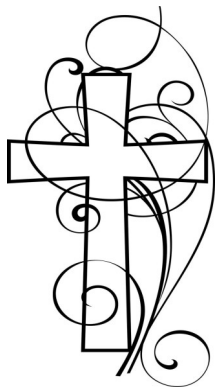


Faith

Faith in God brings tremendous power into our lives! Believing every word God has spoken, obeying every commandment He has given opens to us every promise He has made. By faith we know that when we give our



life completely to Him He actually comes, with His Holy Spirit, and lives in our heart (1 Corinthians 3:16)! He gives us His power to live a holy life.

How do we obtain such faith? Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. When we hear or read the good news of the gospel we must accept it as truth and act on it. As the multitude listened to

Peter on the day of Pentecost they believed and asked, "What shall we do?" About 3,000 people who heard the word that day believed it, repented of their sins, and were saved! We are saved by faith.

This faith then begins to increase and produce greater faith. Step by step we learn to trust God in every circumstance He brings into our lives. From experience, David could say, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain thee" (Psa. 55:22). Each problem He works out gives us confidence that He knows our need and is able to solve every problem. Peter proved this. He tells us to cast all our care on God because He cares for us and will meet every need. Paul instructs us not to worry or be anxious about anything, but instead we are to bring our

Questions

1. What opens to us every promise God has made?
2. Who will come to live in the heart that is completely surrendered to God?
3. We are saved by _____.
4. What three men proved the power and faithfulness of God?
5. Faith must be ____ in order to be strengthened.
6. How do we daily nurture our faith?
7. Who should be the first one you turn to when you are in trouble?
8. Why does God test our faith?

requests to God in prayer. David, Peter, and Paul were men of great faith. They proved the power and faithfulness of God.

Faith must be fed in order to be strengthened. Daily studying the Bible and filling our minds with God's precious promises will reveal what great provision He has for us. Reading the stories of God's many miraculous deliverances in the lives of those who had strong faith will excite us to trust God with all our problems. The fullness of our faith depends upon how much we are willing to trust God fully and allow Him to work in our lives. Unlike the devil, God will not force Himself on us. We must open our hearts to Him with a sincere desire to do His will and trust Him completely.

It is important to learn to trust God while you are young. Get so well acquainted with Him that He is the first one you turn to when you are in trouble. Tell Him your problems, your desires, and your needs. Read His word to learn how to please Him and immediately obey everything He wants you to do. He will be your best friend and guide.

God wants to keep you from all the sin and traps the devil has set to ruin your life. He can keep your life pure and clean, even with sin and evil all around you. He will only ask you to do what is best for you. When trouble comes, trust Him to work it out for your good. God will test your faith; this is only to strengthen it. Learn to wait patiently and trust Him to answer at just the right time.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought:

Through faith we tap into the vast resources of God's power.

Memory Verse:

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. Mark 11:22

My Fur Coat

When I was in junior high school, it was a fad to have a fur coat. Although not many girls in school had one, there were those special few. These coats were short. I secretly hoped for a long fur coat that was as long as my dresses.

I knew my parents could never have money to buy one for me, and I needed to use all the money I earned for necessities that they couldn't purchase. My brother Tim and I talked about killing wild rabbits, curing their furs and making one. Those were just pleasant dreams.

Then God sent another miracle, as He did quite often to our family. My Aunt Lois found employment at the Guthrie Furniture Factory. They manufactured sofas, chairs, upholstered bed head-boards, pillows, mattresses, and other things.

Aunt Lois began bringing bags of scrap material from the factory. There were pieces of beautiful red, blue, and green velvet, and crushed velvet. Among the scraps, there were also fake furs of many different styles, lengths, and colors. To me, some of this fake fur looked nearly like real fur.

With these scraps, Mother began making all sorts of things. We needed blankets, so she sewed strips together and made quilt tops. Later, Aunt Lois brought a bag of white quilted material used for covering mattresses. This material served as linings for the quilt tops. Tricia and I made blue velvet valances trimmed in white pom-poms for our bedroom. We bought a sectional sofa at a garage sale and together we reupholstered it with gold colored velvet. Out of other velvet, we made different colored throw-pillows to put on it.

The grand surprise came when Aunt Lois brought a big bag of brown fake fur. When I was in the fifth grade Mom had made me a red velvet cape trimmed in white fur. The children called me "Little Red Riding Hood." That was okay. I liked the story of "Little Red Riding Hood." From this brown fur, we could make a big grown-up looking coat, which I really needed since I was going into junior high and was as tall as most of my teachers.

The following day after school, we went to Ashley's and found a princess style coat pattern that I loved. The pattern pieces were narrow so Mother thought she could cut them from the narrow pieces of material.

The following weeks I got up early and did much cleaning around the house so Mom would have time to sew during the day while I was away at school. Soon the pieces of scrap fur had taken the shape of two sleeves and the princess style back of a long coat. These, Mom carefully fitted to my tall, skinny body. By the end of the second week, the outside coat was completed. Then we went to Ashley's store and found just the right material for the coat lining.

During the sewing process I had been looking at different coats and how they were closed. I decided that buttons would get buried in the fur and would not do. I saw coats with leather strips sewed on both sides of the coat front and held together by metal hooks. We had an old suede purse, so I cut it into ten pieces and shaped them like I'd seen on other coats. Then we bought the large hooks at the Ben Franklin store.

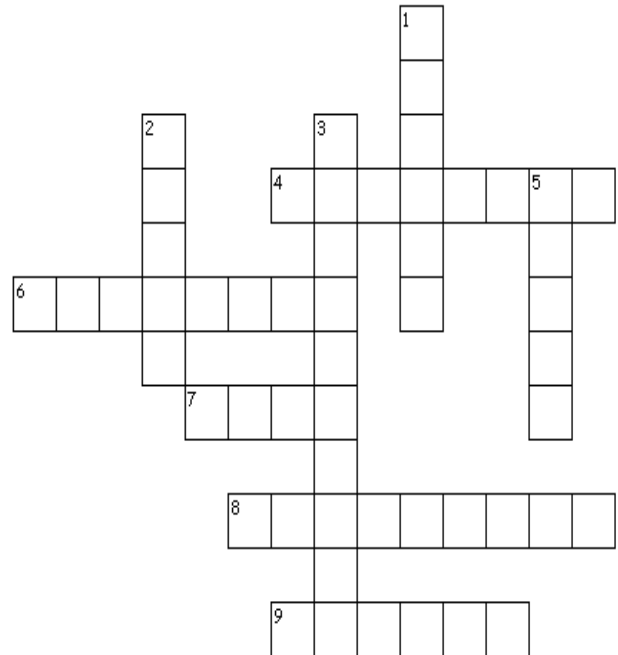
When the cold winter winds blew across Oklahoma, I was snugly warm in my brown fur coat. My friends and a lot of other girls at school wanted to know where I bought it. They wanted one like it. I proudly answered. "This one was tailor-made just for me. See how it fits perfectly?"

-Rosie Gellenbeck

Answers: 1. Faith. 2. God and His Holy Spirit. 3. Faith. 4. David, Peter and Paul. 5. Fed. 6. By studying the Bible and filling our minds with His promises. 7. God. 8. To strengthen it.

Keys of Faith

Word list: Belief, Confidence, Holiness, Pentecost, Power, Repent, Study, Unbelief, Word



Across

4. The state of purity in God.
6. The snare of Satan
7. The ____ of God.
8. The day thousands of people came to faith.
9. The act of asking forgiveness.

Down

1. Faith in God's power.
2. God's enormous ability to perform.
3. A strong assurance in God.
5. Digging into God's word.

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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Know God

The greatest gift God has given us is the privilege to truly know Him. He is willing to be our closest friend. He wants to be the first one we turn to when we are in trouble. He yearns to be the one we love to confide in.



As we get better acquainted with God, we begin to realize how deeply He loves us. We are His

children; no earthly father could be so loving and kind. Unlike a natural father, He is able to meet any need we have and knows what we will encounter before we get there. He will not withhold any good thing from us, but, in love, He will not give us anything that will harm us.

When the Lord appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul's first question was, "Who art thou, Lord?" When he heard that it was Jesus, his next response was, "What will thou have me to do?"

From that time on, Paul's greatest ambition was to know Christ. Paul was highly educated and had great achievements, but he counted all these worldly advantages as worthless compared to knowing Christ. He spent the rest of his life serving Jesus and preaching the gospel that he once tried to destroy.

Jesus was Paul's dearest friend and closest companion. He was able to endure great danger, persecution and pain because Jesus was with him to help him bear it all. Paul was beaten several times. He was stoned and dragged out of the city. Because he healed a devil-possessed girl, he was beaten and thrown in prison. The ship that was taking him to Rome was dashed in pieces by

a fierce storm. As he gathered wood for the fire, a venomous snake fastened itself onto his hand. But through it all, Jesus did not leave Paul. He was there when he was stoned, and healed him. The prison doors were opened by a violent earthquake and the poisonous snake fell into the fire without harming Paul.

Near the end of his life Paul was able to say, "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

He was so well acquainted with the goodness, mercy, and power of Christ, he knew his trust was not in vain.

We get better acquainted with God by spending time with Him in prayer and in reading His Word. God loves to reveal His great love, concern, and power to everyone who seeks Him. We see that there is no greater power available to help us; we learn to fully trust Him in every need and problem.

It is easy to surrender our life to God in full obedience when we realize that He alone knows the future. When we know how deeply He loves us, we gladly take the way that He appoints for us.

Like Paul, we can know God personally. This unleashes God's great power in our lives. We can face life with quiet confidence because we know Him!

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: If we truly know God we will fully trust Him.

Memory Verse: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:19

No Telephone

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1

"Mama! Something is wrong with Rosi. She won't get up," I heard Tricia screaming. I threw down the dish cloth and rushed outside. Rosi lay sprawled on the cobblestone walkway by the back door.

"Oh, no," I cried as I picked her up. "She is as limp as a rag doll," I gasped. I laid her on my shoulder and patted her gently, while whispering in her ear, "Rosi, Rosi, wake up. Rosi, wake-up!" She didn't respond. I shook her lightly, being careful to not bounce her head around. She didn't respond. I shook her harder! I laid her on the bed and started to breathe into her mouth, but she was already breathing.

Questions

1. What is the greatest gift God has given us?
2. Who is willing to be our best friend?
3. As we get better acquainted with God what do we begin to realize?
4. What was the first thing Paul asked when the Lord appeared to him?
5. What was Paul's greatest ambition?
6. Why was Paul beaten and thrown into prison?
7. Who was always with Paul in all his troubles?
8. How do we get better acquainted with God?

Falling on my knees, I begged, "God, please don't take my baby, please, God, please." Bobby and Tricia fell to their knees beside me. Two-year-old Tim sensed the urgency of our prayers. He leaned against me, saying repeatedly, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."

