were lifted from the original post.

The king's daughter said, "Yes, please." So the girl went and got the baby's own mother.

The king's daughter said to the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took her baby and nursed him. After the child had grown older, the woman took him to the king's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. The king's daughter named him Moses,[a] because she had pulled him out of the water.



MEMORY VERSE:

1 John 4:19 (ICB)

We love because He first loved us.

APPLICATION:

God loves us so much even when we were still being formed in our mother's womb. That's how gracious God is to us. He will forever care for us and be with us.

We are all adopted children of our Heavenly Father. Yet, we are loved like His own through our parents. Can you write a prayer to your parents for their love and care for you?

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the incredible love that you have given me in Christ. Teach me to let others feel the sincere love you have given me. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus name. Amen!



Lesson 4: The Gift of Being Valued

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will discover that how valuable and special we are all to God.*
2. *The child will display gestures of valuing others the way God values her/him.*

PRACTICAL STORY :

Diamond (A True Story of a Girl and her Cat)

Diamond was a stray Siamese kitten that 8-year old Iris found purring beside their gate. It was an answered prayer for she had been praying to Jesus for a pet. With her parent's permission, Iris gently carried the kitten into her arms and "officially" adopted him into their home.

Month's passed, Diamond grew into a very active and affectionate cat. Every day, he was lovingly fed and cared for. He was showered with a nice cat house, assorted cat toys, and special wet and dry food. It has become a routine for Iris and Diamond to play together after the girl's afternoon class.

One afternoon, however, was different. Iris went down the stairs to find Diamond nowhere in sight. She looked inside his cat home but he wasn't there. Iris looked all over the place and began to feel worried. She asked her little brother and sister if they have seen Diamond. But they were too busy with playing. Iris then decided to ring her papa's number. "Papa, Diamond is missing!" said Iris sobbing. "Can you please allow me to look for him outside?" she cried. Knowing how much his little girl love her pet, Iris' papa gave his permission.

Wasting no time, Iris asked their grandma who was with them at that time, to look after her younger siblings while she looks for her pet cat. On her way out, she prayed to Jesus to help her find her pet. Block after block, Iris shouted, "Diamond! Diamond!" She kept looking and looking until she felt a headbutt behind her right leg. "Diamond!" Iris found her pet cat or was it the other way around? The most important thing was that Diamond was lost and now was found.

BIBLE STORY:

A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin (Luke 15:1-7, ICB)

Many tax collectors and "sinners" came to listen to Jesus. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain: "Look! This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them!"

Then Jesus told them this story: "Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses 1 of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!' In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when 1 sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that 1 sinner than there is for 99 good people who don't need to change.

"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins,[a] but she loses one of them. She will light a lamp and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say, 'Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!'

In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when 1 sinner changes his heart.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Luke 15: 7a (ICB)

"In the same way, I tell you, there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart. "

APPLICATION:

Do you remember how your mom and dad would hug you after you have said sorry over something wrong that you have done? That's how our Heavenly Father is. He shows grace to us even when we do something that hurts Him.

How can a child like you show that you value God's love?

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for making me the apple of Your eyes. Help me to value myself so that I can value others as well. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 5: The Healing Gift

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will acknowledge the healing power of Jesus.*
2. *The child will express thankfulness to GOD for His healing grace.*

PRACTICAL STORY : Miracle

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick...and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist. "His name is Andrew, and he has something bad growing inside his head, and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry, but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little. "Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. I just know he's really sick, and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want

to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents--the exact price of a miracle for little brothers."

He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need." That well dressed man was a surgeon specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed free of charge, and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well.

Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place.

"That surgery," her Mom whispered. "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?"

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost...one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child. ¹

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9:1-25, ICB)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His followers asked him, "Teacher, whose sin caused this man to be born blind—his own sin or his parents' sin?"

Jesus answered, "It is not this man's sin or his parents' sin that made him blind. This man was born blind so that God's power could be shown in him. While it is daytime, we must continue doing the work of the One

¹ <https://www.varietyreading.com/inspirational-stories/miracle.php>

who sent me. The night is coming. And no one can work at night. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it. He put the mud on the man's eyes. Then he told the man, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Siloam means Sent.) So the man went to the pool. He washed and came back. And he was able to see. Some people had seen this man begging before. They and the man's neighbors said, "Look! Is this the same man who always sits and begs?"

Some said, "Yes! He is the one." But others said, "No, he's not the same man. He only looks like him." So the man himself said, "I am the man." They asked, "What happened? How did you get your sight?" He answered, "The man named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed and came back seeing." They asked him, "Where is this man?" The man answered, "I don't know."

Then the people took to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. The day Jesus had made mud and healed his eyes was a Sabbath day. So now the Pharisees asked the man, "How did you get your sight?" He answered, "He put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I can see." Some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man does not keep the Sabbath day. He is not from God!" Others said, "But a man who is a sinner can't do miracles like these." So they could not agree with each other. They asked the man again, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man answered, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and could now see again. So they sent for the man's parents and asked them, "Is this your son? You say that he was born blind. Then how does he see now?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and we know that he was born blind. But we don't know how he can see now. We don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him. He is old enough to answer for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. The Jews had already decided that anyone who said that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That is why his parents said, "He is old enough. Ask him." So for the second time, they called the man who had been blind. They said, "You should give God the glory by telling the truth. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner. But one thing I do know. I was blind, and now I can see."



MEMORY VERSE:

John 9: 39 (ICB)

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

APPLICATION:

Sometimes, God uses His power to heal so that people will know Him and be saved. Do you know someone, a friend, neighbor, classmate, or even a relative who is sick right now yet does not know God yet? You can pray for him/her and share the grace of Jesus and His gift of healing.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for being my great doctor whenever I am sick. Please help me to always come to You in times when I am in need of healing. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 6: A Life-Changing Gift

OBJECTIVES

- 1.) *The child will recognize God's guidance in his life as His grace.*
- 2.) *The child will ask God in prayer to make his/her heart pure, clean and obedient.*

PRACTICAL STORY :

Dollar Bill (Heart Changes Object Lesson)

Would anybody like one of these? This is a dollar bill, isn't it? Doesn't anyone want a dollar bill? You know I could hand you this dollar bill and let you take it to a store, but if you tried to buy anything with it, it wouldn't work. You know why? Because this is Monopoly money. It's only good for paying in a Monopoly game, isn't it.

(Put out a real dollar bill) Now, I bet all of you would like to have this dollar? This is a real dollar bill, right? How can you tell? Its larger than the Monopoly money. It's a different color. It has printing on both sides. It says United States Treasury written on it, and George Washington's portrait.