I felt so alone, so frightened. Where was anyone to help? James had gone visiting. We had no telephones and no praying neighbors. There was no one near who even understood my language. As far as I knew, the nearest phone was downtown, three miles away.

I had to depend on God alone. I shook Rosi again. I washed her face with cold water. I prayed as I walked the floor bouncing her around trying to get her back to consciousness. A hundred thoughts ran through my mind. If Rosi died, how could we get her body back across the international border without a doctor's signed death certificate? What doctor would believe that she just fell over dead? I also feared that people would think God's curse instead of His blessings were on us. "Lord, please help us," I cried again.

All of us had survived the change from living in a house kept at a constant 70 degree temperature to one which was only between 45 to 60 degrees. However, Rosi had congestion and fever much of the time. Had it weakened her until she could not withstand a tiny fall?

I was still walking shaking and praying. "Is she dying?" Tricia questioned, as she wiped the tears from her cheeks with the back of her hand.

Bobby was standing against the wall wholly composed and confident. I caught his eyes. They signaled to me, "Don't be afraid, Mama. She'll be all right."

Suddenly Rosi raised her head, leaned back in my arms, and looked at me with a puzzled expression on her face. Tricia and Bobby held out their hands for her to come to them. She shook her head "no" and laid it back on my shoulder. How wonderful her movements felt! "Thank you, Lord!" I cried, and burst into uncontrollable sobbing.

"Rm, r-r-mm, r-r-mm," Tim was saying. I knew he was hearing his daddy's motorcycle.

Bobby ran out to meet James and jumped on the motorcycle behind him. James picked up Timmy and they spun out of the driveway and back on to the highway. They came back beaming.

"Tomorrow, I'll take you with me and we will go to the ranch on the other side of that hill," James was telling Bobby as they came inside.

"Do be careful," I said, "we don't need another scare. I've just got over one."

"Why, what scared you?"

"Rosi almost died," Tricia said.

"What?"

"Tricia was playing with Rosi outside. Rosi must have slipped on the rocks by the back door. When I picked her up, she was unconscious."

"You don't think she fainted and then fell?" he asked as he picked her up. "I'm so glad you are okay. God took care of you, didn't He?" James said to Rosi.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. The privilege to truly know Him. 2. God. 3. How deeply He loves us. 4. "Who art thou, Lord?" 5. To know Christ. 6. Because he healed a girl who was devil possessed. 7. Jesus. 8. By spending time with Him in prayer and in reading His Word.

Know God

Directions: Find words that will help you get to know God in a personal way.

U V C R Y I Y P P R A P P L Y A C U U T
Q Y J D H L R X N Y G B S M B G M I N A
L P U E I A G T G O P B I K D W J P D E
P T U D C A P F Q G E Q N W P W N K E R
S G V T E R O L P X E V G D A E R Y R T
G T I I E B H S M Q U V E P Q F J H S N
T C H D S X N Q E U N A R I G E U D T E
E K S M U K S L P R T A M V L P F I A I
J J R X C J N W Q G Y R I G H E E G N Y
K W N J M M G Q Q P J G U C K S B Y D Y
J R Z J U S G V A K G T P S R Q I V D T
O P Y P P D P W I R G L E P T D Z H M G

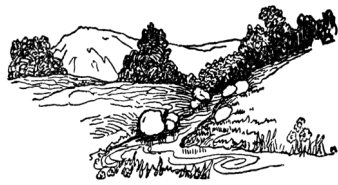
Word List:	Explore	Study
Apply	Practice	Trust
Believe	Pray	Understand
Dig	Read	Use
Entreat	Sing	

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What a Mighty God!

Long before he became king, David was a shepherd boy who cared for his father's sheep. He led the sheep to the greenest pastures and stayed nearby to guard against



lions, bears, and other harmful creatures. He was always alert, watching for any danger.

David spent many days and nights alone in the open fields with his sheep. As he gazed up into the night sky at the myriad stars above and observed the beauties of nature all around him, he knew it was the work of Almighty God. He wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1).

David knew he was as helpless as the sheep that he cared for. In the 23rd Psalm, he said, "The Lord is my Shepherd." David was confident that God would be his guide throughout his life. He could trust the great Creator who faithfully held all the universe in perfect order.

All of nature proves the love and power of God. From the intricate beauty of the tiniest flower to the breathtaking display of millions of stars at night, it all declares the work of an omnipotent Creator. As we observe nature, it should impress on our minds the greatness and majesty of God.

God sends His love to us moment by moment, giving us life, breath, and strength. Jesus said, our Father who is in Heaven "...maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the

unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

God spoke the world into existence. By the power of His word, He established the perfect order of the universe. It is so precise, that astronomers can make accurate predictions based on God's perfect order. Since He created the earth, this perfect timing has deviated only twice, and that was by God's permission in answer to prayer: once when Joshua prayed that the sun would stand still while he fought against the Amorites, and once when God brought the shadow of the sundial backward 10° in answer to Isaiah's prayer for King Hezekiah.

And what maintains this perfect order? What keeps the planets spinning in their orbits without colliding? It is all kept in place by the power of God's word. What a mighty God we serve!

We have God's word written in the Bible. These words are just as powerful as His word, which was spoken at creation. We can safely build our lives on the instructions given in the Bible. We can confidently trust God to fulfill every promise written in His word as we meet the conditions.

God governs the world by infinite wisdom for the good of His people and watches over all the creatures and their actions. Yet, God is not too busy to hear a plea of faith. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God gives us abundant proof of His mighty power and love through all that He has created.

Memory Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Psalm 19:1

Stranded in the Desert

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid... for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Deuteronomy 31:6

On a hot August afternoon, we were delivering food to the Pai-pai Indians in Baja, California. According to our mileage gauge, we were nearing our destination. But then our old, Chevy panel truck coughed and died. The large port city of Ensenada, on the Pacific Ocean, was about sixty-five miles behind us to the west. San Felipe, a fishing resort on the Gulf of California, was sixty or seventy miles east of us. Those were the nearest places to find help for an ailing vehicle.

Questions

1. What was David's job before he became king?
2. As David gazed at the stars and saw the beauties of nature, he knew it was whose work?
3. What do the heavens declare?
4. What does the firmament show?
5. Who was David's Shepherd?
6. What does nature prove?
7. What keeps the planets spinning in their orbits?
8. To whom does God show Himself strong?

"Looks like we'll be here until the sun goes down and the coolness of the evening causes the gasoline to flow again," James said. "The car is vapor locked."

"What is that?" I questioned.

"Vapor locked means that the fuel pump and lines get so hot that the liquid gasoline changes to vapor gas and does not flow. The engine will not run because the gasoline spray cannot be controlled properly," James explained.

I panicked! "In this heat, our children could be dehydrated within hours," I whined. "I'm sure it must be 120 degrees. These scrubby mesquite trees are short. Even the taller ones cast only lines of shadow. There is no real shade."

"To stay in this windowless truck is intense heat," James said. "We'd better get everyone out."

Our oldest child, Bobby, was six years old. He and four-year-old Tricia climbed out first. Tricia reached for baby Rosi, but Rosi was asleep. I climbed out with two-year-old Tim in my arms and pulled Rosi on her blanket close to the two open side doors.

"The sand is burning my feet through my shoes," I complained.

"I know," James answered, "But what can I do? Our ice is already melted and the drinking water is hot. The gasoline has to cool so it can flow before the motor will start."

"If God doesn't work a miracle, we'll all die," I groaned. I wondered what my dad would say if one of his grandchildren died of dehydration. Would he be able to forgive James and me for bringing them into this danger?

We had hardly got over the initial shock of being stranded and unprotected from the intense desert sun when we heard something. We looked at each other. Neither of us said a word, but we were both thinking, "Could it possibly be the motor of a car?" We listened, still speechless. It was getting louder. The sound was more distinct.

"It sounds like a jeep!" James said, his voice escalating with excitement.

A few moments later, a jeep rounded a curve and stopped behind us. Two surprised Americans jumped out at the same time. "What on earth are you doing here?" they asked. "We thought we were blazing a trail. We thought we were the first US citizens to cross this peninsula here."

Now, this is almost impossible to believe, but using a cold grapefruit from the stranger's ice chest, James got the gas in the carburetor cooled off and the old truck started

again.

I believe we were on the road again in less than a half-hour. In another half-hour we were cooling off in the mission house at the reservation.

Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid... for the Lord thy God he is that doth go with thee; he will not fail, nor forsake thee.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. He was a shepherd. 2. Almighty. God's. 3. The glory of . God. 4. God's handywork. 5. The Lord. 6. The love and power of God. 7. The power of God's word. 8. Those whose heart is perfect.

What a Mighty God!

Directions: Find and circle all of the words on the list to reveal the secret message. *Hint: The secret message is hidden in the first few lines of the puzzle.*

S	E	T	T	H	H	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	D	E	C	L	A	R
E	H	R	T	N	A	H	E	G	L	O	R	Y	O	F	G	O	D	I	Y
Q	Y	E	U	W	E	N	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S	A	J	Z	L	Q
E	Z	I	P	T	K	M	D	Q	Q	Q	D	X	S	P	A	M	N	Z	F
C	G	I	P	H	A	R	A	I	K	F	Z	S	G	O	F	Q	B	R	Z
S	B	D	I	U	E	N	V	M	W	Z	Q	S	S	W	S	O	P	A	X
X	I	E	Y	P	W	R	U	L	R	O	I	K	J	E	M	A	D	Z	L
U	U	H	A	B	E	S	D	G	A	I	R	X	F	R	B	C	O	T	Y
S	S	E	N	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F	K	D	I	V	A	D	A	B
B	E	A	U	T	I	E	S	N	A	X	E	C	C	R	G	Z	E	O	O

Beauties

David

Faithfulness

Firmament

Handiwork

Nature

Power

Promises

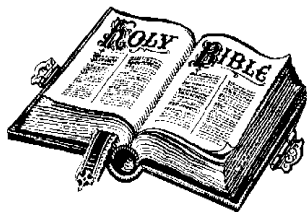
Shepherd

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The Omnipotent Word of God

God spoke and the world and everything in it was created at His command. The second verse of song number 56 in



Evening Light Songs says, "Oh, look at the universe that He has made; See the twinkling worlds on high; Alone on His fiat are these mighty planets stayed, Then we know He can never

lie." The next verse says, "The word He hath spoken shall forever stand, It will never pass away; By it were the heavens made, the sea and all the land, It is surely the same today."

Our Bible is God's word in written form. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

Although the writers of the Bible lived at different times and under different circumstances, it was God who, by His Holy Spirit, directed the writing. The Holy Spirit makes the words alive to us as we allow Him to apply them to our needs.

During His time on earth, Jesus proved that God's word was so powerful it could tear down the devil's strong holds. By His word, He raised the dead, opened the ears of the deaf, and made the blind to see, the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk. He released many who had been possessed by the devil.