You know, as distinct as this dollar bill is, there are people out there who still try to copy it. They can copy the paper, the ink, the colors, and the designs to make counterfeit money. But even if they do all that, you can tell a real dollar bill not by the outside. You see, every dollar bill has security thread, inside the fibers of the bill. Did you know that? This little fiber, made of plastic or metal, depending on the size of the bill is actually woven into the dollar bill. It's almost invisible when you look at the dollar, but if you hold it up to the light, you can see that security thread appear as a solid line. So we can say this is a dollar bill not because of the outside, what we can see, but what's inside.

You know the Bible says something similar about us. We can go to church, sing songs to God, put money in the offering plate. But God doesn't just look at these outward signs. He also looks where? At the heart. The Bible says, "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:17) In other words, you can't fool God.

I want to challenge you children, not to be counterfeit Christians, but real. Let God change the inner fibers of your heart so when people see you, they don't see just a smiling face, but the heart of a real Christian. ¹

BIBLE STORY:

God Calls Abram (Genesis 12:1-9, ICB)

Then the Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make you famous. And you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will place a curse on those who harm you. And all the people on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram left Haran as the Lord had told him. And Lot went with him. At this time Abram was 75 years old. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and everything they owned. They took all the servants they had gotten in Haran. They set out from Haran, planning to go to the land of Canaan. In time they arrived there.

Abram traveled through that land. He went as far as the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. The Canaanites were living in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram. The Lord said, "I will give this land to your descendants." So Abram built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. Then Abram traveled from Shechem to the mountain east of Bethel. And he set up his tent there. Bethel was to the west, and Ai was to the east. There Abram built another altar to the Lord and worshiped him. After this, he traveled on toward southern Canaan.

Genesis 17:1-8, ICB

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him. The Lord said, "I am God All-Powerful. Obey me and do what is right. I will make an agreement between us. I will make you the ancestor of many people."

¹ <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/pages/object-lesson-heart-changes>

Then Abram bowed facedown on the ground. God said to him, "I am making my agreement with you: I will make you the father of many nations. I am changing your name from Abram[a] to Abraham.[b]

This is because I am making you a father of many nations. I will give you many descendants. New nations will be born from you. Kings will come from you. And I will make an agreement between me and you and all your descendants from now on:

I will be your God and the God of all your descendants. You live in the land of Canaan now as a stranger. But I will give you and your descendants all this land forever. And I will be the God of your descendants.



MEMORY VERSE:

1 Samuel 16: 7b (ICB)

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

APPLICATION:

In Jeremiah 29:11, God says that He has a hope and a future for us. Even when we do things that are not right at times, it is God's grace that will help us gain a clean heart again. This is God's way of changing us into the child He wants us to be, just like Abraham. If you do not have a personal journal, write down (or draw) how you got to know the Lord. You may write or draw how you were before you got to know the Lord

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for making me realize that I need You in my life. I open my heart for You to cleanse it and make it pure from all impurities. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 7: A Gift of God's Favor

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will discover that that God's favor was upon Josiah even before he was born.*
2. *The child will pursue a desire to read the Bible and obey God's Word as a result of His favor and grace upon him.*

PRACTICAL STORY : A Disobedient Boy

Once there was a rich farmer in a village. He had a lot of land, cattle, money and many servants. He had two sons. He led a happy life with them. After few years, the younger of the two sons became unhappy.

He asked his father for his share of property. His father advised him not demand like that. His mother also advised her son to do so. But he would not listen to his father's words. He got his share and sold them. He had a huge amount with him. Once he got much money, he got bad company of friends.

With this amount, he travelled to a distant country where he did all he wished. He had another bad company of friends there as well. Because of this, he fell into evil ways.

All the money was gone. He became poor. At that time, no one helped him out of bad company. Soon, he fell into debt. Then he understood his mistake and returned to his country and to his parents.

He afterwards obeyed his parents and led a happy life.

BIBLE STORY: Josiah King of Judah (2 Kings 22: 1-20, ICB)

Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He ruled 31 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah. Adaiah was from Bozkath. Josiah did what the Lord said was right. He did good things as his ancestor David had done. Josiah did not stop doing what was right.

In Josiah's eighteenth year as king, he sent Shaphan to the Temple of the Lord. Shaphan was the son of Azaliah, who was the son of Meshullam. Shaphan was the royal assistant. Josiah said, "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest. Have him empty out the money the gatekeepers have gathered from the people. This is the money

they have brought into the Temple of the Lord. 5 Have him give the money to the supervisors of the work on the Temple. They must pay the men who work to repair the Temple of the Lord. The workers are carpenters, builders and stoneworkers. Also use the money to buy timber and cut stone to repair the Temple. They do not need to report how they use the money given to them. They are working honestly."

The Book of the Law Is Found

Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the royal assistant, "I've found the Book of the Teachings. It was in the Temple of the Lord." He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. Then Shaphan the royal assistant went to the king and reported to Josiah, "Your officers have paid out the money that was in the Temple of the Lord. They have given it to the workers and supervisors at the Temple." Then Shaphan the royal assistant told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from the book to the king. The king heard the words of the Book of the Teachings. Then he tore his clothes to show how upset he was. He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest and Ahikam son of Shaphan. He also gave them to Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan and Asaiah. Shaphan was the royal assistant. And Asaiah was the king's servant. These were the orders: "Go and ask the Lord about the words in the book that has been found. Ask for me and for all the people and for all Judah. The Lord's anger is burning against us because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book. They did not do all the things written for us to do!"

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan and Asaiah left. They went to talk to Huldah the prophetess. She was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas. Harhas took care of the king's clothes. Huldah lived in Jerusalem, in the new area of the city. She said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, 'This is what the Lord says: I will bring trouble to this place and to the people living here. It is in the words of the book which the king of Judah has read. The people of Judah have

left me. They have burned incense to other gods. They have made me angry by all the idols they have made. My anger burns against this place like a fire. It will not be put out.' Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to ask the Lord, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the words you heard: You heard my words against this place and its people. You became sorry in the Lord's presence for what you had done. I said they would become cursed and would be destroyed. Then you tore your clothes to show how upset you were. And you cried in my presence. This is why I have heard you, says the Lord. So I will cause you to die. You will be buried in peace. You won't see all the trouble I will bring to this place.'" So they took her message back to the king.



MEMORY VERSE:

(Jeremiah 29:11, ICB)

"I say this because I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future."

APPLICATION:

God shows His favor on those who have sinned yet have asked forgiveness and begin to obey Him faithfully by reading and following His Word.

As a growing child of God, begin to read the Bible each day and ask Him to help you obey Him at all times.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Please give me a heart that is always ready to submit whenever I disobey and sin against You. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 8: A Gift for the Mighty

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will describe Jephthah and how God chose him to be a mighty warrior leader.*
2. *The child will choose to do what is right and pray to stay close to God whatever his condition is.*

PRACTICAL STORY: God's Embroidery

When I was a little boy, my mother used to embroider a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor and ask what she was doing. She informed me that she was embroidering. I told her that it looked like a mess from where I was. As from the underside I watched her work within the boundaries of the little round hoop that she held in her hand, I complained to her that it sure looked messy from where I sat.