Questions

1. Who spoke the world into existence?
2. Our _____ is God's word in written form.
3. God, by His _____, directed the writing.
4. Jesus proved the word of God was powerful enough to do what?
5. What was Jesus doing as He stood by the lake?
6. Why did Jesus step into Peter's boat?
7. There is no _____ to what God can do when we _____ His word.
8. Why were Noah and his family saved?

One day, Jesus stood by the lake named Gennesaret teaching the people. More and more came to hear. They crowded close to Him, so they would not miss a word He said. Peter, Andrew, James, and John had been fishing that day; but they caught nothing, so they pulled their boats to shore and got out to wash their nets.

Jesus stepped into Peter's boat. This made it easier for everyone to hear Him. After teaching the people, He told Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Peter told Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the net." When they did, the nets filled so heavily with fish, the boat began to sink!

There is no limit to what God can do when we obey His word as Peter did. Noah obediently built an ark because God told him to. People mocked and laughed at him for building the huge boat on dry land. But, many years later, the floods came as God said they would. Noah and his family were saved because he obeyed God's word.

Moses and the children of Israel faced the Red Sea with no way to cross it. They could see Pharaoh and his army coming to capture and destroy them. Then, at God's word, Moses stretched his rod out over the sea. God opened a wide highway and the Israelites walked through the sea on dry land!

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. It is the weapon that will defeat the devil when he tempts us to do evil. Jesus answered every evil suggestion of the devil by the Scriptures.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: The world was created by the word of God. His word is just the same today; it will never lose its power!

Memory Verse: Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God... Hebrews 11:3

The Tornado

The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind... Nahum 1:3

One day we stopped near Ojos Negros to visit a family in a new brick house. The couple asked for a Bible. The following weekend when Harland Smith stopped to visit us, James told him about our visit.

"Wonderful!" he exclaimed. "I've been wanting to stop but just haven't found time. So they were interested?"

"Yes, they asked for a Bible, but I have already given away all the Bibles you brought."

Brother Harland took them a Bible and kept visiting them on his weekend trips. One Sunday evening, he brought us news that the woman had given her life to God. "Be sure and visit her whenever you are out that way," he said.

About this time Brother Harlan was involved in a big building project and couldn't come as often to Mexico, so we were thinks I should be doing something more productive than studying the Bible."

When Brother Harland stopped, he found the same rejection. He cautioned Señor Gomez to not make a god of this world. Señor Gomez laughed and said, "One of these days, I'll be the richest farmer in the Ojos Negro Valley."

On our next trip to the desert, we noticed his place looked abandoned and wondered if something had happened to him. We asked Brother Harland if he had heard anything. He said, "At the store they told me a small tornado passed through and scared him away. The house was damaged. Some windows were broken, roof decking was torn away from one corner, and the door facing was hanging loose."

A month or so later when we went by, clothes were hanging on the line, so we stopped. Señora Gomez greeted us at the door with a happy face and hugs. Señor Gomez was sitting at the table in front of the refrigerator. He looked much older than he did the day he had reproved James for not building up wealth for his children.

We showed concern for his loss. Señor Gomez quickly admitted his mistake. "Yep, God punished me for my haughty attitude and for making gold my god. I told you I planned to buy more ranch land. The day before the tornado I went to the bank in Ensenada and took out all my money. I had it right on top of that refrigerator." He turned around and pointed to the top of the refrigerator. "That night a tornado came through. The wind broke the window glass and sucked the money out. I went out the following morning and looked everywhere for it but only

found a few bills. I know God was angry with me. All my hard work and savings blew away in the wind."

"The Lord has his way in the whirlwind," James quoted.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. God. 2. Bible. 3. Holy Spirit. 4. To tear down the devil's strong holds. 5. Teaching the people. 6. To make it easier for everyone to hear Him. 7. Limit, obey. 8. Because Noah obeyed God's word.

Race to God's Word!

Look up and copy each of the following verses on the spaces below. Race against your classmates!

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 119:105

James 1:22

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Luke 11:28

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The Holy Spirit

The book of Acts tells how the disciples were transformed after they received the Holy Spirit. Peter was changed



from a coward who denied knowing Jesus, to one who boldly declared to everyone that Jesus was the Son of God. He was not afraid to tell about Jesus even though he knew he would be thrown into prison.

The Holy Spirit is the greatest treasure a man can ever possess! Jesus told His disciples that it was necessary for Him to leave and return to heaven because God could, only then, send this great gift to them.

When Jesus began telling His disciples that He must go back to His Father in heaven, they were sad and fearful. They felt safe and happy as long as He was with them. Nothing could be more wonderful than having Jesus with them every day.

Jesus told the disciples why He must die. Though they could not understand, He tried to explain that the power of the devil and sin over their hearts could only be broken by the shedding of His own righteous blood. Then, with their hearts cleansed from sin, the Holy Spirit would come into their souls and live there forever! His great power would destroy the seed of sin that had been planted in every heart when Adam disobeyed God. He would make the clean heart His home, and the devil would have no claim to their heart. The Holy Spirit would give them power to say, "NO!" when the devil tempted them to sin.

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would guide

them into all truth. He would be an excellent guide because He knew the safest route to heaven and how weak and dependent they were. Following His directions they could escape the traps and snares the devil had set up to destroy them. He would make them stronger than all their enemies!

The Holy Spirit is just as necessary for each of us. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. But, we must have the Holy Spirit to keep us saved and free from sin. Our lives will be transformed when we invite the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and possess us completely. He alone can safely guide us to heaven. He has fought many battles against the devil and never lost one.

Of course it is most important to talk with our guide. We must be able to understand His instructions in order to follow them. The Word of God is the language of the Holy Spirit. In fact, it was He who inspired those who wrote the Bible (2 Peter 1:21)!

God's word, the Bible, is a powerful weapon against the enemy. By memorizing it, we store it in our hearts. Our faithful guide will bring it to our mind just when we need to use it against the devil.

In prayer the Holy Spirit speaks through our lips to talk with God. Romans 8:26 tells us that we don't know what we should pray for as we should, but the Holy Spirit understands God's will and what we should pray for. He will make intercession for us.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God has promised to give His Holy Spirit to those whose hearts have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Memory Verse: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26

Bandits at Midnight

It is not you that speak but the spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. Matthew 10:20

Isn't it strange how God sometimes causes us to say something and it turns out to be the perfect words?

It was about midnight. I was driving along chatting with church co-workers when suddenly I saw the red lights of a police car flashing behind me. I thought he was just passing so I slowed a bit but kept traveling. The next thing I knew, the police van was alongside me and the officer in the passenger seat was pointing a machine gun at me. I slammed on the brakes and pulled off the highway. I felt afraid, caught, trapped, and guilty.

Questions

1. What happened to the disciples after they received the Holy Spirit?
2. Which disciple denied that he even knew Jesus?
3. What is the greatest treasure man can ever possess?
4. What is the only way the power of sin can be broken?
5. When hearts are cleansed from sin, Who will come to live there?
6. He would _____ them into all truth.
7. Who inspired the words written in the Bible?
8. When we pray the Holy Spirit will make _____ for us.

We were going on a mission trip and were traveling in Nayarit, Mexico, between the cities of Mazatlan and Tepec. We chose to pay ten dollars for a 15 mile toll road thinking we would be safer than the dangerous mountains. James was driving a van. I was driving our station wagon. We planned to drive all night, so to make things more interesting, we divided into two groups. The women were in my car and the men and younger children in the van. It was wonderful. We talked about women things, home stuff, stories about our children, answers to prayer, etc. We sang both beautifully and crazily. We were goofing off until, suddenly, our folly changed to fear.

The police van whipped off the highway in front of me. Two officers, each with machine guns, jumped out. One ran to my open window and stationed the gun on the open window frame. The other officer stood on the passenger side. "Let me see your driver's license, your car registration, and your visa," he said in Spanish. While a passenger was searching the glove compartment for the three documents, I said, "Sorry if I was going a little fast. I'm trying to catch my husband who is driving a dark brown turtle-top 12 passenger van. Did you happen to see it?"

About that time, a squawky message came over his radio. The other officer stepped aside and answered it. The officer looked at the driver's license and said, "Oklahoma. That is a long way from here. What are you doing so far from home?"

Before I could answer, a small, white pick-up with red lights flashing and sirens screaming went flying by. The other officer motioned to him. "I gotta go," he said, "there is an accident up ahead." The van tore off quickly and we all breathed a sigh of relief.

A few miles down the road, we saw a car with California license tag off the highway. Policemen with machine guns were surrounding it.

When we stopped to pay at the toll gate, I asked the attendant if a brown turtle-top 12 passenger van had passed. He answered, "No. I've been here all night." I parked close by so James could readily see me. We all got out to unwind. The attendant, having nothing to do, came over and visited with us. During the conversation, someone told him about the police stopping us. He wrinkled his forehead and asked the description of the vehicles and several other questions. Then nodding his head he asked, "Did they know you were traveling with another car?"

"Yes, because I asked if they had seen the other vehicle." "That saved you," he said. "Those were not police officers. They were bandits. They have robbed many people traveling in United States cars. Sometimes they kill and keep the car. However, since you were traveling with another car, they were afraid. You better thank the Virgin Mary that you are still alive."

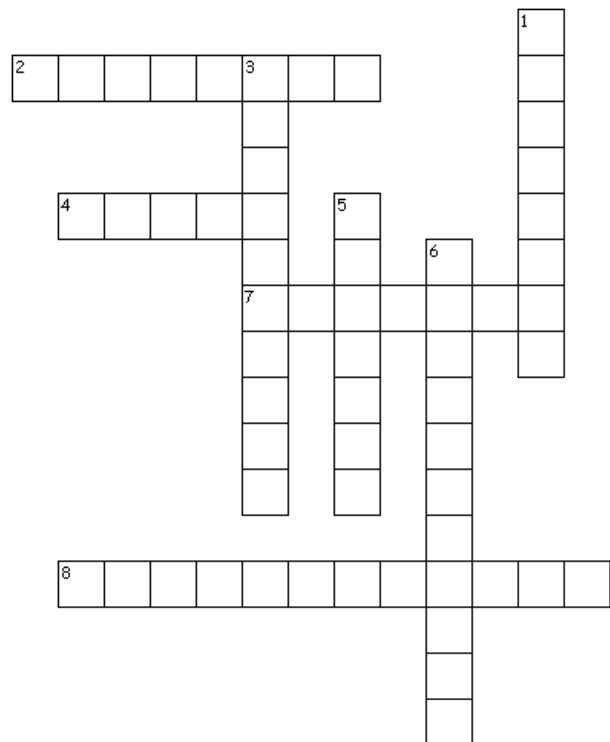
When Pabla heard him say, "Thank the Virgin Mary," she seized the opportunity to tell him about Jesus. As she was telling him how Christ had changed her life, I was thanking God that He had caused me to say what I had said.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. They were transformed. 2. Peter. 3. The Holy Spirit. 4. By the shedding of Jesus' blood. 5. The Holy Spirit. 6. Guide. 7. The Holy Spirit. 8. Intercession.

The Holy Spirit

Directions: Use the clues below to fill in the crossword. All answers can be found in the lesson.



Across

2. If we ____ the scripture, it will come to our minds when we need it most.
4. The Holy Spirit is our ____ in life.
7. God must ____ our hearts before we can be sanctified.
8. Through ____ we store God's word in our hearts.

Down

1. Our sins are ____.
3. Jesus ____ for us when we pray to the Lord.
5. We are given ____ from bondage by the Holy Spirit.
6. The word of God gives us ____.

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Spreading the Good News

Jesus appeared to His disciples on several occasions after His resurrection. He told them He was soon going back to His Father. Then, one day when they met Him in a place He had appointed, He told them they were to be witnesses for Him throughout the whole world. As He spoke, He began to rise into the air. The disciples gazed up in amazement until Jesus disappeared out of their sight.



How could the disciples be trusted with the great responsibility of spreading the Gospel? They had all run away in terror when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. He knew they could not accomplish this in their own strength.

"Stay in Jerusalem," He instructed them. "I will send you the Holy Spirit. He will give you power to spread the good news that I have taught you" (Luke 24:49).

Obediently, His disciples returned to Jerusalem. There they continued in prayer with Mary, Jesus' mother, and other believers. Then one day, while they were all in one place, they suddenly heard a great noise from heaven that sounded like a mighty rushing wind. At that moment, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, telling the good news of the Gospel as the Spirit gave them words to speak.

The power of the Holy Spirit was immediately evident in Peter. When some mocked, saying the 120 twenty were speaking in other languages because they were drunk, Peter boldly stood up and with a loud voice announced, "Men of Jerusalem and all Judea, we are not drunk as you suppose. The prophet Joel said, 'In those days I will pour

out my Spirit on my servants and on my handmaidens and they shall preach.' God has given us the Holy Spirit as He promised. This is what you are seeing and hearing today."

Peter spoke the words Holy Spirit gave him to say. The multitude listened intently as he told them about Jesus, the many signs and wonders He worked, and how God allowed Him to be delivered into the hands of His wicked enemies. He spoke of Jesus' crucifixion, assuring them that God had raised Him from the dead.

The words touched the hearts of the audience. They knew Peter spoke the truth. They felt so condemned that they cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter instructed them to repent and be baptized. Then they too could receive the greatest blessing of all—the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit changed Peter from a coward, who was afraid to admit even knowing Jesus, into a courageous witness for Him. As we study Peter's life, we see what great miracles and wonders the Holy Spirit worked through him. Best of all, he could now live a steady, consistent, and holy life just as Jesus did.

We are each called to be witnesses for Jesus, no matter what our age. The Holy Spirit will give us power today! We may never travel to a foreign country but each of us has our "world" in which to spread the good news that Jesus can save and keep us from sin. We tell the Gospel story by living for Jesus and letting Him shine through us.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: We are each called to spread the gospel by living for Jesus.

Memory Verse: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me... Act 1:8

Sharing God's Word

"Say, Josefina, what's happened to Esteven?" Ramon asked. "He hasn't been to see me for days."

"It's that book. Just look at him," she pointed into the other room. Esteven was sitting by the window reading a book. He never looked up.

"He pays no attention to anyone. Every minute he isn't working, he's reading. I can hardly get him to eat."

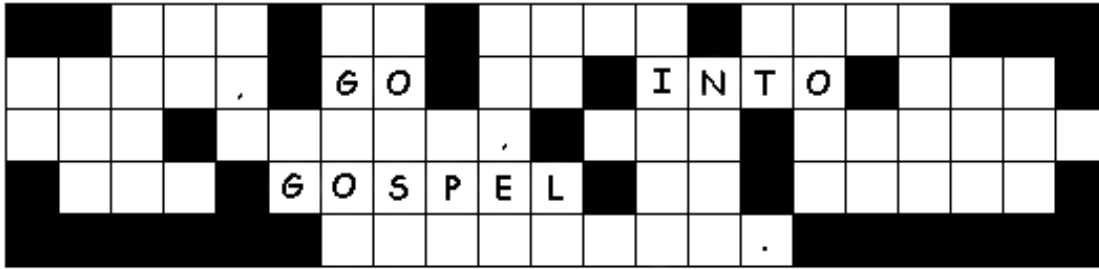
Ramon poked his head in the opening and whistled. Esteven looked up and smiled but continued reading. "How could any book be more interesting than a good game of Poker?" Ramon questioned Esteven.

"This book gives me answers to questions I've had since I

Questions

1. Where did Jesus tell his disciples He was going?
2. They were to be _____ for Him.
3. Who ran away when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus?
4. Who did Jesus promise to send?
5. What did they do when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?
6. Who boldly preached to the people?
7. What did the people cry out?
8. What are we each called to be?

Sharing God's Gospel



Fallen Phrase

Directions:

All the letters have fallen to the bottom. They got mixed up on their way down, but remain in the same column. Remember what you read in today's lesson! (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)

was a kid. This book tells me who Jesus is. It tells me why He died. Jesus Himself was baptized after He was a grown man."

"Esteven, are you taking up another religion? Did you get that book from the American?"

"Sure did."

"But you know our fathers, our grandfathers, and our great grandfathers were Catholic. Why do you want to change?"

"I never understood our father's religion. We say prayers. We confess to another man who is meaner than I am. We light candles. We eat fish on Friday. But I never knew why. I think I can understand that guy's religion better than ours."

"I think you are getting yourself into a ton of trouble that you will later have to confess."

"I'm not so sure we need to confess to a priest. Just read this." He handed Ramon the New Testament, opened to first John.

Ramon read aloud, "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also the sins of the whole world." (1 John 1:7-10; 2:2)

"Wow! That is amazing!"

"You see, Jesus isn't angry with us as we have been taught. He is our Helper, our Savior."

"You really believe so?"

"Yes, something inside of me says it is."

Answers: 1. Back to his Father. 2. Witnesses. 3. All the disciples. 4. The Holy Spirit. 5. They began speaking in other languages. 6. Peter. 7. "What shall we do?" 8. Witnesses for Jesus.

"I think I'd like to read your book. Can I borrow it?"

"No, no. I can't part with it. Maybe you could get one if you ask."

Ramon came with Esteven the following Sunday and asked for a Bible. I don't remember if we had one for him at the time, though, at some point, we did give him one. Later, his wife told me that he stayed up all night reading the Bible.

Ramona and Esteven are just two examples of the many people who received free Bibles those first years we lived in Rosarito. When we moved there, a huge hydroelectric plant was being constructed. Hundreds of men from states throughout Mexico were coming there seeking employment. Many of these men were not hired; some were hired and worked a short time while others worked for a longer period of time. A few men stayed in Baja, California, but the majority returned to their homes in different parts of Mexico.

It was amazing how God supplied for so many Bibles to be given away freely. It is also amazing that God planted us in the spot where so many men came for a few weeks or months, and then went back to their homes with a Bible. In this way, the word of God was scattered throughout Mexico. I thank God that He led James to move to Rosarito Beach although we knew nothing about the electric plant nor the many men coming and going.

-Charlotte Huskey

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Peter and John

One day, as Peter and John were going into the temple to pray, they saw a beggar sitting on the ground. He held out his cup and asked for alms as he did from everyone who walked by.

This had started out as just another dreary day for this lame man as he waited patiently for someone to carry him to the temple.

From the day that he was born—over forty years before this time—he had never taken a step or even stood on his feet! His ankles and feet had never grown strong like the other children's. He remembered sitting where he could watch as other children laughed, ran, and played nearby.

As he grew older, he saw other boys his age working hard, lifting and carrying loads to help about the home. All he could do was to sit and watch. He knew he was a burden to his family, and it made his heart ache. What a joy it would be to have strong legs—to work hard and to make life easier for his dear parents!

Since he could not work, the only way he could get a little money was by begging. Each morning, his family or friends would carry him to a gate of the temple that was called "Beautiful." This had been the daily routine for so many years that the people expected to see him there. Each evening he would be carried back to his home.

But, this day would change the beggar's life forever. When he asked Peter and John for alms, Peter felt powerfully drawn to him. He realized that God wanted to

do something very special for this poor beggar.

Looking at him intently, Peter said, "I have no silver or gold. But I do have something to give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!"

As he spoke, Peter reached out and took the man by the hand and lifted him up. Instantly his feet and ankles were made strong. He leaped to his feet and began to walk. He went into the temple with Peter and John, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

This made such a commotion that the people looked to see what was happening. They could not believe their eyes—it was the lame beggar who always sat at the Beautiful gate of the temple, but he wasn't lame anymore! In fact, he kept jumping for sheer joy of being able to walk and stand.

More and more people gathered, amazed at what they were witnessing. The lame man held Peter and John as if he could not let them go. These two strangers had given him what he had dreamed of all his life—the ability to walk! As the crowd grew, Peter spoke to the people, telling them it was Jesus who had healed the man. It was not by any power of their own.

When Jesus lives in our heart, we have a greater treasure than all the diamonds, silver, gold, or other riches of earth! God wants to work through us just as He did through Peter and John. He will use us to be a blessing to everyone we contact.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Peter and John had something far better than silver or gold to give the lame man.

Memory Verse: Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Acts 3:6

The Motorcycle Accident

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: Let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Psalms 71: 1-2

Tim was humming, "Rm, r-r-mm, r-r-mm, r-r-mm." His daddy's motorcycle was coming. Bobby ran out to meet James, hoping that James would take him for a short ride as he usually did. Tim toddled behind Bobby. Tricia covered her ears with her hands. She and I hated motorcycles.

Suddenly a dog began yelping as if in great pain. I wondered what had happened!

Questions

1. Where were Peter and John going?
2. What was the name of the gate where they laid the lame man?
3. How long had the man been lame?
4. Why did they carry him to the temple every day?
5. What did the lame man do when he saw Peter and John?
6. What did Peter say he did not have?
7. In whose name did Peter command him to rise and walk?
8. When Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up, what happened?

Instantly I heard Bob yelling, "Mama, Mama, come quick, it's Daddy!"

I turned off the fire under the rice I was frying, picked up Rosi, and dashed out the door. Tricia trailed behind me. Bobby was running down the edge of the highway. "Look, Daddy's lying in the road," he called.

By the time I got to where I could see, James was sitting up in the middle of the highway holding his head in his hands. I looked both ways to see if a car might be approaching. James' 1952 Indian motorcycle lay mashed up against the post in front of the small rodeo arena. It was a little south and across the highway from our house. I saw James roll over, get up, and dust his pants. He staggered toward the side of the road. I could see blood on his shirt and face.

I was frightened, hot, and weak. "Are you hurt?" I asked.

"Not much, just my chin and shoulder," he said. He rubbed his shoulder and was trying to move it.

"Blood is dripping from your face," Bobby shouted, "and there is a big gash in your chin."