She would smile at me, look down and gently say, "My son, you go about your playing for a while, and when I am finished with my embroidering, I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side." I would wonder why she was using some dark threads along with the bright ones and why they seemed so jumbled from my view. A few minutes would pass and then I would hear Mother's voice say, "Son, come and sit on my knee." This I did only to be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower or a sunset. I could not believe it, because from underneath it looked so messy.

Then Mother would say to me, "My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a pre-drawn plan on the top. It was a design. I was only following it. Now look at it from my side and you will see what I was doing."

Many times through the years I have looked up to my Heavenly Father and said, "Father, what are You doing?" He has answered, "I am embroidering your life." I say, "But it looks like a mess to me. It seems so jumbled. The threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?" The Father seems to tell me, "'My child, you go about your business of doing My business, and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on My knee and you will see the plan from My side.'"

BIBLE STORY:

Jephthah Is Chosen as Leader (Judges 11: 1-10, ICB)

Jephthah was from the people of Gilead. He was a strong soldier. His father was named Gilead, and his mother was a prostitute. Gilead's wife had several sons. When they grew up, they forced Jephthah to leave his home. They said to him, "You will not get any of our father's property. You are the son of another woman." So Jephthah ran away from his brothers. He lived in the land of Tob. There some worthless men began to follow Jephthah.

After a time the Ammonite people fought against Israel. The Ammonites made war against Israel. At that time the elders of Gilead came to Jephthah. They wanted him to come back to Gilead. They said to him, "Come and lead our army so we can fight the Ammonites. But Jephthah said to them, "Didn't you hate me? You forced me to leave my father's house! Why are you coming to me now that you are in trouble?" The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is the reason we come to you now. Please come with us and fight against the Ammonites! You will be the ruler over everyone who lives in Gilead." Then Jephthah answered, "Suppose you take me back to Gilead to fight the Ammonites. If the Lord helps me win, I will be your ruler." The elders of Gilead said to him, "The Lord is listening to everything we are saying. We promise to do all that you tell us to do." So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead. The people made him their leader and commander of their army. Jephthah repeated all of his words in front of the Lord at Mizpah.

Jephthah's Promise (Judges 11: 29-40, ICB)

Then the Spirit of the Lord entered Jephthah. Jephthah passed through Gilead and Manasseh. He came to the city of Mizpah in Gilead. From there, Jephthah passed through to the land of the Ammonites. Jephthah made a promise to the Lord. He said, "If you will let me defeat the Ammonites, I will give you a burnt of-

fering. I will sacrifice the first thing that comes out of my house to meet me when I return from the victory. It will be the Lord's. Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites. The Lord helped him defeat them. Jephthah defeated them from the city of Aroer to the area of Minnith. He defeated them as far as the city of Abel Keramim. He defeated 20 cities in this area. The defeat was great. So the Ammonites were defeated by the Israelites.

When Jephthah returned home to Mizpah, his daughter came out to meet him. She was playing a tambourine and dancing. She was his only child. Jephthah did not have any other sons or daughters. When Jephthah saw his daughter, he tore his clothes to show how upset he was. He said, "My daughter! You have made me so sad! This is because I have made a promise to the Lord, and I cannot break it! Then his daughter said, "Father, you made a promise to the Lord. So do to me just what you promised. The Lord helped you defeat your enemies, the Ammonites." Then she said, "But let me do one thing. Let me be alone for two months to go to the mountains. I will never marry. So let me and my friends go and cry together." Jephthah said, "Go." He sent her away for two months. She and her friends stayed in the mountains. There they cried for her because she would never marry. After two months she returned to her father. Jephthah did to her what he promised to the Lord. Now Jephthah's daughter had never had a husband. So this became a custom in Israel. Every year the women of Israel would go out for four days. They did this to remember the daughter of Jephthah from Gilead



MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:28 (ICB)

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

APPLICATION:

It was not luck that God gave His grace on Jephthah but his faithfulness. Even if his life and actions were not all good, God still used him for His service that led him to become a mighty warrior.

Say a prayer to God to help you to always go to Him and stay close to Him in every action. Close your prayer with a song like, "My God is So Big."

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for being with me all the time and accepting me for who I am. Please help me to be useful in whatever You want me to be. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus name. Amen!



Lesson 9: The Winning Gift

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will discover that seeking God's counsel and wisdom will bring victory.*
2. *The child will choose to pray first before his/her any action knowing that God's grace is powerful.*

PRACTICAL STORY : The King's Highway

Once a king had a great highway built for the members of his kingdom. After it was completed, but before it was opened to the public, the king decided to have a contest. He invited as many as desired to participate. Their challenge was to see who could travel the highway the best.

On the day of the contest, the people came. Some of them had fine chariots. Some had fine clothing, fine hairdos, or great food. Some young men came in their track clothes and ran along the highway. People traveled the highway all day, but each one, when he arrived at the end, complained to the king that there was a large pile of rocks and debris left on the road at one spot and that this got in their way and hindered their travel.

At the end of the day, a lone traveler crossed the finish line warily and walked over to the king. He was tired and dirty, but he addressed the king with great respect and handed him a bag of gold. He explained, "I stopped along the way to clear a pile of rocks and debris that was blocking the road. This bag of gold was under it all. I want you to return it to its rightful owner."

The king replied, "You are the rightful owner." The traveler replied, "Oh no, this is not mine. I've never known such money!"

"Oh yes," said the king. "you've earned this gold, for you won my contest. He who travels the road best is he who makes the road smoother for those who will follow."¹

BIBLE STORY: (Joshua 5: 13 – 6:27, ICB)

The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 5: 13-15)

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord[a] have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua 6: 1-27

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD. When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

¹ <https://www.varietyreading.com/inspirational-stories/kinghighway.php>

Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at day-break and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[b] to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury." When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day. At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: 'At the cost of his firstborn son, he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest, he will set up its gates.'" So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.



MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 28:1 (ICB)

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world."

APPLICATION:

Even if the Israelites were not entirely obedient, God showed His grace upon them because of Joshua's obedience.

Find someone in the family or in your church who has experienced victory because of obedience to God. Then pray that God will give you grace to win in every battle you will face in school, at home, and everywhere you will be.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for being my strength. Help me to always look to You in those times when I am weak and in need of victory. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 10: The Gift of God's Provision

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will learn that God is merciful (kind) to those who are humble.*
2. *The child will demonstrate acts of kindness to others because God is also kind.*

PRACTICAL STORY : Miracle Book

Once, there was a family serving the Lord together in a small village. The parents are both teachers. Gina, their daughter, has learned a good habit of saving money (bills) by keeping them between the pages of her favorite books. A year later, his family went through a big problem. Their two children also became very sick that the money the family has left had to be used for the hospital expenses. Worst, they don't have money for daily meals and other needs.

However, the family still prayed daily to God that their children would be healed of their serious illnesses. Every day, Gina's father goes home late at night as he had to take in another job so they could have something to eat. Her mother was in the hospital every day to care for her sick siblings. Gina runs errands for her mother such as buying medicine and taking turns with her mom. Every time she would go back to their house, it is to get something. Their house became dirty because they do not have the time to clean it anymore.

One afternoon, Gina thought of cleaning the house. While sorting stuff on the floor, she saw her favorite books again. She suddenly remembered keeping paper bills on each page. Gina couldn't stop herself from getting excited. She hurried up in cleaning and waited for her father that night to show the money she has saved that would be enough to buy medicine, food and other necessities for them.

It is true that the Lord is always on the lookout for the needs of His children. This is why we should always be thankful for every blessing that He gives us.

BIBLE STORY: Ruth Meets Boaz (Ruth 2)

Now there was a rich man living in Bethlehem whose name was Boaz. Boaz was one of Naomi's close relatives from Elimelech's family. One day Ruth, the

woman from Moab, said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields. Maybe someone will be kind and let me gather the grain he leaves in his field." Naomi said, "Go, my daughter." So Ruth went to the fields. She followed the workers who were cutting the grain. And she gathered the grain that they had left. It just so happened that the field belonged to Boaz. He was a close relative from Elimelech's family. When Boaz came from Bethlehem, he spoke to his workers: "The Lord be with you!" And the workers answered, "May the Lord bless you!"

Then Boaz spoke to his servant who was in charge of the workers. He asked, "Whose girl is that? The servant answered, "She is the Moabite woman who came with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me follow the workers and gather the grain that they leave on the ground.' She came and has remained here. From morning until just now, she has stopped only a few moments to rest in the shelter."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Stay here in my field to gather grain for yourself. Do not go to any other person's field. Continue following behind my women workers. Watch to see which fields they go to and follow them. I have warned the young men not to bother you. When you are thirsty, you may go and drink. Take water from the water jugs that the servants have filled."

Then Ruth bowed low with her face to the ground. She said to Boaz, "I am a stranger. Why have you been so kind to notice me?" Boaz answered her, "I know about all the help you have given to Naomi, your mother-in-law. You helped her even after your husband died. You left your father and mother and your own country. You came to this nation where you did not know anyone. The Lord will reward you for all you have done. You will be paid in full by the Lord, the God of Israel. You have come to him as a little bird finds shelter under the wings of its mother.

Then Ruth said, "You are very kind to me, sir. You have said kind words to me, your servant. You have given me hope. And I am not even good enough to be one

of your servants. At mealtime Boaz told Ruth, "Come here! Eat some of our bread. Here, dip your bread in our vinegar." So Ruth sat down with the workers. Boaz gave her some roasted grain. Ruth ate until she was full, and there was some food left over. Ruth rose and went back to work. Then Boaz told his servants, "Let her gather even around the bundles of grain. Don't tell her to go away. Drop some full heads of grain for her. Let her gather that grain, and don't tell her to stop."

So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. Then she separated the grain from the chaff. There was about one-half bushel of barley. 18 Ruth carried the grain into town. And her mother-in-law saw what she had gathered. Ruth also gave her the food that was left over from lunch. Naomi asked her, "Where did you gather all this grain today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who noticed you!" Ruth told her about whose field she had worked in. She said, "The man I worked with today is named Boaz."

Naomi told her daughter-in-law, "The Lord bless him! The Lord still continues to be kind to all people—the living and the dead!" Then Naomi told Ruth, "Boaz is one of our close relatives,[a] one who will take care of us." Then Ruth said, "Boaz also told me to come back and continue working. He said, 'Keep close by my servants until they have finished the harvest.'" Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, "It is good for you to continue working with his women servants. If you work in another field, someone might hurt you." So Ruth continued working closely with the women servants of Boaz. She gathered grain until the barley harvest was finished. She also worked there through the end of the wheat harvest. And Ruth continued to live with Naomi, her mother-in-law.



MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 4:19 (ICB)

My God will use his wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need.

APPLICATION:

God's grace on Ruth sent her to follow God's big plan for her life. God was her great Provider. Can you trust God to be your great Provider? Play the Trust Walk with your family. Then discuss how God provides you His blessings.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your kindness and your gift of provision. Make me the channel of your blessings to others so that they will learn to thank You through me. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name.
Amen!



Lesson 11: The Caring Gift

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will accept that God has a plan for his/her life and that all it takes is to believe in Him.*
2. *The child will tell others that God knows all of us and has great plans for us.*

PRACTICAL STORY : The Swimmer

Jon Jon is a seven year old boy. He is in second grade and is a very intelligent child. He is kind and is obedient to his parents. His parents wanted him to join the swimming club but he was too shy because he had a physical deficiency. His right leg was a little shorter than his left leg. This was cause for other kids to bully him and make fun of him. Jon Jon was a polio victim.

After several times of encouraging him, Jon Jon finally conceded to joining the swimming club. During one of their practice time, someone shouted at him, "You are so slow. Why not just quit. You might lose anyway."

Discouraged and hurt, Jon Jon got up and went to his parents. "I don't want to join anymore. I quit," he said. But his parents said, "Don't give up and trust your ability. You can do it. Go back and practice harder." So, Jon Jon went back to the pool.

Then the coach called out to start the eliminations to see who gets to join the swimming contest. Jon Jon turned to look at his parents and they gave him a thumbs up. Then the coach started to count. "Ready! One, two, three, GO!" And the kids dived into the pool. Jon Jon did not notice that he was swimming so fast that he reached the finish line ahead of the rest of the swimmers.

BIBLE STORY: Joseph Sold into Slavery (Genesis 37:12-36, ICB)

One day Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to herd their father's sheep. Jacob said to Joseph, "Go to Shechem. Your brothers are there herding the sheep." Joseph answered, "I will go." His father said, "Go and see if your brothers and the sheep are all right. Then come back and tell me." So Joseph's father sent him from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph came to Shechem, a man found him wandering in the field. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" Joseph answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are herding the sheep?" The man said, "They have already gone. I heard them say they were going to Dothan." So Joseph went to look for his brothers and found them in Dothan.

Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. Before he reached them, they made a plan to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw his body into one of the wells. We can tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what will become of his dreams."

But Reuben heard their plan and saved Joseph. He said, "Let's not kill him. Don't spill any blood. Throw him into this well here in the desert. But don't hurt him!" Reuben planned to save Joseph later and send him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they pulled off his robe with long sleeves. Then they threw him into the well. It was empty. There was no water in it. While Joseph was in the well, the brothers sat down to eat. When they looked up, they saw a group of Ishmaelites. They were traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were carrying spices, balm and myrrh.