By now, several neighbors were running. Jose's mom picked up Tim who was toddling behind. Concha, who lived nearest to me, took Tricia's hand and tried to comfort her. I was thankful for our neighbors. I felt their sympathy.

James pulled his handkerchief from his pocket and held it on his chin. Jose saw the motorcycle and went for it. The fender was bent back against the tire and wouldn't let the tire roll. After some prying and bending he was able to get it rolling.

"What happened?" I asked, "I heard a dog howling."

"I hit that dog," he said, pointing to a dog dragging himself across the field. "There were two dogs fighting in the road. I honked and they scattered, one on each side of the road. Then one dashed back across the road. He ran right in front of me. I must have broken its back. Do you know the owner?" James asked Jose's father.

"I think it is a stray. I haven't seen it around here."

"That's good! At least no neighbor will be angry with me." We had already learned that our neighbors valued their dogs for protection.

"I'm glad it didn't kill you. It could have," I cried.

"Yes, it could have. I was going pretty fast. I flew straight out in front of the motorcycle, landed on my chin, and slid a good, long ways down the highway. I suppose the impact could have broken my neck if I had hit differently, and it could have killed me or, maybe, left me paralyzed."

We headed slowly back to the house, James limping along, holding the hankie on his chin. "You must have hurt your leg," I remarked.

Jose had pushed the motorcycle up against the house.

James patted it as we went by. "I guess you will get some rest for a while. You've been a good pack horse," he said to the motorcycle.

I poured clean drinking water into a bowl and washed his chin. I then taped on a clean bit of gauze. While the bleeding was subsiding, James cut a butterfly bandage. After it stopped bleeding, I taped the gash closed.

"God is good," He said.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Into the temple. 2. Beautiful. 3. From birth. 4. To ask for alms. 5. Asked for alms. 6. Silver and gold. 7. In the name of Jesus Christ. 8. His feet and ankle bones received strength. 9. Walking and praising God.

Rise Up and Walk!

Directions: Find words that tell the story of the lame man being healed by Peter and John!

H I I Y E I X O M D K T C R D C A S W O
Z B N W L U R W N D Y G D F A L H A X L
Y Q P H P R G N I L A E H Q M G L Z E D
F X V F M F F P Z O Q R U S B K G S C Y
Q L Z K E H M Z R J Q Z C I I J F E B Q
M M L E T X K W V A S W B N U O L B B Q
E G E W B I R T H U I C G K R H P J F D
B E A U T I F U L L C S R K Q N I C S W
F W P H O E H J N Z A E I D M U X Q Q S
B I I Z N G F M Y N T M X N W F P M C D
D Y N Q V K Q L B E C K E T G O Q E P X
J V G B E K H J P R I U M R K N T W A J

ALMS	BIRTH	LAME	PRAISING
BEAUTIFUL	HEALING	LEAPING	TEMPLE
BEGGAR	JOHN	PETER	WALKING

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An Angel in the Temple!

God is faithful. He will perform what He has promised!



About 400 years before it happened, God spoke through prophets saying He would send a messenger before He sent the promised Messiah into the world. This messenger would prepare the people to accept Jesus as their promised Savior. Zacharias and Elisabeth's son was to be this special

messenger!

For many years, Zacharias and Elisabeth's one hope and constant prayer was that God would bless them with a son, but they grew too old to hope for a child.

But nothing is too hard for God. He chose this time to give them their heart's desire. This miracle showed that this child was a special gift from God, with a special mission to fulfill.

When he left his home in the hill country of Judah to serve in the temple, Zacharias had no clue that something great was about to happen. But, this time, as he entered the holy place, he saw an angel. Zacharias was so afraid that he fell to the ground.

"Don't be afraid," the angel assured him. "I have come to tell you that your prayers have been heard. You and Elisabeth will have a son!" The angel even told him what his son's name was to be.

So, like Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, and Samuel, John was to be born to parents who had yearned for a child for many years. His birth was a miracle. He was, as his name implied, "a gift of God."

Zacharias was so overwhelmed he could not believe the good news. "How can I know that what you say is true?" he questioned. "I am an old man and my wife, too, is old."

Questions

1. What will God perform?
2. Whose son was to be the special messenger?
3. What did Zacharias see when he entered the holy place?
4. Why didn't Zacharias believe the angel?
5. What was Zacharias' punishment?
6. What did the waiting people perceive?
7. How old was the baby when they named him?
8. What happened after Zacharias wrote that the baby's name was John?

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God. He has sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe what I told you and asked for a sign to prove my words were true, you will not be able to speak another word until the child is born." Then the angel disappeared.

When Zacharias finally came out of the temple, he could only motion to the people. They wondered why it had taken him so long, but he could not explain. They supposed that he had seen a vision.

When Zacharias had finished serving in the temple, he returned to his home in the hill country of Judah. He had not been able to say a word since the angel visited him in the holy place. Now, Zacharias was sure that the angel's words would come true.

After some months, Elisabeth's neighbors and relatives heard that she would soon have a child. They were amazed. They knew this was a miracle!

When their little son was born, the neighbors and relatives were almost as excited and happy as Zacharias and Elisabeth! The baby was eight days old; it was time to give him a name. Everyone was sure he would be named Zacharias, after his father. They were surprised when Elisabeth said, "No, his name is John!"

When they asked Zacharias he asked for a writing tablet. In plain letters he wrote, "His name is John."

Then, all at once, Zacharias was able to speak again! He praised God for giving them this wonderful baby boy.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God is faithful. He will perform what He has promised!

Memory Verse: Behold, I will send my messenger and, he shall prepare the way before me. Malachi 3:1

Church Service in Rosarito Beach

I was glad when they said, unto me let us go into the house of the LORD. Psalms 122:1

It was Saturday, March 25. I heard a gentle tap-tap-tapping on the door. "Quien es?" (Who's there?), James asked as he opened the door. I looked up from the book I was reading and saw Jose standing outside.

"Come in," James said, and motioned with his hand for Jose to enter.

"Don't need to come in," he said. "Just wanted to know if you're going to sing again and invite people to listen to your talk."

"Yes, we came here to tell the story of Jesus. Say, could you understand me last Sunday?"

"Yeah. Sure. At least part of what you said. I like the singing. I really like that one about a cross."

"I'm so glad."

"Okay, I'll be going now."

"See you tomorrow."

I laid down the Bible story book I had been reading to the children and picked up the printouts of the few Spanish songs we had. "Let's see, he must have meant 'En La Cruz'," I said as I shuffled the papers in my hands.

"Maybe he meant that one about a cross on the mountain," Bobby said. "The one you told me about."

"Me sing," Tricia said. "Me sing," and she started jabbering in high and low tones.

"No playing right now," I cautioned.

"Let's sing 'En La Cruz' and some other songs to practice up for tomorrow," James suggested.

One after another, the children fell asleep while James and I continued practicing songs in Spanish. Soon I fell asleep to the rhythm of James repeating, "Cristo manifestado en la carne." "Cristo el hijo de dios, manifestado en la carne."

Sunday morning, March 26, was sunny and warm. Soon after we had finished breakfast, Pedro Sanchez, his wife, and some children arrived. He introduced his wife, Beatrice, and shook hands with James, me, and our two older children. "We came for the church service. You are having one, aren't you?"

"That is right." James said

I motioned for them to come in and sit down. Beatrice came in and told the children to greet us. In traditional Mexican manner, each child respectfully shook hands with James, me, and our children, saying to each of us, "Dios le bendiga." (God bless you). Then they sat down quietly beside Beatrice. I was amazed at their politeness. I think I'm going to love the Mexican culture, I said to myself.

Before long, others came, including Jose, his dad, sister, and Sipriana. James passed out the leaflet of songs and motioned for everyone to stand. He then bowed his head and said a short prayer he had memorized. After that, he called number cinco. Everyone found the song in their printouts and we sang:

En la cruz, en la cruz de primero vi la luz

Y las manchas de mi alma yo lave....

I noticed a young man with his head bowed standing in the crowd gathered at the door. Tears were streaming down his cheeks. I kept my eyes on him while James read a few scriptures from the Bible and talked a while. He seemed very interested.

When the service was over, the man came to James. "I am Tomas Mendoza. Pedro is my brother," he said. "Pedro has been to the United States and heard about Christ while there. He persuaded me to go with him to the Baptist church here in town. There I heard that Jesus died for my sins; that I could believe in Him and be saved from my sins. I accepted the message. Now Jesus is my Savior. The words you read are so beautiful. I wish I had a

book like that."

"I'll see if I can get you one," James promised.

The children played tag while the adults visited. Then, one by one, the people left. Our second teaching service in Spanish was history.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. What He has promised. 2. Elisabeth and Zacharias' son. 3. An angel. 4. Because he and Elizabeth were old. 5. He was unable to speak. 6. That Zacharias had seen a vision. 7. Eight days old. 8. He was able to speak again.

Race to God's Word!

Look up and copy each of the following verses on the spaces below. Race against your classmates!

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalms 77:14

Luke 1:13

Matthew 3:11

Isaiah 40:3

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Volume 65, Quarter 4, Part 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2015.

A Baby Named John

There was great rejoicing in Zacharias' and Elizabeth's little home in the hill country of Judah. Their son had been born just as God had promised.



According to the Jewish custom, babies were named when they were eight days old. On the eighth day, neighbors and relatives came. They were sure that they would name him Zacharias after his father. "His name is not Zacharias; it is John," his

mother Elizabeth said.

"Why do you want to call him John?" they asked in surprise. "You have no relatives by that name." Zacharias had been speechless since the day the angel spoke to him in the temple, so they made motions to ask him what he wanted his son named.

Zacharias understood what they wanted. He motioned for a writing tablet. When they brought it, he wrote in plain letters for all to read, "His name is John." Then, all at once, Zacharias was able to speak again. He praised God for giving them this wonderful baby.

News of the baby's birth soon spread throughout the hill country. People often talked about him. "What kind of child will he be?" they wondered. They had heard how the angel told Zacharias that the child would be born, and the people talked about how Zacharias had been unable to speak from the time he saw the angel to the time he told them that the baby was to be named John. No doubt this was the work of God!

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit. He told his neighbors and friends about God's purpose for his little son. Zacharias praised the Lord for giving them this

wonderful son.

To the little baby, he said, "You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest, for you will go before the Lord and prepare the hearts of the people. You will teach the people of salvation by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God."

Zacharias said many other things about John. Later, his words came true, for the Spirit of God had put these words in his heart. As long as Zacharias lived, he cared for his son. How thankful he was to see the boy grow tall and strong! As John grew, he liked best to be out of doors.

When John was about thirty years old, he left his home and went throughout the hill country of Judea. He preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Instead of going to the cities to preach God's message, John stayed in the country near the river Jordan.

People came from every part of the land to hear him speak. It had been more than 400 years since God had sent a prophet to speak His words to the people. They were eager to hear John's message from God!

When the people gathered to hear this strange desert preacher, they saw a man dressed in rough clothing made of camel's hair. About his waist was a leather girdle. Because he spent all his time preaching in the country, his food was dried locusts and wild honey.