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and hide his death? Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites. Then we will not be guilty of killing our own brother. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." And the other brothers agreed. So when the Midianite traders came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the well. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for eight ounces of silver. And the Ishmaelites took him to Egypt.

Reuben was not with his brothers when they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. When Reuben came back to the well, Joseph was not there. Reuben tore his clothes to show he was sad. Then he went back to his broth-

ers and said, "The boy is not there! What will I do?" The brothers killed a goat and dipped Joseph's long-sleeved robe in its blood. Then they brought the robe to their father. They said, "We found this robe. Look it over carefully. See if it is your son's robe." Jacob looked it over and said, "It is my son's robe! Some savage animal has eaten him. My son Joseph has been torn to pieces!" Then Jacob tore his clothes and put on rough cloth to show that he was sad. He continued to be sad about his son for a long time. All of Jacob's sons and daughters tried to comfort him. But he could not be comforted. Jacob said, "I will be sad about my son until the day I die." So Jacob cried for his son Joseph.

Meanwhile the Midianites who had bought Joseph had taken him to Egypt. There they sold him to Potiphar. Potiphar was an officer to the king of Egypt and captain of the palace guard.



MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 12: 9 (ICB)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

APPLICATION:

Through our faith in Jesus Christ we can have a good attitude, which will help us make the best of every situation. As we do so, we will be much happier and be able to do good rather than be depressed, lacking the energy and desire to accomplish worthwhile things.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for your great plans for my life.

Help me to discover Your great plan and purpose in my life so that I will never be separated from you presence. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name.
Amen!



Lesson 12: A Gift of a Praying Mother

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will be able to explain that persistent prayer gets results. The child will discover that God answers heart-felt and persistent prayers.*
2. *The child will begin making prayer his/her habit.*

PRACTICAL STORY: Tony's Silver Dollar

Tony lived in the middle of a big city. His family was poor, but they were a happy family. They were happy because each one in the family, including Tony, had accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. Even though Tony was only eight years old, he knew he was a sinner and had asked the Lord Jesus to wash away his sins. Because he believed what the Bible says, he knew for sure that he would be in heaven with the Lord Jesus someday. Anyone who knows this is happy.

One day Tony's grandfather was visiting them and he gave Tony a silver dollar. Tony had never had a silver dollar before. He was so pleased with it that he kept looking at it, turning it over and over. He would put it in his pocket and then take it out to look at it again. How shiny and bright it was. He thought of many things he could buy with it.

Later that afternoon Tony reached into his pocket to take out his silver dollar again. It wasn't there! Where did it go? He turned all four of his pockets inside out, but it wasn't in any of them. He looked everywhere he remembered being that day, starting in the house. He even checked down in the basement. Then he ran outside where he had been playing games on the sidewalk, but he couldn't find it. Tony felt so badly he began to cry.

When he still had not found it by evening, he was so "down in the dumps" he just went to bed. He was so unhappy that he didn't even take the time to pray.

As he tried to go to sleep, a small, still voice seemed to say, "Tony, you didn't pray." He would turn over and try to forget about it, but pretty soon the same small, still voice would remind him again.

Tony tossed and turned for quite a while. Each time he was about to fall asleep, he would hear the voice in his mind saying, "But, Tony, you haven't prayed."

Finally, he sat up in bed and said to himself, "Maybe I had better pray after all."

Tony climbed out of bed and knelt down on the floor beside his bed. "Ouch! What's that?" His knee was pressing down on something cold and hard.

It was his silver dollar!

Do you think that the Lord Jesus in heaven really listens to children's prayers? Yes, He certainly does, and don't let anyone try to tell you that He doesn't. Don't be afraid or get discouraged when things seem to be going all wrong. Talk to the Lord Jesus about it, and ask Him for help. Tony would have found his silver dollar much sooner if he had knelt down to pray when he first went to bed. We will get help and guidance from the Lord much sooner if we take our trouble to Him right away.

"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3.

BIBLE STORY:

1 Samuel 1:2-28

Elkanah had two wives. One was named Hannah, and the other was named Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Every year Elkanah left his town Ramah and went up to Shiloh. There he worshiped the Lord of heaven's armies and offered sacrifices to him. Shiloh was where Hophni and Phinehas served as priests of the Lord. They were the sons of Eli. When Elkanah offered sacrifices, he always gave a share of the meat to his wife Peninnah. He also gave shares of the meat to her sons and daughters. But Elkanah always gave a special share of the meat to Hannah. He did this because he loved Hannah and because the Lord had made Hannah unable to have children. Peninnah would upset Hannah and make her feel bad. She did this because the Lord had made

Hannah unable to have children. This happened every year when they went up to the Tent of the Lord at Shiloh. Peninnah would upset Hannah until Hannah would cry and not eat anything. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why won't you eat? Why are you sad? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

Once, after they had eaten their meal in Shiloh, Hannah got up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair near the entrance to the Lord's Holy Tent. Hannah was very sad. She cried much and prayed to the Lord. She made a promise. She said, "Lord of heaven's armies, see how bad I feel. Remember me! Don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life. And no one will ever use a razor to cut his hair." [a]

While Hannah kept praying, Eli watched her mouth. She was praying in her heart. Her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. He said to her, "Stop getting drunk! Throw away your wine!"

Hannah answered, "No, master, I have not drunk any wine or beer. I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I was telling the Lord about all my problems. Don't think of me as an evil woman. I have been praying because of my many troubles and much sadness." Eli answered, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of him."

Hannah said, "I want to be pleasing to you always." Then she left and ate something. She was not sad anymore.

Early the next morning Elkanah's family got up and worshiped the Lord. Then they went back home to Ramah. Elkanah had intimate relations with his wife Hannah. And the Lord remembered her. So Hannah became pregnant, and in time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel. [b] She said, "His name is Samuel because I asked the Lord for him."

Hannah Gives Samuel to God

Every year Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer sacrifices. He went to keep the promise he had made to God. He brought his whole family with him. So once again he went up to Shiloh. But Hannah did not go with him. She told him, "When the boy is old enough to eat solid food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the Lord. He will become a Nazirite. He will always live there at Shiloh."

Elkanah, Hannah's husband, said to her, "Do what you think is best. You may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat. May the Lord do what you have said." So Hannah stayed at home to nurse her son until he was old enough to eat.

When Samuel was old enough to eat, Hannah took him to the Tent of the Lord at Shiloh. She also took a three-year-old bull, one-half bushel of flour and a leather bag filled with wine. They killed the bull for the sacrifice. Then Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life." And he worshiped the Lord there.



MEMORY VERSE:

Colossians 4:2 (ICB)

Continue praying and keep alert. And when you pray, always thank God.