Many who heard John's preaching repented of their sins. Some found fault, but all were impressed. News of this strange preacher spread to the farthest corners of the land.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God sent John as His special messenger to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.

Memory Verse: For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Matthew 3:3

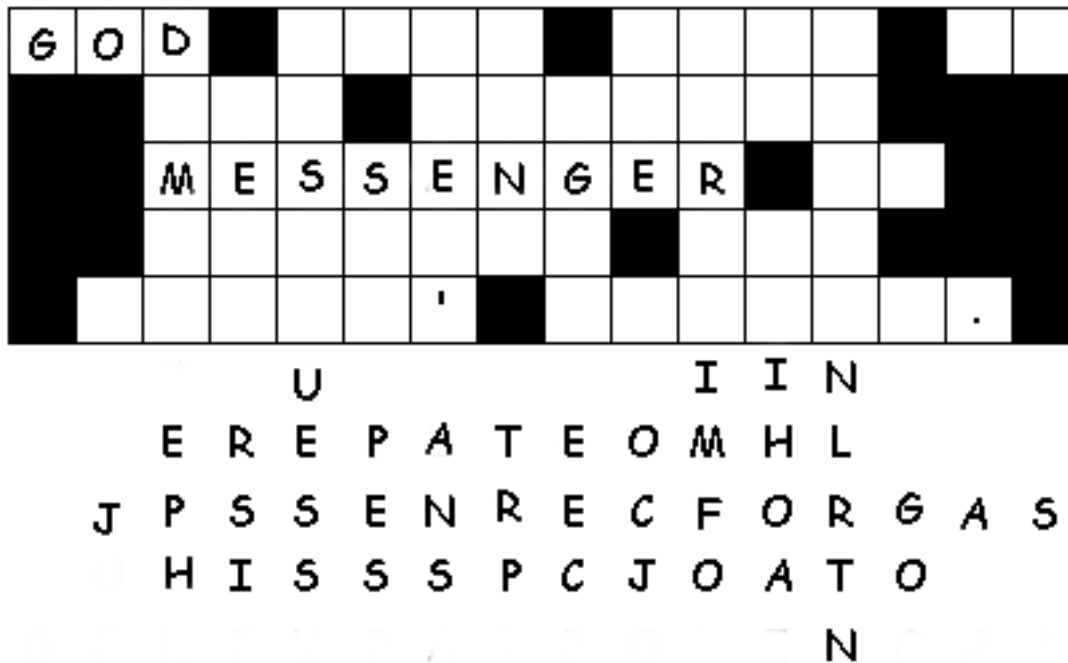
The New Camera

La Mision, Baja, California, is situated on the sides of a narrow valley. The hills on the north side slope up a little more gently than the south. On the south side, huge rocks jet up perpendicular to the valley floor. On top is a plateau of lush grass where the shepherds take their sheep to graze.

From the south windows of our home, we could watch the shepherds with their animals going single file up the path to the high plateau. In the evening around dusk, we could hear the tinkling bell on the lead animal and

Questions

1. Why was there great rejoicing in Zacharias' and Elizabeth's home?
2. Whose promise did this fulfill?
3. How did Zacharias let them know his name was to be John?
4. What happened as soon as he let them know this?
5. What question did they ask one another?
6. Who was Zacharias filled with?
7. Where did John preach?
8. How long had it been since God had sent a prophet?



John the Baptist

Fallen Phrase Directions:

All the letters have fallen to the bottom. They got mixed up on their way down, but remain in the same column. Start with the last letter in the first row to begin solving the puzzle. (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)

watched as they descended.

At one time, we had lived in an old adobe house near the corral where the animals were kept at night. Our sons had made friends with the shepherds and went with them up on the mountain.

Each year in the spring, the animals have babies. If a mother gave birth to twins, only one of the animals was saved. The owner preferred one healthy animal instead of two weakly ones. Each, year our sons brought home a tiny sheep or goat and we would raise it using a baby bottle.

One evening, Omar, a shepherd, knocked on our door and asked to speak with James. "I found this bag on the mountain today," he told James. "I think it might be something important. Yesterday two men were walking all over the field acting as if they were looking for something." He handed the bag to James.

James unzipped the lid and said, "Wow! This is a nice camera. I'm sure the owner will want it back."

"They came back this morning, and, seeing us, they asked if we had seen a bag. I could hardly understand their Spanish. After they left, Poncho and I began hunting. We spent most of the day looking and that is what we found. Do you know any American who might have lost it?"

"I sure don't, but I can ask around at the houses on the beach. Maybe one of them will know," James answered.

"I know you are honest and will do what you say," Omar answered. "I'll leave it with you and see if you can find the owner."

Answers: 1. Their son had been born. 2. God's. 3. He wrote it down. 4. He could speak. 5. "What manner of child shall this be?" 6. The Holy Spirit. 7. In the country. 8. More than 400 years.

After the shepherd left, James spread the contents of the bag on the dining table. There was a Canon 35 mil camera, an assortment of lenses, exposed and unexposed rolls of film, a tripod, and other accessories.

We were acquainted with several of the Mexicans who worked in the beach homes, so James started right away asking among them if they knew of anyone who had lost a camera. We waited a while. No one claimed it. After that, he put an advertisement in the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union Tribune.

After waiting several months, no one had contacted us about the camera. James told the shepherd, "We have had no success finding the owner. I think the camera is yours. If you are interested in selling it, I would love to buy it."

James found out the approximate price of a new one and told the shepherd. The shepherd asked only a fraction of the cost and was happy with the deal. We were happy to have a good camera, lenses, tripod, and toting bag. We are still enjoying the pictures taken with that camera.

-Charlotte Huskey

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The Promised Messiah

God was grieved when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him and ate the fruit He had told them not to touch. Because of



their disobedience, God told them that they must leave their beautiful home in the Garden of Eden. He said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

This meant that someday a child, grandchild, or great grandchild of Eve's would "bruise" or crush the head of the wicked serpent and undo all the evil he had done. Someday, a wonderful Baby would be born who would break the power of satan and regain all that man had lost because of sin.

Eve may have thought that she would be the mother of this Baby, but she was mistaken. However, the promise was passed down through the years; the hope of a coming Savior was kept alive from century to century.

Moses certainly knew about the promise. He told the children of Israel that the Lord would raise up a Prophet like him. He told them they must accept Him and live as He directs them.

Balaam knew about it too. Instead of cursing Israel as Balak wanted him to, he prophesied that someone was coming who would be both a Light and a King. This reminded the people of God's promise and made them wonder even more when the promised Child would come.

The prophet Isaiah was more definite. He told them what the sign would be of the Child's coming and even what His name would be. He renewed their hopes with the joyful words, "Unto us a child is born." This renewed confirmation of God's promise caused many to hope

again.

Then the prophet Micah revealed the very place where the Child was to be born. He would be born in Bethlehem! The news spread like wildfire. All eyes turned expectantly toward Bethlehem.

But nothing happened. As the years rolled by, Micah's prophecy was all but forgotten. The few who remembered it thought he must have been mistaken.

Then, after the Jews had been taken into captivity and everybody was discouraged, another prophet brought thrilling news about the Baby. Daniel proclaimed that the angel Gabriel had told him the exact time when the great Deliverer would appear.

Gabriel, he said, had told him that "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks." This was the most definite word yet--69 weeks!

"That's no time at all," people said. "He'll be here in less than two years!" But, others said the weeks must be "prophetic weeks," with each day counted as a year. They were right. This meant the world had to wait almost another 500 years. As the years passed, Daniel's words were almost forgotten, and people thought the wonderful Baby would never come.

Then, when many had given up hope altogether, something happened. The angel Gabriel came again--this time, not to a prophet but to a girl named Mary. She was to be the mother of the promised Child!

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior who would break the deadly power of sin.

Memory Verse: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Meet Lucia in Heaven

Grandma Lucia lived in Oaxaca, a southern state of Mexico. She was very devoted to her country's religion. In her tiny home, she had an image of the Virgin and other images. Daily she bowed before these images, crossed her heart, and prayed this prayer and other prayers, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." On certain holy days, she shared her meager supply of food by placing it in a plate in front of her images.

Questions

1. Why did Adam and Eve have to leave the Garden of Eden?
2. What kind of prophet did Moses say God would raise up?
3. Who would not curse Israel?
4. Who told what the sign would be of the Child's coming?
5. What prophet revealed where the child would be born?
6. In what town was He to be born?
7. Who said the angel Gabriel told him the exact time the Deliverer would be born?
8. Who was to be the mother of the promised Child?

Grandma Lucia was now 98 years old, deaf, partially blind, and her legs were stiff. The frame of her little house extended across the door opening, causing her to have to step over it each time she went out or came in. She cooked her food using wood. Her water came from a faucet in the yard. Her bathroom was outside. All this caused Grandma to enter and leave her house many times a day. She sometimes tripped over this frame.

One Sunday in the spring, her daughter, Francisca, said to me, "I feel I must quickly bring Grandma Lucia to Baja, California so that I can better care for her, and so she can learn about Jesus. Would you take me to the bus station next Sunday?"

"Do you have enough money for such a long trip?" I asked.

"I have already purchased tickets for our return, but I haven't enough for my trip there. Surely I can get some this week. I feel I must go now."

"I'll be glad to take you to the bus," I said.

The following Sunday, she came to church with her bags packed and ready to travel. The congregation gathered money to help her. When she counted her money, Francisca had enough for the bus ticket, with only \$2 extra.

The trip by bus from Ensenada to Oaxaca takes three days. I prayed God's blessings on her, kissed her goodbye, then cried all the way back home because Francisca would be without food those three days. I had given all my money, and I am sure that others who gave to her had to do without something they needed that week.

After Grandma Lucia arrived, I went often to visit her. The Lord opened her ears so she could converse. Each time I spoke about her need for salvation, she would say, "I've already divided my food with the saints (her images), done penances (self-punishments), walked on my knees for long distances, given to the poor, and been a good neighbor. Isn't that enough?"

Once when I stopped in, they said to me, "We are so glad you have come. We need you. Grandma says she will soon die, but she is afraid to die. Please tell Grandma how to be saved."

Grandma Lucia greeted me in her usual formal way. She spoke many flowery words, praised me, and then kissed my hand. Then she said, "I am afraid. I need peace. Teach me how to pray when I die."

I talked with her for about an hour. I could see she was sincere. Very simply, I explained to her the plan of salvation through faith in Jesus. Her granddaughter, Gierminia, and I prayed, and then I asked her to repeat after me a prayer of repentance. After prayer she said, "I have peace. I am not afraid to die."

Grandma Lucia was content to the end. She passed away September 16, with a smile on her face. Grandma had sacrificed for her religion from childhood, but it did not

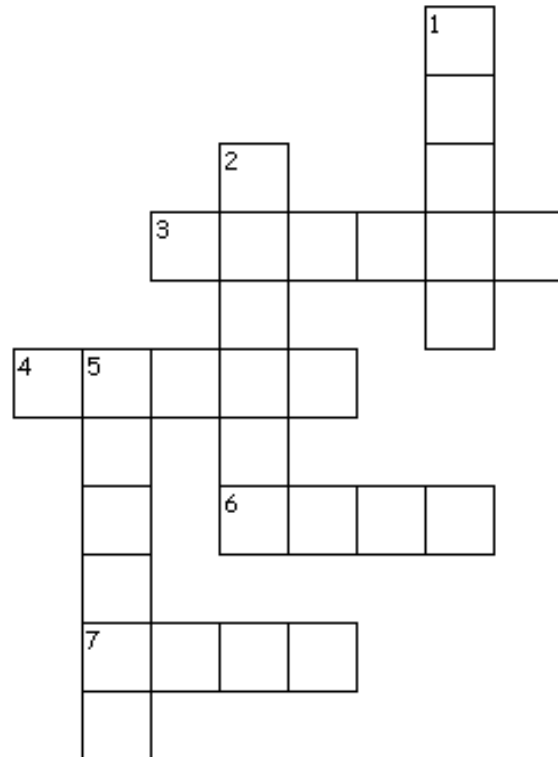
help her in the end. However, the mercy of Jesus saved her in the end, just as He did the thief on the cross.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. They had disobeyed God. 2. A Prophet like himself. 3. Baalam. 4. Isaiah. 5. Micah. 6. Bethlehem. 7. Daniel. 8. Mary.

The Prophecies Announcing Jesus

Directions: Match the names of the Bible characters with the prophecies they gave or the roles they filled.



Across

- Told by Gabriel that the Messiah would come in seven weeks, threescore and two weeks.
- Propheesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem.
- The mother of Jesus.
- Told by God that his seed should bruise the heel of satan.

Down

- The Lord would raise up a prophet like him.
- Someone was coming who would be a Light and a King.
- Propheesied with the words "Unto us a child is born."

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The Angel's Message

Mary lived in Galilee. Like many of the other young girls, her chores were gathering and grinding grain, caring for the animals, and helping prepare meals. Every day she went to the town well to draw water for the household.



Mary's family and neighbors had strong faith in God. She had been carefully taught the great deeds of kings like David and Solomon and the words of prophets like Isaiah and Elijah. She and her neighbors believed that God would someday send a Savior as the prophets had said.

When she was young, no more than 15, Mary's parents made plans for her marriage. This was the custom in those days. They chose Joseph of Nazareth, a carpenter, to be her husband. After their engagement, Mary lived at home until the time that she would live with Joseph as his wife.

One day, when Mary was alone, the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared. He greeted her by saying, "Peace be to you! You are highly favored; the Lord is with you. You are blessed among women."

The angel's words troubled Mary as much as his sudden appearance. "What does he mean by these words?" she wondered.

"Do not be afraid, Mary," he assured her. "You have found special favor with God. You are to bear a Son and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever.

Mary was even more surprised by these words. She did not understand what the angel meant. "How can this be?" she asked.

Questions:

1. Where did Mary live?
2. Who did her parents choose to be her husband?
3. Who suddenly appeared to Mary?
4. With whom had she found favor?
5. What was she to call her son?
6. Who else was expecting a son?
7. What did the angel's message do to Mary?
8. With whom is nothing impossible?

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you," the angel answered, "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the Child will be holy and will be called Jesus, the Son of God. Besides this your cousin Elisabeth will have a son in her old age though it seemed impossible. Nothing is impossible to God!"

Mary believed the angel's wonderful words. "I am the handmaid of the Lord," Mary said simply. "Let it be as you have said." The angel then left Mary, but his message had changed her entire life.

Mary knew her cousin Elisabeth had hoped and prayed for a son for many years. It was a long trip but Mary decided to visit Elisabeth. She did not doubt the angel's words; she wanted to go and share Elisabeth's joy.

As soon as Elisabeth saw Mary, God revealed to her that Mary would be the mother of the promised Savior. She began praising God, saying, "You are blessed among all women! How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me? You will be greatly blessed because you believed. God will perform everything He has told you!"

Mary spent three months at Elisabeth's house. Then, she went back home.

The angel of the Lord also visited Joseph. In a dream, he told him about the coming of Jesus. He said, "Mary will have a Son, and you will call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins."

Joseph took Mary, as his wife, to his home. Together they waited for the fulfillment of the wonderful promise and followed every command God gave them.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God chose Mary to be the mother of the Savior He promised to send.

Memory Verse: For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37

The Broken Clothesline

Every day was laundry day in Baja. James rigged up a clothesline, and every day I filled it with diapers, underwear, little dresses, shirts, and pants.

It was the job I quickly learned to hate. One day I washed our bed sheets. As I looked at the white sheets blowing in the sea breeze, I felt like I had climbed a mountain and was standing on top shouting. I gave the children a snack lunch, and we all went to sleep.

Hours later James came home. He woke me up with sad news, "The clothesline has broken and the sheets are dragging on the ground."

I sat up and held my head in my hands. "It took all morning to wash those sheets," I groaned.

"I'm so sorry," James said. "I'll help you re-wash them."

"Thanks," I said with sarcasm. Trying hard to stay in control, I said, "James, why can't you repair that clothesline so this won't happen again? This is the third time it has broken, and I've had to wash the clothes again. It's not easy to wash clothes. My back and arms ache, my hands hurt." I laid back on the mattress. I covered my eyes trying to shut out the nagging of my mind.

"Come on, I'll help you," James said, extending his hand to help me get up.

"You would say that when there is no water," I retorted. "We can't wash now. By tomorrow after the water-man brings water, the dirt will be dried on the sheets. Then they will be five times as hard to wash."

The sheets had not only fallen on the dirt, but the wind had dragged them back and forth, back and forth, sweeping the ground. A big portion of one sheet was stained dirt brown.

"I guess we will have beige colored sheet from now on," I grumbled. "I wish I could keep them white like my mother did. But my problem is not the way I wash," I fumed. "It is James and the clothesline." However, my problem was anger.

I knew the Bible said, "Be ye angry, and sin not." Can a person be angry and not sin? I was pondering when Bob shouted, "Oh, look Mama, a new water-man." He pointed to an old pick-up with four water barrels in its bed.

"Wonderful!" I shouted. "Run and wave him down."

By now it was after 5:00 p.m., so James had already gone out to the Tomato Ranch where Tomas and Pedro worked. He met them there after work each evening for a time of prayer and reading the Bible as neither of them had a Bible.

Bobby helped me fill a tub, and I washed the sheets again. While working, I was waging war with satan.

"Let's hang them in the morning, so we can keep an eye on them until they are dry," I said as I covered the tub full of white sheets turned beige.

When James came home, I had him bring the tub into the house to keep them safe during the night. "Wow! No wonder the clothes line broke," he said, "wet sheets are heavy."

"I know," I said. "I've handled them all day. Well, not quite all day."

During family worship that night, I asked James, "Isn't there a verse that says to put away all anger?"

He looked in his Bible concordance, then said. "It's in Ephesians the fourth chapter, verse thirty-one."

I found it and read aloud, "'Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away.' And here is the one I've been thinking of all day," I added and read it. "'Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath.'"

My prayer that night was: "Oh Lord, forgive me for being

angry. Cleanse me from bitter thoughts against James. I don't want thoughts to harbor in my mind until they turn my heart bitter."

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Galilee. 2. Joseph. 3. Gabriel. 4. God. 5. Jesus. 6. Elisabeth. 7. It changed her entire life. 8. God.

The Coming of Jesus

Directions: Find and circle all of the words that tell the story of Gabriel and Mary.

D	M	W	Q	Y	S	D	X	B	B	O	P	G	U	E	L	V	A	E	J
Z	E	C	Q	N	M	Z	A	K	X	V	O	S	G	L	H	T	K	P	A
L	F	G	Y	W	I	E	F	Z	V	P	N	N	U	I	D	A	E	V	F
J	N	U	A	R	J	D	V	J	T	X	C	D	Y	S	Y	H	T	S	B
X	I	Z	P	G	R	O	H	F	Z	U	P	Y	A	A	M	L	H	J	L
F	P	H	F	H	N	A	S	C	S	K	Y	Z	N	B	O	S	U	E	I
C	K	V	E	Y	N	E	E	E	W	W	J	J	G	E	H	H	I	O	T
L	W	Q	G	D	N	V	H	F	P	M	T	C	E	T	Z	R	L	A	Y
V	A	G	M	Q	E	W	B	Y	Q	H	A	D	L	H	B	G	C	Q	N
Q	P	A	N	E	E	F	N	A	F	S	N	Q	N	A	M	L	Q	R	U
C	I	Y	D	O	T	S	M	L	A	K	O	C	G	V	X	M	H	N	O
D	T	B	W	S	F	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	Y	U	Y	C	M	S	Z
P	B	X	Y	K	I	U	I	W	E	I	K	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N
T	N	K	I	V	F	U	I	J	O	G	D	R	O	A	V	U	C	Y	O
I	M	C	P	V	C	Y	G	Y	G	M	N	Q	U	Y	L	E	I	J	M

ANGEL

FIFTEEN

HANDMAID

ELISABETH

GABRIEL

JOSEPH

ENGAGED

GALILEE

NAZARETH

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Good News!

It was almost time for Jesus to be born. Joseph and Mary waited eagerly!



But then terrible news reached them. The Roman emperor had sent out a decree that everyone must go to his own city to be taxed. No one dared disobey! Joseph and Mary were both of the family of David, so they were required to go to Bethlehem.

When they finally reached Bethlehem, it was already crowded with people. There were no more vacancies—no place could be found for new arrivals.

The journey from Nazareth had been long and hard. Mary must have a place to rest! Joseph hopefully inquired at the inn but the innkeeper told him he had no more rooms. Then, seeing Mary's condition, he offered to let them stay with the animals in the stable of the inn.

If the innkeeper had known that it was the promised Messiah who was to be born that night, he would surely have found a better place for Mary somewhere, even if he had to give up his own room. Instead, he offered his stable.

"The stable!" Joseph sighed. "Is that all you have?" How could he break the news to poor Mary? All day she had longed for a comfortable place to rest. Now there was nothing but a stable! Surely "the Son of the Highest" should not be born in a smelly old stable!

Sadly, he returned to tell Mary. "This way," Joseph directed her gently. "There's some clean straw over here."

Peering through the gloom, Mary saw an empty manger, half filled with hay for the cows to eat. "This will do for the Baby," she said quietly.

That night, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in

soft cloths called swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger.

Near Bethlehem, there were shepherds in the field who were watching their flocks that night. Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appeared! A bright light shined through the darkness. The shepherds trembled with fear. Why had the angel come to them?

Then the angel spoke. "Fear not," he said, "for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

This was wonderful news! Suddenly there were many angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then, the angels returned to heaven, and the light faded into the silent darkness of the night.