APPLICATION:

Prayer is our way of telling God what we think and feel. The Lord listens to all our prayers even the ones where we don't have the words to say.

Never be afraid to continually ask God what you need. He is always ready to hear our prayers, even our silent prayers.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the gift of coming before your presence through prayer. Please help me to spend more time talking to You because I believe that you hear sincere prayers. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen



Lesson 13: A Gift to Forever

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will express the desire to accept Jesus in his/her heart in exchange for his/her sins.*
2. *The child will share with others how Jesus loves us even when we have done wrong.*

PRACTICAL STORY: The Water Bottle

Hello, children of God! How are you? You know, I am feeling pretty thirsty. What do you like to drink when you get thirsty? (Allow a few responses).

Well, there are a lot of things I like to drink, but when I'm really thirsty, my favorite thing is good old water! In fact, I think I'll have some water right now. But...I wonder what I should use to drink it. See, I have developed quite a collection of water bottles here... (Pull out several different water bottles, one at a time, describing as you go).

See, there's this one with a straw...and this one that's a little short. This is a nice one because it fits my cup holder well. Oh, and I like this one because I can carry it by this little handle! I have a lot of choices. And as you can see, there are several different colors and sizes and shapes. But what do all of these water bottles have in common? What do they do the same? That's right, they all hold water! All of them will help me out if I am thirsty, as long as they're full of good clean water on the inside.

Did you know that we are kind of the same way as people? We are all pretty different on the outside...but the more important thing is what we are filled with on the inside. This is what we can discover in our Gospel lesson today. Jesus was having an interesting conversation with a woman one day at a well. Now, there were a couple of reasons why it was slightly strange that Jesus would talk with her. For one thing, she was a woman, and in those days women were not really seen as equal with men. Another reason Jesus would not be likely to normally talk with her was that she was a Samaritan.

That means she was sort of from the bad side of town... the Jews and Samaritans did not get along so well. Not only that, but this woman had done some not so great things in her life...she might have felt ashamed about that, and was maybe even suspicious about why Jesus would be willing to talk with her. But Jesus knew

this woman needed Him. He knew that her heart could be healed and her life changed. He knew that it didn't matter what she was on the outside; HE could fill her inside. Jesus told the woman that He had water that would keep her from ever being thirsty again. She was a little confused, and asked where she could get such amazing water. Jesus told her that He was the answer to what she needed. He shared with her some information about her life that only she knew, revealing that He knew who she was... she realized that this man was someone amazing. She was so excited that she ran and told her friends who she had found, and when they heard about it, they believed as well!

So what can we learn from this? Well, we know that God wants everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, and we can share that with others, whoever they might be. When Jesus fills our insides, it allows us to serve and share with other people. We also know that Jesus will satisfy our needs. We know we need to drink water every day in order to survive. Well, we also need the love of Jesus in our lives every day. We connect with that by reading God's word, living in His presence, and of course by praying! Why don't we say a prayer about that now, and ask God to help us share His love, too?

BIBLE STORY:

The Woman at the Well (John 4:5 – 42, ICB)

In Samaria Jesus came to the town called Sychar. This town is near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his long trip. So he sat down beside the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." (This happened while Jesus' followers were in town buying some food.)

The woman said, "I am surprised that you ask me for a drink. You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan." (Jews are not friends with Samaritans.[a]) Jesus said, "You don't know what God gives. And you don't know who asked you for a drink. If you knew, you would have asked me,

and I would have given you living water." The woman said, "Sir, where will you get that living water? The well is very deep, and you have nothing to get water with. Are you greater than Jacob, our father? Jacob is the one who gave us this well. He drank from it himself. Also, his sons and flocks drank from this well." Jesus answered, "Every person who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty again. The water I give will become a spring of water flowing inside him. It will give him eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water. Then I will never be thirsty again. And I will not have to come back here to get more water."

Jesus told her, "Go get your husband and come back here." The woman answered, "But I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right to say you have no husband. Really you have had five husbands. But the man you live with now is not your husband. You told the truth." The woman said, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that Jerusalem is the place where people must worship." Jesus said, "Believe me, woman. The time is coming when you will not have to be in Jerusalem or on this mountain to worship the Father. You Samaritans worship what you don't understand. We Jews understand what we worship. Salvation comes from the Jews. The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. That time is now here. And these are the kinds of worshipers the Father wants. God is spirit. Those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming." (Messiah is the One called Christ.) "When the Messiah comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus said, "He is talking to you now. I am he." Just then his followers came back from town. They were surprised because they saw Jesus talking with a woman. But none of them asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to town. She said to the people, "A man told me everything I have ever done. Come see him. Maybe he is the Christ!" So the people left the town and went to see Jesus. While the woman was away, the followers were begging him, "Teacher, eat something!" But Jesus answered, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." So the followers asked themselves, "Did somebody already bring Jesus some food?" Jesus said, "My food is to do what the One who sent me wants me to do. My food is to finish the work that he gave me to do. You say, 'Four more months to wait before we gather the grain.' But I tell you, open your eyes. Look at the fields that are ready

for harvesting now. Even now, the one who harvests the crop is being paid. He is gathering crops for eternal life. So now the one who plants can be happy along with the one who harvests. It is true when we say, 'One person plants, but another harvests the crop.' I sent you to harvest a crop that you did not work for. Others did the work, and you get the profit from their work." [b] Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman said: "He told me everything I have ever done." The Samaritans came to Jesus and begged him to stay with them. So he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of the things he said. They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of what you told us. But now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world."



MEMORY VERSE:

John 4: 14 (ICB)

....but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

APPLICATION:

The Samaritan woman is not an angel but her story is one of love, truth, redemption and acceptance. Her life was changed when she met Jesus who revealed Himself as the living water who satisfies those who are thirsty.

Jesus is the Living Water that we need to satisfy all our longings. He can change our life if we accept Him in our heart. He can change our desires if we surrender our hearts to him and let Him rule our life.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the gift of eternal life. May your saving love shine forth in me so that I may encourage others to have eternal life as well. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 14: The Gift of Family

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will learn to appreciate his/her own family as God's gift to him/her.*
2. *The child will demonstrate love for his/her family members as God expects him/her to do.*

PRACTICAL STORY: A True Kind of Love

Joan is a 12-year-old girl. She is the eldest of seven siblings. Her father is a carpenter while her mother is a laundry woman. Her parents' income is not even enough for their daily needs. Joan likes to have nice clothes and shoes. How she envies her classmates who can afford the latest fashion, the ones she sees on their neighbor's TV. She would sometimes look at herself in the mirror and secretly wish that she wouldn't have to wear her mama's oversized shirt anymore. She also dreams for a nice pair of pants and nice tops. And yes, she also wants to have a nice pair of shoes.