The shepherds were anxious to see this wonderful Child. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing what the Lord has told us through the angels," they said. So, they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable, they found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. They knelt down before the manger and worshiped the little Babe who the angels had said had come to save them from their sins.

The shepherds told Mary and Joseph how an angel of the Lord appeared to them out in the fields and announced Jesus' birth. On the way back to their flocks, they told everyone they met about the angel's visit and the Savior's birth.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Had the innkeeper known that the Son of God was to be born, he would have no doubt found room for Him. Jesus knocks at every heart. Have you given Him a place in your heart?

Memory Verse: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10

A Great Christmas

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them...Matthew 7:12

I heard a gentle tapping on our back door. When I opened it, Señor Torres was standing there. He looked exhausted and a little pale. I wondered if he was sick and wanted James to take him to the doctor. "May I speak with Brother James?" he asked rather shyly.

James was in the bedroom with the children. They had just finished opening their Christmas presents.

When James heard Señor Torres, he came in and asked how he could help.

Questions:

1. With what did Mary wrap her newborn Baby?
2. Where did she lay Him?
3. Why didn't Joseph get a nice room for them in the inn?
4. What were the shepherds doing in the fields that night?
5. Who came upon the shepherds?
6. Who did he say was born in the city of David?
7. What would be the sign that they had found the Baby?
8. Why did the shepherds hurry into Bethlehem?

"I know it's a very cold day and it is Christmas morning but we've spent a terrible night thinking about our two boys and wondering if they will have a decent meal today. Someone saw my boys in Tijuana a couple days ago. I was just wondering if you could take me to Tijuana and look for my sons?"

James turned and looked at me. I had just said, "It's so nice to have a day together. We hardly have any time alone with our family." I nodded my approval.

"Yes, I will take you," James told him. He slipped on his heavy coat, took a few things out of our car, and drove away.

Our children were pretty disappointed when they realized their dad would be gone on Christmas Day. I was struggling myself to be content.

To make matters worse, we had received only \$10 to buy presents for the children. We bought mostly necessities: combs, tooth brushes, tooth paste, perfumed bath soap that Rosi and Tricia loved, notebooks, a coloring book and crayons, pencils, and a ball.

My spirit was low, but I tried to make the children happy. The day before, I had bought a chicken to bake and a few other things we seldom enjoyed. Also, I had made a pumpkin pie. Even in our lack, we had more than most of our neighbors.

We anxiously waited for James to return. Every time the children heard a car, they rushed to open the door to see if it was him. (The only way to see outside was to open the north door since our window openings were covered with black tar paper.) We played hide the thimble. We pushed the church benches against the wall and played a form of blind man's bluff. I told them stories. Even so, the day was so long. Finally at about four o'clock, James came home.

We all rushed to the door. James didn't have to say anything. The happy look on his face told us that the boys were home for Christmas; the first time in four years.

Every year we had a Christmas service, so, after dinner, while Tricia and I cleaned the kitchen, James and the other children carried in the things he had bought with money received in the mail. There was a huge box of oranges, two large bags of wrapped candy, and a large bag of roasted peanuts, along with little sacks. We filled the little sacks with the goodies.

We put the benches in their proper places, then pulled the kitchen table against the south wall, and arranged the sacks on it. We pulled the curtain I had made from sheets across the room to hide the kitchen stove, sink, and cupboards. With straight pins, I fastened beautifully painted pictures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, three shepherds, the three wise men, a cow, and two sheep onto the curtain. Now everything was in order.

Soon the people started gathering. No one in the congregation had a telephone, but news about the boys had spread quickly. This year, a spirit of gratitude ignited

our Christmas service. The carols seemed to ring as those which the angels sang that first Christmas night. Some were laughing, some were crying, others were quietly drinking in the bliss. And, every child carried home a sack of goodies.

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Swaddling clothes. 2. In a manger. 3. There was no room in the inn. 4. Keeping watch over their flocks. 5. An angel. 6. A Savior, Christ the Lord. 7. He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. 8. To see the Baby.

A Child is Born!

Look up and copy each of the following verses on the spaces below. Race against your classmates!

Isaiah 9:6

Luke 2:14

Matthew 1:21

1 John 5:11

Isaiah 7:14

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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Simeon and Anna

Simeon lived in Jerusalem and spent much time in the temple worshipping God. He was a distinguished scholar and knew the Holy Scriptures, from Genesis to Malachi, very well. For years he had been looking for the Messiah, "the consolation of Israel." He had studied all the prophecies about the Messiah and was sure in his heart that the time had come for Him to appear. What's more, it was revealed to him by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen the Christ.



One day, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to go to the temple. As he entered, he noticed Joseph and Mary who had come to the temple to present Jesus to the Lord. They also brought a sacrifice that was required according to the Law of Moses.

By their clothes, Simeon could see that Joseph and Mary were Galileans. It was evident that they were not wealthy. They were carrying two birds in a cage as their offering. "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" was the gift offered by those who could not afford to bring a lamb.

Simeon felt drawn to Joseph and Mary. Then, when he looked down at their Child, his heart was deeply stirred. It was as though the voice of God spoke to him saying, "This is the Messiah! This is the One for whom you have been looking so long!"

Tears of happiness must have rolled down Simeon's cheeks. He took the precious Baby in his arms. Holding Him close, he said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant

depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

Joseph and Mary watched all this in amazement. Simeon turned to Joseph and Mary and blessed them. Looking at Mary, he spoke directly to her, saying, "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Mary wondered what Simeon meant. What strange destiny was ahead for her precious little Jesus? How would He cause people to fall and rise again? And what was this about a sword piercing her own soul? Was not her Child to become King of Israel? How then could there be any suffering? Some day she would understand, but not then.

Almost immediately after Simeon spoke these strange words, Anna, a prophetess, came in. Anna spent her time continually in the temple serving God with prayer and fasting, night and day. The Holy Spirit revealed to her that this was the promised Child. She began to thank God aloud that He had sent the Messiah at last! People around heard her and came to see.

Eagerly, Anna told them about the promised Messiah and "spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Some believed her; others doubted, but most just went on their way without giving the matter another thought.

But, Mary kept the words of these two righteous people in her heart. The Holy Spirit had inspired their words. She was more sure than ever that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Child of promise and prophecy.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: God will reveal Himself and His Son to those who faithfully serve and wait on Him.

Memory Verse: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

Questions

1. Who knew the scriptures very well?
2. Who had Simeon been looking for?
3. How did he know it was time for Him to come?
4. How was it revealed that he would not die until he had seen Christ?
5. Why had Joseph and Mary come to the temple?
6. Who was Anna?
7. How did she serve God?
8. To whom did she give thanks?

Tires, Tires, Tires

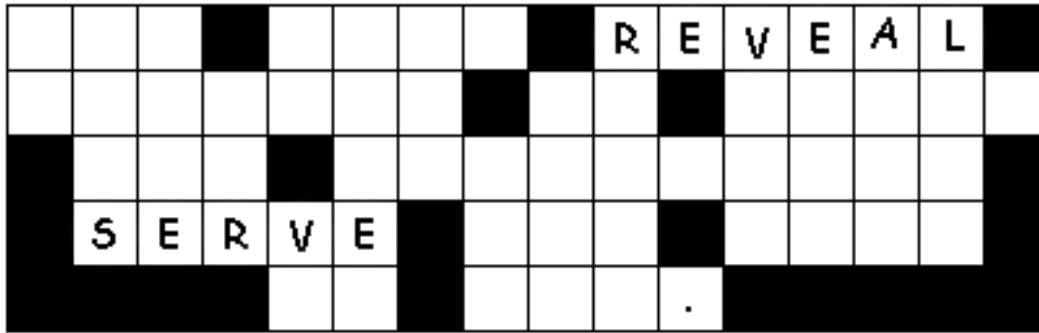
While we were living in La Mision, Baja, California, the Richard Watkins family (Shirley Doolittle's parents) came to visit us. They took our oldest son, Bob, home with them' and he worked that summer in Salem, Oregon. He earned enough money to buy new school clothes. The following summer, the other children wanted to do the same, so our entire family went to Oregon. We hoped to earn money.

The only available job was picking strawberries. We crawled around on our knees picking strawberries for

Simeon's Faithfulness is Rewarded!

Fallen Phrase

Directions: All the letters have fallen to the bottom. They got mixed up on their way down, but remain in the same column. (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)



F A T D
W D W L L H T H W A O T
H O M S E N F L N M T L L S
G I H O O I A I I O F U H I Y E

about a week, but earned only a few dollars. Since God wasn't blessing our efforts, we began thinking, maybe God had something else in mind for us.

Then, a phone call came from the church in San Diego asking James to come and conduct a funeral. While he was away, I felt God was saying, "I want you to go to Monark Springs camp meeting." When James returned, I said nothing to him about my impressions.

The night after he returned, we were discussing our questions about God's will for the summer, and he said, "I believe we should take the children to Monark; however our tires will never make the trip."

"Maybe we could earn money and buy tires," one of the children suggested.

"Let's ask God to send money for new tires," another said. "We really want to go."

"Well, let's pray about it," James answered. "We haven't much time before the meeting will be over."

We started on trips without enough gas, how about going on faith? I thought.

We felt assured that God wanted us at Monark, because God had told both James and me while we were 1,000 miles apart.

"We have enough money for gasoline," James said again. "Let's load up tonight and leave early in the morning. God can make the tires last."

I don't remember how far we went before the first tire blow-out. It was somewhere in Idaho. There we were beside the road. The children jumped out to freedom and started running down the moderately sloped embankment. In a few minutes, one of them called, "Come look. Here is a tire." James raced down the hill. Holding Leah's hand, I followed slowly.

Needless to say, the tire was the right size. God would

Answers: 1. Simeon. 2. The Messiah. 3. He studied the Scriptures. 4. By the Holy Ghost. 5. To present Jesus to the Lord. 6. A prophetess. 7. With fasting and prayers day and night. 8. To the Lord.

not have sent one that didn't fit.

We went on a few hundred miles and another blow-out. This time, a man in a pick-up stopped to help us. Guess what he had in his pick-up bed? Lots of tires! He worked for a tire shop and had come out to change a tire on a tractor in a field. Among the tires on the truck, he found one that fit our need. He gave it to us and helped James put it on.

On we went. I can't remember how God supplied the next two tires. What I remember is we drove onto the Monark camp ground with four different tires than when we started in Oregon.

The saints were singing. It sounded like heaven to us weary travelers. Before the service had ended, I got up in the pulpit and testified how God brought us there. Maybe some of you "old timers" can remember my testimony.

During that meeting, God told us to not return to our home in Mexico. He impressed us to keep our children, ages 6 through 16, near the saints for a few years. We did, and they all found wonderful spouses.

As I reflect on the past, I wonder what great differences would be in our family today had we not followed God's directions and started out that day from Oregon without decent tires on our car!

-Charlotte Huskey

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