However, Joan understands that no matter how hard her mama and papa work, their income is just enough to buy food for all of the them. Being the eldest, Joan is aware of their parents' hardship in providing for the family. She is the kind of girl who is sensitive to her family's needs. That's why no matter how strong her desire to own nice clothes just like her classmates is, she just keeps it to herself.

An opportunity came to Joan one day when their class adviser looked for someone who can clean the room and trim the grass outside their classroom every afternoon after class. She is willing to pay 20 pesos a day for the job. Immediately, Joan volunteered to do the job even though she knew that it would be an additional load for her. "At last," she thought, "I can now buy what I need."

So Joan cleaned the room and worked on the grass every afternoon after class with her parents' permission. Sometimes, she would get so tired that she would fall asleep as soon as her back hit the bed. It was hard for Joan, but it did not stop her from working. Each time she had her back pains, she just told herself, "Just think of that new pair of pants you want to have, Joan..."

Then at last her payday came. She could hardly sleep in anticipation of her first taste of 400 pesos! She already made her plan for the weekend. She was going

to the mall to buy her most desired clothes!

As soon as Joan received the money, she excitedly went home to show it to her mama. "At last! At last!" she thought. However, when she got home, she saw her mother crying, cradling their youngest in her arms. "What happened, Mama?" she asked.

"Your brother is sick. We have to bring him to the hospital. Your papa is not home yet and I don't have any money," her mother tearfully answered.

Joan looked at the 400 pesos in her hand – her very own money. She thought of the new clothes she had been dying to buy... She thought of her back pains... She looked at her brother and her mama. She felt so much pity for her brother. She felt sorry for her mama. She loved them both dearly.

She went to her mama and told her, "Mama, here's the money. Let's bring my brother to the hospital."

"But what about your needs?" her mama asked.

"It can wait. I could still work for it next month," Joan assured her.

"Thank you so much, Joan. Thank you for being selfless," her mama said.

"I love my brother so much, Mama, and I'd rather not have new clothes than leave him sick," Joan said.

Joan's love, kind heart and attitude of selflessness for her family is a trait that we should all try to have in our own lives.

BIBLE STORY:

Mordecai Asks Esther To Help (Esther 4: 1-17)

Now Mordecai heard about all that had been done. To show how upset he was, he tore his clothes. Then he put on rough cloth and ashes. And he went out into the city crying loudly and very sadly. But Mordecai went only as far as the king's gate. This was because no one was allowed to enter that gate dressed in rough

cloth. The king's order reached every area. And there was great sadness and loud crying among the Jews. They gave up eating and cried out loudly. Many Jews lay down on rough cloth and ashes to show how sad they were.

Esther's servant girls and eunuchs came to her and told her about Mordecai. Esther was very upset and afraid. She sent clothes for Mordecai to put on instead of the rough cloth. But he would not wear them. Then Esther called for Hathach. He was one of the king's eunuchs chosen by the king to serve her. Esther ordered him to find out what was bothering Mordecai and why.

So Hathach went to Mordecai. Mordecai was in the city square in front of the king's gate. Then Mordecai told Hathach everything that had happened to him. And he told Hathach about the amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasury for the killing of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the order to kill the Jews, which had been given in Susa. He wanted Hathach to show it to Esther and to tell her about it. And Mordecai told him to order Esther to go into the king's presence. He wanted her to beg for mercy and to plead with him for her people.

Hathach went back and reported to Esther everything Mordecai had said. Then Esther told Hathach to say to Mordecai, "All the royal officers and people of the royal areas know this: No man or woman may go to the king in the inner courtyard without being called. There is only one law about this. Anyone who enters must be put to death. But if the king holds out his gold scepter, that person may live. And I have not been called to go to the king for 30 days."

And Esther's message was given to Mordecai. Then Mordecai gave orders to say to Esther: "Just because you live in the king's palace, don't think that out of all the Jews you alone will escape. You might keep quiet at this time. Then someone else will help and save the Jews. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this."

Then Esther sent this answer to Mordecai: "Go and get all the Jews in Susa together. For my sake, give up eating. Do not eat or drink for three days, night and day. I and my servant girls will also give up eating. Then I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I die, I die."

So Mordecai went away. He did everything Esther had told him to do.



MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 133: 1 (ICB)

It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in peace!

APPLICATION:

God gave each of us a family that will love us, take care of us, and nourish us. Our family sacrifices so much to provide for our needs. Obeying them is our way of showing we love and appreciate them.

Love your family. They are a gift from God

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving me my family. Please help me appreciate my family who cares and loves me all the times. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 15: A Big Gift for a Small Man

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will learn that the only way to heaven is through repentance and salvation.*
2. *The child will ask for forgiveness and accept the Lord Jesus as his/her Lord and Personal Savior.*

PRACTICAL STORY : Pancakes

Six-year-old Dan decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Dan was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly, he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically, he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

Just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Dan's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, we insult a friend, we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

Sometimes, we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though

some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying for God or for others. Sooner or later, we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried. ¹

BIBLE STORY:

Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10, ICB)

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd. He ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come. He climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. He said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was pleased to have Jesus in his house. All the people saw this and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!"

But Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!"

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."

¹ <https://www.varietyreading.com/christian-stories/pancakes.php>



MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 19: 10 (ICB)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save
the lost.

APPLICATION:

God knows our hearts and sees our motives.

He is pleased when He sees us making an
effort to connect with Him.

Telling God honestly how sorry you are for
all the wrong things you have done will re-
store your relationship with Him.

Saying sorry for something you have done
wrong to someone will restore your relation-
ship with others.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you letting Jesus died for
my sins. Help me not to be far from you so
that I may keep the salvation you have given
me. I commit this prayer to You, in Jesus'
name. Amen!



Lesson 16: The Gift Everyone can Have

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will understand that salvation is free for everyone and will express thankfulness to the Lord for the gift of His saving grace.*
2. *The child will show wonderful changes in his/her life out of his/her conversion.*

PRACTICAL STORY : The Three Friends

There were three friends named Brad, Leo, and Ryan. Brad is an obedient child. He always follows the rules of his parents and teachers. The only problem with him is that he is always sad. It's because his parents are pushing him to be always number one in everything he does. His parents want him to be first honor in class. He's smart and intelligent, and very good at drawing. His parents disagree with his interest in drawing. They instead force him to enroll in different classes like swimming and violin lessons. These don't make him interested at all, but he obeys.

Ryan belongs to a Christian family. He is obedient, kind, and loving. Leo is complete opposite of Ryan. He is adventurous, cheerful, but loud. He always wants to be the center of attention. He doesn't follow any rules because he makes his own rules. Many times, he becomes a problem. Even if the three boys have different personalities, they stick together as friends.

One day Ryan was away for a family vacation. Brad and Leo continued to meet. During this time Brad felt that his parents pressure on him made him feel tired and resentful. Leo felt pity on Brad so he promised him to be by his side, to listen to him whenever he feels lonely.

As the days went on Leo and Brad were always together. Brad told about his situation to Leo and little by little Leo was becoming angry at Brad's parents. Leo was unconsciously influencing Brad in some way because every time Brad talks to him, his reply was always like this. "I don't care about you, you've been always obedient to your parents. Look at me, I can do what I want. Let them understand that sometimes, you are right and you will follow what you want."

Little by little Brad began to sound like Leo in speech. He became disobedient to his parents, spoke in a loud voice, answered back to his parents, and said bad

words. Before long, Brad's parents noticed his unusual behavior and commanded him to get away from Leo. Brad got so angry and answered his parents, "You always tell me what to do without considering what I want. Leo is my friend and the only person who listens to me. I'm tired of everything!" He ran away crying. He went to the park where he usually meets Leo. That time Ryan was already there. Ryan was surprised seeing Brad this way, so he asked him what happened. Brad relayed what happened between him and his parents. Leo began to talk to Ryan about showing his sympathy over Brad's situation.

Ryan understood what his friend was going through. He told Brad, "Brad, I admire you for being so obedient and loving to your parents. Every parent would like to have a son like you. I know you are getting tired with what your parents force you to do. But they just want the best for you. They work with extra effort for you to be the best. It's good you have parents who love you. God is so good because not everybody can be like your parents who can enroll you to the best school and to different extra-curricular lessons. If you feel pressured, pray first to God and tell Him everything. Believe me, before you know it, you will feel better and all your hurt will go away. Go back and talk to your parents. Let's pray that God will guide and help you choose the right words that will help your parents understand your feelings. God said in His words that "children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right." I think they would understand if you tell them how you really feel.

Ryan also talked to Leo, telling him that he is good friend because he never left Brad. He also thanked him for he listened to Brad's problems. But he reminded Leo that he was wrong in advising Brad to disobey his parents. Leo realized the wrong thing he did. Ryan led them to pray, and together they asked Jesus to help them in this situation.

Brad went home and said sorry to his parents. He promised them to do his best. Brad's parents also apologized and said that they never thought that they

were pushy. Brad asked them to pray together. This made his parents happy.

BIBLE STORY:

Lydia Gets to Know the Lord (Acts 16: 9-15, ICB)

That night Paul had a vision. In the vision, a man from Macedonia came to him. The man stood there and begged, "Come over to Macedonia. Help us!" After Paul had seen the vision, we immediately prepared to leave for Macedonia. We understood that God had called us to tell the Good News to those people.

Lydia Becomes a Christian

We left Troas in a ship, and we sailed straight to the island of Samothrace. The next day we sailed to Neapolis.[a] Then we went by land to Philippi, the leading city in that part of Macedonia. It is also a Roman colony.[b] We stayed there for several days.

On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river. There we thought we would find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them. There was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira. Her job was selling purple cloth. She worshiped the true God. The Lord opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. She and all the people in her house were baptized. Then Lydia invited us to her home. She said, "If you think I am truly a believer in the Lord, then come stay in my house." And she persuaded us to stay with her.



MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 4:29 (ICB)

But even there you can look for the Lord your God.
And you will find him if you look. But you must look
for him with your whole being..

APPLICATION:

God offered His Son Jesus as a free gift to all who will accept Him willingly. This free gift includes forgiveness of sins and life eternal. When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we accept this free gift from God.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for the gift of knowing you.
Let me get to know better so I can have a stronger
relationship with you. I commit this prayer to You, in
Jesus' name. Amen!



Lesson 17: An Exchange Gift

OBJECTIVES

1. *The child will identify the time Paul was changed by God.*
2. *The child will tell what Jesus has called us who were saved, to do for His Kingdom.*

PRACTICAL STORY : The Three Trees

Three trees on a wooded hill were discussing their hopes and dreams. The first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. People could fill me with gold, silver and precious gems. They could decorate me with intricate carvings and everyone would see its beauty."

The second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the seas and sail to unknown places. Everyone will feel safe because of the strength of my hull."

Finally, the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of a hill, look up to my branches and think of the heavens and God. They will remember me as the greatest tree of all time."

After years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. One came to the first tree and said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell the wood to a carpenter." After being cut down, the tree was happy because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I can sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down, his dreams would not come true. A woodsman said, "I don't need anything special from this tree so I'll just take it back with me."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, they made it into a feed box for animals. It was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. They cut the second tree and made a small fishing boat. They cut the third tree into large pieces and left it alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn.

She gave birth and they placed the baby in the feed box made from the first tree. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One man went to sleep. A great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man. He stood and said "Be calm" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. Later, they nailed the man to the tree and raised him up to die at the top of a hill. On the third day, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible. Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral is: When things are not going our way, know that God has a plan for us. God will do almost anything for us. Jesus reminded us through his teachings and his stories how much God loves us. Place your trust in God and God will always give you what is best for you.¹

BIBLE STORY:

Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-31, ICB)

In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying he would kill them. So he went to the high priest and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ's Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem. So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell

¹ https://www.lafourchegazette.com/columns/what_a_life/a-modern-parable-the-story-of-the-three-trees/article_1cf-89de3-c789-5550-9918-b2cd9e7d70e2.html

to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?" Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. 6 Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink. There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas.[a] Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again." But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. After eating some food, his strength returned.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. Soon he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!" All the people who heard him were amazed. They said, "This is the man who was in Jerusalem. He was trying to destroy those who trust in this name! He came here to do the same thing. He came here to arrest the followers of Jesus and take them back to the leading priests." But Saul became more and more powerful. His proofs that Jesus is the Christ were so strong that the Jews in Damascus could not argue with him.

Saul Escapes from Damascus

After many days, the Jews made plans to kill Saul. They were watching the city gates day and night. They wanted to kill him, but Saul learned about their plan.

One night some followers of Saul helped him leave the city. They lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.

Saul in Jerusalem

Then Saul went to Jerusalem. He tried to join the group of followers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe that he was really a follower. But Barnabas accepted Saul and took him to the apostles. Barnabas told them that Saul had seen the Lord on the road. He explained how the Lord had spoken to Saul. Then he told them how boldly Saul had preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus. And so Saul stayed with the followers. He went everywhere in Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of Jesus. He would often talk and argue with the Jews who spoke Greek. But they were trying to kill him. When the brothers learned about this, they took Saul to Caesarea. From there they sent him to Tarsus. The church everywhere in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had a time of peace. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the group became stronger. The believers showed that they respected the Lord by the way they lived. Because of this, the group of believers grew larger and larger.



MEMORY VERSE:

2 Peter 3:9 (ICB)

God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life.

APPLICATION:

God is always loving to all kinds of people regardless of your color or character. Be kind and loving to everyone

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for loving me regardless of my color. Help me to be a good person to be loving and compassionate to anyone.